



2014

Outstanding Graduates
and Famous Alumni



Introduction

An increasing number of students are choosing programs accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC) Accrediting Commission. Why? The convenience and flexibility of distance education is appealing to students who have to work full time while enrolled, have families, or are seeking to advance in their professions. The growth in distance education enrollment is mirrored by the increase in nominations to our 2014 *Outstanding Graduates and Famous Alumni* booklet.

For the 31st consecutive year, DETC is proud to honor the fine work of its accredited institutions and showcase the significant accomplishments of our graduates and alumni. We are fortunate to work with distance education institutions that are diverse, dynamic, and fully engaged in providing the best possible distance education experience for our students.

This publication is our most important contribution to the student achievement literature. The stories of our graduates and alumni have touched hearts and changed minds about distance education and DETC's important role in educating the 21st century workforce. By honoring our most inspirational graduates, we are able to demonstrate the importance of distance education in the lives of people throughout our country and the world.

Thirty-three exceptional graduates were selected by the distance education institutions they attended. Selection criteria included the graduates' academic records and the level and quality of their contributions to society and to their chosen professions. For 2014, we've also included entries on six famous alumni.

We know that it's always been our students and graduates who matter the most. Please join us in applauding the outstanding achievements of these talented men and women who represent more than two million distance education students now achieving their education goals at DETC-accredited institutions.



Leah K. Matthews
Executive Director, Distance Education and Training Council

Table of Contents

Outstanding Graduates

Abraham Lincoln University	1
Acacia University	2
Allied American University.....	3
Allied Business Schools	4
Allied National High School	5
American College of Healthcare Sciences.....	6
American Graduate University	7
American Sentinel University	8
Art Instruction Schools.....	9
Ashworth College	10
At-Home Professions.....	11
Brighton College	12
Catholic Distance University	13
Columbia Southern University	14
Condord Law School of Kaplan University	15
Dunlap-Stone University.....	16
Global University	17
Grantham University	18
Hadley School for the Blind	19
Harrison Middleton University.....	20
Henley-Putnam University	21
International Sports Sciences Association	22
John Hancock University	23
Lakewood College	24
Marine Corps Institute.....	25
McKinley College.....	26
New Charter University.....	27
Penn Foster.....	28
Sessions College for Professional Design	29

(continued)

2014 DETC Outstanding Graduates and Famous Alumni

Sonoran Desert Institute.....	30
U.S. Career Institute	31
University of Management and Technology	32
University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences	33

Famous Alumni

American College of Healthcare Sciences.....	34
Art Instruction Schools.....	35
Grantham University.....	36
International Sports Sciences Association	37
University of Management and Technology	38
University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences	39



Timothy Johnson Lancaster, California

. . . he was able to work full time
and pursue a Juris Doctor degree

Timothy M. Johnson was a small business owner with a family when he was presented with an opportunity to go to law school while simultaneously working for a law firm. While searching for a program that could fit his needs, he discovered Abraham Lincoln University's School of Law online Juris Doctor program.

Tim received his J.D. from ALU in 2012, graduating with honors and serving as class valedictorian. Prior to attending ALU, Tim graduated from California State University, Chico in 1999, earning his B.S. in Management Information Systems.

Since graduation, Tim successfully passed the California Bar Exam on his first attempt and is now a law firm partner practicing family law. He handles complex family law issues surrounding divorce, child custody and visitation, child and spousal support and many other related domestic matters. He is also a member of the California State Bar, the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

"I was worried about finding a law program that would allow me the flexibility to work full time and yet still be an involved husband and father. ALU and its distance education program were able to deliver exactly what I needed."

Lilian Mikhael

Cairo, Egypt



. . . earning her Master's degree helped her grow as a teacher

Lilian Mikhael completed her Master's degree in secondary education with a 4.0 GPA at Acacia University in 2013. She did it while working full time as a high school Biology and Physics teacher in Egypt and serving as her school's Learning Community Leader, assisting other teachers taking professional development courses.

While Lilian began her career as a dentist, her great passion for teaching could never be put aside. She earned her degree in science education and pursued and career teaching middle and high school science.

Lilian's instructors at Acacia University unanimously nominated her for its Outstanding Graduate award, citing her extreme professionalism, dedication to her students, willingness to try new things, and outstanding effort in her coursework.

"Through my Master's coursework I discovered what it takes to be a teacher and was able to implement new strategies that helped my students achieve their highest potential and change my classroom to a positive learning environment."



Shulamit Irish
Winchester, California

. . . she was able to prepare
for a nursing career

Shulamit (Shelly) Irish graduated Summa Cum Laude in November 2012 from Allied American University with a Certificate in Medical Administrative Assisting. She did all this while being a full-time mother and military spouse to a 10 year Marine Corps servicemember.

Shelly started her educational journey because she wanted to further her education and prepare for her future career in the health sciences as a nurse. Throughout her studies, Shelly demonstrated her commitment to her education by regularly engaging her instructors and student advisor, as well as earning perfect grades so she could graduate with honors.

Completing her certificate in Medical Administrative Assisting gave her the necessary understanding to explain the recent changes to U.S. healthcare laws to her friends and family. Currently, Shelly and her family are awaiting military orders so that they can move, after which she will be enrolling in her nursing program.

“Being that this was my first time taking online courses, I found that the instructors were very responsive, which made AAU a convenient way to obtain my certificate.”

Beverly Barker

Jefferson, North Carolina

. . . she realized her dream
of becoming a medical assistant



Beverly Barker was ready to further her medical career, but a 30-mile distance from the nearest school and a lack of time became road blocks to her goal. Once she found Allied Schools, however, she was finally able to begin her journey to becoming a Certified Medical Assistant.

During her training, Beverly worked full time and cared for her parents when they needed her. Her biggest challenge of the program was the Pharmacology section. Allied's Education Support staff answered all her questions. With their assistance, Beverly was highly successful in her course.

Upon completing the administrative and clinical portions of her program, she began Allied's externship program, which included résumé and cover letter assistance. After her externship, she was offered a position with Ashe Family Healthcare, went on to earn her RMA certification and passed the National Phlebotomy Certification Exam to become a CPT through the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians (ASPT).

"Allied allowed me to work at my pace and provided all the supplies. My only regret is that it took me too many years to find Allied, but it was well worth the effort. Thanks for making my dreams come true!"



David Thomas
Chesapeake, Virginia

. . . distance education provided
the learning environment
he needed to earn his diploma

David Thomas chose to attend Allied National High School for his senior year of high school after attending numerous public and private schools, all of which failed to meet his educational needs. His family collectively searched for a school that would accommodate his disability and Allied National High School met this objective.

Since David was old enough to search the Internet, he has had a strong interest in learning the complexities of how a computer system functions. He is especially interested in computer viruses and the effects it has on the operating system. David has spent countless hours experimenting with hardware and software in an effort to learn all he can about the intricacies of computers.

David hopes to further his education by attending college and earning a certificate in network security. David dreams of owning his own software company, and earning his high school diploma is the first stepping block in making this dream a reality.

“Allied National High School let me work at my own pace in a quieter environment without all the distractions from a typical school.”

Shawn Hallum

Greenwich, Connecticut

. . . he inspires his work and personal community to live longer, healthier lives



Shawn Hallum chose American College of Healthcare Sciences with the hope that a graduate-level understanding of the various components of complementary alternative medicine would fortify his work as a spa director and enhance his leadership skills. Shawn achieved his Master of Science in Complementary Alternative Medicine in May 2013, graduating with a 3.95 GPA.

Shawn started his education with ACHS in 2005, completing the Certificate in Aromatherapy. Following his completion, Shawn achieved his undergraduate degree and became a massage technician, personal trainer, and reiki practitioner. Returning to ACHS, Shawn was the first enrolled student in the Master of Science in Complementary Alternative Medicine in 2009.

As a graduate, Shawn continues to thrive as a spa director, leading a team of individuals supporting clients' holistic health goals. As an ACHS Ambassador, he motivates and guides prospective and current students as they reach their personal and professional goals.

"My experience with American College of Healthcare Sciences has been exceptional. Each class was expertly designed and delivered, giving me the confidence to apply information in very practical and meaningful ways."



Pablo DeJesus-Soler Niceville, Florida

. . . earning an advanced degree opened new opportunities for him

Pablo DeJesus-Soler, an electrical engineer already working as a program manager at Eglin Air Force Base, enrolled in American Graduate University's Master's of Project Management to enhance his future career goals. He graduated with a 4.0 GPA and the highest score this year on the comprehensive examination.

Responsible for the development of early munitions concepts at Eglin, Pablo works with industry and research laboratories on ways to solve current warfighter needs by developing new, or improving old munitions concepts. Pablo found that his education at AGU was particularly relevant to the type of projects he deals with in the Air Force.

Married for 29 years, Pablo has six children and two grandchildren, two sons-in-law and one daughter-in-law. An avid racquetball player and wood worker, he enjoys working on his 68 acre tree farm. As he looks to the future he hopes he can utilize the knowledge from his advanced degree in developing his farm business.

"I could set my own pace within the limits established by the University, while at the same time I still had the freedom to pursue personal activities, and family time didn't have to be compromised."

Matthew D'Ambrosio

San Antonio, Texas

. . . he earned his degree to help meet future nursing challenges



Fresh out of nursing school, Matthew D'Ambrosio began his career in an intensive care unit. In December 2011, he enrolled at American Sentinel University to earn his Master's in Nursing, Education and graduated in August 2013. Currently, he's back in school and working toward his DNP, Executive Leadership.

Matthew successfully balanced a full-time job while sustaining high academic standing, graduating with a 3.93 GPA. Since earning his degree, he has been teaching at a San-Antonio based community college.

In 2012, Matthew worked with physicians to adopt and increase usage of electronic medical record systems at his facility. Following this, he was promoted to the Director of Technology, overseeing nursing informatics and information services. Matthew enrolled in American Sentinel's DNP program because he believes that further education is the only way to leverage in-demand and forward-thinking nursing skills needed for modern health care.

"Life is too short to wonder if education is the right thing to do. Education is the right thing for anyone wishing to expand themselves. Without deadlines, goals, and work, we would only have more time to be bored."



Kristan Yadao
Aurora, Colorado

. . . she loves creating art
for people to enjoy

Kristan Yadao has one true love in life and that is creating art for people to enjoy. It was this love that led her to Art Instruction Schools, where she completed the Fundamentals in Art program in 2009. Today, she is a full-time artist and has become well known for her feather paintings.

Kristan's art work has appeared on the cover of magazines and two of her graphite drawings have been published in *Amazing Pencil Portraits 2* by Platte Publishing. She has been the featured artist at art galleries and has won numerous awards in art competitions including Best of Show and Grand Prize.

Kristan has worked as lead designer at a gaming company, and now she owns her own company, Artistic Reflection, which started out as a small business that featured her unique feather paintings. Today, it has evolved into both fine art and graphic design. Through live streaming tutorial sessions, she also teaches painting techniques. She has donated paintings for various foundations' fundraisers.

"Art Instruction Schools has not only taught me important drawing fundamentals, but also skills like the discipline of following instructions carefully and planning a project before diving in. These skills transfer to all forms of art."

Moises Torres

Waynesville, Missouri

. . . distance education allowed him to obtain his degree while serving in Iraq



Moises Torres was serving his country in Iraq when he got injured. Fortunately, he was able to pursue multiple career programs in various fields as well as completing Ashworth College's Undergraduate Certificate in Security Management in 2009 while he recovered. Currently, he is pursuing his Associates degree in Security Management at Ashworth College.

Moises graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was later promoted to a NCO position in the United States Army. He used his newly obtained knowledge in security management and psychology to more effectively lead his troops while deployed in Iraq.

Since his discharge from the Army, Moises has used his education and time to help other people by counseling other veterans and consulting in security management. In addition, he teaches biblical studies and serves as the public relations officer at his local church. He is most proud to be a husband and father to three vibrant children.

"Before I joined Ashworth College I thought a college education was out of my reach, but Ashworth turned my dream into a reality."



Sara Farr
Rochester, Minnesota

. . . a physical education teacher makes a seamless move into medical transcription

Sara Farr, a P.E. teacher seeking more time to be with her infant daughter, completed At-Home Professions' Medical Transcription and Editing course in only three months. Advice from a successful AHP graduate helped Sara refine her marketing strategy. Three weeks later, she landed her first client, a mental health therapist.

For Sara, medical transcription has been a good career to transition into while working as a P.E. teacher. In Fall 2013, she taught half-time, substituting for a middle-school teacher on maternity leave. She also transcribed reports for her therapist client 15 hours a week and has already earned a raise. Her client was so impressed with the transcription quality that after a single week, she raised Sara's pay rate.

In 2014, Sara plans to work for the therapy office full-time as it expands to incorporate two additional therapists. She will transcribe all reports and perform administrative tasks.

"I would recommend At-Home Professions to anyone willing to put in the effort to earn a huge reward: working from home. I love the flexibility of running my own business and being here to care for my daughter."

James Eads

Yadkinville, South Carolina

. . . earning his degree opened doors for advancement in his career



James Eads was working as an Operations Director for a medical imaging company and was looking to expand his opportunities for advancement in the health field. He found the Associate Degree in Health Services Management at Brighton College to be a good fit for his schedule and goals.

James graduated with a 3.65 GPA, and he has started an internship at a skilled nursing facility working toward becoming a nursing home administrator. The flexibility of the program allowed him to maintain his full time job and his family responsibilities.

James feels the knowledge he gained at Brighton College prepared him to fully participate in all areas of his internship as well as the real world. As a father of triplets, James' busy life revolves around his children, volunteering at their school functions and events, as well as volunteering within the community.

"I had a great experience with Brighton College."



Jennifer Frye Montoursville, Pennsylvania

. . . she earned her college degree
and developed her expertise

As a military spouse, Jennifer Frye changed colleges and majors more than once. But when her husband told her about the degree completion program at Catholic Distance University, where he was enrolled in the graduate program, she enrolled, persevered, and earned her degree—only 41 years after high school graduation.

Jennifer graduated with a 3.88 GPA from Catholic Distance University in 2013. Even while she studied, she used her acquired knowledge in her position as the Director of Religious Education in a small parish in north-central Pennsylvania.

Since her graduation, she has been using her degree to further establish a small, home-based faith-sharing program in her parish, which she hopes to expand to other area churches. Her CDU education is especially helpful with the sacramental preparation courses she teaches, and with training catechists.

“The quality and the relevance of the courses, the expertise of the professors, and the online connection with people from around the world were impressive and made the experience of higher education fulfilling, rewarding, and, often, fun!”

Chad Carey

Elkhart, Indiana



. . . his degree provided a path
for growth and success

Chad Carey, 39, entered his beloved field of fire service in 1994 as a volunteer at Baugo Fire Department. As he progressed in the ranks, he wanted a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science to improve his career options and knowledge. After some intensive research, Chad decided on Columbia Southern University.

While pursuing his degree, Chad worked at the Baugo Fire Department and as a captain on a medic/engine company at the nearby Elkhart Fire Department. He performed both jobs while maintaining a 4.0 GPA with CSU. During the final phase of his degree, Chad applied and was hired as Fire Chief of Baugo Fire Department in 2011, where he had been named Fire Officer of the Year twice.

Upon graduating in 2012 with honors from CSU, Chad was soon accepted to the Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy, a longtime goal. He has enjoyed teaching fellow officers and sharing his knowledge to inspire and influence others.

"Not only has my CSU degree allowed me to achieve the position of fire chief, it has also provided a higher level of recognition among my subordinates and fellow fire officers."



Patricia Wilson
San Diego, California

. . . distance education provided a platform to pursue her passion

With a successful career in computer systems administration and security working primarily for higher education institutions including the University of California San Diego and Dartmouth College, Patricia Wilson was looking for a change in direction when she found the Juris Doctor program at Concord Law School of Kaplan University, from which she graduated in 2013.

The online law school appealed to her tech-inclined nature and mobile lifestyle. In addition, there was an elective course that caught her eye—Concord is one of the few law schools in the country to offer courses in Equine Law. As a lifelong horsewoman, Pat saw a chance to turn her passion into a new career.

Determined to take full advantage of the law school experience, she quickly became a leader. As a Student Bar Association senator and later SBA president, she gave back to her fellow students from the start and added immeasurably to the Concord community. Now a member of the California Bar, Pat looks forward to practice.

“It’s a common fallacy that online means you won’t know classmates or professors. At Concord, we leverage technology to build this great family. Concord gave us a great opportunity...it’s up to us to make the most of it.”

Ji Kinnear

Costa Mesa, California

... achieving specialization in her field through distance education



Ji Kinnear is a 2013 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Dunlap-Stone University's Bachelor of Science in International Trade Management with an emphasis in Regulatory Trade Compliance.

Ji is a management professional, and along with her degree from DSU, she also holds a degree in Economics from CSU-Long Beach. Most recently, she worked in the tactical accessories market for military. She helped develop the International Department for SureFire and worked as a Vice President of Operations for tactical flashlight manufacturer NovaTac.

Ji has traveled the world as a consultant on export and compliance matters for several U.S based manufacturers, and is now a Partner and Operations Director for S3-International, an exporter of mostly American-manufactured products to Asia and Europe. She lives with her husband and four children in California and loves to cook and read.

"After 20 years in management positions, I decided it's never too late to up my game. By pursuing a Bachelor's degree in International Business at DSU, it allowed me to specialize in my field and compete at a higher level."



Alex Hennis
Angie, Louisiana

. . . he obtained an MA degree
through distance education

Alex Hennis was sentenced to 40 years in prison but maintains hope for the future. He enrolled in Global University's Master of Arts in Ministerial Studies and became a model prisoner in studies and behavior. In 2011 he graduated with a 4.0 GPA, becoming the first Louisiana inmate to receive a graduate degree.

Because of his influence on the entire prison population, Alex was elevated to a position of inmate chaplain. The warden states that Alex's changed life has positively impacted the entire Louisiana Prison System. Using his newly acquired knowledge, Alex pioneered a church within the prison, and it grew to 150 members in less than six months.

He continues to excel and was requested to train other inmates to assist in spiritual and educational enhancement at Rayburn Correctional Center. Due to his positive influence as an inmate, Alex has been transferred to another prison to help "change from the inside" that facility. Currently, Alex is enrolled in the Global University Master of Divinity program.

"Global University provided hope. God has changed my life and made me a new man. Global's program of study, provided even to prisoners, made it all possible."

Charles Lamp

Hartselle, Alabama



. . . distance education helped him
lead by example

Charles Lamp retired from the Army in 2008 following a successful 20-year career, and now serves as a senior software analyst for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). By completing three degree programs through Grantham University, he constantly shows others that pursuing an education is possible—even if it seems like there isn't enough time in the day.

After graduating from high school, Lamp enlisted in the Army as a Signal Soldier. Throughout his 20-year career, he served in various leadership positions in the Army's communications career field. During this time, he realized he needed to prepare for the next step in his life. This is when he found Grantham University.

Three degrees later—Associate of Science in Information Systems, Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Studies and Master of Business Administration Project Management—Charles is currently developing new projects for SAIC. He and his wife, Cindy, have two children, Damian and Ashtynn, who have followed in his footsteps and serve as Signal Soldiers in the Army.

“Growing up, very few of my friends and family completed high school. By taking my education far beyond that level, I’ve set a positive example for those who wanted to do the same.”



Tammy Atkinson Moorseville, North Carolina

. . . mother and son pursue high school diploma together

Tammy Atkinson received her high school diploma from The Hadley School for the Blind in 2013—and has also encouraged her son to do the same.

At a young age, Tammy was diagnosed with Wagner Syndrome, a degenerative disease that left her blind in one eye and legally blind in the other. Her two children also have inherited the condition.

Tammy became a Hadley student because she wanted to be a role model to her son, who was struggling in high school. After one of his teachers told her about Hadley, she encouraged him to try it out.

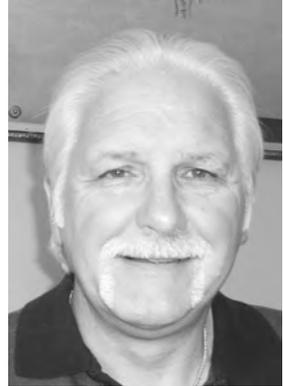
Tammy, who had dropped out of high school, also enrolled, hoping to be a positive influence. Her son is also doing very well in the Hadley High School Program and is just five courses away from graduation.

“It doesn’t matter how old you are or your situation. If you set your mind to something, you may be surprised by what you can accomplish.”

Alan Pew

Westville, New Jersey

. . . distance education allowed him to explore the history of today's social issues



After retiring from state service in 2008, Dr. Alan Pew volunteered with several relief organizations. As a military veteran, he wanted to help troubled veterans and realized that Harrison Middleton University's Doctor of Arts program would provide him with the necessary foundation to achieve his goal.

In envisioning his life after retirement, Alan knew that he wanted to continue to make a difference, so he began volunteering with the American Red Cross, the Southwest Long Term Recovery Group, and several veterans organizations. In June, he was awarded the 2013 South Jersey Region Special Citation for Exceptional Volunteer Service by the American Red Cross.

In his capstone project as the first graduate of Harrison Middleton University's Doctor of Arts Great Books program, he investigated the possibility of creating educational programs for incarcerated veterans at East Jersey State Prison. In addition to all of his volunteer efforts, Alan is a family man who recently welcomed his first grandchild into the family.

"HMU's unique learning process and focus on the Great Books provided me the opportunity to explore what the greatest authors of Western civilization had to say about issues which still exist today."

Scot Walker
Santa Clara, California

. . . security leader a dedicated student and example to others

Scot Walker graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Henley-Putnam University's Strategic Security and Protection Management program in 2011. Although he has been a leader in the strategic security field for more than two decades, earning his B.S. helped him continue to excel in his field.

A 21-year military reserve veteran, Scot served for more than 10 years as a Federal Criminal Investigator. He is currently a Senior Manager of Global Security Programs with NVIDIA, where he manages global security programs and activities, including business continuity and crisis management, supply chain security, workplace violence, investigations, executive protection, safety, risk assessments, and threat intelligence analysis, in order to protect NVIDIA employees and assets.

He is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades from across the law enforcement and security community, and is actively involved in helping develop and mentor the next generation of Henley-Putnam University's students and graduates.

"I am humbled and honored to represent Henley-Putnam University as an Outstanding Graduate. Henley-Putnam is very close to my heart, and I think very highly of their staff, educators, students and alumni."

Christina Estrada

Atlanta, Georgia

. . . her education transformed her family's health and inspired a family-focused fitness movement



Christina Estrada was a stay-at-home mom looking to improve the health of her family. Her quest to help her family turned into a mission to change the lives of families around the world through group fitness coaching using the fitness truths she learned at home obtaining an Associate's Degree from the International Sports Sciences Association.

During the course of Christina's studies she began to write the story of her family's health transformation. She and her husband lost more than 70 pounds by applying the principles she learned in her Exercise Science curriculum and together they discovered ways to incorporate fitness and nutrition into their busy family lifestyle and tight budget.

Christina is an author and speaker. She hosts international online coaching classes that serve individuals and families who are looking for practical, budget-friendly ways to become healthier. She is developing a program that models her family's fitness journey so that she may educate, encourage, and inspire other families to work together towards a healthier, well-balanced lifestyle.

"I know what it's like to lead a busy life; to crave balance and good health. My ISSA education gave me the tools to transform my family and launch my career as a family fitness coach. I am forever grateful."



Jonathan Holt Lake Park, Georgia

. . . distance education helped him
earn his degree

Jonathan Holt was working as an Aircraft Mechanic for the USAF when he began taking college courses. He started in traditional classroom universities, which caused scheduling problems due to deployments. Jonathan then discovered John Hancock University's distance education programs and enrolled in their Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program.

Jonathan graduated with a 3.93 GPA and was later handpicked to handle the budget for a 2,500 personnel unit. His new knowledge helped him contribute to the USAF and his career by using his studies, including his capstone project, which helped to develop better budgetary controls and processes.

Since his graduation, Jonathan has contributed to a host of volunteer situations, including the Red Cross. He was also selected to serve on several award boards for military achievement. Furthermore, Jonathan volunteered his time to assist families in cleanup efforts in the wake of a tornado that hit Valdosta, Georgia.

"I was very impressed with John Hancock University. Their flexible schedule and willingness to work around deployments helped me to obtain my Bachelor's Degree. Had I not discovered this University, I would still be far from obtaining my degree."

Angela Thoen Clarksville, Tennessee

. . . completing a degree program
online gave her confidence



Angela Thoen was able to earn her Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies from Lakewood College in 2013 in the comfort of her own home while being a loving military spouse and mother to her son.

Angela graduated from the two-year program six months ahead of schedule without transferring credits from another university. Her efforts and hard work has also led her to graduate from the program with honors.

In May 2013, Angie was Lakewood College's Student of the Month based on her excellence within the classroom and positive attitude, and the College is proud she is their 2013 Outstanding Graduate.

"Lakewood made it so much easier than I thought, and because of my amazing teachers and their responses to my work, I had the confidence to do even better the next time."



Krystal Jordan Afghanistan

. . . completing courses led her
to be an invaluable asset

Lance Corporal Krystal Jordan has taken a multitude of Marine Corps Institute courses that span various military occupational specialties during the past year. Her dedication to self improvement has been recognized and rewarded by being selected as the MCI's 2013 Outstanding Graduate.

She currently serves as Marine Corps Logistics Command (Fwd) distribution non-commissioned officer-in-charge. During fiscal year 2013, she completed 59 Marine Corps Institute courses while also being forward deployed aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Jordan exudes quality leadership-by-example not only through her completion of MCI courses, but also through her off-duty volunteer hours at the USO.

The knowledge gained while completing these courses led her to become an invaluable asset to the Marine Corps Logistics Command (Fwd) as well as assisting her in becoming a stronger and more educated non-commissioned officer.

"You have to be a good follower before you become and good leader!"

Diane Nelson

New Britain, Connecticut



. . . a layoff led her to expand her knowledge of healthcare administration

In January 2012, Diane Nelson began working to advance her education by completing McKinley College's Associate's Degree in Health Information Technology. In October 2013, she achieved that goal, earning an A in all 24 courses included in the degree.

A professional setback motivated Diane to enroll at McKinley. After 17 years working in an administrative healthcare field for a Durable Medical Equipment provider, she was laid off when the company was sold and her job outsourced. Federal Trade Act benefits allowed her to retrain by earning an Associate's Degree. She decided to expand her knowledge of healthcare administration. She chose McKinley's Health Information Technology degree for its up-to-date training in medical records management in the age of electronic health records.

The degree program was 22 months of hard work, but Diane now feels confident to reenter the workforce with a complete set of skills in healthcare administration.

"McKinley College provided what I needed to update and expand my skills. I wish the school offered a bachelor's degree. I would definitely keep going!"



Jennifer Burchett
Upland, California

. . . first-generation college student
reaches goal of MBA

Jennifer Burchett demonstrated relentless dedication and perseverance as she progressed toward her life-long goal of earning an MBA. She was determined to rise above life's challenges by enrolling in New Charter University's MBA program.

Jennifer graduated with a 3.5 GPA from her MBA program in 2013. She earned this respectable grade point average while maintaining strong performance in her job and with family responsibilities. During the 10 years in her job in a community college Human Resources department, Jennifer recognized she needed to get more schooling to advance in her career and improve her life circumstances.

New Charter University offered her the flexible, quality education needed by a busy working professional. Jennifer was able to balance work and home responsibilities while she culminated her 18 years in school with an MBA.

"I am truly honored to have been a student of the MBA program at New Charter University. It was the culmination of 18 years of educational endeavors and an ideal place for me to complete my journey."

Tiffany Brown

Alamogordo, New Mexico

. . . distance education helped her
give back to the community



Tiffany Brown chose distance learning to help further her education. She enrolled in Penn Foster's Dental Assistant program because she needed the ability to work full-time while attending school. Ever since Tiffany was young, she wanted to become a Dental Assistant. Many obstacles got in the way of her dream.

Tiffany completed her Penn Foster program in one year and was immediately offered a job as a dental assistant in her home town. Tiffany recently participated in the New Mexico Mission of Mercy, a two-day, free dental clinic, created for needy families. Tiffany along with more than 1,300 volunteers was able to help create 952 new smiles!

Tiffany noted that it was the most fulfilling experience in her entire life and without the help and knowledge she obtained from Penn Foster, she would never have been able to be a part of such a wonderful event.

"In this day and time it is very hard for a young adult to afford to go to college. When I found out about Penn Foster and how affordable it was, I knew it was the only choice for me."



Kyle Gilbreath Littleton, Colorado

. . . earning a degree helped him
to change careers

Mechanical engineering graduate Kyle Gilbreath was working as a seismic testing analyst in the nuclear industry when he realized he needed to be doing something more creative for a living. Pursuing his passion, he enrolled in an Associate in Graphic Design program at Sessions College for Professional Design.

Working full-time by day, Kyle pursued a full-time program during the evenings and weekends, distinguishing himself in every way. Kyle graduated with a 3.87 GPA, and his consistently strong work was selected for the student gallery four times. He was featured in GD USA magazine's annual Student to Watch article, and as a Sessions student ambassador contributed in many extra-curricular activities, such as live chats for prospective students.

It should come as no surprise that within six months of graduating, Kyle got his first position as a graphic/Web designer working for a startup mobile marketing company in Denver, Colorado called Everything Mobile. The company builds responsive mobile sites.

"Every class I took was a collaborative effort for everyone to learn the techniques and get better. I couldn't have asked for a better experience than Sessions College."

Jeremy Henemyer

Joshua Tree, California

... his distance education experience inspired him to teach online



Jeremy Henemyer found the Sonoran Desert Institute in 2009 while searching for online gunsmithing schools. When he discovered SDI was accredited by the DETC and approved to accept Marine Corps Tuition Assistance, he took the opportunity to further his education and enrolled in the school's Firearms Technology programs.

Jeremy is currently serving as an active duty Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. While on active duty he attended Sonoran Desert Institute and completed both his Gunsmithing Certificate and, in 2013, the Associate of Science in Firearm Technology degree program with exemplary grades, earning a 4.0 GPA. average. He credits the support of his family, friends and SDI for his academic success.

Jeremy has come full circle in his academic goals, from student to current part-time SDI instructor. He prides himself on assisting students in the Gunsmithing Certificate program answering program content questions and supporting student education.

"The instructors and staff at SDI made me feel that my education was important. With SDI, I was able to complete my education on my schedule. The quality of education and support from the school was outstanding."



Kristin Brethauer Grand Junction, Colorado

. . . she's enthusiastic about seeing people have a good time

Kristin Brethauer landed her first paid event contract while completing her Wedding and Event Planner course with U.S. Career Institute almost five years ago. Since then, her business has boomed. As a popular community event planner in Grand Junction, she now receives referrals from the Downtown Development Authority.

For her first three years in business, Kristin ran events free of charge for friends and her church. She took the U.S. Career Institute course to move up to paid wedding and event planning. Now working full-time for \$25 an hour, she oversees events such as weddings, birthday parties, golf-tournament fundraisers, wine tastings and murder-mystery nights. During the five years she's run Grand Junction's Oktoberfest, attendance has grown from 8,000 to 15,000 people.

"Giving back" is important to Kristin. She still manages church events for free. And to staff nonprofit events, she uses volunteers: Local college students help, and they earn community-service credits.

"What I love about events is that they're all positive. It's fun to be a part of people's special days. U.S. Career Institute helped train me to do that."

Ben-Johan F. van der Walt Fredericksburg, Virginia

. . . distance education's flexibility
made his dream a reality



Ben-Johan van der Walt immigrated to the USA in 2000 with a degree in Electronic Engineering and restarted his career as a Software Engineer. To advance his career, he enrolled in a Master of Business Administration program at the University of Management and Technology, with a concentration in project management.

Earning an MBA while juggling family obligations and a fulltime job was only possible thanks to UMT's flexible distance learning program. In 2011, Vizuri, a division of AEM Corporation, recognized Ben-Johan's potential and offered him a new career opportunity.

As a software and technology expert he was able to combine his technology experience with business acumen honed through the UMT program to gain a deeper understanding of how technology can improve business processes to deliver customer satisfaction and generate new market opportunities. This was demonstrated soon after receiving his MBA when Ben successfully delivered a new insurance business solution to a Texas-based company in 2013.

"UMT's MBA earned through flexible distance education helped me overcome difficult challenges, allowing me to stay competitive in a very fast-moving industry."



Ryann Cacciotti Cardiff by the Sea, California

. . . she pursued her dreams
via distance education

While working as a Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) in an outpatient orthopedic clinic, Ryann Cacciotti learned about the University of St. Augustine in San Diego. She was intrigued with the manual therapy concentration and was pleased there was a program offered allowing her to pursue her dream to become a physical therapist.

Ryann graduated with honors from the Doctorial Physical Therapy program in 2009 and received the Outstanding PT student award as well as the Stanley Paris/Catherine Patla Manual Therapy Award. She then completed the Manual Therapy Certification in 2010 and began assisting in different manual therapy seminars for the University's San Diego campus. After completing the Manual Therapy Certification, Ryann also became an instructor for the S2 course on the University of St. Augustine's San Diego campus and in the spring of 2011 she became a lab instructor for Anatomy in the FLEX program.

Ryann also has been working at the North County Water and Sports Therapy Center in San Diego, where she is surrounded by amazing therapists who have helped her become a better therapist and teacher.

"When I was young I combined two quotes and created my own motto 'if you wish, you can; if you can, you should,' and have applied that quote to all areas of my life ever since."

Famous Alumni

Shivana Inalsingh St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

. . . her passion for holistic nutrition encourages her support of holistic health



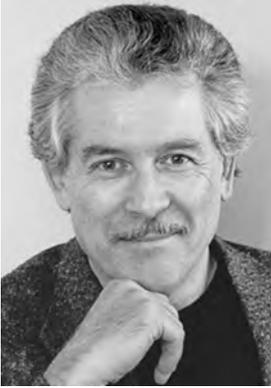
Shivana Inalsingh started her education at ACHS in the Master of Science in Complementary Alternative Medicine program, transferring to the Master of Science in Holistic Nutrition as her interest in nutritional choices for recovery expanded. She achieved her Graduate Certificate in Nutrition in May 2013, while continuing to complete her degree.

Shivana has shown her commitment to holistic nutrition and wellness since starting her studies at ACHS in 2011. Among her many accomplishments, Shivana was the recipient of an award of recognition for her work with trauma victims and first responders during and following the events of September 11 in New York City.

Supported by her education at ACHS, Shivana is a member of the World Boxing Association Medical Advisory Committee and has been a guest speaker at several World Boxing Association seminars, presenting her research on holistic health and wellness. Shivana works diligently with her clients to foster a sustained, healthy community.

"I have expanded the scope of health and wellness support to the community I serve, as well as create opportunities for discussion, research and integrative collaboration in others areas such as supporting high performance, safety and recovery in contact."

Famous Alumni



Michael Dumas Lakehurst, Ontario

. . . outstanding Canadian wildlife artist with art characterized as masterpieces

Michael Dumas grew up in a rural environment. This influence runs deeply through his art. As a child he often chose to draw animals. His love for drawing grew and he feels a turning point in his life came when he enrolled with Art Instruction Schools at age 16.

Earlier in Michael's career, he was selected Canadian Artist of the Year by Ducks Unlimited. In 2013, Michael's art was included in a publication of the Top 60 Masters of Contemporary Art, with his art on the cover. Michael's drawings and paintings have been exhibited at galleries and museums internationally. Numerous books, magazines, films, Canadian postage stamps and commemorative coins have featured Michael's art.

A significant proportion of Michael's art reflects his concern for the welfare of conservation. He has produced paintings to raise funds for conservation groups, including The World Wildlife. It has been estimated that he has been instrumental in raising over five million dollars for conservation projects.

"Art Instruction Schools holds a special place in my career. A turning point came with my enrollment. Not only was I receiving progressive art studies under professional guidance, but was beginning to realize the possibilities of art as a career."

Famous Alumni

Susan Shoe Rapid City, South Dakota

. . . education helped her
become a military trailblazer



In February 2013, Command Sergeant Major Susan Shoe became the first female appointed to the highest ranking non-commissioned officer in the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG). She credits this ground-breaking achievement to 16 years of hard work and earning her Associate of Arts in Business Administration at Grantham University.

CSM Shoe's journey began in 1989 when she joined the SDNG. She later enlisted in the U.S. Army where she was "boots on ground" in several countries, including a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Africa. After being honorably discharged, she returned to the SDNG where she served in a number of roles including: instructor, Legal, Training, and Readiness NCO.

She decided to enroll in Grantham University to ensure a successful military career path, better understand the civilian workforce, and to start a small business with her husband. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with her associate degree and recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

"As the first female SDNG State Command Sergeant Major, I am faced with a lot of publicity. Without my Grantham education, I couldn't discuss economic issues affecting the military, because I wouldn't have the business knowledge to do so."

Famous Alumni



John Rowley
Raleigh, North Carolina

. . . America's Lifestyle Strategist

John Rowley's athletic career was cut short due to a near fatal accident. Undeterred, he intensely pursued his education to get his body healthy again after the devastating accident. He then became a Certified Fitness Trainer through the ISSA in order to bring more credibility and value to his readers.

International Best-Selling author, speaker and contributor to Fox News, SmartMoney and Martha Stewart—John Rowley has earned the title “America's Lifestyle Strategist,” for his ability to inspire millions to become physically, mentally and spiritually fit, using simple, common sense solutions rooted in his education with the ISSA.

With only his wife Cathy at his side John started at the bottom as a janitor in Brooklyn before earning a position at one of the most prestigious real estate companies in Manhattan. John also bought R&J Health Studio but through it all maintains that his most savvy investment was in helping improve the health and wellness of the people around him.

“I am extremely impressed with the education you can get through the ISSA. Flexible, detailed and well supported, the ISSA is by far the best education any interested in the fitness industry can get.”

Famous Alumni

L. David Olson Kennewick, Washington

. . . distance education allowed him continued oversight of billion-dollar clean-up projects



Dr. L. David Olson completed his DBA at the University of Management and Technology in 2013. For more than 30 years, he used education to advance his career and business development achievements. Building on his engineering and MBA degrees, his DBA solidified his selection as President of a major engineering services firm.

Dave was named President of Washington River Protection Solutions in 2013. At the Hanford nuclear site in eastern Washington, he oversees a \$400 million annual budget for a 1,650-person engineering-services-based organization utilizing cutting-edge technology to turn hazardous waste into a safe, immobile glass—thus rendering the Northwest U.S. environmentally safe from this nuclear hazard.

In addition to serving on the boards of several universities and non-profit organizations, Dave reaches out to local universities, providing on-campus career planning seminars for students. These efforts have heightened his interest in pursuing future opportunities to teach at the university level, an ambition made possible by his DBA from UMT.

“UMT’s doctoral track strengthened my strategic planning knowledge and prepared me for future university teaching opportunities. The positive impact of UMT’s DBA program has been noticed by my employees as well as my corporate board.”

Famous Alumni



Eric Krell
Lone Tree, Colorado

. . . he is the co-owner of
a PT practice with multiple
locations

Dr. Eric Krell was treating patient's full-time while also performing the administrative duties as the co-owner of a growing private practice with multiple locations in Denver, and a very active father of three, when he discovered the transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy program offered through the University of St. Augustine.

While managing and owning a growing private practice, treating full time, and juggling the responsibility of being an involved parent of 3 small children Eric was able to complete his degree with a 3.3 GPA. Upon graduating and throughout the tDPT process, Eric quickly put his new knowledge to use in the clinical setting.

As a private practice owner in an ever changing insurance and healthcare environment Eric co-founded the Physical Therapy Action Committee of Colorado, PTAC-CO. This committee was formed as a "grassroots" effort to bring together Colorado Physical Therapist's in an effort to advance the profession alongside the Colorado APTA as well as APTA's Vision 2020.

"The well-organized distance program, flexible and experienced faculty at the University of St. Augustine allowed me to fulfill my goal of obtaining my DPT while also allowing me to be a Dad, clinician and business owner."



Distance Education and Training Council

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