

# 2010



**DETC**

Outstanding Graduates  
and  
Famous Alumni

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### Introduction

There is no more gratifying aspect of our work in the Distance Education and Training Council than to read about the success of the graduates of our accredited institutions.

Our success is best viewed through the lens of what happened to those whose lives we have touched: did they put their knowledge and skills to work to make a better life for themselves and their loved ones? Did they achieve their goals?

This DETC brochure is our most important contribution to the outcomes measurement literature. It is our testimony to why DETC institutions play a vital role in making the world a better place. It is our proof that what we do is worthwhile for society and for individuals.

Thirty-seven exceptional distance study graduates were selected by the 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. We've also included entries on eight Famous Alumni for 2010.

We join with all the DETC-accredited institutions in saluting the outstanding achievements of these unique men and women who represent more than two million distance education students now studying with DETC members.

Michael P. Lambert, Executive Director



### Trisha Ewalt Berlin, New Hampshire

. . . she pursued her dream to be a nurse

Trisha Ewalt entered the program at Allied National High School in 2007 determined to earn her diploma and pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. Trisha chose to attend ANHS because she needed the flexibility and freedom that only online high school could offer a newly wed military spouse. By enrolling in our program, Trisha was able to support her husband's military career and meet her own personal academic goals.

During her academic career at Allied National High School, Trisha quickly adapted to her new learning environment. She went from a grade point average of 2.85 before entering our program, to a 3.3 grade point average upon graduation from ANHS.

In addition to her academic performance, Trisha moved through courses quickly, sometimes completing them before her course deadline dates. Throughout her program of study at ANHS it was evident that she was dedicated to her academic career and to her personal goal of becoming a nurse. After graduation, Trisha is attending White Mountain Community College where she is currently working towards her goal of becoming a nurse with the same level of perseverance and success.

*"I am so proud to be an Allied graduate . . . I am so motivated to go to college now! Allied National High School exceeded my expectations."*

### Margaret Jones Aliso Viejo, California

... distance education provided her the opportunity to re-train and build skills



Margaret Jones was looking to expand her career skills when she learned about Allied Schools. After being laid off from her job as an office manager, she found that many jobs were requiring computer and accounting knowledge. Wanting to build her credentials and experience, Margaret took advantage of training using state re-training benefits.

The online learning format provided the flexibility and convenience to learn while continuing her job search. To give herself a solid background, she enrolled in Microsoft® Vista, Excel, PowerPoint, QuickBooks and Computerized Financial Accounting. Within nine months, she had dramatically increased her level of knowledge.

Margaret was able to add marketable skills, have her training costs covered and set herself apart in today's economy. Margaret feels much better prepared for opportunities in the workplace and has even set her sights on a career in the accounting field. She wants to build her experience and realize new and exciting opportunities in a career that's integral to businesses nationwide.

*"My experience was extremely positive. The materials were understandable and followed a logical order and the fact that I had a student representative calling me to make sure everything was OK was very helpful. Now I feel I have extra skills to offer."*



Pat Reder, RN, HHP  
Damascus, Oregon

. . . distance education gave her  
confidence to seek new opportunities

A registered nurse for almost 30 years, Pat Reder has always been interested in alternative medicine. She realized there was a need for an integrative approach between allopathic and holistic health care practices. That is why she chose the ACHS Holistic Health Practitioner diploma program. Pat completed the Diploma program in December 2009, completing several courses along the way including her Certificate in Nutrition, Bodycare, and Herbalism.

Finishing the first course in her program provided Pat with the knowledge base to approach her employer about incorporating wellness coaching into their services. With her ACHS training, Pat was able to develop a wellness coaching program that was successfully trialed with her fellow employees and opened the door to marketing the wellness coaching program to their clients. She has now provided individual and group wellness classes for the past year.

Recently, Pat was selected to serve on the Portland Public School District's Wellness Advisory Council for a two-year term. Her ACHS studies have given her the confidence to seek out new opportunities to bring health and wellness to her community.

*"My ACHS studies have enabled me to get involved in many different volunteer projects and participate on Boards and Committees."*

Douglas Larm  
Puyallup, Washington

. . . distance education  
provided him time and



Mr. Doug Larm is both an Intelligence Analyst for the Seattle Police Department and owner/President of Operational Applications, Inc. Doug earned a Master of Project Management degree with the American Graduate University and subsequently was selected as an adjunct professor at Seattle University to develop and teach a new graduate-level criminal justice course focused on intelligence analysis within the law enforcement environment.

Doug was anxious to share his 29 years of intelligence-related experience with the next generation of intelligence analysts but felt he needed the skills of planning, organizing and managing resources provided in a project management program. The flexibility and efficiency of the AGU program enabled him to earn his degree with a 4.0 GPA and the highest comprehensive examination score this year.

Raised in a military family and retired himself from military service, Doug resides with his wife and 12-year old son in Puyallup, Washington. Doug's wife is the Provost Marshall for the Fort Lewis Army Medical Center.

*"My AGU Master of Project Management empowered me to develop and successfully integrate a new university course—on time, within budget and meeting university goals."*





**Kim McSweeney**  
Brownsville, Texas

... distance education gave her the opportunity to interact with professionals

Kim McSweeney began her education in her early twenties as a single parent, working and attending school full-time to become a Medical Technologist. In 2007, she pursued a Master's of Public Health degree at American Public University System after completing a BS degree from SUNY New Paltz. She began her career as a Microbiologist and advanced from managing a large microbiology lab to serving as a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State addressing health, food and water concerns stateside and overseas.

Kim's work responsibilities as a Foreign Service Officer require that she travel internationally often. Distance education made it possible for her to continue her education. In September 2009, Kim completed her master's program, graduating with Honors and a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Earlier this spring at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, Kim collected samples during the H1N1 outbreak for a study by the Army Research Institute. The samples turned out to be the most complete genetic sequence as well as the first confirmed instance of person-to-person transmission.

*"AMU allowed me to pursue a quality education and gave me the opportunity to interact with professionals in diverse fields."*

## Timothy Waterhouse

Houston, Texas



... distance education allowed him to continue working while earning his degree

Tim Waterhouse was a student at American Sentinel University while he continued to be a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist practicing at the Houston's Medical Center for a decade. During this time, he did all of the things an OB/GYN does, including delivering babies, cesarean sections, advanced laparoscopic surgeries and procedures, as well as taking caring of women of all ages.

In the mid-2000's he became involved with a new company: a high-risk obstetrical homecare company that he has assisted to develop and grow. He left his obstetrician/gynecologist practice in 2007 to run this company fulltime and it was during this time that he also completed his MBA. Tim works constantly to improve the scope and quality of his services to homebound pregnant women and their physicians.

During the time he was studying for his MBA, he also became involved in a biomedical venture capital group that specializes in the development of technology for the laboring patient. Tim has recently joined ASU's faculty teaching numerous courses.

*"American Sentinel University provided me with a unique opportunity: the ability to continue to pursue my current career, while affording me the luxury of expanding my knowledge through an additional degree."*



### Nancy J. Zombek Martinsburg, West Virginia

... she realized her potential  
through distance learning

When Andrew Jackson University awarded Nancy Zombek the Master of Public Administration, she had accomplished much more than numerous research papers, reading assignments, and studying for exams.

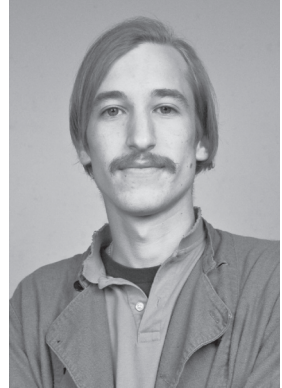
Nancy worked 15 years as a courtroom deputy for the United States District Court before pursuing the Master in Public Administration. While continuing to work full time, she graduated *summa cum laude* with a 4.0 GPA. As she neared completion of her degree, she was promoted to Deputy-in-Charge. Her success in completing this program assisted her efforts to reach beyond the “glass ceiling” in employment within the federal government.

Andrew Jackson University’s distance learning program provided Zombek with the tools to become disciplined, focused, and confident. Study for the master’s degree led her to a deeper understanding of the federal government, political awareness, and the desire to be instrumental in maintaining a government that instills honesty, righteousness, and integrity in her community.

*“Andrew Jackson University took great interest in my academic success. I highly recommend distance learning for older adults who work full time, have a family, and have other obligations that prevent them from participating in a classroom environment.”*

### Michael Kondel Purchase, New York

... his training helped him to become a well-rounded artist



Michael Kondel has won numerous awards, honors and recognition for his artwork. Michael is in his last semester at Purchase State University of New York, having won \$16,000 in scholarships based solely on his art portfolio. He was recently nominated as a candidate for a \$15,000 fellowship grant. His future education plans are to obtain his Masters degree in Fine Art Printmaking.

Michael's art has been accepted in juried art competitions and his work has been hung in several art galleries, including ISE Cultural Foundation on Broadway in New York City. He was selected to participate in a skateboard art show in Phoenix, Arizona. He also has distinguished himself with his printmaking designs and was the recipient of Art Instruction Schools' 2007 Annual Art Competition \$1,000 Grand Purchase Prize for one of his printmaking designs. In addition, he has taken internships with some of the leading printmakers in the United States.

Michael believes in giving back to the community with his art. Several pieces of his art have sold in silent auctions at charity events. He has done volunteer artwork with mentally challenged people.

*"My training with Art Instruction Schools helped to make my work more professional, giving me the knowledge to materialize my ideas into a finished product."*



### Ervisa Ritt Ft. Stewart, Georgia

. . . she successfully balances education,  
family, and her military career

Ervisa Ritt knows first hand how conducive distance education is to military life. Having first joined the Army as a Nuclear Biological Chemical Student, she re-focused her studies to pursue Ashworth College's Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. Ashworth gave her the flexibility to complete her courses no matter where she was stationed. She indicated that her biggest fear was not having the Internet in the field but this fear was quickly overcome when she realized she could still take her books with her whenever deployed.

Ervisa's Associate Degree is only the beginning of her studies, as she has already enrolled in Ashworth's Bachelor's program. A Bachelor's degree is a requirement to become an officer and her education in criminal justice will further benefit her when she finally transitions back to civilian life and help her reach her ultimate goal of becoming a police officer.

Born in Albania, Ervisa is now a U.S. citizen. She met her husband Jon who was also in the Army. He has since retired and watches their 3½ year old daughter. They are currently stationed at Ft. Stewart, GA.

*"My education in criminal justice will benefit me when I finally transition to civilian life. My ultimate goal is to become a police officer and I have Ashworth to thank for that."*

## Sherrie Michelle Campbell College Park, Georgia

. . . she sets the example



The Aspen University programs provided Sherrie the confidence and knowledge to excel in her career as a Chief Warrant Officer serving as a Army Human Resources Technician. Sherrie completed two programs at Aspen, the MBA in Project Management and Master of Science in Information Management.

As a lifelong learning advocate, Sherrie believes we should all strive to achieve our higher education goals. Through dedication to her ministry, family and career Sherrie has demonstrated that it is not the credentials that make you who are, but how you use them in helping others.

The knowledge Sherrie gained at Aspen helps her to be a more productive citizen. She has been able to provide free quality assistance to non-profit organizations by offering free budgeting and basic business practices teachings in format classes.

*“In order to make a difference, you must first be the difference. Aspen University’s programs and professional staff have definitely made the difference for me. Aspen’s support encouraged me to achieve my goals of becoming a better soldier and an example for my family. May the work I have done speak for me.”*



### Katherine C. Medley Baxter, Tennessee

. . . she succeeded because  
of distance learning

After eight months, Katherine Medley completed At-Home Professions' Medical Transcription course with a total grade point average of 97%. Within three months of graduation, Kathy was successful in securing her first client and quickly became a well-respected medical transcriptionist.

At age 48, Kathy suddenly became unemployed. She feared that without a college degree or specialized skill, she would have to reenter the workforce at the bottom. With her training, she now has her own successful home-based business and has the flexibility to meet her personal obligations, spend time with her grandchildren and still have a challenging, rewarding career.

Kathy is a strong, caring person whose clients trust her skills and knowledge. She has used these skills to introduce her clients to new, more efficient administrative technologies. Her top-quality work has helped her clients gain their customers' respect. Outside of work, Kathy helps her community through the passion she brings to the care of her aging parents, in-laws and struggling family members. Kathy's success story is finding exactly what she needed in a time when others needed her so much.

*"I would recommend distance education to anyone lacking the training necessary to compete in today's job market."*

## Ingrid Dean Traverse City, Michigan

. . . she knows the transpersonal  
side of police work



Ingrid Dean, detective sergeant and 20-year veteran for the Michigan State Police, completed her distance learning program with Atlantic University in 2008, receiving her Master of Arts in Transpersonal Studies. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

During a three-year research period, Ingrid began sharing and compiling a collection of true, transpersonal police stories. The stories showed officers using special skills and intuitive decision-making in conjunction with their experience, academic knowledge, and emotional intelligence. Her book, *Spirit of the Badge: 60 True Police Stories of Divine Guidance, Miracles, & Intuition*, is one of the first ever to address unexplainable phenomena in Law enforcement.

She was recently featured in the November/December 2009 issue of the magazine *Venture Inward*. Recently, she was interviewed “live” on the Coast to Coast A.M. Radio program, and the interview was posted on their web site. She was also featured on the “Joey Reynold’s Show” in New York, NY, Fox25 Morning News, Dedham, MA, and over twenty other radio and television shows.

*“All of the AU courses for healing and enlightenment solidified and refined my soul purpose into one simple statement: to spread Light in law enforcement.”*





Betty J. Hill  
Miami, Florida

. . . she never gave up on her dream  
of earning a high school diploma

Betty J. Hill earned her high school diploma through the BYU Independent Study Adult High School Diploma Program. This experience, at which she excelled, has given her the confidence to begin the pursuit of a lifelong dream of obtaining a bachelor's degree in humanities and music.

Due to circumstances beyond her control, Betty was forced to drop out of high school in 1948 and later, as a single parent with five children, had to work one or more jobs at a time, including 17 years in the New York State court system, to provide for her family. She had no time or money to even consider returning to school and consequently felt empty, unfulfilled, and uneducated.

Now retired, at age 80 she is a church organist, belongs to a music club that provides scholarships to outstanding students, and performs on request at various clubs and associations. Besides working toward a college degree, Betty plans to certify as a tutor to help others in their academic challenges.

*“While it was very challenging for me, persevering in the program has unlocked what previously was hidden and unreachable—now I’m more confident in my abilities to read, write, and understand various materials.”*

## Sherry Claus McDonald, Pennsylvania

. . . distance education led her to  
a new career



Sherry Claus was looking for a position in the medical field. After much research, Sherry discovered Brighton College and their Pharmacy Technician program. She knew that it was the right place for her to continue her education.

Sherry graduated from the Pharmacy Technician program in five months. Sherry was able to finish faster than an average student. Not only did she maintain a high GPA throughout the program, she also had a job offer before she officially graduated from the school.

She is now happily working in the field and has recently learned that she will head her own division at her new company. Sherry is very happy with her education at Brighton College and is looking forward to a successful future in the field.

*“The experience I had at Brighton College, not only gave me a new education and diploma—it gave me something far more than I could have expected, it gave me self-esteem.”*



## Bonita Ruth Schmid Minden, Nevada

. . . the university made the  
“impossible” possible

The Bachelor Degree Completion Program at Catholic Distance University is enabling Bonita to fulfill a dream that began forty years ago. After raising two sons and completing her AA degree, Bonita pursued a theology degree until a one-year residency requirement caused her to transfer to The Catholic Distance University. “CDU offered a way for me to complete my degree without leaving my home in Nevada!” In addition, CDU maintained the quality of Catholic education that Bonita had previously experienced. Flexibility of schedule made possible continuing studies even while traveling to care for aging parents.

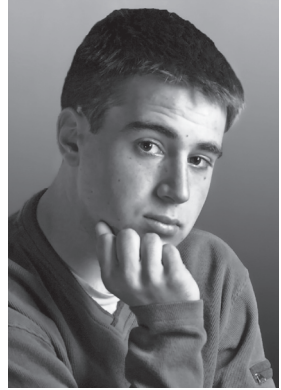
Bonita, supported by her husband of 37 years, pursued the BA Theology Degree for personal growth. She has excelled with a 97% grade average even while leading a Bible Study group, and participating in her parish Respect Life Committee. She’s hoping to become involved in adult education in her parish.

Bonita, who enjoys cross-stitching for a hobby, has already demonstrated her suitability for leadership positions as Director of Religious Education and as chairperson for her former Parish Council.

*“From my home in rural Nevada, I have access to 2,000 years of Catholic teaching and theology enabling me to grow in knowing, loving, and serving God.”*

## Nicholas Lebel Pflugerville, Texas

... he was able to complete his degree quickly while working full-time



Nicholas Lebel graduated from Cleveland Institute of Electronics in 2008 with an Associates of Applied Science in Computer Information Technology and Systems Management. His greatest inspirations were his parents and wanting to succeed by earning a degree. He had set a goal to earn his Bachelors degree so after he graduated with his Associates degree he enrolled with World College.

Nick worked hard on his degree and earned an 85% average. His education allowed him to be equal to his coworkers and was able to receive a promotion. He works as a Computer Network Troubleshooter installing the hardware and software for computer networks at Austex Consultants, LLC.

In his spare time, Nick likes to repair cars by incorporating computer accessories and he has volunteered at a local Humane Society to help with the care of abandoned or neglected animals. He also plays on local soccer and football leagues when he can.

*“Distance education was very important to me as it gave me the flexibility to earn a degree and work my regular full-time job without interference.”*



## David Lee Marietta, Georgia

... this officer is climbing the ranks  
with his degree

Before David Lee began a bachelor's degree program with Columbia Southern University, the Marietta, Georgia Police Department where he worked implemented a degree requirement for promotions. While finishing his undergraduate degree in criminal justice, he was promoted to commander. He later went on to complete an MBA at CSU and was recently promoted to Deputy Chief of Investigative and Support Services.

As the only member of his family without a degree, David was determined to complete his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. After several unsatisfying experiences at traditional universities, he discovered that online education was the perfect solution for accomplishing his educational goals. David could now fit courses into his lifestyle – even with a schedule as hectic and unpredictable as his law enforcement career demanded.

David began his 30 year career in law enforcement as a military policeman in the U.S. Army. He hopes the diversity his degrees have given him will prepare him for his next goal to become a chief of police.

*“My CSU degrees definitely helped me reach my professional goals. The critical thinking and research skills I gained are having a huge impact on my career.”*

## Michael Collins Salt Lake City, Utah

... he combines technology expertise  
and his passion for law



Michael Collins was a successful computer consultant and software expert when he was called as a witness in a civil case. Intrigued he began to read about law and got hooked. Like many mid-career professionals, Mick was not ready or able to give up his demanding and rewarding employment. Finding Concord Law School, he was able to study law while continuing to fulfill his work obligations which included, at the time a contract with his home state of Utah.

While studying with Concord and working full-time, Mick also threw himself into the life of a student. He participated in Cornell Law School's summer institute in Paris where he studied human rights law and comparative law. He also joined the American Constitutional Society (ACS) and became very active, participating in two ACS National Moot Court competitions. He was recently named an ACS Next Generation Leader for 2009-2010.

He is particularly interested in the ability to construct a modern database to catalog, quantify and qualify the attributes of criminal processes.

*"I consider criminal law a neglected stepchild of our legal system. There are so many ideas that haven't been thoroughly researched-especially given modern technologies. By being able to see certain patterns we might be successful in stopping crime."*



## Melissa Eileen Moses Spokane, Washington

. . . unstoppable personality meets  
unbeatable education

Melissa Moses was embarking on a new and exciting endeavor to become a United States Marine Corp Officer, however to accomplish this extraordinary goal she needed to obtain her bachelor's degree. Melissa found Ellis University to be an excellent fit for her busy lifestyle. Ellis' flexibility enabled Melissa to obtain her Bachelor of Science degree and receive her commission through the Marine Corps.

Melissa Moses is a single mother of two daughters aged ten and six and has been a member of the Washington Air National Guard for over five years. Melissa was anxious to finish her degree and after her first semester appealed to the dean to allow her to triple and in some cases quadruple up on her class load.

Aided by supportive family and friends she was able to finish her degree in six months, graduating with a 3.77 GPA. Melissa graduated from Marine Corp OCS last summer and will receive her commission as a second lieutenant on November 25, 2009.

*"The quality of education and dedication of the faculty found at Ellis University are second to none. I was both challenged and inspired by my professors and fellow classmates and the design and content of the classes allowed me to excel and reach my full potential."*

## John M. Harris Gretna, Louisiana

. . . he's an example for the Airmen  
he leads



Former Command Chief Master Sergeant John M. Harris has served in the Air Force and Air National Guard for 26 years. Furthering his education was always important, but life intervened. After deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and recovering from the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Chief Harris was able to realize his goal. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Grantham University in May 2008 with a 3.81 GPA and is planning to graduate with his MBA in 2010.

During his appointment as CCM, one of his responsibilities was to encourage Airmen to fully utilize all of the benefits available to them, including educational benefits. Chief Harris believes that if he could finish his degree with a hectic travel schedule, family responsibilities, hurricane seasons, and while preparing for retirement, anyone can do it.

As the highest ranking enlisted member in the Louisiana Air National Guard, Chief Harris represented the interests of the enlisted corps to The Adjutant General and served as an advisor to The Assistant Adjutant General for Air.

*“When I tell Airmen and Soldiers to take full advantage of their educational benefits, now I can lead by example and show them that it can be done.”*





### Megan Tate Potts Camp, Mississippi

. . . distance education helped her  
achieve her elusive goal

Megan Tate is almost completely blind due to retinolental fibroplasia of prematurity, a disease of the eye caused by disorganized growth of retinal blood vessels leading to retinal scarring and detachment. Tate previously had difficulty in other educational environments. Her grandmother found Hadley on a homeschooling mailing list when her family decided to search for other options. She enrolled at Hadley in 2003 at the age of 14.

Hadley is a distance education school that provides coursework to people who are blind and visually impaired, their family members, and professionals working in the blindness field. Hadley's courses allowed Megan to study at her own pace and work one-on-one with her instructors.

After graduating from Hadley, Tate enrolled at Liberty University, in Virginia, to study theology. She is pursuing a career as a fiction writer and southern Gospel singer.

*“Hadley has taught me skills I can use in my daily life. The courses fueled a new love for learning that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I am the first person in my immediate family to graduate from high school and my diploma means the world to me.”*

## Gregory A. Smith Navarre, Florida

... special operations professional  
capitalizes on opportunities



Upon returning from a high priority Special Operations mission in Iraq, Mr. Gregory A. Smith, attempted to explain to his team why the target had used terrorism as his weapon of choice against the Iraqi people. He began a search for some form of learning institution that addressed the complex subject of terrorism and its doctrine. He discovered Henley-Putnam University's distance education program and enrolled in their Bachelor of Science in Terrorism and Counterterrorism Studies program.

Greg graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was named to the President's List as the top graduate in his class. The knowledge gained helped him tremendously as a member of the Special Operations community. Because of his vast experience and knowledge, Greg is a sought after warrior and scholar for lectures and courses within the Joint Special Operations community.

Greg is the senior Air Force Special Operations instructor at the Joint Special Operations Senior Enlisted Academy. He is also a member of the Association of Security and Counterterrorism Professionals and the Delta Epsilon Tau international honor society. He has also authored several articles featured in the *Journal of Strategic Security*.

*"My experience at Henley-Putnam has been nothing short of outstanding."*



### Wendi Taliaferro Chattanooga, Tennessee

. . . she required distance education to achieve her educational goals

As a stay at home mother of four children, Wendi Taliaferro had struggled to locate a traditional school that would allow her to support her family while pursuing her goal to obtain a career in healthcare. Wendi discovered that Independence University offered the only CAAHEP accredited Respiratory Therapy program offered through distance education.

Wendi took on a *double* full time course load in one of the most difficult undergraduate programs at the university. This included completing 720 hours of hands on clinical practicum training and over 60 semester hours of academic work in a one year period of time. The amount of study time and coursework she completed illustrated outstanding dedication as a distance learning student.

Upon graduation from the Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy program, Wendi was able to immediately pass the national licensing exams for Respiratory Therapists and is currently completing her next degree, a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care.

*“Independence University gave me the opportunity to pursue two degrees in two years with a busy lifestyle and on my own timeframe.”*

## Sara Fleming Raleigh, North Carolina

... she continues to improve her knowledge to serve others



Sara Fleming a stay at home mom with three kids, was a former biochemist and medical researcher looking for a part time career. As a fitness enthusiast the prospect of becoming a Certified Fitness Trainer was very appealing, but as the wife of a busy ER physician leaving her home was not an option. International Sports Sciences Association's distance education program became the perfect pathway into this rewarding career providing a complete and comprehensive education in health and fitness.

Since completing her course, Sara mentors other trainers both on and off the ISSA community web site and has developed a partnership with a facility in Raleigh, Crossfit-SWAT, that allows her to work with clients of all ages on a part time basis.

Using ISSA principles, Sara developed a performance nutrition program consisting of an informational seminar followed by individual assessments and ongoing guidance that has been met with great success.

*"Without ISSA, I would never have been able to gain the kind of quality education I have. My clients can see that I truly understand the 'why' behind what we are having them do and feel very confident in my judgment when I work with them. I feel very lucky to have the ISSA's support behind me."*



### Mark Russakoff Lakewood, Ohio

. . . distance education helped him  
bring peace to the community

In January of 2009, Dr. Mark Russakoff graduated from Lakewood College's mediation certificate program. He immediately developed a mediation training curriculum in conjunction with the Office of Conciliation for the Village of Homewood to assist others interested in becoming community peacemakers. The Village now offers mediation services for those seeking alternate dispute resolution with a neighbor, landlord, tenant, or business where there has been no law or code violation.

Mark earned a BA degree in Organ (magna cum laude) from Washington University. From 1971 to 1973, he studied organ and harpsichord at the French National Conservatory in Strasbourg, where he received two Certificats d'execution instrumentale.

Mark earned both a master's degree and a doctorate from Northwestern University. In addition to holding numerous positions as organist choir director at Roman Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Gary, he was a mediator, lecturer, composer, recitalist, and clinician, and is proficient in five languages, most recently studying Hebrew. He served as director of music ministries at St. Irenaeus Catholic Church in Park Forest.

*"Lakewood College's preparation and constant encouragement have been invaluable."*

Jody G. Armentrout  
Jacksonville, North Carolina

. . . he is a lifelong learner



Staff Sergeant Jody G. Armentrout is working at the Marine Combat Training Battalion, Camp Lejeune, NC as a Combat Instructor. He wanted to enhance his knowledge in order to give his student's a better understanding about the material he was presenting. His self-discipline allowed him to complete several courses that related to his field of expertise while continuing to instruct on a full time basis. By enrolling in and completing several Marine Corps Institute's courses, it allowed him to become more proficient at his expertise and stand out amongst his peers.

Staff Sergeant Armentrout is married with one child and works full time as a Marine Combat instructor. He knew that distance education was the best choice for him as he was seeking self improvement.

Since completing the course Staff Sergeant Armentrout has clearly set himself above his peers and was ranked within the top one percent of the 212 Combat Instructors in his battalion.

*"MCI allowed me to pick the subjects that I felt were necessary to mentally grow and professionally mature as a Marine leader."*



### Chris Corradino Wantagh, New York

... his training allowed him to start a successful photography business

Chris Corradino knew that he wanted to pursue a career in professional photography. However, he needed training. The New York Institute of Photography's (America's oldest photography school) was the perfect school to give his resume this credibility. So he enrolled in the Complete Course in Professional Photography.

Chris began his professional career in sports photography. After building his portfolio, he was able to find work with a New York newspaper, covering baseball, football, soccer, and volleyball games. This led him to opportunities in photojournalism, and he now regularly covers breaking news events. Chris is also a dedicated nature photographer and environmentalist. He sells nature photographs to private collectors, and he works with several wildlife organizations, providing photo content for their web sites, newsletters, and printed materials.

Chris started his own business, Chris Corradino Photography. In addition, he is a Student Advisor at NYIP. He is a favorite with NYI students, and has helped many emerging photographers achieve their goals.

*"NYI lessons cover a wide variety of topics, which opened my eyes to several types of photography. Once I had a firm grasp on the technical aspects of photography, I felt confident enough to seek out new opportunities."*

## **Terry Shortt** **Key West, Florida**

. . . distance education allowed him  
to live his dream



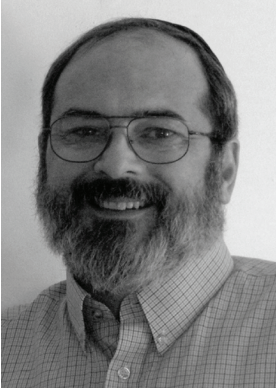
Terry Shortt graduated from the Hotel/Restaurant Management Career Diploma program offered by Penn Foster Career School in February of 2009 with an overall average of 91%.

After retiring from a twenty-year military career and then once again, twenty years later, retiring from his post military career as a real estate agent, Terry decided to launch a “post-retirement” career in the hospitality business. He secured a job in a hotel and received a thorough understanding of the Hotel/Restaurant business through a combination of work experience and the training that he received from Penn Foster.

Terry is married with five grown children and enjoys many hobbies such as bike riding, sailing and scuba diving. The hospitality business gives him the opportunity to live in wonderful places near the ocean and still remain a productive member of the work force. He believes he was fortunate to find Penn Foster’s training program which fit so perfectly into his plan and made it possible for him to live his dream—even at the age of 61.

*“The career diploma that I earned at Penn Foster played a huge role in separating my resume from all the others.”*





Joseph Urso  
Takoia, Israel

... distance education turned his  
passion into a career

Joseph Urso served in the U.S. Military for seven years, beginning in 1978, until being discharged for a service injury. As a disabled veteran who had physical limitations to the kind of work he could do, Joseph decided to look to his lifelong interest in art as a second career, but he could not afford retraining. That's when he discovered the Sessions Online Schools of Art and Design, and the Louis H. Schilt Memorial Scholarship offered to active military, military veterans and their spouses.

Through the LHS Scholarship program, Joseph took the Graphic Design Foundation Certificate program. Joseph's design skills had previously been self-taught; the program helped him hone his talent and realize his potential.

His passion for pursuing the most creative solution to a project distinguished his class work. He completed the program in September 2009 with a strong portfolio of print design work, and the desire to go further in his studies.

*"After completing the Graphic Design Foundation Program I feel that I now have a solid set of basic skills. I experienced much success in this program and also feel that I can go much further than where I'm at now so I enrolled in the Digital Arts Advanced Program to further develop my skills."*

## Michele Kinimaka Noosa, Queensland, Australia

. . . distance education gave  
her the foundation she needed



When Michele Kinimaka moved from Australia to Austin, Texas, she decided it was time to follow her dreams of becoming a full-time interior designer. So she enrolled in The Sheffield School's Complete Course in Interior Design.

Before enrolling in Sheffield, Michele had a successful freelance career in graphic design and real estate marketing. Although she did side projects in interior design, Michele found that she couldn't fully launch her career without formal training in the field. With two young children, she didn't have the time to attend a residential training program. Sheffield's program allowed her to study from home at her own pace.

After completing the course, Michele researched the market, created a business plan, and designed her own logo and web site. This enabled her to start a very successful interior design business, Avalon Interiors, in Austin, Texas. Recently, she moved back to Australia with her family, where she works as the marketing manager of a new store. She plans to renew her residential interior design career in the near future.

*"Sheffield training really helped me focus and understand the process and principles of interior design. It enabled me to understand the fundamentals of what makes good design and apply it to my work to truly enhance and improve my ideas."*



Jose Sala  
Muro del Alcoy, Spain

... his interests led him to a new career

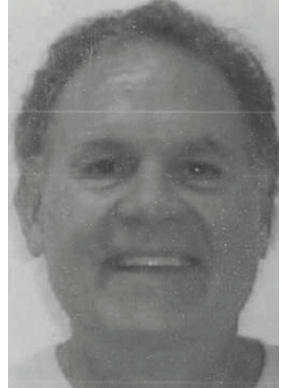
More than twenty years ago, Jose Ramon Dominguis Sala served in the Royal Artillery Forces of the Spanish Army. This reawakened his enthusiasm for firearms and gunsmithing that he had since a young boy. Sonoran Desert Institute helped him to follow his passion.

Twelve years ago he set up a small workshop where he started to do firearms repair and gunsmithing for friends in his spare time. Slowly it became busier and he felt he needed to study more formally to increase his knowledge of gunsmithing.

Approximately two years ago, Jose decided to leave the company where he had been working for years and set up his own Gunsmithing business. He found that there was a gap in the marketplace for trained firearms repair experts. He knew that he needed to be better prepared and researched formal Gunsmithing programs. In the end, he decided upon the Sonoran Institute.

*“I’m very glad I found the SDI program, because I have been able to study and work at same time. Now I have my own business and we have good customers, with customers who are Spanish and World shooting champions among them. Sonoran Desert Institute’s Gunsmithing program has given to me good knowledge and useful information that helped me find my life’s goal.”*

George E. Anderson  
Trenton, Florida



... his degree helped him reach students

As a young man, George Edward Anderson decided to lead teams to glory through coaching. Over the years he noticed the positive influence he had on students; not just athletes, but all the students. He decided if he could lead teams and students to success, then it was time to lead schools. He enrolled in Teacher Education University's Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, and from the start he received straight A's.

Today, George holds that master's degree and is confidently seeking various leadership roles in his Dixie County, FL school district.

George joined Dixie County High School in 2001 as a coach and teacher. Dixie County struggles with a high rate of dropouts in its schools. George started with a tough job: to teach troubled youths at risk for dropping out of school and encourage them to stay in school and pursue an education; he also helped them with all the problems that were preventing them from achieving success in school. Times and budgets changed in his school district and the dropout prevention program was eliminated. He picked up other teaching assignments where help was needed.

*"My master's degree will help me...pursue my goal of reaching all of our students...my new torch is to be a principal. That burning desire motivated me to be the best I can be."*



Timothy M. Riley  
Covington, Georgia

... he furthered his education while  
balancing career and family

Tim Riley spent eight years, two months, and six days—not that he was counting—in the U.S. Army as a Satellite Communications Controller. Upon exiting, Tim rose to a private-sector management position. Military duties, career demands, and family responsibilities left little time for furthering his education. Distance education allowed him to study at his own pace. So far, he’s earned three degrees from the University of Management and Technology.

At UMT, Tim found the curricula being presented in straightforward formats. UMT’s professors were accessible, providing prompt feedback. Tim also appreciated the low cost of online studies.

In July 2006, Tim earned a BBA from the University of Management and Technology. That same month, Tim’s job was slated for elimination within the year. However, he used the time remaining to earn an MBA in Project Management by May 2007 and started work for a new company that same month. In August 2009, he completed his Master of Science in Information Technology from the UMT.

*“UMT’s material’s was challenging! It really gave me quality migraines, but I found the whole experience invigorating and definitely worth it. I don’t know where I would be if it weren’t for the University of Management and Technology!”*

## Judi Schack-Dugre Orlando, Florida

... flexibility and quality content  
were essential



As a satisfied clinician and business owner, Judi Schack-Dugre saw the need to enhance the status quo. As a practicing physical therapist since 1986, she had a successful career. She believed it was important for her to demonstrate leadership and obtain the highest level of academic achievement available to a clinical physical therapist. She researched her options for her transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy and chose the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USA).

Judi maintained a 4.0 GPA while maintaining a busy practice and administrative duties. Following graduation she accepted a teaching position at the University of Central Florida. Within one year, she accepted the position of Assistant Director in the PT program.

She is highly regarded for her expertise in business management as it relates to physical and occupational therapy, on a state and national level. She is currently pursuing opportunities to advance scholarship in healthcare business and administration. She is also an adjunct at the University of St. Augustine in their distance learning programs.

*“USA’s transitional DPT program was essential in my career development. I needed flexibility in my course schedule, while requiring quality content in the curriculum.”*



**Karen L. Neary**  
**Sparrows Point, Maryland**

. . . she found a healthy balance  
between home and career

In 2006, after her honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, Karen Neary was able to be a full-time mom to her new baby daughter. In her pursuit to find an at-home job opportunity, Karen enrolled in the Medical Claims and Billing course with U.S. Career Institute.

Karen enjoyed her eight years in the IT and Satellite Communications departments with the U.S. Navy, but now as a new stay-at-home mom, Karen decided to take advantage of her G.I. Bill and continue her education. After five months of study, Karen graduated from the Medical Claims and Billing course with a 96% total grade point average.

Karen has built a successful medical billing service. One of her proudest achievements with this service was the collection of over \$60,000 from a past-due account. Along with Karen's success as a businesswoman, she also home schools her preschool-aged daughter, volunteers at her local church teaching Sunday school and is expecting her second daughter soon.

*"I would recommend U.S. Career Institute to anyone looking to start their own business. The course was very well written and easy to follow. The staff was very helpful and friendly, and best of all, it works!"*

## Larry Manch

Killeen, Texas



. . . distance education allowed him to accomplish his dream

Larry Manch wanted to be a teacher, but after two years of college in his early 20's, he left school. For 30 years, he worked a series of unsatisfying jobs that provided little to no advancement. He knew he still wanted to be a teacher and decided to return to school. Larry had a busy schedule with work and family commitments, so he needed a school that could offer him the flexibility of finishing his degree at his own pace. He discovered Western Governors University and enrolled shortly thereafter. After sixteen months of hard work, Larry graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (K-8) in May 2006.

Larry is married and the father of two children, ages 7 and 9. He is currently in his fourth year teaching second grade and his second year serving as grade level leader. Larry's wife, Tiffany, is also a graduate of Western Governors University and teaches at the same school.

In his spare time, Larry serves on the WGU Alumni Advisory Board, volunteers in the WGU Ask-A-Grad program and contributes articles to the WGU alumni and student newsletters. As an active alumnus, Larry blogs regularly in the WGU Alumni Online Community and has hosted a networking event to build relationships between students and alumni.

*"The opportunity to complete my teaching degree at WGU was a turning point in my life."*





### Ian Malcolm Talking Rock, Georgia

. . . distance education made it easier  
for him to complete his degree

Ian Malcolm graduated with a Bachelor in Electronic Engineering Technology from World College. He had an interest in computers and electronics and wanted to learn more about how they functioned on a fundamental level. He first earned his Associates degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from Cleveland Institute of Electronics and then continued into World College for his Bachelor degree in September 2009.

Ian made honors by graduating Magna Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.7. He has not seen an immediate impact with his employer but he believes it will lead to better opportunities in the near future. He is a Technology Support Specialist and is responsible for supporting the computer systems, printers, telephones, multimedia sound and video systems for the newly merged Chattahoochee Technical College.

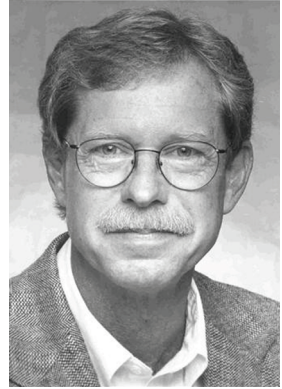
While his interests are mainly computers and electronics, Ian also enjoys the sciences especially space and astronomy. He has learned that family and free time are valuable after he spent countless hours learning and completing his assignments.

*“The process of working hard for a goal, by spending many evenings or weekends away from my family, has made me appreciate them more now that I have finished.”*

## Famous Alumni

### Michael Edwards West Melbourne, Florida

... a mid-life accident opened the door  
to a new world of healthcare



Michael Edwards had a mid-life accident. While shooting video in a train station, he was hit by a speeding train. During his recovery, he learned about natural health and discovered a whole different “natural” healthcare world. In his search for colleges that offered courses in natural health, he found ACHS. Michael completed the ACHS Certificate in Nutrition, Bodycare and Herbalism in June 2000.

Michael had been out of school for some time, but was inspired and encouraged by what he read about ACHS. His experience at ACHS gave him the courage to re-apply for graduate school, 30 years after his original application.

After completing graduate school, he started the NC Health and Wellness Institute where he produced preventative health programs and natural products for the community. He later received an offer to be the Clinic Health Educator at Cherry Point Marine Base and was then offered a position as Health Education Program Manager at Patrick Air Force Base. He has developed numerous additional programs in health promotion and has delivered motivational wellness classes to thousands of members of the U.S. Marines, Navy, and Coast Guard.

*“ACHS motivated me to read and teach as often as possible. I feel I’m doing my share to give people back control of their health.”*

Famous Alumni



Benjamin Butler  
Jacksonville, Florida

... distance education gave him skills  
that helped him personally and  
professionally

Benjamin Butler served in the Marine Corps for 21 years and retired as a Master Gunnery Sergeant in 1996. Ben enrolled in American Military University in 1999, and in April 2002, he completed his BA in Military History with Honors. In June 2006, he completed his MA in Military Studies and graduated with Honors for a second time.

During his studies with AMU, Ben served as the Director of Legislation and Government Affairs for the National Association of Uniformed Services in Washington, DC. Ben testified before Congress in support of military benefits for veterans and survivors including the continuation of the VA Loan Guaranty Service, expanding the Combat Related Compensation to retirees, securing permanent military identification cards for eligible family members and survivors, aged 75 and over. Ben also met with members of the Senate Steering and Outreach Committee to discuss critical issues facing men and women serving in and returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ben is currently the Director of the North Florida Council's Learning for Life program—an affiliate of the Boy Scouts of America.

*“AMU’s distance learning program allowed me to strengthen intangible skills such as writing, researching, problem solving and self-discipline.”*

## Famous Alumni

### Charles Ferrao Long Beach, California

... he achieved his life long dream



While enrolled at Andrew Jackson University, Charles Ferrao was raising his daughter as a single parent and working full time as a criminal investigator for a county law enforcement agency. Despite his many responsibilities, he graduated in two-and-a-half years with a 3.86 GPA, earning the Andrew Jackson Medallion, the highest academic distinction awarded by AJU.

Since completing his degree in 2005, Charles has been promoted to a level-three investigator with the county, primarily assigned to handle homicide cases. He attributes his rapid promotion to his graduate degree and the encouragement of his employer to pursue advanced education.

His degree has also enabled Charles to achieve a lifelong dream by securing a position as a part-time professor at American Intercontinental University in Los Angeles where he has taught for the past four years. While employed at AIU, he has consistently received excellent evaluations by his department chairs. This year, he was surprised at commencement exercises to receive the “Outstanding Faculty of the Year” award for the Criminal Justice Department.

*“I feel humble and very grateful for the recognition of my fellow faculty members and university administrators as well as of my many students. Attending Andrew Jackson University was the right choice for my busy life.”*

### Famous Alumni



## Rollie Brandt Webster, Minnesota

. . . distance education taught  
her self-discipline

Rollie Brandt loves to paint and feels like she was born to be an artist. In public school, other students knew her as “the artist.” Her artistic momentum kept building, and at age 17 she enrolled in Art Instruction Schools.

Rollie paints from the heart. She is well-known for her realistic paintings of “kids being kids.” Her kid models have dirty fingernails, scraped knees, tan lines and torn clothing, all of which adds a timeless feeling to her paintings. In 1994 Rollie became published by Wild Wings who released her first limited edition print of a young boy ice fishing.

Over the years Rollie has developed a versatility of subject matter including fishing, water scenes, dogs, horses and family farms. She paints 10-20 original paintings a year. Her work has appeared in over 22 prints, has graced the covers of many magazines, some books, calendars, greeting cards and on plates, ceramic jars, etc.

Rollie maintains the philosophy an artist needs to share her art with people and not just keep it for herself. She gives presentations to junior high school art classes and has served as an art judge for several children’s art competitions. She also does face painting for kids at county fairs and parties.

*“I graduated from Art Instruction Schools with new art skills and a new*

## Famous Alumni

### Didiayer Snyder North Hollywood, California

... distance education helped turn her childhood passion into a rewarding career



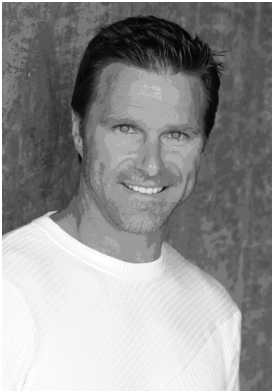
Didiayer Snyder is a two-time Ashworth graduate, with diplomas in both carpentry and interior decorating. As a child, Didiayer had an early interest in construction and design. Following a successful modeling career, she transitioned into TV where she could pursue her passion in the home improvement genre. She enrolled with Ashworth where her studies helped her land roles as host on the Travel Channel's *Amazing Vacation Homes*, followed by her current job as a team designer on ABC's Emmy Award-winning *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*.

Originally from Australia, she lives an active life both on and off camera. During breaks from filming, not only does she support philanthropic organizations like Habitat for Humanity, she is the founder of Gumption Greetings, an organic soap and greeting card company that donates 10% of its profits to children with disabilities.

Didiayer was Ashworth's 2009 Graduation Keynote Speaker and presented with the Ashworth Alumnus of the Year Award for her contributions to education and the community.

*"Ashworth is a lifetime relationship. It's investing in and involving yourself with the school. I know that my past experience and personality has helped me in interviews, but it is my education that assures others that I'm equipped for the job."*

Famous Alumni



Clark William Bartram  
Escondido, California

... he's America's most trusted  
fitness professional

After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps, where he helped overweight Marines train to stay in the service, Clark began working for a health club. To advance his career, he chose to enroll in the Certified Fitness Trainer distance education course through ISSA. The freedom to complete the course at home fit Clark's hectic and entrepreneurial schedule, and has helped him land numerous endorsement contracts, television shows, speaking engagements, and other opportunities based on his knowledge of health and fitness.

Clark is one of the most recognized fitness personalities in the U.S. As a personal trainer, he has helped thousands of men and women transform their bodies and their lives. He co-owns a network marketing company called Total Life Changes, and helps aspiring fitness models make a positive mark in the industry. At age 45, Clark continues to prove that proper exercise and nutrition can lead to health and happiness. His life is dedicated to helping people who care about themselves and their loved ones to "live the fitness lifestyle."

*"Only a handful of people in my industry have made the educational commitment to become an ISSA Master Trainer. I never would have achieved the success I have without this powerful education and respected organization behind me."*

## Famous Alumni

### Cynthia Smith Salt Lake City, Utah

... forging ahead in her career through distance education



Cynthia Smith was driven to succeed but knew she needed to further her education to move forward. She went on to complete her MBA & MM degree with Lansbridge University and, in 2008 was named one of the Top 25 Most Influential Women in Banking, by *U.S. Banker Magazine*.

Clearly, with 20 years of industry experience, pioneering products, and patenting technology processing, it was a natural fit for Cynthia to complete her degree. Most recently, she was promoted to Executive Vice President, Director of BankCard Products and Services.

Cynthia is married with three children and sits on the Advisory Board of Lansbridge University. She is an active volunteer with Global Volunteers using vacation time to work in pediatric recovery clinics in Romania.

*“Clearly, with all my experience, I did not want the fact that I did not have a graduate degree to stand in my way. I believe that going back to school and obtaining a graduate degree helped me round out my background.”*



## Famous Alumni

### Chris Arnold West Alexandria, Ohio

... after pursuing training, he became a successful photographer



For many years Chris Arnold was a successful rock journalist who regularly contributed articles to publications such as *Guitar Digest*. Occasionally, he would take photographs of musicians to support these articles. He soon realized that he needed formal training. The New York Institute of Photography's Complete Course in Professional Photography helped him reach his goals, and he is now a full-time photographer and writer.

In addition to photographing musicians, Chris (known professionally as Chris A.) has photographed many prominent political leaders. His credentials as a professional photographer and NYIP graduate have opened many doors, and he has had the opportunity to photograph three U.S. Presidents.

In addition to photographing musicians and politicians, he is a popular wedding photographer, and takes photographs of local sporting events. He also recently took photographs at the Dawn Patrol Air Show, where he captured replica World War I aircrafts in flight.

*"NYI gave me enough information that I felt ready to shoot different types of photography. It didn't just focus on wedding photography, or just landscape. The course gave me enough information that I felt like I could go out and do them all."*



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