

LIVE & LEARN

Magazine of Excelsior College, Vol. 8, No.2, Fall 2006



Celebrating
35 YEARS
Commencement 2006 and the Inauguration of John F. Ebersole

LIVE&LEARN

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getting better
every year!

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COLLEGE CALENDAR

2006-07 HOLIDAYS (College closed)

November 10 - Veterans Day
November 23-24 - Thanksgiving
December 25 - Christmas
January 1 - New Year's Day
January 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 19 - President's Day
May 28 - Memorial Day
July 4 - Independence Day
September 3 - Labor Day
October 8 - Columbus Day

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

July 13, 2007 (College closed)

DEGREE CONFERRAL DATES

November 17, 2006
December 15, 2006
January 19, 2007
February 16, 2007
March 16, 2007
April 20, 2007
May 18, 2007
June 15, 2007

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DEAR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI, FACULTY AND FRIENDS



I am delighted to have the opportunity to write this letter to you, the students and alumni, faculty and friends of Excelsior College. Having joined your community this summer as provost and chief academic officer, I've been so impressed and gratified by your intense commitment as well as your belief in the College's mission, respect for its strong tradition, and dedication to its exciting future.

Throughout my career in higher education, a common thread has been my own commitment to educational access and quality, especially for students who have been underserved or underrepresented in traditional higher education. Most recently, I served as vice provost for Assessment and Institutional Research at Capella University in Minneapolis; prior to that I was director of PK-16 Initiatives for the University of Wisconsin System as well as director of Continuing Education and Outreach at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Having been active in both traditional and nontraditional institutions, it was a pleasure and an honor for me to participate in Excelsior College's commencement ceremony this July. Commencement ceremonies typically mark a beginning, the start of a journey into adulthood for a student graduating from high school or a traditional college. Commencement at Excelsior also means a new beginning for our graduates—a point in their adult lives when they have fulfilled their dreams of a college education and are energized and empowered to use their education for personal and professional fulfillment. Witnessing the exhilaration and pride of Excelsior's graduates and their families was a moving and emotional experience for me, underscoring my own belief in the College and its mission.

American higher education is a dynamic, evolving enterprise. Excelsior College is part of that rich tradition of innovation, change, and expanding access for more and more of our changing population. Excelsior's history demonstrates its success in responding to changing student needs, social and educational trends, and the demands of the higher education market. In the immediate future, we will be working on initiatives to further refine our student-centered approach, such as developing a student success model to include more services and programs to support retention and graduation; expanding and continuously improving our online courses and programs; increasing educational partnerships; and building on our excellence in assessment.

I am so pleased to be a part of this valuable institution and look forward to getting to know many of you—for many years to come.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Offerman". The script is fluid and cursive.

Dana Offerman
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

COMMENCEME

It just keeps getting



NT 2006

better every year!

A

t exactly 3:00 p.m. on Friday, July 14, when the melody of “Pomp and Circumstance” began to play, the audience—filled with friends, families, faculty, and staff—cheered as the processional marched into the auditorium of the Empire State Plaza.

Every commencement is special, but this year was historic for Excelsior College. Commencement 2006 was the College’s 35th anniversary commencement and the occasion of the inauguration of its second president. It was a particularly joyous day from its beginning at the College’s open house to its culmination at the Convention Center.

At the podium, chair of the board of trustees, Dr. Joshua L. Smith, welcomed all in attendance, sending a warm greeting to those grads who could not be present. Announcing that the day’s events would be broadcast over the Internet, he singled out two graduates who he hoped were viewing via “cyberspace,” Petty Officer Greg Meier and Chief John Else of the

U.S. Navy, two members of the U.S. military serving in Iraq; he wished them a safe trip home.

Dr. Smith requested the deans and faculty, the staff, and the board of trustees to stand and be recognized. “Graduates,” Smith said, “these fine people represent the heart and soul of the College, and we all share in your joy this afternoon.”

Smith also acknowledged the year’s oldest grad, Daniel Leahy, 71, from Wales, United Kingdom, who earned a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (his second degree from Excelsior College), the year’s youngest grad, Nechama Brudny, 18, from Brooklyn, New York, who completed a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies degree, and called attention to the 26 flags displayed on the stage, symbolizing the many nations represented by this year’s graduating class.

“...we all share in your joy this afternoon.”



A PRESIDENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Inauguration of John F. Ebersole

Trustee Smith continued, “This ceremony has the added importance of serving as the inauguration of John F. Ebersole as president of Excelsior College. President Ebersole took the helm of the College in January of this year, and today he will be formally installed as the College’s second president.”

Turning to the new president, he said, “John F. Ebersole, in your role as president of Excelsior College, you will be called upon to perform a variety of tasks and to wear numerous hats as you execute the responsibilities of the office...know that we stand ready to support you in meeting these obligations....We look to you to provide leadership in defining the goals of the College and in guiding its activities to achieve them. We trust that these goals will always be consistent with the College’s commitment to access,

excellence, and diversity.”

Trustee Smith asked, “Do you acknowledge and accept this charge?” Ebersole answered, “I do.”

“By the authority of the Board of Trustees and in the presence of those assembled, we now place upon you the Chain of Office of the President of Excelsior College. In doing so, you are hereby granted the powers, rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities associated with this office.”

President Ebersole took to the podium to address the class of 2006: “Not only are we here to install a new president,” he

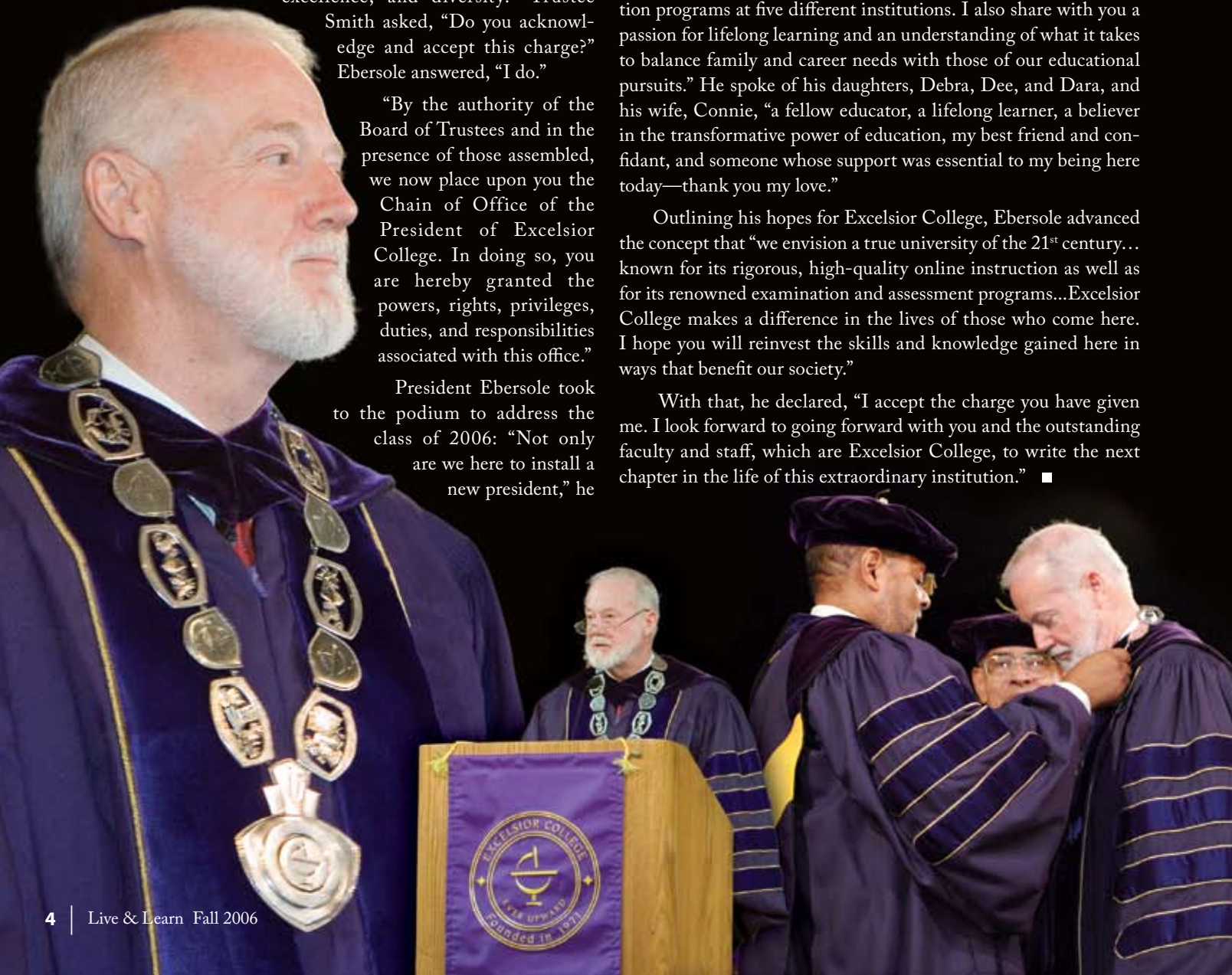
said, “we are also marking the 35th anniversary of this remarkable institution and, most important of all, we are celebrating your achievement as graduates of the class of 2006.”

President Ebersole spoke of his own history, paying homage to a grade school teacher in rural Missouri and his mother, both of whom “instilled an early love of learning.” Venturing from a mid-western farm to the U.S. Coast Guard, Ebersole recalled his own long journey into higher education: “I was never able to stay in one place long enough to satisfy a residency requirement. I badly needed an Excelsior College in those days.” He found his solution at John F. Kennedy University, which, while still requiring classroom participation on nights and weekends, recognized more than 180 hours of his undergraduate and graduate credit. Ebersole returned to that institution after his retirement from the military to become one of its academic deans.

“Today,” said Ebersole, “I bring to Excelsior more than twenty years of experience as an administrator of nontraditional education programs at five different institutions. I also share with you a passion for lifelong learning and an understanding of what it takes to balance family and career needs with those of our educational pursuits.” He spoke of his daughters, Debra, Dee, and Dara, and his wife, Connie, “a fellow educator, a lifelong learner, a believer in the transformative power of education, my best friend and confidant, and someone whose support was essential to my being here today—thank you my love.”

Outlining his hopes for Excelsior College, Ebersole advanced the concept that “we envision a true university of the 21st century... known for its rigorous, high-quality online instruction as well as for its renowned examination and assessment programs...Excelsior College makes a difference in the lives of those who come here. I hope you will reinvest the skills and knowledge gained here in ways that benefit our society.”

With that, he declared, “I accept the charge you have given me. I look forward to going forward with you and the outstanding faculty and staff, which are Excelsior College, to write the next chapter in the life of this extraordinary institution.” ■





Shawn Green, Bachelor of Science in General Business, Georgia



Nicholas Rolling, Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, North Carolina



Veronica Powell, Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, Virginia



Mark Ellis, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Montana



Laurie Lancaster, Associate in Science in nursing (Highest Honors), Maryland, and guest

"...most important of all, we are celebrating your achievement as graduates of the class of 2006."

—John F. Ebersole

The 2006 Graduating Class:

All **50** states were represented, plus the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and **22** other nations. Out of a total of **4,827** graduates, **45%** were female and **55%** were male. **34%** of the graduates self-reported as being members of minority groups. **39%** were members of the U.S. military. The average age of the Class of 2006 was **38.5**. The oldest graduate this year was a **71**-year old man from the United Kingdom, who earned a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. The youngest graduate was an **18**-year old woman from Brooklyn, NY, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies. **362** of the graduates were from New York State, with **49** from the Capital Region. **2,441** students earned associate degrees. **2,342** earned bachelor's degrees. **44** earned master's degrees.



Jason Prosser, Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, Maine



"As an Excelsior student, I always felt very supported and encouraged to work toward my degree, even though I was living in Japan...I will always remember the moment when my name was called on the stage...I'd never felt so proud of myself."

—Mari Sasaki, Bachelor of Arts (Summa Cum Laude), Japan



Karen Niquette, Associate in Applied Science in nursing (Honors), Vermont



Carlton Rucker Jr., Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, New Jersey



"Commencement was more than I could have imagined! Thank you!! To hear my name and to get to walk across the stage... well, it is more overwhelming than words could say. My family and I did a walking tour of downtown Albany and found its history informative."

—Linda Reeder (left), Master of Science in nursing (third degree from Excelsior), Kentucky

Nancy Smulsky, Master of Science in nursing, New York

Zelia Taylor-Pearson, Master of Science in nursing, Massachusetts

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

The Marvin Curling Memorial Award:

John M. Festa Jr., BS in Technology '05, *magna cum laude*, is an Entergy Nuclear Northeast technology training supervisor at NYPA/Entergy Nuclear, who actively encourages his colleagues to pursue further education through Excelsior.



He earned his degree through a combination of college courses, proficiency examinations, corporate training courses, and military service school and ratings.

The Robert P. Mahoney Award:

Patricia Kay Hatch-Reinertson, BS with psychology major '06, is a mother of seven children and director of religious education at First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Canton, Mass. Excelsior was what she calls "the perfect fit," making the pursuit of further education a flexible part of her busy life. In her graduate address, she exclaimed, "I can't imagine not being a lifelong learner. I think this world would be a much better place if everyone followed the passions of their hearts and learned and excelled in the areas that most interested them."



The Ewald B. Nyquist Award:

Blake Andrew Barr, BS in General Business '06, *summa cum laude*, received his degree almost entirely by examination while continuing to work as a project manager for a Global 100 company, earning 81 credits in only three months at the peak of his studies. He has been recently accepted into an MBA program. "Excelsior College is a gem that



stands heads and shoulders above the crowd of higher learning institutions in its ability to enable the independent learner," he said.

The Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award:

SSgt. Sandra M. Gonzales, BS in Liberal Studies '06, completed her degree requirements with a combination of military education and college courses. She has served in the U.S. Air Force for eight years and is currently assigned as NCOIC, Commander Support Staff to the 91st Security Support Squadron.

The LeRoy V. Good Memorial Award:

Rhonda Denise Taormino-Reed, AS in Liberal Arts '06, completed many challenging proficiency examination programs in order to complete her degree and graduated with a 3.89 grade point average and the Highest Honors distinction. Her goal is to graduate with a BS from Excelsior and then go on for an MBA.

The Charles W. Laffin Jr. Memorial Award:

Daniel Edward Collins, AS in Liberal Arts '84, BS in Computer Information Systems '06, *cum laude*. He completed requirements for his bachelor's degree utilizing seventeen sources of credit including military training, computer certification examinations, distance learning courses, proficiency examinations, and traditional campus courses. Collins said that he feels "honored to represent the success that can be made available to anyone through the educational opportunities offered at Excelsior College."

The Mildred L. Montag Memorial Award:

Jeanette F. Pasche, BS in nursing '06, *summa cum laude*, graduated with a 4.0 grade point average. "Working as an independent learner was challenging. Maintaining focus, implementing projects to meet deadlines that were months in the future, and planning study time to prepare for exams in the midst of busy family and work schedules required dedication and diligence," Pasche, a mother of seven children, said.

The 2006 Student Support Award:

Daniel Wheeler was nominated to receive the award by his mother, **Tami Harris**, AS '05. Harris began earning college credit as a hesitant adult learner at her local community college, while also working full time as a licensed practical nurse. Wheeler insisted that his mother go to class and strive for the best grades possible. Upon the completion of her associate degree, his comment to her was, "When do you start working on your bachelor's degree?"

Excelsior College Examinations Awards:

Anil Khurana, AS in nursing '05, graduated with a 3.77 grade point average and the distinction of High Honors. He says, "I am now working as an RN and am very happy to put my medical education and training to good use.... My nurse colleagues use me as a resource and my patients appreciate the care that I provide them."

Nancy L. Ware, BS with psychology major '05, *magna cum laude*, earned a 3.82 grade point average after being out of school for more than twenty years. "I looked at a number of schools but kept coming back to Excelsior because of the many degree choices, the flexibility to create an individualized degree program, and the opportunity to complete that program in a way that fit my life and schedule," Ware said.



"I can't imagine not being a lifelong learner!"
—Patricia Hatch-Reinertson, student speaker

As a career military man, Franklin Birch had always thought his hectic military schedule precluded a future in higher education. Then he met Sue Dewan in 1998 at the Sergeants Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas. At that time Dewan was director of military education for Excelsior College.

Birch credits Dewan with pointing him in the right direction where his education was concerned. “She gave me confidence when I had doubt...gave me understanding when I had questions...and she gave me, most of all, a sense of accomplishment that is ongoing to this day,” said Birch.

The SGM Academy is the senior enlisted school for the U.S. Army and is a 42-week course attended by an average of 600 students each year. Excelsior College sends a team of military advisors to the Academy to evaluate student credits and provide a degree roadmap and academic advising. Typically, there are close to 200 Excelsior College students who complete the Academy and graduate with an Excelsior College associate or bachelor’s degree.

“When I first met Franklin in 1998, he was very enthusiastic about finishing his education, was goal driven, and we exchanged quite a lot of information about how he could complete his degree. He was always very polite, engaging, and a wonderful warm person,” said Dewan.

After earning his first degree from Excelsior College in 1999, an Associate in Applied Science, Administrative/Management Studies, Birch was hooked. He came to the realization that he “enjoys learning.” At that time, he was also reassigned to serve with the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii.

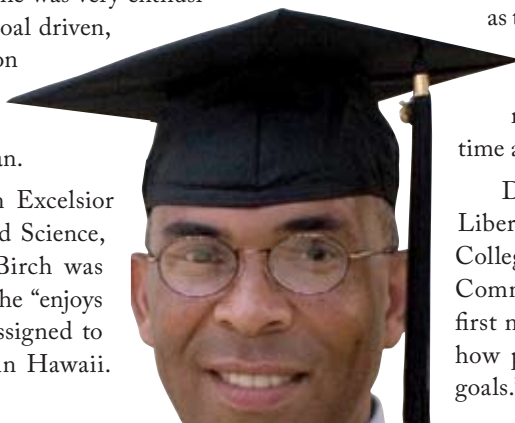
Although he was accepted into a traditional university on the island, he made the decision to return to Excelsior for a bachelor of science degree. Through a combination of exams and classes, he graduated *cum laude* in July 2001. “When he graduated from both the associate and bachelor’s degree programs, he was so thankful for the help that he received through Excelsior College,” noted Dewan.

In 2002, Birch was transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, for an assignment as the Department of Nursing’s Sergeant Major/Chief Clinical Noncommissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC). With his new responsibilities, he put his education on hold until the next year when he applied and was accepted into the Excelsior College Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program.

Although all of this was happening while our nation was at war, and Birch’s first and foremost responsibility was to the wounded soldiers, their families, and his staff, he began to take courses one at a time. “The pace continued non-stop, and at the height of the influx of patients arriving to the hospital, I was asked by the hospital commander and commanding general to serve

as the hospital’s Health Care System’s Sergeant Major,” said Birch. Eventually, though, he was able to complete his degree, returning to Albany, New York, for a third time as an Excelsior College graduate.

Dewan, who is now assistant dean, School of Liberal Arts Military Outreach for Excelsior College, had the chance to speak with Birch at Commencement. “He was the same as when I first met him in 1998,” she said. “You could see how proud he was to achieve his educational goals.” ■ by Ben Greenberg



THREEPEAT

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies grad, Franklin Birch, returns for his third Commencement.



Like many Excelsior graduates, Camilla Woods's journey to a college degree can be measured in decades. Over the years, she earned credits from five different colleges before transferring to Excelsior in 2005 and finishing her degree requirements a year later. Calling Commencement, "the highlight of my entire life," Woods's graduation day experience was slightly different than most other Excelsior College graduates. You see, her daughter Caroline Deloreto also graduated as a member of the class of 2006; they crossed the stage together at Commencement.

Expected to go to college right after high school, Camilla entered arguably the top public university in the country, UC Berkeley, in 1977. Although she loved her time there, Camilla doesn't think she was prepared for college at that point in her life. As she said, "I just floundered for years because I wanted to take time off and work and figure out what I wanted to do." After two years, she found a job and waited for her future husband to graduate. Soon after, they started a family and thoughts of college fell by the wayside. As the years went by, Camilla began taking classes again at local colleges—University of California Santa Barbara, Antioch University, Saddleback College, and Santa Barbara City College—in between working and raising her two children.

For her part (and much like her mother), Caroline went off to the University of Colorado at Boulder right out of high school.

An athletic and outdoorsy young woman—Caroline is an accomplished mountain bike racer—she appreciated the environment around the school, but figured out after a year that it wasn't for her. "I took some amazing classes, had fun in the mountains, lived the dorm life, and then felt I was done with the large school theme," she said. Although she graduated from college in four years, Caroline also attended five schools before finally landing at Excelsior College on her mother's recommendation. It was the similarity of their college-hopping experiences that triggered the realization in Camilla that she and Caroline "excel in similar academic situations."

During the mid-90s, Camilla's life took an interesting turn as she embarked upon an artistic career that grew out of her experience of coming to grips with the death of her own mother. At night, after returning home from caring for her mother, Camilla would paint, which provided a form of meditative release. Immediately following her mother's passing, Camilla unplugged her phone and painted for a full five days. In an autobiographical essay she writes, "The transformation that I experienced in relation to my grief was profound."

Two years later, while working as the health education director for the MS Society in Santa Barbara, she started her own business called Paint Intuit, which focuses



Of Apples and Trees
*"And thou shalt in thy daughter see,
This picture, once, resembled thee."*
—Ambrose Philips (1675–1749), British poet.

on a form of art therapy called process painting. The practitioner learns to trust the creative process without applying judgment, control, or the limitations of the thinking mind. It is the process, not the final product that is important. Camilla explained that when it clicks, “you tune out the background noise and negative self-talk and learn to live in the moment.” It is this experience that leads to greater self-knowledge and healing. “The tools, insights, healing, and joy that the participants experience are carried directly into their daily lives,” she said. In the past, she has worked successfully with clients recovering from eating disorders, chemical dependency, mental illness, and chronic health conditions. Today she leads classes and workshops open to everyone.

What I would like to give my daughter is freedom. And this is something that must be given by example, not by exhortation. Freedom is a loose leash, a license to be different from your mother and still be loved... Freedom is... not insisting that your daughter share your limitations.

—Erica Jong, from her book *Fear of Fifty*, ch. 2 (1994)

When Caroline was growing up, her parents encouraged both of their children to be free thinkers. “Our household was filled with art and projects all the time and the kids were always involved,” explained Camilla. “When you’re not locked in a box, you’re thinking is expansive and you’re willing to try new things and to find creative solutions. It’s very much my philosophy of life,” she added. “My family was very open...and I was able to pursue anything I wanted and go with my passions and they supported it,” agreed Caroline.

While Camilla works at filtering out background noise and living in the moment, Caroline seems to come by it naturally. Tell her she can’t do something, and she surely will accomplish it. After all, this is a woman who, at age 19, decided to ride her bike across the country to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, following their route all the way to the Oregon coast. Asthma problems on the Continental Divide (along with her parents begging her to call it quits) only left her more determined than ever to finish, which of course she did.

The same is true of her college experience. “Everyone kept telling me, ‘Caroline you are never going to finish college because you can’t stay at one place long enough.’ But I never heard them or believed them,” she said. Undaunted, she continued to enjoy learning and take classes that interested her. Back in Santa Barbara for her sophomore year, Caroline began working at Santa Barbara Middle School teaching elective classes and leading school bike trips. This sparked her career interest in experiential learning, which focuses on learning through doing. That summer she signed on with a company to lead bike tours for teenagers all over the east coast. “I was getting paid to ride my bike, explore, and do what I was most passionate about, working with kids in the outdoors,” she said.

The next year Caroline made the tough decision to leave her job behind and enroll in Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, a school known for its outdoor and experiential education, work program, environmental and sustainable living programs, and small and intense classes. Unfortunately, Lyme disease short-circuited her fall semester; it was so difficult that the college wouldn’t let her sign up for spring semester because they thought she needed

Practicing What They Preach!

Excelior College staffers enjoy their new degrees (left to right): Lynn M. Rossello, Associate in Applied Science in Technical Studies; Shannon Mainville, Associate in Science Liberal Studies; Christie Dingman, Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies; Heather Rooney, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies; Betsy J. DePersis, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies





Photos of Caroline's trip show her work as a relief medic among the people and landscapes of Ecuador.

a break. In other words, they told her she couldn't do something. At this point, her illness diagnosed and health rapidly improving, Caroline decided she was through with traditional classrooms and followed her mother's lead by enrolling at Excelsior College. Although they didn't take any classes or exams at the same time, they communicated and supported each other often.

The day after Commencement, Caroline was on her way to lead a bike trip through New England; then she traveled to Ecuador to work as a relief medic. Already an EMT, she and her group spent a few days training and then went off into the Andes, working with the indigenous population at 14,000 feet. Her future plans include grad school, building on her interest in experiential education and teaching. For now she is content to teach electives in Santa Barbara Middle School, lead bike trips, and return to Ecuador next summer.

In 2007, Camilla plans to begin work toward a master's degree in counseling psychology. "I already feel secure in what I do with art therapy but would like my counseling degree to deepen my

own knowledge and education," she explained. Both plan to pursue their master's degrees through distance learning institutions. "I like the distance learning model because it gives me the freedom to teach myself without all the spoon-feeding like a lot of the colleges I went to before Excelsior," explained Caroline.

When reminded of the similarities of their attitudes and experiences, they agreed with the idea that the apple does not fall far from the tree. "We both get really passionate and excited about things in life," said Caroline. But there are important differences as well. "I'm more physical and mom tends to think more." When asked about their differences Camilla laughed, "Caroline is more daring but grounded, while I kind of hover above the ground." In speaking further about her daughter, Camilla's voice resonates with pride, perhaps a little trepidation, and certainly a measure of awe over Caroline's exploits and accomplishments. In a moment of motherly introspection, Camilla summed up her thoughts, "That girl just surpasses me!" ■ by Ben Greenberg

"Commencement was great. I felt that the school did a great job and really made it more grand than most colleges...this was the culmination of all that I had worked towards, and hearing my name was the highlight of the whole thing!"

—Trina C. Spears, Bachelor of Science in Risk Management and Insurance, Texas



This year's graduating class included three coworkers from the Watertown, CT, Visiting Nurses Association. Leah Justice, Shelley Guerrero, and Beth Campbell all earned their associate degrees in nursing within the past year and attended Commencement together, along with their families. Though they were at different points in the program, the three did help and encourage each other. Leah and Shelley were the first to meet.

"Leah and I met in a microbiology class and clicked immediately. We began to study together, bounce ideas off each other," said Guerrero. Justice agreed, saying "We definitely were able to encourage each other and it was wonderful to have the support of a friend and coworker who understood exactly how challenging it was."

When Campbell came to work at the VNA, she was already enrolled at Excelsior. Justice, who was a few months from finishing her degree, was able to share study tips and books and provide encouragement. "It was like fate stepped in. Leah was just finishing her nursing requirements, and Shelley and I were close to taking the CPNE. With Leah's help, we formed a study group and met weekly for about two months," related Campbell. Justice also had set up a mini lab in her living room, which she passed on to the other two. They then turned Guerrero's basement into a clinical setting. They met three times a week to go over stations and scenarios prior to the CPNE.

"...it was wonderful to have the support of a friend and coworker who understood exactly how challenging it was."

"We even had a "lucky watch" that we all shared. It was just a watch with military time, and was rather large, so we all used it for the clinical. It was silly, but we made a big deal about it. I went for my clinical, and then Shelley, and then Beth all successfully, so the watch worked," said Justice emphatically.

It was Guerrero who convinced the others to attend Commencement. At first, they were unsure whether they could all take the same day off. But it worked out and they all came up with their families. "I think we all smiled all day," Guerrero said.

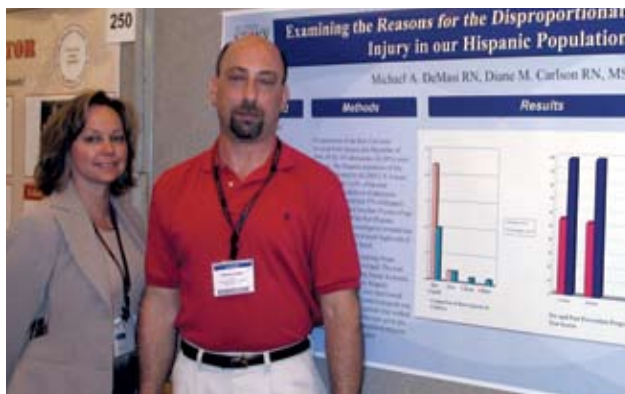
"I'm so glad she talked me into it," added Justice. "I worked so hard and in the end she was right—I did need to have my moment in the sun." ■ by Ben Greenberg



All For One And One For All
Three coworkers celebrate together at Commencement

During his years working in the burn unit at the Stony Brook University Hospital, Mike DeMasi, an RN since 1994, experienced what he says were the highest highs and the lowest lows. It's the nature of severe burn injuries. Explaining that burn patients do not usually succumb to their injuries very quickly, but after weeks or more of treatment, DeMasi would get to know them and their families quite well. "If they don't make it, you feel like you lose a little piece of yourself...But on the flipside, when you have a patient that you have been caring for, and you watch them walk out of the hospital after months of care, well it just doesn't get any better than that," he said.

Nursing wasn't always Mike DeMasi's chosen profession, though. As a 20-something, DeMasi moved to Florida to pursue a career in professional diving but ended up in a career in the restaurant business as a chef. While living on the east coast of Florida, he also took up the sport of surfing. To this day, he remains passionate about both cooking and riding waves. In fact, he counts Laird Hamilton—a well-known big wave surfer from the north shore of Hawaii—as one of the people who have influenced how he approaches his life and work. Clean living, honesty, loyalty, and overcoming the fear of failure are a few of the qualities Hamilton projects that DeMasi admires.



Mike DeMasi and coauthor Diane Carlson present their poster at the annual conference of the American Burn Association.

On transitioning into a career in nursing, DeMasi said, "The restaurant business is tough. This may sound cliché, but I really wanted to have a positive influence on people's lives, not their stomachs." Interestingly, he applies many of the same strategies that he used in the restaurant business to his work on nursing units—presentation, skill of staff, customer service, and quality of care. "Obviously the stakes are much higher in a hospital," he added.

For the last few years, DeMasi has been a student in the Bachelor of Science in nursing program. It was his work for one class in particular, Teaching Across Cultures (TAC), that tied his academics together with his professional practice in the burn unit. He had suspected for some time that there were discrepancies in the occurrence of severe burns among the Hispanic population relative to the general population of Suffolk County, New York. But it was his participation in the Teaching Across Cultures Performance Requirement that gave him the tools to explore the problem in depth.



Seeing the Big Picture

Nursing Student Turns Coursework Into Presentation at National Conference

Teaching Across Cultures is a course through which baccalaureate nursing students demonstrate their ability to teach to a group of adult clients with a common cultural background. Working through five phases—proposal, research and writing, development of a teaching plan, teaching, and evaluation—students demonstrate their ability to function as nurse educators. Through research of hospital records, DeMasi found that his instincts were correct. Though Hispanics represent about 12% of the population served by Stony Brook Hospital, they account for 34% of the admissions to the burn center. In addition, he found that 57% of Hispanics admitted were under 18 years old compared to only 26% for the non-Hispanic population.

It was during the research phase, according to Darrice Kelley, School of Nursing faculty member, that DeMasi quickly understood the importance of his work and submitted an abstract of the project to the American Burn Association. It was accepted, and DeMasi coauthored and presented his findings last April at the 38th Annual Meeting of the American Burn Association at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas. "Although this is the first time we have seen work required for TAC result in a national presentation, we suspect there are many other students who have used TAC work as the foundation for their own presentations, further teaching, and study," noted Kelley. She also pointed out that DeMasi served as a student representative on the curriculum committee for Excelsior's BS in nursing program. "We are very impressed with Michael's initiative and grateful that he shared his work with us and other colleagues." ■ by Ben Greenberg

The day ended with an elegant reception filled with excited families and friends, great food, and a lot of flashing cameras and smiles! Pictured here are Maria Lucille Dela Cruz Caram, Associate in Science in nursing, California, and guests.



It is clear from the data presented that Hispanic children are at greater risk for burn injury, particularly from scalds, than the general population. Many factors including social and cultural practices may contribute to this increased risk. Those factors identified include the following.

- Frequency of bathing children in the sink where they have easy access to the hot water faucet.
- Children are frequently in the kitchen at the stoves side while she is cooking.
- Children are often given pots and pans to play with associating these items with toys resulting in pulling such items off the stove.
- Children are unaware that the hot water temperature can be regulated and should be set no higher than 120° F or 48°C.



Staff member and alum, Edward Cagé, singing "America the Beautiful" in Ray Charles style, brought the audience to its feet.

Tau Kappa Nursing Honor Society Inducts 2006 Members

“It is time to ask, ‘What do we want to do to transform nursing? What do we want the profession to be in 2022? What can Sigma Theta Tau International do to get us there?’”

The Tau Kappa chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing, held its third annual induction ceremony on the eve of Commencement, July 13. During the ceremony, held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, N.Y., the chapter inducted 29 new members. Three inductees were in attendance and the rest present “virtually,” their names read and their pictures and hometowns displayed on a projection screen. (See the listing of the 2006 inductees below.) “I challenge you to frame this induction as a beginning, a beginning of thinking differently about yourself, your impact, and your contribution to the profession and to health care globally,” said Dr. Bridget Nettleton, president-elect of the Tau Kappa chapter.

Tau Kappa also presented its annual Recognition Award to Dr. Cathryne A. Welch, director of the Center for Nursing History and Research, The Foundation of the New York State Nurses Association. Unable to attend the ceremony, Dr. Welch offered her words in a statement read by her colleague and friend, executive director of the New York State Nurses Foundation, Susan Fraley. A dedicated nurse leader, Dr. Welch wrote: “I am proud and privileged to be associated with all those who bring this dimension to nursing in the Capital District and beyond. I look forward to continuing to build a special professional relationship in working closely with all of you, as together we attempt to improve the strength of our profession and the quality of its services to the public.”

Present at the ceremony was one of the first recipients of the chapter’s Recognition Award, Lt. Colonel Christine Rem, who received the award in 2004 while deployed in Wuerzburg,



(l to r): Linda Rojack, Pamela Luke, and Mary Teresa Evans

Germany. (Her husband, Captain Christopher Rem, was the other 2004 Recognition Award recipient that year.) Also present was Sigma Theta Tau International’s Region 14 Coordinator, Victoria Rizzo Nikou.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Carol Picard, president of Sigma Theta Tau International, engaged the audience with her inspiring presentation, *Collaboration: A strategy for nursing practice, education, and research*. (For more on Dr. Picard, see next page.)

Concluding the ceremony, Dr. Nettleton proclaimed, “It is time to ask, ‘What do we want to do to transform nursing? What do we want the profession to be in 2022? What can Sigma Theta Tau International do to get us there?’” ■

2006 Tau Kappa Inductees: Leah Balderson, William Bert, Carol Brueggeman, Carol Caico, Karen Diane Doll, Siegfried Emme, Mary Teresa Evans, Debra Lynne Galatioto, Victoria Regina Koller, Robin Kranig, Nancy Darlene Lachney, Sandra Lenichek, Pamela Luke, Cheryl Macri, Andrew McCalla-Graham, Jane Morris, Janet Prosser, Marcia Rau, Linda Reeder, Lennetta Reynolds, Linda Rojack, Carol Shenise, Lori Smith, Tanya Sommers, Lois Stotter, Carol Ann Thomas, Deborah Weller, David Wilcox, and Nicole Younger

The Art of Healing

International Nursing Honor Society President Speaks at Induction Ceremony

Dr. Carol Picard, president of Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing, shared her creative insights at the third annual Tau Kappa Chapter Induction Ceremony on July 13th (see previous page). Her presentation, *Collaboration: A strategy for nursing practice, education, and research*, highlighted a theory-based approach to nursing rooted in the work of her predecessors and colleagues and infused with her unique experiences as a dancer, art enthusiast, and poet.

“Excellence is not how high you leap. That is technique.



A dynamic and animated speaker, Dr. Picard uses movement to convey some of her points.

Excellence is when you open your heart to the audience,” said Dr. Picard, quoting Judith Jamison, artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York City. Inspired by Jamison’s statement, Picard added, “She’s talking about the same thing that creates excellence in nursing practice—when you open your heart to the patient.” To illustrate how dance movement can promote compassion and healing, Picard provides workshops for nurse colleagues and encourages her patients and

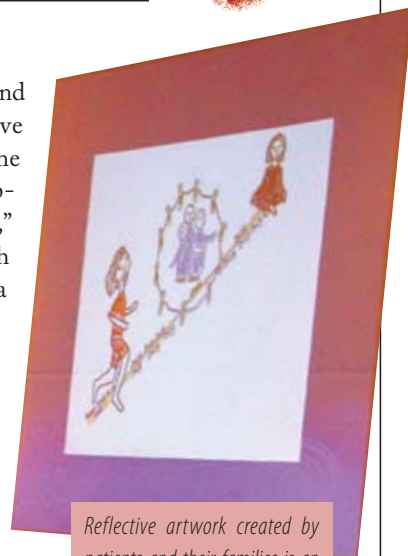
their families to incorporate dance movement into the healing process.

Picard also asks her patients and their families to create reflective artwork. Her presentation included six examples of such therapeutic artwork, with an accompanying story for each one. She shows the artwork to her patients and their families as well. “If there is an image that conveys to me how I understand what they are going through, I share it with them. It is a powerful thing,” she explained.

Mindful of the emotion behind others’ words, Picard said, “I’ve recently taken to rap music.” She gave her own rendition of rapper Kanye West’s song “Roses,” about West’s frustrations with his grandmother’s treatment in a hospital. She also referenced rapper Tupac Shakur’s song “Dear Mama,” about young men in a Minneapolis prison who wish they could change their “stories.” Picard says she often uses song lyrics to encourage families to share their own expertise in order to help the patient.

While incorporating innovative, artistic healing practices into her work, Picard continually respects what she calls “the spirit of the grandmothers,” referencing pioneers in the nursing profession, including Hildegard

of Bingen (from medieval Germany), Clara Barton, Florence Nightingale, and Virginia Henderson, to stress the importance of the nurse’s presence in the moment while providing nursing care. Picard explained, “One of the things that Ms. [Virginia] Henderson did so well was she knew how to ‘be present’ to people when they were talking to her. When you spoke to her, you thought there wasn’t anyone else in the whole world.” Always encouraging compassionate, active involvement as well as inventive, renewed efforts in the nursing profession, Picard often says, “All things change when we do.” ■ by Erin Benson



Reflective artwork created by patients and their families is an important part of Dr. Picard’s work; the artist of this piece was a busy long distance runner who, after being diagnosed with a serious form of cancer, decided to create a better balance in her life through meditation training.



For more information on Dr. Picard’s work, including her Presidential Call to Action, which focuses on collaboration, please visit www.nursingsociety.org.

Interactive Animation for Health Sciences

Excelsior Partners with Smith & Nephew to Create an Innovative Wound Care Course

What happens when you combine Excelsior's commitment to excellence in distance education and outstanding track record in nursing and health sciences programs with Smith & Nephew's commitment to quality wound care? You get a one-of-a-kind online wound care course that will revolutionize wound care treatment around the world.

Faculty member in Excelsior's School of Health Sciences and wound care expert, Dr. Deborah Rastinehad, began laying the groundwork for a college-credit wound care program over a year ago. "The need is indisputable," Dr. Rastinehad explains. "A staggering \$20 billion is spent annually on chronic wound care, and yet, there's a critical shortage of health care professionals who have the expertise to provide safe and effective wound care management."

Few programs currently exist that prepare health care professionals in wound management. As a result, the majority of those directly involved in wound care have little or no formal education in the care, treatment, and management of wounds.

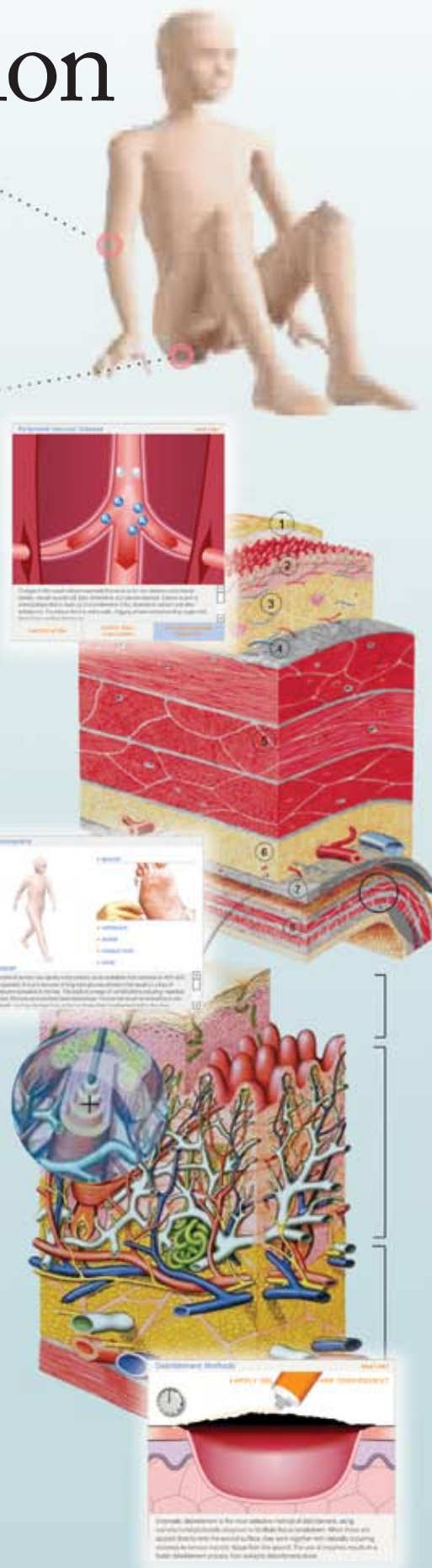


Left to right: Patricia Croop, director of grants and research; graduate faculty member, Dr. Deborah Rastinehad, RN, CWON; Dr. Mary Regan, Smith & Nephew; Dr. Elizabeth A. Ayello, RN, APRN, BC, CWON, FAPWCA, FAAN

When Rastinehad began looking for a corporate partner to assist with the development of the course, she turned for advice to a nationally acclaimed leader in wound care and a faculty member in Excelsior's School of Nursing, Dr. Elizabeth A. Ayello, who immediately suggested Smith & Nephew, Inc., a global medical devices company that develops innovative products to help improve people's lives. Dr. Ayello had worked with Dr. Mary Regan, Smith & Nephew's Senior Manager of Academic Affairs, on a number of educational wound care projects over the years, and she was impressed with Regan's vision and commitment to improving wound care management throughout the world.

A first meeting involving Drs. Rastinehad, Ayello, Regan, and Excelsior's Deborah Sopczyk, director of Health Sciences Programs, and Patricia Croop, director of grants and research, took place at the College in January 2006 to discuss the potential partnership. During this gathering, Regan explained that Smith & Nephew runs a Global Wound Care Academy, offering continuing education courses in wound care management. These courses contain specially designed interactive video animations that Smith & Nephew offered to share with Excelsior College.

The meeting ended with a commitment on both sides to create a world-class wound care course to be marketed around the world. "Education empowers clinicians to improve clinical outcomes. In other words, it gives them the tools they need to substantially improve people's health. Smith & Nephew's mission is to provide ways to get people with health care challenges back to normal life as quickly and painlessly as possible," says Regan. "We want to see this happen in every



Continued on page 18



Inovativno pisanje iz Slovenije zdaj tudi v ZDA

Innovative Writing in Slovenia Now Available in the U.S.

Seven award-winning and critically acclaimed plays by Slovenian playwright Evald Flisar have been translated into English and published in the U.S. through the efforts of Dr. Susan Nash (pictured above), associate dean of Liberal Arts and director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program.

Evald Flisar is a prolific writer whose prose and drama have made him a household name in Slovenia, a country that distinctively honors its poets, artists, and musicians and is home to many theaters, performing arts groups, and literary festivals. Flisar, who spent his formative years proximal to the tragic aftermath of WWII and profound political change, is an icon of adventure and travel into unknown territories and cultures. In addition to taking his readers into exotic climes and passionate mindsets, he asks them to contemplate ideas about the self and the nature of reality that he encountered in India, Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.

Dr. Nash came to admire Flisar's plays when she was introduced to them in 2001, while attending the prestigious Vilenica International Literary Festival, held annually in different locales throughout Slovenia. Nash, publisher and editor of Texture Press, which she founded in 1989 to support and promote innovative writing, found herself deeply committed to the idea of making writing from other countries available in English. Texture Press had previously received awards for publishing English transla-

tions of Guarani and Spanish prose and poetry written by Paraguayan women.

"I believe that we benefit from being exposed to the mindsets and modes of expression of writers from other cultures," Nash said, "particularly those that have historically considered themselves to be either on the periphery or at a crossroads of world-dominant cultures." She chose to publish Flisar's work in particular because of the acclaim that it has received in Slovenia as well as the valuable ideas that it conveys.

Of the twelve plays that Flisar has written, seven were selected for inclusion in *Collected Plays, I*, the compiled English translation. The seven plays, titled *The Chestnut Crown*, *Tomorrow*, *What about Leonardo?*, *The Nymph Dies*, *Uncle from America*, *The Eleventh Planet*, and *Nora Nora*, all explore the complexities of the human condition in the post-modern tradition of famous Irish playwright Samuel Beckett and Slovenian poet Srečko Kosovel.



Continued on page 18



Innovative Writing in Slovenia continued from page 17

In March, Nash, also a writer of cross-cultural literature, traveled to Slovenia, where her most recent novel debuted in Slovene translation to much success. "I was amazed at the positive reception that each book has received," she said. "The people of Slovenia are very articulate and they are well-informed, analytical, and open-minded readers." Nash's newest book, *Otožna Boginja* (Disconsolate Goddess), deals with an inner quest to find a long-lost love. Her first novel, *Portret Nemirne Amerikanke* (Portrait of a Restless American), involves a transformative journey of a woman whose life and travels bring her to far-flung places such as Paraguay, Bolivia, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan. Nash's novels and Flisar's plays share similar themes such as love, family relationships, self-delusion, idealism, and absurdity.

As director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, Nash encourages individuals who have an interest in literature, theater, or interdisciplinary studies to explore how literary works are received and interpreted in different cultures at different moments in time. "Cultural comprehension can make the difference between war and peace, prosperity or utter desolation. It is absolutely vital for people to take the initiative and study topics that may provide answers or solutions," she said.

Collected Plays, I, by Evald Flisar is available this fall for purchase online at Web sites such as www.amazon.com, and in select bookstores. For more information on the plays and Texture Press, please visit www.texturepress.org. ■ by Erin Benson and Dr. Susan Nash



Slovenia, which was part of the former Yugoslavia, is a small country with a population of approximately two million and is a member of the European Union. Bordered by Austria, Italy, Croatia, and Hungary, it is known throughout Europe for its spectacular mountains, extensive cave systems, fertile valleys, and dramatic coastlines. Located on the edge of numerous historical battles for empire and influence, Slovenia is a country of castles, farms, churches, and schools that resonate with traditional values. At the same time, it is a forward-looking nation of universities, technical schools, communication, technology, transportation, commerce, and art.

community around the world, and we believe Excelsior's wound care course is a step in that direction."

Several meetings have since taken place between Excelsior College and Smith & Nephew, including one in Hong Kong, which Ed Tomlinson, Smith & Nephew's Market Development Manager for Asia, organized in conjunction with The World Council of Enterostomal Therapists annual conference, where Dr. Rastinehad and Dr. Ayello had the opportunity to describe the wound care program to Smith & Nephew clients from Hong Kong, China, Japan, and Australia.

Over the past several months, Drs. Rastinehad, Ayello, and Regan have been developing the curriculum, focusing on a multidisciplinary approach to wound care including such topics as the etiology and management of pressure ulcers, skin tears, lower extremity ulcers, atypical wounds, wound pain, and the nutritional needs of clients with wounds. Smith & Nephew's dynamic animations will accompany each module of learning, providing students with an unusually high level of interaction and, in this way, reinforcing their learning process.

Fall marks the official launch of Excelsior's Wound Care course, making this unique educational offering available to both enrolled and non-matriculated students. Excelsior and Smith & Nephew see this launch as just the beginning of a long and transformational partnership. ■ by Patricia Croop

If you are interested in finding out more about the Excelsior College Wound Care course, go to the College's Web site at www.excelsior.edu, or you can contact Dr. Rastinehad toll free at 888-647-2388; press 1-3-7 after the automated greeting.

Published and Presented!

DR. DEBORAH RASTINEHAD, PHD, RN, CWCN, COCN,



graduate faculty, was recently published in the *Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing (WOCN)*. Her article, "Pressure Ulcer Pain" was written to "describe and interpret the complexities of the pain experienced by persons with painful pressure ulcers." In her conclusion, Dr. Rastinehad wrote, "The findings of this study clearly indicate the need for increased

attention to pain assessment and pain management in nursing education, nursing practice, and nursing research. The findings also suggest that the commonly used definition of pain is insufficient and needs revision." Rastinehad presented her findings at the 16th Biennial Congress of The World Council of Enterostomal Therapists in Hong Kong.

Longevity Awards

Excelsior Staff Members Recognized on the College's 8th Charter Day

As Excelsior celebrates its 35th Anniversary year, the College also celebrated the 35 years of dedication of two staff members, Ms. Dorothy Clickner and Ms. Mary Ann Hilton, both of whom have worked at the College since its founding in 1971. They were recognized for their committed service along with 29 other staff members who also received Longevity Awards at the College's annual Charter Day event.

Charter Day commemorates the time when Excelsior (then Regents) College separated from the New York State Board of Regents in April 1998, becoming an independent, private institution with its own dedicated board of trustees. The significance of the charter has been far-reaching, firmly establishing the College's prominence as a "fully authorized degree-granting institution that has met demanding educational and administrative standards." Charter Day also represents the extent to which the College has grown since its inception in March 1971, when "REX" (the Regents External

Degree Program) was expected to be a two-year pilot project of the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York. It was an experimental educational endeavor. As one of only a handful of enthusiastic pioneers who helped set up the College's first office in downtown Albany, Ms. Hilton said, "It was fun, even just to get all of the office supplies, desks, and filing cabinets. It was an exciting time because it was brand new."

In those early, tentative days, diligence and collaboration of the staff held the College together. When a project had to be completed, Hilton, who at the time used a typewriter to create and edit the College's examinations, recalled: "We would all stop what we were doing and we would all pitch in. We did everything with teamwork. It didn't

matter if you were a professional or a support person." According to Hilton, such familial cooperation has been unique to Excelsior. "In most places that I know of," she said, "you don't stay that long. You move on."

Hilton, however, does not plan to move on, at least not too soon. Comfortable as well as pleased with Excelsior's tremendous progress throughout the years, she says that she will remain with the College until her retirement. "My mother always used to say that as you get older, time goes by a lot faster," she explained, "When I think about it myself, I can't believe I've stayed this long!"

As Excelsior College has advanced from its founding through 35 years of educational innovation, the dedication of its now approximately 350 staff members has remained consistently strong. At this, the College's 8th Charter Day, College President John F. Ebersole praised the number of Longevity Award recipients and their long-standing devotion to Excelsior College. ■ by Erin Benson



25 years (l to r): Diane Nass, Nadine Sylvia, Deborah Marrow, Faith Girard, and Susan Dewan



30 Years (l to r): Donna Cooper, Jacqueline Raysor, and Barbara Speziale pictured with President Ebersole



35
years

Mary Ann
Hilton

35
years

Dorothy
Clickner

If you can't find your thesis— Let Your Thesis Find You!

As a graduate of Excelsior's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, I'm often asked, "What was your thesis topic?" And when I respond that it was a multidisciplinary study of the original Disneyland theme park, the next question is usually: "How did you ever come up with that idea?" The frank answer is that the topic didn't come to me in a brainstorm one day; it really evolved as I went through the second tier of the graduate program.

When I first enrolled, my intent was to focus on literature and creative writing and do a work of fiction as my thesis project. However, during my first core course, "Values and Responsibility," I became fascinated with the way that art and literature reflected social history. My next core course, "Capitalism and Its Influence," gave me the idea that doing a learning contract on the history of our consumer culture might be an interesting project. As I progressed in my studies, I became increasingly involved in issues related to American social and cultural history in the first half of the twentieth century. I discovered ways in which these issues were intertwined with World's Fairs and amusement parks, and I developed a passion for studying this area of cultural history.

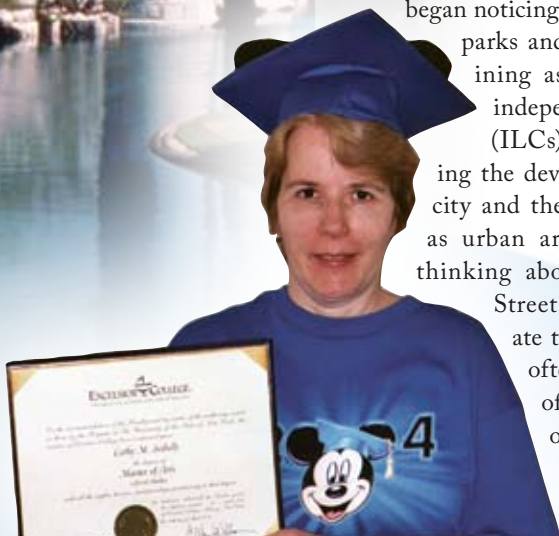
As a lifelong fan of Disney theme parks, I began noticing connections between the parks and the issues I was examining as I worked through my independent learning contracts (ILCs). For example, in studying the development of the modern city and the ways that life changed as urban areas expanded, I began thinking about how Disney's Main Street was designed to recreate the small town feeling so often lost in big cities. Part of my ILC on the development of our consumer culture studied World's Fair exhibits sponsored by corporations with

the objective of promoting a vision of a better tomorrow through use of their products; again, I was struck by how the intent of these exhibits mirrored the corporate sponsorships of some pavilions at Epcot and attractions such as the Monsanto House of the Future and the Hall of Chemistry at the original Disneyland. And, of course, my ILC on the history of tourism led me to examine what has become the now-traditional American family pilgrimage to Disneyland or Disney World.

Thanks to the flexibility of the Excelsior College MA/LS program, I was able to design a fascinating thesis project that examined how all five areas of the original Disneyland park related to the social history of the early twentieth century in America. Although this was quite a different course from my original intent (to study creative writing), the direction I ended up taking actually opened a much broader avenue of writing opportunities for me than I had ever imagined pursuing.

I'm now working on several fascinating writing projects, both fiction and nonfiction, that are direct outgrowths of my graduate studies. I've also become actively involved in several organizations dedicated to preserving World's Fair history, leading me to some wonderful new friendships and some amazing experiences. And as a Disney fanatic, I was thrilled to have the story of my MA/LS work appear in Disney's magazine and to submit my thesis to the Disney archives for future scholars to use in their work.

The best advice I can give to students currently enrolled in the graduate program or those undergrads considering the MA/LS program—but stressing over how to come up with a thesis topic and do the extensive research involved—is to relax! Enjoy the core studies; be open when you see an opportunity to wander down a different path than you first intended; take advantage of the flexibility that learning contracts allow you; and let your thesis evolve as you go along. My wish for all Excelsior students is that you enjoy the journey! ■ by Cathy Scibelli, MA/LS '05





Excelsior College at DOD Worldwide Education Symposium

Excelcior College demonstrated its continuing support for military education by participating in the Department of Defense Worldwide Education Symposium in Orlando, Florida, which took place this past July.

Held once every three years, the event attracts nearly 2,000 military education professionals as well as education services and content providers. Senior military education leadership is present for seminars, focus groups, informational events, keynote addresses, information sessions, receptions, and exhibits.

Excelsior College, which is already very well known to the military community for its degree programs and exams, offered even more this time to military decision-makers seeking ways to expand the range and depth of opportunities available to deployed service members.

Assistant dean Sue Dewan (above left) exhibits the College's educational services for the military. Dean Meredyth Leahy (above right) demonstrates Excelsior College course content delivered via an iPod.

With a spacious, well-equipped, and well-positioned booth in the exhibit hall, presentations by School of Liberal Arts Dean Meredyth Leahy, as well as the keynote address by President Ebersole at a well-attended reception, Excelsior College was able to showcase the benefits of new certificate programs, online courses, CD-ROM courses, and mobile learning.

"It was good to see how the military continues to respect our degree programs and the services we offer," said Susan Dewan, assistant dean and director of military programs. The thought was underscored by Dr. Leahy, who emphasized that the College will continue its commitment to responding to the continuing as well as the emerging needs of the military.

REMEMBERING FRANK C. ABBOTT

DECEMBER 12, 1920—AUGUST 17, 2006



Frank C. Abbott, known today as the first director of Colorado's Commission on Higher Education (CCHE), was touted in higher education circles for his leadership role in the creation of the Auraria—now home to three distinct institutions of higher learning—the Metropolitan State College of Denver

(MSCD), the University of Colorado at Denver (UCD), and the Community College of Denver (CCD).

In New York State, Abbott will always be remembered for his work as the assistant commissioner for the professions at the New York State Education Department (SED) in Albany, New

York. He advised SED on the development of "America's first virtual university," Excelsior (then Regents) College, and after its establishment served on the Board of Overseers until the College received its independent charter.

Frank Abbott remained a loyal friend and regular contributor to the College for all these years. He will be missed.



Deputy Commissioner Nolan, Board of Overseers Chair Kinsinger, and Board member Abbot pause for a moment at the Board's April 1989 meeting.

Foley Garner NACADA Certificate of Merit

Christine Foley, academic advisor in the School of Business and Technology, has been selected by the National Academic Advising Association as a 2006 NACADA Outstanding Advising Certificate of Merit recipient in the Academic Advising—Primary Role category. She was honored with a certificate during a special awards ceremony and reception on October 18, 2006, in Indianapolis. Over the years, Foley has demonstrated unflagging dedication and commitment to Excelsior College's business students. In addition to her direct advising duties, she provides leadership within the business advising team, serving as a mentor for new business advisors.

Speaking of her experience as an Excelsior advisor, Foley says, "I rarely have the opportunity to meet with my students face-to-face. We communicate by email, telephone, or mail. For a student with limited time and enormous personal responsibilities, the additional pressure of completing their degree can be frustrating and at times overwhelming. I try to use my advising skills and resources to help them navigate these obstacles. By far the most important part of my job is letting them know I am there to listen, to encourage, and to recognize each achievement with the hope it will give them the support and courage to go forward with their dreams. I believe (because I am also an adult student) that I relate on a more personal level—understanding only too well the difficulties involved. Each time a student comes one step closer to his/her degree and lets me know about it, I feel personally rewarded."

Foley has been an academic advisor with Excelsior College since 1999. Her selection marks the tenth time—two Outstanding Advisor awards and eight Certificates of Merit—NACADA has recognized Excelsior College academic advisors since 1991.

To nominate your advisor,

please send an email to Betsy DePersis at depersis@excelsior.edu, fax 518-464-8777, or send a letter to the attention of Betsy DePersis. Include your name, student ID#, your advisor's name, and a brief description of how your advisor has had an impact on you as you work toward the completion of your college degree. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Christine Foley and Sandra
Anthney at Commencement 2006*

A Tale of

In 2005, Tyson Foods, Inc. selected Excelsior College as its preferred-provider of educational services to its employees. Since then, two Tyson employees and members of the original pilot program have graduated from Excelsior—Farmington resident Vicky Brown in 2004 and more recently, Sandra Anthney, of Springdale, who attended Commencement exercises on July 14, in Albany, New York.

Although both graduated from the same college through the same program at Tyson, their respective paths to a degree were quite different. Brown transferred many of her prior college credits into Excelsior, and Anthney did most of her work after enrolling. Though different, both paths to an Excelsior College degree have long-standing and successful traditions. And these two graduates clearly demonstrate the value that commitment to lifelong learning can have for employers such as Tyson Foods as they look for competitive advantage in a global economy.

Opportunity Knocks

For Sandra Anthney, college began briefly in 1972, when she attended the University of Arkansas on a nursing scholarship. Soon after, she married and decided to take a semester off to cope with the changes in her life. Upon reenrolling the next semester, Anthney was surprised to learn that she had lost the scholarship and could not afford to continue.



Two Graduates

In 1977, now with a two-year-old daughter, Anthney again tried to pursue a degree but had to withdraw when her daughter contracted pneumonia and was admitted to the hospital. At that point, thoughts of college understandably took a back seat to family and work. “I went back to working full time and put the idea of obtaining a degree in the back of my mind,” she said. But after 35 years in the workforce, the last nine with Tyson, Anthney has seized upon the opportunity offered by Tyson Food’s educational partnership with Excelsior College.

Vicky Brown joined Tyson Foods 16 years ago as a human resources specialist. She soon realized that in order to progress into a management position she would need a college degree. In 1994, Brown enrolled in the University of Arkansas, taking classes during her lunch hour. “It was difficult to attend because most classes had after-hour group projects that would meet around 8 or 9 at night,” she said. At the beginning of her senior level, she transferred into a nontraditional program, with more flexible classes. “However, working 50-plus hours a week, having a family, and studying all the time left little time for anything else,” said Brown. When the Tyson/Excelsior partnership materialized, Brown transferred in her prior credit and, once enrolled, needed only six more credits to graduate.

The Key to Success

The flexibility offered by Excelsior College made it appealing for Anthney and Brown, who have different educational experiences and needs. The lack of residency requirements ensured that a maximum of their previously earned college credit would transfer. Both Anthney and Brown earned credit through the Tyson Leadership College, a program through which the company provides training focused on developing management and leadership skills. This includes classes on values and ethics, communications, coaching, and problem-solving.

Academic Advisors Make the Grade

Both women gave high marks to the academic advising services offered by Excelsior College. Brown said, “The advisors I spoke with were wonderful and helped lead me in the direction I needed to go.” Anthney expressed enthusiastic support for her advisors, singling out one in particular, “It’s great that Excelsior College has advisors like Chris Foley to help you, encourage you, and say ‘you can do this.’” Foley, the lead advisor for Tyson employees enrolled at Excelsior was equally impressed with Anthney, saying, “She has been very dedicated to completing her degree and made full use of the advising services. Sandra has done an excellent job while juggling work and family. It has been my pleasure to help such an enthusiastic and inspiring student reach her educational goals.”



Proud Tyson program graduates Sandra Anthney (left) and Vicky Brown (right)

“I enjoy learning new things, so taking a variety of courses has become a new way to spend my spare time ... Who knows, I might decide to become a professional student.”

Foley herself was recently recognized by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) with a Certificate of Merit (see previous page).

For Vicky Brown, earning a baccalaureate degree reaffirmed what has already been well established by her successful climb through the ranks into management during her career with Tyson Foods. For Tyson, the investment in her education over the years clearly has paid off in the form of a long-time and successful employee. The same can be said for Sandra Anthney, who plans to continue her college education. Expressing the essence of the life-long learner, she commented, “I enjoy learning new things, so taking a variety of courses has become a new way to spend my spare time ... Who knows, I might decide to become a professional student.” Anthney, who has been in the workforce for 35 years and has now earned an associate degree in business, attended the College’s 35th anniversary commencement this past summer, where she met people like academic advisor Chris Foley face-to-face for the first time. ■ by Ben Greenberg



Quick Tips to Ref

CAREER CORNER

by Maribeth Gunner Pulliam, MS Ed

Writing an effective resume is one of the most important tasks in the job search process. Your resume is a self-marketing tool that outlines your unique value to an employer and can ultimately secure a coveted job interview. Most employers will spend only 20 to 30 seconds when reviewing a resume. To get your resume noticed at first glance, you want to ensure it is concise, well organized, error free, and visually appealing. A successful resume should highlight your relevant knowledge, skills, and accomplishments.

Here are a few tips to consider when designing your resume:

- **Document your achievements.** Highlight your past accomplishments, not just your previous job responsibilities. Accomplishments that are results-oriented will attract the prospective employer's interest and are much more meaningful than just listing job duties.
- **Be sure your resume has a targeted focus.** Customize your resume to portray a clear match between your qualifications and the job requirements.
- **Emphasize your transferable skills.** These are the general skills that you have acquired over time that apply to a wide variety of employment settings. Examples include communication, leadership, and interpersonal and organizational skills. Most employers seek these types of skills.
- **Quantify information on your resume whenever possible.** For example, relay to the employer the number of staff you supervised, the total budget amount you managed, the percentage of sales you achieved.
- **Be clear and concise.** Keep your information brief and to the point. Depending on the extent of your experience, a one- to two-page resume is the norm.
- **Maintain a business-like tone throughout your resume.** Refrain from using personal pronouns such as "I" or "me" or any type of abbreviations.
- **Include computer skills.** Most jobs today require some computer knowledge and ability. List all applications and languages you are proficient in. If you are not proficient in a particular area but have familiarity, it is important to note that as well.
- **Ensure that all of the information reflected on your resume is honest and accurate—don't embellish.** Once you secure a job interview, you must be able to substantiate the skills and credentials you originally touted on your resume.
- **List your experience in reverse chronological order.** The only exception to using the reverse chronological format is if you are changing careers or your past experience is more relevant to your career goals than your current experience.
- **Consider adding a section at the beginning of your resume titled "Profile" or "Summary of Qualifications,"** which summarizes approximately three to six relevant experiences, achievements, and/or strengths in brief, bulleted phrases. This serves to showcase your best-selling attributes and can immediately capture the employer's attention.
- **There is no need to list names of references on your resume.** This can be done on a separate sheet and provided upon an employer's request.



fine Your Resume

- **Become familiar with electronic resumes such as scannable and Web-based formats.** Many employers now use electronic scanners to sort through the large volume of resumes received. This will require that you have a scannable version, which is designed differently. A Web-based version will be necessary when an employer requests that your resume be submitted online or if you choose to post it onto a job board via the Internet. To maximize your exposure, learn more about how to create these electronic formats.

- **Proofread!** Before you submit your resume to an employer, be sure to catch any spelling, grammatical, and punctuation errors. These types of errors will cause a prospective employer to dismiss you regardless of any winning qualifications you may have. Ask friends or relatives to review your resume as a second pair of eyes. Try to get several opinions.

A well-designed resume can secure an interview and elicit entry to your next job or career. Use the above tips as guidelines, review related resources, and take the time to create a resume that reflects the exceptional and strong candidate that you are! ■

Related Resources

JobStar Resumes and Cover Letters, JobStar Central

<http://www.jobstar.org/tools/resume/index.cfm>

Prepare Your Resume for Emailing or Posting, The Riley Guide

<http://www.rileyguide.com/eresume.html>

Job-Seeker Accomplishments Worksheet, Quintessential Careers

http://www.quintcareers.com/accomplishments_worksheet.html

Transferable Job Skills for Job-Seekers, Quintessential Careers

http://www.quintcareers.com/transferable_skills.html

Should You Consider a Functional Format for Your Resume? Quintessential Careers

http://www.quintcareers.com/functional_resume.html

Enrolled students and alumni can access many additional career-related links on the Excelsior College Web site. Go to www.excelsior.edu, then log in and click on the Career Resources link on your MyEC page; for graduates, click on the Alumni Connection.

Use Our Resume Critique Service!

Now available for enrolled students

Need to update your resume? A resume critique service is now available via email for Excelsior College enrolled students. This service can be accessed through the Career Resources link on your MyEC page. A professional career counselor will review your resume and provide a critique of the format and presentation. Once your resume is critiqued, the counselor will then email it back to you with suggested revisions, edits, and corrections. The review process may take up to six business days. Sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, this unique resource is available via email only at a cost of \$40.00. To learn more about how the Resume Critique Service can help you gain a competitive edge in your job search, go to your MyEC page, click on 'Career Resources,' then the 'Job Search Link.'

Take advantage of this opportunity to revitalize your resume!

Questions or comments about this article?

Contact Maribeth Gunner Pulliam, Career Resources Coordinator/
Senior Academic Advisor, School of Liberal Arts.

A New Way to Communicate:

MESSAGE CENTER



There is a new way to communicate with the College. The **MyEC Message Center** allows you to submit your questions and receive answers on topics such as degree completion or program questions, FACTS payment plans, and undergraduate applications.

To reach the Message Center, log in to your *MyEC* page; then click on the “**new message(s)**” link under the *MyEC* Message Center section.

Compose New Message

Please select the appropriate office from the list below, and then using the corresponding drop-down menu to the right, choose the subject that most closely matches your inquiry. You will then be forwarded to the appropriate message form.

For tips on the different areas handled by each office, mouse over the adjacent for more information. Once a message is received, you can expect a response in 2-3 business days. A email will be sent to the address on file, notifying you of new Message Center activity.

Office	Subject
Academic Advising	<input type="text"/>
Nursing Advising	<input type="text"/>
Ombudsperson	<input type="text"/>
Student Accounting	<input type="text"/>
Technical Support	<input type="text"/>

Send a Message

To send a message, click on the **Compose Message** button—this will take you to the Compose New Message area. You will be able to send a message to the Academic Advising, Ombudsperson, or Student Accounting offices as well as the Technical Support team. Moving your cursor over the symbol will display a list of the topics handled by that office.

To create a new message, simply choose a topic from the Subject drop-down box. You will be able to enter a subject and message in the Compose New Message area. You also have the option of adding text, image, Excel, or PDF file attachments. Click Send Message to submit your message. Once a message has been sent, it will appear in the listing on your Message Center homepage. You can expect a response to your message in 2-3 business days; you will receive an email notification alerting you to any new messages.

Check your Messages

When you first sign in to your *MyEC* page, you will be alerted to new messages through the *MyEC* Messages area. Click on the underlined “**new message(s)**” link to move to your message inbox.

All messages sent or received through the Message Center will be displayed in the listing on your Message Center homepage. To view a message, click on the Date Received, Subject, or In/Out status of the message you would like to open.

You can sort your messages by date, subject, or by whether they are incoming or outgoing. To do this, simply click on the heading of the category (Date, Subject, In/Out) and the messages will automatically reorganize according to your selection. ■

Message Center

Get New Messages | Compose Message

Click on the title Date Received, Subject or In/Out to sort. Click on the message date, subject or in/out links to see a specific message.

Date Received	Subject	In/Out	Reply	Delete
Mar 20, 2006	Re: message	In	Reply	Delete
Mar 20, 2006	message	Out		Delete

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Plan ahead to make sure you receive your degree at the time you want.

Conferral Date	Final Changes	Deadline for receipt of transcripts/official documents for initial evaluation	Deadline for receipt of transcripts/official documents for updated evaluation	CPNE Completion Cut-off (Nursing only)
November 17, 2006	Nov 3	Sept 8	Sept 22	Sept 29
December 15, 2006	Dec 1	Oct 6	Oct 20	Oct 27
January 19, 2007	Jan 5	Nov 10	Nov 24	Dec 1
February 16, 2007	Feb 2	Dec 8	Dec 22	Dec 29
March 16, 2007	Mar 2	Jan 5	Jan 19	Jan 26
April 20, 2007	Apr 6	Feb 9	Feb 23	Mar 2
May 18, 2007	May 4	Mar 9	Mar 23	Mar 30
June 15, 2007	Jun 1	Apr 6	Apr 20	Apr 27

COMMENCEMENT JULY 13, 2007

*All additions/deletions/corrections to the final transcript must be submitted by the student, in writing, two (2) weeks prior to the conferral date.

https://



CYBER SECURITY IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR EXCELSIOR COLLEGE. Therefore, we use robust security software that encrypts all information that is transferred via the Internet. Any time that you log in to your *MyEC* account, your personal information is protected before it leaves your computer, making it extremely difficult for someone else to see this information while it is being sent over the Internet. Our site uses a digital certificate to establish this secure session, guaranteeing the privacy and integrity of messages and information. The certificate, issued by an independent, trusted third party, assures that Excelsior College is a legitimate online business.

YOU WILL SEE CONFIRMATION OF THE WEB SITE'S SECURITY BY LOOKING FOR THESE TWO INDICATORS:

- **A padlock displayed at the bottom right of the browser**
- **A URL that begins with "https" instead of "http"**

Excelsior College also relies on the use of cookies for security purposes as well as to facilitate site navigation and to personalize your experience while visiting our Web site.

Cookies are small text files sent to your Web browser to help it remember specific information, such as user preferences or personalized Web pages. If you choose to register on our Web site or take advantage of our online offerings, cookies may be used to identify your account. While you can configure your computer to keep it from accepting cookies, you may experience some inconvenience in your use of our site. For example, you will not be able to sign in to your *MyEC* account, thereby limiting the amount of information to

which you may have access. It is important to note that our cookies do not identify you as an individual or by your account information, and once your browser is closed, all cookies related to your *MyEC* account are erased from your computer.

The Browser Settings area of our Help page offers video tutorials to assist you with correctly configuring your Web browser, including your security and cookie settings. The Help page also offers a one-step system check and information on our latest computer system requirements so that you can ensure that your computer is up-to-date.

With the click of a button, you can run a scan of your computer, checking to make sure that your browser is supported and that you have the required software installed and configured correctly. Any potential problems and the steps necessary to correct any issues will be identified through the system check.

Similarly, the Systems Requirements page displays a listing of all computer requirements and recommendations. This information will help you ensure that your computer is equipped with the proper configuration to maximize your online experience. This area also offers links to antivirus and anti-spyware programs, which will help safeguard your computer against malicious software.

It is a good practice to ensure that your computer meets our minimum requirements and is configured correctly before you begin an online course, practice exam, or sign in to your *MyEC* account. An improperly configured browser or outdated software may result in problems viewing or accessing certain information, resulting in lost time and productivity. To learn more about keeping your computer up-to-date, visit the Help page by clicking on the Help link in the top-right corner of any page on our site, or go directly to www.excelsior.edu/help. ■ by Jennifer Hummer

Meet Your Librarians!

Excelsior College > My Excelsior College > Excelsior College Virtual Library

Ask Your Librarian

Research Databases

Exam Resources

Suggestions

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE[®] VIRTUAL LIBRARY



Photo: Jeanne Stafford

Did you know that there are four librarians who support the teaching, learning, and research activities of Excelsior College with information resources and services?

As information professionals, Renee Hall, Madeline Copp, Christine Patterson, and Judy Smith (pictured left to right) have all completed their master's degrees in Library and Information Science and have 50 years of combined experience as professional librarians. They use their experience and expertise to provide individualized service to the Excelsior College community by:

- **selection of pertinent information resources**
- **organization and delivery of information**
- **reference assistance**
- **instruction in the use and evaluation of information**

In addition to offering research assistance via phone and email, the librarians also host monthly Online Chats. Topics include tips on how to research, Information Literacy course tips, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MA/LS) chats, and the process of evaluating what you find online. These chats are a good chance to ask questions or to just discuss current library and information issues. For the most current chat schedules, please visit the Excelsior College Electronic Peer Network (EPN).

What is the ECVL?

The Excelsior College Virtual Library is an organization created for the use of current Excelsior College faculty, staff, and students. It is a collaborative partnership between Excelsior College and the Sheridan Libraries of The Johns Hopkins University and is located in Baltimore, Maryland.

What is its Mission?

The mission of the Excelsior College Virtual Library is to support the teaching and learning activities of Excelsior College with information resources and services.

If you need research assistance, have general library or information questions, or want to make suggestions about library resources and services, please contact the ECVL librarians anytime. They will get back to you within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.

The best times to reach your librarians by phone are:

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Plus, Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Your librarians look forward to hearing from you!

- **Toll free telephone number: 877-247-3097**
- **Local telephone number: 410-516-8187**
- **Fax: 410-516-6777**
- **Email: library@excelsior.edu**

Living & Giving

Whether you're a student, a graduate, or simply someone who cares about Excelsior College, you know that our institution values access for those who have had a hard time following the path to a degree. One of the biggest obstacles for our students is financial. As we frequently note, even our relatively low fees can keep people from enrolling or from completing their degrees. So, for this issue of our magazine, we decided to feature donors who have addressed financial access by supporting scholarships.

We're very proud that our financial institutions have supported the College's mission. Most recently, HSBC provided \$10,000 to assist twenty students with their educational expenses. You'll read the comments of some of the students who have been helped and see the impact a scholarship can have.

One of our alums, Dr. Lawrence Woolsey, asked his wife to join him in memorializing their daughter, Vivian Runion, by establishing a fund in her name. So eager were they to grow the fund that they turned to other family members and friends, asking them to contribute! Another alum and Trustee of the College, William T. Moran III, chose to make a donation of appreciated stock to establish his fund. And alumna Bryanne Hamill, family court judge in New York, has begun her own fund with a gift of \$1,000 and the plan to bring it to the threshold for endowment of \$10,000 in the next few years.

All of these individuals demonstrate the variety of ways in which you can help! Whether you have the ability to make a gift now that will help students today achieve their dreams, or whether you can make a start toward an enduring fund that will help students long into the future, the power is yours—the Power of One.

We think you'll be inspired as you read about these gifts and their impact, and we would be delighted to explore your interest and help you join others in making a difference, too.



Terri Scalise Roller

Terri Scalise Roller
Director of Donor
and Alumni Relations
tscalise@excelsior.edu



Cathy S. Kushner

Cathy S. Kushner
Vice President for
Institutional Advancement
ckushner@excelsior.edu



Update on Vivian Runyon Memorial Scholarship Fund

We are pleased to announce that the first scholarships to be made available through the Vivian Runyon Memorial Scholarship Fund will be awarded in February of 2007.



Vivian Runyon is remembered by all who knew and loved her as a wonderful person with unlimited talent and potential. And in her memory, her family established the Vivian Runyon

Memorial Scholarship Fund in the fall of 2004. It was determined that the scholarships would be awarded to liberal arts students, with highest priority given to members of the U.S. Armed Services.

Vivian enlisted in the Navy in 2001 and was going to be trained as an aerographer's mate. In addition, she planned to continue her education through Excelsior College, as her stepfather had done fifteen years before. Tragically, on May 3, 2001, Vivian was killed by a drunk driver on the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base.

Excelsior College is touched and grateful that her family and loved ones chose to honor her through the creation of this endowed scholarship fund, which they established with multiple gifts until reaching the necessary threshold of \$10,000 this year.

We look forward to updating you regarding the recipients of this scholarship—they will be a true testament to the spirit of Vivian Runyon. ■

HSBC Helps Make a Difference!

Through the generosity of the worldwide financial institution, HSBC, 20 students have moved closer to their educational goals this year. A gift of \$10,000 supported scholarships for students 25 years of age or younger whose access to a degree was limited by their financial circumstances.

Drawn from the disciplines of nursing, liberal arts, and business, the recipients hail from New York, Florida, Texas, Montana, Utah, Arizona, Tennessee, New Jersey, Minnesota, Mississippi, Colorado, and Virginia. Thirty-five percent self-report that they are members of a racially or ethnically diverse group, and the average annual salary earned is \$17,345.

Excelsior College has received wonderful letters of thanks from many of the student scholarship recipients.

We are thrilled with our affiliation with HSBC and look forward to a continued relationship with them, helping students achieve their dream of a college degree. ■

"Please pass along my thanks to the HSBC Bank and all who worked on my scholarship."

—SUSAN

"I chose Excelsior College's RN program because of the flexibility of the program and because of the reputation the school has among my coworkers who have previously completed the program. I am very grateful for this opportunity to further my education and appreciate your generosity."

—GEOFFREY

"This scholarship will help out so much. Without this I would be struggling financially during the next semester in order to pay for more classes. With this award you have contributed to my success."

—CASSANDRA

Support Excelsior, Save on Taxes, and Receive Payments for Life!

The Excelsior College Gift Annuity may be an ideal way for you to meet your charitable and financial objectives.

A gift annuity is a simple agreement between a donor and Excelsior College. In exchange for a gift of cash or securities, the College agrees to pay one or two individuals a fixed sum each year for life.

The older the individual, the higher the rate of return the College will pay.

In most cases, part of each payment is tax-free, increasing after-tax value. There are no administrative fees or commissions. Your estate may enjoy reduced probate costs and estate taxes. The minimum first-time contract needs to be \$5,000, with payments beginning at age 55 or older.

Most important, you would be providing generous support for Excelsior College! We hope you will consider the Excelsior College Gift Annuity as part of your estate planning.

For more information on including the College in your plans, or to see if this program is offered in your state, please contact Vice President for Institutional Advancement Cathy Kushner (ckushner@excelsior.edu) or Director of Alumni and Donor Relations Terri Scalise Roller (tscalise@excelsior.edu) by calling the Office of Institutional Advancement toll free at 888-647-2388 or via the email addresses above. We look forward to speaking with you. ■

Excelsior College Charitable Gift Annuity Rates	
(One-Life Agreements as of 7/04)	
Age	Rate
60	6.4%
65	6.7%
70	7.2%
75	7.9%
80	8.9%
85	10.4%
90	12.0%



Giving

WHETHER YOU ARE

One of the **23,275** graduates of **USNY – Regents External Degree Programs (REX)**

OR One of the **55,723** graduates of **USNY – Regents College**

OR One of the **14,027** graduates of **Regents College**

OR One of the **28,457** graduates of **Excelsior College**

Read on for news of your
alumni community...

ALL ABOUT ALUMNI



Alumni Award Winners

The Carrie B. Lenburg Award

Karen Cox, RN, PhD, CNAA, FAAN. Dr. Cox earned an associate degree in nursing from Excelsior (1982) and a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Kansas (1983) as well as a master's degree in nursing (1993) and a PhD in nursing with a minor in business (2002), both from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). She currently serves as executive president/co-COO for the Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, an academic pediatric center, Magnet-designated by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Cox has been named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.



Karen Cox with Excelsior College Board of Trustees member Roy Simpson

Karen Cox cited the discovery of a "newfound confidence" during her experience with the College and commended its current nursing program. "Excelsior helped shape my appreciation for innovation long before distance learning was understood...I am very proud of my degree from Excelsior and appreciate the foundation it laid for my entire career."

The C. Wayne Williams Award

Danny L. Scott, MS. Mr. Scott earned an associate degree (2001) and a bachelor's degree in liberal studies (2002), both from Excelsior, and subsequently, a master's degree in human resources management from Troy State University. Scott retired from the U.S. Navy after serving for thirteen years and is currently a human resources representative, wellness coordinator, and safety program chairman for the Dollar General Corporation. His extensive community involvement includes the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Special Olympics of Florida, Minority Business Leaders Development Committee, and Pensacola Boys' Base.



Danny Scott with his wife, Shelia Scott, BSL '02, winner of the 2003 Student Support Award (nominated by husband Danny), and nephew D'Carlos Graham

Danny Scott said he has received other awards, but "none as cherished as this... I sincerely cannot find a better educational institution...My experience with working with the faculty and staff at Excelsior—there's none better...I've been to 9 or 10 colleges, from junior colleges to universities, and they can't even compete with Excelsior. Whenever you call, there's always someone there—very professional—but most important, they're friendly!... My graduate degree doesn't mean as much to me as my two prior degrees from Excelsior."

The Alumni Achievement Award

Mary E. Maida, PhD, CEO of The Medingen Group, LLC and its affiliates, Medingen Services and Clerisy Corp. Dr. Maida earned an associate degree (1976) and a bachelor's degree in business (1988), both from Excelsior, followed by a master's degree in neurobiology and anatomy and a PhD in molecular neuroscience, both from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. The Medingen Group,



Mary Maida surrounded by her immediate family—mother, husband, and two sons

LLC provides medical professionals with the ability to incubate and transfer their privately held intellectual property into the marketplace. Maida also maintains a medical research position at the U. of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Mary Maida thanked the College for the flexibility it gave her to adhere to her educational vision when her children were young. She explained that "there are always detractors along the way when you 'dream large,' but quitting only destroys your dignity... I think that if I had to say anything, it is 'never stop dreaming.' Never stop believing that your life can be great. And you can achieve that greatness; you just have to find the right way. Excelsior provides incredible opportunities for people to achieve the vision they want to get to...it allows you to further your knowledge; it allows you to acquire knowledge. And one of the great things about knowledge is it is something that you can give away freely and still keep...and the more you give away, the more you are likely to receive from others."

Alumni Association Advisory Board

BACK ROW: JACK BAILEY, MA, PHR, AS '95, BS '98 | **VICE PRESIDENT:** PAUL TROOP, BA '80 | CATHERINE COVERSTON, PhD, BS in nursing '87

JOHN M. AMIDON, CGFM, CIA, CGAP, BS '87 | STEPHEN MORGAN, EdS, BA '89 | ROBERT P. WILLIAMS, MEd, BS '95

FRONT ROW: TERRI SCALISE ROLLER, Director of Alumni and Donor Relations | SARA J. WALDORF, BA '03 | SUZANNE S. YARBROUGH, PhD, BS in nursing '84

PRESIDENT: MARY O'CONNOR, PhD, MS, RN, CHE, BS in nursing '94 | **SECRETARY:** SUSAN VITALE, PhD, BS in nursing '92 | not in photo: PAM CHINELLI, BS '01



Farewell

As we welcome two new Alumni Advisory Board members, it is time to bid farewell to two terrific volunteers and supporters of Excelsior College—Suzanne Yarbrough and Pam Chinelli. Dr. Yarbrough joined the advisory board in June of 2000. She completed her second three-year term in July of this year. Ms. Chinelli joined the advisory board in June of 2004 and completed a two-year term this past July. Both have contributed greatly to the continuing development of our alumni community.

SUZANNE S. YARBROUGH, PHD
BS in nursing '84, Slingerlands, New York

A valued and long-time member of the advisory board, Dr. Yarbrough has served as both the president and vice president of the College's Alumni Association and on many advisory board committees including the nominating committee, bylaws committee, alumni services committee, and the alumni activities committee. She is currently an associate dean in the Excelsior College School of Nursing. Prior to this, she was an assistant professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio School of Nursing in San Antonio, where she worked as a nurse educator with graduate students from various backgrounds. She earned her MS and PhD in nursing at Texas Woman's University in Houston, and has many years of experience in nursing, both in critical care and community health.

Of her experience with the Alumni Advisory Board, Ms. Yarbrough says, "This was a very enriching experience for me. I had the opportunity to work with a dynamic group of individuals who in some cases were very much like me in terms of their approach to independent adult learning, but at the same time very different from me in so many other ways. We were able to create community based on our college experience sans the trappings of traditional education. It was fun and challenging, and I know that I got so much more from the experience than I was able to give back. Thank you to everyone I met during this time for enriching my life. I will miss you all but know that we will meet again."

PAM CHINELLI

BS '01, West Hollywood, California

Pam Chinelli, a 2001 graduate of Excelsior College, is currently employed by the Los Angeles Unified School District. In addition to receiving her Bachelor of Science degree from Excelsior, Ms. Chinelli has had a long career in elementary education and has been very involved in California's charter school movement. Like many Excelsior graduates, Chinelli began her college career with a goal of becoming a teacher in the late 1960s, only to put it on hold in the mid '70s to raise her family as a stay-at-home mom. Along the way she was active in her children's educational experience, which provided her a way to be involved in and learn about elementary education. During her time on the advisory board, she served on the nominating committee. "I would not be teaching if not for Excelsior College," Chinelli says. "Getting my degree and becoming a teacher fulfills a lifelong dream. I will be forever grateful."

Welcome

As we bid farewell to Suzanne Yarbrough and Pam Chinelli, we welcome two new members to the Alumni Advisory Board; they are Sara J. Waldorf and Jack Bailey. Here is a bit more about each of them:

SARA J. WALDORF

BA '03, Warren, Minnesota

Sara J. Waldorf completed her BA in Literature in English in 2003, graduating *summa cum laude* with a GPA of 3.97. She received the Robert P. Mahoney award at commencement ceremonies in July of that year, which is awarded to a student who completed his/her degree in the face of significant challenges and demonstrated a dedication to community and volunteer service. The oldest of ten children, Ms. Waldorf played a large part in her siblings' lives. Excelsior College exams and correspondence courses afforded her the opportunity to earn her degree while still being able to be there for her family. Since completing her degree, Waldorf has been employed as assistant manager for Dale's Foods in Warren, Minnesota. She has authored several works of poetry, served as an editor for the Junior Philatelists of America, and is currently working on her first novel. She remains active

in her community, and recently participated in an online volunteer experience promoted through the Excelsior College alumni Web site — In2Books.

During the Alumni Advisory Board election, Waldorf had this to say about joining the group: "As a lifelong home-educated student, I believe I can bring a unique perspective to the Alumni Advisory Board. I have developed excellent communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills through my job and lifelong volunteer experiences. I believe my commitment to non-classroom education makes me an ideal ambassador for Excelsior College."

JACK BAILEY, MA, PHR

AS '95, BS '98, Brandenburg, Kentucky

Jack Bailey currently serves as a Chief in the Special Missions Recruiting Division for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Fort Knox, Kentucky. He was previously an attack helicopter pilot with the U.S. Army. Upon graduating from Excelsior College, Mr. Bailey earned his MA from Webster University in the area of human resource development. He also earned his Professional in Human Resources certification in 2004; graduated from the Army Management Staff College in 2005; and is a Six Sigma practitioner and organizationally certified "green belt." An adjunct instructor in critical thinking for Axia College of Western International University and a member of Delta Pi Epsilon (business education honor society), Bailey is an active member of the Louisville Chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management.

While running for election, Bailey had the following words about his possible term on the Alumni Advisory Board: "I am a very vocal supporter of adult learning and specifically the Excelsior program. Both my wife and I are graduates, and we never hesitate to use Excelsior as an example of how well an adult distance education program can work. We 'sing' Excelsior's praises to coworkers and our own students."

The advisory board looks forward to getting to know both Sara and Jack and to working with them over the course of their three-year terms.



ALUMNI MEET

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING 2006

"Each year, it is such a delight to meet new graduates at our annual meeting. Along with College staff, members of the Excelsior College Alumni Advisory Board have the opportunity to get to know these enthusiastic new members of the alumni association and hear their ideas and opinions about potential new programs and services.

The coming year promises to be an exciting one for our alumni, with new and expanded online resources that focus on professional development and career services. Thanks to all of you who came to the meeting and participated with such gusto!"

—Terri Scalise Roller, *Director of Alumni and Donor Relations*

Participants (from left to right)

Front row: Kil Cha Gullickson, Nancy Miller, Anne Pessoa, Linda Reeder, Debra Stover, Mari Sasaki, Carlo Zenarosa **Back row:** Richard Hernandez, Tim Wies, Shari James, Patsy Hatch-Reinertson, Sandra Anthney, John Geer, Michael Odediran

CONSIDER SERVING ON YOUR Alumni Board

The Excelsior College Alumni Association is looking for energetic, dedicated graduates who would like to nominate themselves to serve on the Alumni Advisory Board.

We hope you will consider becoming a part of the leadership of your alumni association. As the College continues to strive to provide its alumni with quality services, it is so important that we identify individuals who can continue the work of the association, to offer our alumni the range of opportunities they deserve.

Duties include attending one meeting per year (expenses are covered by the College) held in conjunction with the annual commencement ceremonies in Albany; participating in phone conferences and electronic meetings throughout the year; and serving on board subcommittees.

Each board member is expected to contribute annually to the College—the amount will be left to the individual's discretion. Your contribution of thoughts, ideas, and enthusiasm in support of the College will help the association develop programs and services valuable to fellow alumni.

Log on to the alumni Web site located at alumni.excelsior.edu to download the instructions necessary to prepare your materials for nomination. The deadline to submit these materials for nomination is November 30, 2006. For more information, please feel free to contact the Office of Alumni Affairs toll free at 888-647-2388.

Welcome to MyEC



MyEC



Continue with our Online Community—Even as a Grad!

Access to your MyEC page on the Excelsior Web site is a wonderful, complimentary benefit that continues after you complete your degree and become a member of the Excelsior College Alumni Association. The content of the alumni Web site is created with your needs in mind.

Here are some of the many features and benefits you will experience:

- Remain connected to the College through our "Alumni News and Announcements" section
- Connect with DBM – the world's leading provider of strategic human resource solutions. Known for over 35 years for its innovative and effective career transition services, DBM offers in-depth resources for our alumni in employee transition, retention, development, and selection
- Keep the College current on your contact information, employment information, and advanced degrees earned
- Gain access to online chats on a variety of topics
- Search for jobs through our Online Professional Connections link
- Read the College's magazine, *Live & Learn*
- Receive bi-weekly career tip emails delivered directly to your mailbox
- Learn about opportunities to contribute to the College's annual fund
- Purchase Excelsior clothing and memorabilia
- Request a transcript

- Have your resume critiqued by a career counselor
- Locate fellow alumni in your hometown via our Grad2Grad Connection and the profile section of DBM
- And much more!

Don't wait! Log in today and take advantage of everything MyEC has to offer. It's simple:

- Visit www.alumni.excelsior.edu
- Select Login or MyEC from the menu on the upper right hand portion of your screen
- Enter or create your username and password

If you have any questions about MyEC, please call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 518-464-8539, or send an email to alumni@excelsior.edu.

For technical assistance, please contact the College's Office of Technical Assistance toll free at 877-842-8324 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 a.m. seven days a week.



Alumni Giving On The Rise!

Once again, the annual campaign results are better than ever before. Gifts from our grads are up for an alumni giving total of \$171,542. This year, our total campaign raised \$277,947.

The overall campaign increased by a whopping 35%, and gifts from alumni increased by 24%. This is a wonderful way for our Excelsior family to demonstrate how much the College means to each and every one of us as we move ever upward.

We sincerely hope you will continue to be a part of our Honor Roll of Donors by making gifts to the campaign each year. It's certainly not too late! You may respond to the mail and phone appeals you receive throughout the year, or simply give the College a call if you would like to discuss how you can be a part of our family of donors.

You may reach us at 518-464-2388, and you can always make a gift online by visiting alumni.excelsior.edu.

HATS



OFF!

UNITED STATES

ARMED FORCES

Navy Chief Petty Officer Michael T. Rodgers, BSL '03—is currently on a scheduled deployment aboard the USS Ronald Reagan. Rodgers's unit made port visits to the United Arab Emirates and Australia, conducted maritime security operations (MSO) in the Western Pacific, and participated in the United for Reading Program. MSO supports the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations in the maritime environment. The United for Reading Program allows sailors to read books to their children on video tape or DVD and mail them home in order to boost family morale, give parental support to the spouse left at home, and ease children's fears about parental absence.



ARMED FORCES

Major Michele A. Baxter, BS '87, BS in nursing '97—is currently stationed at Kadena AB, Okinawa, as a flight nurse for the U.S. Air Force. In March 2005, she completed her master's in health sciences with a concentration in emergency and disaster management from Touro University International.

Command Sergeant Major Nicholas Rozumny, BSL '01—assumed his new post as the Command Sergeant Major of the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey in March 2006. The 27-year Army veteran is a graduate of the Institute. He has served in the conflicts of Iraq and Bosnia as well as in Germany, the Balkans, and installations throughout the U.S.

CALIFORNIA

Jerry J. Flack, AS '04, Temecula—is currently enrolled as a Bachelor of Science student at Excelsior College. He plans to pursue his master's degree and PhD. He recently spent three years in Italy and, through his role in the military, dedicates time to encouraging potential students to pursue their degrees through Excelsior.

Greg Lockridge, BSL '05, Sacramento—has been announced as an assistant coach for the San Jose State Spartans women's basketball team for the 2006-07 season. Lockridge previously coached for many other universities in California as well as the Edinburgh Rocks of the British Basketball League and the Rochester Skeeters of the International Basketball Association.

Michele Mathieu, BMK '98, San Diego—wrote "How to Win Governmental Grants," which was accepted for presentation at the American Medical Writers Association annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in October 2006. Ms. Mathieu is listed in the current addition of *Who's Who in America*.

Standlee Spencer, BSL '89, El Centro—was honored at a formal banquet for his selection as the 2006 California Troops to Teachers High School Teacher of the Year. After a comprehensive selection process that included lengthy essays, peer and supervisor evaluations, and formal interviews, three finalists were chosen in four separate categories; Mr. Spencer was then chosen from this group.

Troops to Teachers is a program in which separating or retiring military personnel pursue a second career in public education with the goal of improving American schooling through the link between military personnel and education related agencies. Spencer successfully brings his experience in the Navy and technical school to his students at Brawley Union High School, CA. He says, "I truly want my students to see

how knowledge is the key to being creative and that its use can open doors to wonderful opportunities."

CONNECTICUT

Sandra Dalton, AS in nursing '01, Lyme—wrote a book about her nursing career, *Still Life in Motion: A Nurse's Notes*, which contains verse and black and white photography. The photography is being displayed at local libraries. Two photos, "The Canvas" and "The Ghost" won major prizes at local fairs. Ms. Dalton was also interviewed by WTNH for the segment *Good Morning Connecticut*.

FLORIDA

Winston Lawrason Garesche, AA '88, Maitland—Completed requirements for a Bachelor of Arts from Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, with a major in business management. Mr. Garesche's hobby is collecting weapons from WWII and the Korean War. He has also started putting together gun kits from the Civil War.

Gary Snyder, AS '94, Tyndall AFB—a civil engineering safety manager, graduated from Columbia Southern University (CSU) in June 2006 with a master's degree in occupational safety and health. The CSU degree program is designed for career professionals seeking to expand their management leadership functions within a company and to increase awareness of environmental health protection and occupational safety.

Mr. Snyder earned the title of Certified Instructional Technologist (CIT) by the National Environmental, Safety, Health, and Training Association (NESHTA) by meeting all requirements set forth by the CIT Board of Certification. He demonstrated exceptional knowledge of the theory and practice of training in technical specialty areas. These accomplishments are in addition to his previous certification as environmental safety and health trainer in occupational safety and health.

Snyder is currently pursuing an associate certification in risk management public entity from the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters Insurance Institute of America.

GEORGIA

Jewel Ann Kimbrough Adams, AS in nursing '85, Lithonia—received her MSN/FNP in 2005 from Emory University after earning her BSN in 2001 from the University of Phoenix. Currently, she works for Emory Healthcare at the Crawford Long Hospital, Atlanta.



GEORGIA

Larry W. Bussey, BSL '90, Jonesboro—is currently working as an actor and has appeared in several films and stage productions. He has also earned his master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix. Formerly, Mr. Bussey worked as chief of staff in the Clayton County District Attorney's Office and was previously employed as a police officer after majoring in criminal justice during his undergraduate studies.



WASHINGTON

Annie Christine Jones, BSL '96, Puyallup—completed a master's degree in education with specialization in reading and literacy from Walden University, MN in 2005. Ms. Jones currently teaches Advanced Placement English and social studies at the middle school level in the beautiful Puget Sound area.

Mark McKenna, AS '03, Columbus—recently won third place in the PEN American Center's annual Prison Writing Contest with his non-fiction essay titled "Pictures Don't Lie." Excelsior graduates, particularly war/combat veterans, interested in reading the essay may locate it on PEN's Web site at www.pen.org. Mr. McKenna received The LeRoy V. Good Memorial Award from Excelsior in 2003.

Donald B. Tinsley, AS '94, Jackson—retired from the U.S. Army in 2001 after 20 years of active duty. In 2006, Mr. Tinsley earned a BA from Mercer University with a major in psychology and a minor in education.

HAWAII

Vernon F. Boardley, AAB '00, BSL '03, Honolulu—was recently appointed to serve as Squadron Superintendent for the 99th Services Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. He was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in his designated Air Force specialty. In December 2005, this 22-year Air Force veteran graduated from Central Michigan University with an MS in administration. His son has recently applied for admission to Excelsior College after completing his AA in justice administration from Hawaii Pacific.

KENTUCKY

Andrew Joshua Martin, AA '02, Highland Heights—wrote the book titled *Crossing the Red Sea*, which was voted "#1 Best Inspirational Book of 2006" by Christian Story Teller. He serves as assistant pastor and ordained shepherd at the University Bible Fellowship Church, near North Kentucky University.

As an RN, he is also the director of nursing at Queen City Nursing Home.

MASSACHUSETTS

Gedalia Niram, BSL '02, Cambridge—is currently a graduate student in the Division of Continuing Education at Harvard University.

NEW JERSEY

Dr. Joseph M. Juliano, BSL '94, Orange—established the Hon. Patricia Juliano Memorial Scholarship of Essex County College for Women, Rutgers University, in memory of his late mother. The scholarship encourages the advancement of female students in leadership, public policy, and governmental affairs. In September 2005, Dr. Juliano also announced the creation of the Hon. Patricia Juliano Fellowship/Scholarship Award of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University. In addition, he has donated a copy of his mother's painting "The Kitchen," to the permanent art collection of the White House, Washington, DC. Dr. Juliano promotes the artwork of his sister as well, works as a chiropractor and, since 1988, has worked as a career firefighter for the Orange Fire Department.

Lilian H. Zirpolo, AS '82, BSL '87, Woodcliff Lake—published a book titled *Ave Papa/Ave Papabile: The Sacchetti Family, Their Art Patronage, and Political Aspirations* (Toronto: Centre of Reformation and Renaissance Studies, 2005). Ms. Zirpolo was also commissioned by Scarecrow Press to write *The Historical Dictionary of Renaissance Art*, coming out in 2007.

NEW YORK

Jeffrey S. Baker, AA '73, BS '75, Fairport—has completed a PhD in psychology with specialization in educational psychology at Capella University. Dr. Baker presented a paper titled "Extended Testing Time and GPA for College Students with Learning Disabilities" in August 2006 at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in New Orleans. He has served Excelsior as an alumni trustee, secretary of the alumni association, and volunteer academic advisor during the Regents College days. Among other activities, Baker teaches psychology as an adjunct at Rochester Institute of Technology as well as at Monroe Community College.

Rosemarie A. Caligiuri, BA '02, Ridgewood—received her master's degree in acupuncture in June 2005 from the Tri-State College of Acupuncture in New York City. She has since opened a private practice office in Rego Park, Queens.

Cantara Christopher, BA '99, New York—owner of Cantara Christopher's Small Press, Cantara Books, LLC, has finished the publication of the poetry collection titled *Claptrap: Notes from Hollywood* by Stephen Gyllenhaal, with an introduction by Jamie Lee Curtis. The book was released in June 2006.

Mary Koslap-Petraco, BS in nursing '82, Amityville—received the Henry K. Suffolk Award, the highest honor from the National Association of

Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP), in March 2006. As a pediatric nurse practitioner, she serves as the coordinator of child health for the Suffolk County Department of Health Services. Additionally, Koslap-Petraco works at the SUNY Stony Brook School of Nursing as a clinical assistant professor. She is also the first nurse practitioner named to the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC), advisor to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Koslap-Petraco is a former winner of The Carrie B. Lenburg Award and has presented research papers at the National Immunization Conference as well as internationally.

Melanie A. Scott, AS '80, BSL '90, Riverdale—has published her first novel, *Abmelanomia*. Through the relationships between the characters, the fictional work explores the idea that "there's a thin line between black and white." She is working on her PhD through Walden University.

NORTH CAROLINA

Morag A. Polaski, BS '03, Richlands—has become a Certified Legal Assistant and has earned the North Carolina Certified Paralegal designation. Ms. Polaski has also been accepted into the graduate school of Fort Hays State in the liberal studies program.



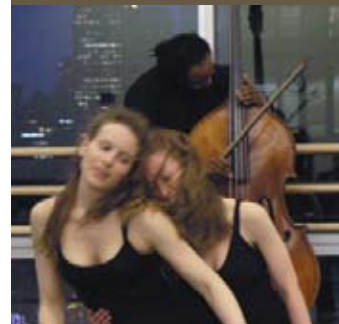
TEXAS

Jonathan E. Lancaster, BSL '98, Corpus Christi—an executive sales representative, achieved the Diamond Winner's Circle award level with the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline. A repeat Winner's Circle recipient, he received the Ruby Winner's Circle award in 2005. In June 2006, Mr. Lancaster and his wife traveled to Paris, France, to celebrate his accomplishment with other Diamond Winner's Circle members.



NEW YORK

Marvin M. Williams, MA/LS '05, Jamaica—has completed a second master's degree in urban education and women's studies from the CUNY Graduate Center in Manhattan. He is the assistant coach for the Kingsborough Community College men's basketball team, which won the CUNY Tournament and advanced to the Region XV Final Four of the National Tourney. Further, Mr. Williams presented a paper titled "Introduction of WAC as a Language Development Tool for ESL Students in Foundation Courses" during the Eighth Annual International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference in Clemson, SC. He also produced two documentaries, "Introduction to Women's Studies" and "Communication Theory In and Out of the Classroom." A talented musician as well, Williams debuted the original composition "Nin" for the Experience Vocal Dance Ensemble at Alvin Alley Theatre in Manhattan, New York. He performed the composition for double bass and was accompanied by vocalists/dancers Sara Parr and Gudrun Bühler.



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Degree: _____ Year: _____ Institution: _____

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What would you like us to know about you, our graduate?

(I release this information to Excelsior College for use in its publications materials and/or on its Web site.)

Signature _____ Date _____



NEVADA

Sean S. Thompson, BSL '05, Elko—has earned a Master of Science in network security from Capitol College in 2006 with a 4.0 grade point average and Graduate Honors. Capitol College is one of the 66 Centers of Academic Excellence for the National Security Agency and provides students with the professional competencies specified by the world's two most prominent authorities in information assurance: the joint National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security Committee on National Security Standards (CNSS), and the (ISC)2 organization's requirements for the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) credential.

In addition, Mr. Thompson received certificates in Network Protection and Security Management as well as earned the CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional), CBCP (Certified Business Continuity Professional), and NSA InfoSec Assessment and Evaluation Methodology Certifications in 2005.

Thompson recently accepted a new position as information security analyst with Micron Technology, Inc. in the Boise, Idaho corporate security department, handling global issues. He plans to teach at the university/college level on a part-time basis. In 2006, he is pursuing a PhD in information assurance as well.

OHIO

Mary T. Kohanski, AS '93, Toledo—was ordained as a minister of the United States Church of Christ by the Association Minister in December 2005. Rev. Kohanski is currently a pastor at First United Church of Christ in Findlay.

OKLAHOMA

Walt Cross, AA '73, BS '80, Stillwater—has published a new book titled *Custer's Lost Officer, The Search for Lt. Henry Moore Harrington, 7th U.S. Cavalry*. His book recalls the often forgotten lieutenant, whom the Native Americans called the "Braves Man," finally recognized after 130 years.

OREGON

Barbara Faye Harkins, BSL '02, Corvallis—was offered a fully-paid assistantship, allowing her to pursue a second master's degree at Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA. In 2005, she earned her MLIS from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

PENNSYLVANIA

Gary M. Barraco, BSL '00, Nazareth—has been appointed to marketing manager of ecVision, a leading company in Product Lifestyle Execution (PLE) solutions for apparel and footwear industries. Over the past eight years, Mr. Barraco has developed and implemented marketing initiatives in areas such as software quality consulting, marketing communications, and telemarketing. He previously conducted marketing programs for recruiting and retention within the Army National Guard.

Jodi Yenchik, AS in nursing '89, BS in nursing '99, Yardley—became a licensed Pennsylvania real estate agent three years ago and is an owner in a joint ventures title company. She recently earned a Master of Jurisprudence from Widener University of Law, Delaware, and plans to pursue a Doctor of Law degree, start a legal consulting business in the health law arena. Additionally, Ms. Yenchik is an RN and works as an infection control and staff development nurse who plans to complete all 500+ nursing spectrum education modules.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Anthony G. Rizi, BSL '05, North Augusta—a Cryptologic Technician Chief Petty Officer for the United States Navy and an Assistant Cryptologic Readiness Coordinator for the Iwo Jima Strike Group, will soon be deployed from his station at Naviocom, Georgia. While previously in Augsburg, Germany; onboard the USS Shiloh in the Western Pacific; on the USS Theodore Roosevelt in the Shipyards; in Norfolk, Virginia; in Sugar Grove, West Virginia; and while deployed to Pristina, Kosovo, he managed to take college classes, CLEPs, DSSTs, and Excelsior Examinations. In the immediate future, he plans to earn his master's degree and hopes to provide positive motivation for educational achievement to his Shipmates.

TENNESSEE

Andre Dennis Orr Sr., BSL '05, Savannah—received his MS in management and is enrolled at North Central University in the DBA program. His specialization is in homeland security.



TEXAS

Glen Fowler, BSL '05, Lubbock—was sworn in as Brenham, Texas police chief in January 2006. His new position comes after his decision to take courses through Excelsior College, enabling him to advance beyond his former role as a police captain.

VIRGINIA

Cathy Duncan, BS in nursing '04, Fredericksburg—is currently enrolled in the MSN nurse practitioner program at George Mason University in Fairfax.



TEXAS

Joseph D. Hansen, BFI '95, Little River-Academy—was elected by the One World Bank Board of Directors as president and CEO in January 2006. Prior to One World Bank, Mr. Hansen worked for Shared Plus Federal Bank in Plano. He has been in the banking

and financial service industry for the past 15 years, holding various positions including president of Citizens State Bank's wholly-owned mortgage subsidiary; chief marketing officer for Citizens State Bank and First Preference Mortgage Corporation, Waco; commercial lender and business development officer for Citizens State Bank; statistician and credit/financial analyst for Scott and White Insurance Organization; and a member of the Special Assets Department of First National Bank, Temple (an Extraco bank).

Currently, Hansen is in his junior year at the South West Graduate School of Banking, and in his senior year at the Bank Operations Institute of Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas. His licensures include: Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified

Financial Service Auditor designations; the General Securities License and Financial Operations Principal License with the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD); and the Property, Casualty, Health, and Life License.

Hansen also serves as a captain in the Texas Army National Guard and was appointed by the State of Texas Adjutant General's Office to serve on the Board of Directors of the Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation, which is a non-profit organization for veteran and family assistance. He holds an executive MBA with a concentration in finance from the University of Mary Hardin (UMH)-Baylor and a Bachelor of General Technology in aerospace science from UMH-Baylor.

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In 1609, Henry Hudson sailed across the Atlantic aboard the Half Moon (one of the fastest vessels of its time) in search of the Northwest Passage. Though Hudson did not discover a shortcut to the Far East, his exploration led him up the river that now bears his name. It was here that the Dutch established Fort Orange, which the British later renamed Albany—the oldest continuously occupied city in the original thirteen colonies.

Steeped in history, Albany was the site of the first formal proposal (the Albany Plan of Union presented by Benjamin Franklin) to unite the colonies in 1754. In 1797, Albany became the capital of the State of New York. And in 1971, Albany became the capital of distance learning in America, with the establishment of the country's first "virtual university," Excelsior College.

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