

# LIVE & LEARN

Excelsior College Magazine

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# LIVE&LEARN

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Your questions and comments regarding Live & Learn are welcome. Please direct them to the Publications Office: 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, New York 12203-5159 phone: 518-464-8555 email: [pubteam@excelsior.edu](mailto:pubteam@excelsior.edu)

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For general information about Excelsior College, call **888-647-2388**.

[www.excelsior.edu](http://www.excelsior.edu)

## COLLEGE CALENDAR

### 2009 HOLIDAYS

(College closed)

#### May 25

Memorial Day

#### July 3

Independence Day (observed)

### COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

July 10, 2009

#### September 7

Labor Day

#### October 12

Columbus Day

#### November 11

Veteran's Day

#### November 26-27

Thanksgiving Day & Day After

#### December 25

Christmas Day

**Important Deadlines** for degree completion can be found at [www.excelsior.edu/deadlines](http://www.excelsior.edu/deadlines)

**On the Cover:** Debra Hall (left), winner of the 2008 Student Support Award, was nominated by her daughter, Tena Hall (right), Associate in Science in nursing graduate.

## College Receives 2008 WOW AWARD

**E**xcelcior College was named a 2008 recipient of the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications' (WCET) Outstanding Work Award, recognizing the College's Access to Learning™ multimedia orientation project.

The Access To Learning™ project includes a CD-ROM presentation and Web site, familiarizing public policy leaders, regulators, and accreditors with the quality, credibility, and flexibility of online learning as a forward-looking approach to training and education needs. The program includes interviews with experts in the field of online learning, testimonials from successful online learners, and examples of online courses from leading institutions. Excelsior was among nine higher education organizations recognized in 2008. ■



[www.accesstolearningproject.org](http://www.accesstolearningproject.org)



**T**his year's *Partners in Lifelong Learning Award* went to WMHT Educational Telecommunications, the New York Capital Region's premier public multimedia organization. WMHT was chosen because of "... its long history of providing access to programs and services that educate and inspire us for a lifetime. Using the power of non-commercial television, radio, the Internet and other media, WMHT's programs enrich the lives of thousands."



Partners in Lifelong Learning (from left to right): Event co-chairs – U.S. Congressman Michael J. McNulty, the Capital Region's representative in Washington for 20 years, and former WMHT president and CEO Deborah Onslow; John F. Ebersole, president of Excelsior College; guest speaker David Brancaccio, host and senior editor of the PBS program, NOW; and Robert Altman, president and CEO of WMHT.



### Excelsior's 2009 Outstanding Academic Advisor

**Mary Insogna**, senior academic advisor in the School of Business and Technology, has been selected as the College's Outstanding Academic Advisor for 2009. Her nomination portfolio has been submitted to the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) for consideration for its Outstanding Academic Advisor Award. Through the years, Mary has shown tireless commitment to helping students earn their degrees. Here are just a couple examples of what they had to say:

*"You don't know how much I appreciate what you did for me. You really went above and beyond the call of duty."* – Robin Johnson

*"She is not only knowledgeable but also very personable and warm."* – Madan Nepal

**To nominate your advisor**, please send an email to Betsy DePersis at [depersis@excelsior.edu](mailto:depersis@excelsior.edu), or fax 518-464-8777, or send a letter to Betsy DePersis with your name, student ID#, your advisor's name, and a brief description of how your advisor has impacted your Excelsior College experience.



On March 4, in Albany, New York, with the State Capitol glowing in the background, more than 120 people gathered at the New York State Museum, where WMHT was honored with Excelsior's first

## *Partners in Lifelong Learning Award*

**E**stablished in support of scholarships for Capital Region students enrolled at Excelsior, *Partners in Lifelong Learning* will annually recognize a Capital Region organization that shares the College's commitment to continuing education.

Excelsior President John F. Ebersole introduced the event's sponsors, the honorary committee, and all those whose generosity made the evening possible. He warmly welcomed event co-chairs, U.S. Congressman Michael J. McNulty (ret.), the area's representative in Washington for 20 years, and former WMHT president and CEO Deborah Onslow.

Mr. McNulty offered his sincere congratulations, saying, "WMHT has always been first to provide a forum for people running for public office to express their views to the voters." He spoke of the "tremendous educational opportunities Excelsior College provides to tens of thousands of individuals all over this country, and beyond the borders of this country—opportunities for those in nursing, law enforcement, and also the tremendous outreach to people who are serving in the military—to continue and to complete their education."



In her introduction of WMHT's new president and CEO, Robert Altman, Ms. Onslow confirmed that WMHT and Excelsior are "two institutions absolutely committed to lifelong learning... from *Nature*, to *Nova*, to *NOW*, we are committed to this idea—that we all need to continue to learn our whole lives long." In accepting the award, Mr. Altman noted, "In so many ways our goals and our aspirations are the same, to ensure that education and lifelong learning opportunities are available to all who wish to pursue them."



“One must come out of one's house to begin learning.”

*Ghanaian proverb*

Altman then brought to the podium guest speaker David Brancaccio, well-known host and senior editor of the PBS program, *NOW*. An interesting and entertaining storyteller, Brancaccio began by reporting, "I am a student of many things: a student of finance and economics, a student of human rights, a student of environmental stewardship, even a student of proverbs—I collect them."

He recited his favorite proverb, obtained during a stay in Ghana: "One must come out of one's house to begin learning." Finding this advice ever helpful, Brancaccio stated, "We need to step out of our comfort zones, to question assumptions, to gather (as we are now), to work on issues, and to take action."

In keeping with the theme of the event, Brancaccio also spoke of lifelong learning—a topic he has investigated and reported on many times. Through recounting anecdotes of some of the most memorable individuals he's met and interviewed through the years, he illustrated the important accomplishments of those "who have literally changed our world by always continuing to learn."

Director of Development Marcy Stryker was happy to report the event raised more than \$53,000 from contributions, gifts-in-kind, and through a lively, silent auction. As a result, she said, "more than \$25,000 in scholarships will be awarded, in the name of WMHT, to Excelsior College's deserving Capital Region students."

Said Stryker, "You know it's been a successful event when you need to chase people out at the end of the night!" ■

# Driving Himself (and Others) to Learn

**M**arine Master Sergeant Bernhardt E. Neumann III might be described as the ultimate lifelong learner. After graduating from Excelsior with a BS in Computer Information Systems in 2007, Neumann registered for the project management continuing education program through Excelsior's Center for Professional Development.



were not required," Neumann adds, "They were an adventure! I thought why not?" When he looks back, his only regret is that he didn't start taking courses sooner. "It's important to me to stay competitive, to have a degree. I told myself that I needed to gain more learning, more skills."

After completing his program certificate of completion, and then passing the exam offered through the Project Management Institute, which certified him as a Project Management Professional (PMP), Neumann immediately enrolled in an online master's degree program in information assurance at Norwich University. He expects to complete that degree this coming August. Neumann has achieved all of this while working full time at the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC.

Admitting he wasn't always so driven, Neumann says the combined support of his wife and the military helped him to stay focused. "My wife pushed me. I give her most of the credit. She kept saying that I needed to do this. And the military, they provide this huge gift — tuition assistance. Not enough people utilize it."

Once he earned his undergraduate degree, Neumann found it easy to just keep going. "When I finished, I found I had a ton of free time," says Neumann. "Taking classes got to be a habit. The project management noncredit program at Excelsior seemed like a logical next step. So I jumped at it. While the degrees and certificate

What advice would Neumann give to others looking to continue their education? "I always ask the sailors and soldiers around me, are you taking classes? Why not? Don't let the golden opportunity pass — the educational process is there."

“ I always ask the sailors and soldiers around me, are you taking classes? Why not? Don't let the golden opportunity pass — the educational process is there.”

Neumann with his wife, Gloria, celebrating his retirement from the U.S. Marines.

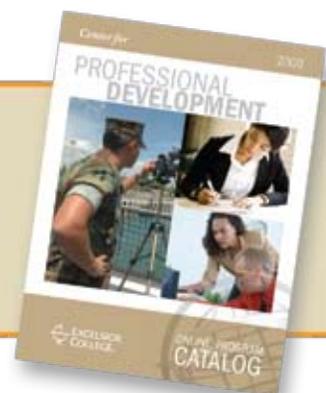


Now Neumann has some new opportunities before him. He retired from the Marines in February and works as a consultant in security engineering. His commitment to learning continues. When he finishes his master's, he's considering pursuing a teaching degree or starting a doctoral program. Despite his educational achievements, Neumann doesn't consider himself special. He says, "If I can do it, anybody can do it. Make a plan — stick with your plan." ■

by Susan M. Kryczka, Executive Director, Center for Professional Development

With more than 100 non-credit programs available, Excelsior's Center for Professional Development (CPD) offers instruction in business, construction technology, health care, Internet and design technology, investigative sciences, Microsoft certification training, networking and CompTIA™ certification, and video game design and development.

Visit the CPD's Web site at [www.excelsior.edu/cpd](http://www.excelsior.edu/cpd) to learn more. Many of the programs can be completed in as little as three-six months, and you can even test-drive a course for free.



# NEW COURSES • NEW EXAMS



## Spanish for Health Care Professionals

**A**ccording to the U.S. Census Bureau, Hispanics accounted for one-half of the nation's growth between 2000 and 2006, increasing at a rate of 24.3 percent—more than three times that of the total population.

A new course in the School of Health Sciences provides a holistic approach to meeting this demographic shift head-on. Program Director Sharon DeMartini explains that HSC 220 Spanish Communication for the Health Care Professions, the College's first language course, offers health care workers the knowledge and skills needed to work more effectively with the nation's increasingly diverse population.

The four-credit offering includes instruction in basic language skills relevant to the health care setting while considering the contribution of important cultural nuances to communication overall, including listening, reading, writing, and speaking. In addition, students will learn how to determine when a qualified interpreter is needed, how to access these services within their organization or community, and how to work with a professional translator.

"What makes this course unique is its rich variety of engaging learning and assessment activities that encourage adult students to learn independently, actively, and authentically," notes John Prusch, associate dean of Online Learning, who helped develop the course. "Students do not simply memorize vocabulary and expressions based upon a simplistic self-paced learning approach, but rather perform authentic tasks that connect with their extensive experiences, their place of employment, and with other learners."

"The goal of the course," explains DeMartini, "is to provide culturally competent care." In doing so, students will develop their own toolkit, collecting language and cultural resources that are relevant to their daily clinical activities. In addition to appropriate words and phrases, students will learn how to ask for needed information in a manner that elicits an appropriate response, one that they, as non-native Spanish speakers, can understand. ■

## INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY ENJOY THE JOURNEY...

**F**rom East to West, ancient times to today, this new three-credit exam toward the humanities requirement measures knowledge and understanding of civilization's deepest thoughts and questions. It covers the history of philosophy and the many different approaches typically taught in a one-semester survey course such as **logic** (What is real? What is a fallacy?); **metaphysics** (Who am I? Is there a God?); **epistemology** (What do we know? How do we know it?); and **ethics** (What is social justice? What is morality?).

"You get to read the writings of some of the smartest authors that ever existed in the last four or five thousand years," says Test Development Program Manager and Psychometric Liaison Bill Tierney. "And if you take this exam, you'll probably become a much deeper and more logical thinker, even a more ethical person."

Two textbooks are recommended: *A Journey through the Landscape of Philosophy: A Reader* and *The Philosopher's Way: Thinking Critically About Profound Ideas* (second edition), which comes with a DVD of philosophical readings and commentary. These texts deal with all the major schools of thought from Confucius, Aristotle, Plato and Socrates to Descartes, Kant, Hume, Ayn Rand, Sartre, and a number of today's thinkers including John Rawls (*Theory of Justice*), Susan Moller Okin (on gender equality), and Peter Singer (on animal rights).

By the time you've studied for this exam, Tierney concludes, "You'll have a greater appreciation for an enormous variety of issues, because every major philosophical question and issue is covered." ■



**Important Change—Please Note:** The testing eligibility period for Excelsior College® Examinations (ECEs) has been shortened from nine (9) months to six (6) months, from the date of exam registration. This change took effect on February 1, 2009. The eligibility period for Excelsior's practice exams has also been reduced from 120 days to 90 days from the date of practice exam registration. Registrations completed prior to February 1, 2009, are not affected by this change.

# DISPATCH

**O**n military bases in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Guantanamo Bay, Italy, Germany, on navy ships around the world, and at other remote installations, U.S. military personnel are earning their college degrees from Excelsior. More than 8,000, or about 25 percent, of Excelsior College students are on active duty, often in or near combat zones, while earning their degrees. The College's commitment to the military doesn't end with those on active duty. In addition, there are programs designed for the Army National Guard, reserve personnel, veterans and retirees, and DoD civilians and military family members.



Photo: Steven Doll

## Soldier Moms 'Walk the Walk'

**A**mong the military men and women who recently received their Excelsior degrees, two stand out, and they happen to stand side by side. Far from home and their children, Faythe A. Davis, 35, and Renysha Porter, 32, are U.S. Army soldiers deployed in Kuwait, balancing their military duties, keeping track of their children back home, and pursuing their bachelor's degrees. They've forged a growing friendship. And they earned their diplomas.



A military senior maintenance advisor from Atlantic City, New Jersey, Davis is married and has six boys, ranging in age from 15–22. In January, she completed her Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies and looks forward to someday working with at-risk youth.

But it's her own children she's thinking of most. "To educate your children, you must be educated first, and that's why I worked so hard to graduate, so I can be a role model for my children," she writes. "Not only can I talk the talk, I also walked the walk."

Davis did her schoolwork at lunch and dinner and before and after service hours. The routine is familiar to her "battle buddy," Renysha Porter, chief warrant officer.

Porter was determined to earn her degree and believes other active duty soldiers can and should do the same. "The army's tuition assistance program makes it almost impossible not to [earn a degree]. You just have to decide what your goals are and begin to walk down the road that leads you to a better future."

Porter, a Texas resident and single mom, earned a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies degree, too. She is now pursuing her master's degree in transportation and logistics management with another institution.

## The Head of Her Class

**C**heryl Cooley finally has what it takes—the bachelor's degree she needed to take the teaching certification exam to become a full-fledged teacher in Texas.

Hers was a long-fought journey, beginning 15 years ago, with a series of undergraduate courses at local colleges. She was leading the unpredictable life of a substitute teacher and was the single parent of two sons. Sadly, she lost one of her sons in an army training accident at Fort Hood.

"The happiest day I had in years was when the envelope arrived with that diploma in it," says Cooley. "We had a party, invited neighbors and friends, and it was the proudest moment I have had in a very long time. It's a piece of paper but it makes a lot of difference."

When Cooley first met with an Excelsior education counselor at Fort Hood last fall, she discovered she was just one course shy of earning her bachelor's degree. Not only did she benefit from Excelsior's generous transfer credit policies, but as a Vietnam War widow, she also qualified for Excelsior's Military Spouse Scholarship Program, receiving \$250 toward the \$500 cost of her coursework.

By Ellen Lahr, Director of Communications



## Returning Soldier Finds Changed Economy

**P**aul Campbell has returned from a 10-month tour in Iraq to a much-changed nation: a new president, a sluggish economy, and an uncertain job market. But Campbell, 39, an army reserve soldier and father of two sons, is now better equipped for economic uncertainty at home.

The master patrolman from the Riverside, Missouri, Police Department was a chief warrant officer while deployed in Iraq. He spent most of his free time studying for his Bachelor of Science with a criminal justice major, a degree that will qualify him to seek promotion to the rank of sergeant in his police department. Eventually, he hopes to pursue his master's degree and seek yet another step up the ladder, to the rank of captain.

Campbell credits Excelsior with helping him balance his different roles and with helping him advance in the police force and military. "We're supposed to achieve certain education levels as we move through the ranks," he says. "I'm on track for my rank. It wasn't easy with the tempo of our mission, but my determination to complete my degree is still high. Course instructors are understanding when it comes to my needs and conflicts with being in the military."

# Advice From Your Advisors

**S**ince Excelsior began offering Title IV Federal Financial Aid during the 2007/2008 school year, almost 2,400 awards have been granted to students. In fact, the amount of money given out through federal grants and loans has increased five fold, and VA benefits for tuition and fees at Excelsior will increase by more than fifty percent this school year.



While attending the College has become even more affordable and accessible, a number of changes have been implemented as a result. Some of these changes affect all students—and the ways we advise you.

### If you are receiving or hope to receive financial aid, there are several policies that apply to you:

- Your status must be at least half time in a period of enrollment, which depends on the length of the term—either 15 or 8 weeks. Furthermore, the periods of enrollment cannot overlap.

Weeks of Instruction	Number of Credits for Full-time Status	Number of Credits for Half-time Status
15	12	6
8	6	3

- You must meet the minimum requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). The SAP policy ensures that you make timely progress toward your degree. It requires that you maintain a minimum Excelsior College GPA, minimum completion rate, and maximum time-frame to completion to be eligible for financial aid. **Refer to the Student Policy Handbook at [www.excelsior.edu/studentpolicyhandbook](http://www.excelsior.edu/studentpolicyhandbook) for more information.**

### Other important policy changes that were implemented with financial aid in mind include:

- Credit in excess of degree requirements will not be applied toward your degree. For instance, if you have earned a total of 120 credits, and you still need 30 credits to satisfy your degree requirements, we will only apply 90 credits toward a 120-credit degree. Upon graduation, excess credits can be listed on your transcript below the degree credits.
- All Excelsior College courses and exams are listed on transcripts regardless of grade. W and I grades do not affect your GPA.
- D grades do not transfer to Excelsior.

- The initial evaluation is completed by an academic advisor upon enrollment. You have 30 days from the date your advisor signs off on your initial evaluation to request changes. After that, we will not be able to remove any credits.

- You now have two GPAs. The Excelsior College GPA (ECGPA) is based on courses and exams taken at Excelsior, and a minimum 2.00 must be maintained to be eligible for financial aid. The overall GPA is based on all credit listed on your transcript—both Excelsior and transfer credit. You must maintain a 2.00 overall GPA to graduate. Both GPAs are listed on transcripts.

- If you enrolled before January 1, 2008, and switch to a different degree program, or withdraw and then reenroll, your credits will be reevaluated for the new degree program. D grades or excess credits will not be applied to the new degree program.

When it comes to signing up for courses, make sure that you discuss your plans with your advisor in advance of the course registration deadline. You need course approval in order to receive financial aid, and it is best to do this before courses start filling up. It's also good to plan one to two terms in advance, including backup course alternatives.

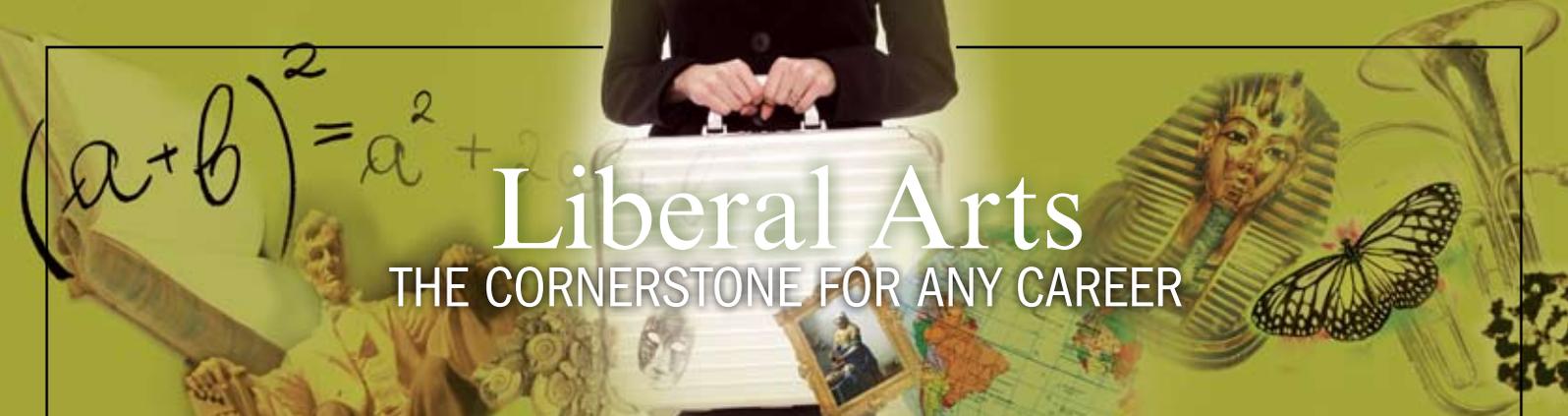
We know this is a lot of information to absorb, but we are happy to help. If you have specific financial aid questions, please contact the Financial Aid Office toll free at 888-647-2388, ext. 1432. And don't hesitate to contact your advising team with questions. We're here to support you. ■

By Heather Lessard, L&L Academic Advising Group

**TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL AID,** go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Graduate students with financial aid questions should contact the Financial Aid Office.

Students in the nursing programs are not eligible for federal financial aid but are eligible for institutional aid.

There are many helpful resources available in the Federal Student Financial Aid section of the College's Web site at [www.excelsior.edu/financialaid](http://www.excelsior.edu/financialaid).



# Liberal Arts

## THE CORNERSTONE FOR ANY CAREER

### CAREER CORNER

by Maribeth Gunner Pulliam, MS Ed

**T**he study of liberal arts subjects is more valuable today than ever before. Not only are there boundless benefits to an education that is well-grounded in the liberal arts, your future employment may depend on it.

#### WHAT ARE THE LIBERAL ARTS?

The liberal arts encompass a variety of disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics. It offers a broad approach to learning through subjects such as literature, history, philosophy, government, sociology, psychology, criminal justice, music, biology, mathematics and many more. Knowledge gained through study in the liberal arts promotes personal and intellectual growth, provides strong practical and transferable skills for the workplace, and prepares you to be an informed, socially responsible citizen.

#### WHO NEEDS A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION?

*Everyone!* Even if your passion lies in other areas such as computer science or nursing, you will need to fortify your degree with liberal arts coursework. Why? In a world of rapidly changing technology, the technical skills you acquire today may need to be updated throughout your career. Conversely, the transferable skills mastered through the liberal arts will remain longstanding and are very valuable assets in the current job market.

#### OBTAIN SKILLS THAT ARE IN DEMAND

Research by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) shows that the skills employers desire most in employees today are

the *exact ones* that are developed through subjects studied in the liberal arts, including *interpersonal and cross-cultural communication, critical thinking, teamwork, oral and written communication, integrity, flexibility, and a strong work ethic.*<sup>1</sup>

In another study, the Society for Information Management (SIM) asked chief information officers (CIOs) and others to list the most valuable skills among both entry- and mid-level hires. Nine of the top ten skills mirror the same skills ranked by NACE,<sup>2</sup> clearly conveying that the CIOs were interested in measuring much more than employees' level of technical skills and specializations. The attributes identified in each study are also highly transferable skills because they can be applied to virtually any career.

#### CULTIVATE THE CONNECTIONS

Many students question: "Why should I take biology when I am really interested in business? Do I really need history when my main interest is computer programming?" The answer lies in the interdisciplinary nature of life itself. Stop and consider—most of our endeavors in our personal lives and work settings require knowledge of more than one field. For example, doctors or nurses do not just treat a disease, but rather, a whole person. How will they address their patients without prior knowledge in the areas of biology, sociology, or even theology? An architect must consider the human element when designing a structure. What amenities do people value in their dwellings? A background in the arts, history, psychology, or sociology will surely assist with the architect's vision.

#### A PASSPORT FOR YOUR CAREER

Changing demographics, increased technology, and a global economy will continue to impact the worker in the 21st century. If you prepare too narrowly to fit a certain career slot, your qualifications may not meet the job requirements by the time you reach your destination.

With the eclectic preparation provided through the liberal arts disciplines, your skills will remain relevant and become a mainstay. Almost every profession requires that you communicate, write, solve problems, and interact with a variety of people. Through the liberal arts curriculum, you are taught how to view and study everything from research and writing techniques to philosophical ideologies. Students are asked to read extensively, draw conclusions, and share perspectives. This is exactly what employers need; individuals who can read lengthy reports, listen to varied opinions, and effectively communicate the results. Through exposure to an interdisciplinary perspective, students are able to evaluate a situation from a variety of viewpoints. Employers seek hires who have the flexibility and willingness to embrace change and adjust as necessary. Both private and public sectors will continue to need generalists who have been exposed to a diverse liberal arts curriculum and possess the ability to think independently and work in more than one mindset.

#### THE LIBERAL ARTS CAN BE YOUR LIFELINE

Ensuring that a substantial selection of liberal arts courses are incorporated into your degree plan will benefit you personally and professionally. The subjects you study allow you to strengthen all facets of your mind and provide you with intellectual agility. Throughout your life and career, you can draw upon your diverse, extensive knowledge and be able to discuss a variety of topics with just about anyone in almost any setting.

Whether you aspire to become an RN, engineer, marketing manager, or computer analyst, your specialized expertise, coupled with a strong foundation in the liberal arts, will afford you a superior, well-rounded education. This combination of skills and abilities will empower you to seek challenges, create opportunities, and address important issues in the workplace in a collaborative and constructive way.

Ask Your Librarian | Research Databases | Exam Resources | Suggestions

Excelsior College - My Excelsior College - Excelsior College Virtual Library - Home

Tutorials and Instructional

How to

ECVL

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE  
Virtual Library

## New Instructional Guides and Tutorials

**T**he Excelsior College Virtual Library (ECVL) contains instructional guides and video tutorials to help students navigate the library. You will find information on the research process and the types of sources found in our databases. And you will gain understanding of how to search research databases or the Internet effectively and how to evaluate information. These tutorials and instructional guides will help you to develop searching techniques and become familiar with the library's many resources such as ebooks, journals, magazines, newspapers, and more! Some of our current guides and tutorials include: Excelsior College Information Literacy Tutorial, Research Databases, ebrary: Electronic Books Research Instructional Guide, and ScienceDirect Tutorial: Conducting an Advanced Search.

You can begin learning more about search strategies in general as well as specific strategies relative to a given database. Our instructional guides and tutorials offer self-paced learning and visual aids to enhance your experience and improve your information literacy skills. Go to [www.excelsior.edu/LibraryTutorials](http://www.excelsior.edu/LibraryTutorials) (requires login with your MyEC username and password) to take a tour of the library with these tools. You can even assess what you have learned by taking a mini-quiz at the end of some of our tutorials.

If you need further assistance, please contact the ECVL librarians toll free at 877-247-3097 or email [library@excelsior.edu](mailto:library@excelsior.edu).

### CAREER CORNER

## Related Resources

**"Skills Employers Seek"**  
M. Gunner Pulliam, Excelsior College, 2008:  
<https://www.excelsior.edu/SkillsEmployersSeek>

**Excelsior College Liberal Arts Courses:**  
<https://www.excelsior.edu/lacourses>

**Suggested Courses to Develop Skills that Prospective Employers Want,** Lloyd, Kennedy, & Dewey:  
<http://www.psywww.com/careers/suggest.htm>

**Questions or comments about this article?**  
Contact Maribeth Gunner Pulliam, Career Resources Coordinator/  
Senior Academic Advisor in the School of Liberal Arts.

Enrolled students and alumni can access the most current version of the links for this article, as well as many additional career-related links on the Excelsior College Web site. Go to [www.excelsior.edu/career](http://www.excelsior.edu/career); for graduates, click on the Alumni Connection.

## TECHNICALLY SPEAKING



# Make Sure You Get Our Message!

**I**f you've opted to receive electronic communications (email) from Excelsior College, you'll want to make sure that we can deliver those messages to your inbox!

Spam (i.e., unsolicited or unwanted electronic messages) now accounts for more than half of all email. To combat this increase, many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have implemented filters to deter unwanted emails from reaching your inbox. With the various spam filters offered to online users, your Excelsior College emails may be inappropriately blocked, routed to your spam folder, or displayed incorrectly. We want to make sure you don't miss out on updates to your account, registration confirmations, or upcoming promotions!

If you have chosen to receive email from us, the first step is to add the following addresses to your address book or contact list.

**[Excelsior.College@Excelsior.edu](mailto:Excelsior.College@Excelsior.edu)**

**[No-Reply@Excelsior.edu](mailto:No-Reply@Excelsior.edu)**

Not sure if you have signed up for electronic communications? Check your options on your My Profile page at [www.excelsior.edu/myprofile](http://www.excelsior.edu/myprofile) (requires login with MyEC username and password). Under the Contact Information section, you will be able to opt-in to receive news broadcasts and Message Center notifications as well as electronic delivery of your billing information and Status Report.

We've provided instructions for adding the College to your contacts through several major ISPs—this information is available on our Web site Help page at

**[www.excelsior.edu/help](http://www.excelsior.edu/help)**



## Feeling Social?

Check out Excelsior's official presence on the following sites:

**Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube**  
[www.excelsior.edu/community](http://www.excelsior.edu/community)

## UPDATE: 2008-09 Annual Campaign

**A**s a proud graduate of Excelsior College, I know a thing or two about math. And right now, the math is a bit tough for many who want to earn their Excelsior degree. Even the most reasonable tuition and fees today can seem out of reach when added to the current challenges in the economy. Right now we have students who need help to achieve their dreams of degree completion. That's where you come in—the motivated, caring alumni of Excelsior College. Today I ask for your support for the 2008-2009 Annual Campaign. We have an ambitious plan to raise an additional \$160,000 by the end of the fiscal year on June 30. This money will be invested directly into meeting our student's needs. And we're asking for your help.

Your donation will give students an amazing opportunity for self-directed study, innovative coursework, and personal one-on-one attention from skilled academic advisors who are there to guide students every step of the way.

Your donation will ensure that today's students can best learn how to become tomorrow's registered nurses, nuclear reactor operators, police officers, entrepreneurs, and military officers as well as educators, thinkers, leaders, and important contributors to the world.

Here's a little more math to consider: I don't think that any one Excelsior graduate will donate \$160,000 to this year's annual campaign. (If you can, let us know!) But I do think we have 1,600 alumni out there who can donate \$100. With 3,200 who give \$50, we'd reach the goal, too.

Whether you can give \$20 or \$100 or something in between, please join me in investing in these students and ensuring that Excelsior College forever remains a source of pride. Together we will make the 2008-2009 Annual Campaign a spectacular success.

Thank you for your generosity,



Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Excelsior AS in nursing '82

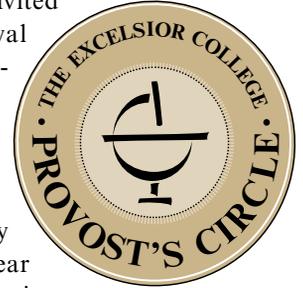


With  
**PRIDE** and  
**PURPOSE**

P.S. You can make a secure gift online at  
[www.excelsior.edu/giving](http://www.excelsior.edu/giving)

## FOR A VOICE IN EXCELSIOR'S FUTURE Join the Provost's Circle

**T**his winter, the College invited several of its most loyal and generous alumni supporters to join a new group: the Provost's Circle. Provost and Chief Academic Officer Dana Offerman led the first teleconference of the Circle on Thursday, January 15, 2009. Participants were able to hear first-hand of the major academic initiatives currently underway. Additionally, Provost Offerman solicited ideas, comments, and suggestions from those in attendance. "The Provost's Circle provides a rich opportunity for me to talk with some of the College's most esteemed alumni about the exciting current and future developments in academic programs and services," explains Provost Offerman.



Longtime donor, former trustee, and alumna Elizabeth Bewley expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "Being a member of the Provost's Circle means having a front-row seat to hearing about the strategy and direction of the College—and providing feedback."

This ability to participate is also important to Dr. Karen Cox, a Provost's Circle member, who says, "The Circle takes philanthropy to a level of involvement that allows me to know more fully what is going on and to actually give feedback... I would not be where I am today without that first associate degree in nursing. The foundation it laid for my career was outstanding."

Another Provost's Circle member and longtime Excelsior supporter Paul Troop agrees. "The creation of the Provost Circle is the latest evidence of the growing recognition that the alumni have a vital stake in the development of the institution, and it underscores the importance of the Alumni Advisory Board as the voice of the graduates."

In addition to biannual teleconferences hosted by Provost Offerman, members of the Provost's Circle will receive the *Provost's Newsletter*, with updates on academic developments at the College. Members also will be recognized in Excelsior's *Honor Roll of Donors* and in *Live & Learn* magazine.

You can join this group with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more, and become a guardian of the future. Leadership giving at this level is a clear and direct way to make a measurable impact on your College's community. ■

If you are interested in joining the Provost's Circle, please contact Marcy Stryker, director of development toll free at 888-647-2388; press 1-1-8287 at the greeting, or email [mstryker@excelsior.edu](mailto:mstryker@excelsior.edu).

We look forward to your participation.

# Nominate Yourself For An Alumni Award!

**Tell us about your achievements and contributions**

EC graduates — nominate yourselves for one of Excelsior's annual alumni awards. These awards provide recognition to outstanding graduates whose achievements may inspire fellow alumni and students. If selected, you will be honored during Commencement on Friday, July 10, 2009, in Albany, NY.

To be considered for an alumni award, please complete the Alumni Award Self-Nomination Form available on the alumni Web site at [www.excelsior.edu/alumniawards](http://www.excelsior.edu/alumniawards), with a letter explaining the reasons you would like to be considered, a brief biography, and a copy of your current resume. The deadline for nominations is May 10, 2009.

Submit your packet to the Office of Alumni Affairs at Excelsior College, 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY, 12203-5159, or email to [alumni@excelsior.edu](mailto:alumni@excelsior.edu). ■



Suzanne Yarbrough, PhD  
Bachelor of Science  
in nursing '84

## Alumni Achievement Award

This award recognizes outstanding academic, professional, personal, and community contributions that are representative of our graduates. It is presented to a graduate whose achievements may serve as a role model to inspire other graduates and students.

## The Carrie B. Lenburg Award

This award is presented to an outstanding nursing graduate in recognition of the accomplishments and vision of Dr. Carrie Lenburg, Coordinator of the Regents College Nursing Program from 1973 to 1990. It commemorates her commitment to helping nurses reach their educational and professional goals and is presented to a nurse who demonstrates commitment to nursing education as well as academic and professional accomplishments in the field of nursing.

## The C. Wayne Williams Award

This award is named after the College's first president and is presented in recognition of outstanding public service and community involvement by a graduate.

## YOUR LEGACY TO THE FUTURE

**We encourage you to keep Excelsior College in mind as a component of your overall financial plan.**

Gift planning can allow you to make a significant impact on the College without committing up-front cash, often with significant tax advantages.

Your support of our mission and of our students is greatly appreciated. You can request a copy of Excelsior's new planned giving newsletter, *Your Legacy to the Future*, by contacting Marcy Stryker toll free at 888-647-2388 and press 1-1-8287 at the greeting, or email her at [mstryker@excelsior.edu](mailto:mstryker@excelsior.edu) if she can be of further assistance.



## IT'S YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

### Come to the Annual Alumni Meeting for ALL GRADUATES

Please join us during Commencement weekend, on Saturday, July 11, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at The Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York. If you plan to attend, please contact the Alumni Office no later than Wednesday, July 8, 2009. Call toll free at 888-647-2388, press 1-1-8539 at the automated greeting, or email [alumni@excelsior.edu](mailto:alumni@excelsior.edu). We look forward to seeing you there!

## Alumni E-Newsletter

### KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

**Not getting the alumni e-newsletter yet?**

Sign up now! Create your online user account by going to [www.excelsior.edu/myec](http://www.excelsior.edu/myec) and choose "Create a MyEC User Account."

Already have a user account but changed your email address? Just log in to your account and update your address now. You won't want to miss a single issue.



# CAREER WEB CHATS

## CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE!

Participate in this spring's Web chats — developed to meet your needs during challenging economic times.

### **JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES FOR THE NEW ECONOMY**

**MAY 20, 2009**, 8–9 p.m. ET.

This chat will identify the most effective job-hunting techniques. It will also explain how to optimally utilize these strategies.

### **IS THERE MORE TO MASTER? A PANEL ON GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**JUNE 10, 2009**, 8–9 p.m. ET.

This chat will explore the benefits of investing in further education, the challenges involved, and what to expect. It will also describe how to make a case for yourself as a graduate of a nontraditional program.

Each Web chat includes an informative presentation followed by a question and answer period during which the professional presenter will respond to your specific concerns. A chat room will be open during the entire session, allowing you to discuss career issues with fellow alumni and students and providing you the opportunity to network with one another.

Don't miss it! Register for a chat. Send an email with your name and the title of the chat you're interested in to [alumni@excelsior.edu](mailto:alumni@excelsior.edu).

## **VIEW PAST CHATS**

Just go to [www.excelsior.edu/alumnichat](http://www.excelsior.edu/alumnichat) and watch

**FLOUNDERING IN YOUR CAREER? GET HOOKED ON A CAREER YOU LOVE:  
MAKING A CAREER TRANSITION —or— FROM “WORK FOR PAY” TO “WORK AS PLAY”:  
THE NEW RETIREMENT**

## **FREE CAREER COUNSELING**

**FOR EC GRADS**

**E**xcelisior's career counseling service provides direction and advice to help you make plans and decisions about your career. As an alumnus, you have the opportunity to receive free personal, individual guidance from a professional counselor.

Please note there are a limited number of one-hour appointments available each month, so make sure to schedule yours today by calling the Alumni Office toll free at 888-647-2388 (press 1-1-8287 at the greeting).

**Take advantage of this  
great alumni benefit!**

## **New Job Postings**

**LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB?  
WANT TO HIRE AN EXCELSIOR GRADUATE OR STUDENT?**



We've dedicated a new Web page—  
Job Leads—just for current job postings.

Job seekers look here first, knowing the positions are posted by employers seeking Excelsior graduates and students. Make the most of your Excelsior connection.

Promote your job opening or check out the new job that awaits you:

[www.excelsior.edu/jobleads](http://www.excelsior.edu/jobleads)

# HATS OFF!

What have our grads been doing?  
Read on to find out.

## ALABAMA

**Jeffrey W. Bennett, BSL '95, Madison**—served in military, transportation and recruiting assignments during his 22 years in the U.S. Army. After retiring from service, he worked as a facility security officer at a DoD contractor company involved in implementing and directing security programs to protect classified information within companies. He also earned the Industrial Security Professional (ISP) certification and, shortly after graduation, founded a business called Red Bike Publishing to produce the book *ISP Certification - The Industrial Security Program Exam Manual*. He has had a few successful "spin-off" products designed for those who safeguard classified material.

## ALASKA

**David Turnbull, BSL '02, Fort Richardson**—was appointed as the new commander of U.S. Army Alaska. Turnbull first came to Alaska in 2003

as a command sergeant major for Task Force 1/1501 Parachute Infantry Regiment, a 900 soldier unit that was sent to Afghanistan in the same year. He then became the command sergeant 4th Brigade Command Team (Airborne) 25th Infantry Division, a 3,500 soldier unit, which was deployed to Iraq from October 2006 to December 2007. Turnbull enlisted in the Army in 1984. He has served overseas in Korea, Afghanistan, Iraq, and at a number of U.S. posts. The new commander is a graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.

## ARIZONA

**Dan Hurd, BS '93, Sierra Vista**—has two master's degrees and is currently pursuing a doctor of business administration in management information systems at Northcentral University (online). He says that his degree from Excelsior helped him get promoted in the U.S. Army and that he greatly appreciated the flexibility at that time. "This is tough but Excelsior helped get me

justice, law enforcement, and police science for over 30 years and has taught at several colleges and universities including Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Russell retired from the FAA but continued his aviation career as a flight instructor and FAA designated examiner for Flight Safety International. He currently serves as an adjunct professor of aviation studies for Southeastern Oklahoma State. He has accumulated over 21,000 accident free hours in military and civilian aircraft since his first flight at Broken Bow in a Howard DGA15.

He is a member of the Flying Conestogas and a regular attendee at the annual Nebraska Antique Airplane Association fly-in at Minden. Russell is immediate past Commander of the Central States Shrine Flying Fez Association and was recognized in 2006 as one of thirteen Masons in Kansas to receive the DeMolay International Legion of Honor. He owns and operates a 1943 Meyers OTW, 1950 Cessna 195, and C182A.



## KANSAS

**Richard Russell, BSL '78, Wichita**—was inducted to the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame in January 2009. A Korean and Vietnam veteran, Mr. Russell retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2001 after serving a total of 41 years active, reserve, and guard service. Throughout his military service, he received numerous awards including Meritorious Service Medals and four Humanitarian Service Medals; he was selected one of twelve Outstanding Air Force Security Police in 1982. He also received several commendations and citations from the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of Defense during his time as the Sixth Air Force Reserve Command Chief Master Sergeant.

In 1984, he became an Aviation Safety Inspector for the FAA, working from a GS7 position to a GM15 middle manager in just four years. He has been an adjunct professor in aviation, aerospace studies, management, organizational development, criminal



here! Regents/Excelsior was an excellent way to achieve my educational goal (BS) at a time when I had much military travel. I would HIGHLY recommend Excelsior College for people who need quality education and great flexibility."

## ARKANSAS

**Gary Rittenhouse, BSL '06, Pine Bluff**—graduated from the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Basic Police Training Course at East Camden in 2008. The 12-week, 480-hour basic police training course included instruction in standard police tactics, legal, educational, and technical skills.

## CALIFORNIA

**Marjorie Boyd, AA in nursing '83, Bellflower**—completed a Master of Science in health services with concentration in community health from Independence University, Salt Lake City, UT. She is currently the assistant director of nursing for the Weekend Evening Vocational Nursing Program at the American College in Anaheim, CA.

**Lori Campbell, BAL '00, Chula Vista**—is currently pursuing a PhD in health psychology at Walden University. Employed by the U.S. Navy as a nurse, Ms. Campbell says, "I started from the bottom E-3 with hopes of completing my degree. The staff, advisors, and mentors of Excelsior were outstanding. I retained the knowledge and advice that was given to me, and today, I'm a naval officer. Thanks to the College and their team. Excelsior laid the foundation for my future success."

**Kari Johnston, BRI '05, Rancho Cucamonga**—finished her master's degree in risk management and insurance from Florida State University in 2008. Her paper, "Biloxi's Big Gamble...That Paid Off" was published in the January 2009 edition of *CPCU eJournal*. Ms. Johnston is a senior underwriter with a benefits consulting firm in Chicago. Prior to accepting her current position, she was a senior group life underwriter with a firm based in Lafayette, IN. Ms. Johnston also has the FLMI and FFSI designations.

**Demetrice Martin, AA '03, BSL '07, Pasadena**—was hired as an assistant coach for the University of Washington football team. Mr. Martin just completed a successful season as an assistant at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, CA, where he helped the Mounties to a 12-2 record and earn a trip to the state title game. In 2007, he was a defensive graduate assistant at USC, working with the secondary for the Trojans. Martin went from Muir to Michigan State, where he played wide receiver and cornerback from 1992 to 1995, earning first-team All-Big Ten in 1994. He went on to play corner for the Scottish Claymores in NFL Europe and for the Houston Thunderbears in the Arena Football League. Prior to working on the USC staff, he spent three seasons as the pass defense coordinator at Mt. SAC, where he coached current Husky safety Jason Wells.



## CALIFORNIA

**Annie Lois Hough-Everage, BSL '93, Victorville**—has accepted the position as interim director of the Victor Valley campus from the provost at Chapman University, Orange, CA. She will be responsible for the management of the Victor Valley campus while maintaining her full-time faculty position, until a permanent director is hired.

Dr. Hough-Everage holds a doctorate in education with an emphasis in child, youth, and family studies from Nova Southeastern University. She traveled to Oxford, England, this past summer to attend and present at the Oxford Round Table regarding race and diversity. The session was titled: *Child Poverty: Educational Initiatives and Consequences*; the title of her presentation was *The Impact of No Child Left Behind Legislation on Children*.

## COLORADO

**Karl H. Orth, BSL '83, Aurora**—retired from the U.S. Air Force after 21 years of service in 1985, and from civil service, where he worked for the Defense Contract Management Agency in McKinney, TX. A lifelong learner, Mr. Orth is now taking general information and knowledge classes at Colorado University in Denver.

## IDAHO

**Morgan Titus Garriott, AA in nursing '96, Idaho Falls**—earned his Master of Science in Nursing degree from Research College of Nursing, Kansas City, MO, in 2008. He is ANCC Board Certified as a medical-surgical nurse and is also a certified professional in utilization review. He is the utilization review coordinator/supervisor of case management and social services at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center. Mr. Morgan plans on pursuing a doctoral degree in nursing.

## ILLINOIS

**Stanley Forrester, BS '89, Algonquin**—joined the U.S. Navy in 1985 and was introduced to physics at the Nuclear Power School. While still on active duty, he earned his undergraduate degree from Excelsior (then Regents) College, which was instrumental in the military promotions and assignments that followed. He left the service as an E-6 in 1997 to attend graduate school, earning an MS in physics from San Francisco State University in 2000 and a PhD from University of California, Davis in 2006. He currently works as a part-time instructor of physics and astronomy at several local universities.

In 2002, Dr. Forrester moved to Batavia, IL, to work on the CDF experiment at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. During the next four years, he did service work on the silicon detector subsystem, stood shifts on the running experiment, and performed a number of high-energy physics analyses. In 2006, he completed a dissertation on the search for exotic particles, the existence of which would have formed an extension of the standard model of particle physics. Since then, he has done a combination of contract work as a physicist and as an adjunct instructor of physics and astronomy.



## UTAH

**Russell Chazell, BSL '90, Salina**—was appointed as national chief of staff of the Civil Air Patrol, where he will direct and oversee the organization's national staff and advisers. Col. Chazell has served in various command and staff positions during his CAP career, most recently as the Rocky Mountain Region commander, leading more than 3,100 CAP officers and cadets in 100 units located throughout Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Wyoming, performing CAP's primary missions of emergency services, cadet programs, and aerospace education. He is also a qualified CAP pilot and mission observer. Col. Chazell is currently pursuing a master's degree in nuclear engineering at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

## INDIANA

**Erik Feldmanis, AS '86, Indianapolis**—released his sixth novel, a fictional action/adventure titled *The Jungle*. This is a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition to *The Jungle Parts I, II, and III*, which were originally published in 1996. The story deals with archaeological discoveries deep in the jungles of Brazil and involves the CIA, KGB, and the Brazilian drug cartel. Endorsements include WWII triple ace Clarence "Bud" Anderson and Prelude Pictures president, Daniel de Liege. Mr. Feldmanis retired from the U.S. Army in 2007 as a CW4.

## MARYLAND

**Wanda F. Payton, BSL '08, Laurel**—is currently on active duty as a senior chief storekeeper for the U.S. Navy. Ms. Payton plans to pursue a career in elementary education, and also start her own judgment recovery business, after retiring from the service.



## ARMED FORCES

**Christopher Hill, BSL '07, APO, AE**—completed his Master of Arts degree at Bellevue University, Nebraska, in January 2009.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Afaa Michael Weaver, BA '86, Somerville**—published his 10th collection of poetry, *The Plum Flower Dance* (University of Pittsburg Press 2007), which received numerous awards including the prestigious Pushcart Prize (2008), an annual award for works by small presses. In 2008, organizers of CityLit Festival in his hometown of Baltimore named April 19 "Afaa Michael Weaver Day."

## NEW YORK

**Theodore Bochenek, AS '05, Broadalbin**—was appointed by Broadalbin Mayor Eugene Christopher to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Village Trustee G. Paul Adamec. He will serve in this position for the remainder of the current official year. Mr. Bochenek is a retired chief petty officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve and is employed as a security police officer at Knolls Atomic Power Lab in West Milton.

**Rita Burdick, BSL '97, Bath**—earned her doctorate in health administration from Warren National University in Cheyenne, WY. Ms. Burdick



## MARYLAND

**Mary O'Connor, BS in nursing '94, Arnold**—has been named a Fellow by the American College of Healthcare Executives. The honor is presented to a nursing professional who has served as a health care administrator for more than 10 years; contributed positively to the profession; participated in continuing education; and completed written and oral certification exams successfully.

Dr. O'Connor has taught upper-level undergraduate and graduate nursing courses including nursing theory, research, leadership, ethics and legal aspects of nursing administration and administration theory at College of Notre Dame since 2005. In addition, she has taught nursing at George Mason University and Marymount University. She has also served in various nursing leadership positions at

Baltimore Washington Medical Center in Glen Burnie; Fauquier Hospital in Warrenton, VA; Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, MA; the Malden Hospital in Malden, MA; and Brookline Hospital in Brookline, MA.

Dr. O'Connor received a PhD in nursing administration from George Mason University; a Master of Science in nursing administration from Northeastern University; and a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Excelsior (formerly Regents) College. In addition to the American College of Healthcare Executives, Dr. O'Connor is a member of American Organization of Nurse Executives, Maryland Organization of Nurse Executives, Center for Nursing Leadership, and Capital Area Roundtable on Informatics in Nursing.

She has written widely for publications such as *Nursing Administration Quarterly*, *Voice of Nursing Leadership* and *Journal of Nursing Administration* and has received numerous awards including AONE Nurse Executive Scholarship Award and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing Research Award. She is a lector, communion assistant, and worship board member at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Annapolis. Dr. O'Connor is also president of the Excelsior College Alumni Advisory Board and represents alumni as a member of the Excelsior College Board of Trustees.

is currently the director of health information management and performance improvement at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, NY. She joined St. Joseph's in 1989 as a coder and was then promoted to senior outpatient coder. In 2001, she was named health information management director, and in 2008, the hospital's Performance Improvement area was added to her department.

**Patricia O'Neill-Marshall, BS '03, Staten Island**—has an impressive background that spans 23 years. Specializing in processing civil cases, she is responsible for assisting the judge in the civil court, scheduling the calendar on a daily basis, recording the judge's depositions, filing the documents, listening to legal motions and assisting attorneys.

Ms. O'Neill-Marshall previously served as a police officer and has worked at various law firms for 17 years. She enrolled in a nursing course while working in the law firms and started working in a nursing home as a licensed professional nurse on weekends. She became a licensed professional nurse through Elizabeth Seton College in 1982 and earned her bachelor's degree in history from Excelsior College in 1999. Ms. O'Neill-Marshall volunteers for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Hibernian Association.

**Anthony Saladino, BSL '03, Staten Island**—is a writer/filmmaker in the absurdist tradition. One of his group's films, "Vivianpusher," appeared at The Staten Island Dada Festival (2006) and The Johns Hopkins Film Festival (2008), and was widely praised for its dream-like ambience and hypnotic musical score. Another film, "The Cornstarch Gizmo," was the #1 most watched film for six consecutive weeks (spring 2008) on [www.undergroundfilm.com](http://www.undergroundfilm.com), and the leading actress won the Producer's Award for "Best Improvised Line." Mr. Saladino says the work is dedicated to stretching the limits of the imagination.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Peter Scilovati, BSL '01, Devon**—has been promoted to client service director in the Distribution Team at Turner Investment Partners. He holds the certified investment management analyst (CIMA) designation and is a member of the Investment Management Consultants Association (IMCA).

## PUERTO RICO

**William Gonzalez, BSL '98, Mayaguez**—graduated from Ross University's School of Medicine in 2008.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Kenneth E. Orrock, BSL '01, Rapid City**—earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 2008. He has been admitted to practice by the South Dakota Supreme Court, the United States District Court, District of South Dakota, and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Mr. Orrock is also retired from the U.S. Army, where he served as a counterintelligence special agent.

## TENNESSEE

**Robinson W. Mitchell, BSL '99, Memphis**—received his Master of Arts in religion from the Reformed Theological Seminary Virtual Campus. Mr. Robinson sends a “word of encouragement to fellow students: after dropping out of college in 1977, I entered military service. My education officer referred me to Excelsior... and I finished my undergraduate degree at the age of 40. That undergraduate degree allowed me to enter theological seminary, and I just graduated with an MAR at the age of 49. To anyone who is contemplating school in mid life, I submit to you that it's never too late. If I did it, you can too!”

**Sharon Mow, MRN '07, Channahon**—was named new director of Emergency Department/Critical Care/Observation at Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center. Ms. Mow had been working as executive director of Emergency and Cardiovascular Services for Elmhurst Memorial Hospital. She is board certified in nursing administration, advanced.

## UTAH

**Shon Hill, AS in nursing '08, Round Rock**—works for the Heart Hospital of Austin as a telemetry/cardiology nurse. He was an army combat medic for about 12 years and served in Fort Hood, TX, Germany, one tour in Iraq, and was deployed to Hurricane Katrina as medical relief. He says, “I would recommend Excelsior to anyone, but especially prior military.”

## VIRGINIA

**Beth A. Lovain, BSL '04, Alexandria**—earned a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University and says, “I wouldn't be in this place without Excelsior!”

**Elizabeth Monti-Seibert, BS in nursing '89, Glen Allen**—is director of doctoral education in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is also a senior reviewer for the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. Dr. Monti-Seibert says, “Like many nurses my age, I graduated from a diploma school of nursing and eventually earned a non-nursing baccalaureate degree. Along the way, I also became a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). Excelsior College was a godsend as it enabled me to earn a BS in nursing in slightly over a year through a combination of CLEP exams, coursework at other colleges, and its own innovative curriculum. It put me on the road to academia by enabling me to earn a Master of Science in nursing and eventually a PhD in nursing science.”



## NEW YORK

**Charles Dedrick, BA '81, Wynantskill**—has earned notice from the Council on Independent Colleges and Universities, welcoming him to the 2009 Alumni Hall of Distinction, at the organization's annual meeting in March. Dedrick is one of New York State's foremost leaders in public school administration and leadership. He is now district superintendent of Capital Region Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), overseeing a range of educational, administrative and technological programs for 37 upstate New York school districts. Dedrick arrived at BOCES in 2008, culminating his passion for education, his professional instincts, his role as a

lifelong learner, educator of children, and mentor for other aspiring leaders in education. His job also requires oversight of information technology for 137 of the state's school districts within the Northeast Regional Information Center.

In 2004 Dedrick won the Character Education Award for Outstanding Capital Region School Administrator. In 2008, he was the recipient of the New York State Council of School Superintendents' Appreciation Award. As a faculty member of the New York State Council of School Superintendents, he is identifying and training the next generation of school superintendents.

Now pursuing his doctorate in educational leadership from Russell Sage Graduate School, he has also taught as an adjunct at the College of Saint Rose, and at Hudson Valley Community College. Dedrick holds master's degrees in educational administration and policy studies and developmental reading from the University at Albany. He has completed the Superintendent's Academy and Post-Graduate Superintendent's Academy through the New York State Council of School Superintendents.

Whether it's for professional development  
or personal satisfaction,

Excelsior College graduates  
**Keep on Learning!**

[www.excelsior.edu](http://www.excelsior.edu)



## NORTH CAROLINA

**John R. Wetsch, BSL '84, Raleigh**—has been recognized by *Computerworld* magazine as one of its 2009 Premier IT Leaders, a select group of 100 innovators who are revolutionizing the IT world by testing new technologies, applying new strategies, and redefining their roles. Dr. Wetsch is receiving this honor as program director for the North Carolina Window of Information on Student Education (NC WISE), a division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. As director of NC WISE, he is managing the state's more than \$200 million initiative to overhaul the student information IT infrastructure that will support all public and charter schools in North Carolina.

Following the completion of his Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies from Excelsior (then Regents College), he earned a Master of Arts in historical astronomy from The McGregor School at Antioch University (1989), and a PhD in information systems from Nova Southeastern University (1994). He subsequently earned a second bachelor's degree (Interdisciplinary Studies in Physics and Philosophy) from the University of North Dakota (2001) and a Master of Astronomy from the University of Western Sydney (2002). Wetsch currently serves on the adjunct faculty at North Carolina Wesleyan College.

First president of the Excelsior College Alumni Association Advisory Board, Wetsch was elected to the Excelsior College Board of Trustees in 2001—the first alumnus elected to full membership on the trustee board. He has been named a Kentucky Colonel, the highest honor that is awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and Pope Benedict XVI named him a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great, Civil Division, for meritorious service to the Roman Catholic Church. He is also a published author, active in national industry associations, and listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*, and *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*.

Send news of your accomplishments and activities  
so that we can take our hats off to you in future  
issues of *Live & Learn*.

[www.excelsior.edu/hatsoff](http://www.excelsior.edu/hatsoff)



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# CELEBRATE YOUR ACHIEVEMENT AT COMMENCEMENT



## July 10, 2009

Graduates from across the country and around the world will celebrate with their families and friends on July 10, 2009, at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York. For those who can't make the trip – the ceremonies will be broadcast live on our Web site.



This year's keynote speaker will be Emmy Award-winning anchor and special correspondent for CNN Worldwide, **Soledad O'Brien**, whose acclaimed documentaries cover many important stories facing the world today.

Join us! The Capital Region of New York State is a great place to visit, and an Excelsior College Commencement is an amazing event to attend.

**[WWW.EXCELSIOR.EDU/COMMENCEMENT](http://WWW.EXCELSIOR.EDU/COMMENCEMENT)**