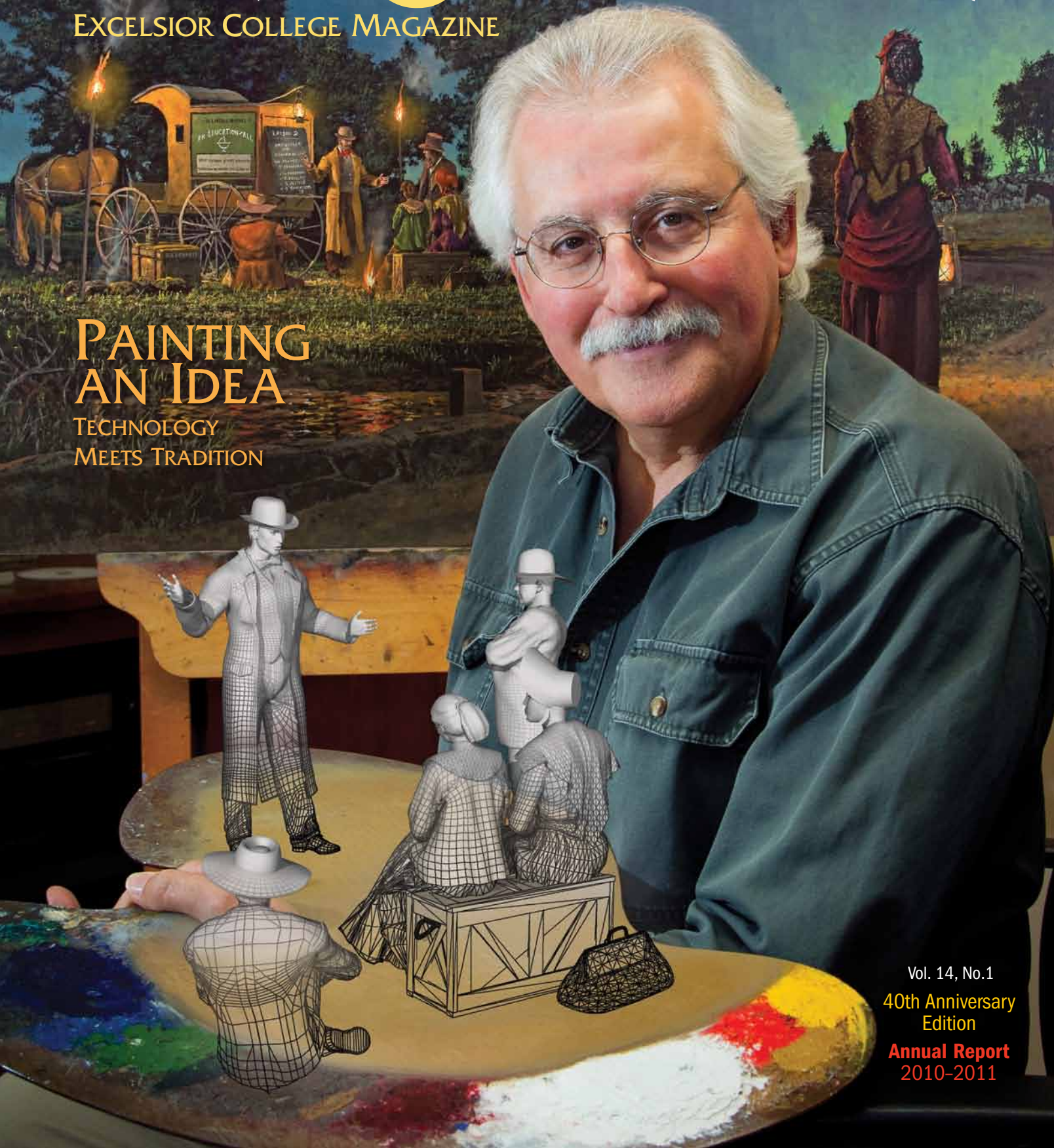


LIVE & LEARN

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE

PAINTING AN IDEA

TECHNOLOGY
MEETS TRADITION



Vol. 14, No.1

40th Anniversary
Edition

Annual Report
2010-2011

LIVE&LEARN

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Cathy Kushner, *Vice President*

ON THE COVER



*Artist Len Tantillo describes
the marriage of technology and
talent that produced *Keeping
a Tradition Alive*, an artwork
in honor of the College's 40th
anniversary.*

Your questions and comments
regarding *Live & Learn* are welcome.
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While Excelsior's 40th Anniversary celebration continues with many exciting events that lead up to Commencement 2012, it makes me think back to the Excelsior's founding. The creators of our College were not only brave for their time in the educational world, but they were also forward thinking. They recognized

that the simple concept of "what you know is more important than where or how you learned it," was much more valuable than traditional colleges acknowledged. What a success story this compelling idea has proven to be—with over 140,000 graduates, we are now the largest producer of registered nurses in the world, and our military students compose approximately one-third of our student body. The accomplishments of our graduates are endless.

Just as artist Len Tantillo captured the spirit of early non-traditional education in his work, *Keeping the Spirit Alive*, there are masterpieces created every day here at Excelsior College in the collaboration among our staff, faculty, and students.

Our past 40 years have been great, but what about our future? Thanks to the dedication and hard work of many people associated with our College, we have a very bright future. It starts with our outstanding leader, President John Ebersole, who is at the forefront of 21st-century adult education. The focus of the faculty and staff is devoted to the success of adult students, and we're guided to greater future achievements by a very professional and dedicated group of men and women who serve on the Board of Trustees. The President's Advisory Board members also give generously of their time, and offer advice on important current and future issues facing the College. The Alumni Association is extremely active in promoting our institution and uniting our graduates. Our future is bright because of this collective dedication.

As we continue our celebration, I invite you to participate in whatever way you can. There are many opportunities—come to Commencement next July in Albany, check out one of the regional alumni activities, attend one of the Speakers Series events or the Partners in Lifelong Learning event, support your College by making a donation to assist current or future students, or volunteer to promote Excelsior in the area where you live and work.

Please join with me and the thousands of members of the Excelsior College community with your support as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary.

Thank you!

Jerry L. Neff
Chair, 40th Anniversary Steering Committee



40th Anniversary Steering Committee

CHAIR

Jerry L. Neff*

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*Alumni of the College

40th Anniversary Celebration

Speaker Series Mirrors College's Strengths

A wide-ranging, timely, and socially relevant Speaker Series is among the many highlights of Excelsior's 40th Anniversary celebration. The series has mirrored the College's student body as the topics included nursing, military, and liberal studies.

In 2010, Excelsior provided underwriting support for the production of a video documentary on the current and forecasted shortage of nurses nationwide. As the largest producer of nurses in the United States, Excelsior is well positioned to have a positive impact on this vital societal issue. Produced by WCNY, the public television affiliate in Syracuse, New York, "Inside the Nursing Crisis" is a four-part, two-hour examination of this serious issue that includes commentary from some of the nation's top nursing experts and hospital administrators. Excerpts from this series provided the basis for a panel discussion on October 27 at the headquarters of the New York State Nurses Association.

Serving the needs of America's military population—active duty, reserve, National Guard, and veteran—is one of Excelsior's more important endeavors with nearly one-third of its students fitting this description. On November 7, Excelsior presented a talk by Dr. Lawrence Korb, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and former U.S. assistant secretary of defense. Before an audience of civilian and military personnel that gathered at the headquarters of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Dr. Korb spoke on "National Defense in an Age of Austerity." Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, U.S. Army (Ret.), an Excelsior alumnus and current executive in residence at the College, served as moderator for the event. He and another alumnus, retired Brig. Gen. Jerry Neff, joined Dr. Korb for a spirited round of questions and answers.

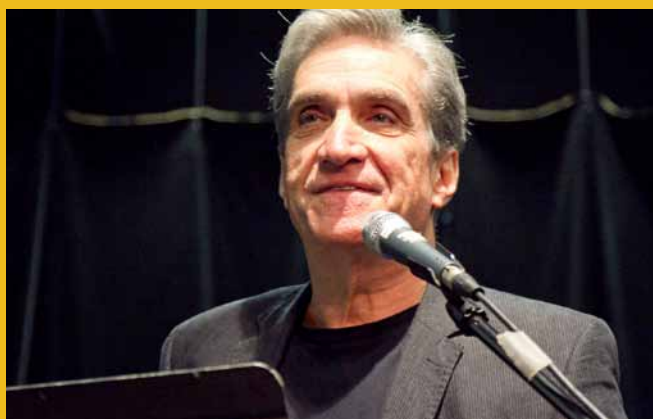
Capping off the fall speaker series was an evening of poetry on December 6 with Robert Pinsky, U.S. Poet Laureate from 1997 to 2000. Over the past four decades, more individuals have earned degrees in liberal arts at Excelsior than any in other discipline awarded. Thus, it was fitting to have such a renowned poet participate in the College's anniversary speaker series. In a unique and expressive event, Mr. Pinsky read selections of his works with musical interplay performed by a jazz trio led by Brian Patneaude, award-winning saxophonist. ■



Renee Gecsed, New York State Nurses Association (center), participates in a panel discussion alongside Dr. Mary Jo Laposta of Saratoga Hospital (left) and Mary Therriault of the Healthcare Association of New York State (right). Mary Lee Pollard, dean of the School of Nursing (background), moderated.



L-R: Dr. Lawrence Korb, former U.S. assistant secretary of defense, answers questions on national defense issues with Maj. Gen Joseph Taluto, BSL '86 and Brig. Gen. Jerry Neff, BSL '87.



Former Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry Robert Pinsky capped off the 40th Anniversary Speaker Series with a poetry reading accompanied by a jazz trio.

Keeping a Tradition



A digital model (shown on the right-hand monitor) of one of the characters created by artist Len Tantillo was used to guide the final painting (as seen on the detail provided on the left-hand monitor).

Artist blends technology, research, and talent to create a work of historic proportions



BY DANA YANULAVICH

Blending present-day technology with traditional artistic techniques, artist Len Tantillo brings history to life in his many paintings. Much like Excelsior College uses technology in new and innovative ways to deliver educational opportunities to students, Tantillo has embraced digital modeling in conjunction with conventional painting techniques to offer rich depictions of the past.

In 2011, Excelsior President John Ebersole commissioned Tantillo to create a historical work in honor of the College's 40th anniversary. The artist, widely known for his insightful research to create deeply perceptive historical works, was challenged by the task. Forty years, after all, is not that old in a historical sense, and Excelsior doesn't have stately, ivy-covered brick buildings on its campus that might create an obvious artistic backdrop. Tantillo explained the conundrum, "Excelsior isn't a place. Excelsior is an idea. So, how do you paint an idea?"

A skilled researcher, Tantillo started with his own instincts and imagination. His first thoughts were along the lines of itinerant professionals and doctors who made house calls. He thought, "I wonder how many other services like that there could have been?" With the seed planted, he began his exploration. "That refrain of a college without walls kept kind of echoing in my head. You know, *education*, but not in a specific place," he recalled.

TWO MOVEMENTS SPARK AN IDEA

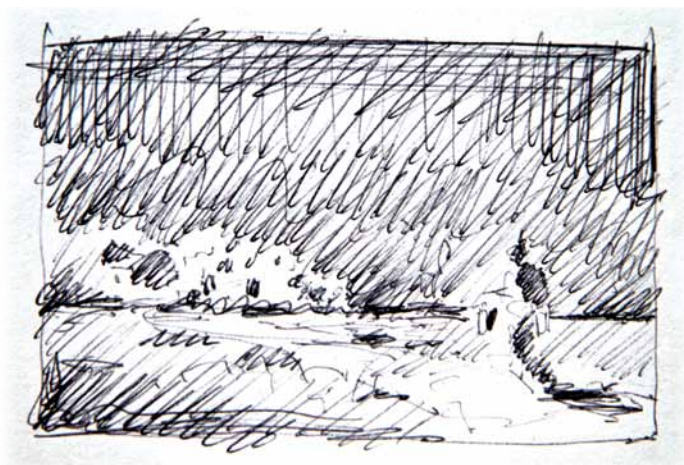
His investigation began simply, with keywords such as *education*, *history*, and *night school* and uncovered results that helped frame the concept from which the work, *Keeping a Tradition Alive*, was born. Tantillo learned of two educational endeavors—The American Lyceum and the Chautauqua Movement—that spoke to the roots of non-traditional education, historical forebears to the innovative idea that became Excelsior College.

Much like Excelsior brings education to students, rather than the students coming to a physical classroom, the American Lyceum Movement featured traveling educators. Yale graduate Josiah Holbrook founded the movement in the mid-1820s, traveling across the eastern

“That refrain of a college without walls kept kind of echoing in my head. You know, *education*, but not in a specific place.”

U.S. to promote the concept of education for adult learners. Initially aimed at farmers, the lyceums by the 1840s had become more professional institutions with lectures from famous intellectuals such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglass, Henry David Thoreau, Daniel Webster, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Susan B. Anthony.

Tantillo recalled sharing his concept with President Ebersole. “We started talking about this idea of the American Lyceum and I made a sketch right on the spot” (shown below). The artist envisioned a small, diverse group of people, gathered in a cornfield at night, after their work was done, much like the working adults who make up Excelsior’s average student. “It was this idea of nighttime and glowing light and engaged individuals participating in some sort of educational event,” he added.



Lyceums flourished until the outbreak of the Civil War. Following the war, they blended into New York State’s Chautauqua Movement of the 1870s. The original Chautauqua Lake Sunday School Assembly in western New York, founded in 1874 by John H. Vincent and Lewis Miller, began as a program for the training of Sunday-school teachers and church workers. At first entirely

religious in nature and held outdoors, the program gradually broadened to include general education, recreation, lifelong learning, and popular entertainment. In later years, the summer lectures and classes were supplemented by a year-round, non-denominational course of directed home reading and correspondence study.

STAGE IS SET: MODELING BEGINS

With the concept for the work in hand, Tantillo was ready to plan the scope of the piece. With a degree in architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design, he began his career as an architectural designer and later worked as a freelance architectural illustrator. A commission to depict a series of 19th-century structures from archeological artifacts and historical documents in 1980 was the genesis of his historical painting career, and in 1984, he left commercial art altogether to work full time in fine art. Yet his architectural background serves as a foundation on which to build his art, as he often creates models as a reference. Because his work often depicts events that predate photography, these models afford him a means to recreate history based on his research.

His early structural models were made out of cardboard, paper, and cloth, and he often used human models as well. Finding appropriate costumes for his subjects could prove challenging, sometimes requiring that he sew the meticulously researched attire himself. But about 10 years ago, he added computer modeling to his art box. Using the 3-D modeling and graphics software Rhino and Maya, he can create not only the setting for a piece, but individuals and their clothing as well. “The computer allows me to take a human form, manipulate the facial features, create hair styles and clothing,” he described.



Tantillo points out the details of the digital modeling techniques he used to aid the development of his finished artwork, *Keeping a Tradition Alive* (opposite page, top).



The Excelsior-commissioned work took Tantillo approximately five months to create, and a large part of that time was devoted to perfecting the computer-generated model. “It’s a tremendously powerful tool,” he said of the software. “It allows me to go places I could never go before. The subjects were just too complex. But now that I have these skills to do the digital modeling, it has expanded my horizons tremendously.” Once the digital work was done, Tantillo could begin the process of putting brush to canvas, marrying technology and tradition to produce a timeless piece of artistic beauty and historic significance.

THE PAINTING: AN IDEA TAKES SHAPE

The painting captures both the rural roots of adult education in America, as well as the spirit of the extraordinarily committed educators who traveled from community to community to share their knowledge.

This early form of night school portrays education being delivered to working adults. The many lanterns in the scene symbolize the flame or lamp of knowledge, and the promise inherent in education to bring students out of the darkness and into the light. Those depicted in this painting represent the forbearers of Excelsior students today—adults of all ages, veterans and active military, ethnic minorities, men and women, and, most prominently, a nurse, arriving late after having perhaps attended to an ill neighbor. Given that Excelsior College has the

largest nursing program in the country, it is appropriate that she is in the foreground.

A trunk with the name “R.E. Bennett” inscribed on its side sits on the ground, next to the instructor’s wagon (detail below). Tantillo added this detail in homage to an educator who helped light his interest in history. “Robert Bennett was my favorite history teacher, my favorite teacher of all time,” he explained. Bennett’s enthusiasm for history made a lasting impression on the artist. He added, “You went into his class, you didn’t know what the lesson was going to be, but you knew it was going to be exciting, interesting. And he always made you think about it; he would try to take you back into the world, that time.”



The work, *Keeping a Tradition Alive*, illustrates lessons learned from a time when formal American adult education was in its infancy. The torch has been passed, from the American Lyceum movement to Excelsior College and others. As the College celebrates four decades of providing educational opportunities to working adults, it is important to not forget those who blazed a trail, and thanks to the artistic vision of Len Tantillo, it will always be remembered. What does Tantillo hope people will take away from this work? “The idea, at the most ground level, that people’s desire to learn is universal and timeless. If the desire is strong enough, you’ll make time to do it.” ■

EXCELSIOR'S LATEST VENTURE ITS OWN COLLEGE PRESS



Begun last spring through a creative collaboration between Excelsior President John F. Ebersole and editor William Patrick, Hudson Whitman/Excelsior College Press (HW/ECP) is now a reality, featuring employees, products, a Web site and, naturally, a Facebook page.

"The Press lends credibility to Excelsior College in an increasingly competitive marketplace," explained Ebersole. "Hudson Whitman offers the chance to showcase the best Excelsior has to offer."

Traditionally, colleges and universities sponsor presses to support the research of their faculties and their affiliated educational communities. There are more than 130 university presses worldwide, including ones at such venerable institutions as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Columbia, and the University of Chicago. While traditional university presses publish mostly high-priced, scholarly tomes, HW/ECP will follow a different model. It plans to publish affordable, well-written books that will not only complement the academic strengths of the college but will also appeal to general readers.

HW/ECP's first book, released in October, is *Courageous Learning: Finding a New Path through Higher Education*, by Ebersole and Patrick. The book provides a comprehensive overview of adult online education in America. It blends portraits of online, adult-serving institutions and profiles of successful graduates with interview excerpts from some of the most notable people in higher education (including Mark Milliron of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, current U.S. Under Secretary of Education,

Martha Kanter, and former Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings). *Courageous Learning* also includes extensive information for adults who want to return to school and earn higher-education degrees and thus the book serves as an inspirational calling card for what Excelsior represents.

Hudson Whitman/Excelsior College Press encourages book submissions and proposals from Excelsior students, faculty, alumni, and staff.

Submissions can be sent electronically to HW/ECP's Web site, and there is a small fee associated with completing the process. Once the work has been received, an acknowledgment will be emailed to the author and the manuscript will be reviewed internally. If it looks promising, it will be assigned to the press's editorial review board, which includes four accomplished authors and journalists, as well as to guest editors who will be retained when expertise in a specific field is required.

In addition to affordable print editions, HW/ECP plans to publish in a variety of formats, including ebooks that are readable on all platforms, including Kindle, Kobo, Nook, and iPad.

With the physical nature of books changing and consumer interest in e-readers and computer-based activities growing exponentially, it is clearly a turbulent time for publishing. Given that scenario, Hudson Whitman/Excelsior College Press can be seen as a risky but ambitious venture. However, times of profound change are often times of great opportunity. Just as Excelsior has blazed a trail in education, Hudson Whitman will experiment with its own innovative model and will publish works that are intended to make Excelsior's community proud.

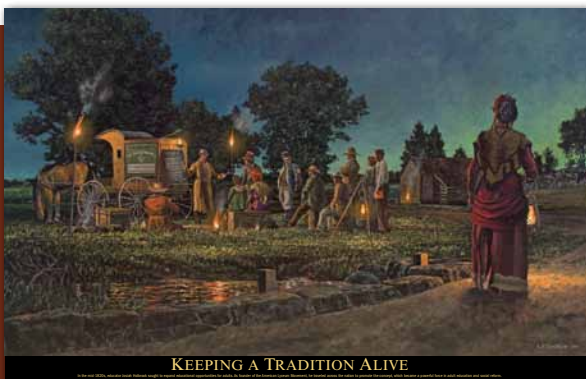


For more information, go to www.hudsonwhitman.com

Own a piece of history.

Order a 12" x 18" poster print of *Keeping Tradition Alive*, a painting commissioned in honor of the College's 40th anniversary (see article, p. 4). \$5 plus shipping and tax at www.excelsior.edu/collegepress.

While there, check out the new and forthcoming titles from Hudson Whitman/Excelsior College Press!



Excelsior Clears Another Cost-Effective Path to a Bachelor's Degree

For the past 40 years Excelsior College has recognized that the path to a bachelor's degree is not the same for everyone. In 2012, the College expands its options for working adults with an independent-study program backed with a full complement of student support services that can be completed in five years or less for no more than \$10,000.

The new path provides motivated and disciplined students who thrive in an independent-study environment with a quality, flexible, and affordable means to earn a bachelor's degree in liberal studies entirely by examination. In keeping with its innovative approach to providing educational opportunities to working adults, the College has tapped into the expanding world of open educational resources to help students prepare for Excelsior College and UExcel examinations.

Open education resources (OER) are course-quality study materials available for free on the Web from some of the nation's leading colleges and universities, including those from the OpenCourseWare Consortium [www.ocwconsortium.org/]. Excelsior has reviewed and selected those OER materials that have been determined to meet the College's high standards to be among recommended study materials. Students will follow an advisor-recommended sequence to complete Excelsior College® Examinations and UExcel® Exams to earn credit, and they will also take Excelsior's online course in information literacy and an online capstone course. The academic requirements can be accomplished in five years or less, depending upon the student's schedule and study habits.

Excelsior is the first institution to offer this route to a degree at a guaranteed maximum cost of \$10,000. Today, a typical student comes to Excelsior with a number of credits from several sources that are accepted in transfer toward degree requirements. The College developed this new pathway for students with minimal, or no, previously earned credit and for whom credit-by-examination is an appropriate academic route. It builds on Excelsior's tradition of providing working adults with academically sound alternatives to earn their degrees.

Spread the Word

WHAT: Supported independent-study program

WHO: Working adults who are highly motivated & disciplined self-learners

START TO FINISH: 5 years or less

NOTABLE: Guaranteed maximum cost of \$10,000

Does this degree path sound like a good fit for you or someone you know? Speak with an admissions counselor to find out.



Although students will study independently, they will not be alone in the journey. Academic advising and program planning provided by Excelsior's advisors are included in the cost, as is full online access to the resources of the Excelsior library, tutoring services provided by Smarthinking, and examination content guides provided by the College. These guides include lists of recommended textbooks to purchase as well as free OER materials.

Expenses such as Excelsior's application, enrollment, annual and graduation fees, along with the cost of the examinations and courses, are included in the \$10,000 cap on the total [the cap is applicable as long as students follow the degree plan outlined by the College's advisors]. Items such as practice exams, fees to repeat examinations or courses, late payment fees, and textbooks are not included in the final cost. And, for those who have some qualifying prior-earned credit that can be applied toward the overall cost, no matter how few, the total expense can be even less. ■



James L. Applegate
The Presidents' Forum



Rhonda Spells
Going Online workshop

EXCELSIOR LEADS DISTANCE

Excelstor's leadership in the distance higher education arena was evident at two recent events in Washington DC. The eighth annual meeting of the Presidents' Forum addressed topics in online and distance education, and was followed by the second *Going Online* workshop that supports minority-serving institutions with starting or expanding their distance learning programs.

The Presidents' Forum, formed by the College in 2004, provides a medium through which colleges, regulators, accreditors, and others who have a stake in online and distance education can meet to discuss matters of common concern. The public has embraced online learning precisely at a time when the landscape of higher education is experiencing dramatic change driven by the ongoing national financial crisis and increased regulatory interventions by federal and state agencies. These challenges, coupled with the need to enhance access and capacity to meet national goals for degree production, led this year's forum to explore the question, "Are we content with where we are at present?"

Participants focused on the removal of barriers to quality online learning and on how online learning will contribute to the changing structure and capacity of higher education. Featured presenters included Hon. James E. Geringer, former governor of Wyoming and current president of the Western Governors University Board of Trustees, James L. Applegate, Lumina Foundation vice president for Program Development, and Peter Smith, senior vice president of Academic Strategies and Development for Kaplan Higher Education. A special appearance via video was made by



Smith

Dr. Clayton Christensen, a Harvard University professor and author of *The Innovative University: Changing the DNA of Higher Education from the Inside Out*.



James E. Geringer
The Presidents' Forum



Freeman Hrabowski
Going Online workshop

CE EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Excelsior is living its mission of providing educational opportunity to adult learners with an emphasis on those historically underrepresented in higher education.

The conversation continues in late January with a forum workshop focusing on safeguarding institutional and academic integrity with regard to financial aid fraud rings and student identity verification. William Hamel, assistant inspector general for investigations, Office of Inspector General, is scheduled to deliver the keynote address. In September 2011, the Office of Inspector General released an advisory report on fraud rings and suggested areas where providers of distance education could improve the security of their online processes. The January forum, co-hosted by the U.S. Distance Learning Association, brings interested parties together to identify and discuss the proactive steps needed to maintain the integrity of online education.

Following the forum held this past fall, Excelsior College hosted its second *Going Online* workshop. Developed by Excelsior, the event informs and assists

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority-serving institutions with moving courses and degree programs online. These workshops provide support to HBCUs and other institutions in preserving their traditions while embracing the future.

Co-sponsored by Diverse® Issues in Higher Education and HBCUsOnlinesm, the workshop included presentations by some of the most experienced and knowledgeable online educators from several HBCUs.

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, delivered the keynote address. Featured presenters included Dr. Calvin Ball of Morgan State University, Dr. Cassandra Herring of Hampton University, and Rhonda Spells of Prince George's Community College. More than 50 senior academic and administrative leaders participated.



Ball



Herring

Whether it is by working with distance learning programs nationwide in addressing matters of common concern or by assisting other institutions with developing 21st-century learning environments, Excelsior is living its mission of providing educational opportunity to adult learners with an emphasis on those historically underrepresented in higher education. ■

A Gift from the Heart

TEXAN ALUM LEAVES EXCELSIOR ITS LARGEST-EVER BEQUEST

With a heart as big as Texas, an Excelsior alumnus secured his legacy with a recent gift to Excelsior College. Charles Clay Montandon, BSL '79, left Excelsior a \$50,000 gift in his will, helping support students that follow in his footsteps. A self-made man who had a long, successful career in real estate, Montandon is just one example of the many Excelsior grads who support the College.

As a highly successful Texas real estate investor in Houston, Montandon had sought a college degree from area campus-based programs. However, the requirements at the brick and mortar institutions could only be satisfied by sitting in a classroom, and none offered a means to validate the college-level learning Montandon had attained in his work. But when he found Excelsior (then Regents) College, he was able to reach his personal goal, earning a bachelor's degree in liberal studies.

Montandon always referred to Excelsior as the springboard to his many successes. When he received the College's Alumni Achievement Award in 1999, he noted, "Regents College has always held its head high and has been a shining example of a 'university without walls.'" And thus, he encouraged alumni to look back and be proud to be a part of what has become Excelsior College.

An accredited land consultant and president of Montandon and Company Inc., he specialized in farm



and commercial investment properties, tax-deferred exchanges, and acquisitions for clients. His business was international in scope, reaching from Belize and South America across the United States from Texas to California. His love of education and business also led to an opportunity to teach about real estate at the university level.

Montandon became successful in business through his work in construction. His company built hospitals and dealt in commercial real estate in Port Arthur and Beaumont, Texas. He was a devout member of Houston's St. Luke's United Methodist Church, where he established a foundation in memory of his wife, Corrine, a research dietician at Baylor College of Medicine. He was a member of both the Holland Masonic Lodge #1 and Mensa, the high IQ society.

Montandon always had a curious nature and terrific sense of humor, according to his sister, Pat. He was born in Texas and lived in Oklahoma as the middle of nine children born to Rev. Charles Clay and Myrtle Montandon. As the son of two ministers, he was raised in a home where giving back was simply a part of nature.

As Pat describes in her blog, "Even when there was hardly enough food for us I came to expect a hobo guest at our supper table sharing a meal of red beans and cornbread." She adds, "During the Great Depression, my dad, an Oklahoma preacher, announced that he had invited strangers for Thanksgiving at our house. Mother looked stricken. 'Charlie,' she said, 'how do you propose we feed those folks?' 'Mama,' Daddy said, 'there are hungry people out there and we need to let them know we care.'"

His parents would be proud to know that Charles Montandon embraced their spirit of generosity, because years ago he mentioned—without sharing any specific details—that Excelsior College would benefit from his estate plans.

Such gifts are wonderful support for the College, notes Cathy S. Kushner, vice president for Institutional Advancement. "Learning that he had made a bequest through the will was a pleasant surprise," says Kushner. "His gift, the largest bequest in the College's history, was not restricted and will help to fund scholarships and other support for our students. I only wish that I had known more specifically of Mr. Montandon's intentions. It would have been wonderful to celebrate his gift in his lifetime." ■



Montandon (left) received the Alumni Achievement Award in 1999 from Trustee John R. Wetsch, PhD, PMP, who was president of the Alumni Advisory Board at the time.



TEXAS ROUND UP Everything's bigger in Texas—even Excelsior alumni events! On November 16, more than 60 attendees gathered at a cocktail reception in Killeen, Texas, to share their stories with College staff and each other. The event took place on the eve of the annual Fort Hood commencement ceremony, affording us the opportunity to meet some of our newest military graduates, as well as military and civilian grads who've obtained degrees in the past 40 years. Among the attendees was Michelle Vega, BS '11, the College's Alumni Ambassador from Texas who helped spread the word about the event to her fellow alumni.



EXCELSIOR'S HEADING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER As part of the College's 40th Anniversary, we're celebrating in Orlando (January 29, 2012) and Washington DC (spring 2012). To register for an event or find out more, email alumni@excelsior.edu.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

The Alumni Ambassador Program is up and running and you may receive an email or phone call from an Ambassador in your area. Our Ambassadors are listed below. You can feel free to network with those in your field of study or geographic region, or with those who have similar life experiences. Reach out to them via the Excelsior College Alumni Association Facebook page.

Florida	Luis Sterling '12	Business
Germany	TSgt. Patrick Williams '06	Liberal Studies/Active Duty Air Force
Illinois	April Harkness '09	Liberal Studies
Indiana	Douglas Perry '78	Liberal Arts
New York	Adrienne Mason '11	Business
North Carolina	Basem Dimetry '11	Nursing
Oregon	Bradley Woodruff '11	Liberal Studies
Texas	Michelle Vega '11	Liberal Studies/Enrolled MBA
Virginia	Lawrence Pleasants '02, '11	Liberal Studies
	Sandra Howard-Pleasants '11	Liberal Studies
Washington	Gail Buce '09	Nursing

ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES

Are you an expert on a topic that you think might be of interest to other Excelsior alumni or students? Submissions for the Alumni Speaker Series are reviewed on a rolling basis, so send your topic to alumni@excelsior.edu. today! Below are the answers to some frequently asked questions:

- The Alumni Speaker Series is presented in live Web chat format and archived on the College's Web site for later viewing.
- Topics must be generally suited to Excelsior alumni and students. They also can appeal to specific industries (i.e., military, nursing/health care, business, technology).
- Most presentations are audio only, so a Webcam is not necessary. The visual consists of the speaker's PowerPoint presentation, for which the College provides a template.
- Submissions should include your full name, graduation year, and daytime phone number, as well as a synopsis of the topic you would like to present and a statement of why you think Excelsior students and alumni would be interested in this topic.

More information on the speaker series is available at www.excelsior.edu/web/alumni/alumni-speaker-series.



ALUMNI WEB CHATS

Did you know that all Web chats are archived on the Excelsior Web site? If you missed the January chat, Ready, Set, Goal with Alumni Advisory Board Secretary JoAnne Ellsworth, BA '87, you can view it at www.excelsior.edu/alumnichat. Here are some upcoming opportunities for professional and personal development:

The No Sweat Job Interview

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012, 8-9 PM ET

Don't let your nerves keep you from getting the job. Tune in as our career consultant, Ed Hallenbeck, shares tips and strategies for keeping your cool during that all-important job interview.

Make Time for Wellness

THURSDAY, MARCH, 22, 2012, 8-9 PM ET

Alumni Ambassador Adrienne Mason, BS '11, will talk about wellness for the working student and why it's important to take care of yourself.

Women Don't Like to Think About Getting Old, But This Is Why They Should

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2012, 8-9 PM ET

Join Dr. Annie Hough-Everage '93 as she discusses the consequences of living longer and women's economic needs during their extended years.

Registering for Web chats is simple. Send an email with your name, mailing address, the name(s) of the chat(s) you wish to attend, and a contact phone number to alumni@excelsior.edu. Registration is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

GET ONLINE WITH EXCELSIOR

By sharing your email address with us, you will receive our monthly Alumni Newsletter, which is rich with information about the Alumni Association, benefits for alumni, new degree programs, program and career announcements, Excelsior in the news, and profiles of your fellow alumni. By providing your email address you will also receive invitations to regional events and career and professional development Web chats, as well as surveys about the alumni services you're interested in. Send your name, address, phone number, email address, and unisex t-shirt size to alumni@excelsior.edu and you'll automatically be entered for a chance to win Excelsior gear!

There's Still Room in the Ranks

As the College nears the peak of its 40th anniversary, our celebration of Excelsior's everyday people accomplishing extraordinary things will soon come to a close. If you have not yet commemorated this milestone with a gift to the Annual Campaign, there's still time to join the ranks of Excelsior's Everyday Heroes—those who overcome the obstacles that life throws in their way as well as those who provide the support to minimize the hurdles.

The Annual Campaign is one of the few sources of unrestricted dollars for Excelsior College, and it provides scholarships for a growing number of financially strained degree candidates who may not be eligible for other forms of financial support. While scholarships make up the greatest need, Annual Campaign funds are also used to meet the demands of an expanding enrollment which grew this year to more than 35,000. Campaign contributions also support investments in technology that strengthen Excelsior's vital infrastructure and facilitate the development and delivery of new multimedia courses that allow for greater interaction between students.

You may wonder if the size of the gift that you are able to give even matters. The answer is this—not as much as the act of giving. Alumni participation is one of the factors considered by corporations, foundations, and ranking organizations when making philanthropic decisions. When more people give, it demonstrates the value of investing in Excelsior College.

Be a hero—help our students achieve their degrees and give them the opportunity to make a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

**EVERYDAY
HEROES**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This special edition of *Live & Learn* is the second of two such issues that celebrate Excelsior's 40th anniversary. Last year at this time I reflected on the 136,000 graduates for whom the College has made a difference. Today, this number is more than 144,000 and growing.

As was noted during our Commencement ceremony this past July, hitting the 40-year mark is an exciting age for the College. As most of our students are in their "midlife" stage and seeking to move on to bigger and better things, Excelsior, too, is just beginning to hit its stride.

Just as midlife is simply a state of mind, what we have been doing for the past four decades can no longer be considered non-traditional. The world around higher education has changed so much that new ways of learning have become the norm for many. With this have come new ways to share knowledge and a greater focus on the outcomes rather than the learning process itself. Excelsior is proud to be a leader, as it has been, in this new era of post-traditional higher education.

While more change will certainly come, what will not change are the values that are central to our mission of providing access to higher education. These are: ***lifelong learning as a pursuit, innovation as a source of improvement, flexibility as a method of service, excellence as means to success, and integrity, honesty, and caring as the basis for lasting relationships.***

I invite you to review the College's Annual Report on the following pages, and trust that you will be as proud of Excelsior's many accomplishments as I am. While turning 40 is a grand event in life, it's only a point in time. As we enter the second half of our 40th anniversary celebration, we invite you to join in moving us toward the next 40.

The best is yet to come.

Best regards,

John F. Ebersole, LPD
President

HIGHLIGHTS 2010–2011

COLLEGE NEWS

Educators Serving Educators is established as a not-for-profit corporation that helps other accredited institutions of higher education develop and deliver online programs and courses.

MILITARY

An Excelsior College course designed to guide veterans and military students in college and career planning earned a 2010–2011 first-place Innovation Award from the Center for Transforming Student Services. Excelsior's **Success Strategies for Military and Veterans** won the award in the category of "personal services suite," which emphasizes orientation, career counseling, financial planning, and placement services. This course was developed through the collaborative efforts of the Excelsior College Center for Military Education, Office of Online Education and Learning Services, and the School of Liberal Arts.

In December 2010, for the fourth year in a row, *Military Advanced Education* announced that Excelsior is a **top military-friendly college**.

In October 2010, *Military Times Edge* magazine ranked Excelsior College as a "Best for Vets" College. Excelsior College was the highest-ranked fully online college.

Several new educational partnerships were formed. The **Capital District of New York chapter (CD-NY) of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA)** partnered with Excelsior College in May 2011 to add higher education as a benefit to AUSA members and their spouses. It provides reduced

tuition and fees for Capital District members and their spouses. AUSA's membership includes active duty, National Guard, and reserve members of the Army and also civilians, retirees, government civilians, and veterans. In addition, the education benefits extend to CD-NY members' spouses who wish to begin or complete their college education.

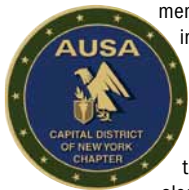
In March 2011 the **Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars** signed an education partnership agreement with the College in a statewide effort to draw younger veterans and their spouses to the membership rolls of local VFW posts.

In May 2011 the **National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS)**, a national military advocacy organization, partnered with Excelsior to add online higher education as a member benefit, in an effort to draw newer, younger members to the organization.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Martha Tripp Garing, a senior advisor for the Excelsior College School of Business and Technology, was named a **2011 recipient of the National Academic Advising Association's Outstanding Advisor Award**, in the academic advising primary role category.

In March 2011 Mercedes Acuña, BSL '08, a military spouse and mother of three, was recognized as the **"2010 Adult Learner of the Year."** Presented annually by American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT), the award is given to an adult learner who has benefited from the use of ACE credit recommendations to earn a college degree or advance a career.



Excelsior College President John F. Ebersole congratulates Mercedes Acuña, BSL '08, recipient of the ACE 2010 Adult Learner of the Year Award.

In February 2011, Susan Dewan, the executive director of Excelsior's Center for Military Education, received the **2011 William E. Kennedy Award from the Council of College and Military Educators**, which recognizes leadership in providing higher education programs to personnel at U.S. military installations.



William E. Kennedy Award recipient Susan Dewan with CCME president Belinda Jones at the CCME conference.

STUDENT SUCCESS

In March 2011, the College hosted the **St. Lawrence Section of the American Society for Engineering Education's annual conference: Innovations in Engineering and Technology Education**. The event, which brought together engineering educators and students from across New York and Canada, included seminars and workshops led by educators at some of the region's most prominent engineering institutions.

The **College's redesigned Web site** launched in November 2010 with a more intuitive layout, well-arranged

content, and advanced search and browse functions.

The first **Excelsior College Faculty/Student Conference Support Grant** was issued to student Chriss Miller, a senior reactor operator certified instructor at Millstone Power Station. School of Business & Technology Dean Jane LeClair, Academic Advisor Andrew Wheeler, and Miller co-presented at the biannual Conference on Nuclear Training and Education in February 2011.

Taking advantage of the military's pre-college screening process, the undergraduate admissions process for active-duty members of military was streamlined to move students more quickly into their academic coursework.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

In September 2010, the bachelor's programs in electronics engineering technology and nuclear engineering technology **received renewed accreditation from the Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET**.

The College announced in March 2011 its **newly redesigned Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology degree program**, developed to meet the increasing demand for high-tech graduates in the Capital Region and beyond. Students in this ABET-accredited program can select concentrations in nanotechnology, power systems, or electronics.

PARTNERSHIPS

In an opportunity to develop its workforce, **National Grid formed an education partnership** with Excelsior College in March 2011 to allow the power company's 17,000 employees in New York and New England to pursue associate and bachelor's degrees with reduced tuition and fees.

PARTNERS IN LIFELONG LEARNING

As part of its 40th anniversary celebration, Excelsior honored 20 Capital Region leaders whose professional talent, personal



President John Ebersole addresses the 20 individuals honored at the Partners in Lifelong Learning scholarship fundraising event that raised nearly \$90,000.

commitment, or financial support helped grow the institution from its roots in 1971 into a 21st-century role model for nonprofit distance education. Honorees from the Capital Region and beyond were recognized at Excelsior's fourth annual **Partners in Lifelong Learning scholarship fundraising event** in April 2011 at the New York State Museum. The event raised nearly \$90,000 in scholarship support.

IN THE NEWS

Excelsior College was named the **"Top Degree Producer" for minority students** seeking associate degrees in nursing, according to the May 2011 issue of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. In 2009–2010, 668 minority students—30 percent of the associate degree in nursing class—earned their degrees from Excelsior. *Diverse's* ranking on nursing degrees was based on 2009–2010 preliminary enrollment data submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.

President Ebersole was a **featured speaker at a forum hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce**,

Institute for a Competitive Workforce in May 2011, in Washington DC. The forum—Degrees of Change: Private Sector Innovations Transforming Higher Education—highlighted how private sector innovations are helping to increase productivity in higher education.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH

The College was awarded a **\$300,000 grant from the Lumina Foundation** to improve efficiency and encourage better alignment of individual state regulatory requirements concerning higher education.

Excelsior received **\$10,000 from HSBC to provide scholarships** to students age 25 and under.

Excelsior received over **\$125,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration** for nursing student loans and scholarships.

Excelsior was named as a subawardee to undertake a portion of the NSF ATE Regional Center for Semiconductor and Nanotechnology Education project at HVCC. The project is funded by an Advanced Technology Education grant from the National Science Foundation. **\$60,000 will be awarded to Excelsior** over the life of the four-year project.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Alumni from 16 states and as far away as Germany submitted applications to become Excelsior College **Alumni Ambassadors**. They are enthusiastic Excelsior grads interested in communicating with fellow alumni for professional networking, continuing education opportunities, and good old-fashioned fun.

In November 2010 more than 40 alumni, students, staff, and guests gathered at the University Club of

Washington DC for the kickoff event of the **Washington DC/Baltimore Alumni Chapter**.

As part of the **40th Anniversary Alumni Speaker Series**, Dr. Bruce Bechtol Jr., BSL '94, discussed the



findings from his recent book, *North Korea: Defiant Failed State*, at an event for alumni, students, and other guests

in San Diego, California, in January 2011. Elizabeth Bewley, BS '85, founder of the Paro Health Institute and author of *Killer Cure: Why Health Care Is the Second Leading Cause of Death in American and How to Ensure That It's Not Yours*,



spoke to an audience in Albany, New York, in February 2011 about her book on the health care system.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Excelsior College's **Annual Campaign reached its highest giving level** in history in 2011, with nearly \$303,000 committed. These gifts comprise the largest source of unrestricted support for the College, allowing Excelsior to meet critical needs as they arise. Among the high points in the annual campaign were record-level giving from staff and faculty, demonstrating unwavering support of Excelsior's mission.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The **Board of Trustees 40th Anniversary Scholarship Endowment Fund** was established by the College's Trustees to support

the periodic award of scholarship money to students with financial need.

The **John F. Ebersole Access Scholarship Endowment Fund** was established by the President's Advisory Council members to support the periodic award of scholarship money to students with financial need.

The **Murray and Estelle Block Scholarship Endowment Fund** was established by employee Murray Block in memory of his wife, Estelle, to support the periodic award of scholarship money to students with financial need with preference given to students in School of Business and Technology.

The **Stephen Pribyl Scholarship Fund** was established by employee Wayne Brown to support the periodic award of scholarship money to students with financial need with preference given to women and members of racial or ethnic minority groups underrepresented in higher education and pursuing careers in Higher Education Technology.

The **Toby Friedland Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established in memory of Excelsior employee Toby Friedland to support the periodic award of scholarship money to students with financial need and affiliated with Total Testing Incorporated.

ASSESSMENT

Access to **Excelsior College® Examinations was expanded to more than 1,000 locations worldwide** through arrangements with Pearson VUE, the global leader in computer-based testing through the world's largest and most secure network of test centers in 165 countries.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

As we reflect on Excelsior's 40-year history, we are most grateful for the financial support of our alumni, staff, faculty and friends. It is because of your investment in Excelsior that we are able to continue to change the lives of our students every day. **On behalf of our students, thank you!**



View the 2011 Honor Roll of Donors at
WWW.EXCELSIOR.EDU/DONOR

FISCAL 2010–2011

The College realized a surplus of \$444,521 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. Revenue for the year totaled \$66,200,687 and expenses totaled \$65,756,166. The surplus (change in net assets) of \$444,521 resulted in increasing unrestricted net assets by \$168,593 and increasing restricted net assets by \$275,928. Revenue increased \$3,085,743 or 4.9 percent from the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010 to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. Continued expansion of online instruction was a major factor in revenue growth from the 2010 to 2011 fiscal year.

As of June 30, 2011, assets at the College totaled \$42,249,647 and liabilities totaled \$14,156,431 resulting in net assets of \$28,093,216. The increase in net assets of the College in the amount of \$444,521 represented a 1.6 percent increase in net assets from the 2010 to the 2011 fiscal year.

The statements on this and the following pages have been excerpted from the College's audited financial statements. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles have been omitted. These statements should be read in conjunction with the complete audited financial statements and notes thereto; they reflect the operations of Excelsior College for 2010–2011 and the prior fiscal year.

Statement of Activities

For the annual period ended June 30, 2011 and 2010

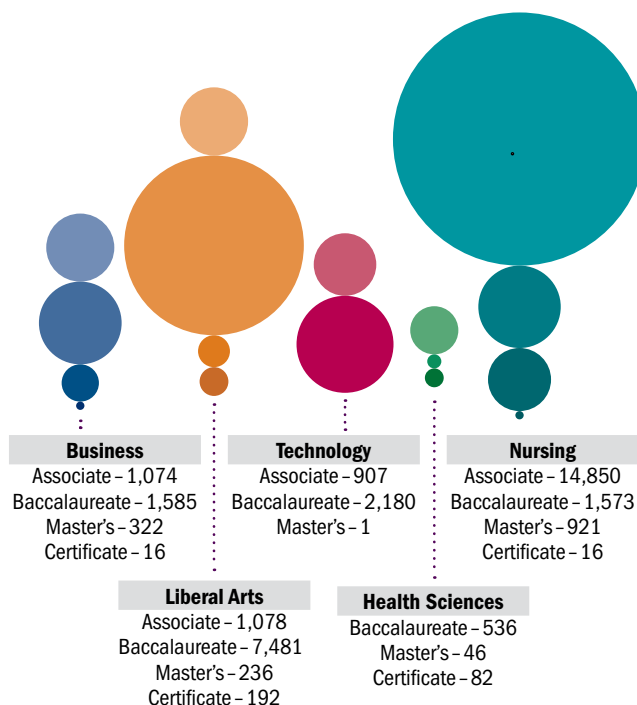
	2011	2010
Revenues, gains, and other support:		
Enrollment and other fees	\$ 15,954,610	\$ 16,152,034
Tuition	29,675,677	26,279,497
Examination fees	16,782,536	17,882,750
Other sources	3,787,864	2,800,663
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$ 66,200,687	\$ 63,114,944
Expenses:		
Academic programs	\$ 37,836,281	\$ 34,310,596
Student services	7,834,520	7,539,214
Institutional support	20,085,365	19,448,526
Total expenses	\$ 65,756,166	\$ 61,298,336
Change in net assets	\$ 444,521	\$ 1,816,608
Net assets at beginning of year	\$ 27,648,695	\$ 25,832,087
Net assets at end of year	\$ 28,093,216	\$ 27,648,695

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2011 and 2010

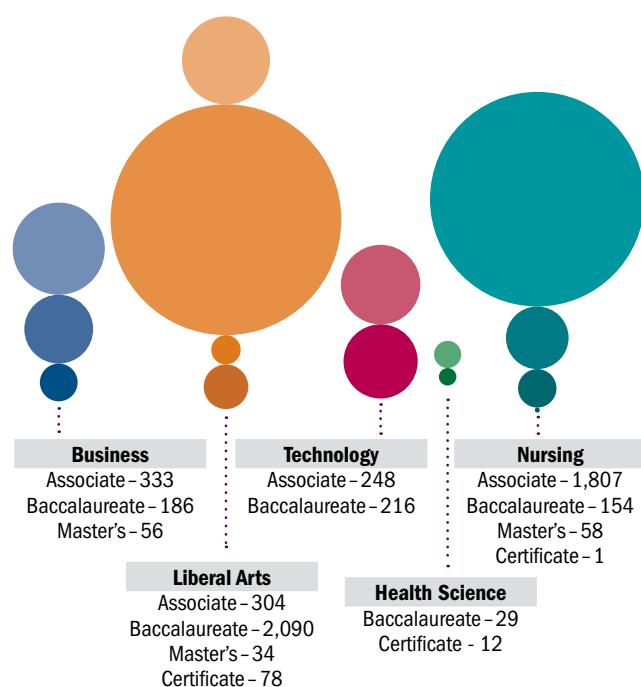
	2011	2010
Assets:		
Total current assets	\$ 31,882,990	\$ 33,080,132
Fixed assets	9,946,135	10,019,581
Other assets	420,522	228,042
Total assets	\$ 42,249,647	\$ 43,327,755
Liabilities:		
Total current liabilities	\$ 12,483,850	\$ 13,843,319
Other liabilities	1,672,581	1,835,741
Total liabilities	\$ 14,156,431	\$ 15,679,060
Net assets:		
Total unrestricted	\$ 26,978,371	\$ 26,809,778
Total restricted	1,114,845	838,917
Total net assets	\$ 28,093,216	\$ 27,648,695
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 42,249,647	\$ 43,327,755

STATISTICAL YEARBOOK



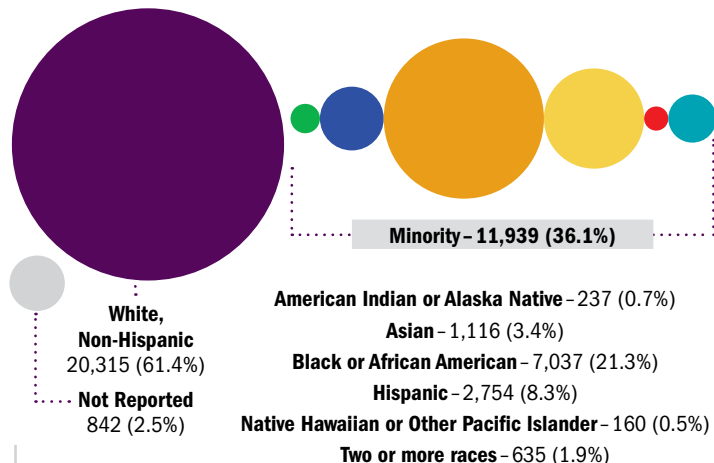
33,096 Students by Program

FALL 2011



5,606 Degrees by Program

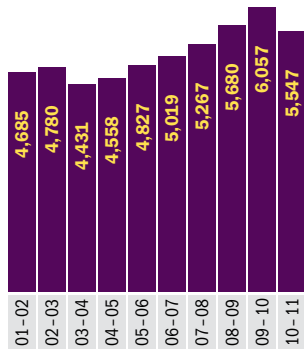
JULY 2010 – JUNE 2011



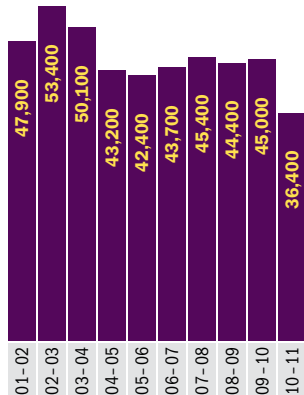
Race/Ethnicity of Enrolled Students

FALL 2011



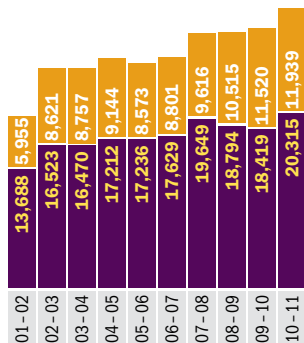


Graduates Historical Trend



Excelsior College Examinations

ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST 100



Enrolled Students Historical Trend*

■ Diverse Populations
■ White, Non-Hispanic

* This chart includes only students who self-reported their race/ethnicity.

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