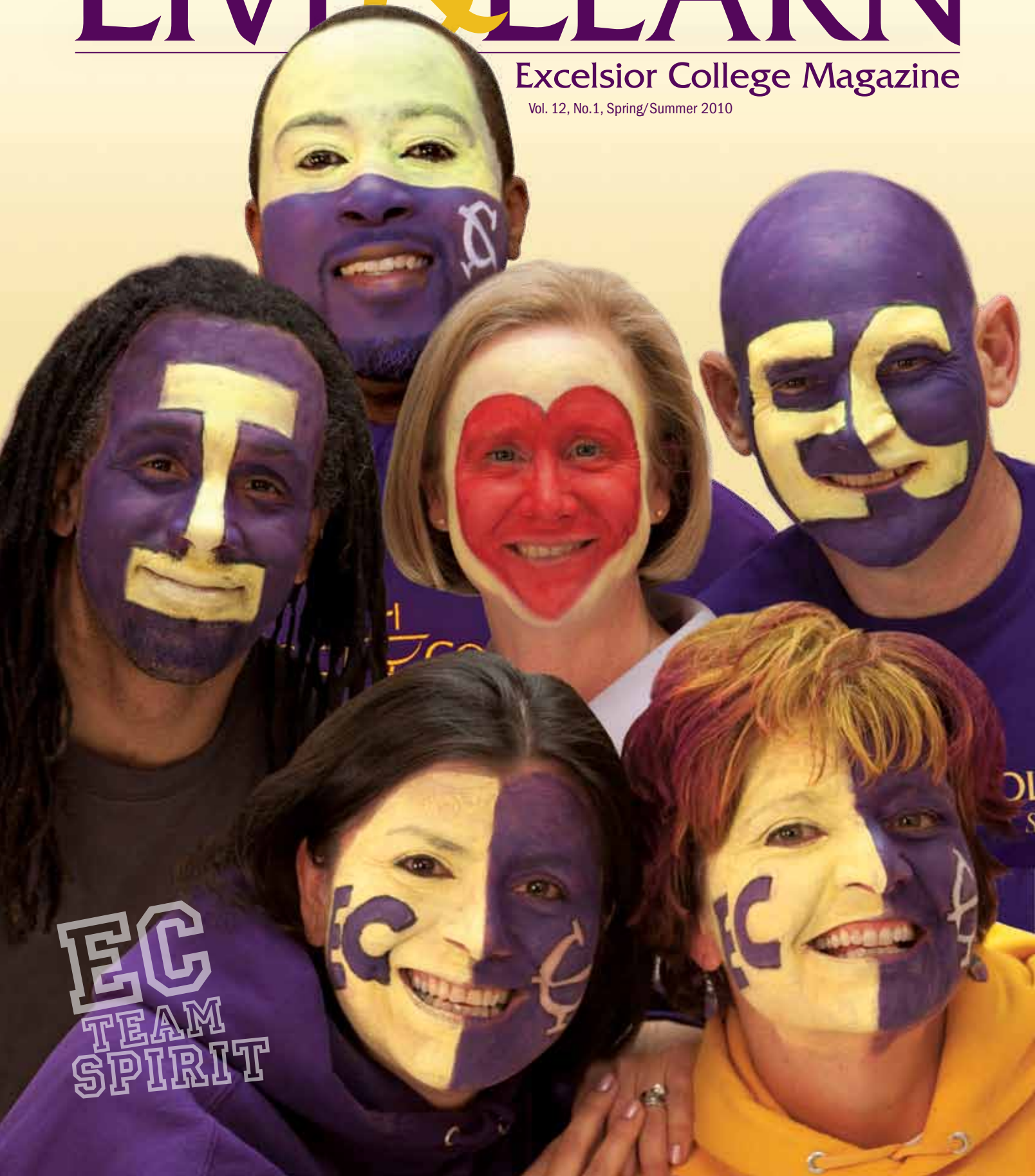


LIVE & LEARN

Excelsior College Magazine

Vol. 12, No.1, Spring/Summer 2010



EC
TEAM
SPIRIT

LIVE&LEARN

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Thanks to all Excelsior staff who contributed to this issue.

Cover Image: Nick Klercker

Live & Learn is published twice yearly by the Excelsior College Office of Institutional Advancement
Cathy Kushner, *Vice President*

CALENDAR

2010–11 HOLIDAYS

(College closed)

May 31

Memorial Day

July 5

Independence Day (observed)

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

July 9, 2010

September 6

Labor Day

October 11

Columbus Day

November 11

Veteran's Day

November 25–26

Thanksgiving Day & Day After

December 24

Christmas Day (observed)

Important Deadlines

for degree completion can be found on p.12 and at

www.excelsior.edu/deadlines

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

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

www.excelsior.edu



We may not
have a team – but
we sure have

TEAM SPIRIT!

Thanks go to the six staff members who came out to express their team spirit for this photograph. Each one of them exemplifies the qualities that Excelsior inspires—determination, appreciation for lifelong learning, and, as students, understanding of the sense of community that can develop in an online environment.

All six are familiar with what it takes to balance work, family, and the pursuit of higher education at Excelsior College. **B** José DeShields, Instructional Development Specialist, Office of Online Education and Learning Services, earned his associate degree in technology; **C** Dana Yanulavich, Sr. Editor, Institutional Advancement, earned her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies; **D** Patrick Jones, Dean, Assessment, already a PhD, is working on his MBA; **A** Shaun White, Testing Service Associate, Assessment, is taking courses and plans to enroll; **E** Emilsen Holguin, Project Manager for Academic Affairs, Provost's Office, just completed her MBA; and **F** Anne Marie Bisner, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Vice President, Institutional Advancement, earned her associate degree in liberal arts.

GO TEAM GO!

The **New!** www.excelsior.edu

Many of you in the Excelsior College community (students and future students, alumni, staff and faculty) have made great suggestions as we work toward completing the updated/upgraded EC Web site. And we've listened to you!

Enhanced look and feel
Intuitive navigation
Streamlined content



Coming in Summer 2010

Bachelor of Professional Studies

programs encourage students to use their prior credits from industry and military training as well as college work to complete their degrees and build for their futures.” —Dr. Jane LeClair

New!

School of Business & Technology Launches New Baccalaureate Degree Programs

It's been exciting to watch the development of the School of Business & Technology during my many years of association with Excelsior College—first as a student, then as faculty, then as program director. And now, as dean, I'm happy to be able to contribute to the growing degree program opportunities for our students. So it will come as no surprise that I feel strongly about the two new Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) degrees that we launched in March. These programs—one in Business and Management and one in Technology Management—continue the Excelsior academic tradition. Both rigorous and flexible, they're specifically developed to serve the needs of students who want to build on their existing knowledge and earn a bachelor's degree within their career field—particularly those who want to apply credit for military or other training towards a baccalaureate degree.

As a two-time graduate of the College, I understand the important role the School of Business & Technology plays in the life of the adult learner. I've been a nontraditional student all of my life and know that we offer opportunities unavailable in mainstream education. As a member of the College's nuclear engineering faculty since 2003, I have had many first-hand opportunities to interact with our students and have heard directly from them about how we help them meet their professional and career aspirations through education.

These degrees are excellent next steps for graduates of Excelsior's associate degree programs in business or technology. They share a common and flexible curriculum structure. Students must earn a minimum of 30 credits in the arts and sciences, 45 credits in the professional component, and up to 45 credits in free electives.

Students in both BPS programs obtain solid foundations in such fundamental areas as management, leadership, accounting, computer applications, and project management. Those in the Business and Management program complete core requirements in other business areas as well. Those in the Technology Management program complete their technology management core requirements and choose an area of focus in one of three technology areas: Electrical Technology, Information Technology, or Nuclear Technology. All students in the BPS programs must complete the program capstone course from Excelsior College.

The new Bachelor of Professional Studies programs encourage students to use their prior credits from industry and military training as well as college work to complete their degrees and build for their futures. Credit will be awarded for Excelsior College courses and examinations, courses taken at accredited institutions other than Excelsior, approved proficiency exams, and training programs and courses approved for credit by the American Council on Education (ACE) or the New York National Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction (NY PONSI). The BPS programs are also particularly attractive options for military spouses, veterans, and DoD civilians who have completed government-sponsored training that has been evaluated for college credit. ■



Dr. Jane LeClair
Dean, School of Business & Technology



For more information on how a BPS degree can help advance your career, go to www.excelsior.edu/bps.



Success Strategies for Military and Veterans Course

In January, the newly revised Success Strategies for Military and Veterans (CCS 112) course was launched, providing active duty, transitioners reservists, guardians, and veterans the tools for college and career success.

Director of Veteran Services and Outreach Judy Reed (pictured) and Career Services Coordinator Maribeth Gunner-Pulliam combined efforts to create a course specifically for students with military backgrounds as an introduction to Excelsior College and a springboard to career transitioning from the military environment to the civilian workforce.



Students can benefit in many ways from this eight-week, 3-credit course. They learn about the numerous support services and resources available at Excelsior—all designed to assist them in succeeding in college. Included is a review and full self-assessment of their military education and training to help them design their degree goals most efficiently.

“The book that we are using for this course is WONDERFUL!!! I would suggest this course and book to all military members and vets. In just one week this class has been very helpful and has me motivated to finish.”

Maya Gosserand
Former Navy Petty Officer



“The assessments have helped me to both identify and confirm my skills and abilities. The assessment tools also helped me to feel more confident about the decisions that I am making as I work toward my career goals.”

Spc. Meredith Miller, Army National Guard



“I found the career action plan to be very helpful. It lays out a nice foundation of the steps and tasks needed to keep me on the right track.”

Staff Sergeant Daniel Gill, U.S. Army



Military and veteran students also gain knowledge of various job search strategies including those specific to the military and veteran populations. In addition, the course familiarizes them with tools through which to explore employment trends, job outlooks, and other factors that may influence the choice of career paths. After complete review of decision-making models, the students then proceed to create action plans to guide them toward degree completion. ■

CCS 112: Success Strategies for Military and Veterans convenes every other month. **For more information,** go to excelsior.edu/veterans.



WELCOME TO WASHINGTON!

Excelisior College has opened an office in Washington, DC, to increase awareness and access to both established and new constituencies including the military, community colleges, higher education policy-makers, future students, and alumni. The Washington Center is staffed with admissions and military counselors who represent the College at events and one-on-one visits throughout the Washington, Maryland, and Virginia area.

For general information, email DDCenter@excelsior.edu. For information specific to military and veterans, email DCMilVet@excelsior.edu.



WELCOME ASPIRING CIOs TO THE **CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP**



Mission: To develop higher education technology leaders through accessible and affordable education, networking, and advising.

According to industry research, during the next 10 years, 45 percent of chief information officers (CIOs) in higher education will retire. But who will take their places? Many are not professionally ready for the top IT jobs, either because they lack mentors or fall short on advanced degrees. The author of that research is Excelsior's own Chief Information Officer Dr. Wayne Brown. Dr. Brown hopes to help close the knowledge gap that can hinder technology professionals from promotion to CIO by establishing a Center for Technology Leadership.

In his recent survey, Brown reported that 69 percent of technology professionals actually want to become CIOs. But, he notes, "The number one answer to the question, 'who is helping you to get ready for the job' was 'no one.'"

Says Brown, "Information technology is a relatively new field, and technology professionals have varied backgrounds. What they need most are leadership skills, excellent communication skills, and role models." CIOs from other institutions also see a strong need for professional development in this field, and some of them will be serving on the advisory board of this new Excelsior learning program.

The Center for Technology Leadership will provide leadership training, advising, and networking opportunities for aspiring and current higher education technology leaders. It will also offer consulting services for higher education technology position searches and technology department assessments. According to Brown, "One of the skills professionals need to move up is the ability to communicate effectively about technology with the people who use it."

“One of the skills professionals need to move up is the ability to communicate effectively about technology with the people who use it.”

—DR. WAYNE BROWN



In October 2010, the Center will conduct two different weeklong courses—**Technology Leadership: A Foundation for Aspiring Higher Education Chief Information Officers** and **Leadership and the Higher Education Chief Information Officer**. Both courses will be developed and taught by higher education CIOs.

At the conclusion of each course, participants will receive six hours of advising time from a higher education CIO affiliated with the program. The Center will also offer memberships with benefits including tuition discounts, access to higher education technology leadership research, a CIO salary survey, discounts on higher education consulting services, Webinars, and job advertisements. ■

Look for more information about the CTL on our Web site at www.excelsior.edu/ctl.

CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A New Career for One Military Spouse—Joy Glasco

When Joy Glasco's husband, U.S. Navy Sr. Chief Lavern Dion Glasco, was deployed on the USS Eisenhower in February 2009, Joy made the decision to temporarily leave their home in Virginia Beach and move back to Jacksonville, Florida, to be near her family. She also thought it might be the perfect time to pursue her goal of becoming a certified medical coder. Joy had always worked in health care as an administrator, but she was anxious to take courses to move into a new health care field. "I have always wanted to become a certified coder, and I looked at many schools—but the cost was too high and I couldn't spend a lot of time in a classroom because of work."

"I have always wanted to become a certified coder, and I looked at many schools—but the cost was too high and I couldn't spend a lot of time in a classroom..."

Affording a course and finding the right one to fit into her busy schedule was problematic until her husband emailed her some information about a new program for military spouses that could help pay for tuition. The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program enables spouses of active duty or reserve military to apply for up to \$6000 in financial assistance for education, training, and licensing or certification programs. For Joy, it was just the opportunity she needed. "My husband emailed me the information about the program and within a couple of days I was enrolled."

Joy registered for Excelsior College's Medical Billing and Coding online course through the Center for Professional Development. With open enrollment, students can begin their coursework as soon as they register and work at their own pace at a time and place convenient for them. The Medical Billing and Coding course



trains students as coders and also prepares them for the national Certified Coding Associate (CCA) examination. Joy was motivated to get through the 240-hour program. "I started in June 2009 and finished the course in December 2009."

When her husband returned home in fall 2009, he was surprised to see how far she had progressed toward completing the program. Now, with her husband again deployed (as of January 2010), Joy is working for the central billing office of a primary care facility and studying for the CCA certification exam, which she hopes to take in the next few months. What are her plans after that? "My goal, once I'm certified," says Joy, "is to one day have a small home business, helping physicians do their medical coding. I am also looking forward to taking another class in the health care field." ■

By Susan Kryczka, Executive Director,
Center for Professional Development

PLEASE NOTE: The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program has been temporarily halted for new accounts as of 2/16/10. Check the MilitaryOnesource.com for updates.

Joy
Glasco

Excelsior's 2010 NACADA Nominee—Deborah Hodge

Deborah Hodge, senior academic advisor in the School of Nursing, has been selected from another excellent group of nominees as the College's Outstanding Academic Advisor for 2010. Her nomination portfolio has been submitted to the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) for consideration for its Outstanding Academic Advisor Award. Highly respected by her colleagues, Deb is deeply committed to her students' success as evidenced by these sample student quotes:

“**Somehow just telling her thank you does not seem enough for all that she did to assist me. Please help me show her how much she means to the students of Excelsior. She is really the best.**” — Charles Blades, RN, BS nursing

“**Speaking with Ms. Hodge makes that personal connection with me ... Her efforts confirmed in my mind that Excelsior College definitely was the right choice for me to fulfill my educational needs.**” — Holly Mari Filer, RN

If you would like more information about the NACADA Awards, go to www.nacada.edu.



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



Representing Excelsior in Hong Kong

Excel's educational partner in Hong Kong, Consort Management Consultants Ltd, is working in partnership with the College to recruit students interested in earning a U.S. degree. Because of this relationship, we were able to have an employee from Consort represent us at a recent Career and Education Expo in Hong Kong—as part of a New York State initiative called “Study New York.”



Consort Management works with schools in the U.S. and U.K., representing a number of institutions of higher learning. Consort also develops and designs educational curriculum, assesses qualification standards, and takes on quality assurance projects.

The Career and Education Expo was well attended, and, according to our New York representative, many more prospective students learned about the educational opportunities available at Excelsior College. ■



Lt. Col. Howard Wildove (USAF ret.), a veterans business advisor at the Small Business Development Center in Albany, participated in Excelsior's first Veterans Open House, counseling vets seeking to start their own businesses.



College To Host Second Veteran/Military Open House

Due to the great success of Excelsior's first Veteran/Military open house last fall, a second one is scheduled for May 19 at the College in Albany, New York.

Veterans and members of the military and their families and friends are invited to visit. Bring your military and civilian transcripts and receive one free preliminary transcript evaluation. Resumes will also be critiqued for free by our Career Center representatives. You can speak with staff from Excelsior's Center for Military Education Office, academic advisors from the Schools of Liberal Arts, Business & Technology, Nursing, and Health Sciences, our Center for Professional Development, and the Center for Educational Measurement (Excelsior College® Examinations).

You'll find answers to questions regarding federal and state financial aid, tuition and fees, VA and Post-9/11 GI Bill, and scholarships. You'll learn about the EC student experience by speaking with our alumni. And you will discover more about how Excelsior helps busy working adults earn degrees with flexible distance education programs while maximizing their credit from military training.

Come join us—find out how close you are to completing your degree.

Wednesday, May 19

10:00 am – 12 noon and 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Here's what one guest and veteran Vicky Tillman (AS '87) wrote to Director of Veterans Affairs Judy Reed:

I just wanted to drop a note and say thank you for hosting the Open House for veterans and military members. I worked with Krim Berard and she was very thorough and knowledgeable. She covered so many items in such a short time in a very professional and personable manner. I asked a lot of questions, all of which she had the answers to (or went to find out), and she even had answers to questions I didn't even know I had!

It was a great experience and I wanted you and your staff to know. If you should ever host another workshop, I will certainly recommend it to everyone I know.

We hope to see you on May 19. For more information, contact Judy Reed at jreed@excelsior.edu.

PARTNERING WITH EXCELSIOR COLLEGE

Over the last six months, the business development team has formed a number of important educational partnerships including one with The Kroger Company. Headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, Kroger employs more than 300,000 people in 2,481 grocery retail stores in 31 states, 771 convenience stores in 15 states, and 385 fine jewelry stores. We welcome these future students and graduates!



Since its inception in 2006, the business development team has built and expanded educational partnerships with nearly 40 corporations, companies, and associations. There are a great many benefits to business/education partnerships, particularly in terms of recruitment and retention of employees. Student-employees can finish their degrees through a variety of affordable distance learning options such as Excelsior College courses and examinations. Additionally, the College is often able to award college-level credit for corporate training programs.

To find out more about partnering with Excelsior College, contact the Corporate Relations Office via email at corporate@excelsior.edu or call toll free 800-896-1632.

Other recent partnerships include:

Albany Medical Center
Albany, New York

A.O. Fox Hospital
Oneonta, New York

Bassett Healthcare
Cooperstown, New York

**Lockheed Martin
Systems Integration**
Owego, New York

**Shands Lake Shore
Hospital**
Lake City, Florida

J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc.
Lowell, Arkansas

**American Counseling
Association**
Alexandria, Virginia

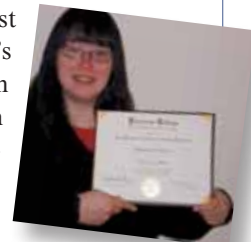
**Professional Law
Enforcement
Association (PLEA)**
Troy, Michigan

**Public Service Enterprise
Group Nuclear (PSEG)**
Lower Alloways Creek,
New Jersey



First Graduate! Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education

The School of Nursing's first graduate of the Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education is Ms. Charlotte Crawford. An associate director and care management developer in Batavia, New York, Ms. Crawford was the certificate's first official student when she enrolled. She completed her program just over a year later.




Crawford's long-term goal is to assist in the education of individuals wishing to enter the nursing profession. She recognizes that there is an increased aging population for both health care providers and the general population. And this, in turn, increases the need for properly prepared health care professionals.

In talking about her experience with the College, Crawford explained that the program actually exceeded her expectations. She found the online format easy to use, and she enjoyed doing her own research and then sharing information with fellow students. Crawford also spoke very highly of her course instructors and their responsiveness.

Charlotte Crawford believes the Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education helped her to develop her own classes, gave her a better understanding of the education process, and made her more aware of the resources available to her.

We wish her success as she assists in educating a new generation of nurses and caregivers.



Do you want to explore new career options? Increase your employability? Create your own destiny?

WELCOME TO YOUR New Career Center

CAREER CORNER

by Maribeth Gunner Pulliam, MS Ed

Excelstior Career Center Services are designed to empower students and alumni to better evaluate, develop, and implement targeted career decisions that are consistent with occupational and life goals. We are committed to meeting the needs of diverse populations by providing resources and services that will help you determine your best academic and career paths for advancement.

Today, workplace changes are a constant. Due to increased technology, new jobs are created every year. For some occupational fields, there are jobs that don't even exist yet. Many current jobs may be reconfigured or become obsolete. Statistics show that most people will have an average of five to eight jobs and three different careers in their lifetime. You can best prepare for these changes by increasing your awareness and taking advantage of resources that can help you promote your career.

The New Career Center features centralized services for enrolled students, alumni, and future students. Other highlights include expanded career resources, improved navigation, and easier access to career information. There is also a new guided assessment tool that helps to align your skills and interests with the Excelsior degree path and future career that best fits you.

Whether you're beginning, changing, or developing your career—we can help!

Check Out the Wide Array of Topics, Resources, and Services at the Career Center:

- **Self-Assessment:** Examine what you truly value in the workplace and find the best career fit. Use career self-assessment tools to uncover your sharpest skills and strongest interests.
- **Career Exploration:** Map out your future career plan. Investigate more about career fields, job outlooks, and employment trends. Identify new possibilities, or confirm that you are on the right path.
- **Job Search Tools and Techniques:** Revitalize your resume and prepare for all types of interviews. Find job leads. Research professional associations and develop your career network.
- **Graduate School Information:** Find a graduate program that meets your needs. Learn more about Excelsior's graduate programs.
- **Degree-Specific Resources:** Whether you are pursuing a degree in the School of Nursing, Liberal Arts, Health Sciences, or Business & Technology, there are job resources that target your niche. There's something for everyone!
- **Military Transition Job Resources:** Learn the advantages that military and veteran job seekers have. Check out career resources that assist all branches of the service.
- **Diverse Population Resources:** Find the job resources that support the contributions of all diverse groups.

- **Career Articles:** Brief and informative, these articles will enhance your career awareness. Print and share!
- **Career Counseling:** Make an appointment to discuss your thoughts and ideas with a professional career counselor.
- **Resume Critique Service:** Receive a professional resume review for a nominal fee. Turn your resume into an invitation for an interview!
- **Web Chats and Archived Web Conferences:** Live Web chats offer valuable information on current career topics throughout the year. Interact with other students and alumni. You can access upcoming and archived Web chats via the Career Center homepage. Sign up!

Stay On Top of the Learning Curve — Steer Your Career!

When you think about how much of your life is spent working, it's important to take the time now to address your future goals, research your interests, and develop a career plan that will bring you satisfaction and success in the work you choose.

Visit the Career Center at:

www.excelsior.edu/Career

Questions or comments? Email Maribeth Gunner Pulliam, MS Ed, Career Services Coordinator at careerinfo@excelsior.edu, Office of Online Education and Learning Services.

Q&A

Advice From Your Advisors

One of the roles of academic advisors is responding to and even anticipating students' questions. Students who have a thorough understanding of the College's resources, policies, and services are better prepared to handle their academic challenges.

Below are sample questions and answers we hope will be helpful throughout your journey at Excelsior.



Q: Why is it important for me to review my initial Status Report (SR) and Academic Evaluation Summary (AES) without delay?

A: You have 30 days from the date of your initial evaluation to make any changes to your academic record.

- Your academic advisor selects the most appropriate courses and exams, based on grades and degree applicability, for your initial review. These will appear on your official Excelsior College transcript.
- Any discrepancies or questions about excess credit should be addressed during this 30-day period.

Q: What should I have in front of me when calling my academic advisor?

A: You should have the following:

- your most recent SR and AES, both of which can be located on your MyEC page,
- a list of Excelsior course(s) or exams(s) you wish to take,
- information about courses you are considering taking from other colleges or universities including specific course titles, numbers, and the name/location of the institution,
- specific questions related to your academic progress.

Q: How will I know which courses or exams apply to my degree?

A: Use the MySearch feature to locate courses and exams, both at Excelsior and at other institutions.

Course overviews are available through MySearch to assist with degree applicability, academic level, and any prerequisites. Direct any questions prior to obtaining official course approval to your advising team through Message Center, email, or by phone. Course approvals are valid for 6 months and are based on the information we have at the time of your request(s). It is important that all official transcripts or other relevant documentation is submitted prior to course approval to ensure degree applicability.

You can also research choices for future courses or exams by looking through your academic catalog and the *Student Guide to Credit by Examination at Excelsior College*.

Q: What are the differences between CD-ROM and online courses?

A: CD-ROM courses:

- are well-suited for independent learners and those without Web access,
- provide flexibility for submission of exams and assignments via email, fax, or mail,
- have open book examinations with no proctor necessary, and

- allow coordination with your instructor to potentially complete the course prior to the term's end.

Online courses:

- are virtual classrooms accessible from MyEC, complete with substantive student-faculty interaction,
- require weekly discussion board postings,
- contain weekly modules paced over the full term, which cannot be completed early,
- are asynchronous,
- and use multiple assessments and timed examinations taken online.

Q: I'm getting close to degree completion. What do I need to do?

A: Your advisor will automatically process you for graduation upon receipt of your final transcript.

It usually takes about two months between receipt of your final transcript and your conferral. Conferrals are held monthly; you can view our Processing Parameters for Graduation on MyEC. If necessary, you may request a Letter of Qualification (LOQ) from the Office of Registration and Records verifying your degree completion status. ■

By the *Live & Learn* Advisor Group: Martha Garing, Rachel Stolicky, Gale Deegan, and Michael Moran

Evaluating Information: Easy Tips



Here are some of the evaluation criteria to keep in mind:

- What am I trying to find out? What question am I trying to answer?
- Do I need the most current information? Or am I researching from an historical perspective?
- What is the most reliable and trustworthy source for the information I seek?
- Do I have recommendations from people I know and trust such as colleagues, friends, family, or other professionals in my field of inquiry?
- Is the source a known name in the industry—a reference or resource used by other professionals?
- Does the author provide an objective or subjective viewpoint?
- What are the legal ways of using this information? Is it copyrighted?

Contact your EC librarians toll free at 877-247-3097 or email library@excelsior.edu. You can also check out our online tutorials at www.excelsior.edu/librarytutorials and scroll down to the Evaluating Information link.

Evaluating information is important in every aspect of our lives. We evaluate resources for research papers in school, work-related information while on the job, and personal questions at home. In order to synthesize information and determine the best approach to take, it's good to remember that information comes to us in many ways and formats.

Of course, there are physical books that you check out at your local library or buy at a bookstore, online resources from research databases with journal articles and newspapers, general magazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek*, etc. But that's just scratching the surface. Information is in a constant state of flux, so it's important to be a savvy researcher. Be aware of new ways of communicating and obtaining information, too, such as blogs, tweets, audio/video files, and social networking Web sites. Keeping all of these types of formats in mind will help you narrow down your search to best meet your needs.

Following are just a few of the questions you might ask yourself as you sift through the wealth of information available through the Excelsior College Library, your own local public library, online resources—and everything in between!

One last tip is a reminder that you're only a phone call or email away from information professionals who are always ready and happy to help guide you.

By the Excelsior College Librarians

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

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

Conferral Date	Deadline for receipt of transcripts/ official documents for initial evaluation	Deadline for receipt of transcripts/ official documents for updated evaluation	CPNE Completion Cut-off (Nursing only)	Final Changes
May 21, 2010	Mar 12	Mar 26	Apr 2	May 7
June 18, 2010	Apr 9	Apr 23	Apr 30	Jun 4
COMMENCEMENT JULY 9, 2010				
July 16, 2010	May 7	May 21	May 28	July 2
August 20, 2010	June 11	June 25	July 2	Aug 6
September 17, 2010	July 9	July 23	July 30	Sept 3
October 15, 2010	Aug 6	Aug 20	Aug 27	Oct 1

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

Living & Giving

Helping Bring Health Care to Those Who Need It
ROGER UNGER BSL '87



One of the challenges of life on the North Dakotan frontier is the limited number of health care facilities. Roger Unger knows this from experience—he provides critical access to health care services as the CEO of Linton Hospital and its three clinics. A nonprofit, community governed and supported health care organization, Linton Hospital provides a full range of primary, preventative, and diagnostic health care services to promote community wellness.

Because scarcity of resources is an all too familiar concept in Unger's experience, he has also taken an important step to ensure lasting support for his alma mater—with his contribution to the College's Legacy Society. It was Excelsior (then Regents) College that provided him the option of earning a degree, consolidating accumulated credit earned during his military career as an Air Force Corpsman. "There were very few options to earn a degree available to me outside of a traditional campus-based program. With Excelsior, I was able to earn my degree, and I quickly became the director of nursing at the hospital where I was employed. After that, I earned my master's and moved up to hospital administration."

Unger then joined the North Dakota Department of Health, where he was responsible for licensing and certifying hospitals and nursing homes. Following 15 years with the state, he left to run the hospital in Linton. Unger also sits on the board of directors of the North Dakota Healthcare Association.

“Receiving my bachelor's degree from the College led me to a master's degree and started me on the path to a comfortable living—one which I've enjoyed for the past 40 years.”

“Receiving my bachelor's degree led me to a master's degree and started me on the path to a comfortable living—one which I've enjoyed for the past 40 years,” says Unger. Those years have taken him, his wife, and three children, from Wisconsin to Michigan and then to North Dakota. “Unfortunately,” he regrets, “none of my children chose a health care career. It's too bad, because the demand is so great.”

Unger is helping to meet the need for qualified health care providers by including Excelsior College in his estate plans. As a member of the Legacy Society, he has taken the steps to secure the future of other students just like him, and we thank him. ■

To find out more about Excelsior's Legacy Society, contact Marcy Stryker at 518-464-8543 or email mstryker@excelsior.edu.



THANK YOU HSBC!

For the fifth straight year, HSBC Bank provided scholarship funds for students with financial barriers.

HSBC VP and Branch Manager Katrina Schweigard presents a \$10,000 check to President John Ebersole. Also pictured (l to r) are VP for Institutional Advancement Cathy Kushner, HSBC Assistant VP and Business Relationship Manager Michael Quaranta, HSBC Trainee Nicholas King, and Assistant VP for Enrollment Management Tom Dalton.



Access to the Excelsior College Alumni Library Extended !

By popular demand, the Alumni Library Project has been extended through August 2011. All alumni are invited to sign up for free, 24-hour access to the Excelsior College Alumni Library.

Your use of the library, along with the feedback you provide, will help determine the continued development and success of this service.

Registration is necessary to access the library. All interested alumni can sign up by doing the following:

- Go to your My Profile page at www.excelsior.edu/myprofile (log in with your MyEC username and password) and click "yes" to the library option to add library access.
- Then go directly to the Alumni Library at www.excelsior.edu/alumnilibrary and start exploring!

MyEC

Don't Miss Out! Stay Connected.

Excelsior is expanding its alumni Web site and online services. Update your contact information online today through MyEC.

Go to www.excelsior.edu/myec and create a MyEC user account.

Nominate YOURSELF!

The Excelsior College Alumni Association offers an opportunity for graduates to nominate themselves for one of its annual alumni awards. This honor gives recognition to outstanding graduates whose achievements inspire fellow graduates and students.

For more information and a self-nomination form, please visit www.excelsior.edu/alumniawards.

Excelsior College to Publish 2010 Alumni Book

We are pleased to announce that work has begun on the first edition of *Excelsior College Alumni Today*, which will celebrate the College's 40th anniversary. Scheduled for release in September, this beautiful limited edition volume will be the most complete and up-to-date reference for more than 135,000 alumni worldwide. It will also feature photos and essays submitted by alumni. We need your help!

Working in partnership with Harris Connect, the leading alumni directory publisher, EC alumni will be receiving communications inviting you to update and verify your profile for inclusion in the book. The directory will be sorted into three easy-to-use sections, and to make networking easy with other alumni, it will include residence and business information as well as email addresses.

When contacted, please take a few moments to verify that we have complete and accurate information. The new 2010 *Excelsior College Alumni Today* promises to be an entertaining and comprehensive coffee table book bound into a classic, library-quality edition. ■



and we hope you will *take advantage of the many benefits and services we offer you!*

CAREER WEB CHATS AND CONFERENCES

Interact with career professionals and obtain valuable information and resources. Ask questions—and get answers. Meet and chat with students and alumni while expanding your personal and professional networks.

Resumé Makeover: How to Write a Dynamic Resumé JUNE 2, 2010, 8–9 PM ET

You seldom get a second chance to make a first impression. In today's competitive job market, your resume is often your first impression. Have you been applying for multiple jobs yet received little or no response to your resume? Are you having trouble getting invited to interviews? If that's the case, our "resumé makeover" Web chat will help you in creating a positive first impression aimed at getting an employer's attention.

Whether you have a resume that needs a makeover, or if you're new to the world of resumes, this Web chat will provide you with the information, knowledge, and strategies to increase your chances of success in the job market. Join us for an interesting and interactive discussion about how to write a dynamic resume—and learn how to truly make your first impression a lasting one!

You're Hired: Acing the Job Interview SEPTEMBER 22, 2010, 8–9 PM ET

Are you getting job interviews, but not the job? Are you not sure how to successfully navigate the sometimes difficult terrain of an interview? Haven't interviewed in awhile and need to sharpen your skills? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, this Web chat is designed specifically for you.

Join us for an interesting and engaging presentation and chat on the latest interviewing techniques. You'll learn about the different types of interviews—and why they're different; how to prepare for an interview and develop confidence; how to respond to behavioral interviewing strategies; how to properly close an interview; the art of the follow-up; key interviewing dos and don'ts; and much, much more. So play your cards right and join us for this Web chat—you just may ace your next interview!

Registering for any (or all!) of these career 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. ■

COMING SOON ONLINE

Alumni Speaker Series

The Excelsior College Alumni Speaker Series will be launched on May 25, 2010, with an informative presentation from Alumni Advisory Board member, Dr. Wayne A. Oppel. The topic will be "The Changing Face of Leadership."

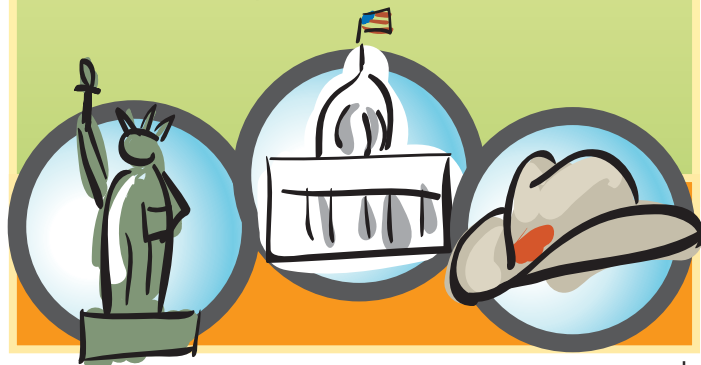
Through this series of Web chats, EC alumni will be exposed to the collective wisdom and accomplishments of our graduates and other distinguished friends. Facilitators will share their knowledge and experiences as experts and professionals, best practices they employ, and the great value of an Excelsior College degree.

Stay tuned! Visit www.excelsior.edu/alumni for updates.



Excelsior College is Coming Your Way!

We've already made visits to Buffalo, NY, San Francisco, CA, and, most recently, Atlanta, GA. In fact, our Atlanta reception in January had a record turnout! In the near future, we plan to visit New York, NY, Washington DC, and Fort Hood, TX. We are on our way and look forward to meeting you! Visit www.excelsior.edu/alumni for updates.



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 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.

TRAVEL IN STYLE

Let us send you a free luggage tag. Simply mail your business card to the Office of Alumni Affairs, 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203 and we will mail you a coated tag made from your card.



Feeling Social?

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

Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace, Twitter, YouTube



www.excelsior.edu/community

Show Your TEAM SPIRIT!

Please support this year's Annual Campaign. Every dollar raised helps Team Excelsior thrive.

Your gift to the College

- levels the playing field for students in need;
- outfits our team with vital equipment;
- provides training with cutting-edge courses, new exams, tutoring, and more.

www.excelsior.edu/giving



Don't just sit in the stands. **Become an MVP today.**

HATS OFF!

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

CALIFORNIA

Lana L. Lynn, BS in nursing '82, Salinas—has been involved in humanitarian relief in various parts of the world including service with Doctors Without Borders in Somalia and Afghanistan. She has also served as a trainer for the military regarding humanitarian and nongovernmental work in various countries.

Vernon E. Mortensen, BSL '04 and AAS '04, Descanso—is the producer/director of the new series, "Universal Dead," starring DB Sweeney, Doug Jones, Gary Graham, and Cade Courtney. Mr. Mortensen is also the co-executive producer of "Chamaco," a gritty Mexican boxing drama starring Martin Sheen and Michael Madsen, which is expected in theaters this spring. A veteran of the special operation community, he retired from the Navy SWCC in 2008.

Michael J. Spradley, AS '98 and BSL '00, San Diego—is a food critic and observer of San Diego restaurants. His column, "Spradley on Restaurants," appears in *The Espresso: An Independent Newspaper for Cafe Society*. Spradley writes that his goal is to end childhood hunger in the County of San Diego.



FLORIDA

Jennifer Lamothe, AAS in nursing '10, Miami—left for Haiti the day after completing her degree to help care for those left maimed and homeless after the deadly earthquake. With the support of her husband and three children, she made her decision to go and help in whatever way she could.

Ms. Lamothe's trip was arranged by the University of Miami's Project Medishare, and she traveled on behalf of The Children of Haiti Enhancement Foundation, an organization founded by her own mother 15 years ago to promote education and provide basic needs to Haitian children.



CALIFORNIA

George L. Conley Jr., BSL '07, San Diego—earned a Master of Arts in Management from National University in San Diego in 2010. An active duty Naval Officer who was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Four in Jan. 2009, he is currently the weapons officer at Naval Special Warfare Center in Coronado, CA.

CONNECTICUT

Heather A. Alfonso, AS in nursing '97 and BSL '06, Middlebury—has passed the ANCC Clinical Nurse Specialist exam after obtaining her master's degree in nursing. She has also authored two articles for AWHONN's journal, *Nursing for Women's Health* and the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. She is the interim president of the Bridgeport, CT, chapter of the TruthAboutNursing.org, a nursing advocacy group addressing media portrayal of nursing.

FLORIDA

Brook J. Ford, BSL '96, Orlando—has joined Encelium Technologies of Teaneck, NJ, a leading international manufacturer and supplier of addressable lighting controls for commercial buildings, as director of sales of the Southeast. Ford spent ten years as an Infantry Officer in the U.S. Army, serving with the 19th Special Forces Group, the 101st Airborne Division, 4th Infantry Division and 40th Infantry Division.

Daniel C. Williams, BS '05, Tarron Springs—was accepted in Aug. 2009 into Strayer University's Master of Science in Information Systems—Software Engineering Management program. He hopes to graduate in early 2011.

GEORGIA

Richard E. Verbeke, AAS '02 and BS '05, Saint Mary's—will assume command as Trident Refit Facility's 11th commanding officer when he officially relieves Captain John A. Stewart during a Change of Command ceremony scheduled for October 2010 at TRF's Dry Dock Facility.

MARYLAND

Raymond W. Simms, BS in nursing '08, Bowie—writes, "Obtaining a degree from Excelsior College paved the way for career advancement." Prior to completing his degree, the highest position he had obtained was assis-



NEW YORK

Marianne Sciucco, AAS in nursing '97, Middletown—is an RN, Certified Case Manager. She is also a writer with a BA in English from UMass—Boston. Her short story, "Ino's Love," was published in the 2009 issue of *Kaleidoscope Magazine*, Issue 59—Giving and Receiving Care—A Delicate Balance. Published by United Disability Services of Akron, OH, the award-winning *Kaleidoscope* expresses the experiences of disability from the perspective of individuals, families, health care professionals, and society as a whole. "Ino's Love" is the story of an elderly woman sharing Christmas dinner with her home health aide. Ms. Sciucco believes that nurses have a responsibility and the privilege to share what they learn about the human condition. Writing fiction is one way she has learned to pass on the knowledge and insight she has gained from working in health care.

In 2008, the Canadian literary journal, *Inscribed: A Magazine for Writers*, published another of her stories, "ICE." And in 2007, her story "Collection" won an award of High Distinction in the Tom Howard/John H. Reid Short Story contest sponsored by Tom Howard Books. Sciucco is currently seeking publication for her novel, *Blue Hydrangeas*, the story of an elderly couple struggling with Alzheimer's disease.

tant nurse manager. After completing his degree, Simms was accepted into a management position at a government health care institution, where he is still employed today.

NEW YORK

Takis Dikas, BSL '98, Albany—is employed by the Comptroller's Office for New York State, working with the Unclaimed Funds Unit and with the Department of Taxation and Finance. He has written two novels. The first is titled *Prosperous Twenties With An Unnecessary Depression*. His second book is *Abundant Life*, which covers the topics of financial prosperity, healthy life styles, and spiritual growth.



ILLINOIS

SMSgt Mike Sanders, BS '98, Scott AFB—has served in the U.S. Air Force for more than 20 years. He was promoted in 2009 to Senior Master Sergeant. Prior to this, he was a Knowledge Operations Manager for the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center's Current Operations Directorate. Last fall, MSgt Sanders celebrated his first re-enlistment following a yearlong bout with cancer. He held his re-enlistment ceremony among friends and medical staff who helped him through the cancer treatment and recovery process. Sanders has written and published many articles including a three-part series on his battle with cancer. Just recently, he was named the Scott Air Force Base Athlete of the Year for 2009. He is a long-time marathon runner and says it helps him stay healthy and in shape.





FLORIDA

Command Master Chief Timothy Zernick BSL '06, Pace—has completed his assignment as the eighth Special Enlisted Advisor to DANTES and is being reassigned to Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington DC, effective July 2010. In his new assignment, CMC Zernick will serve as Rating Training Master Chief for Education Branch of the Force Readiness Command. His new duties will include oversight of enlisted professional military and rating training and USMAP coordination.

As the first Coast Guardian to serve as the DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor, he advised the director of DANTES on voluntary education issues affecting

uniformed servicemembers of all branches, developed and presented briefings, managed special projects, and conducted visits and outreach to DoD-wide military installations.

CMC Zernick graduated from Coast Guard recruit training in 1983 and completed advanced Marine Science Technician training with honors in 1985. He has served in a variety of field and administrative leadership positions during his career. His personal decorations include the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with gold star and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal.

In addition to his Excelsior College degree, CMC Zernick is a Certified Career Development Facilitator and holds certification to teach elementary and middle school science in the State of New Jersey. He is currently pursuing his Certificate in Instructional Technology from San Diego State University and says, "My bachelor's degree from Excelsior College was a huge stepping stone in my career. It was a critical factor toward having the necessary credentials for my DANTES Senior Enlisted Advisor appointment, earning a teaching certificate, and acceptance into grad school."

NORTH CAROLINA

Janet L. Lewis, BS '96, Raleigh-Durham—has 16 years of freelance experience in educational publishing as a writer, editor, and managing editor. She is currently working on educational materials for mathematics, chemistry, biology, social studies, language arts, and English literature textbooks.



TEXAS

Col. Michael E. Champion, BSL '83 and AAS in nursing '06—was promoted to colonel in the Texas State Guard in Nov. 2009. Col. Champion has also achieved a master's in education from Boston University, a master's in Medical Science from St. Francis University, and a doctorate in Health Science from Nova Southeastern.

OHIO

Ronald L. DeBlanc, AS '97, BSL '99, AAS, '03, Fairborn—earned a master's degree in psychology from Northcentral University in 2009. Mr. DeBlanc also holds a baccalaureate degree in theology from New Testament Christian College and is an ordained minister and local pastor as well as an Ohio State Board Professional Chemical Dependency Counselor.

TEXAS

Patricia L. Harps, AS '89, El Paso—completed her master's degree in nursing from the University of Phoenix in 2004. In 2008, she earned her Post Master's Certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She is the primary care provider for more than 1,000 patients at La Clinica Guadalupe, a not-for-profit health care facility. Ms. Harps served in the U.S. Army for 13½ years, starting as a medic. She plans to pursue a doctoral degree in nursing and writes, "Thanks Excelsior College—for giving me a great start!"

Jose A. Torres, BSL '07, Frisco—completed a Master of Science in Strategic Leadership at Mountain State University and is currently working on a doctorate in business administration, specializing in International Business. He recently submitted a article that has been approved for publication in *The Business Review*, Cambridge, Vol. 14, summer 2010, titled "Understanding the Influence and Approaches to Effective Chinese Negotiations."

VERMONT

Regina L. Christianson, BAL '82, Stowe—was one of seven newly matriculated students at the Episcopal Divinity School, a respected center of study and spiritual formation for lay and ordained leaders with a strong commitment to justice, compassion, and reconciliation. Rev. Christianson is in the Diocese of Vermont and is currently enrolled in the doctor of ministry program. The new students represent the Episcopal, Baptist, and Metropolitan Community Churches.

VIRGINIA

Samuel T. Watkins Jr., BSL '99, Virginia Beach—is a recipient of the American Police Hall of Fame & Museum Life Saving Award. He was honored in recognition of his unselfish actions during an emergency situation, which resulted in the saving of a human life.

Charles Henry Wetzel, AA '09, Fairfax—is enrolled again at Excelsior College, working on his baccalaureate degree. He currently teaches English as a second language in Taiwan and credits his success to Excelsior.

WASHINGTON

Matthew P. McCally, BA '90, Renton—was a featured speaker at the biennial International Reform Conference in Albuquerque, NM, put on by The Drug Policy Alliance, a public interest group committed to reducing the harms associated with both drug abuse and the war on drugs. Mr. McCally is a Law Enforcement Against Prohibition representative and a former probation officer whose panel, "Policing Drug Markets," included the renowned sociologist Harry Levine and the long-time executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, Ira Glasser.



VIRGINIA

Dr. Gregory V. Fant, BSL '90, Reston—a federal civil servant, was promoted to a Supervisory Health Scientist with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Rockville, MD, in 2008. He earned professional recognition from the Statistical Society of Australia with the award of Accredited Statistician in 2009. Dr. Fant graduated with his second master's degree, a Master of Science in Health Science with a concentration in public health, *summa cum laude* from Touro University International in 2009. He is currently preparing an article on tertiary breast cancer prevention activities in public health cancer prevention plans.



MARYLAND

Edward M. Forsythe III, BSL '01, Ft. Meade—will retire this year, from the Navy after 21 years of service as a Russian linguist. He then plans to move to Japan to be an English professor at a University in northern Japan. Mr. Forsythe writes, "My degree from Excelsior started me on a very interesting journey."



VIRGINIA

Tia Stewart, BSL '97, Richmond—writes in several genres, but poetry is her passion. She is an RN, who attended Northwestern University and is an alumnus of Norfolk State University and Excelsior College. Ms. Stewart also attended the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University for one year before becoming a full-time mother. She is a member of James River Writers. Her third book is a poetry-novel, *Colors of Man: Tribute to African-American Men*, due out in spring. Her first publication, *Colors of a Man: Transgressions and Hope* was published in 2009 as an ebook on Amazon.



Alumna Inducted into Hall of Distinction



Excelsior President John F. Ebersole presents the clcu award to Dr. Mary Maida.

developed by and within the medical research community. She is also expanding the availability of jobs in the Rochester, New York, area.

Dr. Maida's enthusiasm for Excelsior College is manifested in her participation in the Excelsior College President's Advisory Council and her willingness to help wherever needed. "One of the wonderful aspects of Dr. Maida's commitment," notes Vice President for Institutional Advancement Cathy Kushner, "is that she brings her incredible family with her."

Dr. Maida's husband, Dr. David Felten, is not an

Excelsior graduate, but he shares her belief in the College and its students. Her mother, Mary, has been known to ask for contributions to the College in place of birthday gifts, and the family very generously supports the Summo Scholarship Fund, established by Dr. Maida to honor her mother and her deceased father, both of whom "instilled a love of learning and academic accomplishment" for her and her five siblings.

New York's Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu) offers member institutions the opportunity to include New York alumni in its Hall of Distinction. This year, the inductees reflected economic development role models—individuals who work to grow business in New York State.

Dr. Mary Maida, CEO of the Medingen Group, chair and CEO of Clerisy Corp, and two-time Excelsior graduate was the College's inductee. By founding both Medingen and Clerisy Corp, Dr. Maida is working to create broad availability of products



Dr. Mary Maida and her mother, Mary, joined Excelsior staff and faculty at a reception in Dr. Maida's honor prior to the clcu event.

Tell us about all the great things you've been doing! HATS OFF SPECIAL EDITION

Excelsior College's 40th year is about to begin!

If you have ever wanted to share news of your accomplishments with your alma mater—
now is the time.

We want to hear from you, our graduates, for the upcoming Hats Off Special Edition.

- Tell us about all the great things you're doing
- Update your contact information
- Attach pictures electronically

Just fill out the Hats Off form at the Excelsior Web site:

www.excelsior.edu/hatsoff





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COME TO COMMENCEMENT!



Join us on July 9, 2010 to Celebrate Your Achievement.

An Excelsior College Commencement is an amazing event to attend,
and the Capital Region of New York State is a great place to visit.

2010 keynote speaker: Under Secretary of Education Martha J. Kanter

WWW.EXCELSIOR.EDU/COMMENCEMENT

