

LIVE & LEARN

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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 Cathy Kushner, *Vice President*

2011–2012 HOLIDAYS

(College closed)

November 11

Veteran's Day (observed)

November 24 & 25

Thanksgiving Day & Day After

December 26

Christmas Day (observed)

January 2

New Year's Day (observed)

January 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 20

President's Day

May 28

Memorial Day

July 4

Independence Day

July 13

Commencement

Your questions and comments regarding *Live & Learn* are welcome. Please direct them to the Publications Office: 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, New York 12203-5159 email: pubteam@excelsior.edu

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FORTY



“On a personal level, hitting the 40-year mark might spell a midlife crisis, but for Excelsior, it means we’re just beginning to hit our stride. While the College was a unique idea 40 years ago, it remains a trailblazer, an innovator, a fulfiller of dreams.”

AND PROUD!



By Dana Yanulavich

Every Commencement at Excelsior College is special—a chance for students to celebrate their accomplishments, supported by their families, friends and the College’s faculty, staff, and trustees. But Commencement 2011 had the distinction of marking Excelsior’s 40th year of serving adult learners. In recognition of this milestone, the 2011 Commencement included several special events and featured honored guests to mark the occasion.

“On a personal level, hitting the 40-year mark might spell a midlife crisis,” observed President John Ebersole **A** as he addressed the convocation. “But for Excelsior, it means we’re just beginning to hit our stride.” He proudly added, “While the College was a unique idea 40 years ago, it remains a trailblazer, an innovator, a fulfiller of dreams.”

With smiles on their faces and pride in their hearts, more than 300 students marched into the Empire State Plaza Convention Hall to the strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” at the Albany, New York event. In welcoming the graduates, Ebersole noted that the College was founded four decades ago on a somewhat novel proposal—that degrees be awarded to those able to demonstrate knowledge, regardless of how they prepared themselves.



He observed, “From that still radical idea, a great institution has grown and flourished. We stand before you today, 40 years later, and more than 140,000 graduates strong!”

Representative of the College’s many graduates was student speaker Megan Wilcox **B**. The 2011 associate in science in nursing grad took advantage of an open door and combined hard work and perseverance to complete her degree with the help of a very special study buddy, her three-year-old daughter. In particular, she acknowledged the support she received from the College’s faculty and staff in helping her to succeed. “I tell everyone I know all about my excellent experience with this College,” she told the assembly. “The option to learn in a nontraditional way is so valuable because it does open up the doors that are otherwise closed for many of us. We are here now because we are hard workers, self-starters, and dedicated! These are all qualities that will help us forge through life with great success!”

Keynote speaker Tom Joyner **C** added an upbeat and somewhat offbeat address to the graduates. A national syndicated radio host, entrepreneur, entertainer, and philanthropist, Joyner acknowledged the paths graduates had taken to get their degrees. “You have proven that there is no limit to learning,” he asserted. And in a nod to Excelsior’s unique education model, he added, “All that matters is that you took the steps necessary to be here today and [you should be thankful] that this option was available to you. So applaud yourselves for thinking outside of the box and finding a way to keep circumstances from blacking out your dreams and goals.”

To the delight of the attending graduates, Joyner handed out a tangible token in recognition of the increased earning potential a college degree provides. “People want to know, ‘When are you



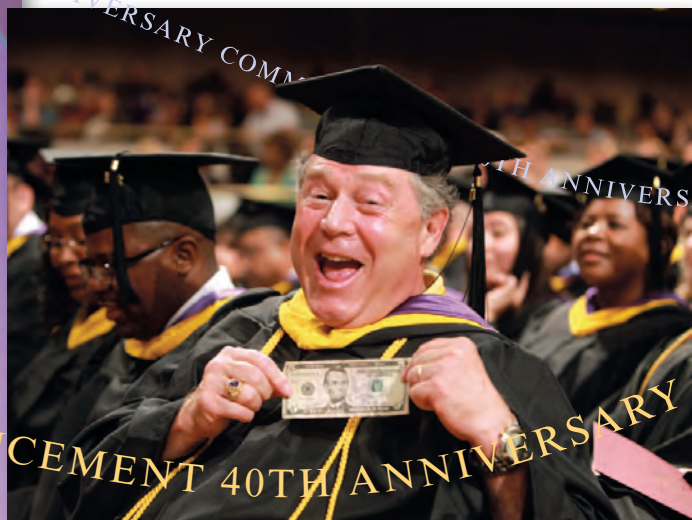
going to make some more money?” he joked. “I understand that. And that is why for the hundreds that are here today, when you walk across this stage, I’m going to give you \$5!”

After the degrees were formally conferred, Joyner joined Provost Dana Offerman, President Ebersole, and Chair Richard Yep in a receiving line, where he indeed offered each graduate a \$5 bill. However, in a heartfelt groundswell of support, more than 20 percent of the grads

turned over their \$5, directing that the money be used for scholarship support to Excelsior students. Graduates in part, may have responded to Yep, chair of the Board of Trustees, who called on them to take on the role of “somebody.” He said, “You know the power of education or you wouldn’t be sitting here today. I am asking that you take on the role that others in your life took on for you. Be proud of what you have achieved, let others know about the road you took, give them encouragement to seek a degree.”

Receiving honorary degrees during the ceremony were two individuals who helped lay the foundation of the College. Dr. Robert E. Kinsinger **E** and Dr. Carrie B. Lenburg **D** were both instrumental in the College’s formative years and were recognized for their contributions with honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees. (See “Founders Reflect on Excelsior’s Early Years,” p.6.)

Not only were the College founders made to feel special during the ceremony, but the many new grads added to the rank of alumni were celebrated with great enthusiasm. “In all my years of



attending commencement ceremonies for high schools and colleges (and in my work, I attend a lot), I must say that I have never enjoyed myself more,” offered Donald Somerville of Dobbs Ferry, New York, who earned a bachelor of science in liberal studies degree. “And that was not just because it was my commencement. From the moment my family and I walked in the convention center, the staff made us feel special, wanted, important and accomplished. The speakers were great and the nurturing that I have experiencing many times on the phone via advisors was translated into everything that I touched. Thank you so much for making this an experience I will never forget.”

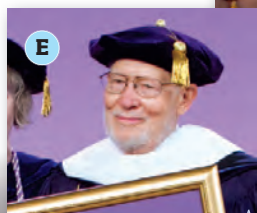
At the conclusion of the ceremony, fellow graduate and national gospel recording artist, Kevin P. Myles, who earned a bachelor of science in liberal studies, led the convocation in the singing of “America the Beautiful.” Graduates passed through a receiving line headed by President Ebersole and Chair Yep and including the Board of Trustees, the provost, and College vice presidents, who offered their personal congratulations to all. The Class of 2011 then enjoyed a reception with their families and friends as they celebrated their accomplishments.

Originally broadcast live over the Internet, the ceremony has been archived and is available on the College’s Web site at www.excelsior.edu/webcast2011.



MICHAEL J. COOLEY

received the President’s Medal for his courage and continued commitment to Excelsior and its students while battling Parkinson’s disease. A faculty member in the School of Health Sciences, he shares his experiences in the College’s End of Life course. Retired as the executive director of the Cohoes (NY) Multi-Service Senior Citizens Center, Cooley also served on the adjunct faculty of Russell Sage College. He is a past chair of the National Institute of Senior Centers.



COMMEMORATION 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXCELSIOR



Founders Reflect on Excelsior's Early Years

A Conversational Reflection held at the July 7 Awards Convocation at the Desmond Hotel featured two driving forces in the genesis of Excelsior College. Moderated by Provost Mary Beth Hanner, the discussion on the occasion of the College's 40th anniversary featured Dr. Robert E. Kinsinger and Dr. Carrie B. Lenburg. The work of these two individuals has left a lasting legacy to not only the College, but the nursing profession as well. According to Dr. Hanner's calculations, thanks to Kinsinger's and Lenburg's efforts to help get Excelsior's nursing program off the ground, more than 39,000 have graduated with nursing degrees, providing care to 390 million patients throughout their careers.

For 17 years, Dr. Lenburg coordinated the development, implementation and evaluation of the first external degree program in nursing, offered by Regents College, now Excelsior. During that time, she also created a national network of Regional Performance Assessment Centers, and an intensive training program required for several hundred clinical examiners. She authored the seminal book, *The Clinical Performance Examinations: Development and Implementation* as well as many articles related to distance learning and performance assessment.

Subsequently, she founded Creative Learning & Assessment Systems, which focuses on developing competency-based and innovative education programs based on her Competency Outcomes and Performance Assessment

(COPA) Model, and on distance learning programs and evaluation research. In the early 90s, she developed the Center for Distance Learning at King Faisal Hospital in Saudi Arabia, to assist international nurses working there to earn a bachelor of science in nursing degree from Regents College. Lenburg is a Fellow and Living Legend in the American Academy of Nursing, a Fellow in the Academy of Nursing Education, and a member of the Nursing Hall of Fame of Teachers College, Columbia University, among many other honors and accolades.

Lenburg recalled that even though there were over 1,300 diploma schools of nursing at the time Regents College was founded, there weren't opportunities for those already working in nursing, such as an LPN or medic, who wanted to earn a nursing degree without starting from scratch. Thus Excelsior's vision, Lenburg recalled "was to create a program that was valid and reliable, that was research-based and that proved to the profession and to society, and to the accreditors that this was a worthwhile program. Here it now sits, as a Center of Excellence by the National League for Nursing."

While working on his doctorate, Dr. Kinsinger met Dr. Mildred Montag, whose groundbreaking research lead to a proposal that the associate degree in nursing should be an entry to the field of registered nursing. Although Montag's work was considered controversial, Kinsinger joined her in the eye of the storm, promoting associate degree nursing around the country. He eventually became



L-R: Dr. Robert E. Kinsinger,
Provost Mary Beth Hanner,
and Dr. Carrie B. Lenburg

a vice president for higher education at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. When the Regents External Degree Program (the forerunner to Excelsior College) was founded, a plan to develop an associate degree in nursing was formulated. He became deeply involved in the development of a proposal to the Kellogg Foundation, writing the award letter when the Foundation decided to make a grant to fund creation of the new associate degree in nursing program. As a competency-based program, the Regents program, lead by Dr. Lenburg, was an entirely new approach to nursing education. Kellogg was pleased with the result and came forward with additional grants, eventually bringing up the bachelor's degree in nursing as well.

By the time Regents College passed its 15th year anniversary, a Board of Overseers was formed to act as an intermediary between the Board of Regents and the College. Kinsinger was the unanimous first choice for serving as chair of this group, and he served in that capacity for over a decade. When the College was granted independent status, he was immediately appointed Vice Chair of the Board. Today he continues to serve as Trustee Emeritus.

Kinsinger recalled his attitude toward the early Regents associate degree in nursing, "I grabbed that idea; I thought that is the way to go—it is the basis for this education program we have here. And so I stayed with the College all the way through and I'm still on board. And at 88, I think it's time to quit, but I'm so taken by the idea that I wanted to see it through and it's grown wonderfully."

A video of the entire Awards Convocation including the Conversational Reflection is available on the College's Web site at www.excelsior.edu/graduate-awards-2011.



Graduate Award Winners

The Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award

Adam J. Carlson **F**

Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies



The Marvin Curling Memorial Award

Robert L. Simmons

Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering Technology



The Excelsior College® Examinations Award

John J. Armstrong **G**

Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies

The LeRoy V. Good Memorial Award

Brian Keith Taylor

Associate in Science



The Arthur J. Gregg Award

James R. Shreve **H**

Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies



The Robert E. Kinsinger Award

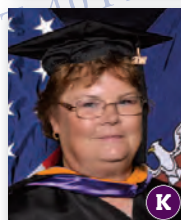
Jason R. Lowman

Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering Technology

The Charles W. Laffin Jr. Memorial Award

Joseph T. Sevcik

Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering Technology



The Robert P. Mahoney Award

Rocio Villa **I**

Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies

The Ruth V. Matheny Memorial Award

Carissa R. Westring **J**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing



The Mildred L. Montag Memorial Award

Patricia Printz Smith **K**

Master of Science in Nursing

The Jean M. Smith Award

Adrienne S. Mason **L**

Bachelor of Science in Business

The Joshua L. Smith Award

Kerry Lehan

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

The 2011 Student Support Award

Derek M. Doty

nominated by

Darryl K. Doty

*Associate in Applied Science in Administrative/
Management Studies*

Something to Celebrate

Special Events and Mementos in Honor of 40 Years

Four decades of providing education alternatives to adult learners is an accomplishment worth commemorating and documenting for future generations, and the College found some interesting and innovative ways to celebrate.

Faculty, staff, and trustees gathered for a 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, Thursday, July 7. Richard Yep, Chair of the Board of Trustees, welcomed the guests and said, “For an institution, 40 years means you’ve matured, you’ve got staying power, you’re seasoned. Excelsior’s 40th anniversary gives us an opportunity to tout our accomplishments. It also gives us a chance to celebrate a glorious past, a stellar present, and a future that knows no bounds. Let’s celebrate our history and the years ahead.”

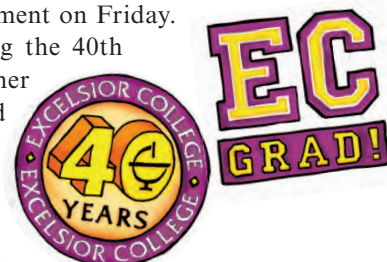
The brief program included remarks by 40th Anniversary Honorary Chair Brigadier General Jerry L. Neff, BSL ’87, who spearheaded the College’s many celebratory events. President John Ebersole took the podium to unveil a commissioned artwork, honoring Excelsior’s anniversary. “Excelsior College: 40 Years of Excellence, 1971–2011: Keeping a Tradition Alive,” by renowned Albany-area artist Len Tantillo. Ebersole explained, “As I reflected on Excelsior’s history, I saw that it really began many years prior to 1971. In New York State, the tradition of lifelong learning predates the College’s founding. It reaches back much earlier. In fact, the early movement of itinerant teachers and gatherings around them was a

regular part of 19th-Century life.” Indeed, as the painting depicts, in the mid-1820s, educator Josiah Holbrook sought to expand educational opportunities for adults. As founder of the American Lyceum Movement, he traveled across New York and New England to promote the concept, which became a powerful force in adult education and social reform.

Not only did each guest at the 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner receive a copy of a print of the painting, but every graduate in attendance at Commencement was offered a copy as well.

To document the College’s many contributions, a commemorative book was published. *Changing Lives in Changing Times: Excelsior at 40* is a colorful retrospective of the College’s four decades of service to adult education. It complements the earlier book, *Excelsior College: The Early Years* by Donald J. Nolan, that provides a thorough historical accounting of the College’s founding.

But what’s a party without some fun? Adding to the excitement was a complimentary photo booth for graduates and guests both Thursday afternoon and evening and before and after Commencement on Friday. Temporary tattoos featuring the 40th Anniversary logo and another denoting “EC Grad” afforded individuals with the opportunity to personally mark the occasion. ■



COMMEMORATE AND CELEBRATE!

40th Anniversary Merchandise Available

As part of the College's 40th Anniversary celebration, you now have the opportunity to purchase items commemorating the event and Excelsior's history.



> **Keeping a Tradition Alive** poster—a print of the Len Tantillo painting for your home or office.



> **Changing Lives in Changing Times**—a book on the modern history of Excelsior with facts and photos depicting the growth of the College over the last decade.



> **Regents College: The Early Years**—a book by one of the College founders on the creation of Regents College, predecessor to Excelsior.



> **Courageous Learning**—a book by Excelsior President John Ebersole and writer William Patrick highlights the stories and achievements of adult learners who have shown uncommon persistence in pursuit of their degrees.

Order your copies today.
www.excelsior.edu/collegepress



FACULTY HONORED FOR DISTINCTION

Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year awards were presented Thursday, July 7, at the Faculty Luncheon held during Commencement festivities. The awards are given to faculty members in each School who are nominated by students, staff, and faculty for outstanding accomplishments. The following recipients exemplify the finest qualities of the Excelsior College faculty and are representative of the extraordinary and truly distinguished service they provide to students and the College.

BARBARA B. PIEPER *School of Health Sciences*

Barbara B. Pieper, PhD, RN, has been affiliated with Excelsior College for over 28 years. As a founding faculty member of the School of Health Sciences, she was nominated for this award for her instrumental role in the development of the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences and the Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management degree programs. She has also served as project manager for an Emerson Foundation grant to design and implement a series of media-rich continuing education modules for a consortium of nursing homes and hospitals in Central New York. She earned a BS in Nursing/Science from State University of New York at Albany, an MN in Community Health Teaching from the University of Kansas, a PhD in Nursing Theory from Adelphi University, and a post doctoral certificate from Harvard Medical School in Palliative Care Education and Practice.

LARRY PURNELL *School of Nursing*

Larry Purnell, PhD, RN, FAAN, has more than 45 years of professional clinical experience and administrative/teaching positions, has written/edited 14 textbooks, over 150 articles, and 50 book chapters. He has presented throughout the United States and in 16 countries abroad. Dr. Purnell is also the U.S. representative to the European Union Commission on Intercultural Communication. Currently, he serves on the Nursing Graduate Education Committee, the Nursing Faculty Council, and the Faculty Development and Support Steering Committee. His nomination noted that he "far exceeds any professor I ever

had" and that "he is passionate to his career, his class, and his students." Purnell has an ADN from Cuyahoga Community College, a BSN from Kent State University, an MSN from Rush University, and a PhD in Health Services Administration from Columbia Pacific University.

LARRY SCHUETZ *School of Business & Technology*

In addition to teaching at Excelsior College, Larry Schuetz, PhD, is also a consultant in Central Oregon. His military background uniquely positions him for working with Excelsior's many student servicemembers. He was formerly an Education Services Officer, serving as an Education Services Specialist for the U.S. Navy College in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and as a guidance counselor for the U.S. Army at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. A veteran of the Navy, he earned Expeditionary Services Medals and the Bronze Star for service in Vietnam. His nomination noted, "Dr. Schuetz showed compassion and concern for the entire class. He challenged us to think" and "It is evident Dr. Schuetz cared about those in class and wanted the best learning experience possible." Schuetz earned a BS in Business from Southern Oregon University, an MBA/MPA in Management in Quantitative Methods and Organizational Behavior from Willamette University, and a PhD in Training, Business, and Statistics from Oregon State University.

SARA WEINSTOCK *School of Liberal Arts*

Sara Weinstock, BA, MA, MFA, has over 12 years of college teaching experience and has published a nonfiction book and a novel. She teaches a variety of liberal arts courses for Excelsior. Weinstock is also a military spouse who understands the distinct needs of servicemembers and their families. Her nomination noted, "She embodies the noblest principles of teaching and the highest standards of academic achievement and integrity." Weinstock holds a BA in Oral Communication from the University of Central Oklahoma, an MFA in Theatre from the University of California, San Diego, and an MA in Humanities from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Middle States Self-Study Process

A Time for Reflection, Reevaluation, and Renewal

An important and critical step in the life of Excelsior is now underway as the College nears the completion of a two-year-long self-study process leading up to a 2012 on-site evaluation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, a regional institutional accrediting agency.

On October 12, Dr. Jack P. Varsalona, the head of the Middle States evaluation team assigned to evaluate Excelsior, visited the College. The President of Wilmington University, Varsalona met with Excelsior leaders and the Middle States Steering Committee to provide feedback on the College's draft self-study report. The Steering Committee will continue to work to further refine the report in preparation for a full visit from the Middle States Accreditation team in March 2012.

Although accreditation is a voluntary process, the Middle States endorsement is vital to continuous recognition of Excelsior as a legitimate, respected institution of higher learning. For any academic institution, accreditation has far reaching implications for financial aid eligibility, the attraction of faculty and staff, graduates' acceptance into other academic programs, and other factors.

Excelsior has been continuously accredited by Middle States since 1977, but the current process is especially important due to changes that have taken place since the last reaccreditation visit in 2002: the introduction of instruction at the undergraduate level and the expansion of degree programs, among other changes.

The Steering Committee and eight groups have been hard at work, examining the College and its processes in ensuring Excelsior meets the Middle States fundamental elements.

During the summer, College staff, faculty, and students had the opportunity to read and respond to the draft self-study report through a special Web site and a series of on site open forums, resulting in several revisions to the draft report. "Broad participation helps assure the breadth of inquiry and also engages a variety of staff members, at all levels, in a process that will be transparent and inclusive," said Dr. Mary Beth Hanner, provost and chief academic officer.

The work groups have focused on 14 specific standards as defined by Middle States: Mission and Goals; Planning,

Fall 2011 Speaker Series

In Celebration of Excelsior College's 40th Anniversary
Albany, New York

October 27

"INSIDE THE NURSING CRISIS"

New York State Nurses Association

The premier of a PBS series "Inside the Nursing Crisis," underwritten by Excelsior, followed by a panel discussion on key topics addressed in the program.

November 10

"NATIONAL SECURITY IN AN AGE OF AUSTERITY"

featuring Dr. Lawrence J. Korb, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs

December 6

"AN EVENING OF WINE, MUSIC, AND POETRY"

with Robert Pinsky, U.S. Poet Laureate, 1997–2000, The Opalka Gallery, The Sage Colleges

Mr. Pinsky will read his works to a cello accompaniment in this beautiful gallery. An elegant buffet reception will allow guests to explore the exhibit of Skin, photographs by Mark McCarty.

For more information, contact Anne Marie Bisner in the Office of Institutional Advancement at ambisner@excelsior.edu.



Resource Allocation, and Institutional Renewal; Institutional Resources; Leadership and Governance; Administration; Integrity; Institutional Assessment; Student Admissions and Retention; Student Support Services; Faculty; Educational Offerings; General Education; Related Educational Activities; Assessment of Student Learning.

Fundamental questions to be answered through the process include:

- Is Excelsior achieving what it wants to achieve?
- What should the College do to improve its effectiveness in achieving these aims?
- Is the College complying with Middle States standards?

"The College community has done an excellent job in preparing for this visit," said Dr. Hanner. "The hard work of the Steering Committee, and the individual work groups, coupled with contributions from faculty, staff, and students during the open forums, is further evidence of a collective commitment to Excelsior's mission." ■



Excelsior Enhances Learning with Move to **Blackboard** Learn 9.1

By Ellen G. Lahr, Communications Director

Excelstor students, staff and faculty will soon begin the transition from Blackboard Vista to—Blackboard Learn 9.1—the online platform where students and faculty gather for teaching and learning. Blackboard Learn 9.1 is a next-level learning management system offering more interactive, media-rich teaching and learning tools for student-faculty engagement.

With the September term, five pilot courses were delivered with Blackboard Learn 9.1: one each in the schools of Nursing, Business & Technology, Health Sciences, and Liberal Arts, plus an additional graduate-level course in the School of Business & Technology.

Later this fall, faculty training will expand in preparation for a school-by-school transition to the new learning management system. Starting in November, all online courses in the School of Nursing will migrate to the new Blackboard Learn 9.1. Other schools will follow, ending with the transition of business and technology courses in mid-2012.

To orient the Excelsior community to the new learning management system, additional training and orientation will be adapted for various audiences, including students, advising and certain support staff, designers, and faculty members.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 may be new to Excelsior, but many of the College's peer institutions—as well as brick and mortar colleges—are already using it for instruction. This means many of Excelsior's faculty and students may already be familiar with the new system. Nevertheless, all are encouraged to participate in training for the Excelsior version of the new program. Students and faculty will be notified as training opportunities arise.

Dr. George Timmons, dean of Online Education and Learning Services, said, "Blackboard Learn 9.1 has brought about several benefits in online learning, specifically enhancements to the level of engagement between faculty and students. Examples of this include blogs, course wikis, and journals that stimulate conversation and reflection on course content. Finally, group tools have been improved to make collaboration and communication more seamless."

Schedule for Blackboard Conversion

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Pilot courses | September 5, 2011 |
| School of Nursing | November 7, 2011 |
| School of Liberal Arts | January 3, 2012 |
| School of Health Sciences | March 5, 2012 term |
| School of Business & Technology | Phased in with the May 7 and July 20, 2012 terms |

Two Appointed to Office of the Provost

Excelsior College has named **Dr. Mary Beth Hanner** as provost and chief academic officer. Dean of Assessment **Dr. Patrick Jones** has been promoted to the position of vice provost.

As chief academic officer, Dr. Hanner oversees curriculum, online instruction, and faculty within each of Excelsior's four schools: the School of Liberal Arts, School of Business & Technology, School of Health Sciences, and School of Nursing.

Prior to her current appointment, Dr. Hanner served as interim provost. For four years previous, she served as vice president for Outcomes Assessment and Institutional Research, where she led Excelsior College initiatives for measuring student learning outcomes in learning assessment and competency-based education.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina with a Master of Public Health degree, Dr. Hanner earned a PhD (gerontology focus) from the University of Texas. She formerly served as Excelsior's dean of the School of Nursing and vice president for Health Sciences.



Dr. Patrick Jones will focus primarily on student services and student success. As dean of assessment, Dr. Jones was responsible for leading 29 staff and 200 faculty members. His work involved directing day-to-day academic assessment activities, including managing the development, administration, scoring, and external recognition of Excelsior College® Examinations, UExcel® exams, and portfolio assessment.

Dr. Jones earned his PhD in Measurement, Evaluation, and Applied Statistics from Columbia University.



"Both Dr. Hanner and Dr. Jones have served Excelsior College admirably, helping to transform the institution into one of the nation's leaders in online higher education and a pioneer in distance learning technology and assessment," said Excelsior College President Dr. John F. Ebersole. "Under their continued leadership, we will strengthen and progress in our mission to expand quality educational opportunities for the underserved."

Branching Out



Extended Education Division Adds Support to Lifelong Learning and Collaborations

Since Excelsior's founding 40 years ago, providing access to higher education has been at the core of the College's mission. Being innovative in ways to expand access has always been a key element in efforts to achieve this goal. Branching out with the formation of a new division continues this practice by bringing together, under one roof, several programs—and some new endeavors—that support lifelong learning.

Announced in August, the Extended Education Division combines the College's professional development efforts and its highly regarded credit-by-examination program with a new group that assists other colleges in moving their academic programs online.

The Extended Education Division includes:

Center for Professional Development (CPD)

Established in 2008, CPD offers 150 non-credit programs that can lead to certification in a variety of "mobile" careers. Of these programs, nearly two-thirds are qualified for veteran's education benefits.

Center for Technology Leadership (CTL)

Launched in 2010 with the help of an advisory board comprised of higher education IT leaders from across the country, CTL has programs designed to equip aspiring chief information officers in higher education with the skills to succeed.

Center for Educational Measurement (CEM)

The new name for College's highly regarded Assessment Unit, CEM develops and administers Excelsior College® Examinations. CEM will continue to support Excelsior's needs while making its expertise available to organizations, both academic and non-academic, which seek a means to measure individual knowledge, learning, and competency in any field. (See "Sites Added" on opposite page.)

Hudson Whitman Press (HWP)

Excelsior now offers its academic community the opportunity to submit books and manuscripts for publication in both paper and electronic form via Hudson Whitman serving as the Excelsior College Press. See page 9 for information on the newest product from the Press, *Courageous Learners*, and a limited edition 40th anniversary publication.

Educators Serving Educators (ESE)

The College's most unique new endeavor, ESE offers a means for Excelsior to share its expertise with other colleges by providing a menu of services that enable them to enter and expand their own online programming. (See "Excelsior Collaborates" on opposite page.)



EXCELSIOR COLLABORATES WITH SAGE COLLEGES TO CREATE THE ACHIEVE DEGREE

Through Educators Serving Educators (ESE), Excelsior has built a means to assist other accredited colleges and universities to develop and deliver their own online programs and courses. A unit of the new Extended Education Division, ESE recently collaborated with Sage Colleges (Troy, NY) to create a bachelor's degree designed for people diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders or other learning disabilities.

ESE conducted research on the market for this program and combined its expertise in online course development together with Sage's nationally recognized expertise in autism education to bring the program to fruition.

Called the Achieve Degree at Sage, this is the first bachelor's degree of its kind to be offered by a regionally accredited college. It will lead to a BA in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Computer Science. This entirely online program will offer a highly supportive environment—including one-on-one mentoring—for students who are academically capable, but find the traditional college environment challenging to their specific educational, social, and communicative needs.

Is Excelsior creating competition for itself with ESE? "Not at all," says Dr. Wayne Brown, vice president for Extended Education. "Excelsior does not have the subject matter expertise that Sage has and it is unlikely that we would enter this specialized field. While we believe firmly in the power of online learning and expanding access, we won't take on projects that would be in direct conflict with existing or planned Excelsior College programs."

Within the past few months, ESE has also begun work on projects with other colleges, including Wheelock College (Boston, MA). "There are other organizations that provide the kinds of services that ESE does, but we are the only one that is nonprofit in nature and whose staff have created online programs and are still actively engaged in higher education," says Brown. "This is an advantage for ESE and a feature that is attracting a lot of inquiries for our services."

Sites Added, Costs Reduced for EC Examinations

Earning college credit by taking an Excelsior College® Examination (ECE) is a recognized method of demonstrating college-level knowledge gained through independent study, on the job, or through other means. Now, in cooperation with Pearson VUE, ECEs are available at more than 4,000 of its testing centers in the U.S. and abroad. ECEs and UExcel® exams, a collaborative effort between Excelsior and Pearson VUE, are the only college-affiliated credit-by-exam programs that lead to a letter grade on a college transcript.

In addition to expanding test site access, in July 2011, the testing time for the following 10 ECEs were reduced to two hours in length and the cost for these has dropped to \$95.

| |
|---------------------------------|
| Human Resource Management |
| Introduction to Macroeconomics |
| Introduction to Microeconomics |
| Labor Relations |
| Organizational Behavior |
| Pathophysiology |
| Psychology of Adulthood & Aging |
| Research Methods in Psychology |
| Social Psychology |
| World Population |

Corresponding practice exams for the 10 ECEs now cost just \$25. These pricing changes and test-site expansion are part of Excelsior's strategy to meet growing demand for more affordable higher education options that maintain college-level rigor and quality.

Between June 1, 2010, and May 31, 2011, Excelsior awarded 99,277 credits to 29,572 students through the ECE and UExcel examination programs.

Earning credit by examination can help significantly reduce the overall cost of attaining a degree. Based on a typical 30 credit-hour load per year, and annual tuition and fees reported by The College Board, the cost per credit hour via a semester-long course at a four-year institution can range between \$254 at public colleges to \$910 at private, nonprofit schools. By contrast, depending upon the length of an exam and the total credit awarded, the per-credit cost among all Excelsior College Examination averages \$75.

For more information on Excelsior College Examinations, visit
WWW.EXCELSIOR.EDU/EXAMS.

Cybersecurity and Criminal Justice

New Degree Programs, Certificate, and Concentrations



In response to growing needs for highly-skilled and highly-trained specialists in the areas of cybersecurity and criminal justice, Excelsior has launched several new programs.

With President Barack Obama deeming cybercrime “one of the most serious economic and national security threats our nation faces,” the demand from business and government for cybersecurity in the digital age is escalating. In response, Excelsior College has unveiled five new bachelor’s and master’s programs geared specifically to developing the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.

The new cybersecurity curricula have broad coverage on strategies, policy, ethics and legal compliance, operational processes, techniques, and technologies that secure and protect sensitive information and information systems. Excelsior College will have five distinct tracks from which students may choose:

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with a Concentration in Cybersecurity Technology

The curriculum focuses on ethics and legal compliances, operational processes, techniques, and technologies that secure and defend information and information systems.

Undergraduate Certificate in Cybersecurity

This technology curriculum focuses on the techniques, policies, and operational procedures that detect threats and secure information.

Master of Science in Cybersecurity

This program provides professionals with advanced techniques and knowledge to manage and protect an organization’s cyber assets. The program focuses on prevention, detection, countering, and recovery from cyber incidents.

MBA in Cybersecurity Management

Using a multidisciplinary approach, this MBA concentration is designed to provide students with a broad analytical framework for evaluating and solving cybersecurity problems.

Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity Management

The graduate certificate in cybersecurity management evaluates strategies for societal responses to cybersecurity threats at enterprise, national, and global levels. This program is designed for mid-career professionals who wish to help meet the challenges posed by the increasing cyber threats.

Another new program is the **Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ)** which offers students from a variety of backgrounds (including, but not limited, to political science, sociology, psychology, and criminal justice) the opportunity to deepen their understanding of criminal behavior and the criminal justice system. Students will analyze, evaluate, and apply theories of crime and criminal justice, law enforcement, corrections, and quantitative methods. In addition, the MSCJ concentrations allow students to focus their degree on areas that have particular significance in the field of criminal justice.

The MSCJ offers two concentrations which will allow students to focus their degrees on areas that have particular significance in the field of criminal justice.

The **Homeland Security and Emergency Management** concentration examines the impact of domestic and international policies and trends and their effect on criminal justice systems.

The concentration in **Criminal Justice Informatics** examines effective ways to manage and utilize data and information in criminal justice.

The degree helps students develop analytical and leadership skills and prepares them for a leadership position in criminal justice. Through its emphasis on evaluating research and applying it to real world programs in criminal justice, the master’s degree aims to develop leaders who can design and implement effective criminal justice policies and interventions. ■

For more information about these programs, contact the College’s Admissions Office toll free at 888-647-2388, ext. 27 or email admissions@excelsior.edu.

ACROSS THE POND: COLLEGE FORMS PARTNERSHIP WITH UK'S ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY

Excelcior College and Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) opened their Collaborative Degree Program in April, 2011. In the EC-ARU Collaborative Program, students have the opportunity to earn an Excelsior degree in Business or Technology, as well as a recognized parallel degree from the institution in the United Kingdom.

Eileen Young, assistant dean; Christine Foley and Dan Palladino, senior academic advisors from the School of Business & Technology; and Trish Nguyen, admissions counselor, attended a two-day meeting at the Anglia Ruskin University campuses in Chelmsford and Cambridge, UK, in June.

While at ARU, Excelsior staff members toured both campuses and met with ARU department chairs, academic advisors, transfer counselors, and admissions staff. The objective of the meeting was to define the joint admissions and advisement processes as well as review key policies and procedures of both institutions.

Young commented, "The meeting with ARU staff was very productive and we came away with a much clearer understanding of the ARU and UK regulations and processes. It was great to meet our counterparts at ARU and we are looking forward to working with them in the future, as we grow the collaboration." ■



L-R: John Webb, director of studies, Ashcroft International Business School, Anglia Ruskin University; and from the School of Business and Technology, Eileen Young, assistant dean; Chris Foley, senior academic advisor; and Dan Palladino, senior academic advisor.



STRENGTHENING TIES WITH THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

The School of Business & Technology has strengthened its ties with the U.S. nuclear industry through alignment of the Associate in Science in Nuclear Technology degree program with the Nuclear Uniform Curriculum Program (NUCP).

The U.S. nuclear industry relies on standards of safety and quality, which are enforced not only through on-the-job utility training, but also through renewed focus on the education of up and coming nuclear workforce personnel. The NUCP creates a framework through which students are educated as well as trained to be operators and technicians at operating nuclear power plants.

This unique alliance between higher education and industry works to identify the necessary fundamental knowledge for nuclear energy workers, and aligns College curricula to the National Academy for Nuclear Training defined curriculum. The alliance ensures regional worker demand is balanced with a field-trained ready supply of personnel. Excelsior is partnered with Entergy Nuclear in this endeavor, an energy provider with direct connections to upstate New York and the greater New England area. The Excelsior degree, and subsequent NUCP certificate through Entergy, confirms that the student is prepared to enter a utility training program. ■

ENGINEERING EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The 2011 St. Lawrence Section of the American Society for Engineering Education Conference "Innovations in Engineering and Technology Education" was hosted by Excelsior College on March 18-19, 2011 in Albany, New York. Six track themes, including Technological Innovations in Engineering Education and Women, Minorities, and Veterans in Engineering were offered, with over 75 people attending.

The conference began with a tour of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering hosted by Dr. Harry Efstathiadis, a member of the Electrical Engineering Technology Faculty Committee. A banquet featured keynote speaker Dr. Sohail Anwar whose topic was the Commercialization of Nanotechnology. Other speakers included Dr. John Sammarco, who covered ABET accreditation; Dr. Stephanie Farrell, who discussed the benefits of ASEE membership; and Don Millard, from the National Science Foundation, who spoke about the state of engineering education in the United States and the NSF Grant process. A workshop on "High Tech Cheating in Engineering" was presented by members of the Wallace Center at Rochester Institute of Technology. ■

Two Student Chapters Formed

ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY

Excelstor College's School of Business & Technology has formed a new chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). The Excelsior College ACM Student Chapter has 19 students and provides membership to a highly respected professional organization in their field of study. All IT students are eligible to participate in the chapter and membership is encouraged. The College will pay the basic student membership fee for all interested students.

Students interested in joining the Excelsior College ACM Student Chapter can contact Kenneth Mansfield, faculty program director for information technology, at kmansfield@excelsior.edu.

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The School of Business & Technology's newly formed virtual student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management was formally recognized August 9 when the chapter charter was presented. Officers of the state and local SHRM organizations participated in the granting of the charter. The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, the Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 575 affiliated chapters within the United States and subsidiary offices in China and India. As an additional benefit to Excelsior students, the College will pay for student memberships in the new chapter.

General Education requirements modified for those enrolling on or after October 1, 2011.



Distribution requirements for general education ensure that all students develop basic competence in the areas of arts and sciences (humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics), as well as specific abilities in written English and information literacy.

Following an intense review, a General Education Review Committee made recommendations for a revised curriculum. The committee considered national trends in general education, reviewed programs at a host of other institutions, examined regulations and guidelines offered by external accrediting bodies, and read from a wide body of literature on the topic of general education.

The committee recommended substantial changes to the current general education program, changes that are consistent with the mission and purpose of Excelsior, that better meet the needs of the College's unique, adult student populations, that align more closely to the strategic directions of academic affairs, that effectively apply to all programs across the schools, and that further define an Excelsior College degree.

"The new program further ensures that Excelsior students graduate with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed further in their academic programs," explained Provost and Chief Academic Officer Mary Beth Hanner, "and is also liberal in the sense that it calls for the integration of knowledge, ensures academic breadth, and promotes lifelong learning and an understanding of oneself and of others in a changing world."

For complete information, see www.excelsior.edu/GenEdChanges.

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR MILITARY EDUCATION

SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The degree recognition ceremony at the U.S. Sergeants Major Academy was held June 15 at Fort Bliss, Texas to recognize over 120 servicemembers who earned an Excelsior College associate or bachelor's degree. Excelsior College currently offers on-site classroom courses in business and liberal arts at the Academy. The College plans to add graduate programs next year, including the Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degrees. Attending from Excelsior College was David Elliott from the School of Liberal Arts; Jane LeClair and Li-Fang Shih from the School of Business & Technology; Fort Bliss Program Coordinator, Katie Rizzo; and Center for Military Education Executive Director, Susan Dewan.

NEW MILITARY CONSULTANTS

Excelisior College's presence at military bases has proven to have had a positive impact on military personnel, and to support this effort, two new additional military consultants have been added. Kippie Martin will primarily cover the Navy College Office in Groton, Connecticut, in addition to the New England area. Donna Jones will cover bases in South Carolina and North Carolina to include Fort Jackson, Camp Lejeune, Charleston AFB, Shaw AFB, Parris Island, and MCAS Beaufort. Another addition is Diana Quinones, who is a new military consultant at Fort Bliss Main Post and serving as back-up to Katie Rizzo at the Sergeants Major Academy.

CME SUPPORTS EDUCATION FAIR AT JAMES J. PETERS VA HOSPITAL

Excelisior was one of ten colleges to be invited to an education fair at the James J. Peters VA Hospital located in the Bronx, New York. Many veterans stopped by the Excelsior booth to speak with representatives of the College's veterans services office about degrees and professional development programs in a variety of areas including the School of Nursing.

VFW NEVADA, NEW VETERAN PARTNERSHIP

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of Nevada recently formed an educational partnership with Excelsior thanks to an inquiry from a current Nevada resident who is a veteran student at the College. Nevada State Commander, Bruce Hollinger remarked, "Excelsior College, as an accredited, non-profit higher learning institution, is a great choice for the members and spouses of the department

and its auxiliaries. With its emphasis on the military members and veterans, and with the cost savings available through partnering, this partnership is clearly a great benefit to those who do want to continue their education." The education partnership will provide special pricing to Department of Nevada VFW members and their spouses.

THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DEGREES AND VETERAN PARTNERSHIPS

The School of Business & Technology's Assistant Dean, Andrew Wheeler, and Center for Military Education's Veteran Services Director, Judy Reed, were guests on the 1300 AM Radio Chamber Chat with host Patrick Ryan broadcasting from Albany, NY.

Reed discussed the veteran education partnership the College has with National Grid, a company that values technical degrees especially in the Electrical Engineering field. Individuals





with military backgrounds and technical training are likely to have transcribed credit and experience that fulfill requirements for Excelsior's technical degrees. With such degrees, graduates can move to occupations that complement their military experience.

Wheeler discussed the electrical engineering technology degrees available with concentrations in nanotechnology or electronics. "Excelsior's Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology, with a concentration in nanotechnology, addresses the growing need for trained practitioners in the Nanotech industry," he reported. By 2015 nanotechnology will contribute roughly \$1 trillion to the global economy. Locally, companies such as GlobalFoundries and the UAlbany NanoCollege are expanding. "The graduates of our program will be well suited to tasks at both facilities, and globally within the nanotechnology spectrum," Wheeler offered.

CME SUPPORTS AUSA VETERAN PARTNER AND NY NATIONAL GUARD EVENTS

The Center for Military Education's veteran services office recently supported two New York National Guard events in the Albany area.

The July event sponsored by Excelsior College's partner in education, The Capital District New York Chapter, Association of the United States Army (AUSA), held a vendor's fair for approximately 100 senior noncommissioned officers from all over New York State during the 2011 New York Army National Guard Senior Enlisted Conference held at the Department of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters in Latham, New York.

During the June event, The New York National Guard Family Readiness Council sponsored a "Hometown Heroes Run" to raise funds to benefit the families of National Guard servicemembers across the state. The council is instrumental in supporting families during deployments and separations. The families of "Citizen Soldiers" do not have the same kind of support as active duty personnel do. During times of family separation, the New York National Guard Family Readiness Council



stands ready to support local families of National Guardsman.

During the events, Excelsior College provided information on degrees and certificate programs to support the educational needs of Army active duty, guard, and reservists in New York.

NCOA, NEW VETERAN PARTNERSHIP

The Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) recently became a partner in education with Excelsior College. The signing of the partnership took place during NCOA's Convention and Vanguard Tribute at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas on July 12. NCOA veteran members and employees and their spouses will receive reduced pricing on tuition and fees for associate and bachelor's degrees at the College.

NCOA services non commissioned officers and petty officers in all military services to include National Guard and Reserves. Established in 1960, NCOA strives to support the quality of life for its members, active and retired.

MILITARY CONSULTANTS PARTICIPATE IN CAREER FAIRS

Over the past year, Excelsior College's military consultants have participated in a number of career fairs across the country for veterans and transitioning military personnel who are seeking jobs from employers who value a military background. Military consultants have attended career fairs at Fort Hamilton, Fort Stewart, Fort Hood, Fort Benning, Naval Weapons Station Charleston, Charleston Air Force Base, as well as the cities of Baltimore, Newport News, Norfolk, San Antonio, Tampa, and Washington, DC. They provided Excelsior College information on job opportunities, degree programs, and professional development programs and services through the career center.

Excelsior College has been a sponsor of NCOA Career Fairs since 2010, and most recently began participating in Civilian Jobs and Job Zone Career Fairs throughout the United States.

The upcoming schedule for career fairs is as follows:

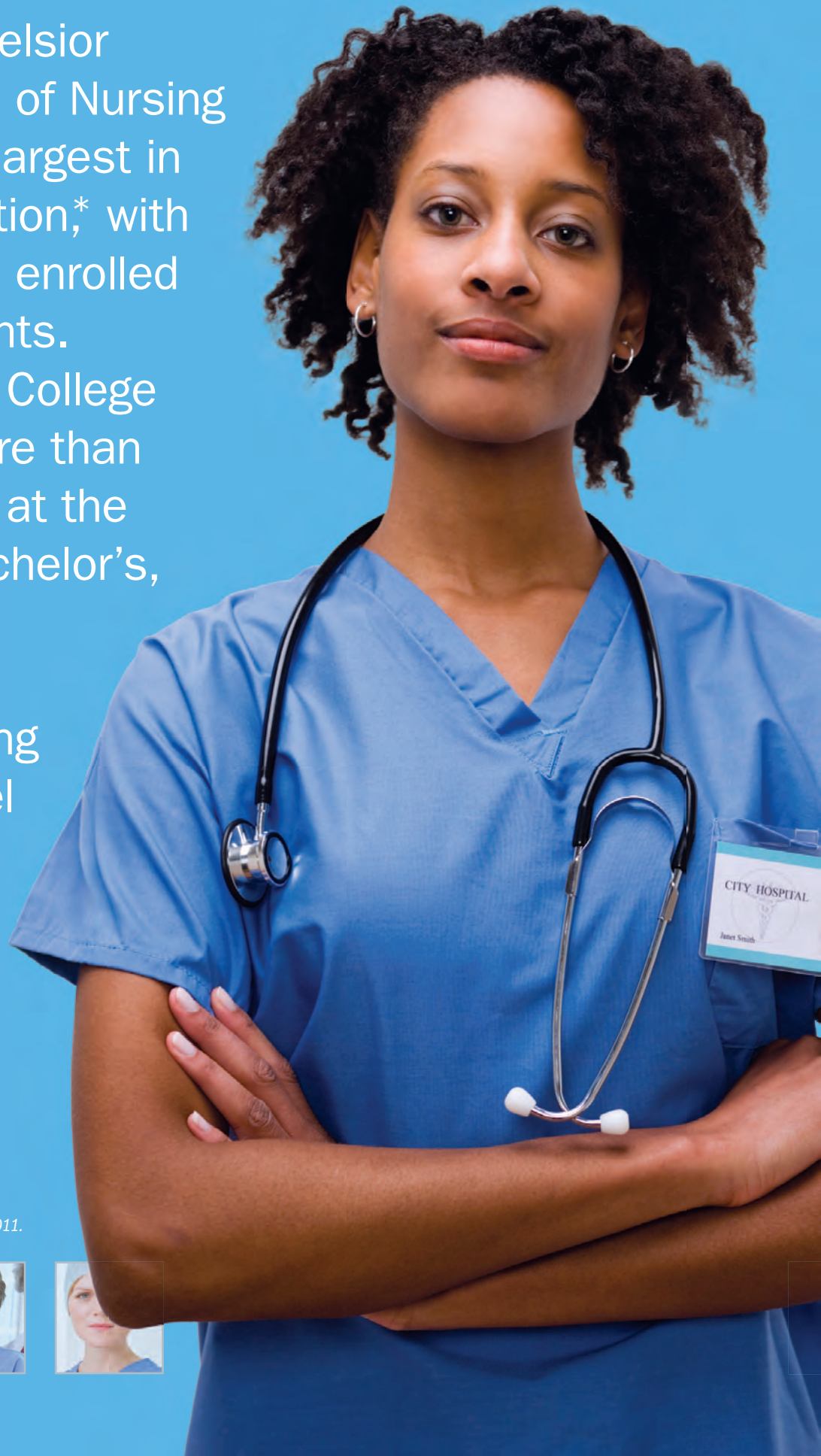
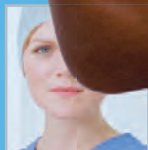
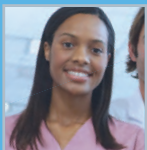
| Date | Consultant | Location | Time |
|-------------|-----------------|--|-------------|
| November 15 | Roberto Morales | NCOA Career Expo at Norris Conference Center, San Antonio, TX | 10:00- 2:00 |
| December 1 | Roberto Morales | Civilian Jobs Fair at Sam Houston Club, Fort Sam Houston, TX | 10:00- 2:00 |
| December 8 | Darlene Sabio | Civilian Jobs Fair at McDill AFB, Wyndham Tampa Westshore, Tampa, FL | 10:00- 2:00 |



The Excelsior School of Nursing is the largest in the nation,* with nearly 16,000 enrolled nursing students. Each year the College graduates more than 2,000 nurses at the associate, bachelor's, and master's level, with the majority earning associate-level degrees.

The School was in the headlines recently with the appointment of a new dean and two important recognitions.

**As reported in Modern Healthcare July, 2011.*



RECOGNIZED AS TOP DEGREE PRODUCER

Excelstior College was named the “Top Degree Producer” for minority students seeking associate degrees in nursing, according to the May 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.

“Excelsior has a strong commitment to diversity and an equally strong commitment to helping experienced professionals take the next step in their nursing career, in this case, becoming an RN,” said Dr. John Ebersole, president of Excelsior College. “Excelsior’s mission surrounds serving adult learners, especially those traditionally underserved in higher education, which means providing affordability and accessibility to all of our programs.” ■

POLLARD APPOINTED DEAN

Mary Lee Pollard, PhD, RN, was named the new dean of the School of Nursing. She began at the College in 2007 as associate dean, where she was responsible for academic advisement and the associate degree program. She now leads all three of the College’s nursing programs—at the associate, bachelor’s, and master’s levels.

She was previously director of the Ellis Hospital School of Nursing, where she started her teaching career.

Dr. Pollard earned her doctor of philosophy from State University of New York at Albany and a master’s degree in nursing from Russell Sage College in Troy. She earned her BS in nursing from Syracuse University.

“The Institute of Medicine’s recent report on the future of nursing suggests we will need more and better-prepared nurses at the bedside, and our School of Nursing is meeting this need,” said Dr. Pollard. “We have a seamless process for LPNs, military corpsmen, and paramedics to enroll in our associate degree program, and to continue on with us for their bachelor’s and master’s degrees. We can also help practicing RNs earn advanced degrees while allowing them to meet their work and family obligations.”

Dr. Pollard received two nursing excellence awards from the Capital District New York State Nurses Association for her contributions to nursing education (1999) and nursing administration and management (2009). She has received Excelsior College’s award for Distinction in Leadership (2009) and has participated in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Academic Leadership Institute (2007). Active in a number of regional and national professional nursing organizations, Dr. Pollard also serves as secretary and board member of the Schenectady Free Clinic. ■

NAMED A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE THIRD TIME

The National League for Nursing (NLN), for the third consecutive time, has designated the Excelsior College School of Nursing as an NLN Center of Excellence in Nursing Education, following a rigorous peer-review process. Excelsior was recognized in the category of Enhancing Student Learning and Professional Development at a special presentation in September at the NLN’s annual Education Summit in Orlando, Florida.

Excelsior’s School of Nursing is one of just eight nursing schools to receive this distinction in 2011 and is one of only two to receive the designation every year since the NLN began the recognition program in 2005. Excelsior’s designation is for the years 2011–2016, the longest period that can be awarded.

There are approximately 2,500 nursing schools in the nation, with just 19 designated by NLN as Centers of Excellence (COE).

School of Nursing Dean Mary Lee Pollard said, “This public acknowledgment from the National League for Nursing validates the continuous efforts of our nursing faculty and staff to provide an excellent nursing education for our students. So many of our students would not otherwise be able to attend traditional nursing schools to advance their careers while also meeting family and work demands.”

NLN’s chief executive officer, Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, said of this year’s designees, “What we seek are measurable results and best practices, and the NLN is pleased to publicly name those schools that have demonstrated their understanding of excellence in the concrete terms that the COE application demands.” ■



Make the Most of Your Credits

Your Next Excelsior Degree or Certificate May Be Closer Than You Think

Make sure you're headed in the right direction! Speak to an Academic Advisor for help in mapping out your path through Excelsior's many degree and certificate options to ensure your future academic and professional success. Here are just two examples of the many graduates who have applied their industry credentials, previously earned credits, and Excelsior College Examinations and online courses, to earn multiple degrees and (in one example) a certificate.

Marine 1stSgt Adam Carlson was looking for military-friendly college programs to make him more competitive for promotion in his military career. Thanks to help from Excelsior's academic advisors, he was able to map out a very successful route. Taking advantage of the 47 credits from his military training and experience, he earned multiple degrees and a certificate. By choosing the right steps with Excelsior's expert guidance, 1stSgt Carlson completed an Associate in Applied Science in Administrative/Management Studies, a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, and a Certificate in Homeland Security, earning all of them in 2011!

Carlson received the 2011 Catherine Craig-Erhardt Award for service to others, commitment to education, and academic, professional, and personal achievement. He now plans to pursue a master's degree.

Carissa R. Westring, RN, earned an Associate in Science in Nursing degree at Excelsior in 2003. Working in a busy emergency room department for two years, she then sought to further her education and returned to the College to work on a bachelor's degree. Graduating magna cum laude in 2010, Westring was honored with Excelsior's Ruth V. Matheney Memorial Award for her outstanding academic achievement and excellence on the nursing theory examinations or nursing courses and the nursing capstone requirement.

Like many Excelsior students, Westring is a lifelong learner—she's now enrolled in a Family Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Cincinnati.

Live & Learn Advisor Committee: Glenn Braddock (Center for Military Education), Gale Deegan (Nursing), Martha Garing (Business & Technology), Sarah Mesick (Health Sciences), Rachel Stolicky (Liberal Arts).





TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

A brief primer on media viewing and submission

Video is readily accessible today via computers, TVs, and other devices. While it's prevalent in our lives, there may be challenges in being able to consistently view and post content. When it comes to playing or posting video in an Excelsior course, make sure you not only have the right tools but also an understanding of the necessary resources.

VIEWING VIDEOS

Even if you have a brand new computer with the latest technology, you may discover that a video in your course won't play.

What do you do?

Media Players and File Types:

- As the Internet and technology have advanced over time, the different ways a video can be created have increased as well. This leaves you with the challenge of **finding the appropriate tool to play the videos.**
- The first step is to determine what kind of videos you will be watching. The variety of file types can be overwhelming: There's QuickTime, Windows Media, RealPlayer, Flash, AVI or MPG files, Java-based, to name some of the more common types.
- With that in mind, it's a good idea to have more than one kind of media player software installed on your computer. Most videos can be played with either the most current release of Microsoft Windows Media Player or QuickTime Player. And if those don't work, RealPlayer and VLC Media Player are two other freeware media players that may be used.
- Generally, the course syllabus includes information about the source and type of the videos. If you can't find information or are having problems playing a video from within the course, contact your Instructor or the Technical Support team.
- Increasingly, videos are being produced in a format called **"Flash."** Flash video (FLV) is advantageous because it allows for a very small file size that is easily portable and downloadable, while at the same time, producing a clear picture and sound. Most computers do not come with Flash installed. Fortunately, Adobe Flash Player is available as a free download. Usually the Web browser you're using, such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari, will recognize that you are trying to view a Flash file and will prompt you to install the player.
- Another format that has increased in prevalence is video based in **Java.** Like Flash, Java is not included with Microsoft Windows-based computers. And, even if you have Java installed, you may not have the most current version. Use the "Check Browser" function in your course to see if you have the most current version of Java. If not, the Browser Check will provide instructions on how to update your computer.

continued on next page

Network Performance and Security

- So, you have a variety of media players installed, your Flash and Java is up to date, and you still can't get the videos to run properly. What now?
- If you're still having problems viewing videos, chances are either your internet connection is too slow to keep up with the video you are trying to view, or the network your computer is connected to has security restrictions in place that are blocking your ability to access videos. If that happens, your best bet is to call the Technical Support team to assist you.

VIDEO PRODUCTION AND SUBMISSION

The flip side to viewing a video is producing one yourself. Some courses include projects and assignments that may require students to produce videos. Here are a few tips that can help you make the most of your video presentations.

Formats and File Sizes

1. Be sure your video file is no larger than 500 megabytes. Set up your recording software to a format that will be economical in size but still allow you enough time to complete your presentation. Familiarize yourself with how your device creates the files it generates when recording. Refer to your device's

manual for more information on the format types available.

2. It's generally advisable to record in a commonly used video format such as MPEG, AVI, QuickTime, DIVX. Try to avoid proprietary video formats like RealMedia, or Flash-based video formats such as FLV. Avoid any "Direct to DVD" formats that will generate a video that is suited for DVD production.
3. To submit your video to a course, use the attachment upload function included within your course assignment. Select the file from your computer, and press "Open." Once your file has completed uploading, press "Submit" and you're done!

Remember, if all else fails, you can always contact your advisor to make arrangements for the video to be mailed to Excelsior. A digital format is preferred; however, a VHS cassette tape will be accepted. When using a digital format, save your work in WMV, MPG, or AVI file formats. If you use a video camera that records on a MiniDV cassette, be sure to transfer the file to a CD or DVD. Excelsior does not have the ability to view work submitted on a digital card or as a mini-digital video (MiniDV); the kind used in a MiniDV camcorder. Also include any required consent forms required when sending your video by mail.

Technical Support is ready to assist you 24/7.
Go to www.excelsior.edu/help.



“That was easy!”

NEW EXCELSIOR LIBRARY SEARCH TOOL

Did you ever wish you could hit the “easy button” when searching for resources in the library? Well, now you can! The Excelsior College Library has added OneSearch, an easy interface that searches across most of the Excelsior College Library's collections at the same time, regardless of the database provider. By using it, you can quickly access full-text resources such as articles, online books, reports, and videos using a single search box.

This powerful tool also allows you to further refine your search. For example, selection boxes on the right side of the screen let you add more databases to your search. While most library databases are included, a few such as CQ Researcher plus Archive and Gartner, are not. But new resources are added frequently, so make sure to check the OneSearch page on the library's Web site for the most up-to-date info. Also available is an informative 5-minute video tutorial to help you get started.

While OneSearch is a powerful tool, there are times when it may not be the best choice for your research. Follow these simple guidelines: Use the catalog when looking for a known item and use OneSearch when searching for items on a topic. For example, if you want to see if the Library has a specific book or journal, use the catalog to find it quickly. On the other hand, if you're looking for resources on a broad topic, then try OneSearch.

Contact the Excelsior College librarians with questions or to discuss this new resource by calling toll-free 877-247-3097 or emailing them at library@excelsior.edu.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

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

| Conferral Date | Deadlines for receipt of transcripts/official documents | | CPNE Completion Cut-off (Nursing only) | Final Changes |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|--|---------------|
| | for Initial evaluation | for Updated evaluation | | |
| January 20, 2012 | Nov 11 | Nov 25 | Dec 11 | Jan 6 |
| February 17, 2012 | Dec 9 | Dec 23 | Dec 29 | Feb 3 |
| March 16, 2012 | Jan 6 | Jan 20 | Jan 29 | March 2 |
| April 20, 2012 | Feb 10 | Feb 24 | Mar 4 | April 6 |
| May 18, 2012 | Mar 9 | Mar 23 | April 1 | May 4 |
| June 15, 2012 | April 6 | April 20 | April 29 | June 1 |

COMMENCEMENT JULY 13, 2012

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

Your Job Search Checklist

CAREER CORNER

by Maribeth Gunner Pulliam, MS Ed

Conducting a job search can be a challenging and overwhelming process, especially in today's tenuous job market. To land your ideal job, you'll need to gain a competitive edge. How? Develop a game plan and take control of the process. Identify manageable steps that will move you forward and employ techniques to capture the hiring manager's attention. Not sure where to begin? Here's a job search checklist with ten tried-and-true strategies to help get you started:

☐ Clarify Your Goals

Assess your abilities, interests, and values, and then align your career goals accordingly. Begin with self-reflection: What are your strengths? What do you like to do? Solicit feedback from trusted family and friends, utilize career assessment tools and seek career counseling if needed. Self-assessment will help you to clarify your aspirations, define your target career, and move ahead with purpose and passion.

☐ Customize Your Resume and Cover Letter

Craft a polished resume and cover letter that are tailored to the job you are pursuing. Remember, generic is average, and will not help you to stand out. Be sure both your resume and cover letter are professional, concise, error free, and in a reader-friendly font. Accentuate your abilities, but never misrepresent your qualifications. Honesty is highly valued by employers.

☐ Research the Employer

Identify potential employers that interest you. Leverage the Internet. Gather as much information as possible about the organizations and

the industry. Research size, mission, history, location, products/services, etc. This will increase your overall knowledge of the field and help to prepare you for a job interview.

☐ Develop Your "Marketing Pitch"

This is a succinct 30-second oral summary which illustrates who you are: your background, experience, and what you can offer to a potential employer. It should be brief, professional, and positive. This pitch is also known as an "elevator speech" as it should be short enough to be delivered in the time it would take to ride an elevator to the top floor with a prospective employer. If you had 30 seconds to compel this individual to hire you, what would you say? Perfect your pitch and practice until it is fluid. Be ready to use it when the opportunity presents itself.

☐ Join a Professional Organization

Almost all occupations have corresponding professional associations which offer many benefits. They feature the latest news in the industry, publications, network contacts, job leads, conferences, and more. Membership in a career-related professional organization will afford you information to enhance your knowledge and maintain currency in

your field. Most also offer reasonable student memberships. Find a professional association and join! (See Related Resources)

☐ Network

Networking is one of the most powerful job-hunting tools available. Develop and maintain an ongoing list of contacts. Brainstorm! Family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, former classmates, and professors are all potential leads to your next job. Tell them what type of job/career you are seeking and brief them on your qualifications. Remember that networking is a reciprocal relationship. Stay in touch with your contacts. Let them know your progress and be ready to help members of your network if they need your assistance as well.

☐ Use Social Media

If you have not yet done so, it's time to establish a professional online presence. Social networking has fast become another vital strategy for the job search. A few of the most popular options include LinkedIn, Twitter, and blogging. Facebook is another popular option, albeit primarily social. Still, it's a good idea to update your education and work sections on Facebook periodically.

All of these venues are great places to highlight qualifications, market your brand, and network with contacts.

However, make sure that the information listed in each of your profiles is consistent, and that all content reinforces your resume and cover letter. Employers are increasingly researching the online presence of potential candidates, so be mindful of what you post. You also can use social networking to investigate employers' profiles, increase your awareness of their products and services, or catch the latest posts or Tweets on current job opportunities. As powerful as social media can be, remember it is a *supplement*, not a *substitute*, for other traditional job hunting methods. Keep a well rounded approach.

☐ Sharpen Your Interview Skills

Prepare for all types of interviews. In addition to the traditional in-person interview, you may also encounter those that include a panel, phone, Skype, or web cam. Practice your responses to typical questions; including possible behavioral interview questions. (See Related Resources) Conduct mock interviews or role-play with a friend. During the interview, be enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Use the information you gleaned from your research to ask intelligent questions and offer thoughtful comments. Employ all the interview basics: be on time, well groomed, use eye contact, and a strong handshake.

☐ Know Your Market Value

Your skills and talents are valuable. Once you land the job, you'll want a paycheck that represents a fair market value. Do your homework. Check online salary guides, research the job's salary range, and determine typical salaries for people with similar experience and skills in your industry. Compare this by location. You'll need this data when you enter the marketplace to determine what is reasonable and to substantiate your case for a desired salary. (See Related Resources)

☐ Be Organized

Keep the job hunting process running smoothly. Create either an electronic or paper-based record keeping system for all your job search correspondence. This includes a listing of your network contacts,

organizations contacted, research conducted, resumes submitted, responses received, emailed messages, and thank-you notes sent. Accurate and reliable records help maintain parameters for any follow-up that is needed, and allow easy retrieval of materials when you receive a call from a prospective employer.

Keep Your Chin Up!

With any job search it is important to remember the three P's—*Persistence, Patience, and Positivity*.

Finding the right match may take time and energy. Don't get discouraged. Be confident, and keep a healthy and positive outlook. Use this job search checklist to focus your energy and formalize a plan to mobilize your job hunt. With perseverance, dedication, and the right tools, you will be on your way to your next rewarding position.

Related Resources

Computerized Career Interest Profiler, ONET

www.onetcenter.org/CIP.html

Resume and Cover Letters, Jobstar Central

jobstar.org/tools/resume/index.php

Career Networking Tutorial for Job Seekers

www.quintcareers.com/Internet_Networking/

Guide to Researching Companies and Industries, Quintcareers

www.quintcareers.com/researching_companies.html

WEDDLES Professional Association Directory

www.weddles.com/associations/index.cfm

So Many Types of Interviews, M. Gunner Pulliam, Excelsior College

www.excelsior.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=e0672fc0-455e-4d3e-8340-fac032dd282&groupId=37019

LinkedIn Learning Center

learn.linkedin.com/

Glassdoor—Inside Look at Jobs & Companies

www.glassdoor.com/index.htm

The Elevator Speech..., Quintcareers

www.quintcareers.com/job-search_elevator_speech.html

Access this article and many additional career-related links at the Excelsior College Career Center at www.excelsior/career.

Questions or comments about this article? Contact Maribeth Gunner Pulliam, Career Services Coordinator, Office of Online Education and Learning Services.

Visit the Career Center on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/ECCareerCenter

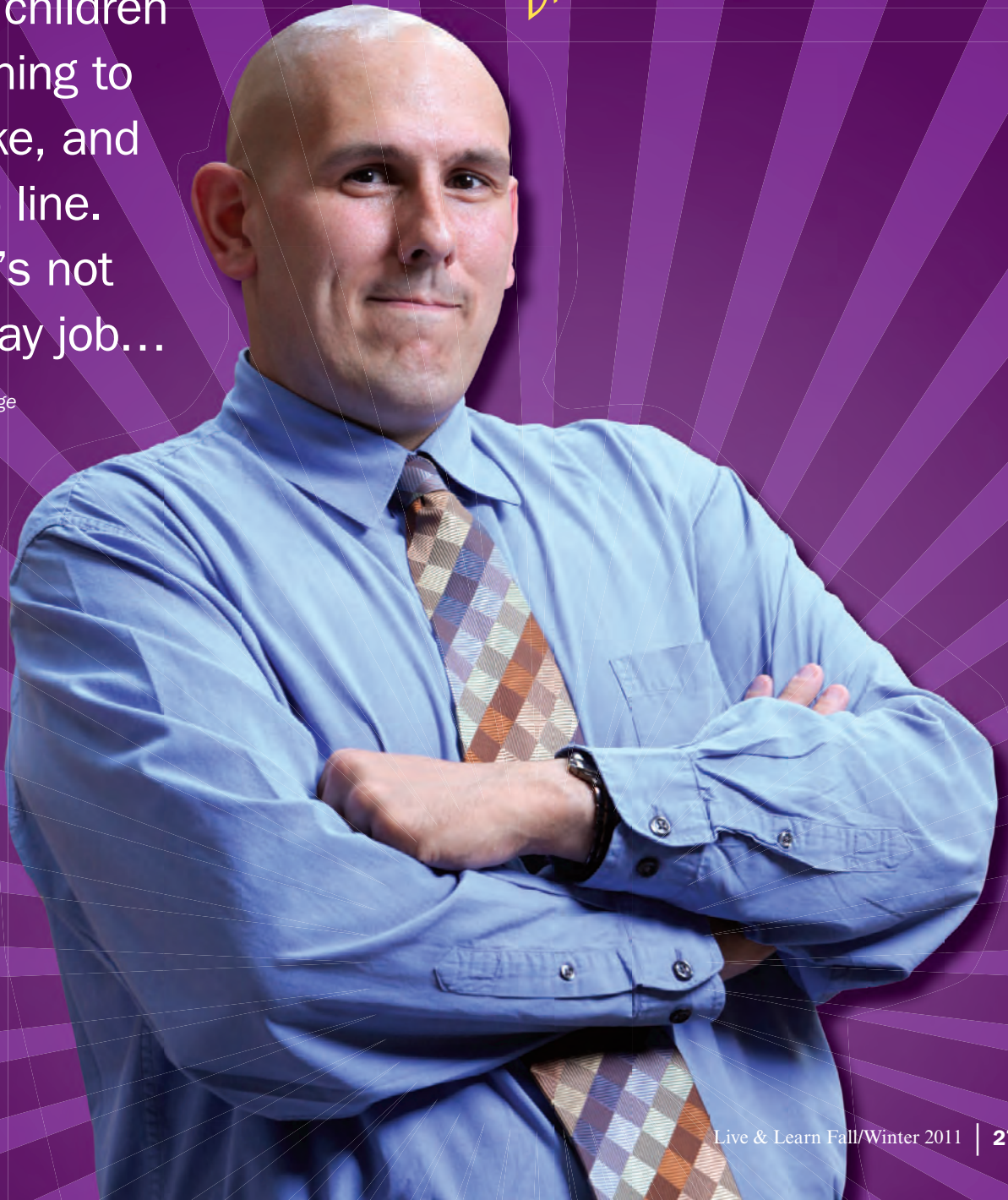
Meet Chad Pezzano, MA/LS '10, who completed assignments for his master's degree while camping in the woods, assisting disabled children with learning to swim, hike, and use a zip line. But, that's not Chad's day job...

Continued on next page

EXCELSIOR'S

EVERYDAY HEROES

DISPLAY DEGREES OF SUCCESS



Chad is a clinical instructor for new respiratory therapists and residents in the field of pediatrics and neonatology. Helping disabled kids, however, is a volunteer assignment he takes on each summer. He is just one of Excelsior's Everyday Heroes.

We could fill volumes with stories like his and yours—stories of everyday people accomplishing extraordinary things.

As Excelsior graduates, you have undertaken heroic efforts to earn your degree. Excelsior's nontraditional style provides the way for students to overcome obstacles during their education. Our students have the drive, the grades, and the passion to persist and earn their degrees.

Like comic book superheroes challenged by kryptonite, Gotham's greatest threat, or an arch-nemesis, our students need to face their greatest adversary—financing their education.

But you can help.

Your investment in Excelsior's Everyday Heroes allows them to complete the heroic task of obtaining their degrees.

During Excelsior's 40th anniversary, please consider a gift of \$40, \$140, \$444 or any amount of your choosing. Our Everyday Heroes work hard to achieve their academic goals—not to end up with bold headlines or fancy capes but to make a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

With your support, these Everyday Heroes can soar to new heights.

**EVERYDAY
HEROES**

Gifts That Give Back

Excelcior is an institution that has given so much to so many—students, staff and faculty alike. One donor, a member of the faculty, has shown her continued commitment with a legacy of support. It seems fitting that during Excelsior's anniversary celebration that the donor, who feels she has been with the College for “a hundred years,” is helping to ensure the institution reaches that century mark.

With an anonymous donation, a generous gift was made to Excelsior College through a planned giving vehicle—a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)—Excelsior's first of this type. A Charitable Gift Annuity is a plan that can provide for the donor's future while at the same time helping Excelsior. It is a legal contractual agreement between the donor and the College which specifies payments to the donor as lifetime income at a guaranteed rate. Upon death, the remaining original gift principal will be available to Excelsior. Coupled with an additional provision this donor has made in her will, Excelsior's School of Nursing will have funds to address pressing needs as they arise in the future.

For this donor, part of the appeal was the charitable deduction for the gift portion of the annuity and the realized income tax savings. But most importantly, the CGA offered a win-win way to support and help sustain the future of Excelsior. Her experience demonstrates the feelings of many staff and faculty who work to further Excelsior's mission.

There are many ways that a donor can support the College. Excelsior welcomes bequests as well as gifts of retirement plans, life income plans, and life insurance. Deferred gifts offer donors special tax advantages. ■

Endowments Provide Access to Success

With the celebration of Excelsior College's anniversary, the College has engaged in a special effort to build funding for students known as the 40th Anniversary *Access to Success* Campaign. One of the tangible signs of its success has been the growth in scholarship endowment funds made possible by our generous donors.

Starting a new fund allows donors to name the fund and see the name endure through the years ahead. The fund's purposes can be tailored to meet the donor's interests. Most donors choose to provide scholarships, although other interests can also be reflected. Whatever the donors decide, the help they give Excelsior is channeled to students, who can more easily achieve their own goals. This, in turn, helps foster an educated citizenry, prepared to address the world's workforce needs.

Over the past few months, these funds have been added to Excelsior's roster of support:

- The Murray and Estelle Block Scholarship Fund
- The Toby Friedland Memorial Fund
- The Entrepreneur: Business and Technology Fund
- The Stephen Pribyl Scholarship Fund
- The Board of Trustees 40th Anniversary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Thank you to all our donors who so generously support *Access to Success*. ■

PURPLE & GOLD SOCIETY

RECOGNIZES LOYAL DONORS

Loyal donors are the cornerstone of Excelsior's success, offering the means for implementing its mission of providing access to education for those historically underrepresented in higher education.

Through this unwavering support, Excelsior has been able to provide scholarships to students, recruit world-renowned faculty, and adapt to changing workforce needs with timely and relevant academic programs.

In recognition of this important commitment, this year Excelsior College is launching the Purple & Gold Society. Taking its name from the College's colors, the Purple & Gold Society will honor donors for their on-going

commitment. Ranging from Charter membership (those who are just beginning their lifelong commitment to annual giving), to our Lifetime supporters, who have given to the College for 15 or more years, we are proud to recognize these contributors in a dynamic way.

Gifts of any amount to the College are counted towards Purple & Gold Society membership. Consecutive years of giving are counted by campaign year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

By simply making a gift for three years in a row, you become a member of the Purple & Gold Society. Alumni who have made consecutive gifts from Annual Campaigns in 2010 and 2011 are automatically enrolled with a gift this year. To sustain your membership and reach new recognition milestones, make a gift every year.

Purple & Gold Society Qualifying Levels

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CHARTER MEMBER | 3 years of consecutive giving |
| MILESTONE MEMBER | 5-14 years of consecutive giving |
| LIFETIME MEMBER | 15 or more years of consecutive giving |

While the Annual Campaign provides Excelsior with unrestricted funds, you can also choose a fund that may have special meaning for you or a loved one.

- **40TH ANNIVERSARY FUND**
- **ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
- **EXAMINATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
- **MILITARY SPOUSE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

To learn more about Excelsior's many giving opportunities contact

MARCY STRYKER, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
518-608-8287 | mstryker@excelsior.edu
WWW.EXCELSIOR.EDU/GIVING

Leaving a Legacy

Who knew five years ago that today Kate Butler would have a new home, a new career and a new mate? Life doesn't always work out the way you think it will.

For Kate, becoming a displaced homemaker in her fifties due to divorce was not in her plans. When her former husband ended their marriage unexpectedly, Kate found Excelsior College and was able to earn her first degree—a BS in Psychology in 2007. That first degree proved she could accomplish anything she set her mind to, and paved the way to a master’s degree in social work and a means to earn a livelihood.

Since graduating from Excelsior, Kate has remained connected to the College, supporting the Annual Campaign. In fact, she is currently serving her first term as Alumni Advisory Board president. But giving time and energy is not enough for Kate.

When Kate became engaged to her fiancé, Ian Kaplan, it was time to create a new will. Because Excelsior had been so important to Kate’s past, together they wanted to help ensure its future. “I’m a social worker and a therapist, working with homeless veterans,” she explains. “I give what I can right now, but it was important for me to be able to give back—even in the future.

“It’s very easy to leave Excelsior a residual or remainder amount in a will, which will also help the College. The amount I’m giving back will in no way ever touch the economic impact that Excelsior and an additional degree have had on my life. I just knew I had to give something back,” says Kate.

With this provision in their wills, Kate and Ian become members of a special group of contributors who comprise the Legacy Society.

The Legacy Society was formed to recognize and thank alumni and friends of the College who decided to leave a legacy for Excelsior through a bequest or beneficiary designation to a retirement plan and/or charitable income gifts, such as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder unitrusts, or charitable remainder annuity trusts.

There are many different ways to provide a planned gift to Excelsior College. All have tremendous tax benefits, and the variety of options available can fit the needs of almost any individual. If you are looking for a way to protect assets for your family while supporting Excelsior, or to ensure that a lifelong income is available for you or your spouse, or to simply include the College in your estate after taking care of your heirs, the options available are impressive. It would be our honor to work with you to decide the most appropriate way to recognize your gift.

Membership in the Legacy Society is conferred when the donor notifies Excelsior that the College is the beneficiary of a gift through his or her estate, or through a planned gift during his or her lifetime. Once you complete

your estate plans, please fill out our Legacy Society form to let us know.

Your membership involves no dues, obligations, or solicitations, but it does allow us to thank you and recognize you for the plans you have made, and it may inspire generosity in others.

Legacy Society member benefits include recognition in the College’s publications—*Live & Learn* and the Honor Roll of Donors, an invitation to attend a reception during Commencement weekend, a certificate to commemorate your induction into Excelsior’s Legacy Society, and an elegant lapel pin that can be proudly worn at various Excelsior College functions.

The most important benefit you will receive from joining the Legacy Society is the satisfaction derived from making a lasting contribution to Excelsior’s mission and long-term prosperity. ■

If you have already made arrangements for Excelsior College in your estate plan, please contact our office so that we may thank you. For information about becoming a member of the Legacy Society, call Marcy Stryker at 518-608-8287, email her at mstryker@excelsior.edu, or visit www.excelsior.edu/legacysociety.



Thank you to our Legacy Society
Members as of August 2011:

ANONYMOUS

KATHLEEN BUTLER AND IAN KAPLAN

KAREN S. COX

ROBERT KINSINGER

CHARLES MONTANDON*

MICHAEL J. O'DONNELL*

DR. RUTH M. OLMSTED

ROGER R. UNGER

CHARLES J. ROBINSON

GLORIA ANN SKLARYK*

JOSHUA L. SMITH

ROBERT P. WILLIAMS

* indicates estate gift received by Excelsior College

Move “Ever Upward” with Your Alumni Association.

JOIN THE ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

Members of the Alumni Advisory Board (AAB) are elected to a three-year term and can serve a total of two consecutive terms. Responsibilities include communicating with alumni via phone, email, and social media as well as:

- › Attending Commencement in July in Albany, which includes the annual meeting of the Alumni Association and the summer AAB meeting, and the winter AAB meeting (expenses are covered);
- › Participating in monthly AAB meetings held by Web chat or teleconference;
- › Serving on at least one board subcommittee; and
- › Supporting the College with annual financial contributions (the amount is determined by the individual).

If you would like to be considered for the AAB, complete and submit an Advisory Board Member Self-Nomination form along with your current resume and a letter explaining the reasons you would like to participate on the board. The deadline for nominations is December 31, 2011. Elected members will begin their terms in July 2012. More information and a link to the nomination form can be found at www.excelsior.edu/AABNominate.

ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

The AAB gathered at Commencement 2011.

Back row, L-R, Danny Scott, AS '01, BS '02; outgoing President John Amidon, BA '99; William Senn, BCI '07; Wayne A. Oppel, BS '91; **Bottom row**, L-R, Vice President Sara J. Waldorf, BA '03; Secretary JoAnne Ellsworth, BA '87; Kadidia Doumbia, BS '85; Marie Wrinn, BRN '10; and President Kathleen Butler, BS '07. **Not pictured**, LCDR Shannon McMillan, AS '07, BA '09.

BECOME AN ALUMNI AMBASSADOR

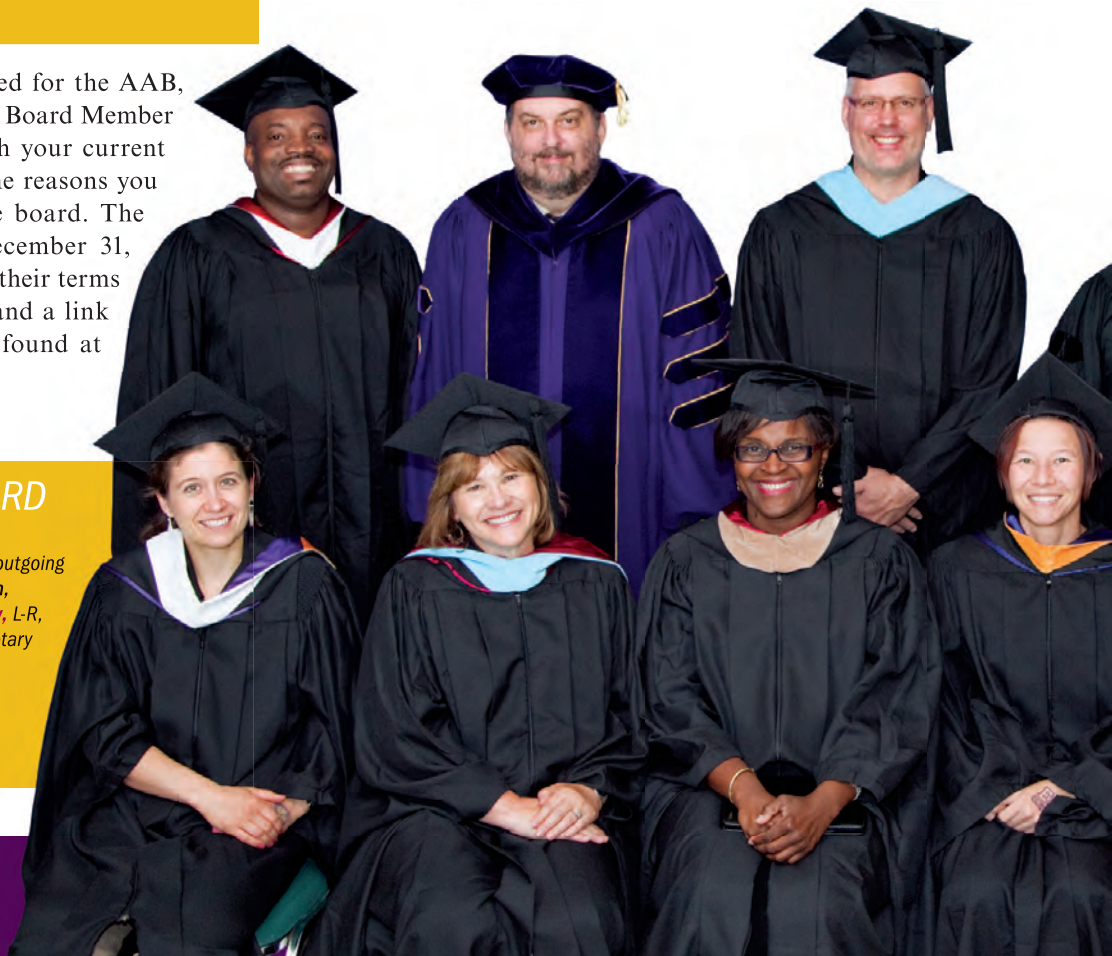
Alumni from 16 states and as far away as Germany have submitted applications to become Excelsior College Alumni Ambassadors. These are enthusiastic Excelsior grads interested in communicating with fellow alumni for professional networking, continuing education opportunities, and good old-fashioned fun. In fact, more than 20 applications alone were received from members of the Class of 2011 during Commencement festivities.

“I want to be part of the team that’s dedicated to taking Excelsior to the next level,” said **ADRIENNE MASON, BS '11**.

If you want to connect with alumni now, visit our Excelsior Alumni Association Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ECAlumni.

Many applicants have already completed the online training component of the Ambassador program, which was conducted via Web chat by Alumni Advisory Board Secretary JoAnne Ellsworth, BA '87. ■

For more information on becoming an Alumni Ambassador, contact Renee Kelly, alumni affairs and annual campaign manager at rkelly@excelsior.edu.





COMING SOON TO A CITY NEAR YOU!

As part of the College's 40th Anniversary, we're visiting alumni all over the country. We can't wait to meet you!

Wednesday, November 16, 2011, **KILLEEN, TEXAS**

Sunday, January 29, 2011, **ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

Spring 2012, Date TBA, **WASHINGTON, DC**

To register for any of these events, email alumni@excelsior.edu.

GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES: NEW ALUMNI CHAPTER

With alumni chapters in North Carolina and Washington, DC/Baltimore going strong, the College last spring launched its third chapter in the Capital Region of New York (Albany/Saratoga), home to Excelsior College. We are proud to say that the 56 charter members of this organization are Excelsior's own staff members.

The Capital Region Chapter's inaugural event on August 23—Baseball, BBQ, and Blues—was well-attended by alumni who gathered for a pre-game picnic and concert by blues legend Ernie Williams before watching the Tri-City ValleyCats take on the Brooklyn Cyclones. ■

40TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES

Visit www.excelsior.edu/40th-anniversary-celebration to see presentations by Excelsior's accomplished alumni.

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 America 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. 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 January 2011 in San Diego, California. ■

Check our Web site at
www.excelsior.edu/alumni
for updates.

WEB CHATS

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

A Tale of Two Topics: **THE ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD AND ALUMNI AWARDS**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 8–9 PM ET

Do you want to become more involved in your alumni association? Do you know that, as an alumnus, you can nominate yourself for an award? Don't miss this opportunity to speak with two current members of the Alumni Advisory Board about their experiences on the board, how you can get involved, and what alumni awards are all about. This discussion will include an explanation of the self-nomination process.

A New Year's Resolution: **MAKE 2012 YOUR "CAREER YEAR"**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011, 8–9 PM ET

As another year comes to a close, it's an opportunity to look back and to look ahead. If you're resolved to set a new and improved career direction, join us for this engaging and interactive web chat. You'll learn strategies that you can put to work immediately to advance your career in the New Year, inside or outside of your current organization. Don't let this be another resolution that falls by the wayside. Register today and make 2012 your "career year!"

READY, SET, GOAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012, 8–9 PM ET

Learn how to establish manageable goals to ensure the success of your long-term plans in this webinar hosted by Alumni Advisory Board member JoAnne Ellsworth, BA '87.

Registering for these 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.

ARE WE MISSING YOU?

As an alumnus of Excelsior College, you should be receiving a monthly newsletter and invites to special events and Web chats. **But if we don't have your email address, we can't keep you in the loop.**

If you are not currently receiving email communication from us, please send your name, address, phone number, email address, and unisex t-shirt size to alumni@excelsior.edu so we can update our records and enter you in our monthly prize drawing.

Meet the 2011 Alumni Award Recipients



Susan Legaspi, Garry Jaunal, Carey Clark

SUSAN LEGASPI, CPA, CFF, ACFE

Alumni Achievement Award Recipient

Susan R. Legaspi, CPA, CFF, ACFE, (left) of Los Angeles, California, graduated from Excelsior College in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in General Business degree. Currently a partner with Zuehls, Legaspi & Company (ZLCO), Ms. Legaspi came to the U.S. from the Philippines in 1984. Earning her Excelsior degree helped her get her foot on the “first rung of her career ladder,” one she has steadily climbed.

In addition to her CPA, she is also Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF), an IRS Enrolled Agent (EA), and an Associate Certified Forensic Examiner (ACFE) with more than 15 years experience working with nonprofit organizations and government entities.

The author and co-author of more than 30 articles, Legaspi sits on the boards of several nonprofit organizations and actively assists Filipino associations and immigrants by providing financial consulting and mentoring assistance. As the first chairman of the National Executive Board of the International Society of Filipinos in Finance and Accounting (ISFFA), she is responsible for establishing formal mentoring and leadership programs. She is also a member of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CALCPA), American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), and the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO).

Her volunteer work has been recognized with several awards, including *Asian Enterprise* magazine's 2008 Asian Entrepreneur of the Year Award—Service Category, and the 2010 Career Achievement Award from the Women's International Film and Television Showcase (WIFTS) for her tremendous work with the Filipino community in the United States.

GARRY WILLIAM JAUNAL, ESQ

C. Wayne Williams Award Recipient

After earning a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies degree in 1992 from Excelsior College, Garry William Jaunal (center) immediately enrolled in a graduate program at Purdue University, where he completed a Master of Science in Management degree in 1994. He went on to complete a Juris Doctor degree cum laude from the Northwestern University School of Law in 1999.

Mr. Jaunal, of Chicago, Illinois, is a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where he has practiced corporate transactional law for more than 11 years, representing clients in domestic and global transactions and advising boards of directors and private equity clients.

Among his many pro bono activities are representing the indigenous people of Nepal in a complaint before the United Nations Human Rights Commission, representing the Chicago Community Loan Fund as a lender in a community development mortgage loan, representing a student and parents in an Individualized Education Plan conference, and representing a charter school in financing a transaction.

Prior to entering the law, Jaunal had twenty-five years of experience in the design, construction, and start-up testing of commercial nuclear and fossil fueled power plants. He has been a successful entrepreneur, worked as a patrolman and detective with Delaware's New Castle County Police Department, and served on active duty with the United States Marine Corps.

Jaunal is a frequent speaker on the topics of legal structuring and financial restructuring of businesses. Named an Illinois Rising Star by *Super Lawyer* magazine in both 2008 and 2009, he is a life member of the American Nuclear Society, a member of the Law Society of England and Wales, and a sustaining member of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

CAREY S. CLARK, PHD, RN

Carrie B. Lenburg Award Recipient

Carey S. Clark, PhD, RN, (right) of Arrowsic, Maine, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Excelsior College in 1999. She is an assistant professor at the University of Maine at Augusta, where she is developing a caring-holistic-integral curriculum in the RN-BSN program.

Dr. Clark has taught across the levels of nursing academia, from associate degree to doctoral studies, in both the online and traditional settings. Clark has worked with the nurse manifest project, performing grass-roots research about the state of nursing practice today. A Usui Reiki Master, she has published articles about the nursing shortage and caring in nursing academia in journals such as the *International Journal for Human Caring*, *Advances in Nursing Science*, and the *International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship*, and writes a blog for the Nurse Manifest Project.

With expertise in the areas of the nursing shortage, nursing education, community health, and end-of-life care, she is a member of the American Holistic Nurses Association, the International Human Caring Association, and Sigma Theta Tau. In addition, she served as a trustee of the Monte Rio School Board. Clark is the 2001 recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Nursing Student Award for commitment to university service at California State University, Dominguez Hills, where she earned a Master of Science in Nursing Education. She was awarded the Jean Watson Human Caring scholarship to attend and present at the International Human Caring Conference in 2003. In 2004, she earned a PhD from the California Institute of Integral Studies in Humanities with an emphasis in Transformative Learning and Change.

Nominate Yourself for an Alumni Award

Nominations for Alumni Awards are due December 31, 2011. Applications can be found on www.excelsior.edu/alumniawards.

The Alumni Achievement Award recognizes outstanding academic, professional, personal, and community contributions that are representative of our graduates. Presented to a graduate whose

achievements may serve as a role model to inspire other graduates and students.

The Carrie B. Lenburg Award is presented to an outstanding nursing graduate in recognition of the accomplishments and vision of Dr. Carrie Lenburg, coordinator of the Regents College Nursing Program from 1973 to 1990. It commemorates her commitment to helping nurses attain

their educational and professional goals. This award is presented to a nurse who demonstrates a commitment to nursing education as well as academic and professional accomplishments in the field of nursing.

The C. Wayne Williams Award, named after the College's first president, is presented in recognition of outstanding public service and community involvement by a graduate.

HATS OFF!

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

CALIFORNIA



Bruce Breslau, BS '97, Chatsworth—earned his Juris Doctorate from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles, CA. During his time at Southwestern, he interned at the Los

Angeles District Attorney's Office in the Elder Abuse, Healthcare Fraud and Justice System Integrity Divisions. Mr. Breslau intends to pursue a career in Elder Law/Patient Advocacy. He has been an advertising creative director for network television and a Master Certified Flight Instructor. He credits Excelsior for paving his way to law school by enabling him to complete his bachelor's degree, which he began in 1972.



Richard Bauman, BSL '02, West Covina—says, "One of the best things I ever did for myself is obtain my bachelor's degree from Excelsior. Though it was late in my career, and prob-

ably didn't make a great deal of difference in my employment, the satisfaction of becoming a college graduate was enough for me. Any chance I get, I tell others about Excelsior and the benefits of getting one's degree there."

Since retiring in January 2005, Bauman has written two books, *It Made a Difference to that One*, and *Holy Humor*. Both were published by CreateSpace. He also co-authored two books, *Bible Oddities* and *Women of the Bible: A Quiz Book*. He recently revised another book, *Awe-Full Moments: Spirituality in the Commonplace*, and published it through CreateSpace. His books are in paperback, and Kindle, Nook ebook formats. Bauman's Web site is www.richardjbauman.com.

Kate Butler, BS '07, Livermore—a social worker with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and VA Supportive Housing (VASH) program at the Palo Alto Health Care Systems (VAPAHCS), coordinated a cooking class for homeless veterans. Butler said, "In this economy, anyone can be homeless. HUD-VASH helped all of these veterans find a place, and I coordinated these classes to give them an opportunity to learn new skills and socialize." She plans more classes such as budget planning.

DELAWARE

Leroy C. Hill, BSL '08, Newark—was selected as the next Command Sergeant Major for the Land Component Commander, a position formerly known as Maryland Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major. During his 28 years in the military, he completed a combat tour in Iraq and earned military decorations including the Bronze Star for Service, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Maryland Distinguished Service Cross, Maryland Meritorious Service Medal, and Maryland Commendation Medal, among others.

FLORIDA

Katherine Yelenich Chelini, AS '82, Jacksonville—says, "Excelsior provided me with the validation I needed to continue on." Now, 30 years later, she is finishing her doctorate in education, employed as chair of a nursing education program in a large university, has a master's degree in nursing, is certified as a Nurse Midwife and a Legal Consultant, and "still is as much a fan of Excelsior as ever."

OHIO

Wanda F. Collett, AS nursing '09, Fairborn—is proud to be an Excelsior College alumna. Three generations of her family graduated from different colleges in 2009-2010—Collett, her daughter, and her granddaughter—and they all celebrated at a joint party in 2010. She writes, "I would like to say thank-you to the faculty, staff, and alumni board. Thank you Excelsior College for making it possible for me to earn my degree."



L-R: Wanda Collett (Excelsior College grad), granddaughter Ashley and daughters Missy and Mindy.

Daniel C. Williams, BCI '05, Tarpon Springs

—completed her Strayer University Master of Science in Information Systems degree (with a concentration in Software Engineering Management) in March 2011 with a 4.0 GPA.

Susan J. Hoke, BSL '86, Winter Park—now retired, credits her Excelsior (then Regents) College degree with paving the way for her to get a Master of Divinity degree at Candler School of Theology, opening the door for her to do ministry work at a local church and serve as a hospice chaplain.

MICHIGAN

Anthony Spearman-Leach, BS '92, Dearborn—is Montgomery Community Media's new development and communication's director. MCM is the only independent nonprofit media resource serving Montgomery County. Spearman-Leach has established a successful track record for more than a decade in areas such as marketing, communications, and fundraising. Most recently, he served as chief of communications at the Charles H. Wright Museum in Detroit, where he attained funding from several major foundations including the Ford Motor Company Fund, the Target Corporation, the Kresge Foundation, and others.

MISSOURI

Jennifer A. Salmons, AS nursing '11, Fulton—has been named Employee of the Year at Callaway Community Hospital, Fulton.

NEW JERSEY



Dr. John W. Collins Jr., AS '79, West Orange—has been promoted to [full] professor at New Jersey City University (NJCU). His promotion was based on outstanding

scholarship, teaching, and service. Collins currently serves as acting chairperson, Professional Security Studies Department. He completed a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College, MO; a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Oklahoma; and an EdD from Seton Hall University.

Collins was inducted into the U.S. Army's Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame (March 2006), U.S. Army Infantry Museum,

Ft. Benning, Georgia, for his outstanding service to the nation. Retired as a lieutenant colonel after almost 23 years of active duty, he has more than 40 awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, five Army Commendation Medals, and the Army Achievement Medal. As a field logistician with more than 15 years overseas, he served in South Korea, Grenada, Lebanon, Panama, Persian Gulf War, Somalia, and Bosnia (twice). His book, *Technology Leadership, Management and Policy: A Primer and Integrative Model for the 21st Century*, was published by Ithaca Press.

Linda Dayer-Berenson, BS nursing '89, Voorhees—was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in June 2011. Her textbook, *Cultural Competencies for Nurses: Impact on Health and Illness* was published in 2010, has been well reviewed and is being used nationally and internationally. She also earned an MSN in critical care nursing in 1992, is a certified nurse practitioner, and earned a PhD in health studies. In 2005, she joined the faculty of Drexel University, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

NEW MEXICO

Mary-Anne Martin, BSL '78, Silver City—went on to obtain a Master of Arts in Humanities degree at California State University, Dominguez Hills, in Carson, CA. She worked for the State of Kansas and then for the Federal Government in Lincoln, NE. During 16 of her 17 years in Nebraska, she was a prison volunteer. For years, she has been "involved in a mostly American Indian organization in Florida. I am a Reiki Master/Teacher...and do national prize-winning needlework." She is also in the process of restarting her stamp business from part-time to full-time and is studying Latin "just for the enjoyment of it."

NEW YORK

Tiziano Thomas Dossena, BSL '77, Yonkers—earned a BA in Italian from Queens College, NY, and a BA in Environmental Science from Purchase College, NY. Born in Milan in 1952, he "grew up in an artistic and inspiring environment and began writing at a young age." He moved to the U.S. at sixteen and completed his studies in America.



NEW JERSEY

Mkemo London, AS '01, Cherry Hill—has written an investment book titled, *Building Wealth with \$50: The 50 Best Dividend Stocks to Buy without a Broker*.



CALIFORNIA

Charlie Chapin, BSL '96, Stockton—has been recognized for his work on the educational video, "Love You to Death." Dr. Chapin won Ava awards as writer, director, and producer. Described as one of the most powerfully written documentaries on the subject of preventing teen dating violence, award-winning "Love You to Death" is a Moonshadow Production.



Upon returning to Italy in 1978, he pursued his writing and has since earned numerous awards including third prize for poetry at the "Biennale di Boniprati," first prize for essays at the "De Finibus Terrae" contest, second prize for poetry at "Voci Nostre," first prize for fiction "Coppa del Mare" at the "Premio Città di Modica," second prize for poetry at "Noi e gli Altri," a Gold Medal for Journalism at "Premio Emigrazione," and second prize with a silver medal at the "Premio Europa" for fiction. His works have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies in Italy, France, Greece, Switzerland, and the United States.

Beth Gurzler, AS nursing '10, Ballston Lake—passed the nursing boards in June 2010 and transitioned from an LPN position to an RN case manager position with Albany Visiting Nurses. Currently she works in southern Saratoga County, NY as a visiting nurse.

Cathy Scibelli, BAL '98, MA/LS '04, East Norwich—has had several articles and essays published recently. In addition to her writing work, she is actively involved with several organizations dedicated to historic preservation and world's fair history. In 2010, a condensed version of her master's thesis was published as an essay titled "Forget



OHIO

Lisa Goins, AS nursing '06, Hamilton—completed a BS nursing and is almost finished with her MS nursing degree, at which point she will become a nurse practitioner. She says her education will never end and she will continue to learn throughout her lifetime. In addition to working as a full-time student, nurse, and mother, she is also an instructor at Cincinnati State School of Nursing, where she teaches clinicals to new students.

Goins recently travelled to China where she conferred with Chinese doctors and nurses and shared some of her knowledge with them. She taught them Western charting and nursing practices and brought back a wealth of knowledge of Chinese medical practices and culture.

the Prozac, Give Me a Dose of Disney" in the book *Disneyland and Culture*, edited by Kathy Merlock Jackson and Mark I. West.

Scibelli says, "I'm also proud to say that I'm a breast cancer survivor, striving everyday to prove that cancer can be just a comma in your life, not a period!" The story of her cancer journey will be included in Dr. Bernie Siegel's soon-to-be-published book, *A Lifetime of Miracles*.



Takis J. Dikas, BSL '98, Colonie—says, "Excelsior College has equipped me to achieve my goals and dreams." He was a New York state worker for nine years and has established several online businesses. He has his own Internet outreach ministry and has written two books, *Prosperous 20's With An Unnecessary Depression* and *Abundant Life*. He currently works for the Golub Corporation.

Katherine M. Odell, BS '87, MA/LS '11, North Creek—and her husband, Thomas Henecker, AA '11, both earned Excelsior degrees in 2011.

NORTH CAROLINA

Elizabeth Neely, BS '92, Chapel Hill—has served as a state examiner for the North Carolina Awards for Excellence (NCAfE) for the past three years. The award is based on Baldrige Criteria and goes to organizations that demonstrate operational excellence. Neely earned her Master of Science degree in organizational change and leadership at Pfeiffer University in 2006.

NORTH DAKOTA

Howard Walth, AAS nursing '02, Bismark—worked as an emergency department nurse for two years and is now the Trauma Program Manager at a Level II Trauma Center. He is also a flight nurse for Bismark Air Medical and holds certifications as an Emergency Nurse (CEN), Flight Registered Nurse (CFRN), Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN), and, most recently, a Legal Nurse Consultant. After nine years of nursing and reviewing thousands of trauma medical records, he is starting an independent Legal Nurse Consulting business.

OHIO



Deborah R. Malec, BSL '10, Waterford—is presently a student in the MA/LS program at Excelsior and has "joined the ranks of author," publishing two fiction novels. The first is a suspense/mystery titled *Bass Mountain*:

Cut in Two. The second is a fantasy/comedy titled *Castle Fire: People in the Woods*. Both can be purchased at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and other book retailers.



VIRGINIA

Harold A. Geller, BSL '83, Burke—is now Term Associate Professor and the Observatory Director at George Mason University. He oversaw the installation of a 32-inch diameter Ritchey-Chretien telescope in the observatory on campus. This is the largest on-campus telescope in the region. His recent publications include a book on astrobiology, a chapter in an edited volume on a manned space venture to Mars, and a biographical volume on his brother, an award winning mathematics teacher currently battling cancer. He has been quoted in *USA Today*, News Channel 8 (local cable news in Washington, DC), WTOP radio, the Huffington Post, and GamePro magazine. He is a co-investigator on a multimillion dollar grant from the Department of Education, the largest grant of its kind obtained at his institution. He served on the committee of two recent PhD candidates as well as peer-review panels for NASA and NSF education grants. He was awarded the Faculty Member of the Year Award in 2008, and he has served on his university's Minority and Diversity Issues Committee. He has spoken at elementary schools and high schools in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, including Thomas Jefferson High School, recognized as the top high school in the nation. He mentors high school students at the observatory, and works with K-12 teachers in preparing them to teach science.

Kate Kelly, BS nursing '85, Cincinnati—earned an MSN from the University of Cincinnati in 1986 and was ordained as an Interfaith Minister, One Spirit Alliance in 2009.

Kelly says she found Excelsior “to have high academic standards as well as the flexibility needed to accommodate a working adult. I received a diagnosis of ADHD in 1989, at age 39. The new awareness of how my particular brain works helped me to make sense of my life, my gifts, and my challenges.” She has coauthored two popular books on the subject (*You Mean I'm Not Lazy, Stupid or Crazy?! and The ADDED Dimension*). Kelly trained as an ADHD coach and founded a Web-based private coaching practice, which grew into a group practice called ADDED Dimension Coaching (www.addcoaching.com). The group now trains



CALIFORNIA

Vernon Mortensen, BSL '04, Descanso—recently wrote and directed a new western movie, “The Sorrow,” starring Michael Madsen (*Reservoir Dogs*, *Kill Bill 1 & 2*), and John Savage (*Deer Hunter*, *The Thin Red Line*). He describes the movie as a gritty western/thriller—due in theaters worldwide in 2012. Mr. Mortensen also served as a co-executive producer on an indie film, “The Kid: Chamaco,” starring Martin Sheen (*The Departed*, *TV's The West Wing*). A film festival prize winner, the bilingual boxing drama was filmed entirely in Mexico City.

Mortensen is a retired U.S. Navy SWCC commando who served for 10 years on active duty and 10 years in the reserves with the Navy's elite Special Boat Teams. He currently serves as CEO of Unconventional Films in Southern California and is studying for his Doctor of Business Administration at Alliant International University.

coaches, matches up people with the coach who is the best fit for them, and offers group coaching classes. She also gives many presentations and workshops on topics related to ADHD and has written book chapters and articles. She says, “My hat is off to Excelsior and the people who had the vision to create a learning system for people who don't fit the traditional model. You gave me a foundation, and the inspiration to create my own ‘out of the box’ offerings to the world.”

OREGON

Teena A. Turner, AA in nursing '11, Troutdale—passed her nursing board exam and now is an RN. Turner is also working on gerontology certificates on behavioral health and end of life. She writes, “My boss has put me in for the promotion!” And adds, “You have no idea what an inspiration you are to me and so many others!” She plans to continue her education and to earn a master's degree.

PENNSYLVANIA

Patricia A Wood, AS in nursing '97, Doylestown—received a Nursing Excellence Award from Gwynedd-Mercy College for outstanding contributions to the field. Wood works at Doylestown Hospital as a float nurse in the emergency, telemetry, medical-surgical, and critical care departments. She has held a variety of nursing positions during her 24-year career and is currently attending Drexel University to complete the Adult Nurse Practitioner Program and obtain an MSN.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mark E. Johnson II, BS in Nuclear Engineering Technology '08, North Charleston—credits Excelsior's ABET accredited program with helping him move toward his dream of becoming a professional engineer. He transferred his previous credits and Navy training toward his degree, and then passed the Fundamentals in Engineering (FE) exam to become a registered Engineer-in-Training. He writes, “The courses I took at Excelsior College were excellent and my teachers were top-notch. I felt that I had a closer relationship with my instructors at Excelsior than I did while in ‘traditional college’ sitting in 100-person classrooms!”



Betty Holt-Turner, BSL '07, Myrtle Beach—completed a Master of Arts in Media Communication degree at Webster University Saint Louis (online) and is now pursuing her

third master's degree, the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (English/Writing), through Western New Mexico University. Holt-Turner is the Reservation Support

Coordinator at Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and a freelance writer of Web content.

TENNESSEE

J. Lucy Boyd, BS nursing '00, Lakesite—published her third book, *Your Mental Health Questions Answered*. After years of practice as a psychiatric nurse, she's now putting her knowledge and skills to use educating the public about a broad range of mental health issues.

TEXAS

Ruby I. MacDonald, MS nursing '09, Port Isabel—obtained her master's to get into the teaching side of nursing. She previously earned a BSN from Chamberlain College of Nursing in 2007. MacDonald says, “I am happy to tell you that having my degree from Excelsior has been the key to my success... Just to have the opportunity to make a difference in the teaching of nurses is more than I had hoped for!” She now has a position as director of nursing at Vista College in El Paso, TX.

UTAH



John G. Nelson, BS '00, Wellsville—retired from the Air Force in 2000 and went on to become director of Quality and Risk Management and Infection Control at a hospital in Northern Utah. His novel, *Against Nature*, was just published by Wild Child Publishing. Nelson describes it as “a dystopian thriller about a global pandemic caused by an extraterrestrial dust mite introduced to Earth in the wound of a shuttle astronaut.” The book is available from Amazon (and Amazon UK), Barnes & Noble, Wild Child Publishing, and a variety of other online booksellers.

WEST VIRGINIA

Roland E. St. Germain, BAL '79, Harpers Ferry—just had his first book, *Islam Through an Infidel's Eyes*, published with Publish America. In it, he explains “in plain English what the Qur'an demands of all Muslims and how it effects relations with non-Muslim nations and peoples.” St. Germain served in the USAF from 1967 to 1990 working in several intelligence disciplines and at various levels. After military retirement he worked for several government agencies including the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). While at DIA, St. Germain worked on several Task Forces including the Arms Control Intelligence Staff, the Chairman JCS's Yugoslav Intelligence Task Force, Task Force FALCON, Kosovo, and the Intelligence Community's POW/MIA Analytic Cell.

He authored several critical reports on captive handling in Mideast, African, and South American nations. Since 2005, he has worked counter terrorism issues as a consultant with two firms in support of CIA and DOD and independent research. He has over 40 years of experience in the collection, reporting, analysis, and production of intelligence products.



VIRGINIA

Michael Jerome Jones, BS '02, Chesapeake—is responsible for providing leadership and enterprise management of network and transport resources supporting over 300 ships and more than 600,000 computer network users, all globally dispersed, for the Naval Network Warfare Command (NETWARCOM). Jones served in a broad range of operational and staff tours before retiring from a naval career spanning 27 years. Before entering government service, Jones worked in the private sector for General Dynamics Corporation. He has extensive experience in communications, information systems management, and strategic planning and is a graduate of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School's Facilitation Training Program and the Department of Defense Instructor Certification Program. Most recently, he completed the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business Executive Leadership Corporate Business curriculum. His civic roles have included chairman of the Southeastern Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) Policy Board and membership on the Human Services Advisory Board for the city of Chesapeake, VA.



ACE Award for 2010

Mercedes Acuña, BSL '08, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky—received the 2010 Adult Learner of the Year award. 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. Recipients must also demonstrate outstanding achievements in their community or workplace while successfully balancing the demands of family, career, and education.

"My desire to better myself, my family, and my career pushed me to complete what many working moms thought was impossible," said Acuña. A military spouse and mother of three, Acuña dealt with challenges such as constant relocations, numerous deployments, new cultures, the strains of war, and the stress of being both a mother and a father-substitute, all while working on her degree.

Excelsior accepted her previously earned college credits and applied her Family & MWR workplace training toward her education. Despite her hectic schedule, Acuña also found time to volunteer with the American Red Cross and Army Community Service (ACS).

Acuña said, "My journey might have taken me nine years to complete, but it taught me that a little determination and motivation can take you through challenges. Hopefully my story will help inspire other mothers struggling to find the right balance between family, work, and their education, to not give up—to keep fighting until they too can fulfill their dream."

TELL US MORE ABOUT

New and exciting opportunities evolved forty years ago to help adult learners earn college degrees that were neither bound by walls nor anchored in time. Just as the College's symbol, an armillary sphere, has no beginning or end, education is a lifelong journey—**and at the center of it all is YOU.**

Please share your accomplishments for the upcoming 40th anniversary editions of *Live & Learn*. Let us know how your Excelsior experience has influenced your life, what personal and professional activities you've pursued since graduating, and your future plans and aspirations. **Our alumni, more than 141,000 strong, are the heart and soul of the College. We hope to hear from you!**

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