

# LIVE & LEARN

Magazine of Excelsior College

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p.2  
COMMENCEMENT 2007

Carol Tiger, *Editor-in-Chief*  
Dana Yanulavich, *Writer/Editor*  
Nick Klercker, *Art Director/Designer*  
Ron Pavoldi, *Production Manager*

## CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Cover by Michael Hemberger  
Commencement: Michael Hemberger, Chris Qua, and Photograds.com

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## IA Staff

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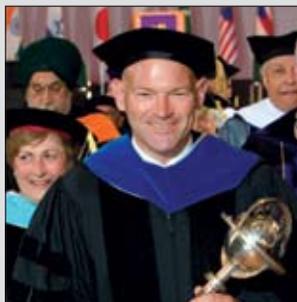
Your questions and comments regarding *Live & Learn* are welcome. Please direct them to the Publications Office: 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, New York 12203-5156  
phone: 518-464-8555  
email: [pubteam@excelsior.edu](mailto:pubteam@excelsior.edu)

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## Excelsior's 36<sup>th</sup> Commencement

— a celebration of achievement!

p. 2



## Two Student Speakers

— tell one inspiring story together.

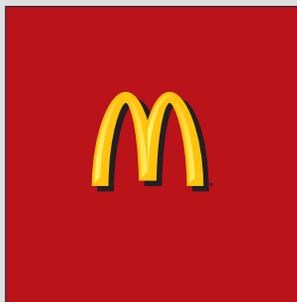
p. 7



## First MBA Grads

— commemorate their accomplishments at Commencement 2007.

p. 8



## McDonald's USA

— names Excelsior College as a preferred education provider.

p. 13



## Interview with Paul Troop

— outgoing Alumni Advisory Board member talks about the importance of alumni participation.

p. 25

*Living & Giving* p. 19

All About Alumni p. 23

# DEAR STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND FRIENDS



*Tom Dalton is assistant vice president for Enrollment Management. Prior to joining the College, he served as senior vice president for Customer Relations for the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC). He has over 26 years of administrative financial aid experience.*

*When not busy working at the College, Tom is an accomplished runner, with 14 victories in the local corporate challenge, a race that attracts over 4,000 runners annually. He has been named USA masters cross-country runner of the year five times by USA Track and Field.*

I arrived at Excelsior College last November as the new assistant vice president for Enrollment Management. My charge in this new position was to bring up Federal Title IV Student Financial Aid. On the face it seems simple, but in reality, it is a monumental task to implement federal aid programs. To be able to offer these many benefits, it takes an institution-wide commitment.

I am pleased to tell you that the institution has embraced this task with open arms, and faculty and staff are working hard to bring federal aid to our students. Many things need to be in place administratively in order to begin to process aid and disburse funds. These include changes in academic policies, which are dictated by federal regulations, integration of computer software, and updates to our Web site so that students can seamlessly navigate the process.

After a ten-month application process, President Ebersole informed everyone in June that the College received approval from the U.S. Department of Education to administer Federal Title IV Student Financial Aid. As of July 1, students may be able to take advantage, in the 2007 tax year, of some of the Federal Tax Credits for tuition and fees paid to Excelsior College between July 1 and December 31, 2007. Students do not need to apply for financial aid to take advantage of these credits. In January of each year, each student will receive an IRS form 1098-T from Excelsior College that will indicate the total amount of tuition and fees paid during the previous tax year. Students should consult with their tax professional to see if they qualify for credits.

In addition, those students with existing loans, used to attend other colleges and universities, may be able to put them into “in-school deferment” status as long as they are enrolled at Excelsior College at least half-time. They may suspend payments of their loans if they qualify for this status.

Students will be able to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to determine their eligibility for institutional aid and private loans. In the past, Excelsior College students had to complete a paper FAFSA and our financial aid staff had to hand calculate the analysis to determine these awards.

The College will begin processing federal aid for all of our eligible students in December 2007 (exam-based curricula, such as the associate degree in nursing programs, will not be eligible). The time between now and December will be spent reviewing all required academic and administrative policies, programming of those policies, and installing and integrating school-based software that will give the College the administrative capabilities necessary to properly disburse federal funds.

This is an exciting time for the College, and I look forward to working with all of our students to help them successfully realize their goal of a degree with Excelsior.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Dalton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas J. Dalton  
Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management

# COMMENCEMENT

July 13, 2007

**W**ith the familiar musical strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” setting the tone, the achievements of Excelsior College’s largest graduating class to date were celebrated at the July 13<sup>th</sup> Commencement ceremony held at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, New York. Nearly 5,000 students from all 50 states and 22 countries earned their degrees. Family and friends gathered in enthusiastic support of the nearly 200 graduates who topped off their academic journey by traveling to Albany to cross the stage with fellow classmates.

Commencement 2007 was notable on several fronts. For the first time ever, two individuals were featured as student speakers. Kate Butler of Delmar, New York, and Ana Maria Mitchell of Houston, Texas, met online through the College’s Electronic Peer

*“Commencement was AWESOME!  
My favorite part was the staff lined up in the halls  
as we walked from the conference room to the  
auditorium; the cheering brought a tear to my eye.  
What an awesome feeling!”*  
— Jerilyn Wessberg

Network. These long-distance friends exemplify the potential of online education, not only bridging the geographic gap but also in building a supportive, learning environment. (Read more about Kate and Ana Maria on page 7.)

The July ceremony was marked by another College “first”—the graduation of the first Master of Business Administration degree recipients. (Read more on page 8 about the eight graduates who celebrated their landmark accomplishment together.)

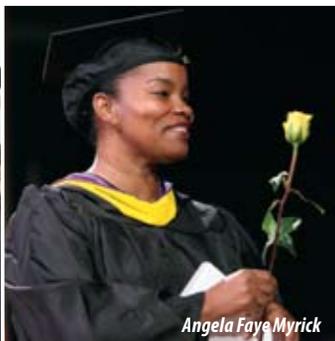
The memorable day recognizing the graduates’ success also included the awarding of the first Presidential Citation to Mrs. Dolores D. Wharton, a noted leader in the non-profit arena whose work has supported women and minorities in the corporate world. Her husband, Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., former chancellor of the State University of New York and past chairman and CEO of TIAA-CREF, received an honorary doctorate degree and delivered the keynote address, asking the audience “to remember what we do about education in the 21st century will be of paramount importance in meeting the major challenges, which will affect the way you and your descendants will live.” Dr. William G. Harris also was recognized with an honorary doctorate degree for his contributions to the testing industry.

President John F. Ebersole gratefully acknowledged the contributions of four retiring members of the Excelsior College Board of Trustees—Jean M. Smith, Dr. Robert E. Kinsinger, Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg, USA (Ret.), and Dr. Joshua L. Smith. He noted, “This group, who were also members of the original Regents Board of Overseers, was instrumental in the College’s successful transition to an independent institution. We thank them for their vision and dedication to the mission of Excelsior College.”

Following the conferral of degrees and the conclusion of the ceremony, students were greeted by the board of trustees, who formed a receiving line outside the convention hall. Jeri Wessberg, Associate in Science in nursing grad, exclaimed, “Commencement was AWESOME! My favorite part was the staff lined up in the halls as we walked from the conference room to the auditorium; the cheering brought a tear to my eye. What an awesome feeling!”



L to r: Emilsen Salazar Holguin,  
Leigh Ostwald, Marilee Hettie



Angela Faye Myrick



L to r: Seung Hi Ko,  
Constance Laswell, Madeline A. Lawson



Jamal Saleh Baadani

# The 2007 Graduating Class:

All **50** states were represented, plus the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and **21** other nations. Out of a total of **4,998** graduates, **45%** were female and **55%** were male. **32%** of the graduates self-reported as being members of minority groups. **39%** were members of the U.S. military. The average age of the Class of 2007 was **38.1**. The oldest graduate this year was an **82**-year old woman from California who earned a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. The youngest graduate was an **18**-year old woman from Brooklyn, New York, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies. **396** of the graduates were from New York State, with **44** from the Capital Region. **2,628** students earned associate degrees. **2,340** earned bachelor's degrees. **51** earned master's degrees.



# STUDENT AWARD WINNERS



*“Excelsior’s advisors really took an active interest in students and provided personal guidance on the best path toward achieving my goal of a degree.”*

## The Marvin Curling Memorial Award

**1 FRANK SPAGNUOLO** of Wappingers Falls, New York, earned his Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering Technology, graduating *cum laude* with a grade point average of 3.65, through a combination of college courses, proficiency examinations, corporate training courses, and military training schools and ratings. Known by his colleagues as “a true professional who is dedicated to assisting others,” Spagnuolo is also a community volunteer; he has been involved with the Guiding Eyes for the Blind, a non-profit, charitable organization that provides trained guide dogs for service to blind or visually impaired individuals.

## The Robert P. Mahoney Award

**MARCI L. MCCABE** of Richland, Washington, received a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, with two areas of focus — psychology and social work. Despite chronic health issues and raising a child as a single parent, McCabe persevered to reach her educational aspirations and also continues to give back to her community in as many ways as she can. She says, *“In my own small way I am trying to teach the world to smile through the pain.”*

## The Ewald B. Nyquist Award

**ROSS RUPLEY** of Kailua Kona, Hawaii, was able to complete his Bachelor of Arts almost entirely by examination, graduating *summa cum laude* with a grade point average of 3.90. With majors in psychology and literature in English, Rupley earned excellent grades in such diverse academic subjects as history, sociology, religion, astronomy, and health. He says he is very proud of his baccalaureate degree and states that *“Excelsior College has the best people and the best programs.”*

## The Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award

**2 MGY SGT DENNIS F. STIEBER** of Fredericksburg, Virginia, has served in the U.S. Marine Corps for nearly 22 years and has reached the highest rank for an enlisted marine, master gunnery sergeant. While stationed in Iraq, he conducted numerous lifesaving evacuations and was instrumental in saving 15 lives. The first in his family to graduate from college, he has been a stellar student. Not only did he earn a 3.95 GPA, *summa cum laude*, in his academic studies, but he also was on the Commanding General’s Honor Rolls when attending various military schools. Steiber found that *“Excelsior’s advisors really took an active interest in students and provided personal guidance on the best path toward achieving my goal of a degree.”*

## The LeRoy V. Good Memorial Award

**DENNIS K. TAYLOR** of Stanwood, Washington, earned his Associate in Science in Liberal Arts, completing the majority of his degree through a combination of proficiency examinations and online and military service school courses. Taylor enrolled at Excelsior College in 2006 with three military service school credits. In one year, he completed 57 college credits to earn his associate degree, achieving a 4.0 grade point average with Highest Honors. Taylor said, *“With the aid of some very helpful people at Excelsior, learning through independent study was a challenging, yet enjoyable experience.”*

## The Charles W. Laffin Jr. Memorial Award

**DONALD J. DeVITO JR.** of Houston, Texas, earned his Bachelor of Science in General Business, graduating *summa cum laude* with a grade point average of 4.0. DeVito completed his degree within a year of enrollment, and he credits the independent learning opportunity offered by Excelsior College with his degree completion success. He has now set his sights on a graduate degree and says, *“Not long ago,*

*that was just a far-off idea, but now it’s an attainable goal thanks to the completion of my bachelor’s degree.”*

## The Ruth V. Matheny Memorial Award

**3 LINDA M. CRIDER** of Fairfield, Pennsylvania, completed an Associate in Applied Science in nursing, earning a 3.78 grade point average with High Honors. She currently works in a medical surgical unit, which she finds challenging and rewarding. Crider felt a traditional college wouldn’t have been right for her, when she was trying to *“keep everything working — juggling jobs, kids, and all the rest — I just didn’t want to do that. Excelsior sounded like the perfect way to go.”*

## Excelsior College Examinations Awards

**ELIZABETH ALBRITTON**, is currently enrolled in Excelsior’s Associate in Science in nursing program with a grade point average above 3.5. She says, *“I have a passion for teaching and helping others, and I hope to eventually teach nursing at a college or university. I chose Excelsior College because it afforded me a second chance to obtain my nursing degree. It is also very affordable and flexible. I think distance learning is an absolute must in today’s world. I highly recommend Excelsior College.”*

**DAVID L. COOPER**, is currently enrolled in the Excelsior College Associate in Science in nursing program with a grade point average above 3.5. Cooper is also a 1991 graduate of the Excelsior College Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies program.

## The 2007 Student Support Award

**JOANN DIXON** nominated by her daughter, Sonya, Associate in Science in nursing degree graduate (see next page).



**SONYA F. DIXON**, ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE IN NURSING, PROVOST **DANA OFFERMAN**, AND AWARD WINNER, **JOANN DIXON**, SONYA'S MOM

## THE 2007 STUDENT SUPPORT AWARD

**O**ne of the first things you notice when speaking with Sonya Dixon is her enthusiasm, marked by her tendency to repeat words and phrases three times. Right off the bat, she advises, “I would recommend Excelsior to anyone, and I would tell them that *you must, you must, you must* be focused. So, if you’re going to study—study, and don’t do it half-heartedly, do it *whole-heartedly*. Know that you want the best possible outcome.”

Maybe it’s true that “the third time’s the charm,” for this three-time college graduate. Sonya, of Stone Mountain, Georgia, previously earned two degrees—one in psychology and another in fashion merchandising—before hitting on what she identifies as her true calling: nursing. Her third degree, an Associate in Science in nursing from Excelsior College, has already paid off handsomely both in fulfilling her personal goals and in a job promotion.

Despite her other degrees, Sonya discovered that many others felt she displayed attributes well suited to the nursing profession. She recalls that people asked her, “Are you a nurse? Because, you know, you have that caring attitude.” She turned to her faith for guidance when she decided to apply. “God, if that’s what you want me to do, I’ll get accepted right away.” And, when she applied, Sonya was indeed accepted into the program.

Sonya also credits the support of her mother, JoAnn Dixon of Columbus, Ohio, with helping her find her true path. “My mother said, ‘This is what you’re supposed to do. I always knew that one of my children was going to be in the medical field and I thought it would be you.’” Sonya explained that when she had self-doubts about her ability to succeed, her mother would encourage her; when she threatened to quit, her mother said “no.”

And JoAnn’s motherly support wasn’t merely lip service. In addition to working and studying for her degree, Sonya was also faced with the challenge of caring for her chronically ill son who

required frequent hospitalizations. JoAnn invested her time, talents, and finances to assist Sonya with her degree pursuit. She traveled from her home in Ohio to Dixon’s Georgia location for months at a time to offer assistance. In recognition of her support and encouragement, JoAnn was honored at Excelsior’s July Commencement as the recipient of the 2007 Student Support Award.

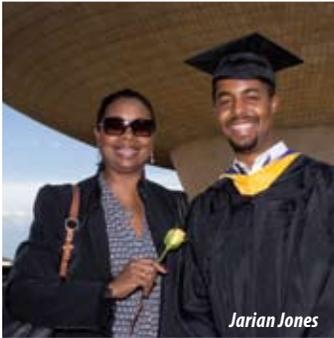
JoAnn explains, “With all the obstacles that were thrown in her path, she succeeded in achieving her goal. With her faith, her courage, love, and care for my grandchild, who has a chronic disease, and for the numerous times she had to go to the hospital in Georgia, she stood fast and continued—I wouldn’t let her quit.”

Sonya persevered, earned her degree, and readily passed the NCLEX®, the national standardized exam required by each state board of nursing. Now working as an RN in a hospital trauma unit, she notes, “One nurse said to me the other day, ‘You are a really thorough nurse.’” Sonya explains, “Excelsior definitely equipped me for what I need to do. It [the degree] is going to open quite a few doors for me. And it’s going to help me to help others.”

Commencement was a time for Sonya to celebrate her accomplishment and for JoAnn to receive some well-deserved recognition. Sonya was impressed by the friendliness and caring attitude of the Excelsior College staff she encountered and the accessibility of the board of trustees, who greeted grads after they exited the Commencement ceremony.

Feeling that good things may come in threes, Sonya proves it once again, as she offers her final comments in triplet. “The only thing I have left to say is *thank you, thank you, thank you*, and it’s still not enough, but thank you. I am *truly, truly, truly* blessed to have had the experience to go through Excelsior!” ■

by Dana Yanulavich



Jarian Jones



Saron Malloy



L to r: Janie T. Loper, Shirley Brown



Joan P. Rudig

**O**utgoing members of the Excelsior College Board of Trustees were honored at Commencement 2007 for their long service in support of the College's mission, philosophy, and advancement. All four were members of the College's original board.



L to r: Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg, USA (Ret.), Jean M. Smith, Dr. Robert E. Kinsinger, and Dr. Joshua L. Smith

## HONORARY DEGREE

*"From now on, as you go through life, whenever you encounter setbacks or problems, remember the personal recognition of your achievement on July 13, 2007—today symbolizes your ability to succeed."*

**THE HONORABLE DR. CLIFTON R. WHARTON, JR., DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, HONORIS CAUSA**, has pursued careers in philanthropy, foreign economic development, higher education, and business. Former chairman and CEO of TIAA-CREF, the giant financial company with assets of more than \$300 billion, held previous positions as president of Michigan State University, chancellor of the 64-campus State University of New York system, and chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation. He has served six presidents in foreign policy advisory posts. Most recently, he was the Deputy Secretary of State (the number two position), U.S. Department of State in 1993 under President Clinton.

He has been a director of ten U.S. corporations, including Ford Motor, Time, the New York Stock Exchange, Harcourt General, Equitable Life, Tenneco, Federated, and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Harvard, a Master of Arts from the School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University, and a PhD in economics from the University of Chicago. He has been awarded 61 honorary doctorate degrees.

In his keynote address, Dr. Wharton spoke of the influence education can have in reducing intolerance and mindless violence in the world. He sees colleges and universities as the "creators of America's greatest asset—its human capital," and believes that they "function as a forum where divergent views can contend in the search for 'truth.'" Dr. Wharton congratulated the class, saying, "From now on, as you go through life, whenever you encounter setbacks or problems, remember the personal recognition of your achievement on July 13, 2007—today symbolizes your ability to succeed."

Dr. Wharton's wife, Dolores, was awarded Excelsior College's first Presidential Citation at Commencement 2007 (see page 9). ■



KATE BUTLER

ANA MARIA TAPIA DE MITCHELL

# GRADUATE SPEAKER X2

**W**hether it was fate, serendipity, or just good luck—it seems that Ana Maria Tapia de Mitchell and Kate Butler were destined to meet. It happened at Excelsior’s Electronic Peer Network (EPN), where, among many other things, students can buy and sell used books. Ana Maria had just completed a course that Kate was about to take. Ana Maria was selling her textbooks; Kate was buying them.

“We established a friendship there,” says Ana Maria. “I wrote a note to accompany the book, saying, ‘I’m sure you’re a young girl, I just want to let you know I’m older, in my 50s, and have four children.’” Amazingly, Kate wrote back and said, “So am I! So do I!”

They discovered they were both the same age, both had four children, and both were in the middle of a life change that brought them back to college. They started writing back and forth by email. Kate remembers, “We’d find each other online and commiserate and cheer each other on when we passed tests.”

At Commencement 2007, the two spoke together, delivering one fantastic graduation speech. Here are just a few excerpts from their inspiring story:

**Kate:** I’m Kate Butler and this is my best friend from Excelsior College, Ana Maria Tapia de Mitchell. I live here in the Albany area and Ana Maria lives in Houston, Texas. We just met in person this week, although we’ve been dear friends for the past year. When I began Excelsior College, I told my advisor that I wanted to earn my degree in one year, and instead of laughing or raising her eyebrows, she laid out a plan for me.

**Ana Maria:** I had a good job as a translator in advertising, but I didn’t want “a job,” I wanted a profession, and one in which I could give something to the community with my bilingual skills. So I made the decision to become a teacher. Excelsior College gave me the chance to accomplish my dream. After collecting my college credits from my native country, Chile, my advisors also laid out a plan for me ... and I started to pursue my educational goals.

**Kate:** Ana Maria and I emailed each other daily, offering support and encouragement. We also made friends with students in our other online classes. A number of them were in Iraq. To all of our classmates who are in the armed services, stationed all over the world, we thank you and we salute you.

**Ana Maria:** Knowing other Excelsior College students online gave me a sense of pride and belonging. I completed my bachelor’s degree last October while completing my Teacher

Certification Program and jumped into the classroom. I am now a proud bilingual elementary educator of the State of Texas and love every bit of it.

**Kate:** Based on my degree from Excelsior, I was accepted this spring into the Graduate School of Social Welfare at the University of Albany, and I am currently working on a master’s degree in social work.

**Ana Maria:** We would like to encourage everyone watching this graduation ceremony, who has considered going back to school, to explore a degree with Excelsior College. It doesn’t matter how old you are, where you live, or what your schedule is. Kate and I and our fellow students here today are proof of this.

**Kate:** Shortly after I began working on my degree at Excelsior, I went out to dinner with friends at a Chinese restaurant. Inside my fortune cookie was an old Chinese proverb that I still carry in my wallet today. It said, “Fall down seven times, stand up eight.” We are not a graduating class of young college students, poised on the brink of adulthood. We are adults who have lived diverse lives, who have accomplished much, and will accomplish more. In our lives, we have all undoubtedly fallen down many times. But the fact that we are all here today, means that each and every time, we stood back up. And so, to the Class of 2007, wherever you are, here in this room or halfway across the world, please join us in standing up together—as the Excelsior College Class of 2007.

Ana Maria and Kate concluded in unison: “Congratulations!” And Ana Maria added: “¡Y felicitaciones a todos los hispanohablantes!” The entire audience jumped to its feet with a heartfelt standing ovation. ■



# FIRST MBA GRADS CELEBRATE!

**T**he first cohort of Excelsior College MBA graduates traveled to Albany in July to attend Commencement 2007. The enthusiastic group of eight graduates—seven from Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) and one from Prudential Insurance Company—celebrated their achievements together, just as they worked together for the last two years on their graduate degrees. The College, in association with Corporate College Services (CCS), an education provider to corporate clients, offered students the flexibility they needed to ensure their success. Along with American Council on Education (ACE) approved course alternatives for transfer credit, the MBA program required 11 courses—six of which were taught on-site at PSE&G, five online Excelsior College courses, and a capstone project. Excelsior College academic advisors helped the students determine appropriate options for fulfilling the requirements in ways that would meet their academic career objectives and their preferred learning styles.

One grad, Suzanne Matula, said, “The Excelsior MBA program offered a convenient method of earning my degree. Distance learning never meant lack of personal attention to administrative matters or class questions, all of which were a phone call away. While the program was intense, it offered enough flexibility to allow me to manage my career and family responsibilities.”

Peggy Keane, who spoke on behalf of all the cohort grads at the College’s Awards Luncheon, explained, “I had been eliminated from a selection pool of candidates for a position for which I was well qualified, because of the absence of an advanced degree. As I continued to take courses, I began to see the gaps that I didn’t even realize that I had. I had a business background, but it was business that I learned on the job. I found the professors... added that academic perspective that I really needed in order to address my leadership abilities. They provided me with the tools and language to really validate whatever argument I was making.”

CCS President Alice F. Dyer, EdD, said, “It’s the ‘blended’ nature of the program that makes it so special.” The mission as she sees it is to “make adults lifelong learners.” She adds, “Adult learners appreciate real world applications and develop the knowledge, attitudes, and portable skills needed to help their corporations creatively and constructively surf the challenges of ongoing change.”

In just this way, Keane used work-related projects for her course assignments, giving her a chance to showcase her new skills

*“It’s the ‘blended’ nature of the program that makes it so special.”*

while increasing her visibility. She noted, “The benefits to my company were much more than they actually thought they were going to be up front. Now I don’t have any uncertainty about my abilities, I have a newfound confidence in what I know, and I realize that I still am able to learn.”

Citing the support she received from her fellow classmates, Keane also acknowledged Excelsior’s role. “I would like to thank Excelsior College for the opportunity to complete my MBA in a time frame that actually was manageable for a single mother with two teenage children and for the support from all of my colleagues as well as my professors, because my individual success is a nothing short of a team effort.”

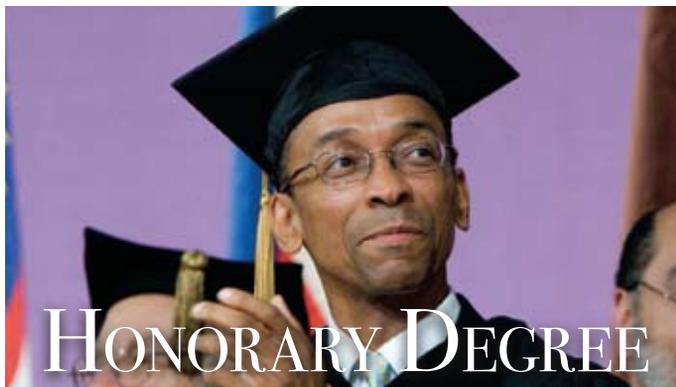
Starting his MBA “from scratch,” Jack Gallagher, a vice president with Prudential, believes that this degree will certainly help with any additional career growth. “As far as the program itself goes, I’d say that this model is the best for working adults who also have other responsibilities such as family matters, etc.



*L to r: Michael Cullen, Margaret (Peggy) Keane, Beth Acquire, Thomas Kennedy, John (Jack) Gallagher, Suzanne Matula, Alison Kraus, James Hough*

Excelsior College and CCS joined forces to design an MBA program appropriately suited for us. Also, being that we were the first MBA graduates in the program, they were open to our feedback, and adjusted the program accordingly. It felt nice being pioneers.”

That pioneer spirit carried through as he and his wife and two young children traveled to Albany from central New Jersey for the Commencement ceremony. He explained, “My wife and I loaded the kids into the car and off we went. I must say that I am glad that we made the trip. Excelsior did an excellent job with the Commencement and it was a great experience—one that I will remember forever. Better yet, my family and I even viewed it again on the Excelsior Web site. We could clearly hear my 8-year old son, Kevin, shouting, “Go Dad!” when the dean read out my name. What a moment!” ■



**DR. WILLIAM G. HARRIS, DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, HONORIS CAUSA,** has devoted his life to the critical issues of measurement and assessment in education and psychology. Consistent with the College’s mission to provide educational access to all seeking advancement, he has advocated on behalf of veterans, disadvantaged youth and adults, the mentally ill, minority group members, and assessment professionals.

Dr. Harris serves as executive director of the Association of Test Publishers (ATP), the country’s chief organization of test publishers. He is a leading professional in and advocate for the testing industry. In his remarks, Dr. Harris said, “Quality assessments that are accurate, diagnostic in their utility, and readily adaptable to technological advances for the online medium are important educational tools for Excelsior College and for a strong and vibrant assessment community.” A psychologist, researcher, and professor, who earned his PhD in psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an MBA from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University, “G,” as he is known in the field, is a member of both the Code of Fair Testing Practices in Education Task Force for the Joint Committee on Testing Practices and the Steering Committee of the Fair Access Coalition on Testing. He is also a member of the editorial board of several prominent peer-reviewed journals and has authored more than 85 scholarly works. ■

## FIRST PRESIDENTIAL CITATION:

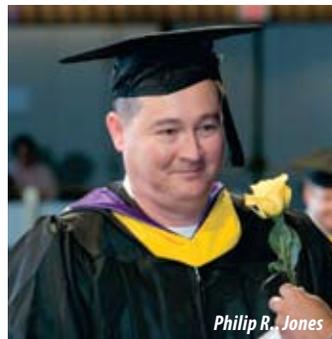
**DOLORES D. WHARTON**



**T**he College’s first Presidential Citation was awarded to Mrs. Dolores D. Wharton, recently retired chair, CEO, and founder of the Fund for Corporate Initiatives, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to strengthening the role of minorities and women in the corporate world.

Mrs. Wharton’s distinguished career includes serving as a corporate director of companies such as Gannett Co., Inc., Phillips Petroleum, the Kellogg Company, COMSAT, New York Telephone, and Albany Capital Bank and Trust.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts from Chicago State University and is an ardent supporter of the arts. Appointed by former President Ford to the National Council on the Arts of the National Endowment for the Arts, she was also a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, the Duke Ellington Memorial Fund, Inc., and a director of the Albany Institute of History and Art. ■



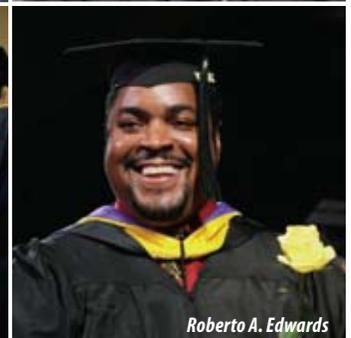
*Philip R. Jones*



*Jennifer R. Ledoux*



*Madeline Lawson and Family*



*Roberto A. Edwards*



*L to r: Project Advising Coordinator Theresa Sicilia, Kim Baxter, Thresiamma Choorackal, Saron Malloy, and Project LEARN Advisor Diane Wild-Smith*

## PROJECT LEARN GRADS

**S**everal Project LEARN (Learning, Experience, Assessment, Resources & Networking) nursing students earned their degrees this year, and it was great to meet those who participated in Commencement 2007.

*Project LEARN teams are formed when hospitals, teaching institutions, and health care agencies partner with Excelsior College to provide access to the most current and respected learning resources for associate and baccalaureate nursing students.*

Kim Baxter, an employee of the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, earned her Associate in Science in nursing degree after preparing for and completing examinations over the last three years. Just prior to taking her Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination (CPNE), she injured her knee while getting on her horse. Ms. Baxter was able to have a temporary surgery, stabilizing her knee enough so that she could reschedule and complete her CPNE—which she did successfully! As a result of earning her RN license, she now has a new position as a correctional nurse. Ms. Baxter plans to continue

with her nursing education and has already purchased textbooks to begin preparing for examinations that apply toward the Excelsior College Bachelor of Science in nursing degree program.

Saron Malloy, an employee with the SEIU/1199 Training and Upgrading Fund in New York City, has been pursuing her Bachelor of Science in nursing degree for the last seven years. She completed her credits through both traditional coursework from Athabasca University, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Louisiana State University, and Excelsior College Examinations. While completing her capstone course, Ms. Malloy began a new position as a coordinator of care, doing home health visits with 32 patients.

Two employees from Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York, earned their Bachelor of Science in nursing degrees after working together for the last six years. Thresiamma Choorackal and Indulata Jayapal both completed a number of credits through traditional courses, some of which were offered through local colleges and brought on site; they also completed a number of Excelsior College Examinations. Ms. Choorackal was able to transfer in 90 general education credits from the University of Kerala in India.

Ms. Choorackal had wonderful support from her family members. Approximately 30 of them came for the Commencement ceremony and reception! Ms. Jayapal had just become a grandmother the night before, however, and she left on a train to Connecticut that morning to go be with her daughter and new granddaughter, Amitha.

Congratulations to all of the Project LEARN graduates! ■



*Thresiamma Choorackal and family*

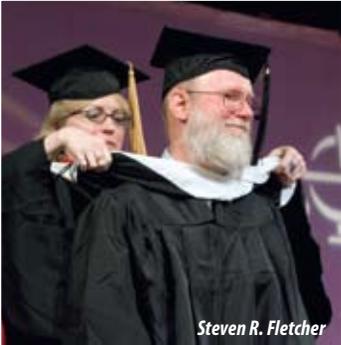
by Theresa Sicilia



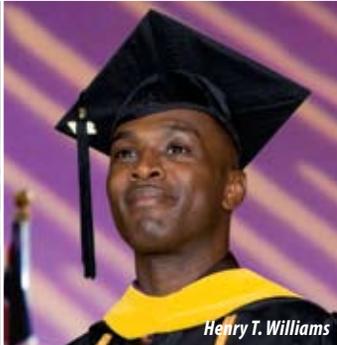
*Brandon D. Penston and guest*



*Eric M. Johnson and family*



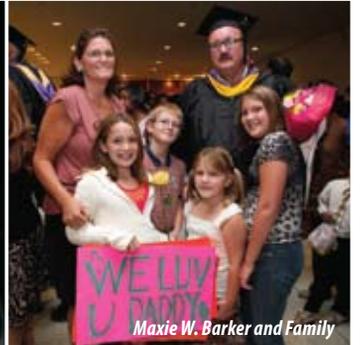
*Steven R. Fletcher*



*Henry T. Williams*



*David W. Crow*



*Maxie W. Barker and Family*



*L to r: Sheila L. Spivey and Suzanne C. Whicker*



# TAU KAPPA NURSING HONOR SOCIETY

## INDUCTS 2007 MEMBERS

Newest members of Excelsior's Nursing Honor Society were welcomed on July 12 at an induction ceremony at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York. Twenty-four joined the ranks of Excelsior's Tau Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. While five of the incoming members were present, the other inductees were acknowledged; their names and pictures were displayed on a projection screen.

In welcoming these new members, Dr. Bridget Nettleton, dean of the College's School of Nursing and Tau Kappa president, noted, "You are among a distinguished group of nursing students and professionals who have met or exceeded rigorous standards and have demonstrated the ideal qualities of a leader and a scholar. You truly deserve our congratulations."

The Tau Kappa Recognition Award was presented to Mary Ann Pervelis, MSN, RN. A graduate of Excelsior College, Pervelis earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing. She went on to earn her MSN in psychiatric nursing from Hunter Bellevue School of Nursing. Currently a nursing professor at Nassau Community College, Pervelis is also assistant director of nursing at North Shore Health System's Syosset Hospital. In accepting the award, she said, "I took the education I received here and ran with it. I have never forgotten where I came from, and I thank you very much."

Keynote speaker, Dr. Theresa M. Valiga, EdD, RN, FAAN, welcomed the new inductees into this elite group and urged them to continue their commitment to excellence. She explained, "To me, excellence means striving to be the very best you can be, because you can't imagine being any other way."

Dr. Valiga's career has been a testament to excellence. As the chief program officer at the National League for Nursing in New York City, she has completed research related to the cognitive development and perceptions of nursing as a profession of baccalaureate students, receiving research awards from Sigma Theta Tau. Her distinguished career has earned her many honors including the Award for Excellence in Research from the Gamma Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the Award for Excellence in Education from



L to r: Inductees Dee Dellolo, Sylvester Oguguo, Madeline Nolan, Susan McClintock, Marjorie Stone Barrows



the Alpha Nu Chapter, and the Leadership and Chapter Service Awards from Alpha Nu. In 2002, she was elected as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

In advising the group to commit to excellence, Valiga urged them not to settle for the status quo but rather to ask questions and examine underlying assumptions. She challenged those present to take the "mirror test," looking at themselves to determine whether they're doing their best. She said, "Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Each of us must autograph our work with excellence."

Dean Nettleton discussed the meaning of Tau Kappa Chapter membership with the inductees. "Our purpose this afternoon is to honor you as a new member and also to support you as you begin your journey of experiencing membership during the entire course of your nursing career," she said. "I challenge you to frame this induction as a beginning—a beginning of thinking differently about yourself, your impact, and your contribution to the profession and health care globally." ■



Dr. Theresa M. Valiga, keynote speaker



Kristine Ring-Wilson presents the Recognition Award to Mary Ann Pervelis.

## New Inductees

Margaret Chandler • \*Dee Dellolo • Anne Kathryn Eby • Sheri Evans • Cathy Genova • Shala Harger • Bonnie Koutsis-Starzyk • Vivienne Johnson • Heidemarie Krause • Karol Mason • \*Susan McClintock • Sabrina Mosseau • Marion Niedrauer • \*Madeline Nolan • Stephen O'Connor • \*Sylvester Oguguo • Nancy Rahm • Mandy Richards • Jennifer Steinberg • \*Marjorie Stone Barrows • Catherine Sullivan • Mary Waterhouse • Karina Yong • Betty Zickefoose | \*members present



# McDonald's Names Excelsior College as a Preferred Education Provider

**M**cDonald's® USA, LLC, and Excelsior College have entered into an agreement through which employees of the company and its franchisees will be able to earn college degrees through Excelsior, using, in part, credits earned at McDonald's famed Hamburger University®, the worldwide management training center of excellence for the McDonald's company. More than 5,000 students every year participate in Hamburger University's courses and learning activities.

"Excelsior College is proud and honored to join with McDonald's, a world leader in employee education and training, to make college degrees accessible to its employees," says John F. Ebersole, president of Excelsior College. "Excelsior College's mission has always included the recognition of college-level education received in non-collegiate settings, and Hamburger University's programs are among the best available anywhere."

Diana Thomas, vice president of U.S. Training, Learning & Development and dean of McDonald's Hamburger University, explains, "By partnering with Excelsior College, we are able to further opportunities for our employees to achieve their personal, professional, and academic goals. As a brand, we cannot be successful unless our employees are successful, and education provides a solid foundation to achieve success."

One hundred percent of the courses available at Hamburger University have received college credit recommendations from the American Council on Education (ACE). Excelsior has matched Hamburger University coursework to degree requirements in several of its business and liberal arts programs. Depending upon the degree sought by a McDonald's employee and Excelsior's faculty-determined degree requirements, up to 46 college credits earned at Hamburger U. can be applied toward an Excelsior College associate or baccalaureate degree.

Excelsior's academic advisors will work closely with McDonald's employees to help them plan the effective use of their corporate university credits and advise them on completion of their Excelsior College degrees—using both online course options and computer-delivered exams. Excelsior College welcomes this new association with McDonald's USA and Hamburger University. ■



Two Excelsior College graduates — Harry Staley (left), owner-operator of three McDonald's franchises and a member of the Excelsior College Board of Trustees and Ed Rensi (right), former president and CEO of McDonald's USA (now co-owner of Team Rensi Motorsports, a major force in NASCAR racing today) — advocated for the College and helped facilitate its being named as a preferred education provider.



Excelsior Business Development team members, Drew Ehrlich (left) and Andre Adams (right), were invited to exhibit at McDonald's biannual PEAK Manager Event in Las Vegas this past July. The event offered informational and team-building opportunities to approximately 15,000 corporate, divisional, regional, and individual store managers

and owner/operators. "There was significant interest in what Excelsior College has to offer all McDonald's USA employees and franchisees through this new relationship," said Ehrlich upon his return. "The booth was constantly busy, and visitors were grateful for the opportunity to apply their Hamburger University credits to our degree programs."



## College to Participate in **New Air Force Program**

**E**xcel­sior College has been selected as a participating institution in the Air Force’s new program, Air University—Associate to Baccalaureate Cooperative Program (AU-ABC). Officially launched on June 1, 2007, the AU-ABC Program is an initiative between Air University and civilian higher education institutions to offer baccalaureate degree opportunities to every Air Force enlisted member. AU-ABC points airmen with completed CCAF associate degrees to a collection of accredited colleges and universities meeting the program’s criteria. Students are able to review approved degree programs and enrollment information through the Air Force Virtual Education Center. The AU-ABC program will connect students to a list of approved civilian institutions and specific degree

programs. The criteria for those participating colleges and specific degree programs includes:

- Meet specific accreditation standards
- Require no more than 60 semester credits after the CCAF AAS degree for a bachelor’s degree
- Deliver instruction via distance learning
- Maximize application of military credit
- Relate degree programs to Air Force specialty

Courses are covered 100 percent by military tuition assistance and begin every other month. Program and course offerings can be found on the Web site at [www.excelsior.edu/airforce](http://www.excelsior.edu/airforce). ■

## New Education Initiatives, Partnerships, and Alliances

**I**n late 2006, Excelsior College launched a business development initiative for the purpose of forming partnerships and alliances with large corporations and associations across the country. These agreements are intended to help organizations make flexible college degree programs available to employees and members. Distinct advantages for partner organizations can include lower education costs and the ability to offer a valuable benefit to employees or members for recruitment and retention reasons.

Excelsior College helps organizations save on tuition reimbursement through the award of college credit for approved college-level training programs and by accepting previously earned credits in transfer. Many partners receive substantially reduced fees and tuition, lowering tuition reimbursement costs even further.

To date, a number of organizations and major corporations have taken advantage of these agreements including Tyson Foods, McDonald’s® USA, American Payroll Association (APA), International Union of Police Associations (IUPA), Northrup Grumman, Comcast Spotlight, and the Defense Acquisition University Continuous Learning Center (DAU), a Department of Defense resource dedicated to the delivery of continuous learn-



*From the Defense Acquisition University signing ceremony, which took place in Washington in June, L to r: Dr Wayne Glass, professor Systems Acquisition Management and program director, Strategic Partnerships for DAU, Heather Rooney, business development specialist, John Ebersole, Excelsior College president, and Dr. James McMichael, vice president, DAU.*

ing opportunities supporting the Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (AT&L) workforce.

For more information about the benefits of partnering with Excelsior College, please contact the Corporate Relations Office toll free at 800-896-1632 or via email at [corporate@excelsior.edu](mailto:corporate@excelsior.edu); or visit [corporate.excelsior.edu](http://corporate.excelsior.edu). ■

# Staff and Faculty News



**Dr. Harpal Dhillon**, dean of the School of Business and Technology, presented two papers during the ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education) 2007 Annual Conference & Exposition in Honolulu, Hawaii: (1) "A Framework for the Assessment of Online Engineering Technology Courses: A Case Study" (author: Harpal Dhillon). This paper was published in the *Journal of Engineering Education*. (2) "An Interdisciplinary Approach to Information Systems Security Education: A Case Study" (author: Sohail Anwar, co-author: Harpal Dhillon).



**Dr. Deborah Rastinehad**, PhD, RN, graduate faculty member, School of Nursing, received the Research Manuscript Award for her work on pressure ulcer pain. The editorial board of the *Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing* (JWOCN) selected Rastinehad's manuscript as the best research paper of the year. Criteria for selection included originality, clinical relevance, study design, writing quality, and impact on WOC knowledge and practice. The award ceremony was recently held in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurses Conference.



**Dr. Mary Beth Hanner**, vice president for Outcomes Assessment and Faculty Development, has been named a fellow in the Academy of Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing. This inaugural class of 41 fellows, representing 33 schools of nursing throughout the United States, was selected by the NLN Board of Governors, the oversight body for the Academy. The fellows were chosen for their sustained and significant contributions to the field of nursing education. The NLN established the Academy of Nursing Education earlier this year to foster excellence in nursing education by recognizing and capitalizing on the wisdom of outstanding nurse educators.



**Dr. Li-Fang Shih**, director of Online Course Management, presented a poster titled "Connecting and Managing Adjunct Faculty over Distance with Blackboard Vista" during the Blackboard World 07 Conference in June, in Boston, MA.

**Dr. Zenaida Spangler**, PhD, RN, graduate faculty member, School of Nursing, received a 2007 AONE (American Organization of Nurse Executives) Research Seed Grant, which will allow her to do a study on the care values, professional self-concept, and technology acceptance of U.S. educated and internationally educated nurses.



**Dr. Jason Lantzer**, history instructor, has been chosen to be the author of the history of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which will be titled *First Amongst Equals*. A manuscript based on Dr. Lantzer's dissertation, *Prohibition is Here to Stay: The Rev. Edward S. Shumaker and the Rise and Fall of Dry Culture in America*, has been accepted for publication by the University of Notre Dame Press. He also has an article in *TRACES of Indiana and Midwestern History* (Winter 2007), "Building a Fit Society: Indiana's Eugenics Crusaders" co-authored with Alexandra Stern.

**Dr. Mary Lee Pollard**, PhD, RN, associate dean, School of Nursing, has been selected to participate in a leadership program at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). She was also featured in an article titled "Faculty Matters" in the official journal of the National League for Nursing, *Nursing Education Perspectives*.



**Dr. Ken Wallantine**, criminal justice professor, authored *Street Legal: A Guide to Pre-Trial Criminal Procedure for Police, Prosecutors and Defenders*, which has been published by the ABA (American Bar Association) Publishing Company.

**Dr. Suzanne Yarbrough**, PhD, RN, associate dean, School of Nursing, presented three papers at the International Conference of Performance Examination—Models for Health Professionals, held at The National Taiwan College of Nursing, Tai Pei, Taiwan, in May 2007: "Introduction of the Concept of Competency Evaluation," "Establishing Reliability and Validity of the Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination," and "Addressing Problems or Difficulties in Administering Performance Examinations."





# Discover the Benefits of Joining a Professional Association

## CAREER CORNER

by Maribeth Gunner Pulliam, MS Ed

**J**oining a professional association may well be one of the most important catalysts for your career. If you want to increase knowledge in your field, expand networking possibilities, or jumpstart your job hunt, a professional association membership is an option worth exploring. Almost all career fields have corresponding professional associations that offer valuable information and resources for your career enhancement.

## *How Can A Professional Membership Help Your Career?*

### Information

Whether you are presently employed in a chosen career, engaged in a job search, or a student pursuing studies in a desired field, you will want to stay up-to-date on issues and trends that affect your career path. Professional associations offer a wealth of information that will keep you connected to current developments in your field. As a member, you have access to the association's journals, magazines, and newsletters in both print-based and online formats. In addition to keeping abreast of important career-related topics, there are many other benefits to reap from these publications. Job hunters can gain essential information, which can be useful when interviewing. Referencing a well-known journal in your field will show you are a very knowledgeable and serious candidate and will set you apart from other applicants. As a student, these publications can be great resources for class assignments related to your field of interest. They are also a helpful way to glean more about what it is like to work in your desired occupation. Student members may also find beneficial

information about grant and scholarship opportunities posted in association newsletters.

### Networking

Another paramount benefit of a professional association membership is the prolific networking opportunities provided. Professional organizations generally have Web sites, which include list serves and message boards that foster a sense of community for their members and establish a venue to share perspectives and discuss important topics within the field. Many associations also offer opportunities to join their smaller online chapters, interest groups, or committees that focus on specialized areas within the profession. Becoming involved as an active participant or volunteering for a leadership role in one of these groups is another way to learn from others in your field and enhance your professional development. You will also increase your network of contacts, which can be especially advantageous when job-hunting.

### Employment

Connecting with colleagues within the association can open the doors to inside job leads. A professional association offers abundant opportunities for you to identify jobs that may not be advertised. In addition to the employment options you may be privy to, associations usually provide a method of sharing job listings. Their Web site may have a special section devoted specifically to employment opportunities for members only, or there may be a classified section posted in their newsletter.

Membership in a professional association is an excellent supplement to your resume. It conveys to a prospective employer that you are involved and committed to your career field. Employers want to know that your expertise extends beyond college instruction and includes knowledge in the field. Citing professional association membership on your resume indicates a desire to learn and demonstrates dedication to your professional goals.

### Conferences

State and national conferences, conventions, and workshops are more of the perks provided by professional associations to eligible members. Attending a conference sponsored by your association is an excellent way to become more aware of the most recent issues and advances in your profession. You can also discover what similar organizations are doing, meet prominent people in your career field, and build your network. If attending a national meeting is not a viable option, look for those offered at the regional level that are closer in



proximity. Student members interested in participating in a conference can usually obtain registrations at reduced rates.

## Research

One good way to determine the best association for you to join is to ask for recommendations from others employed in your field. Inquire about the benefits and fees associated with their memberships. The Internet also has many available resources for locating professional associations in your career field (see Related Resources). Most professions have several associations to choose from. Once you access the Web site of the one that interests you, look for a link on its homepage regarding membership information. Read the procedures carefully. Some associations may have different protocols for joining. Sometimes proof of education or work experience in the field is required.

Costs and amenities should also be examined. Fees for memberships vary. Most are reasonable, but some can be pricey, so it is best to investigate and compare several options. To ensure you choose the right association to meet your needs, take the time to review the types of memberships and benefits offered. If you know of colleagues in the workplace who desire to join or are current members of an association, an organizational membership may be the most cost-effective way to go. Special discounted rates are also generally available for student memberships. If you still have questions, be sure to email or call the contact listed on the Web site. The information you gather will help you to select the professional association that is most promising for you.

### *Take Advantage of the Opportunity!*

Membership in a professional association is an excellent investment for your future. It will promote your professional development and provide great prospects for advancing your career.

## CAREER CORNER

### Related Resources

- **Yahoo! Professional Organizations:**  
[http://dir.yahoo.com/Business\\_and\\_Economy/Organizations/Professional/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Organizations/Professional/)
- **The Internet Public Library: Associations on the Net:**  
<http://www.ipl.org/div/aon/>
- **Jobweb Professional Associations:**  
[http://www.jobweb.com/Career\\_Development/prof\\_assoc.htm](http://www.jobweb.com/Career_Development/prof_assoc.htm)
- **Seeking Success.com:**  
<http://www.seekingsuccess.com/assoc.php3>
- **American Society of Association Executives:**  
<http://www.asaenet.org>

Enrolled students and alumni can access the most current version of the links for this article as well as many additional career-related links on our Web site at [www.excelsior.edu/career](http://www.excelsior.edu/career) (log in with your MyEC username and password). For graduates, click on the Alumni Connection link.

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

# Degree Completion Reminders for Associate Degree in Nursing Students:

## You have seven cumulative years to complete the program.

The seven-year time period includes the total of all periods of enrollment after September 1, 2001. If you are enrolled for a period of time—and then reenroll, it's the **total amount of enrolled time only that is counted toward your seven-year enrollment period.** Dismissal from the program could result if you have not completed all degree requirements within the seven-year cumulative window.

## Curriculum changes go into effect October 1, 2007.

Letters were sent out in spring 2006 and July 2007 outlining changes in the Excelsior associate degree in nursing curriculum. These changes are also included in the most recent School of Nursing catalog.

Please remember to familiarize yourself with these changes and note how they may affect your degree completion plans. Enrolled students needing clarification on these changes can contact a nursing academic advisor by calling toll free 888-647-2388 and entering 1-3-1-4 at the automated greeting or by emailing [nsgadvisor@excelsior.edu](mailto:nsgadvisor@excelsior.edu).



# TECHNICALLY SPEAKING



**I**f you've taken a practice exam or participated in the Electronic Peer Network, online conferences, or online courses, you may have noticed a prompt indicating that the Java software is used on our Web site.

## WHAT IS JAVA?

The Java programming language is used to create small programs, known as "applets," that run inside of a Web page. These applets help to display interactive areas of a Web site, such as a chat window, file upload screen, or online assessments. Though the name was coined at a coffee shop, some accounts claim that it stands for "Just Another Vague Acronym."

## WIDESPREAD USE

According to Sun Microsystems, the company developing Java, the software is currently used by over 800 million computers, 1.5 billion mobile phones, as well as by printers, Web cams, car navigation, and medical devices.

To determine if the software is installed on your computer, go to [www.java.com](http://www.java.com) and click on "Do I have Java?" The Web site offers links to help you download the latest version of the Java Runtime Environment as well as more information on how the program is used by your computer.

## VALIDATED FOR USE

There are multiple versions of Java available that can, on occasion, cause compatibility issues for applications requiring this software. These issues arise when the program is asked to run on a version of Java that is different than what was used to develop it.

To ensure that you will be able to successfully access our Web site, Excelsior College thoroughly tests all new versions of software before approving them for use. To notify you of compatibility issues, an alert will display should you need to install or upgrade your Java software. Also, our Help page is continuously updated with new information about the software and versions that have been validated for use with our site. We recommend that you reference the Help area on a periodic basis to ensure that your system is operating optimally.

To reach the Web site Help pages, please visit [www.excelsior.edu/help](http://www.excelsior.edu/help).

by Jennifer Hummer

Technical Support is now available  
**24 x 7 x 365!**

Contact Information  
Call toll free **877-842-8324**  
**TechSupport@excelsior.edu**

For Easier Access to ECVL  
Database Content, Try Out

# Journal Linker

from your Excelsior College librarians



**M**any of our students turn to the Excelsior College Virtual Library to find electronic journals, magazines, trade publications, newspapers, country analysis, industry reports, and books. Now you can "browse" through the resources by using our most current searching tool, Journal Linker, found in our Research Databases page. You can use Journal Linker to quickly and easily access the content of databases covering a wide variety of subjects: Allied Health, Business, Education, Law/Legal Research, Liberal Arts, and Technology.

Journal Linker is a search tool for determining whether a journal, magazine, or newspaper article is available in full text in one of the ECVL databases. In other words, instead of searching in each database separately to see if the journal you want is available to read full text online, you can go to Journal Linker, and it will "point" you to the correct database.

Example: If you have a citation and are wondering if the source is available in ECVL, simply use the "Search by Name" to find out the specific database where your source is located. You can browse the "shelves" of periodicals by subject, just like you would in a "physical library," only you can do it from anywhere!

Journal Linker is the tool to use to get a fresh start on your day, like reading the latest edition of the *New York Times* or the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, or researching a topic in the health sciences. Just contact an ECVL librarian at 877-247-3097 to get started using Journal Linker, or you can visit the library any time at [www.excelsior.edu/library](http://www.excelsior.edu/library) to explore this new research tool. ■



L to r: Renee Hall, librarian; Jeanne Stafford, library assistant; Anita Norton, librarian; and Christine Patterson, librarian

# Living & Giving

## Giving Back by “Paying it Forward”



A few years ago, a popular book and major movie hit, *Pay It Forward*, illustrated something called “serial reciprocity.” The gist of it was that when individuals ask what they can do to pay back a gift, the answer is that they can pay it forward instead, doing something good for three more people—thereby spreading kindness and thoughtfulness continuously.

It’s a concept that bears consideration. Most Excelsior College graduates would readily agree that the College has done something good for them. When alums consider donating to the College, they may feel that they’re paying back the institution. In reality, each time you make a gift to the College, you’re really paying it forward. You’re helping today’s and tomorrow’s students achieve their goals as you did.

Let me give you an example of one of our graduates who embodies paying it forward. Chief Yeoman Daniel J. Woods, USN (Ret.), received the Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award in 2003. The cash award honors a member of the College staff who, until her death in 1986, served as the liaison to the military. The award recognizes service to others, a commitment to education, academic achievement, and professional and personal achievement. Mr. Woods was an ideal recipient for the award. He had been recognized by the Navy for his exemplary service and has volunteered extensively both within the Navy and in the community. Not surprisingly, Woods decided that he needed to pass on the benefit he had received through the award by paying it forward. This year, he and his wife began to make monthly contributions to the Craig-Erhardt Fund, so that future students will receive the award.



Daniel J. Woods receives the Catherine Craig-Erhardt Award from trustee William Cox at Commencement 2003.

Woods explains, “The whole reason we are contributing to the fund is to pay back a little of what I have received—because Excelsior gave the start to some fantastic opportunities I might not have ever been able to achieve. They allowed me to reach my dreams—and exceed those same dreams.”

“THE WHOLE REASON WE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUND IS TO PAY BACK A LITTLE OF WHAT I HAVE RECEIVED ...”

Paying it forward works in other ways as well. It’s not just the scholarships we give that enable student success. All gifts to the annual campaign help our students, whether designated for scholarships or given as unrestricted support for the College. When we use annual funds to develop technologies for serving our students or launch new programs and services, we’re making it easier for students to earn degrees and reducing the frustrations that can make it difficult for them to persevere.

As the College approaches you for your gift this year, please take a moment to consider paying forward the help that you received and the difference it has made—and may still be making—in your life. Today, 30,000 students are trying to do what you did, to make their dreams a reality. As a donor, you can take pride in their accomplishments and signal to them that they, too, can pay it forward in the years ahead. ■

by Cathy Kushner, Vice President for Institutional Advancement



# PHYSICAL CAMPUS MAKES NAMING GIFTS POSSIBLE

T

he last page of this magazine has for several years featured various pictures making the point that “Our Campus is Wherever You are—Virtually Everywhere.” In addition to our “virtual” campus, today, Excelsior College has a physical campus as well.

With several buildings that contain conference rooms, office suites, and even a cafeteria, the opportunity to affix names and recognize contributions exists for the first time. In fact, with a significant gift, the entire campus could be named.

## LEAVE A LEGACY BY SUPPORTING THE COLLEGE’S BUILDINGS.

Referring visitors and staff to “Conference Room A” or the School of Liberal Arts may be accurate, but it doesn’t spark much imagination. Naming the school or the room sends a special message that there are people who want to be integrally linked to us because they care about our mission and what we do to help our students. The College is seeking donors who would help us name our buildings and spaces. For as little as \$20,000 a conference room could be designated with your name or the name of a loved one. In addition to creating an enduring memorial, gifts such as these support our ability to provide exceptional student service by allowing our resources to be used toward educational programs rather than capital needs.

Opportunities for naming around our buildings include:

Conference rooms used for meetings and workshops

President’s suite of offices

Buildings owned by the College

Our campus

Naming gifts may also be accepted to designate these significant functions and divisions of the College:

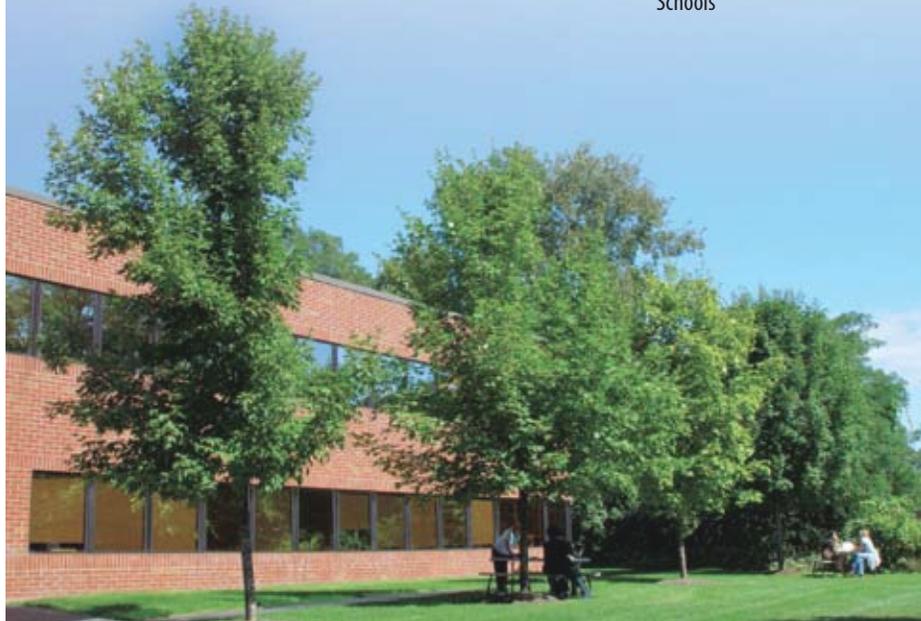
Scholarship Funds and Other Endowments

Professorships and Chairs

The Virtual Library

Programs, Centers, and Institutes

Schools



Call Cathy Kushner in the Office of Institutional Advancement toll free at 888-647-2388; press 1-1-8543 at the greeting, or email [ckushner@excelsior.edu](mailto:ckushner@excelsior.edu) for more information about making a lasting and meaningful gift to Excelsior College.

## FUND RAISING TOPS 2006-2007 GOALS

With a banner year in terms of grants and contracts and a solid annual campaign, Excelsior College generated more than \$1.1 million in external resources in the 2006-2007 year. Monies raised support scholarships, new programs and services, and general operating needs.

The annual campaign generated \$249,188, much of which provided student scholarships and helped to enhance technology for student services. Most noteworthy were the 10 percent increase in the number of alumni donors and the 20 percent increase in the number of staff donors.

Three new endowment funds were initiated, all of which are dedicated to giving students the financial aid needed to achieve their educational goals. Six other endowment funds received additional contributions.

Smith & Nephew, a global medical devices company, contributed cutting edge interactive video animations to enrich Excelsior’s wound care courses. This gift, valued at \$290,000, enhances student learning and addresses the College’s goal of media-rich courses.

The College also received more than \$550,000 in grants and awards. Among these were funding from the Ford Foundation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and New York State. A Congressional award, achieved with the help of Congressman Michael R. McNulty and former Congressman John E. Sweeney, will allow for further development of the College’s criminal justice programs. ■

# Excelsior Legacy Society

Staff Member Remembers the College —

RUTH OLMSTED, PhD



Dr. Ruth Olmsted came to Excelsior (then Regents) College in 1993, accepting the position of managing editor in the Assessment Unit after about 20 years of classroom teaching in college and preparatory schools. In 1999, she was named Excelsior's assistant dean for Test Development, giving her oversight of both test development and editorial groups within the Assessment Unit of the College.

Speaking of "how good Excelsior has been" to her over the years, Ruth recalls that she "joined the Giving Tree initiative [for donations of over \$250] as soon as it was started." In fact, she maintains a long-standing commitment to annual giving to her undergraduate colleges and some of the institutions at which she taught. Ruth realized, "It wasn't until my mother died in March 2004 that, in the course of being the executor of her estate, I worked with an attorney, first to get my father's will updated and then to finally get good final documents in order for my husband and me. My mother's will (and the one created for my father at the same time) was not easy to probate, and I learned a great deal about the different options for bequests during this process."

Ruth and her husband Larry worked out "lists of organizations that each of us wanted to support after we were both gone and then assigned them percentages of the estate. Actually, we went a little further: we listed the first-choice organization and then a series of successor organizations that should receive the bequest if the first choice should no longer exist by the time our estate was distributed."

For Ruth, Excelsior College was "an obvious first choice that Larry [a research scientist who worked for the University at Albany for many years] was very supportive of. Excelsior does so much for so many people who might not otherwise have the opportunity for a college education."

The College thanks Ruth Olmsted and recognizes her generosity with gratitude. She is the second staff member (Gloria Sklaryk was the first) who has chosen to remember Excelsior College for future generations. ■



*Ruth entertaining children at her sheep farm in upstate New York.*

Members of the Excelsior Legacy Society are those who have communicated their plans in writing to Excelsior College with regard to one of the following. They have

- made a provision for Excelsior College in their will,
- established a gift annuity or charitable trust or annuity,
- designated Excelsior College as the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy,
- named Excelsior College as the primary or residual beneficiary of their retirement plan, or
- used other vehicles to make a deferred gift that will benefit the College.

## 2007 LEGACY SOCIETY

**We are grateful to those who remembered Excelsior College in their estate plans.**

Karen S. Cox • Estate of Michael J. O'Donnell • Charles Montandon, ALC, AFLM • Ruth Olmsted • Charles J. Robinson • Gloria Sklaryk

# HSBC

## Scholarship Support:

### Changing Lives and Creating a Better World

**T**hrough the generosity of worldwide financial institution, HSBC, the College was able to make meaningful awards of \$500 each to 30 students, covering about half the cost of their annual fees and allowing them to realize their educational goals. The company provided \$15,000 for students age 25 and under.

Awards were made to individuals living in New York, Virginia, Minnesota, South Carolina, California, North Carolina, Maryland, Colorado, and one servicemember stationed overseas. Those receiving support were enrolled in programs within the Schools of Nursing, Liberal Arts, and Business and Technology. Twenty percent of the recipients self-report they are members of a racially or ethnically diverse group. None are supported by parents, and many of them may be parents themselves. The average annual salary earned is \$24,087.

We are thankful for our affiliation with HSBC, which is helping students achieve their dreams of an Excelsior College degree. We have received wonderful letters of thanks from many of the student scholarship recipients:

*"Thank you very much for the kind and generous scholarship Excelsior College has granted me ... I hope that with this generous scholarship I will live up to the educational standards and expectations of the Excelsior College staff."* — Chavi

*"I am sure that the scholarship will make it easier for me to spend more time on my studies, rather than having to look for more work. Right now, I am taking 15 semester units, including physics, calculus, and chemistry from the local community college, and an upper-level history course in Bronze-Age Greece. It has been a challenging semester ... but I think I can keep up a 4.0 GPA."* — Stephen

*"When I made the important decision to pursue my college studies, much financial stress came along with it ... Your generous donation has given me the opportunity to progress in my college studies, achieve my academic goals, and enjoy those special years with less worry. You brought boundless joy into my life and lifted a heavy burden. I am sincerely grateful for your support."* — Yitty

*Being allocated funds to assist with my college expenses has greatly facilitated the financial obligations associated with my education ... This generous award has greatly contributed to alleviating some of these financial burdens, thus giving me the potential to accelerate completion of my studies and allowing me to serve my community and contribute to the nursing shortage without delay ... Many thanks again to HSBC Bank and Excelsior College for assisting me in taking these steps!"* — Dina



## SUPPORT EXCELSIOR, Save on Taxes, and Receive Payments for Life!

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

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

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

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

Most important, you will be providing generous support for Excelsior College!

We hope you will consider the Excelsior College Gift Annuity as part of your estate planning. For more information about including the College in your plans, contact Cathy Kushner, vice president for Institutional Advancement ([ckushner@excelsior.edu](mailto:ckushner@excelsior.edu)), or call the Office of Institutional Advancement toll free at 888-647-2388 (press 1-1-8539 at the automated greeting). ■

### Example of Gift Annuity Rates

(One-Life  
Agreements  
as of 7/04)

Age	Rate
60	6.4%
65	6.7%
70	7.2%
75	7.9%
80	8.9%
85	10.4%
90	12.0%

# ALL ABOUT ALUMNI

## WHETHER YOU ARE

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

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

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

OR One of the **31,500** graduates of **Excelsior College**

READ ON FOR NEWS OF YOUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY...

## ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

### MICHELE HEYMANN,

**RECIPIENT OF THE CARRIE LENBURG AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NURSING**, earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Excelsior (then Regents) College in 1987, an event she describes as the “defining moment” in her life. She continued her education, earning a master’s degree in nursing from Case Western Reserve University and a CNM and an FNP from the Frontier School of Nurse-Midwifery and Family Nursing.

Ms. Heymann has worked in numerous settings all over the world. A certified nurse-midwife for MedPro in Phoenix, Arizona, she helped establish the first BSN program in Malawi, was the first health care provider for M.O. Mobile, an outreach clinic on wheels targeting monolingual Spanish-speaking undocumented immigrants, and established a women’s health program from the ground up in Kosovo.

The daughter of a career military father, Heymann believes that life on the move is normal and considers the world to be her community. As an international health consultant, she has established and delivered training programs and provided continuing education in several countries including Rwanda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sri Lanka, Kosovo, Tajikistan, and Malawi.

### DR. JAMES M. LALLY,

**RECIPIENT OF THE COLLEGE’S ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**, continues to distinguish himself as a doctor of osteopathic medicine, a school and community volunteer, and a physician to various sport teams.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies from Excelsior (then Regents) College in 1987, he continued his education, earning a Master of Medical Management degree from Carnegie Mellon University and then two more degrees from the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific—a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and a Master of Science in Health Professions Education.



A practicing physician since 1991 in Chino Hills, California, Dr. Lally is former CEO and president of Veritas Health Services. He has served as team physician for the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team in the last three Olympics in Atlanta, Sydney, and Athens; acted as medical director for Chino Youth Boxing and as team physician for Chino Hills High School; and volunteered as a physician at the Montclair Free Clinic. He also teaches judo.

During his distinguished 12-year military career, Dr. Lally earned 20 separate badges, commendations, and awards, including the Legion of Merit and the Army Commendation Medal for heroism. He was recognized as an Honor Graduate of the Airborne Corps Sniper School. When he suffered a broken back in a parachute jump, ending his military career, it marked the beginning of his educational pursuits.

Dr. Lally explained, “It’s a privilege to get to be a physician. But none of this could have been possible without earning my bachelor’s from Excelsior.” ■

**“It’s a privilege to get to be a physician. But none of this could have been possible without earning my bachelor’s from Excelsior.”**

# EXCELSIOR COLLEGE'S Alumni Asso

## Meet the Newest Member of the Alumni Advisory Board, **Danny Scott**



**Danny L. Scott, MS**, earned an Associate in Science in 2001 and a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies in 2002, both from Excelsior College. Subsequently, he completed a Master of Science in human resources management from Troy State University. Retired from the U.S. Navy in 1998, he is currently a human resources representative, wellness coordinator, and safety program

chairman for the Dollar General Corporation. His extensive community involvement includes the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Special Olympics of Florida, Minority Business Leaders Development Committee, and Pensacola Boys' Base. Scott's wife, Shelia Scott, also an Excelsior College grad, who earned her Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies in 2002, won the College's 2003 Student Support Award—for which her husband, Danny, nominated her.

"IT ALMOST SEEMED LIKE THEY DID IT NOT FOR A PAYCHECK, BUT LIKE ME, BECAUSE THEY LOVE WHAT THEY'RE DOING."

"I love Excelsior wholeheartedly," says Mr. Scott, who received the College's prestigious C. Wayne Williams Award in 2006. I've referred more than 200 individuals here, and I know for a fact at least 60 have gotten degrees." Recalling his own experience as a College student, he adds, "Whenever I called Excelsior, there was always someone there, willing to help, and they were sincere. It almost seemed like they did it not for a paycheck, but like me, because they love what they're doing. I was a mentor at the Pensacola Boy's Base, for kids who got in trouble with the law, and I was the coordinator for the Special Olympics in Santa Rosa Country for two years. You have to help people. You give what you can of your time, your wisdom, whatever you've got." ■

### Back row:

**Danny L. Scott**, AA '01, BA '02 •  
**Robert P. Williams**, MEd, BS '95 •  
Former Vice President: **Paul Troop**,  
BA '80 • Vice President:  
**Stephen Morgan**, EdS, BA '89 •  
**Jack Bailey**, MA, PHR, AS '95,  
BS '98 • Secretary: **Susan Vitale**,  
PhD, BS in nursing '92

### Front row:

**Terri Scalise Roller**, Former  
Director of Alumni and Donor  
Relations • **Sara J. Waldorf**,  
BA '03 • President:  
**Mary O'Connor**, PhD, MS,  
RN, CHE, BS in nursing '94 •  
**John M. Amidon**, CGFM,  
CIA, CGAP, BS '87

### Not in photo:

**Catherine Coverston**,  
PhD, BS in nursing '87



# Association Advisory Board

## Conversation With Paul Troop, *Outgoing Member of the Alumni Advisory Board*



**Paul Troop, BA '80**, who was described during his tenure as a “forceful and vocal” presence, has now stepped down after five years on the College’s Alumni Advisory Board. He served as the board’s vice president and secretary and as chairman of the alumni awards and nominating committees. Believing that alumni are the College’s greatest asset, Troop is credited with encouraging the College to continually highlight alumni success stories in its informational and promotional materials. Mr. Troop is a retired journalist and public relations consultant from Atlanta, Georgia, who worked as a business

reporter for such newspapers as the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and as a contributor to *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, Reuters News Service, and the *Saturday Evening Post*. In public relations, he worked with IBM, Coca-Cola, Xerox, and the Japanese External Trade Organization. He is listed in *Who’s Who in America*.

During the Commencement 2007, *Live & Learn* staff members chatted with Mr. Troop.

**L&L:** Now that you’ve been on it, you can explain what I’m sure many alumni want to know: What exactly does the Alumni Advisory Board do?

**Troop:** To be honest, when I first joined the board, I asked the same question. Fortunately, you pick it up quickly. The big thing is representing the interests of the alumni to the trustees and administration. To give you a prime example, a few years back, it was alumni board members who championed the College offering master’s degree programs. We took a lot of pride in that. We’re also asked for feedback on projects. When the College first started preparing its online courses, the project director gave us a demonstration on how he proposed to set them up. And we were asked for our opinions on various aspects of it like navigating through the screens. So we get into some pretty interesting stuff.

A key part in representing the alumni (and there are more than 125,000 of us!) is that we elect an advisory board president who then sits on the Excelsior College Board of Trustees. Now you would think this is a “be seen but be quiet” post. That’s not the way it is. That person is an *ex-officio* member—but with a vote.

## Alumni Leaders Wanted!

**E**very fall, the Excelsior College Alumni Association reaches out to all graduates, looking for the best and brightest to serve on its Alumni Advisory Board. The advisory board helps to shape the College’s programs and services and its understanding of alumni needs. Excelsior’s educational model is highly unique—and our graduates’ paths are so unique—a traditional association with tickets to football games and invitations to campus activities just doesn’t fit. That’s why the input of our membership is so important. If you have a creative spark and can dedicate time and energy to the work of the association, please nominate yourself for the board.

**Time Commitment:** The Alumni Advisory Board meets during the weekend of Commencement in Albany, NY, each summer. Next summer’s meetings will begin on Thursday, July 10, followed by the commencement exercises and related events on Friday, July 11, and on Saturday, July 12, the board conducts the annual meeting of the association and deliberates through the remainder of the day at its own meeting. Board members arrive on Thursday and leave on Sunday morning. Participation is a requirement of membership. The College offers expense reimbursement related to this meeting. Other meetings are held via telephone conference, at least once each quarter. These meetings are scheduled at the convenience of board members. Members also take on particular tasks, often working to connect with alumni in their areas or professions.

**Who Qualifies:** Nominees must contribute financially to the College. There is no minimum amount required, but it is felt that board members need to care enough about the College to become donors.

**Terms of Office:** Board members are elected to three-year terms, with possible re-election for an additional term.

**How to Nominate Yourself:** Log onto the alumni Web site at [alumni.excelsior.edu](http://alumni.excelsior.edu) and click on Alumni Advisory Board to download the instructions for preparing your nomination. You must submit the materials by Friday, November 30, 2008. Questions can be directed to the Office of Alumni Affairs via email to [alumni@excelsior.edu](mailto:alumni@excelsior.edu).

And the trustees expect our representative to carry his or her share of the burden. For example, our former president, Bob Williams, was on the search committee that recommended John Ebersole to be the College's new president. And the advisory board's current president, Mary O'Connor, receives high marks from the trustees for her active involvement in meeting debates. The trustees really do take alumni input very seriously.

We also focus on encouraging the College to offer more services and perks to our alumni. Graduates of a nontraditional college deserve the same benefits as graduates of a traditional college. And here we've made great strides. The College now offers career counseling, resume assistance, and online chats with professionals in areas such as job-interviewing techniques. On the fun side, we've had a couple of alumni cruises and several interesting "reunions of people who have never met."

*L&L: How can you have a "reunion of people who have never met"?*

**Troop:** You'd be surprised. It does work. One of the things I discovered is that there is a commonality among EC alumni. To be an adult learner in our degree program, you must demonstrate intellectual skills and self-discipline. So these are really bright, focused people. When you bring them together, first they start talking about how they had to juggle work and family to get time in to study. The nurses talk about how nervous they were taking their Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination (CPNE). And then folks start telling about all the great things that have happened to them because they got their Excelsior degrees. You hear some remarkable stories. And soon people are talking as if they had known each other for years. It's really a lot of fun. I tell all alumni that if we have one of these reunions in your area, make it a must to attend.

*L&L: Has being on the Alumni Advisory Board changed your perception of the College?*

**Troop:** I suspect I had the same view that a lot of students may have when they first enroll. You imagine a bunch of people ripping open envelopes and punching transcripts and test results into a computer, and when they've checked all the boxes, a light flashes "graduate," and a diploma pops out! It's a lot more than that. Those offices in Albany are filled with education professionals who are concerned about maintaining degree accreditation and seeing to it that our graduates demonstrate the same skills and knowledge that other college graduates possess. And it takes a lot of them. As the business-school graduates would say, this institution is labor intensive.

Another thing I've come to realize, and I think this is important, is that these people—and here I include all the founders, trustees, administrators, and full and part-time faculty members going all the way back to the original Regents External Degrees program—have had a major impact on higher education in the

United States. Not only have they pioneered independent study and assessment as a means of earning a degree, they have moved the focus of higher education to where it should be, which is the accumulation and application of knowledge.

*L&L: In all of this, what do you see as the real role of the alumni?*

**Troop:** We talk about the pioneering efforts by the institution, but the validation of the model is found in the product—that is to say, the graduates. Our alums go on to successful careers, many reaching the highest rungs in business, the professions, academia, the arts, and the military. Just look at the people to whom we've given the Alumni Achievement Award. We've proven that this is not a "backdoor" degree. I like to say that it is the administration and faculty who give the EC degree validity. It is the alumni who give the degree respect.

That's why it is so important that alums stay connected to the College. We need to hear about every advanced degree, every job promotion, every new book, and every award. It's more than just a squib in *Live & Learn*. It's something the institution can send out to graduate and professional schools and to employers. They can show that EC alums are more than just college graduates—they're lifelong achievers.

*L&L: From your perspective, how has the institution changed?*

**Troop:** Well, I go back to the days when it was called Regents External Degrees. In fact, in 1980 when I got my bachelor's they numbered the degrees. I have number 1,083. Now there are over 120,000 alumni. Boy, do I feel old! But to answer your question, the biggest changes were the institution becoming independent from the New York State Board of Regents and the name change to Excelsior. I know there was a lot of grumbling from the then alumni, me included. But these were necessary. What had become Regents College was no longer a small program, but a growing college. It needed its own board of trustees with individuals who could focus on the expanding mission of the institution. And the name change reflected the spirit of the institution and its students—Excelsior, Latin for *ever upward*.

*L&L: Any last thoughts as you leave the Alumni Advisory Board?*

**Troop:** I'm going to miss it. I enjoyed the challenges. I enjoyed meeting the new alums at graduation. But above all, I'll miss my fellow board members and our administration liaisons, Cathy Kushner and Terri Scalise-Roller [former alumni director]. Over the years we all became friends. It was a wonderful five years. I recommend running for the Alumni Advisory Board to any alum who cares about Excelsior College. ■

# APPAREL & COLLECTIBLES

All new merchandise!



Please visit  
[alumni.excelsior.edu/merchandise](http://alumni.excelsior.edu/merchandise)  
for a look at the new line!

## Excelsior College Alumni Association Annual Meeting

**C**apping off the Commencement 2007 weekend, a number of new graduates joined the Alumni Advisory Board and College leaders for the Alumni Association's annual meeting. Advisory Board President Mary O'Connor led the meeting, calling on Dr. Joshua Smith, then chair of the Excelsior College Board of Trustees, to review the recent trustees meeting and President John Ebersole to report on the state of the College. O'Connor discussed the new Alumni Advisory Board mission statement and the review of processes around elections for positions on the board. Vice President for Institutional Advancement Cathy Kushner discussed alumni activities from the previous year, sharing with the group the new and continuing career services that Excelsior offers its graduates.

Attendees were given a preview of the College's newest endeavor—the Center for Professional Development. Vice President for Finance and Administration John Pontius shared an overview of the non-credit offerings that are expected to make up its programs and the ways in which the College is proceeding to develop courses. When launched, the Center for Professional Development will support professional licensure needs and provide training to meet workforce demands.

Outgoing Alumni Advisory Board member Paul Troop was recognized with a gift of appreciation, and new Alumni Advisory Board member Danny Scott was introduced and welcomed. ■



## UPDATE US!

*Don't forget to keep us posted with your most current email address. In 2008, we will begin a regular e-newsletter especially for alumni, and you'll want to be sure to receive it.*

*Visit the alumni Web site at [alumni.excelsior.edu](http://alumni.excelsior.edu) to update your profile, or contact the Alumni Office with your new email address. Call toll free 888-647-2388; press-1-1-8539 at the automated greeting.*



Career Counselor Ed Hallenbeck conducting a career workshop for Excelsior graduates.



# CAREER SERVICES

AT EXCELSIOR COLLEGE ...

**E**xcelisior College is proud to offer a variety of career services that meet the diverse needs of its alumni. We recognize that your career and professional development are lifelong experiences, and the Office of Alumni Affairs is both interested and invested in supporting you as you find and pursue your passion.

## Career Services Office Hours

**Are you looking for help with career-related issues?** Alumni may make appointments to speak one-on-one with professional career counselor Ed Hallenbeck. As Ed's schedule permits, this service is also available to enrolled students. Review the available days and times provided in this issue of *Live & Learn*, and call the Alumni Office in advance to schedule your individual session. This free service is personal and interactive and is designed to provide you with information and guidance on career and professional development-related topics.

Appointments can range from fifteen minutes to an hour, depending upon the issue(s) discussed. To schedule your appointment, just call toll free 888-647-2388 and enter 1-1-8-5-3-9 to speak with someone in the Alumni Office. Ed looks forward to talking with you about the career issues that you are currently dealing with.

*"Thanks, Ed! Your information was invaluable to me. You are a great resource and I'm very glad I contacted you."*- Debbie C.

## Ask The Career Counselor

**Have you been seeking an answer to a career question?** We can help. "Ask The Career Counselor" is an alumni service through which you can submit your career-related questions by email and receive a reply from Ed Hallenbeck, professional career counselor.

Replies are posted on the alumni link of the College Web site. Alumni and enrolled students can view all the questions asked, as well as the answers given to some of the most commonly asked queries about career issues.

To submit your question, please send an email to [alumniacareer@excelsior.edu](mailto:alumniacareer@excelsior.edu). This is a free service and you can send an unlimited number of questions. Some previously asked questions include:

- **How exactly do I describe my accomplishments on a resume?**
- **I realize that networking is the best way to find employment. But what's the best way to approach a contact that I'm interested in including in my network?**
- **How should I answer the question "Why should we hire you?" during an interview?**

Go to [www.excelsior.edu/alumniresources](http://www.excelsior.edu/alumniresources) and click on the "Ask The Career Counselor" link to view these and other previously asked questions, and answers. Send us your questions today!

*"The information about mega job search engines was informative. It should prove very helpful. Thanks!"*- George B.

## Resume Critique Service

**Do you wonder if your resume will pass the test with human resource and hiring managers?** Do you want the feedback and advice of a professional career counselor? Excelsior College's

## Office Hours Schedule

**Date . . . . . Time (ET)**

### 2007

- Mon., **November 5** . . . . . 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Wed., **November 14** . . . . . 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Tues., **November 20** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Thurs., **November 29** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Thurs., **December 6** . . . . . 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Mon., **December 10** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Tues., **December 18** . . . . . 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Thurs., **December 27** . . . . . 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

### 2008

- Fri., **January 4** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Wed., **January 9** . . . . . 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Mon., **January 14** . . . . . 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Tues., **January 22** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Wed., **January 30** . . . . . 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Thurs., **February 7** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Wed., **February 13** . . . . . 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Tues., **February 19** . . . . . 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Mon., **February 25** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Wed., **March 5** . . . . . 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Thurs., **March 13** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Mon., **March 17** . . . . . 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Tues., **March 25** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Wed., **April 2** . . . . . 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Thurs., **April 10** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Mon., **April 14** . . . . . 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Tues., **April 22** . . . . . 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Wed., **April 30** . . . . . 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

resume critique service provides you with an opportunity to get an online critique of your current resume or curriculum vitae (CV).

Go to [www.excelsior.edu/alumniresources](http://www.excelsior.edu/alumniresources) and click on the "Resume Critique Service" link. Follow the instructions indicated. Within six business days or less, a professional career counselor will return your resume to the College with suggested revisions, edits, and corrections. The Office of Alumni Affairs will then forward the critiqued resume to you. It's that simple!

Alumni are charged a nominal fee of \$25 to help defray the cost of a professional career counselor's critique of your resume. The College pays the remainder of the \$40 fee as an alumni benefit. Excelsior students may access the service as well but must pay the full \$40. Just go to [www.excelsior.edu/career](http://www.excelsior.edu/career). It's a small cost for a big investment!

Your resume is your primary marketing tool designed to get you an interview for the job you want. Let us help you get your "foot in the door" with a professionally critiqued resume.

## Online Chats

**Do you want to chat with other alumni and professional career counselors about career topics of interest?** The Office of Alumni Affairs offers free online chats on a variety of career topics. Typically scheduled once per month, they provide an opportunity for you and other alumni to chat with a professional career counselor in a relaxed and engaging format. A schedule of this year's online chats is posted in this issue of *Live & Learn* and can be found at the Excelsior College Web site at [www.excelsior.edu/alumnichat](http://www.excelsior.edu/alumnichat).

*"I participated in the chat on functional resumes and it was extremely helpful. I'm conducting a job search and hoping to make a career change, so the functional resume session was quite timely for me. Also, I want to let you know how helpful the Web site has been for me. The PDF articles 'Making a Career Change' and 'The Art of Networking' are excellent. The Web site is exceptionally helpful and valuable. Kudos to your team!"- Linda S.*

## We Want Your Suggestions

Once again, the Office of Alumni Affairs is proud to offer these and other services to you. The "Career Resources and Services" section of the alumni link has information about a variety of career topics including some helpful PDF handouts. Please check out this valuable information.

We truly want our career services to meet your needs, and we want your suggestions for any other services that may be of value to you. Please write us at [alumnicareer@excelsior.edu](mailto:alumnicareer@excelsior.edu). ■



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

# ONLINE CHAT SERIES

**for 2007-2008**

Excelsior College  
Career Services

These chats are offered exclusively to our alumni and are designed to **provide you with the latest information as you continue to move forward in your career or perhaps consider a career change.** This is a great opportunity to network with other Excelsior College alums!

	DATE	TOPIC	FACILITATOR(S)
2007	November 7	<b>Marketing Yourself Through Resumes and Cover Letters</b>	Deirdre Sweeney
	November 14 6 – 8 p.m.	<b>Transitioning from the Military to Civilian Workforce – Web Conference</b>	Jack Bailey, Ed Hallenbeck, and Luke Schmonsky
	December 12	<b>Working with a Mentor</b>	Debra DelBelso
2008	January 16	<b>Job Search Strategies for Business and Liberal Arts Majors</b>	Deirdre Sweeney
	February 13	<b>Starting Your Own Business</b>	Jack Bailey
	March 12	<b>Interview Preparation and Techniques</b>	Debra DelBelso
	April 16	<b>Tips and Techniques for Achieving Work/Life Balance</b>	Tom Denham
	May 12	<b>Networking – The #1 Job Search Strategy</b>	Penny Loretto
	June 11	<b>The Art of Salary Negotiations</b>	Deirdre Sweeney
(NOTE: All chats, except the one on November 14, are from 6-7 p.m. ET)			

It is important to check the alumni Web site for updates to topics and dates at [www.excelsior.edu/alumnichat](http://www.excelsior.edu/alumnichat). If we have your email on file, you will receive a reminder email for each chat. Go to [www.excelsior.edu/myprofile](http://www.excelsior.edu/myprofile) to update your profile and provide us with your most recent email address.

*We look forward to chatting with you soon!*

# HATS



# OFF!

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

## UNITED STATES

### ARIZONA

**Dr. Everett Peralta, BS, MA Ed, EdD, BS '85, Phoenix** — was recently selected for the prestigious Management Development Program (MDP) of Harvard University. He was also named a Harvard University Tribal College Fellow with a fellowship that will underwrite the entire comprehensive program fee for the MDP. Additionally, Peralta has been promoted to chair/professor, Department of Business Administration, American Indian College.

### CALIFORNIA

**Stephen G. Daugherty, BSL '01, San Francisco** — is working on his doctoral studies and serving as CFO at Yerba Buena Financial Partners.

**Linas Z. Danilevicius, BSL '80, Laguna Hills** — retired from the FBI after 22 years of service. During his career he has been assigned to the Chicago, Oklahoma City, Detroit, and Los Angeles Field Divisions of the FBI as a Special Agent and supervisor. He was a Supervisory Special Agent in the Santa Ana, California office and the Supervisory Senior Resident Agent in Charge of the FBI office in Long Beach, CA. He has also served in the FBI's Washington, DC, headquarters, assigned to the Office of Program Evaluation, Inspection Division as a supervisor.

**Susan M. Ishii, BGB '05, Woodland Hills** — completed her Master of Science in Human Relations and Business with a 4.0 GPA from Amberton University in Garland, TX. She plans to pursue her doctorate, either in business or education, and says that "since my graduation from Excelsior, I have enjoyed great career mobility; and now with master's in hand, nothing can stop me! Thanks Excelsior!"

**Alan L. Kolackovsky, BSL '06, Temecula** — is the new Executive Officer of Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center San Diego. He is currently pursuing his chief information officer certification from the National Defense University, Norfolk, VA and master's degree in management of information technology through National University. Cmdr. Kolackovsky's personal awards include three Meritorious Service Medals, four Navy Commendation Medals, and three Navy Achievement Medals.

**Douglas E. Orne, BA '93, Sunnyvale** — graduated from Glendale University with a Master of Arts in Political Science in 2007.

### FLORIDA

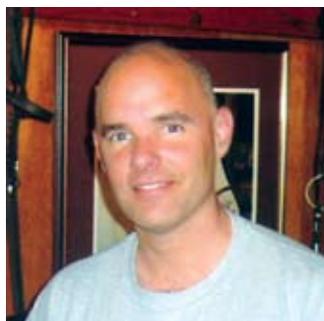
**Paul Heusinger, AS, '75, Hollywood** — earned a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science in 1979 from NYIT. His first book of fiction, *The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, was published in June 2006 and is available at amazon.com.



### NEW YORK

**Rosemary A. Ognibene, BSL '85, Howard Beach** — received a double master's degree in Education/Humanities from Brooklyn College. She just completed her first novel, *The American Presidency*, available from AuthorHouse.

Ognibene was recently accepted into Excelsior's nursing program. Prior to earning her BS in Liberal Studies, she graduated from the Caledonian Hospital School of Nursing Diploma Program. She was able to use her nursing knowledge to pass 16 credits in nursing with Excelsior that were applicable to her BSL Degree. She is currently working for Competent Nursing, Inc. as an LPN medications nurse.



### MARYLAND

**Mark E. Quartullo, BSL '88, Bowie** — is an active duty army officer who was promoted to Lt. Colonel in 2007. Stationed in Washington, DC, Quartullo has earned two master's degrees: a Master of Science in HR Management and a Master of Public Administration. He is a member of Phi Alpha Alpha and National Scholars Honor Societies.

### MARYLAND

**Calvin Richardson Jr., BSL '00, Parkville** — His wife Sue emailed: "Many mornings on my way to work I hear the Excelsior College commercials on the radio and I can't help but think you should contact him to be in the next one that is made. He RAVES about Excelsior. And he has a great story. It took him 21 years to get his BS. He took classes at every military base he was stationed at. He accumulated over 170 credits, but it wasn't until he found Excelsior (then Regents) that he finally got his degree."

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Paul R. Groff, BA '79, Nashua** — earned a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts/Boston in Critical and Creative Thinking in 1998. In May 2007, he received a master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Lesley University. In his spare time, he motorcycles with his wife and skydives.



### NEW YORK

**Gregg Stoddard, AS '2003, Niskayuna** — is currently working on his bachelor's degree with Excelsior College.

He recently launched his own Internet business called "Stoddard's State of the Arts," which provides exposure and promotion for its members' creativity and assists them in achieving their dreams by getting their ideas and creations out there "Webwide." Whether it be music, dance, poetry, photography, or other such talents, the site also allows members to share ideas with one another via discussion boards and chat rooms, and post dates and times of various upcoming events. Stoddard believes that without the flexibility and guidance provided by Excelsior, as both a student and employee, and the love of his family, he would never have been able to work full time, run a business, and go to school concurrently with any degree of success. To learn more about "Stoddard's State of the Arts," go to [www.stodsota.com](http://www.stodsota.com).

## NEW JERSEY

**Alec Fung, BS, '83, Union** — received a Master of Science in Computer Technology from Kean University, where he is employed.

## NEW YORK

**Barbara Modica Gleason, RN, AS Nursing, '85, Orient** — became an RN in the fall of 1985 at age 50. She says those “were joyous moments for me. My ‘10 year work-life’ in Med/Surg, and Hospice care for my dying husband enriched and rewarded me and my family.”



## TEXAS

**Stanley K. Pauley, BSL '00, El Paso** — recently completed requirements for a dual-track Master of Arts in Management and Leadership and Human Resource Development, from Webster University, Saint Louis, MO. Captain Pauley retired after serving 30 years in the U.S. Army as a military policeman. His first assignment at Fort Bliss was as commander of the army's civilian police unit. Captain Pauley was recently appointed Chief of Police Services, providing security, law enforcement, and force protection for the one of the army's largest and fastest growing installations.

**Juan Carlos Martinez Pocasangre, BGB '02, Brooklyn** — has completed two master's degrees since graduating from the BS program in General Business at Excelsior — a Master of Science in Organizational Management and an Executive Master of Business Administration.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Augustus M. Black, Jr., BSL '84, Cherryville** — was honored with a gym court in his name. A coach of high school and college basketball teams, Dr. Black coached most of his career at Cherryville High School, where he graduated in 1961. His outstanding success as a coach is not only portrayed by his very successful win-loss record but by the success of his former players who are now coaches, doctors, dentists, CPAs, and social workers. He and his wife of 43 years were teachers and they have two sons, Mel and Wes, both of whom are lawyers.

## OHIO

**Brian P. McCarty, BSL '06, Hebron** — was deployed overseas to a forward-operating location in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. McCarty is the 14th Aircraft Maintenance Unit superintendent assigned to the 35th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Susan E. Kaliszewski, AS '90, Erie** — is co-owner of three small businesses with her husband and two sons. Big Woodies Fireworks & Martial Arts Supply; Kali's Chocolates, Gifts & Souvenirs; and Hungry Howie's Pizza Shoppe, all located in Erie, PA. They are in the planning stages of a second Hungry Howie's.

## TENNESSEE

**Matthew P. Marks, AS '00, BSL '06, Bartlett** — has a permanent duty station at the Navy Manpower and Analysis Center in Millington, TN; he is currently serving at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division. Marks is deployed as a part of the U.S. Navy's Individual Augmentation Program, providing the army with navy personnel to ensure necessary resources to fight the global war on terrorism. He says, “When I was home last, I was approached by a person who believes we shouldn't be here (I support the freedom of free thought and speech) and was directly asked, ‘What do you think of the war?’ I simply replied, ‘I think we should win. We have no other options.’”

## NEW YORK

**Lana M. Noone, BA, '88, Garden City** — recently established the Heather Constance Noone Memorial Award, named for her deceased daughter. Ms. Noone presented the award at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, posthumously, to President Ford for his implementation of the Vietnam “Operation Babylift” in April 1975. The award ceremony took place at the Ford Presidential Museum, Grand Rapids, MI, where Steve Ford accepted the award on behalf of his late father and also read a gracious letter from Mrs. Betty Ford. Noone's Web site [www.Vietnambabylift.org](http://www.Vietnambabylift.org) continues to receive awards



## VIRGINIA

**Fred Fanning, BSL, '93, Fredericksburg** — was selected for the Senior Executive Service with the federal government as the director for administrative services with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

## WISCONSIN

**Vicki L. Iverson, AS in nursing '07, Chippewa Falls** — passed her NCLEX-RN test on her first try in February 2007. She says, “Thank you for helping me to achieve my goal. My parents, husband, and children are all proud of me. My son graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison at the same time I graduated from Excelsior College. My daughter is a student at St. Olaf College. She told all of her friends that I earned a degree, and they are proud of me too!”



## NEW YORK

**Christine Robinson, BSL '97, Rensselaer** — has been employed since 1999 by the New York State Division of Parole as a Parole Officer in various NYS Correctional Facilities and the Albany, NY Field Office. In addition to her duties with the NYS Division of Parole, Ms. Robinson has been employed by Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) as a Criminal Studies adjunct instructor since 2004. She is married to Sgt. Desmond G. Cooley, an eighteen-year veteran of the Albany County Sheriff's Department at Albany County Correctional Facility and Penitentiary. She also holds a Master of Arts from SUNY Empire State College.



## GEORGIA

**Renée Evenson, AS '01, Saint Simons Island** — received a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Psychology from Ohio University in 2004. Owner of Bull's Eye Publishing, writer, business relationship consultant, and self-publishing consultant, Ms. Evenson's fourth book, *Award Winning Customer Service*, AMACOM Books, has recently been released. While working toward completing her Associate in Science from Excelsior College and Bachelor of Science in Organizational Psychology from Ohio University, she began her writing and consulting career, focusing on workplace relationships between management, employees, and customers. Evenson self-published her first two books, *Customer Service 101* and *Customer Service 201*, both of which are still in publication. Her third book, *Customer Service Training 101*, was also published by AMACOM Books, a division of the American Management Association.



## TENNESSEE

**Ginger Smith Brown, AS in nursing '07 and Kevin Lee Brown, AA in nursing '07, Lawrenceburg** — are waiting to take their state boards in nursing. They met in January 2006 at an off-site study group and started emailing each other regarding their coursework. By August, they were dating as well as challenging each other to complete the Excelsior nursing program.

They married in 2007 and expect their first child (due on Christmas). In June, they took the CPNE together in Racine, WI, and they both passed on their first try. Ginger says, "It's been a long hard road for me. I enrolled at a traditional college in 1988 (almost 20 years ago).

Kevin laughs when I mention it. I'm so proud we made it through together. Being happily married with our first child on the way and both with associate degrees in nursing — I'm truly blessed."

Ginger and Kevin are both continuing their education at Excelsior, in the Bachelor of Science in nursing program. Kevin then wants to continue on in a CRNA program. Says Ginger, "We are thankful to Excelsior and the advisors and the CPNE groups at Excelsior and at Racine, WI. They were great! Wish all of us luck on the State Boards — NCLEX."



## VIRGINIA

**Kevin L. Dillon, MLS '06, Fairfax** — retired from United Airlines and the U.S. Navy. He has been appointed to the Personnel Advisory Board by the City Council of the City of Fairfax.



## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Terry D. Sims, BS in nursing '02, Great Falls** — graduated with a Master of Science in Nursing with an emphasis in Family Nurse Practitioner and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner from the University of South Carolina. Sims is engaged to be married to Ms. Danielle Shull, RN, on December 8, 2007.

LET US TAKE OUR  
**HATS  
OFF  
TO  
YOU!**



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

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

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# COLLEGE CALENDAR

## 2007 HOLIDAYS (College closed)

November 12 - Veteran's Day

November 22-23 - Thanksgiving Day & day after

December 25 - Christmas Day

January 1 - New Year's Day

January 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 18 - President's Day

May 26 - Memorial Day

July 4 - Independence Day

## COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

July 11, 2008 (College closed)

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

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

Conferral Date	Final Changes	Deadline for receipt of transcripts/ official documents for initial evaluation	Deadline for receipt of transcripts/ official documents for updated evaluation	CPNE Completion Cut-off (Nursing only)
November 16, 2007	Nov 2	Sept 7	Sept 21	Sept 28
December 21, 2007	Dec 7	Oct 12	Oct 26	Nov 2
January 18, 2008	Jan 4	Nov 9	Nov 23	Nov 30
February 15, 2008	Feb 1	Dec 7	Dec 21	Dec 28
March 21, 2008	Mar 7	Jan 11	Jan 25	Feb 1
April 18, 2008	April 4	Feb 8	Feb 22	Feb 29
May 16, 2008	May 2	Mar 7	Mar 21	Mar 28
June 20, 2008	June 6	April 11	April 25	May 2

### COMMENCEMENT JULY 11, 2008

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



OUR CAMPUS IS WHEREVER YOU ARE —

## Virtually Everywhere.

Since 1971, more than 46,000 members of the military have realized their dreams of a degree through Excelsior College. Of the 7,700 servicemembers currently enrolled, 87% are on active duty — all over the world.

One soldier, MSgt Mark Hoffman, shared this photo to give us “a brief glimpse of the conditions we face sometimes in trying to keep up with the class work.” He is seen here studying to finish one of his courses, just after Operation Iraqi Freedom began.