

# DETC



Outstanding  
Graduates  
2004



## 2004 Outstanding Graduate Program

### Introduction

Distance education has flourished for more than 125 years in America and long before that in Europe. Since distance education's beginning, well over 135 million men and women have studied by distance education. To recognize the achievements of the millions who study at a distance today, the Distance Education and Training Council conducts an "Outstanding Graduate" program each year.

Thirty-two exceptional distance study graduates were selected by the institutions they attended. Selection criteria included the graduates' academic records and the level and quality of their contributions to society and to their chosen professions.

This is the sixteenth consecutive year that the DETC has given national recognition to distance study graduates. Over these years, more than 580 graduates have collectively added to the ever-growing and impressive tradition of distance education: excellence in educational accomplishment. They are men and women who have distinguished themselves in their careers and in society. These graduates are irrefutable evidence that distance study is truly a viable educational option.

We join with all the DETC-accredited members in saluting the outstanding achievements of these unique men and women who represent more than three million distance education students now studying with DETC members. Distance study's story is best told by the achievements of these thirty-two outstanding graduates.

Michael P. Lambert  
Executive Director

January 2004

## Patricia Davis-Murray

Kingston, Idaho

. . . her healing process included  
a new career



Ms. Patricia Davis-Murray was a certified medical assistant for 13 years. Unfortunately, that job came to an end when she injured her back while lifting a patient on an exam table. She wanted to stay in the medical field, but it was clear she needed to find a less physically demanding job. With the guidance of her vocational rehabilitation counselor, Patricia enrolled in Allied Business Schools' Medical Billing course to brush up on her skills.

Distance education was perfect for Patricia. She lives in a small town in northern Idaho where career training options are limited. In fact, the closest "big" city is 40 miles away from where she lives. Furthermore, the pain in her back made it impossible to commute for any length of time to a school or training facility.

While Patricia excelled in her studies and received high scores on her exams and assignments, she was still concerned about finding employment in her rural area. She started the search by inquiring with her chiropractor's office. She didn't need to look further. Patricia was hired as an Office Manager and Biller less than a week after receiving her Medical Billing certificate.

*"Distance education was helpful because I was able to study at home while my back healed."*



**Sharon Steinbacher**  
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

. . . she gained confidence with distance  
learning

Ms. Sharon Steinbacher was determined to achieve an important goal she had set in her life: to further her education. She knew it could never be too late to accomplish this goal, so she decided to return to school at the age of forty by enrolling in the American College of Computer and Information Sciences.

Like many adult learners, Sharon has a full-time job and a family. She knew studying from a distance was her best opportunity to gain the education she desired. With persistence and determination, Sharon achieved her goal by earning a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems in just sixteen months.

Sharon excelled through the program, graduating *magna cum laude* and receiving Student of the Month recognition. She has been promoted to a new position managing the financial end of a \$12 million environmental grants program with approximately 300 non-profit clients. Sharon is also presently continuing her education by taking a PC repair course and eventually plans to get A+ certified.

*“I feel more self-confident and I now know I can do whatever I put my mind to. My degree has enabled me to apply my new information management skills in order to more effectively and efficiently carry out these responsibilities.”*

**Laura M. Ryan**  
Monterey, California



. . . distance education allowed her to continue serving her country

Major Laura M. Ryan of the United States Air Force wanted to pursue a Master's degree in a subject applicable to her military career. She enrolled in the American Military University and earned her Masters of Strategic Intelligence with a 3.97 GPA.

Laura completed her degree while serving her country as the Deputy Director, Threat Intelligence Branch, Air Force Protection Directorate at the Pentagon during the terrorists attacks. She graduated with honors even while maintaining a sixty-plus hour work week that included in-garrison military duty, temporary duty, and deployments. Laura has served around the world, operating in Southeast Asia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, Bosnia, and Jordan. She was nominated for the President's "Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board-Killian Intelligence Award" in 1997.

Laura is an advocate for Habitat for Humanity, tutors at a local school, and volunteers for an animal shelter. She is a Disaster Response Team member for the American Red Cross, as well as a Community First Aid and Safety CPR instructor. The Outstanding Young Americans also acknowledged Laura for her personal and professional accomplishments, selecting her as an "Outstanding Woman of America" in 1997.

*"The flexibility of AMU's distance learning program was the only viable option for me to attend school while serving long, hectic hours at the Pentagon."*



**Jennifer Susan Snipes**  
Lancaster, South Carolina

... a seasoned home school student  
shines in college

Distance education is nothing new to American School's student Jennifer Snipes. She was home schooled from the sixth through twelfth grades, and she graduated from the American School in June 2002.

Studying at the American School sharpened Jennifer's independent study skills and helped her develop a strong work ethic. The flexibility of home education allowed Jennifer to explore other interests in addition to her traditional high school work. She spent years studying the piano and pipe organ. She played in the handbell choir of her church for ten years, and also sang in the youth choir. She studied Taekwondo for seven years and recently received her second degree black belt. The richness and variety of these extracurricular activities demonstrate Jennifer's motivation, and she stands out as an exceptional distance learning student.

Jennifer was the 2003 recipient of the American School's Henry W. Burish Alumni Scholarship. She recently completed her first year of studies at the University of South Carolina-Lancaster Honors Program, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and maintains a 3.9 GPA. Her goal is to become a registered Professional Engineer.

*"Obtaining my high school education through American School was a privilege."*

**Ronald A. Barrett**  
Vancouver, Washington

. . . his knowledge helped him  
serve others



Mr. Ronald A. Barrett is a devoted father of four children, has a challenging business career, and is heavily engaged with social service organizations. Since he had little time for an academic career through traditional programs, he enrolled in Andrew Jackson University's MBA program.

Ronald is now the corporate controller at Wacom Technology Corporation, part of the highly-competitive computer hardware industry. The MBA program's course work in organizational theory, business strategy, and human resource management have enabled him to make meaningful contributions to his firm's discussion of international corporate values and business practices.

Ronald is a board member and treasurer for the Low Income Family Emergency Center, a board and finance committee member at Portland Family Church, and serves as an advisor to the national headquarters of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unifications.

*"This MBA program provided me with the opportunity to better my business management understanding and achieve personal and professional success through an adaptable schedule and quality course content."*

## Art Instruction Schools



**Mara Lunczer**  
Toronto, Ontario

. . . a DETC school helped display  
her talent

A talented artist gained skills and a new eye for detail when she enrolled in Art Instruction Schools. Ms. Mara Lunczer has won numerous awards, honors, and recognition for her artwork, and she contributes much of her art success to the techniques and knowledge she gained from training with Art Instruction Schools.

Mara displays her artwork in galleries, exhibits, stores, and libraries. Her work has been selected for juried art shows and one-woman art shows. Her latest juried art show was at Latvian Cultural Centre in Toronto. Mara's art has been featured in newspapers and magazines. She also donates artwork for display at nursing home facilities. In addition, she is a freelance artist.

Mara is the proud recipient of a runner-up designation for her greeting card design in Hallmark's "The Millennium" 2000 Greeting Card Design Contest. She won Grand Prize and \$1,000 for her scrapbook entry at *Crafts 'N Things* Magazine. She also won first place in Art Instruction Schools' Annual Art Competition.

*"Art Instruction Schools' educational program taught me to pay attention to detail and accuracy in art. I am more careful with detail when creating a new piece of art."*



**Gary Porter**  
Stanwood, Washington



. . . his degree eased the transition  
to a new career

Mr. Gary Porter chose Ashworth College because a traditional college routine would never fit his work schedule and family life. In addition to working the graveyard shift, he and his wife are foster parents who care for homeless teenagers. As many as three teens live in the household at one time. Gary realized distance learning was the only way he could balance his home, job, and academic responsibilities.

When Gary enrolled in Ashworth College to earn his Associate's Degree in Business Management, he was a 14-year veteran assembly mechanic hoping to obtain a management position in his company. But just months before he graduated, the company laid off 40,000 employees – including Gary. Thankfully, his 3.3 GPA and his career-relevant degree from Ashworth eased his transition to a new career.

Shortly after graduating, Gary landed a temporary position with a chemical dependency treatment facility, and then earned a full-time position in the billing department of the company's subsidiary. His degree from Ashworth also helped him earn a part-time freight manager position with Fred Meyers, a large retail chain, where he works three nights a week.

*“Distance learning provides you with what you need quickly and efficiently. Ashworth's curriculum taught me relevant career skills that I'm actually using. I'm very grateful that Ashworth College is here.”*



**Kevin R. Burke**  
Alexandria, Virginia

. . . he studied from around the globe

Mr. Kevin R. Burke was motivated to complete a course of study that would meet the exacting demands of a rapidly changing technological environment. He enrolled in Aspen University's graduate program and received a Master's Degree in Information Technology in 2003.

Kevin's experience with Aspen University has been life changing. Earning a graduate degree in Information Technology has greatly enriched his knowledge and understanding of the underlying theories and concepts of the I.T. marketplace. He finds himself frequently utilizing this new wealth of information and technology knowledge to support his organizational business needs.

Aspen University's graduate program enabled Kevin to continue his education while enduring the military hardships of traveling great distances and spending time away from his job and family. Kevin, who also holds a BS in Management Studies from the University of Maryland European Division, is a reservist and has been deployed at various locations around the globe. In his civilian capacity, he is a Staff Security Engineer and Program Manager with Harris Corporation in Melbourne, Florida.

*"Attending Aspen University has been one of the most professionally rewarding experiences of my life."*

**Lori Bell**  
Alta Loma, California



. . . distance learning, the natural way

Three years ago, Ms. Lori Bell's young daughter was diagnosed with a severe ear condition that required surgery. She was able to find a natural remedy for the condition that cured her daughter, much to her doctor's surprise. After that experience, Lori searched for a distance learning course that would give her formal training in natural health and enrolled in the Australasian College of Health Sciences.

Lori enrolled in the Herb 401 Diploma in Herbal Studies Master Herbalist program in October 2000. She maintained an A average throughout the program and passed the difficult final exam with a 90%. In August 2003, Lori became Australasian College's first Honors Master Herbalist graduate. She worked long and hard for more than two years to successfully complete the program, juggling her four small children and often waking at 4 a.m. to complete her studies.

Lori is very active within her community and desires to teach others the valuable information she has learned in the Master Herbalist program. She has taught a regular community wellness class regarding herbal remedies to her friends and will soon be working as an online advice columnist for an international herbal company.

*"Everyone has a right to know how their bodies work and how valuable good nutrition and herbal medicine can be!"*



Mary Thornton Schuelke  
Ackerly, Texas

. . . a busy schedule was no match for  
her dream of obtaining a degree

Ms. Mary Thornton Schuelke began dreaming of higher education at the age of eighteen. Through years of determination and fortitude, she received a Bachelor of Science in Health Services from California College for Health Sciences. She studied at a distance through many major life changes, including getting married, working, raising children, and acting as a caregiver to elderly in-laws.

Mary knew distance learning was the only way she could attend college and meet her personal commitments at the same time. She was chosen as an Outstanding Graduate because of her commitment to learning, first with her Associate of Science Respiratory Technology degree and then her B.S. degree, both from California College for Health Sciences.

Mary is the lead instructor for Howard College's EMT department where she assisted in developing a new curriculum and wrote a pharmacology manual for use in classes. She holds both Paramedic and Respiratory Technician certifications. Mary is currently enrolled in California College for Health Sciences' M.S. program.

*“Professionally, I have come a long way. My department head at Howard College calls me to help solve problems, and I know obtaining my degree via distance learning is the reason I've gained so much respect.”*

**Bart Freeman**  
Huntsville, Alabama

... he developed a greater understanding  
of his specific field



Mr. Bart Freeman enrolled at California National University (CNU) because he wanted to bring new knowledge and skills to his job as Director of Human Resources. Bart, who has a B.S. in Economics from the University of Memphis, decided to pursue higher education with a distance learning school because he believed it would enable him to develop his professional career without disrupting his personal life.

Bart earned a Master of Human Resources Management degree and graduated *summa cum laude* with a 4.0 GPA. CNU's diverse and broad program enhanced Bart's understanding of human resources and the highly competitive global market. His thesis, "A Study of the Efficacy of Total Quality Management in Regard to Job Productivity, Satisfaction, and Retention" will benefit his employer and the human resources field.

Obtaining the Master's degree presented Bart with exciting career opportunities – he has a new employer and is involved with the local community. For the past two years, Bart has been the Manager of Human Resources for the Engelhard Company in Huntsville, AL. The company serves a variety of markets from aerospace to petroleum refining.

*"This intensive program helped me to become a more valuable business partner at my current place of employment."*



Susan J. Gregoroff  
Ancaster, Ontario

. . . she applied her study and research skills to her career

Ms. Susan Gregoroff wanted to pursue a degree in health care management, so she did some research. When she learned that the Canadian School of Management professors were all established individuals working in health care, she enrolled in the school. She completed a graduate program, Graduate of Health Services Administration (GHS), and a fellow program, Fellow in Health Services Administration (FHA), at the school.

Susan graduated from both programs with honors. Her understanding of the material and her detailed research clearly surpass the requirements for the FHA program. Her thesis was titled “The Impact of Outpatient Heart Failure Clinic on Costs and Hospital Admissions.” She received the “Princess Irene Award for Academic Excellence in Research.”

Susan is a registered nurse and has been a Clinical Manager in the Cardiac and Vascular Program at Hamilton Health Sciences since 1999. Her studies at the Canadian School of Management helped her grasp theoretical concepts and use them within the context of her workplace, creating tangible, measurable benefits.

*“Distance education allowed me to balance career and family. My success as a Clinical Manager working in a variety of cardiac and vascular specialty areas is largely due to my educational preparation.”*

## Sister Marie Bernadette Birmingham, Alabama

. . . going to an out-of-state university  
was not an option



When Sister Marie Bernadette entered the Birmingham Religious Community, the Sister Servants of the Eternal World, she began directing the Choir for the Sacred Liturgy and was assigned catechesis and retreat work at Casa Maria. When Sister Marie realized a deficiency in her catechetical background, she enrolled in the Catholic Distance University's Catechetical Diploma Program to acquire a solid doctrinal foundation that is so needed in her evangelization activities.

For the past seven years, Sister Marie maintained a 96% GPA while working full-time at Casa Maria. She frequently encounters individuals who benefit from the church teaching, church history, and Catholic spirituality she received through her studies. Distance education made this all possible, as her community involvements prevented her from attending an out-of-state university.

Sister Marie, who was born and educated in Texas, received her undergraduate degree from A&M University. She is now eager to share the knowledge she attained through the Catholic Distance University with others, especially the youth.

*"Catholic Distance University was a godsend. The Sister Servants are able to study at home in the convent, becoming more grounded in the Catholic Faith while living in our own community of spirit and ideals."*

## Citizens' High School



Larry Lewis, Jr.  
Mason, Michigan

. . . getting an education, gearing up  
to travel the world

Private Larry Lewis, Jr. wanted to be a soldier in the U.S. Army, but his goal had a few high hurdles. The Army is not interested in high school dropouts, and there is very little room for those with only a G.E.D. Larry did not want to attend a “brick and mortar” high school because he had a full time job he wasn’t willing to give up, so he enrolled in Citizens’ High School.

Larry was chosen as an Outstanding Graduate because of his determination and mature approach to achieving a goal. He knew he needed a high school diploma to enter the Army, and he wanted to study from a distance. Even though the Army has been reluctant in the past to accept “homeschoolers,” Larry convinced them he was up to any task. He made a strong case for home study when he graduated from Citizens’ High School with a 3.75 GPA and was allowed to enter the Army.

Larry knew that receiving his diploma and joining the Army would take determination and sacrifice, but he succeeded and moved on to defend American freedom on foreign soil. His experience with distance learning was so positive that his wife is now enrolled in Citizens’ High School.

*“Gaining my high school diploma from Citizens’ High School has made a remarkable difference in my life.”*



**Ann Bruun**  
Tulsa, Oklahoma



. . . she advanced her career by earning a degree

Ms. Ann Bruun has been employed by KJRH-TV Channel 2 in Tulsa for 16 years and is the Master Controls Operator. As the operations at work became more complicated, she realized knowing how to operate the equipment wasn't enough and decided to learn why it worked. Since her second shift job didn't give her the flexibility to attend a residential college, she enrolled in the Cleveland Institute of Electronics.

Ann completed her AASEET degree in two and a half years with an outstanding GPA of 95.7%. With her degree, Ann is able to install equipment, run cables, and the all-important job of tower maintenance. She is also able to complete tasks that once required a maintenance engineer that may have resulted in delays for the TV station. Ann's degree helped make station operations more efficient and improved service for the residents of her community.

Ann is now much happier with her job and continues to gain experience that will one day allow her to reach her goal as a full-time Electronics Engineer. Since completing the degree at CIE, Ann has experienced improved self-confidence and a desire to learn more about computers and other subjects related to broadcast operations.

*“Graduating with an engineering degree has boosted my confidence, and I intend to continue my education in this field.”*



**Indira Narinesingh**  
San Fernando, Trinidad

. . . distance education helped her  
beat the odds

Growing up with difficult financial circumstances and losing her father at the age of two caused Ms. Indira Narinesingh to develop determination and a deep-seated desire to succeed. She earned a degree in Computer Science and advanced her career, but she also wanted to earn an MBA. She turned to distance learning because of the limited resources in Trinidad, and enrolled in Columbia Southern University.

Indira graduated from Columbia Southern University with a 3.79 GPA. After earning the degree, she assumed the role of Director in a medical laboratory that she and her husband founded. She now manages Finance and Administration for the business, and also crafts strategic direction for the corporation. She puts to good use the skills she acquired when studying for her MBA.

The MBA has placed Indira in consideration for membership in the Soroptimist International Chapter in Trinidad. She contributes to articles promoting new medical technologies and is involved with programs providing free medical testing to depressed communities. She is also a patron to a homeless children shelter in her community and is interested in advancing the rights and status of women and children.

*“My vision is to share my time, knowledge, and financial resources to enrich the community in my country.”*

**Marcia H. Hauflaire**  
Palos Park, Illinois

. . . she earned a law degree her own way  
with distance education



Ms. Marcia H. Hauflaire wanted to go to law school. Although she lives in a Chicago suburb, she knew she wouldn't have the time to go downtown to attend classes after work. She did some research and was elated to discover she could study law online with Concord School of Law.

In her first year of law school, Marcia won all the academic achievement awards for her section. She went on to win the "Best Brief Award" in the upper level Legal Analysis and writing course, achieved Dean's List status, and was initiated into the Concord Law School Honor Society. She was an active, prepared, and enthusiastic distance learning student.

Marcia has an active professional career in management at UPS, where she uses her education to improve her training techniques and programming. In addition to her work, Marcia plans to use her Concord education as a volunteer for legal services organizations. She also sings in a professional gospel choir called Dan Willis and the Pentecostals of Chicago. The choir travels extensively and has recorded five albums.

*"My work schedule prevented me from attending local law schools, and I'm glad I chose Concord. I've learned so much, have met wonderful people, and have grown (even at my age!). Concord has a great program with dedicated professors who care about giving us the best legal education available. What a wonderful experience!"*



**Dana M. Martin**  
Hackensack, New Jersey

. . . she used her education to start  
her own business

Ms. Dana Martin had a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, but she was interested in studying in a different area. She wanted to learn more about the bridal industry, and she also planned to start her own business. She enrolled in Education Direct's Professional Bridal Consultant Program because she knew it would give her the skills and knowledge she would need to work in the bridal business.

Dana received a diploma from Education Direct and certification from the Association of Bridal Consultants. She earned an average of 95% and fulfilled her objective in 17 months. The Professional Bridal Consultant Program provided Dana with the knowledge to work with brides and grooms in an effective manner. It also improved her skills in the general bridal industry.

During the time she was enrolled in Education Direct, Dana opened her own event planning company called Perfect Planning. The flexibility of distance education allowed her to establish this business while enhancing her skills as a professional bridal consultant.

*"This program helped me learn more about the bridal business, and I was able to use that knowledge to open my own planning company. Education Direct's courses were definitely an asset to my business. I owe a lot of my success to Education Direct."*

**Carolyn A. Segars**  
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

. . . she earned respect in her field



Ms. Carolyn A. Segars began working in jewelry in 1996, and soon realized how much the entire jewelry industry respects the Graduate Gemologist diploma program offered by the Gemological Institute of America. When she moved to South Carolina and began working at Skatell's Manufacturing Jewelers, Carolyn decided to follow her boss's lead and enroll in the course.

Carolyn completed the program in only nine months and received very high marks. Since receiving her diploma, Carolyn was promoted to Skatell's corporate office store and is now in charge of all appraisals. She receives a larger commission, as well as half the amount charged for any appraisal. Because of her commitment to advanced education in gemology, Carolyn is an important asset to her employer, to the public she serves, and to the entire jewelry industry.

Carolyn cites her newfound confidence as the diploma's most positive reward. It is invaluable for her to properly inform her customers while selling diamonds and colored stones. Carolyn has learned that her esteemed credentials encourage customers, vendors, and other employees to appreciate her opinions and ideas.

*"Now that I have this diploma behind me, I know I can achieve anything I try."*



**John E. McKinnon**  
Engadine, Australia

. . . a distance learning degree helped  
him reach out to other Christians

In addition to his position as an investment manager, Mr. John E. McKinnon is the pastor of Engadine Ruach Church, a church associated with the Ruach Neighbourhood Churches network. To prepare for his role as pastor, he enrolled in Global University's Master of Arts degree program to extend his knowledge and skills in biblical exposition and to enhance his ability to help others interpret the Bible.

John graduated in 2003 with an M.A. in Biblical Studies with a 4.0 GPA. He uses the knowledge and skills he acquired to teach within his local church and in the wider Ruach network. He also published three articles within the network. Global University's Master's degree enabled him to assume these responsibilities with confidence, knowing that he has the tools and experience necessary to teach other Christians.

John is an executive with GMO Australia Limited, an international investment management firm. He holds a B.S. degree with first class honors from the Australian National University, where he was awarded the University Medal and the Hanna Neumann Prize for Mathematics. John is married with four children.

*"Global University offered the flexibility I needed to maintain my professional and family responsibilities and the opportunity to interact with mentors from a wide range of institutions and backgrounds."*

## Benjamin Graber

Canton, Ohio

. . . distance education turned his part-time job into a full-time career



Mr. Benjamin Graber acquired an interest in electronics, computer science, and software and hardware engineering partly because his father is a software developer. Upon graduating from high school, Benjamin was working at a software company part time, and he quickly realized the importance of gaining more education in the field. He decided to enroll in an Electronics Engineering Technology program at Grantham University.

Benjamin persevered through an extremely difficult curriculum including the areas of electronics, electrical engineering, computer science, programming, and advanced mathematics while maintaining a 3.94 GPA. He received his BSEET degree in the Fall of 2003 after completing all eight semesters at Grantham University at twenty-one years of age.

Distance education allowed Benjamin to remain at home with his family, work at his own pace, and cut driving and other costs. But mostly, studying at Grantham University gave him the chance to take courses that would be useful in his future career. He now has the ability to get a full-time job in the hardware or software fields, and his training gave him the chance to more fully immerse himself in the same field as his own father.

*“I took both electronics and computer courses at Grantham University, and I now have more opportunities than I ever did before.”*

## Hadley School for the Blind



**Charles King**  
Chicago, Illinois

. . . he discovered independence and acceptance through distance education

Mr. Charles King was born with glaucoma, and his vision steadily worsened until he was declared legally blind in his late teens. For a time, Charles gave up on pursuing his high school diploma. Attending school meant traveling through rough urban neighborhoods ruled by gangs. Fear of violence and lack of support from teachers discouraged him from receiving an education. But when he finally decided to enroll in The Hadley School for the Blind, that all changed.

Charles has been a Hadley student since 1995, has completed 25 distance education courses, and recently received his high school diploma. The distance education approach was ideal for Charles; he could study at home, work at his own pace, and his instructors were always just a phone call away. He studied a variety of subjects, including psychology, mathematics, literature, spelling and astronomy.

Hadley's braille courses especially helped Charles become more independent. A music lover and drummer, Charles plans to take Hadley's braille music notation course. He also wants to take courses in business and information technology.

*"Whenever I had a question or problem, I could contact my instructor and get a quick response. Thank you, Hadley, for all you have done for me."*



## Carson Elizabeth Fuller Hickory, NC

... she considers homeschooling  
the greatest gift



Ms. Carson Fuller's parents wanted her to study with the best possible type of school. They discovered that distance learning would suit their daughter's active and highly successful academic life. Carson was enrolled in Home Study International for six years – from the seventh grade through her senior year in high school.

Carson and her parents were impressed with the quality of material and expert instruction offered by Home Study International. Homeschooling contributed to Carson's maturity, her creativity, and her attention to detail. She felt encouraged to think deeply, to take on ideas and develop them. She graduated from Home Study International with honors.

Distance learning gave Carson the time to pursue her passion: volunteering. She has committed her talents and hundreds of hours of her time to a variety of organizations, from the United Way and Red Cross to the Salvation Army, local schools, and churches. She's an advocate for the homeless, women at risk, community awareness projects, breast cancer, and worthy students. Carson received many awards, and she distinguished herself as a student leader with tremendous potential. She is currently enrolled at Rollins College in Florida.

*"Homeschooling is the greatest educational gift a parent can give a child."*



**Victor Wittke**  
Salt Lake City, Utah

. . . he learned more than he ever  
dreamed he could

In 1999, Mr. Victor Wittke fell ill to heart failure and would have died unless he received a heart transplant. As he lay in the hospital bed, Victor knew he had to make changes in his life. For years he had been changing jobs and studying various subjects, but now he was haunted by the need for a real transition. He decided to pursue logistics, and he enrolled in the Institute of Logistical Management (ILM).

Victor had worked in distribution for many years, but he knew almost nothing about computers. He was intimidated at first by the pressure of trying to obtain the CLP title as a Certified Logistics Practitioner. Fortunately, he found solace in the helpful ILM staff. He spoke with the Dean, who allayed his fears. With ILM's encouragement and willingness to help, Victor was able to complete the course and receive his CLP.

Victor has been a truck driver, a writer, and a student. He had studied English and Psychology at Salt Lake Community College, and he received certification in Traffic and Transportation through his employer's continuing education program. He plans to continue his education with ILM in the future.

*“Receiving the CLP title was the greatest thing I ever accomplished. I learned more while earning the CLP than I did in the twenty years prior.”*

**Wong Pak Kung**  
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

. . . distance education changed  
his attitude and career



Mr. Wong (John) Pak Kung has balanced his need for higher education with his career and family for the past 29 years. After acquiring several professional certifications in the Inspection, Corrosion and Quality Control areas, he decided distance education would best fit his lifestyle. He enrolled in the International Management Centres Association's (IMCA) Bachelor of Technology Management program. He graduated in October 2003 with distinction.

For his internship project, John developed a piping asset integrity management program for Petronas Gas Processing Personnel to more effectively serve employees by fighting the external corrosion. The Petronas Management was so impressed with John's program they included it in their plant-wide inspection and maintenance program.

John has undergone a series of job promotions while studying with the International Management Centres. He currently works as a Senior Executive Asset manager for OGP Technical Services Petronas and is a contributing consultant to reliability improvement of Vinyl Chloride Sdn Bhd in Petronas.

*"This program has changed my attitude, career and learning capability in a very positive way. Because of this program, I am now a better learner, facilitator, and leader."*



**Sergeant David B. Isaacks**  
Quantico, Virginia

. . . he's a Marine dedicated to learning

Sergeant David B. Isaacks is an active duty Marine dedicated to education. In addition to earning various certifications, he enrolled in the Marine Corps Institute and excelled.

Within the past year, David earned certifications in fire instruction, public telecommunications, driver operations, and emergency vehicle operations. He also completed six college courses en route to earning a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science Management from Southern Illinois University, graduating *magna cum laude* with a 3.813 GPA.

David is currently assigned to Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting at the Marine Corps Air Facility in Virginia. He is responsible for ensuring operational readiness of all fire fighting vehicles and related equipment while serving as incident commander for all aircraft emergencies and mutual aid calls. He was awarded the "Air Force Achievement Medal" and a Certificate of Commendation this year.

David also assists in training the San Angelo City Fire Fighters, acting as a Toys for Tots Coordinator, participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program, and tutoring young children for the Minnie Land Day Care.

*"I used the knowledge I gained from the Marine Corps Institute to teach and train."*

**Richard A. Lenderman**  
Providence, Rhode Island

. . . he uses the knowledge he  
gained to teach others



A two-year mission in Spain for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints showed Mr. Richard A. Lenderman that nothing is as rewarding as serving others. He learned that people otherwise rejected by the traditional academic system can produce amazing results if only given the opportunity. He wanted to pass this knowledge on to others, and he enrolled in Revans University to do so.

As the Associate Dean of Facilities College for Sodexho, Richard advises 20 fellow employees through the action learning process as they earn their undergraduate and graduate degrees. He earned a Master's degree in Learning and Development to create a model for implementing action learning through Sodexho, and graduated from Revans University with a 3.81 GPA.

Richard recently coauthored a book documenting the lessons learned in Sodexho's action learning degree program, and is currently working on his second book. Richard was recognized by the Mayor of the City of Providence, State Representatives and Senators, and the Governor of Rhode Island for his efforts in the area of education. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University.

*"I thank Revans University for encouraging such vision and a passion for learning."*



**Kenneth Alan Hudacsko**  
Silver Spring, Maryland

. . . distance learning rewarded  
his ambition

Mr. Kenneth Hudacsko was already well established in his career, but he was driven to learn more. He was attracted to the University of Management and Technology because he wanted to be involved with and contribute to an innovative educational program. The expertise of the project management program's creator also encouraged him to enroll.

Ken was one of the first students to enroll in the program. He immediately took a leadership role in the student body and was instrumental in creating and launching the Student Council. Under his leadership, the Student Council served many important functions that are vital to the distance learning student: providing a means for the students' voices, improving the courses, instruction, and student services, organizing student activities, and creating a sense of community.

Ken is an acknowledged expert in project management in the federal government. Since graduating from UMT, he has increased his focus on helping the Office of Information Systems and Technology Services at the U.S. General Accounting Office to achieve its strategic goal of demonstrating model management practices for the federal government.

*"UMT gave me an extraordinary opportunity to build on my project management experience while continuing full stride in my profession and keeping an important balance with my family and community."*

**Marianne Le Roux**  
Glen Marais, South Africa

. . . she took control of her life



Ms. Marianne Le Roux enrolled the University of South Africa (UNISA) in 1999 and began her four-year study career path. She wanted to improve certain skills, but she also wanted to grow as an individual and a student. She always dreamt of working with children some day, and hoped UNISA would help her reach that goal.

Marianne began her studies feeling inexperienced and unsure, but she developed into a mature, professional educator. She gained many skills, such as self-discipline, time management, and communication skills. She also became independent and more confident. Her flexible study schedule allowed her to pursue some “real world” experience working with children – her passion. She also worked as an au pair and a relief teacher.

Marianne has always been interested in art and music. She loves drawing, painting, and playing the piano and guitar. She is now an educator and uses the talents she nurtured during the time she was enrolled in UNISA to liven up her classroom and add enjoyment to her students’ learning experiences. She wants to make a difference in children’s lives, and distance education has helped her accomplish that.

*“Distance education taught me to take control of my life, and that only I have the power over failure and successes.”*



**Hilmir Agustsson**  
St. Augustine, Florida

. . . enrolling in a distance learning school  
led to a rewarding teaching career

Mr. Hilmir Agustsson was an established physical therapist in Iceland with a degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Alberta. Several years ago his son, also a physical therapist, suggested Hilmir take some courses at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences. Hilmir enrolled and graduated with a Master of Health Science in 2003.

Hilmir found the courses were well designed and clinically applicable. He was the first of his group to graduate with the Master's degree. His experiences with the University of St. Augustine did not end there. Hilmir joined the University as a course writer for the online program. He wrote courses on various topics of interest to physical therapy students, and was also responsible for graphic design, video editing, and creating interactive exercises and tests. Teaching courses online has been one of the most rewarding tasks in his personal life.

Hilmir's experience spans from working with handicapped children at a summer camp, providing physical therapy for Iceland's leading soccer team, supervising students' clinical internships, and teaching at the University of Iceland. He enjoys classical music, bicycling, and philosophy.

*"If I was not sold on the idea of distance education before, I certainly am now!"*



## Kevin Schlag

Laie, Hawaii

. . . distance learning provided him with the programs he was passionate about



When Mr. Kevin L. Schlag moved to Hawaii and began working for Brigham Young University-Hawaii, he became sensitive to intercultural communication. While in a class with a Russian student, a Korean student, some Hawaiians, and a Tongan student, Kevin realized he couldn't use traditional teaching methods. He decided to pursue a Master's degree that could incorporate his interest in technology and intercultural learning and enrolled in Western Governor's University.

Kevin was a model graduate student and always produced work of the highest quality. Despite his busy schedule, he always participated in synchronous chat events with other students. Kevin maintained frequent contact with his mentor and was always appreciative of any support and feedback. He completed Western Governor's program in only one year.

Kevin, who holds a Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University, has interned in Kenya, Cameroon, Zaire, and Rwanda. He also did volunteer work as a missionary for the LDS Church in France, South America, and the Caribbean.

*"I live on the North Shore of Oahu in Hawaii, and my choices for graduate degrees were limited. Getting an online degree from Western Governor's University solved the distance problem, and also allowed me to fit the program to my schedule."*



**Harold W. Smith**  
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

. . . his degree inspired others to pursue  
higher education

When Mr. Harold W. Smith's employer promoted him to Senior Systems Analyst, he needed to earn a college degree. Since work and family responsibilities prevented him from studying at a residence college, he turned to World College. He had previously studied with Cleveland Institute of Electronics, and now he worked toward earning a degree. He completed World College's Bachelor in Electronics Engineering Technology degree in just two years and one month.

Harold maintained a solid 3.4 GPA while studying at World College. Upon graduation, he was promoted to Electronics Engineer and provided technical support to several government agencies. His company may now compete for contract work that was previously denied because they lacked a skilled engineer on staff. Harold's success also encouraged his coworkers to consider furthering their own education.

Harold is a member of the Coastal Cyclist and the Palmetto Cycling Coalition bicycle organizations. These groups promote the advancement of bicycling access, safety, and education throughout the state of South Carolina. He also enjoys computers, hiking, backpacking, camping, fishing, canoeing, white water rafting, and digital photography.

*"Earning a degree has been a definite boost to both my company and my personal career."*





**Distance Education and Training Council**  
**1601 18th Street, NW**  
**Washington, DC 20009**  
**(202) 234-5100 • (202) 332-1386**  
**[www.detc.org](http://www.detc.org)**  
**[detc@detc.org](mailto:detc@detc.org)**