

# ASHFORD

CONNECTIONS | *AU Alumni Magazine*

ISSUE 08 / Spring 2014

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3/ WELCOME LETTER**  
Provost Dr. Lori Williams welcomes readers to the issue.
- 22/ FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**  
Dr. Dan Tinianow and Dr. Katie Bojakowski are profiled.
- 24/ IN YOUR OWN WORDS**  
Two alumni pen pieces from their own points of view.
- 26/ CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT**  
Men's soccer successes and a Service Learning trip are recounted.



## SPEAKER SERIES LAUNCHES

**10/** Steve Forbes kicked off the Forbes™ School of Business Speaker Series in March.



### 6/ ALL THINGS ALUMNI

Several exciting initiatives for alumni are shared, including Industry Insight Tours, AU Rewards, the Alumni Ambassador program, and more.



### 16/ AN INTERVIEW WITH STEDMAN GRAHAM

Ashford's Fall 2013 commencement speaker shares advice on how to move from being a follower to a leader.



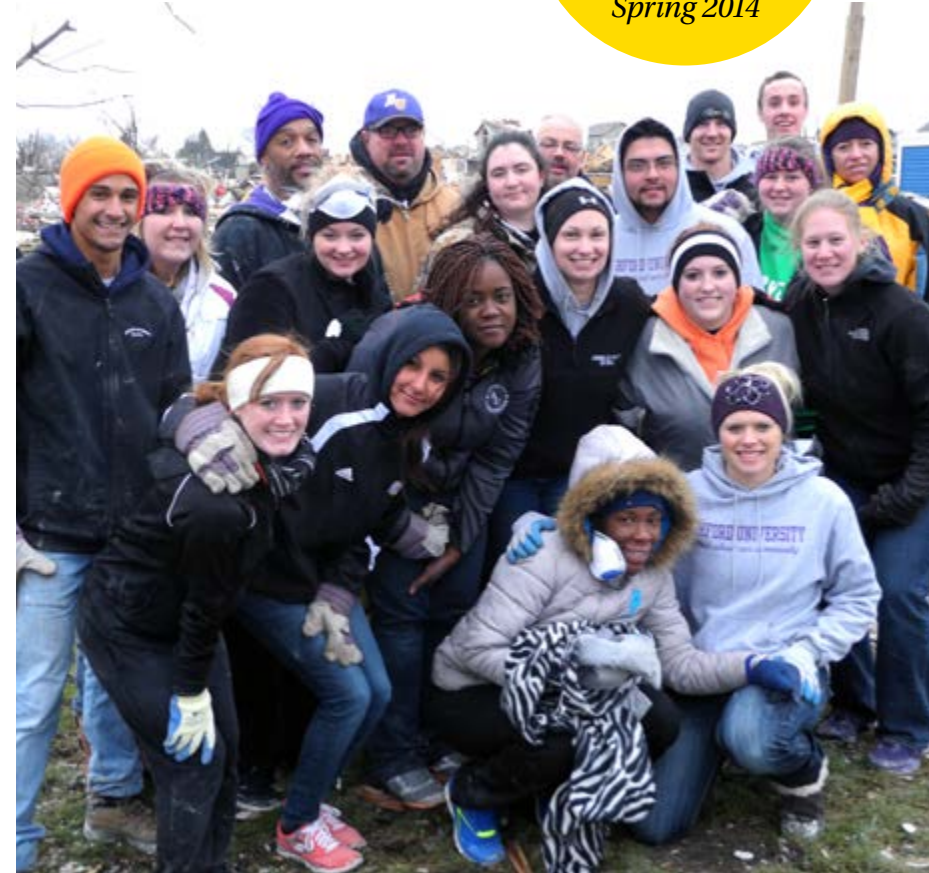
### 18/ ALUMNI STORIES

Sgt. Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour leads members of the U.S. men's and women's skeleton teams to medals in Sochi.





BELOW LEFT: A graduate enters the iWireless Center before the Fall 2013 Commencement Ceremony in Moline, IL. For more, see page 14.  
 BELOW RIGHT: Ashford campus students help provide relief to a tornado-stricken community. For more, see page 27.



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## CONTENTS

- 3/ WELCOME LETTER**  
by Dr. Lori Williams, Provost
- 4/ ASHFORD NEWS**  
Recent news about all things Ashford.
- 6/ ALL THINGS ALUMNI**  
by Laurie Bianchi  
Ashford's Alumni Relations Manager shares several exciting new initiatives for Ashford alumni.
- 7/ Industry Insight Tours & AU Rewards
- 8/ My Career
- 9/ Alumni Ambassador Program & Alumni Tuition Grant
- 10/ SPEAKER SERIES LAUNCHES**  
by Lorelei Plotczyk & Erik Siwak  
The Forbes® School of Business Speaker Series is kicked off by Steve Forbes. Plus: An interview with Steve Forbes.
- 14/ COMMENCEMENT**  
by Lorelei Plotczyk  
Get all the highlights from the Fall 2013 commencement weekend in Clinton, IA and Moline, IL.
- 14/ A Tale of 4 MBAs
- 15/ Photo Gallery
- 16/ An Interview with Stedman Graham
- 18/ ALUMNI STORIES**  
by Lorelei Plotczyk and Jay Conner  
Alumni stories are brought to life in words and in videos filmed at the Spring 2013 commencement.
- 18/ Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour
- 19/ Brittany Harris
- 20/ Michael Leach & Janice Dy
- 21/ Julie Ann McCoy Percevezc & Brian Habel
- 22/ FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**  
by Lorelei Plotczyk  
Meet Dr. Dan Tinianow and Dr. Katie Bojakowski, two College of Liberal Arts professors with interesting backgrounds in unexpected and diverse fields.
- 24/ IN YOUR OWN WORDS**  
by Elihu Claiborne & Kevin Bessy  
Two Ashford alumni pen their own stories; Elihu on why our strengths are like pearls, and Kevin on an honor society-sponsored trip to South Africa.
- 26/ CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT**  
by Ryan Thomas & Audra Adams  
Learn about the Ashford Men's Soccer Team's run to the NAIA Semifinals and Service Learning trips to help with tornado relief.
- 28/ CLASS NOTES**  
Learn about the successes of recent and soon-to-be graduates.
- 30/ SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER**  
Find out how to download special Ashford wallpapers for your devices and social media pages.
- 31/ PROGRAM LIST**

MAIN COVER PHOTO:  
 Steve Forbes, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, and Dr. Richard Pattenau, President and CEO of Ashford University, at the launch of the Forbes® School of Business Speaker Series on March 4, 2014 in San Diego, CA.

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Editor: Lorelei Plotczyk  
 Art Director: David Dickey  
 Designers: Brent Field, Jesse Caverly  
 Production: Jason Mandell  
 Contributors: Dr. Lori Williams, Courtney de Craen, Erik Siwak, Marianne Perez, Laurie Bianchi, Elihu Claiborne, Kevin Bessy, Larry Libberton, Ryan Thomas, Audra Adams, Jay Conner, and Dan Videtich

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With more than 25 years of experience in education, Dr. Lori Williams has served as Ashford University's Provost since October 2013.

by Dr. Lori Williams

## DR. LORI WILLIAMS

### University Provost

Dear Ashford Students and Alumni,

On behalf of the staff and faculty at Ashford University, I would like to welcome you to this issue of Ashford Connections. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I had the pleasure of joining Ashford University in October 2013. As the University's Provost, I am responsible for all aspects of Ashford's academics, including academic programs, accreditation and assessment, the academic mission, and the academic experience for students.

I bring more than 25 years of experience in education to Ashford. Most recently, I served as the Vice Provost of Curriculum Development and Innovation at Kaplan University. Prior to that, I was Executive Director of the Center for Student Success at Walden University. Previous positions include Vice President of Product Strategy and Development at Laureate Online Education, Executive Director of Laureate's eLearning Group, and Director of Instructional Technology at Union Institute & University. Through each position, I gained more skills and experience, which led me to the provost role at Ashford.



*All are working hard to advance the mission of the University.*



One of my main motivations for assuming the leadership of Ashford was working with such a talented, energetic, and passionate team. Everyone is so terrific! Clearly all are working hard to advance the mission of the University.

What is most inspiring to me about my position at Ashford is the ability to work with others to improve the quality of the academic experience for our students. As our programs continue to improve, the high quality of learning will allow our students to more easily and effectively become the professionals they know they can be, with the skills, knowledge, and competencies to grow in their careers.

Enjoy the issue!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Williams, Provost  
 Ashford University



# ASHFORD NEWS



Watch highlights from the Forbes School of Business signing ceremony.

## ASHFORD UNIVERSITY AND FORBES MEDIA INTRODUCE THE FORBES™ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

In a reception held at its headquarters in San Diego on December 12, 2013, representatives from Ashford University, Bridgepoint Education, and Forbes Media unveiled the Forbes School of Business, formerly the College of Business and Professional Studies. Students of the Forbes School of Business will gain online access to Forbes resources dating back almost a century. Forbes contributors may also be available to serve as guest lecturers, sharing their expansive knowledge with Ashford's online students. Other benefits for Forbes School of Business students and, in some cases, alumni, include invitations to unique speaker series ([read more on page 10](#)) and webinars featuring business experts from Forbes' roster of approximately 1,200 international contributors.

## ASHFORD NAMED A 2014 RECYCLER OF THE YEAR IN SAN DIEGO

Ashford University and their parent company Bridgepoint Education have been selected by the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department as Recyclers of the Year in the 2014 Waste Reduction and Recycling Awards Program due to their "outstanding recycling and waste reduction efforts." The institutions were recognized by San Diego mayor Kevin Falconer onboard the USS Makin Island at a special media event on April 29.

## ASHFORD UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH KYXY 96.5 TO PROMOTE LITERACY

Ashford University, in partnership with radio station KyXy 96.5, is encouraging reading and supporting literacy throughout San Diego with the Ashford University Book Club. Since February 2014 and for the remainder of the school year, KyXy 96.5 and Ashford University have been highlighting a new book each month, as recommended by the San Diego Council on Literacy in partnership

with Words Alive, for students in grades K-5. One lucky classroom each month wins a reading party hosted by KyXy on-air personality Little Tommy from the Jeff and Jer Showgram. The winning class will also receive a \$100 gift card for their classroom from Ashford University. "I am proud to be a part of the Ashford University Book Club," said Little Tommy. "There isn't anything better than reading to children."

## FORBES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS OFFERING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Forbes School of Business at Ashford University will award ten scholarships valued at \$5,000 each to students throughout 2014. As a result of Ashford's partnership with Forbes Media, students will be able to apply for either a Senior Project Competition Scholarship or an Entrepreneurship Scholarship. As Dr. Michael Reilly, Executive Dean and professor for the Forbes School of Business at Ashford University, explained, "Funding an education can be challenging, and finding online college scholarships can be time-consuming and difficult." [Learn more about the scholarships.](#)



## DR. ALBERT KARNIG JOINS ASHFORD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Albert Karnig has accepted a position on the **Board of Trustees for Ashford University**. His term began March 14, 2014. Dr. Karnig's career includes more than 15 years of experience in higher education. From 1997 to 2012, he served as the president of California State University, San Bernardino. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for several organizations, including the California University of Science and Medicine, the California Council on Economic Education, the KVCR Public Radio and Television Educational Foundation, and the San Bernardino County Alliance for Education. Dr. Karnig earned his Bachelor's degree from Augustana College and his MS and PhD in Political Science from the University of Illinois.



## ASHFORD APPOINTS VICE PRESIDENT/CAMPUS DIRECTOR

**Dr. Charlie Minnick** has been appointed Vice President and Campus Director of Ashford's Clinton, IA campus. He has been in the position on an interim basis since January 1, 2014. "He has been at Ashford for eight years as campus dean for the Forbes School of Business (FSB) and has been an integral part of the campus leadership team," said Dr. Lori Williams, Ashford University provost. During his Ashford tenure, Minnick has been responsible for many initiatives, including launching the Office of New Student Experience and Engagement and the Office of Service Learning and Leadership and developing and launching many new degree programs, concentrations, and specializations. In addition, Minnick has taught undergraduate business and management courses and chaperoned a service learning trip to Toms River, NJ last year. Dr. Williams added, "We are confident that the campus will thrive under his direction."

## HOMEFRONT HEROES SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO MILITARY SPOUSES

Ashford University, in partnership with Cox Communications, awarded **Homefront Heroes Scholarships** to five military spouses in San Diego County. Dr. Richard Pattenau, Ashford University President and CEO, presented the scholarships at the Jacobs Music Center at Copley Symphony Hall during the Home for the Holidays concert on December 19, 2013. The scholarship recognizes the strength and support military spouses provide our nation's service members and covers tuition and books at Ashford University. The 2013 scholarship recipients are Paige Solis, Erin Beeman, Tracy Bernal, Amber Engle, and Monique Morales.



Two of the five Homefront Heroes Scholarship recipients and their spouses pose with Dr. Richard Pattenau at the reception on December 19. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Danny Solis and his wife Paige Solis, a recipient; Dr. Richard Pattenau; and recipient Amber Engle and her husband Ray Engle.

## ASHFORD UNIVERSITY TO HOST FALL 2014 COMMENCEMENT IN SAN DIEGO

In response to requests from students to hold graduation on the West Coast, Ashford University announced that it will host the Fall 2014 commencement ceremony in San Diego, CA at the San Diego Convention Center. By offering a commencement ceremony in San Diego, Ashford is making the trip to graduation more affordable and convenient for online students who live in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Western Canada, and beyond. In California alone, there are more than 2,500 Ashford students slated to graduate in 2014. "Moving commencement to a west coast location will create more opportunities for students to personally meet the Ashford instructors, staff members, and fellow students who supported them throughout their journey to graduation," said Dr. Richard Pattenau.



*Moving commencement to a west coast location will create more opportunities for students to personally meet the Ashford instructors..."*



## NEWEST ASHFORD UNIVERSITY COMMERCIALS RELEASED IN FEBRUARY

Two new Ashford University commercials were released in February of this year; one for Ashford University and one specifically for the Forbes School of Business. The Ashford commercial, with a theme of "school comes to you," shows how technology makes it possible for working adults to earn a degree from anywhere. The Forbes School of Business commercial depicts how graduates of the School are empowered to hold their own in the business world. Check out both TV spots below! //



View the Ashford University commercial



View the Forbes School of Business commercial



# ALL THINGS ALUMNI

by Laurie Bianchi, Alumni Relations Manager



*The staff members behind the Ashford University Alumni Association (AUAA) have been hard at work planning exciting new initiatives for Ashford's nationwide community of alumni, including Industry Insight Tours, AU Rewards, My Career, the Alumni Ambassador Program, and the Alumni Tuition Grant. Learn more in this special section, Just For Alumni.*



Cory Reynolds of Manpower (left) welcomed Ron Gaschler of Ashford University's Career Services and Alumni Relations department (right) during Ashford's first Industry Insight Tour.

## ALUMNI RELATIONS LAUNCHES INDUSTRY INSIGHT TOUR PROGRAM

Have you ever wanted to meet decision makers, learn the inside story on a company, and find people to contact for employment or business opportunities? The Ashford University Alumni Association (AUAA)'s Industry Insight Tours aim to do just that. Industry Insight Tours are designed for Ashford graduates who seek jobs or want to expand their professional network.

The Industry Insight Tour program will bring similar opportunities to Ashford alumni in markets across the country. The program offers a win-win solution for both potential candidates and the companies who open their doors to Ashford alumni. Hosting a tour is a powerfully personal way for companies to meet qualified potential candidates and potentially do some recruiting.

Launched in January 2014 at Manpower of San Diego's headquarters, the tour featured Philip C. Blair, Chair and Executive Officer of Manpower Staffing of San Diego, Inc., who spoke about the company and the recruitment industry. Not only did attendees gain insight into a company that has placed more than 500,000 job seekers, but they also received a copy of Blair's new book, *Job Won!*, compliments of Ashford University.

Future Industry Insight Tours will be announced on the **AUAA Events page**. If you work for a company that might enjoy hosting a group of Ashford alumni in an Industry Insight Tour, please contact Laurie Bianchi, Alumni Relations Manager, at [laurie.bianchi@ashford.edu](mailto:laurie.bianchi@ashford.edu). Finally, if you would like to know more about a leading employer in your area and nominate them for a tour, submit your ideas to [alumni@ashford.edu](mailto:alumni@ashford.edu).

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Industry Insight Tour in your area!

## AU REWARDS OFFER DISCOUNTS TO ASHFORD ALUMNI

### BEING AN ASHFORD ALUMNUS HAS MANY ADVANTAGES, BUT DID YOU KNOW IT CAN SAVE YOU MONEY?

Ashford offers benefits to the entire Ashford community through our corporate partners, including discounts on Dell computers, on **Ashford's Beneplace webpage**. And now, Ashford's Alumni Relations department offers alumni-specific benefits with the introduction of the all-new AU Rewards program. To access AU Rewards, log into your **Student Portal** and select the Popular Links tab.

AU Rewards offers cost savings that best fit the needs and lifestyles of Ashford alumni. Benefits include savings on insurance, and will expand this year to include discounts on professional clothing, travel, and fitness.

### GEICO Leads the Way on AU Rewards

Our first AU Rewards corporate partner is GEICO, who has stepped forward to design a discount program specifically for Ashford alumni, saving you money on your car, motorcycle, boat, and home insurance.

The Alumni Association's partnership with GEICO Auto Insurance gives alumni the benefit of great rates on high-quality car insurance. In addition to your Ashford alumni discount, which could shave as much as 8% more off GEICO's already low prices, you'll also receive 24-hour service online or by phone, efficient and fair claim handling, and the peace of mind that comes from being protected by an auto insurance company rated A++ for financial stability.

**Learn more** about AU Rewards discounts available on GEICO insurance.



## What Discounts Would You Like To See Offered?

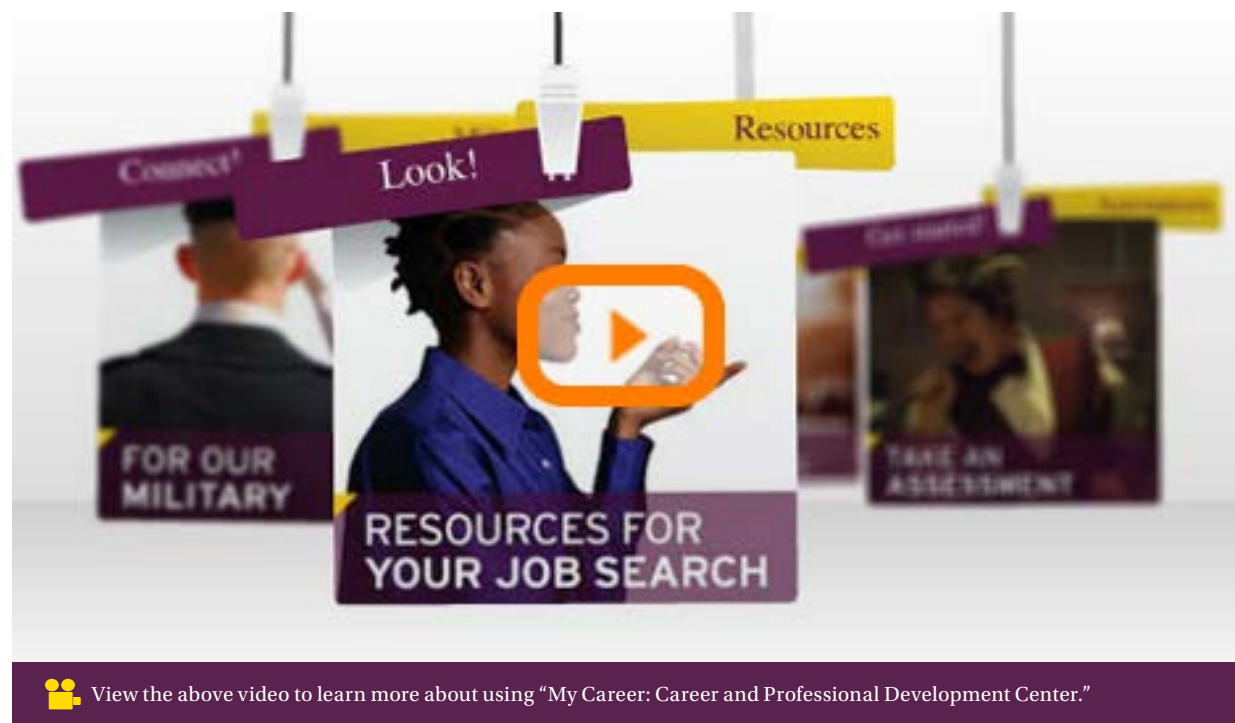
As the program is just getting started, we would love to hear from you what kinds of benefits you'd like us to offer. Let us know what makes sense for you by emailing us at [alumni@ashford.edu](mailto:alumni@ashford.edu), and we will do our very best to deliver even more benefits to you and your alumni family!



## Accessing the Student Portal and “My Career” as an Alum

To access My Career, log in to the Ashford University Student Portal. Under Career and Alumni Services, select the link to *My Career: Career and Professional Development Center*. If you don't remember your Student Portal password, use the *Forgot your password?* option on the login screen. If you cannot remember your student ID, write to [student.records@ashford.edu](mailto:student.records@ashford.edu) using the email address on file with Ashford University and include your name and date of birth in your request.

## JUMPSTART YOUR CAREER WITH “MY CAREER”



View the above video to learn more about using “My Career: Career and Professional Development Center.”

*Whether you are currently looking for work or are employed and motivated to develop professionally, Ashford University has a new resource available just for you! Free access to “My Career: Career and Professional Development Center,” launched in February of this year, is an exclusive benefit of being a member of the Ashford alumni community.*

Within *My Career*, you may access a number of valuable resources, including the following:

- Résumé guidance, including a builder if you are just getting started, samples and templates to download, and the ability to submit your resume for professional review by a Career Services Specialist
- Complimentary access to take personality assessments and follow-up coaching regarding results - find out what your strengths are and how you can apply them for career success
- An events calendar to register for virtual and in-person career development workshops and hiring events
- A job search function with opportunities posted by employers seeking to hire Ashford graduates (note: if you or someone you know are interested in posting jobs, check out Ashford's **Hire A Champ** campaign)
- The optimal virtual interviewing practice tool, as well as options to schedule live mock interviews
- Connect, an area where you can meet others and engage in discussion boards and live chats with Ashford students, alumni, potential employers, faculty, and staff

As an alumnus, you have already made a huge accomplishment by achieving your degree. Keep the momentum going in the right direction by continually developing yourself to enhance your professional achievements. Ashford's Career & Alumni Services Department is committed to empowering you to achieve your greatest career potential. Log into *My Career* to get started today!

## ALUMNI TUITION GRANT

Ashford University offers an Alumni Tuition Grant to alumni who graduate from an Ashford University or University of the Rockies (Ashford's sister school) degree program and enroll in another online Ashford University or University of the Rockies degree program. Students interested in furthering their education at either school will find the Alumni Tuition Grant helps eliminate some costs associated with doing so.

**Gwendolyn Bates** of San Diego, CA is just one of many alumni who have taken advantage of the Alumni Tuition Grant. After earning a **Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management** from Ashford in 2010, she immediately reenrolled at Ashford and applied the Alumni Tuition Grant toward her **Master of Business Administration** program, graduating in 2012.

*...with the degrees, I am more credible and competent.*

“With my degrees, I am able to view my company from a professional business perspective,” she says. “I’ve been able to implement trend forecasts, marketing and SWOT [strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats] analysis, surveys, population samples, and a financial plan for growth and exit. The degrees have given me greater professionalism and self-confidence in owning and operating a business.”

In addition to her many duties as a fledgling business owner, this busy mom is also president of her children's elementary school, a PTA board member, and a military spouse who serves as Ombudsman encompassing over eight Naval bases in San Diego. “Ashford has given me self-assurance in reorganizing my company to operate it with assertiveness and poise. I also feel that with the degrees, I am more credible and competent. I feel distinguished and accomplished as an Ashford alumnae.”

**Find out more about the Alumni Tuition Grant. //**



Ashford alum Gwendolyn Bates took advantage of the Alumni Tuition Grant.

## ALUMNI AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

This summer, the Alumni Relations Department plans to launch the University's first Alumni Ambassador Program. This program will support Ashford students and alumni across the country and around the world. Alumni who apply and are approved for the Ambassador program will be able to share their experience and wisdom with students and peers who wish to connect with someone who has successfully graduated from Ashford. **Get more information and updates on alumni programs.**



JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION >



Ashford alumni are able to take advantage of many benefits and programs, including the Alumni Ambassador program.



# FORBES™ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS KICKS OFF SPEAKER SERIES

by Erik Siwak and Lorelei Plotczyk

Nearly 150 Ashford University students, alumni, faculty members, and executives from the San Diego business community gathered on March 4, 2014 for the launch of the **Forbes School of Business** speaker series. Held at the University Club Atop San Diego's Symphony Towers, the event was the first in a line of speaking engagements designed to bring prominent business experts to the Ashford University's Forbes School of Business community. The first speaker invited was Forbes Media's Chairman and Editor-in-Chief himself, Steve Forbes.



**Forbes**  
School of  
Business



Left, below, and on the following pages: Steve Forbes, President and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, and other attendees at the December 2013 signing ceremony for Forbes' alliance with Ashford.

A significant benefit of the partnership between Ashford University and Forbes Media (**more on page 4**), the speaker series offers the Forbes School of Business community access to events and webinars featuring Forbes' extensive roster of approximately 1,200 international contributors. A diverse mix of high-level business leaders and forward thinkers will engage with the Ashford community throughout the year. These events will be live streamed and/or recorded in order to allow the entire Ashford community to participate. Ashford's leadership will

curate the speakers' backgrounds and the topics covered for relevance to the programs offered by the Forbes School of Business.

While the series is hosted by the Forbes School of Business, all Ashford students and alumni are invited, and the live stream will be open to all students and alumni as well. Additionally, adjunct faculty and staff members around the country will be invited to attend so that students and alumni can connect with them.





*“Our mission is to provide quality education, and we are excited to have Forbes as a strategic partner in that mission.”*



While introducing Steve Forbes at March's inaugural event, Ashford University President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Richard Pattenaude referred to the speaker series launch as a symbolic event, part of the University's journey to becoming one of the nation's best private online institutions. "When discussions of an alliance between Ashford University and Forbes Media began, one aspect I was most excited about was the chance for Ashford students to hear directly from the knowledgeable experts associated with Forbes Media," said Dr. Pattenaude. "Our mission is to provide quality education, and we are excited to have Forbes as a strategic partner in that mission. I'm pleased to say that more than 250 Forbes School of Business courses already reflect Forbes' rich intellectual content in their curriculum."

In his powerful presentation, Forbes addressed the state of the global economy, from the significance of the current (as of press time) Russia-Ukraine conflict to taxation in the United States, health care, monetary issues, entrepreneurship, and even Bitcoins. Forbes also addressed the future of the US economy, forecasting growth and improvement in 2014.



"With credit markets evening out and bank lending growing again, the US economy should be better this year than it has been in the last four years," Forbes told the students. "Study at Ashford and get ready for another period of global prosperity."

The public can watch a short overview video of the event on Ashford's YouTube channel. Additionally, students and alumni should keep an eye out for the presentation in its entirety, available exclusively to them, in the Student Portal. Parts of the presentation will also be built into Forbes School of Business curriculum for current students.

The next event in the speaker series will feature Ken Fisher - Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Fisher Investments. Fisher is a top investment analyst on the 2013 Forbes 400 list of richest Americans and Forbes list of world billionaires. He will be speaking and participating in a meet-and-greet at Ashford's Clinton, IA campus on May 3 during Spring 2014 commencement weekend. Though the deadline to RSVP occurred before press time of this publication, look for exclusive invitations for upcoming Forbes School of Business Speaker Series events in the near future! //



The Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, Steve Forbes, took a moment to answer some questions after his presentation.

## Q&A WITH STEVE FORBES

by Lorelei Plotczyk

*We had a chance to speak with Steve Forbes after his presentation on March 4. In addition to the below answers to our questions, he extended a personal congratulations to all this year's graduates of Ashford University.*

**Ashford Connections (AC):** *What are your hopes for graduates of the Forbes School of Business?*

**Steve Forbes (SF):** Well, that they get the tools that they need to go out and develop their talents and learn to make mistakes . . . and be successes. And my grandfather said in the first issue of Forbes, "The purpose of business is to produce happiness, not to pile up money." And so it's about developing - it's an overused phrase, but absolutely true - human capital.

**AC:** *Can you speak to the ability of institutions like Ashford to be a disruptive force?*

**SF:** By giving people the knowledge and confidence to go out into the world, by creating and doing new things - that, by its very definition, is disruptive. So you come up with a new project, a new service, a new process; you are disrupting but serving the needs and wants of others. [Ashford University is] giving people the tools to go out and do it.

**AC:** *What's your biggest advice for fledgling entrepreneurs?*

**SF:** For fledgling entrepreneurs: one, don't be surprised if it doesn't work. It's like baseball; you don't always hit a home run when you go up to the plate. And very importantly: cash flow, cash flow, cash flow. Stay on top of that, because that's killed more new starting businesses than anything else. You think you're moving ahead, and you suddenly find you don't have the juice to do it.

**AC:** *How is an environment for innovation best created today?*

**SF:** An environment for getting ahead is very simple. Sound money, low tax rates, rule of law, and regulations that provide the rules of the road instead of telling people how to do things - and rules that are understandable and not at the discretion of bureaucrats. Then people will do the rest. //



*The purpose of business is to produce happiness, not to pile up money.*





Ashford University celebrated its Fall **commencement** on Sunday, October 13, 2013. More than 700 graduates and nearly 4,000 guests traveled to the Clinton, IA area to attend the graduation ceremony. Ashford graduated a total of 7,563 students since the University's previous commencement ceremonies in May. The ceremonies in Moline, IL capped off a weekend of celebration that began on October 12 with a variety of events for graduates and their families at Ashford's Clinton campus. We've gathered some highlights from the weekend to share with you here!



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Fellow MBAs Bobby Antee, Richard Rosas, Sara Schaeffer-Alsop, and Mari Foley were delighted to meet in person at commencement.

## A TALE OF 4 MBAS

4 classmates meet in person for the first time – and unexpectedly – at their commencement ceremony.

**“It was great to be able to put a face and voice to the names!”**

Throughout their **Master of Business Administration (MBA)**, Marketing specialization program – and especially in their final course – classmates Richard Rosas, Mari Foley, Bobby Antee, and Sara Schaeffer-Alsop provided support and encouragement for one another in the form of discussion board posts and group emails.

“Not only did we discuss the topics set forth by the professor,” explains Richard, a Senior Rare Disease Specialist at Novartis, but we would lean on each other and encourage one another.”

The coursework wasn't easy, but when all was said and done, all four were officially MBAs! And though they continued to stay connected through social media, they hadn't thought to communicate about whether anyone else in the group was attending the Fall 2013 commencement ceremony in Illinois. After all, they were from such far-flung locations as Texas, New York, and California.

So imagine their surprise not only to hear each other's names called out at the ceremony, but to discover they were only seats away from other!

Mari, a global marketing communications manager who hopes to work her way up to a director position, describes her delight upon being able to meet her support network in person. “It was really funny to all of a sudden hear someone's name called that you recognize. Then I heard the other two names, and it

just fell into place that our whole group was there. We hugged each other as soon as the ceremony was over. I felt connected and like I really belonged at that point with people who knew me and I knew them.”

Adds Sara-Schaeffer-Alsop, a product support manager at Hewlett-Packard Company, “It was great to be able to put a face and voice to the names!” And Bobby, a senior consultant and aspiring entrepreneur, says, “I was so happy to see them. It was a wonderful feeling!”

Although the four in this group became particularly close, they also point out the strength of the learning community as a whole. Bobby calls his Ashford classmates “always passionate and willing to help. They push you further than just answering questions.” Mari says, “We collaborated and bounced ideas off each other and were able to teach one another from our experiences and interpretations of the material we were learning. We communicated as much as possible to get the most out of the program.”

Additionally, all four in the group have seen positive results professionally from having earned their MBAs. “In the past,” explains Mari, “I was invited to high level professional meetings in which topics were discussed that I didn't understand, so I wasn't able to contribute. During my degree program, I learned the terminology and what it all meant, so I am now able to contribute and be a member that people turn to for help on their projects.”

Bobby says, “I have used my knowledge with my current position by implementing projects and setting up presentation material.” Sara points out that she is “empowered to better summarize financial results and better communicate her summaries,” while Richard says, “My degree has helped me sharpen my skills and apply them to my current position.”

Of the ceremony, Richard adds, “Encountering these classmates was one of my biggest surprises at commencement. They, along with my family and close friends, understood the work that was necessary to get to that day. Participating in commencement will be an experience I will always remember.” Sara agrees, saying, “I made a point to remind myself to take it all in and store the memories away so I can recall them, since this will most likely be my last commencement ceremony.”

In closing, says Mari, “I dedicated 22 months of my life toward this and I'm so glad I did, so I can cross it off my bucket list and not have any regrets. Meeting my classmates in person at commencement was the icing on the cake!” //

## PHOTO GALLERY



A smaller reception was held on the Clinton campus for campus students only in December 2013.

**RECEIVING AWARDS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WERE:**

Amber Truckenmiller, Academic Excellence in Psychology Award; Veronica White, Joan Walsh Richeson Award; Allison Kibler, Sister Marilyn Shea Outstanding Dispositions Award; Alexis Kibler, Business Scholar's Award; Megan Nesbitt, James L. Mooney Award; Samantha Harr, Accounting Student Award; and Andrew Carbajal, Alex Esquivel Promising Teacher Award.



Nicole Gaynair, BA in Health Care Administration, 2013, prepares to walk to the stage.



Campus staff members Audra Adams, Manager of Service Learning, and Larry Libberton, Director of Communications, are always thrilled to meet online students at commencement.



See Aileen Coronel, MBA with a Project Management specialization, 2013, discuss the value of an MBA in this video.



73-year-old Patricia Turner, co-author of *The Encyclopedia of Ancient Deities*, earned her BA in Psychology. [Read more about Patricia.](#)

Wounded warrior Mitch Chapman, BA in Operations Management and Analysis, 2013, is guided by his service dog Justice. The ceremony was 5 years to the day from his life-altering combat injury. [Read more about Mitch.](#)



# AN INTERVIEW WITH STEDMAN GRAHAM

by Lorelei Plotczyk

*The official commencement speaker for the Fall 2013 Commencement Ceremony was none other than educator, author, and businessman Stedman Graham. He is Chairman and CEO of S. Graham & Associates (SGA), an adjunct professor to several universities around the country, and has authored eleven books, including two New York Times bestsellers. His latest release is “Identity: Your Passport to Success.” Graham’s presentations on the topics of identity development, maximizing leadership, achieving success, and personal and professional branding are driven by his Nine-Step Success Process®, a life and learning management system designed to organize your life around your identity. We got the chance to sit down and talk with him after he addressed the crowd of about 4,700 people at commencement.*

**Ashford Connections (AC):** *As an educator, author, and speaker, how would you describe the work you do in a nutshell?*

used to own an advertising company – I worked in the sports marketing industry, and now I’ve dedicated my life to education and teaching people about identity development leadership.

**Stedman Graham (SG):** I teach identity development; I teach people how to find out who they are, how to take education and information and make it relevant to their purpose in life, and then transfer it to their minds – and then transfer it to the American free enterprise system in the global marketplace so they can organize a life around themselves and shape their future.

**AC:** *Talk about what reinvention means to you in the 21st century, and how adult learners tie in to that concept.*

**SG:** Reinvention means that you have to prepare yourself in the 21st century, because the marketplace is really changing a lot through technology, and you have to be a lifelong learner and developer. You have to be more of an owner of your own development, stay on the cutting edge, be motivated, have good leadership skills, be a self-starter, and be focused. You have to know where you’re going, how you’re going to get there, and what the process is. And you have to be able to assimilate into a global marketplace and deal with all kinds of people, so you have to have good relationship skills.

**AC:** *Tell us a little bit about growing up and your first jobs, and how you got from there to where you are today?*

**SG:** I grew up in a small town; Whitesboro NJ. I was a basketball player, I got a scholarship to college, and after I graduated I went into the service and played ball in Europe. After the service I worked in the prison system for 5 years. That wasn’t my first job [though]; my first job was [as] a short order cook on the beach, which I got fired from because I ate too many of the profits. [Laughs]. But I worked in the prison system for 5 years, in public relations and marketing for years – I



Stedman Graham spoke to about 700 Ashford graduates and 4,000 of their guests at the iWireless Center in Moline, IL on October 13, 2013.

I think adult learners are on the right track. The fact of the matter is, we have to keep learning. We have to keep reinventing ourselves all the time and again, stay on the cutting edge, and get the best information that will make us relevant – the buzz word of the 21st century is relevance.

**AC:** *You talk about the difference between having a true identity versus simply embodying the labels we are assigned by society – can you explain this, and how it’s relevant to our career paths?*

**SG:** True identity is really being able to get beyond the socially constructed labels that [otherwise] define you and put you in a box. People are defined by their race, and they get into a box, and they’re defined by their family and their background and their job and title – and really, that’s not who you are. Identity is about going deeper in your development, trying to figure out what you love, what your talents are, what your skills are, and really what your natural abilities are. Like I said, everyone has 24 hours [in a day], so the question is: what to do with your 24 hours so you can organize yourself every day? Then you can develop a process for continuous improvement.

**AC:** *How can adult learners or anyone else turn their passion into a profession?*

**SG:** The passion is the core. That’s your authenticity, that’s your foundation for growth and development, that’s being able to organize your life around the different things that you love and care about. So it’s a process of being able to get to that natural ability and figure out what is relevant to you, what makes you happy, what you care about, and take that information and make it relevant to that. So I call it developing a strong work-life balance, which is long-term. And to figure out how to clarify what’s important to you, and what you should be working on.

**AC:** *Even though we still have the same 24 hours in a day we’ve always had, it seems like today we have fewer hours in a day because we’ve crammed them full. How can people achieve greatness when they’re working with less time?*

**SG:** Well, that’s probably more of an illusion that anything else. We just do a lot of things we’re not supposed to be doing. We’re not clear on the things that we should be doing, and we waste a lot of time. Going after the dream, going after the big things as opposed to working on the small things. How do you get to the top of the mountain? You take one step at a time. So it’s a step-by-step process of organizing your life. I created a 9-step success process, which teaches people how to organize a life around themselves, and makes it clear what your time should be used for.

**AC:** *You talk about how as children, we go to school, memorize information, repeat it, and then forget it. How would you advise online adult learners to avoid that pattern and get more out of their education?*

**SG:** Again, it starts with having an identity and being clear on what you’re going to be working on and what makes you happy and what motivates you. There’s three ways to learn. Number one: you need information, you need content. And we have lots of content in the marketplace. The question is, is it relevant? Number two: you need cognitive ability. So you need to be able to think about what’s important to you and you need to be able to understand how to process and take information and make it relevant to your life and make it actionable. And the third way is: you need to be motivated.

So you want to do things that you’re passionate about, that you care about, and that you love, because life is about working on yourself every single day to improve – and it’s called practice. So you need to practice, practice, practice all your life working on the right things to make you happy – and then it’s really not work!

**“We have to keep reinventing ourselves all the time and again, stay on the cutting edge, and get the best information that will make us relevant – the buzz word of the 21st century is relevance.”**

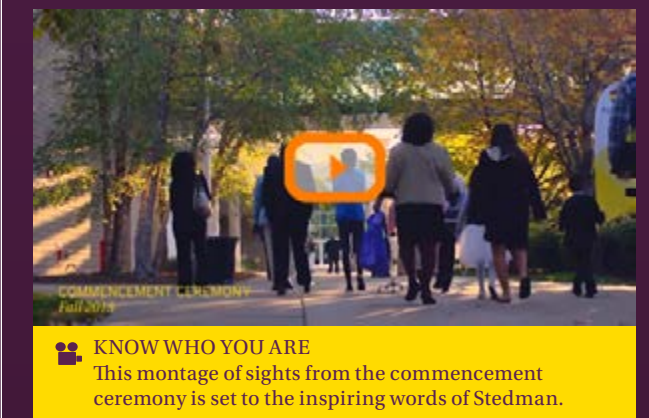
**AC:** *Now that Ashford graduates here today have achieved this milestone, is it enough for them to just show up to work with a degree or are there next steps you advise them to take?*

**SG:** I think that you have to be careful that you don’t move further and further behind today, because the global marketplace is expanding and you have to be prepared. There’s a saying that “success is when preparation meets opportunity.” And today with all the technology moving so fast and . . . having to compete with people all over the world, you have to be prepared and you have to stay prepared. And so the ability to rest and relax is not a part of the program any more. You have to be on it, be conscious of the opportunity to create and develop, have ongoing innovation and creativity, work hard, be passionate about your work, show up, and be self-engaged in the world that you live in. You’ve got family, yourself, your community, work, and all these other things you have to balance, so it takes a very special person – and that’s called strong leadership. It takes a strong leader. And that’s who you have to become. You have to move from a follower to a leader – and stay there. //

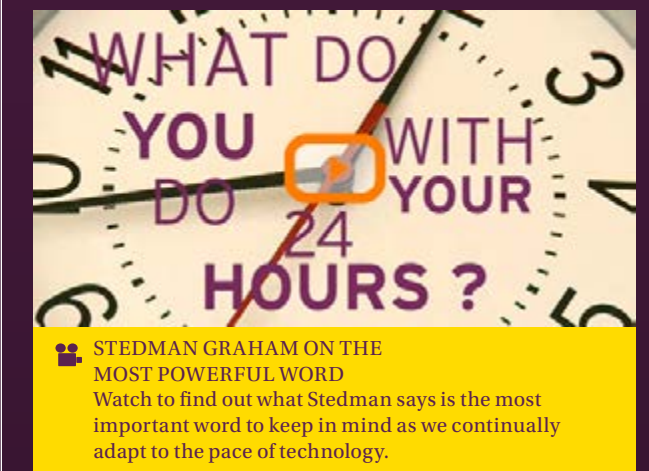
Watch these videos featuring sections of this interview as well as the full commencement speech.



**STEDMAN GRAHAM FULL KEYNOTE SPEECH**  
Watch the full keynote address delivered by Stedman.



**KNOW WHO YOU ARE**  
This montage of sights from the commencement ceremony is set to the inspiring words of Stedman.



**STEDMAN GRAHAM ON THE MOST POWERFUL WORD**  
Watch to find out what Stedman says is the most important word to keep in mind as we continually adapt to the pace of technology.





## ASHFORD ALUM COACHES US SKELETON TEAMS IN SOCHI

by Lorelei Plotczyk

*In 1990, Tuffield “Tuffy” Latour answered a solicitation in an Air Force newspaper for active duty airmen to try out for the U.S. Bobsled team. “I started sliding that year driving bobsleds and raced for the next eight years,” Tuffy explains. In 1998, he started coaching bobsled and has never looked back.*

Now an Air Force Sergeant, Tuffy has coached in the last four games and has led six U.S. and Canadian athletes to medals. In Salt Lake City in 2002, he was the driving coach for the U.S. Women’s Bobsled Team; in 2006 in Torino, he was the U.S. Men’s Bobsled Team head coach; and in 2010 in Vancouver, he was the head coach for the Canadian men and women’s bobsled teams. Later that year, he took the job as the head coach for the U.S. Skeleton Team.

Earlier this year in Sochi on the world stage, he led the U.S. men’s and women’s skeleton teams to two medals (a silver for Noelle Pikus-Pace in the women’s skeleton event and a bronze for Matt Antoine in the men’s event). Several of his other athletes placed respectably as well. He found the Sochi sliding facilities to be world-class and the entire experience extremely positive.

Serving our country not only at the world’s most prestigious athletic event but also in the military means that Tuffy is involved in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program (WCAP). WCAP provides outstanding soldier-athletes the support and training to compete and succeed in national and international competitions leading to the games, while maintaining a professional military career and promoting the U.S. Army to the world. “I got involved in WCAP in 1995 shortly after I joined the Vermont Army National Guard. As a soldier, it’s always an honor to be able to serve and represent your country at the . . . games.”

Tuffy enrolled at Ashford in 2007 right after taking the Head Coach position with the Canadian bobsled team. “Ashford offered me the ability to take classes while on the road. As a bobsled and skeleton coach, we travel quite a lot in the winter months, which leaves flexibility as a must for any working adult. I really enjoyed my time at Ashford. I feel that I learned a lot, as I was able to relate quite a bit to the **Organizational Management** degree I was pursuing.”

Tuffy has continued to juggle many roles successfully, although he points out, “As a husband, father, soldier, student, and coach, I’ve always had my hands full. It’s amazing how time flies by when you’re trying to juggle so many areas of life.”

His advice to Ashford students and alumni is as follows: “Follow your dreams, never give up, and when it gets tough, push through it. I always tell my athletes to focus on the process. Part of that belief system is to take it one curve at a time, which in turn allows the athletes to stay process-oriented.” //



*Follow your dreams,  
never give up, and  
when it gets tough,  
push through it.*



## ALUMNI STORIES BROUGHT TO LIFE

by Lorelei Plotczyk and Jay Conner

*The following videos were all filmed at the Fall 2013 commencement weekend on the Ashford campus in Clinton, IA as well as at the iWireless Center in nearby Moline, IL, where the ceremony was held. From an international marketing wunderkind to a teacher bringing technology into her classroom, we hope these stories inspire and move you.*

### COMMUNICATIONS GRAD HELPING KIDS

#### BRITTANY HARRIS

**Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, 2013**

Having graduated from Ashford University at the age of 27, Brittany Harris is not wasting time getting started with her professional goals.

“I want to reach out in schools and do public speaking and mentoring,” she enthused on her commencement day, “so this **Communication Studies** degree encompasses all of it: the material that I’ll have to come up with, the memos that I’ll have to write, the public speaking I’ll have to do. I’m already in the works of starting my own business where I’m going into local schools in my area and talking about the next steps, talking about going to college and figuring out what to do.”

*“I want to reach out  
in schools and do  
public speaking and  
mentoring.”*

Upon hearing this, one might assume this resident of Blacklick, OH must have the luxury of time – but nothing could be further from the truth. “Being a single mom,” she shared, “I’ve had a full-time job and a lot of other extracurricular activities. It was nice to be able to answer the discussion posts from pretty much wherever I was, or to download [interactive learning platform] **Constellation** and be able to read my textbooks while I’m waiting on my daughter in dance class, or waiting on her swimming lessons. So I was able to take school with me.”

Brittany’s road to earning her degree was not a short one. She went to two other universities prior to Ashford, and was able to **transfer** in 46 of the 49 credits she submitted from those institutions. “And then that way I didn’t have to go back and start over; I was able to just keep going.”

When she finally pulled up to Ashford’s Clinton, IA campus with her daughter and mother Tanya (who is also an Ashford graduate!), she explained that her surreal feelings transformed into a more tangible experience. “It’s actually tomorrow I’ll be crossing the stage! It’s been a 7-year journey to get my Bachelor’s degree, so now that it’s finally at the end, it’s just amazing.”

Tanya, who graduated in 2009 with her Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, Education concentration\*, was equally emotional, especially since she didn’t get to attend her own Ashford commencement but was now able to cheer on her daughter. She reflected on her own professional success due in part to earning her Ashford degree, after which she went on to earn a



View the above video to see our interview with Brittany.

graduate degree and a teaching licensure. “I started as a teacher’s aide and was able to get a full-time teaching position, and I love it. It’s just my passion. It made a big difference having that degree.”

With this family legacy coupled with such enthusiasm and passion, it’s likely that there will be no limit to what Brittany can accomplish.

\*This program was replaced with the Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies.



## ASPIRING JOURNALIST ACING INTERVIEWS

### MICHAEL LEACH

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2013



View the above video to see our interview with Michael.

*“Knowing it’s over and yet just beginning is a strange and fantastic feeling.”*

“One of my biggest concerns coming in was: I had tried college before and wasn’t all that good at it,” admits 2013 graduate Michael Leach. “Ashford was the only school willing to let me transfer in the credits that worked with me instead of transferring in the ones that held me back.”

Transferring in 24 credits toward his **Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication** helped Michael make the most of going back to school. He also found the online set-up much more accessible

than learning in a brick and mortar classroom. “Most of my teachers would email me back within three hours of sending an email out. They were very up on keeping in touch with the students,” he says. “And learning online was beneficial as far as not having to ever leave the house to go anywhere. It just really worked out quite nicely.”

Right before attending his graduation, Michael went on his first interview at a local newspaper in the Winchester, CA area, where he lives. Before even scheduling the second interview, the company told him they’d like to bring him on to do some

freelance work. “They were very impressed with what I had written for Ashford,” he says. “Having the journalism degree takes a talent I have and allows me to do something with it.”

Michael encourages anyone who is thinking about going back to school to look closely at Ashford as a way to make it happen in an affordable and efficient way. “You deserve to feel proud of yourself,” he says. “For me, knowing that it’s over and yet just beginning, is a strange and fantastic feeling.” Michael is currently working on a memoir detailing his life with a disability.

## MARKETING WUNDERKIND GOES INTERNATIONAL

### JANICE DY

Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Marketing, International Management specialization, 2013

Ashford University graduate Janice Dy and a friend started a fitness magazine called Asian Bodi to share fitness tips while giving exposure to Asian athletes and bodybuilders. After Asian Bodi caught the attention of one of the world’s most popular bodybuilding magazines, Flex, Janice and her friend were invited to help Flex expand their Asian market.



View the above video to see our interview with Janice.

“My final paper at Ashford was about the globalization of Asian Bodi,” Janice explains. “Because of the research I did at school, I was able to give that information to someone else, and they were so impressed about some of my marketing findings, I was given a great career opportunity! I’m really excited.”

This Orlando, FL resident, who graduated from Ashford at the age of 30, was recently put in charge of marketing for Flex Southeast Asia. She’s also planning on growing her own magazine’s market to a dozen more countries. The biggest challenge she feels she and most other international managers have to deal with is learning how to integrate different kinds

of personnel and employee personalities on top of different types of cultural backgrounds. “Through some of the courses I took at Ashford, I feel up to that challenge,” she says. “You have to be adventurous; you have to be open to different opportunities and driven to deal with those challenges.”

Before coming to Ashford, Janice took classes at Penn State and University of Central Florida. Even though her courses at Penn State were also through an online program, she felt Ashford better accommodated her schedule. “Ashford’s program is more conducive to a full-time working adult,” she says, “because you’re able to focus on one course at a time. It also helped me complete my assignments with quality as well.”

Janice always had hopes of using her **Public Relations and Marketing degree** in the fitness industry, specifically on an international scale. She’s enjoying seeing her dreams become reality.

“This is just the beginning,” she says. “It’s really great to be able to take my coursework from Ashford University and use it professionally.”

## TEACHER USING TECHNOLOGY IN HER CLASSROOM

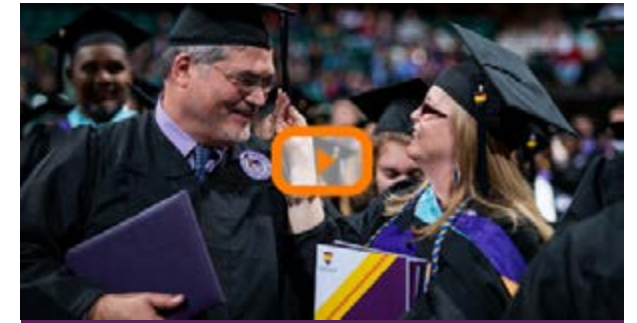
### JULIE ANN MCCOY PERCEVECZ

Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology, 2013

With 26 years of teaching experience in an elementary school classroom under her belt, Julie Ann McCoy Percevecz was under zero pressure to add to her professional credentials. A second grade teacher and a gifted and talented program coordinator at her school, she already held a Bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a Master’s in counseling. Yet, at the age of 50, this Schertz, TX resident has expanded her academic arsenal even further by graduating from Ashford University with a **Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology (MATLT)** – with a 4.0 GPA!

Along with the eventual goal of transitioning to becoming an online instructor, Julie cites her desire to improve and enhance her teaching ability in the classroom as a major driving force in pursuing this unique degree. “Technology is the future in education. My classroom kiddos benefit from this degree every day. The tools and knowledge I have gained from the program are priceless, and I share them with my coworkers on a day-to-day basis as well.”

The degree’s positive impact on her ability to shine professionally is clear. Recently, while developing a program for her gifted students, Julie drew from her Ashford coursework to develop a training presentation that her whole district then used. Additionally, many projects that have to do with technology now often



View the above video to see our interview with Julie and her husband Joe, who also graduated.

fall to her, a position she relishes being in. “I have led the way with my team several times on developing lessons that have been used throughout the school.”

The impact has been no less profound on her students. “There were several activities I pulled directly from my MATLT course activities, including the ability to convert a typical lecture lesson into an online activity that was 100% completed at home with parents and presented in class. Everyone was excited about the whole process.”

Her advice to others in a similar stage in their career? “Your education is something that’s never too late to receive and will never be regretted.”

## STUDENT EARNS 4.0 DESPITE DEPLOYMENT

### BRIAN HABEL

Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management, 2013



View the above video to see our interview with Brian.

Brian Habel, who is in charge of recruiting and retention for the Illinois Army National Guard, earned a perfect 4.0 GPA at Ashford University despite his **military commitment** – which included an overseas deployment!

The professional benefits of having earned a **Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management** degree, which he did at the age of 46, have been tangible as well. “My team does a lot of projects within the community, so it gives me new ideas, fresh information, and more knowledge to pass on to them about how to make successful projects happen.” //

“

Brian credits the staff and **technology** behind Ashford’s online platform for making it possible. “While deployed, it was very easy to communicate and attend the classes. Being online, you can feel like you’re a million miles away with a lot of different schools, but the customer service at Ashford has been outstanding.”

This Rock Island, IL resident has been active duty National Guard since 1986 and has five children and stepchildren ranging from elementary school age to adult. “It keeps you busy!”

How does Brian explain the incredible achievement of having earned a perfect 4.0 GPA despite his professional, family, and travel commitments? “That was kind of a personal goal for my kids; showing them that when you’re going to do something, jump in with both feet rather than halfway. Having a 4.0 meant I was making the most out of that opportunity that Ashford was presenting to me. I wanted to take everything out of the college experience that I could.”

”



# COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

In this issue, we get to know two professors from Ashford's **College of Liberal Arts**. True to their College's namesake, they bring interesting backgrounds in unexpected and diverse fields into their classrooms.

by Lorelei Plotczyk

## DR. DAN TINIANOW

Dr. Dan Tinianow, an Assistant Professor in Ashford's College of Liberal Arts, currently teaches COM 200 Interpersonal Communication. "I like teaching a course that almost everyone takes and that everyone can relate to their everyday life. Ultimately, I want to teach as many of the Communication Studies courses as I can."

This current resident of Denver, CO brings a hands-on background in communications into his virtual classrooms, having worked in the Los Angeles entertainment industry during the 2000s. He pitched television shows to people like Warren Littlefield (who put Seinfeld on the air and had a character on the show based on him) and companies like International Creative Management (ICM). He had a series in development with the Johnson Group, which oversees media aspects of the Democratic and Republican national conventions every four years, and was the senior researcher for a History Channel program called "Secret Passages." He also did script coverage for product placement and celebrity endorsement firm The Reel Ross Group, where he read scripts for movies and looked for product placement opportunities.

And Dr. Tinianow's Hollywood experience wasn't only behind the scenes - in 2002, he appeared as a contestant on the show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and won \$16,000! "The game show did a special event called 'radio week,' and I represented KFI, a major radio station in Los Angeles. I got this honor by being the high scorer on a qualifying quiz, and then had to compete against the other LA finalists in New York for the final spot." He found it interesting to be on the other side of the camera, and his industry experience meant he wasn't fazed by aspects of production viewers don't see at home, like having to repeat a part of the show four times due to a cell phone interfering with the lighting system!

So how does working in academia compare to an exciting Hollywood career? "To be honest, work in the entertainment business is a lot of fun, but there is also a lot of pressure and, more significantly, a lot of walking over other people to move your own career forward, which is the part that keeps me in academia! I continue to have ideas for and contacts in the industry, though, so maybe I'll do some work there again someday, but it's not a priority - and living in Denver, it's not that likely right now."



Dr. Dan Tinianow relaxes at home in Denver with his wife Wanzhu Zhao, also an Ashford employee, and their sons Matthew and Nathaniel.

*"I like teaching a course that almost everyone...can relate to their everyday life."*

In addition to Colorado, teaching jobs have also taken Dr. Tinianow to China and Japan, and he speaks both languages to a degree. Fascinatingly, he is also a certified hypnotherapist, though currently out of practice. His wife works on the opposite side of the same floor in Ashford's Denver office as a Student Advisor, and they have lunch together almost every day. They have two young sons and a senior Bichon Frise.

## DR. KATIE BOJAKOWSKI

Dr. Katie Bojakowski is an Assistant Professor in the College of Liberal Arts at Ashford University, where she teaches in the Social Science/Justice Studies department. She holds a doctorate and a Master of Arts in Nautical Archaeology from Texas A&M, where she graduated magna cum laude on both occasions. She also graduated magna cum laude from Eastern Washington University, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Anthropology.

Dr. Bojakowski's graduate degrees focus on the study of ancient and historical shipwrecks. "My scholarly interests range widely from nautical archaeology with an emphasis on 15th-19th century Atlantic seafaring, to English, Bermudian, and American colonial seafaring, to Caribbean seafaring. I am also interested in the study of ships as societal symbols, ship iconography, gender in archaeology, and the anthropology of seafaring."

She's participated on several shipwreck excavations throughout her career and is currently the co-director of The Warwick Project, a collaborative effort between several groups to excavate the race-built galleon Warwick, which wrecked while at anchorage in Bermuda during a hurricane in 1619. As director of the Warwick Project, Dr. Bojakowski has funded the excavation of this prime example of a late 16th-century naval warship, and early



Dr. Katie Bojakowski hard at work as a nautical archaeologist.



Dr. Katie Bojakowski's passion for nautical archaeology has taken her all over the world.

17th-century ships that played a fundamental role in supplying the English settlements in North America, through grants from the National Geographic Society, the Perot Foundation, the Global Exploration and Overlanding Society, and the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, among others. The project has generated peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and public interest around the world.

When asked what fascinates her so much about the topic, Dr. Bojakowski says, "Nautical archaeology is more than a study of seafaring technology; it is an examination of the ambitions and motivations of individuals and nations for purposes of trade, exploration, and colonization. It is also a story of symbolism, national pride, and the human drive to look beyond the known world and discover the unknown. It is this aspect of my research that I find fascinating. I was initially drawn to the field of nautical archaeology because it combined my love of the sea with my interest in archaeology. I also have the ability to study shipwrecks from many different time periods and nationalities, which

*"I find teaching at Ashford both extremely rewarding and continually challenging."*

keeps my research exciting and fresh."

In addition to Bermuda, shipwreck excavations have taken Dr. Bojakowski to the Azores Islands, the Dominican Republic, Portugal, and Oklahoma. In the Azores Islands, she was part of an archaeological team that excavated a 16th century Spanish galleon called the Angra D wreck. She also recorded timbers from a landlocked shipwreck; the Cais do Sodre wreck, in Lisbon. In the Dominican Republic, she was the co-director of an archaeological survey of the southern shore of the island and joined the Monti Cristi Project excavating a 17th century shipwreck off of La Isla Cabrita. In addition, she spent two summers working on the Red River Project in Oklahoma excavating and recording the hull of the Heroine, which was an early 19th century steamship.

Dr. Bojakowski encourages her students to be curious. She says, "I find teaching at Ashford both extremely rewarding and continually challenging. The college experience is often defined by introducing students to critical thinking and self-reflection. As an instructor I take pleasure in being part of the process of teaching students that the world is a much bigger place than they ever imagined." Dr. Bojakowski lives in Washington State and is most happy on a sailboat or scuba diving underneath it. She spends most of her free time hiking, camping, and going on backpacking expeditions with her family. //

For more biographies of Ashford faculty members and to follow their most recent accomplishments, visit [ashford.edu/faculty](http://ashford.edu/faculty).



# IN YOUR WORDS: ARTICLES PENNED BY ALUMNI

Ashford University is proud to feature articles written by our alumni in Ashford Connections. If you have an article to submit or an idea that you would like to write about, please contact Alumni Relations at [alumni@ashford.edu](mailto:alumni@ashford.edu).

## DEVELOPING THE PEARL WITHIN YOU

BY ELIHU CLAIBORNE

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2013



You can say that strengths are like pearls. Each human being possesses a pearl within that is both unique and rare. Because our time on this earth is limited, and we all want to make the most of that time, it is incredibly important that we develop our pearls in every way possible during our lives.

An actual pearl is introduced to the world through a rather strange and intriguing process. Pearls are literally the product of constant irritation. For instance, an oyster feeds off the bottom of the ocean and occasionally it will suction a grain of sand that becomes lodged on the inside. That sand causes the oyster discomfort, so it rubs and rubs in an effort to get rid of it. The constant friction caused by the rubbing eventually forms the sand into a beautiful pearl, for which people will pay thousands of dollars. But the fact of the matter is that the beautiful pearl is birthed out of a fairly uncomfortable situation that the oyster would have preferred to not deal with. But that irritation was divinely designed to become something beautiful; to blossom into a valuable treasure. In much the same way, every irritation in our life has the potential to become a pearl.

The Christian scripture talks about how our higher power is the potter and we are the clay. No matter our religious beliefs, one way we are formed and molded is by being in uncomfortable situations. We're not always getting our way or being treated right, or something is not happening as fast as we would like. This pressure brings to light impurities in our character such as pride, selfishness, cynicism, and being easily offended; things we need to get rid of to reach a higher place. Each time we are challenged, we need to remind ourselves that this is only a test and an opportunity to rise above. The irritation was never designed to frustrate you, it was designed to help you grow, to help you develop that pearl, and to motivate you.

Many faiths believe that ultimately our faith is tried in the fire of affliction, just as fire tests and purifies gold. Some of you may be in that refiner's fire right now, going through a tough time. You probably don't like it and believe it's not fair. But let me encourage you: if you'll keep the faith and keep pushing forward, you will emerge more refined, purified, stronger, and better off than you were before you faced the fire.

Higher powers are constantly working on us. We grow little by little and we continue to be a work in progress each and every day. During our journey there will almost definitely be suffering that we have to endure. There are going to be times when we say, "I can't take it anymore! I can't deal with this child! I can't handle this boss! I can't put up with this rude person in my life anymore! I can't balance my family and career one more day!" Do not give up! Just hang in there and remember, like the pearl, you are slowly maturing into something beautiful and unique.

Every person has value deep within. We are being formed into something more priceless than any amount of money can buy! Sometimes when we look at ourselves, we often tend to see our weaknesses but overlook our strengths. I am grateful that I've learned to focus on my strengths and permit my weaknesses to exist as a catalyst to help me mature as a young man. None of us are finished products. We are still growing and forming.

Recognize the pearl within you and don't fight against it, because the pearl within you will lead you to the beautiful person you were meant to be.

**Ashford alumni may submit articles to be considered for "In Your Words" by emailing [connections@ashford.edu](mailto:connections@ashford.edu).**

## EXPERIENCING AN EVOLVING SOUTH AFRICA

BY KEVIN BESSY

Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management, 2013

Master of Business Administration, Entrepreneurship specialization

Kevin Bessy, a senior estimator at a construction company group in Ontario, Canada who earned his BA in Organizational Management from Ashford in 2013 and is currently back earning his MBA, was selected to receive a \$2,000 travel grant to attend the Golden Key International Honour Society 2013 South Africa Summit. The summit, held on September 20 and 21 at the foot of Table Mountain in Cape Town, had a theme of "Lead - Inspire - Grow," which supported the Golden Key "Stand Out - Stand Up - Stand Together" slogan. It was an opportunity for Kevin to travel across the globe while networking with individuals with similar aspirations and dreams. Below is Kevin's account of the transformative experience.



Ashford alum Kevin Bessy poses at the foot of Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa.

**"My visit to the South African Summit was exhilarating."**

My visit to the South African Summit was exhilarating. Not only was it a chance to see and experience the geography of another continent, but also a diverse culture outside what I am accustomed to in North America. It was an opportunity to meet and interact with the emerging face of a country steeped in history, but also a nation and people healing and evolving from within. I saw how young South Africans are gearing up to contribute to society, constructing the roads and vehicles that will allow for the restructuring of the establishments and adding to the potential and value of future generations.

The workshops I attended at the South African Summit were filled with such high and intoxicating aspirations. From them, I was able to experience the energy behind how the next generations will be shaping their country. They are examining the ways

in which to engage others in their communities, take action, and become agents of change. They hope to be useful, contribute, and take ownership rather than waiting for someone (or government programs) to intervene. They are taking action and developing their national pride and identity, and they are creating sound means in which to expand upon, develop, and retain the intellectual resources of the country. Expanding on this type of thinking to engage the broader community is also a priority.

The young South Africans I met all exhibited leadership traits of empathy, autonomy, conscientiousness, and problem-solving abilities to set goals with confidence and accomplish action plans. This was truly a spectacular and exhilarating experience to see and be part of. I was completely moved and touched by these people's dedication to engage the services of the summit participants to take part in a community involvement program. We were all called together to help volunteer by packaging school supplies for a local school and sign a petition pledging to help stop the local violence against women.

It was an experience I will never forget, and I was delighted to have had such an opportunity. What I took away was how to engage my coworkers and employees in becoming active in our own communities, igniting drive and passion within them to recognize what is needed and how we could come together to empower and act from within to make a difference.

Thank you to Golden Key for this incredible experience!

**Learn about future summits. //**



# THE ASHFORD MEN'S SOCCER TEAM'S RUN TO THE NAIA SEMIFINALS

by Ryan Thomas, Sports Information Director

Coming off a year in which they made their second appearance at the NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship, the Ashford University men's soccer team looked to not only match that success in 2013, but take another step toward becoming a national power. Instead, head Coach Richard Markham and the **Saints** grew their success by leaps and bounds, advancing to the semifinals of the 2013 NAIA Men's Soccer National Championships in Montgomery, AL.

The Saints finished the 2013 season with a 16-4-2 record, finished fourth in the final NAIA Top-25 Soccer Coaches' Poll, and advanced farther than any program in school history.

Those wins helped propel the Saints to the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) regular season championship and the number one seed in the A.I.I. Tournament in Lawrenceville, GA. The Saints would come up short in the A.I.I. title game, but qualified for the NAIA Tournament by earning an at-large bid.

Clinton would play host to the Opening Round of the NAIA Tournament for the second year in a row on November 23, 2013, as Ashford welcomed Cardinal Stritch University (WI) to South Campus. Trailing by a goal late in the game, sophomore Tim Krautheim tied the game at two with 43 seconds

to go, sending the Ashford faithful into a frenzy. The comeback was completed in double overtime when junior Javier Ramirez faked out the Stritch goalkeeper and fired the ball into the net, sending Ashford to the Round of 16.

Ashford's second round opponent, the Wildcats of Baker University (KS), notched a win over the Saints in the season opener and had AU on the ropes after tying the game at two late. The game headed to double-overtime and appeared destined for a shootout when Krautheim found the back of the net with 44 seconds to go, giving AU a berth in the quarterfinals.

After a 5-1 win over Rio Grande (OH) in the quarters, all that stood between the Saints and a spot in the championship game were the Red Hawks of Martin Methodist (TN). Ashford took a 1-0 lead early in the second half, but the Red Hawks tied things up shortly after. Two overtimes solved nothing and the game headed to penalty kicks, where the Red Hawks ended the Saints' season en route to their first ever national championship.

Following the tournament, the Saints collected a slew of postseason awards. Freshman Daniel Dreier and junior Mark Hiller were named to the NAIA's All-Tournament Team and the team



*The Saints... advanced farther than any program in school history.*



was awarded with the Nels Dahlquist Memorial Team Sportsmanship Award. Lucas Almeida (second team), Dreier (third team), and Fernando Machado (honorable mention) all earned All-American nominations.

Sao Paulo, Brazil-native Almeida was named A.I.I. Player of the Year and earned an all-conference nomination along with Dreier, Machado, Caio Ruiz, Patrick Kinsella, and Ramirez.

Several Saints were also recognized for their work in the classroom at the end of the year. Ramirez was named First Team Academic All-America, First Team All-District Five Academic All-America and Daktronics NAIA Scholar Athlete. Simon Brown, Alejandro Erazo, Chris Higgins, Luiz Mota and Brock Smutney also earned NAIA Scholar Athlete awards. //



The powerhouse 2013 men's soccer team poses with Ashford's lovable St. Bernard mascot, Champ.

# CAMPUS VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE DISASTER RELIEF

by Audra Adams, Manager of Service Learning

*In Fall 2013, Ashford Service Learning student volunteers traveled to Moore, OK and Washington, IL to help clean up after tornadoes ripped through each community. Ashford's Manager of Service Learning shares the experience here.*

## OKLAHOMA TORNADO RELIEF

Moore, OK was selected as the site for our annual fall semester **service trip** – a very eye-opening experience for our students. On our first day in Moore, we visited elementary school sites that were demolished by the storm. As impactful as it was visually, it was really hard for the students to read about the young children who lost their lives on that fatal day. Branden Lambiase, a participating senior Criminal Justice major, said, “During this time I found myself becoming overwhelmingly upset that these students had died, because I associated their stories with my youngest brother and could not imagine losing him in something like this.”

After this emotional experience, the rest of the trip was based on helping the community move forward. The group cleaned debris from ditches, canvassed neighborhoods for residents in need, weeded a community pumpkin patch, cleaned up a resident's yard, and spackled drywall. It was a trip that we will never forget – not just due to the devastation we encountered, but for the bonds that were formed and the relationships that were strengthened through service to strangers. “I wish we could have done even more for the Moore community, but I do understand that the work we did was needed,” said Brian. “I'm glad that I was blessed with the opportunity to experience this trip. Service is a huge passion of mine, and this trip helped solidify that in my heart.”

## TORNADO RELIEF CLOSER TO HOME

The second service trip of the semester was completely unexpected, but turned out to be one of the most amazing events the Ashford campus has experienced. On November 17, 2013, an EF-4 tornado once again hit a town in the Midwest, but this time it was much closer to home. Washington, IL is only about two hours south of our Clinton campus and we have numerous students from the area. Fortunately, none of our students were directly impacted, but stories of friends and family members who lost everything came streaming in. Within a few hours of hearing the news, students were already trying to figure out



From left to right: Renee Christiansen, Audra Adams, Ann Chezem, Haley Fischer, and Kim Rogis do their part to help with tornado relief.

what the Ashford community could do to help. The next morning, we held an impromptu meeting for all students interested in helping. Within two days the students had launched a community-wide donations drive and planned another Service Learning trip to help the people of Washington.

By the end of that week, students had collected two moving trucks full of donations and over \$600 to support the Washington community. A group of 12 students (who were at the sign-up starting at 4:30 am) accompanied by six faculty and staff members including Charlie Minnick, Vice President and Campus Director, headed down with the donations to Washington, IL. They dropped off the donations and then spent the rest of the day helping two families clean up what was left of their shattered homes.

This was the first time our students were face-to-face with a disaster that was so fresh. It was an overwhelming experience for the students to see the damage that can take place in merely two minutes. The one-day trip taught the group the value of relationships over material things, and how, if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything to help those in need.

The Ashford University **Office of Service and Leadership** is planning the next service trip to New Orleans, LA to partner with Youth Rebuilding New Orleans (YRNO), an organization that refurbishes foreclosed homes and gives them to teachers to improve the educational system in New Orleans, in May 2014. //

*“I'm glad that I was blessed with the opportunity to experience this trip.”*



# CLASS NOTES



## Ashford Alum Premieres Award-Winning Short Film

Navy Veteran and Ashford graduate **Jeff Heiser '10** hosted a workshop in Idaho to share his award-winning short film "Return but No Escape," about overcoming battles with PTSD, suicide, and substance

abuse following his military career. He will also be a guest speaker at the National Conference on Addiction Disorders in St. Louis, MO in August. This writer, blogger, speaker, photographer, and short filmmaker is president and owner of Media Fish Productions LLC, a video and photography services company located in Merritt Island, FL. Not only is he a Navy veteran, but his wife and son are as well. Jeff earned a **BA in Social Science** from Ashford in 2010.



## Ashford Alum Appointed Executive Director

**Jasmine C. Rogers '10**, who earned her **Master of Public Administration (MPA)** from Ashford, is the new Executive Director at the Village of Hope in Salisbury, Maryland. Jasmine has been with the Village as both an intern and an employee since 2010. She would like to pursue a doctoral degree in human services or organizational leadership in the future, saying, "Ashford University has given me the confidence to pursue my dreams and to take on challenges. **Learn more about Jasmine.**



## Ashford Alum Runs for Mayor of Eldridge, IA

**Adam Feldman '13**, a 29-year-old with a **BA in Business Administration** from Ashford, ran for mayor of Eldridge, IA in an election late last year. A full-time welder, Adam was inspired to run for the city's highest office when he began hearing of opposition to a new city hall and wanted to give residents a choice. Although he didn't win this time, he looks forward to continuing to apply his Ashford Bachelor's degree positively to various aspects of his personal and professional life.



## Ashford Graduate Leading Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department

**Julie Hannon '11**, who earned her **Master of Public Administration (MPA)** from Ashford, has been named Director of the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department in Vancouver, WA. Julie, who has 25 years of parks and recreation experience, now oversees 44 full-time employees and 108 parks.



## Aftermarket News Features Ashford Alum

Ashford graduate **Cary Redman '09** is the National Sales Manager for Edelbrock LLC. He was recently featured in The Aftermarket News, where he said working for Edelbrock is like "getting to enjoy your favorite hobby every day." Cary earned his **MBA** from Ashford in 2009.



## Vice President of Sales for AGN Media Holds Ashford Degree

The Amarillo-Globe News of Texas featured Ashford graduate **Linda Anders '12**, who was named Vice President of Sales for AGN Media. Experienced in media, advertising, marketing, and public relations, she has previously served as director of advertising and marketing for Southern Newspapers in Clute and advertising sales director at BayStar Group Advertising Agency. Linda received her Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Marketing from Ashford in 2012 and is currently back at Ashford working on her **MBA** with a specialization in Organizational Leadership.



## Ashford Alum's Restaurant Featured in Providence Journal

As reported in the Providence Journal, Ashford graduate **Steve Mellekas '10** has been running beloved Mel's Cafenio in Newport, RI, with his brother Greg since 1982. It has been a family business since the 1940s, once owned by their father and now employing some of the brothers' children as well. Steve earned his **MBA** from Ashford University in 2010.



## Ashford Alum Keynote Speaker at LGBT+ Mentorship Program

**Linda Anderson '11**, Operations Manager of a Kellogg Company plant in Battle Creek, MI, was the keynote speaker at Western Michigan University's LGBT+ Career Mentorship Program, which matches LGBT+ students and professionals in the area to provide support and career-related resources to the students. Linda earned her **MBA**, Supply Chain Management specialization, from Ashford in 2011 and is now earning her PhD from Ashford's sister school, University of the Rockies. "My MBA opened the door for new professional opportunities with my employer," she said. **Learn more about Linda.**



## Seasoned Military Professional Grad Now Teaching at Ashford

With 32 years in the Air Force, two decades in law enforcement, and a high-profile position in the Department of Homeland Security, **Erick Stone '11**, 50, was able to earn Ashford University college credit for his experience-based learning. He applied it toward a **BA in Social and Criminal Justice** (2009) and an **MA in Education** (2011) while working full-time as a lieutenant colonel for the Department of Homeland Security, volunteering as an assistant coach for his son's football team and as a lacrosse coach at his local recreational center, and serving as an advisor to several police departments. He now teaches online courses in the Homeland Security and Law Enforcement at his alma mater. **Learn more about Erick.**



## Ashford Alum Named to Campus President Post

**Tina Gross '11** has been employed with Ivy Tech Community College since 1993 and has served as the Executive Director at the Franklin, IN campus since 2011. She has now been named to one of the 11 Campus President positions at the College. In Tina's new role, her focus will be on outreach to the local community. In addition, she will manage the day-to-day operations while fostering a campus climate that is consistent with the College's core values. Tina earned her **MBA** with a specialization in Organizational Leadership from Ashford.



## AU Student Hired at CPA Firm

**Theresa Willie** is the newest associate to join Lynne Bushore & Associates, CPAs in Palm Springs. She is currently enrolled at Ashford University's Forbes School of Business, where she is working toward her **BA in Accounting**. Her goal is to become a CPA with a focus in forensic accounting.



## Disaster Restoration Company Hires Ashford Graduate

**Denise Mooney '09** was hired as an assistant to the vice president of sales and marketing for Swartz Contracting and Emergency Services in Kitsap County, WA. The company specializes in disaster restoration from damages caused by fire, water, wind or storm. Denise brings more than 15 years of experience in business administration, training, management, and marketing services for both government agencies and private industry. She holds a BA in business administration from Franklin University and an **MA in Organizational Management** from Ashford.



## Ashford Graduate Wins Red Apple Award

**Marcus Allen '12**, who earned his BA in Social Science with a concentration in Education\*, was surprised live on the Houston morning news when he was presented with the Red Apple Award from Capital One Bank. Marcus teaches structured learning for high school students with autism at Spring High School in Spring, TX; his first teaching job. A thankful parent nominated Marcus for the award. **View the video.** Additionally, Marcus has been awarded Rookie Teacher of the Year for Spring High School. **Learn more about Marcus.**



## Novel Published by Ashford Grad

**Donald C. Pitts '11**, who earned his **BA in Early Childhood Education** from Ashford, has had his first book published. *The Lamb and the Dragon*, available through Tate Publishing, is a

novel about good versus evil, injected with religious and supernatural themes. Donald says the book was 18 years in the making due to his struggle with Meniere's disease, an inner ear condition that affects his hearing and balance. Donald credits his Ashford education with helping him to perfect his writing skills, and also his Ashford instructor Bruce Caruthers, who edited the book at no charge.



## Gaia Herbs Hires Ashford Alum as Director of Sales

Gaia Herbs\* welcomed **Guinevere C. Lynn '11** to the company's newly created position of Director of Sales in January 2014. Guinevere is a 17-year veteran of the natural products industry, having served in key leadership roles in sales, operations, and customer management in top management positions at companies including Sun Chlorella and Vega. This high-energy natural living advocate runs marathons, practices yoga, and eats a vegan diet. She completed her **MBA** at Ashford in 2011 with a 4.0 GPA.



## Jamie Muniz Promoted to Marketing Associate at Pravara

**Jamie Muniz '12** graduated from Paul Mitchell the School in Costa Mesa, CA in 2002, which began her career of assisting and eventually working alongside some of the most well-known talent in the industry. She was very privileged to hone her craft under the tutelage of Paul Mitchells' finest stylists. She quickly built her own clientele and settled into a small salon in La Jolla, CA where she worked behind the chair for several years. During this time, she decided that she would go back to school to get her **BA in Public Relations and Marketing**. She worked full-time in the salon and attended school at Ashford University, graduating in 2012. Jamie's years of experience behind the chair made her an asset to the PRAVANA team, and this promotion to Marketing Associate has put her in a position to help shape the future of the industry from a stylist's perspective.



## Kenmore High School Names Ashford Alum Football Coach

**Kemp Boyd '10** has been hired by the Akron School District as the Football Coach at Kenmore High School. This Ashford alum, who earned his **MA in Organizational Management** in

2010, has held previous football coaching positions in the Akron School District and is looking forward to coaching KHS.



## Ashford Alum Presented with California Teacher's Award

**Penny Shuey '10**, Director of Tenaya Parent Preschool and a teacher at Don Pedro High School, was recognized with the high school-level California Teacher's Award by the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization (her husband, father, and uncle were in the service). Penny teaches English, journalism, speech, and culinary classes. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science with Education Concentration from Ashford.\* Prior to her career in education, Penny was a single mom working as a waitress and bartender when her then-teenage daughter **Brandee Prinze '11** convinced her to go back to school. Brandee has since graduated from Ashford as well with a **BA in Psychology** and is now working as a behavioral therapist while finishing a Master's degree in speech language pathology.



## Ashford Alum Selected for Emerging Leaders Program

Technical Sergeant **Timothy J. Tichawa '12**, a **BA Homeland Security and Emergency Management** graduate, was selected for the Air Force Association's 2014 Emerging Leaders Program. Timothy is currently a flight chief (space operations) in the 53rd Training Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

\*This program was replaced with the Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies.

### SHARE YOUR MILESTONES!

Email [alumni@ashford.edu](mailto:alumni@ashford.edu) and let us know how your Ashford degree is helping you reach your personal or professional goals. Plus, leverage your experience as an Ashford alum by visiting [ashford.edu/alumni](http://ashford.edu/alumni).



# JOIN ASHFORD'S ALUMNI COMMUNITY ON FACEBOOK!



Did you know you can download your very own Ashford University wallpapers for your computer, tablet, or smartphone - or even for use as your Facebook cover photo? Choose from the designs below to get started, and once you're on the webpage, scroll down to the bottom right of the page to download. And remember: **#GoSaints!**



## CHECK OUT THESE RECENT FAVORITE QUOTES FROM ASHFORD'S SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITY!

*I was the first person in my immediate family to receive a BA - a very big deal for us. I am now going for my MBA!*

-Joseph G.

*Through Ashford University, I've discovered the strength that I have - and that I can do anything with determination.*

-Mayelin Q.

Discover Ashford's social media communities at [ashford.edu/social](http://ashford.edu/social), and join the conversation.

## Forbes™ School of Business

### Bachelor of Arts

- Accounting\*
- Professional Accounting Program\*\*
- Business Administration\*
- Business Economics
- Business Information Systems\*
- Business Leadership\*
- Computer Graphic Design\*\*
- Consumer & Family Financial Services
- eMarketing
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance\*
- Human Resources Management
- International Business
- Operations Management & Analysis
- Organizational Management
- Project Management
- Public Administration
- Public Relations & Marketing\*
- Real Estate Studies
- Service Management
- Sports & Recreation Management\*
- Supply Chain Management
- Sustainable Enterprise Management

### Graduate Degrees

- Master of Arts in Organizational Management
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Public Administration

## College of Education

### Associate of Arts

- Early Childhood Education

### Bachelor of Arts

- Business Education\*\*
- Child Development
- Cognitive Studies
- Early Childhood Education
- Early Childhood Education Administration
- Education & Public Policy
- Education Studies
- Elementary Education (grades K-8)\*\*
- English Language Learner Studies
- Instructional Design
- Library Science & Media
- Physical Education\*\*

### Graduate Degrees

- Master of Arts in Education
- Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology

## College of Health, Human Services, and Science

### Bachelor of Arts

- Applied Behavioral Science
- Complementary & Alternative Health
- Gerontology
- Health & Human Services
- Health & Wellness
- Health Care Administration\*
- Health Care Studies
- Health Education
- Health Informatics
- Health Marketing & Communication
- Natural Science\*\*
- Psychology\*

### Bachelor of Science

- Biology\*\*
- Computer Science and Mathematics\*\*
- Health Science Administration\*\*
- Natural Science\*\*

### Graduate Degrees

- Master of Arts in Health Care Administration

## College of Liberal Arts

### Associate of Arts

- Military Studies

### Bachelor of Arts

- Applied Linguistics
- Communication Studies
- Cultural Anthropology
- English
- English and Communication\*\*
- Environmental Studies\*
- History\*
- Homeland Security & Emergency Management
- Journalism & Mass Communication
- Law Enforcement Administration
- Liberal Arts\*
- Military Studies
- Political Science & Government
- Social & Criminal Justice\*
- Social Science\*
- Sociology\*
- Visual Art\*\*

\*Offered on campus and online.

\*\*Offered on campus only. All other listed programs are offered online.

For more information about on-time completion rates, the median loan debt of students who completed each program, and other important information, please visit [ashford.edu/pd](http://ashford.edu/pd).

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