

# SERIOUS U NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 2, October 2013



## President's Message from Dr. George Miller

Dear Students,

As you may be aware, AIU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), which accredits institutions in the North Central region of the United States. Regional accreditation is University-wide and indicates that the institution meets the standards of quality established by the accrediting body. In addition, certain academic programs offered by the University, such as Business and Interior Design, hold specialized accreditations, indicating that the specific program meets the standards of the relevant accrediting organization.

AIU is proud of the accreditations it has attained—both regional and programmatic. Strict adherence to accrediting standards helps us assure the continuing quality of the education and services our students receive.

As you will note in an announcement in this issue of "Serious U News," AIU will be hosting a routine visit from its regional accreditor this December for the purpose of reviewing our ongoing ability to meet the HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. We look forward to the opportunity to demonstrate our continuing compliance with these standards.

As always, you remain at the center of everything we do at AIU, including the maintenance of our accreditation. Thank you for being the most vital part of our University community.

Best regards,

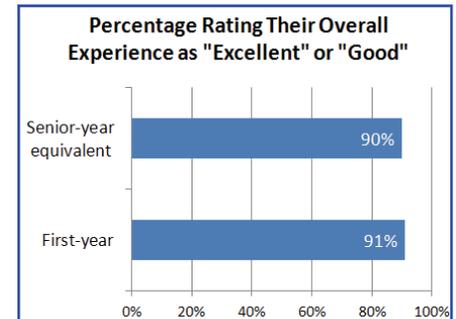
George Miller, Ed.D  
President and Chancellor  
American InterContinental University



## National Survey of Student Engagement Results Are In!

In 2013, AIU Online administered the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) to its first-year and senior-year-equivalent students. A total of 602 students from AIU Online completed the 2013 survey. The survey asks current students about their engagement with the University's various learning activities. Here are some of the findings from the survey:

- 91% of first-year students and 90% of senior-year-equivalent students rated their entire educational experience at AIU Online as "excellent" or "good."
- 82% of all students who completed the survey said instructors "substantially" gave prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments.
- 88% of first-year students said instructors clearly explained course goals and requirements "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 91% of first-year students and 89% of senior-year-equivalent students said they would "definitely" or "probably" attend this institution again.



## Need to Know: Higher Learning Commission Notice

AIU is seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its comprehensive visit by its regional accrediting agency. The University will host a visit December 9-11, 2013, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. American InterContinental University has been accredited by the Commission since 2009. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the University:

*Third-Party Comment on American InterContinental University*  
The Higher Learning Commission  
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

Comments may also be submitted on the Commission's website: [www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org).

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing. All comments must be received by November 9, 2013.

**This issue's Cover Photo Artist:**

Clifton Channel, Bachelor of Fine Arts



## Academic Support Services: News from the Learning Center

As you strive to achieve your educational and personal goals, there are times when you may seem overwhelmed by deadlines. You may become disappointed with a grade you received on an assignment. You may become frustrated with technology updates and glitches. You may feel as though you are the only one expending extra energy to accomplish a task. You may have doubts about continuing your educational journey.

If you experience any of the scenarios listed above or similar ones, you are encouraged to take a break and visit the Inspirational Inn to revive your positive spirit. The Inspirational Inn is in the Learning Center. There are no required individual projects, tasks, or posts. It is place to “regroup” while reading uplifting and inspirational messages. Life may present us with obstacles while we are attempting to reach our dreams, but we do not have to let the obstacles keep us down!

Some of the activities you can do inside the Inspirational Inn include:

- Read and share favorite inspirational quotes
- Read and share motivational messages
- Read and share personal testimonies of academic success
- Watch motivational “mini” movies
- Download affirmation templates to create your own personalized motivational resource



You are invited to visit the Inspirational Inn and become immersed in its content while you relax and sip on your favorite beverage. The lab is always open and waiting for you. We think you will leave with a “feel good” spirit and a “can do” attitude. It is a place to refresh, renew, and reengage in a positive outlook!

All of the Learning Labs and Student Support Communities that provide academic support are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Students are encouraged to visit any combination of Learning Labs at any time to obtain the information they need to support their educational and personal development.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Learning Center at: [learningcenter@aiuonline.edu](mailto:learningcenter@aiuonline.edu).

## Academic Support Services: News from the Library

### What does that mean?! Library terminology explained.

Are you confused by some of the terminology or jargon used in the library? For example, if you are curious about the differences between an HTML and PDF file, if you don't understand what your instructor means when he or she tells you to find a peer-reviewed article, or if you scratch your head each time you hear the word “database” from librarians, [click here to check out the AIU Online Library Terminology LibGuide](#).

This helpful guide gives you the definition of terms users are likely to come across in a library, with particular attention to the AIU Online Library.

As always, if you have any questions about this or anything else, please let us know at [librarian@aiuonline.edu](mailto:librarian@aiuonline.edu)!



## Meet the Faculty



Professor Christine Siemens is one of AIU's Visual Communications (VC) professors and the facilitator of the VC Learning Lab.

Outside of teaching, she is an active artist and designer. Her paintings and sculptures have been exhibited locally and nationally. Her works of art have been reviewed in *The Los Angeles Times*, *Art in America*, and *New York Magazine*.

She enjoys having a background and experience in both design and the fine arts and has endeavored to bring both perspectives to whatever she is doing.

“It is my goal for students to be introduced to key ideas that they can immediately use it in their work to take to the next level, with the ultimate goal of creating a strong portfolio with which they can market themselves to future employers and clients.”

During her leisure time, Professor Siemens loves to camp and travel the Pacific coast. Most recently, she has taken workshops in contemplative photography and is trying her hand at gardening.

Professor Siemens earned degrees in Art History and Design from the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba. Additionally, she attained a Master's degree in Art at CalArts and UNLV. She has also studied the traditional Japanese arts of tea ceremony and ikebana (flower arranging).

### Did You Know...

You can **shop** in the Virtual Campus? There are many discounts, so don't miss out!

Click on the Alumni tab in the Virtual Campus, scroll to the bottom of the page to “Shopping & Discounts.”



## Meet the Staff: Career Services

Jeff Shoemaker has been with AIU's Career Services department since 2011. Jeff's role as Employer Development Manager is unique to the department and can be considered similar to the wizard behind the curtain! He focuses primarily on developing relationships with employers, identifying career opportunities for AIU students and alumni to pursue, and providing labor market and industry information to aid during the career decision making process. "Ultimately I strive to promote the hiring of AIU graduates while creating ways to connect them with hiring companies, as well as raising the University's visibility within the employer community."



"I enjoy working at AIU because everyone is committed to helping individuals to improve their lives through gainful employment and achieving their career goals. I also appreciate the culture of AIU and our department's leadership that is always open to exploring new ideas that empower us to take the initiative and devise new ways to support students."

In Jeff's spare time, he enjoys playing sports, preparing for his Black Belt test, and participating in anything competitive. He's also a "Wish Granter" for Make a Wish. Recently, his family successfully auditioned for "Family Feud" and is anxiously waiting for a call confirming their appearance on the show. Survey says, "Lead your organization to its next level of success by hiring AIU graduates."

### Show Your Artistic Talent!

If you're interested in designing the cover image for the January issue of "Serious U News," please submit your 8" wide x 1.75" tall JPEG file by **December 20** to

[SeriousUNews@aiuonline.edu](mailto:SeriousUNews@aiuonline.edu)!

*Not all submissions will be used.*

## Advising: News from Student Management

Student Management has created additional engaging resources for new students! The new resources include an interactive video and a discussion with AIU Alumni.

The interactive video helps guide new students through the Financial Aid process and provides an interactive Virtual Campus tour: [Interactive Video Link](#).

Another great resource for students is hearing from AIU Alumni: [Alumni Hangout Link](#). This recent live YouTube discussion included two recent AIU alumni, Crystal Hogue (MBA, 2013) and Joseph Snodgrass (Bachelor of Information Technology, 2013). The discussion focuses on preparation for the first week, school support and time management.

These great resources provide flexibility for new students to learn and discover more about AIU from another viewpoint!

## Advising: News from Student Advising

The Virtual Commons offers various clubs for students to engage in, and the Student Advising Department is excited to support two social clubs, the Poets Society Club and Entertainment Club. Both clubs provide opportunities for students with similar interests to participate in exciting discussions and events.

In the Poets Society, moderators Jean Ariano and Amanda Graczyk facilitate discussions on what poetry means to the members, they read and discuss poems by well-known authors, and even share original poems by club members. Eric Hoffman, moderator of the Entertainment Club, sets the forum for its members to discuss music, books, film, art, and theater. Around the Grammy's or Academy Awards, you can surely catch this group deliberating nominations!



If you haven't already, get involved in clubs and become part of the Virtual Commons community!

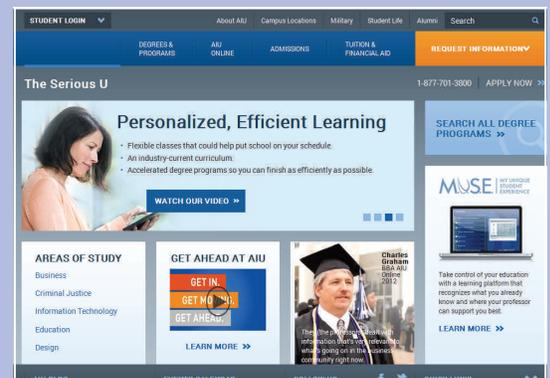
## Marketing News: New Look Coming to AIUniv.edu Website!

This November, the AIUniv.edu website will undergo a major overhaul. We're updating nearly every aspect of the site with a new user interface, upgraded features and functionality, and a navigation system.

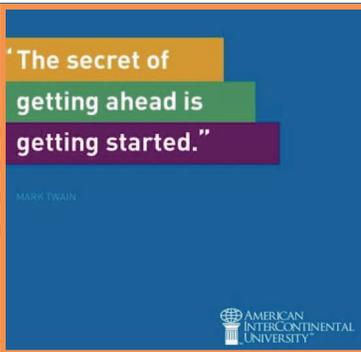
The overhaul is meant to make it easier for users to find what they're looking for, whether they're current students, alumni, military students, employers, or potential students researching our University.

[Keep an eye on the AIU website](#) for helpful blog articles and other useful resources as well.

*Note: These updates do not affect the Virtual Campus, only AIU's public website.*



## AIU Launches the Get Ahead Resource Hub



Need a little help getting ahead, either with school or at work? AIU's new Get Ahead Resource Hub can help!

With downloadable resource guides, links to helpful articles and videos, sharable social content, and more, the Get Ahead Resource Hub puts a wealth of information at your fingertips. Check it out today at <http://www.aiuniv.edu/Resource-Hub>.

## Serious Talk Webinar Scheduled for November 14

The next webinar in the Serious Talk series is scheduled for Thursday, November 14 at 12:15 p.m. CST. The topic for the webinar is *Where the Jobs Are in 2014*. Panelists, including AIU alumni, will discuss the three fastest-growing industries in the job market for 2014 and take questions from the webinar audience.

Visit <http://www.aiuniv.edu/SeriousTalk> to RSVP.



## AIU Named to Military Friendly Schools® List Five Years in a Row!

Victory Media, formerly known as *GI Jobs Magazine* has named AIU to the Military Friendly Schools® list for the fifth year in a row. The 2014 Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students. [View the full press release!](#)



## Another Memorable Graduation Ceremony in Chicago!



The next time you need a break from studying, check out the amazing videos from the 2013 Chicago Graduation Ceremony!

Keynote Speaker Judge Glenda Hatchett shared three amazing messages with the crowd: "Live your life with authenticity and intent... Let there be something bigger than you... Don't let the haters rob you of your joy."

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrOZMboA5MXDdzDPk26AyUYFIDjH5AVt6>

AIU cannot guarantee employment or salary. Not all programs are available to residents of all states. Find disclosures on graduation rates, student financial obligations, and more at [www.aiuniv.edu/disclosures](http://www.aiuniv.edu/disclosures).

## Meet the Student Body



Juggling several tasks at once can be a challenge when taking online classes, but AIU Online student Jennifer Calvay proves that it can be done. And she should know—she's a stay-at-home mom, a wife, and a student!

"Being online, it can be tempting to do other things, but you have to be super disciplined. You need to have a strict schedule and a repetitive daily routine so the kids know what to expect."

While her husband Orlando just started his degree at AIU Online, she's excited to graduate next year in June with her Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice with a specialization in Forensics. As most of her time is spent in front of a computer completing homework, after graduation she says, "I think my computer and I are going to break up."

She won't be out of the game for too long though, as she's hoping to do an internship in her degree field after graduation and then pursue a Master's of Criminal Justice degree.

From her time at AIU, she's learned several tips along the way. "You need to have real drive and motivation. You have to *want* to finish your degree, more so than *needing* to finish it." Jennifer also thinks one key to success is the Student Advising department. "Be really communicative with your Student Advisor. Mine's Terrance Parks, and I don't know how I'd get through without him. Not only are they there to guide you, but they're there for everything, even if it's just to listen."

With the little spare time she has these days, she likes to relax, have date nights with her husband, and watch TV shows related to her degree, like "Criminal Minds" and "First 48."

**Questions or Comments?**

[Click here to email us!](#)

