

Alumni Leadership Gather for Inaugural Alumni Summit

Celebrating the rapid expansion of alumni programming across the schools of Career Education Corporation, the Offices of Alumni Relations and Career Services partnered to host the inaugural Alumni Relations Summit. The gathering brought together 43 alumni champions and 44 alumni volunteer presidents representing 48 alumni associations and chapters established over the past one and a half years.

The alumni attendees represented nearly 400 alumni leadership volunteers and 457,000 graduates across the

country. The leaders converged at the Renaissance Hotel in Schaumburg, Illinois, on Jan. 11-12, 2010, to celebrate program success stories, learn best practices for alumni engagement, network among partner schools, and participate in planning for continued expansion in 2010.

"To move so far so quickly is a testament to the dedication of the alumni volunteers and the champions," shared John Stachniak, CEC Senior Director of Alumni Affairs. "To have so many alumni volunteers and champions travel to Chicago

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Alumni champions and chapter presidents from American InterContinental University joined other participants from schools across the country at the 2010 Alumni Relations Summit held in January 2010 in Schaumburg, Illinois.

Letter from AIU Chief Executive Officer and President of AIU Online

Stephen J. Tober, J.D.



Dear Alumni:

As 2009 has come to an end and 2010 begins, I continue to be amazed about, and grateful for, the tremendous family of students at AIU. For me, AIU's accomplishments over the last year are most visible in our graduation ceremonies. I would like to take this moment to personally congratulate each and every one of you for completing your degree, whether you are a recent graduate or graduated several years ago.

In 2009, AIU hosted nine virtual graduation ceremonies for the Main Campus (online) where almost 10,000 students were invited to attend. We also opened our Branch Campus graduation ceremonies in Atlanta, Houston, South Florida and London to our online students for the first time in AIU history. Over 300 online students walked in the ground campus graduation ceremonies.

Additionally, over 200 online students attended the ground graduation ceremony at Navy Pier in October 2009. These ceremonies are inspirational and

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In this issue

AIU Atlanta

Peter C. Correa, M.S.
President



It is my pleasure to reach out to a valued member of our AIU learning community – our alumni. For more than a decade I have been involved in the American career-based learning industry. As president of American InterContinental University Atlanta I provide campus-wide leadership and vision to ensure that AIU students continue to acquire the industry-current knowledge and skills that will be advantageous in their careers.

Before I became the president of AIU Atlanta, I served as president of another Career Education Corporation institution, Colorado Technical University – Kansas City. During my tenure with CTU, I was also a faculty member and dean of instruction at CTU – Sioux Falls, and director of the Westminster campus in Denver. Prior to these positions, I held a number of other higher education leadership roles at both profit and nonprofit institutions of higher education. Before beginning my career in higher education, I served in the U.S. Army for almost three decades before retiring from military service in 1996.

At AIU Atlanta we are focused on delivering the very best in experiential learning leveraged by technology. Our overarching goal is to make the act of learning into the art of self-discovery. Consistent with our mission and our focus we challenge our AIU alumni to become even more active members of our AIU learning community .

We encourage you to visit our campus and take advantage of our resources. We seek your input as we develop new programs to support our students and local industries. We look forward to future interactions and the road ahead.

AIU Houston

Stephen M. Malutich, M.S.
President



Greetings to all AIU Houston alumni! Please know that we definitely consider you part of our team and a key element of our success going forward. I personally urge you to get involved in AIU alumni activities.

I am confident you will enjoy the time spent, and both you and the institution will benefit.

Many of you may already know my background, but for the benefit of those who do not, I will provide a brief bio. I graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Mechanics. I then received a Guggenheim Fellowship, by which I attended Columbia University to obtain my Master of Science degree in Engineering Mechanics. I spent 27 years with the U.S. Air Force, where I served as an engineer, acquisition manager, educator and commander. Since my retirement from the U.S. Air Force in 2001, I have worked in the post-secondary education field.

Many constituents are interested in my vision for AIU Houston, what I want to see this very special institution be in the future. It is simple: I want to see AIU Houston realize its potential. That potential includes many more students and a much expanded portfolio of relevant, career-focused degree offerings. Additionally, we plan to begin offering non-degree program courses as part of our strategic plan.

The AIU Houston population grew 14 percent this year, and we are planning similar double-digit growth over the near-term planning horizon of five years. Part of what will enable this growth is continual improvement of our service to student customers from first inquiry to continued service to our alumni. We have in place a robust institutional effectiveness program that includes many opportunities to gather

feedback from all of our customers, to include employers of our graduates and our own employees, for the entire spectrum of our operations. We take this feedback seriously, review it in detail, and put in place plans to keep the needle moving in the right direction.

In closing, I am very pleased to see the energy being put into growing the AIU alumni program. Our alumni are important to us, and as I stated earlier, a key part of achieving our goals as an institution. I look forward to working with you.

AIU South Florida

Hisham Shaban, D.B.A.
President



Over 29 years ago I began my academic career in Cairo, Egypt, to obtain my master's degree in the field of hospitality management. I continued with my doctorate degree in Business Administration, and happily settled down with my wife in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Today, I find myself very fortunate to be part of the AIU family. I began as the vice president of Academic Affairs and three years ago became president of AIU South Florida. Through my work at AIU, I have seen first-hand the great accomplishments of hundreds of students — completing their degrees and embarking on greater steps and toward their careers. I am very glad to be a part of their lives, aspirations and achievements.

AIU's strength, and what I am most proud of, continues to be our passionate and dedicated faculty. Their active involvement and commitment to students' welfare has been exceptional. I hope to continue empowering faculty and staff to meet the needs of students and alumni, and to encourage them to reach out to our community and strengthen our social network. 🏡

AIU Career Services Can Help Alumni Meet Challenges of Today's Job Market

There are many challenges facing AIU alumni in today's job market such as the low economy and more competition for jobs. "The recession has affected recent graduates more than it has the graduate a year out," says Sheldon Bolden, AIU Atlanta's Director of Career Services. "We try to help each one of our students and alumni meet these challenges head on."

AIU's Career Services support is provided in many ways including résumé workshops, job fairs, professional development seminars, Dress for Success workshops and full- and part-time employment assistance. "We e-mail specific job leads to our entire database of alumni, and try to keep them in the loop about any upcoming professional events or career fairs in the area," says Marion Carberry, AIU South Florida's Director of Student Affairs.

"Additionally, we are always looking for new resources to bring to alumni, such as our most recently added programs, Vault and Optimal Resume (see related story on page 9)," says Betsy Balachandran, AIU's Senior Director of Career Services and Alumni Affairs. "We can provide tools for exploring career options, preparing self-marketing materials, performing honest self-assessment and communicating your strengths."

AIU Career Services can help give alumni different strategies to market their résumé to stand out from other candidates seeking employment. Frederick Richards, AIU Houston's Director of Career Services, explains, "For example, companies post job descriptions and expect potential candidates to pull out keywords and plug them into their résumés. Research

shows that companies are allowing computer systems to generate the ideal candidate résumé. Having this insight will help prepare our graduates so that they can send better résumés."

Beyond preparing an effective résumé and practicing polished interviewing techniques, Balachandran advises, "Network, network and network! Networking is not something that

such as: school groups (yours or your child's), message boards, associations, clubs, religious groups, community sports or volunteer activities. "And don't forget about your AIU Alumni Association!" she emphasizes. "Join our local chapters near ground campuses, attend events and join online in our LinkedIn or facebook spaces."

Bolden adds, "Creating a blog is also another tip that will help our students and alumni. Blogs allow our graduates to highlight their professional experience and skills in detail for potential employers to review."

AIU Career Services can also assist alumni in facing the challenges of the job market by giving them insight on how companies are looking for candidates. Richards advises, "Go back to the traditional employment research, target four to five companies within a 30-mile radius, research the opportunities that are available, and then stop by and meet the hiring manager and drop off your résumé to show that you are interested in being a part of the company."

AIU Career Services will continue to look for new and innovative ways to help

current students and alumni prosper in this present slumping economy and in the future. "There is no doubt that today's flat job market has impacted the lives of many Americans, and our alumni are no different," says Carberry. "It is very frustrating to have a degree in hand and not be able to secure the position one has dreamed about throughout their journey. I cannot wait to have all of our grads employed — all of them. That will be the happiest day for me." 📖



"NETWORKING IS NOT SOMETHING THAT COMES EASY OR NATURAL TO EVERYONE, BUT IN THIS FLAT ECONOMY IT IS A NECESSARY ACTIVITY."

comes easy or natural to everyone, but in this flat economy it is a necessary activity. With so many excellent and well-qualified employees being laid off in the past two years, many managers and employees know people who need to get their foot in the door. Just applying online these days will not give you an automatic in."

Balachandran reminds alumni to consider other places outside of their family, professional contacts and close friends as potential networking sources

AIU Houston Alumna Transitions into Training and Development

Angela Y. Stewart

M.B.A., '09



Angela Y. Stewart is an instructional design intern in the Technical Training and Development Division-Drilling and Evaluation at Baker Hughes. She received her M.B.A. in Human Resource Management in 2009 from AIU Houston.

When Stewart graduated from Houston Baptist University in 1997, she began working for IBM Corporation in the small and medium business segment. She also worked for BMC Software for seven years in software sales.

"I am grateful for the remarkable experiences I was able to gain in working for these companies," says Stewart. "After much soul searching, however, I realized I had more of a passion to assist and teach individuals, rather than selling them on an idea or product. This led me to my desire for a career in training and development. Mentors shared with me that most trainers had M.B.A.s in human resources, so that's the path I decided to take."

Stewart chose to attend AIU because it is an Education Partner with her then employer, which meant they offered assistance with her tuition. Also, she says, "AIU is a well-known online institution but it also offers the traditional, in-class teaching format. When I visited the campus, the administrative staff went above and beyond in expressing the school's strengths and offerings while paying close attention to my goals as well. The professors and staff are outstanding, and the president of the university is very present and engaged in the university's continued success."

Stewart was recently inducted into the Sigma Beta Delta Business Honor

Society. She volunteers with the Houston Baptist University Alumni and is a member of AIU Houston's Alumni Association Board of Directors. One of her professional goals is to obtain a Professional in Human Resource certification.

AIU South Florida Alumna Talks It Up

Maxine J. Tulloch

M.B.A., '07



AIU South Florida alumna Maxine J. Tulloch, M.B.A. '07, is the executive producer and host of The Maxine Tulloch Show, a local talk show that is aired on TeleAmerica Comcast Cable

television. The show features a wide range of topics that are both entertaining and informative for South Florida's diverse residents with an estimated audience of 3.5 million subscribed viewers.

"I have the unique opportunity to be involved in the background and forefront of the production of our television talk show, planning and executing our TV series and documentaries," she says. "I am completely involved with every aspect of production, finances, politics and associations with other television networks."

Tulloch's professional background includes positions as a radio talk show host for WAVS Radio, president and chief executive officer for an advertising and public relations consulting firm, and operations manager for the community newspaper South Florida Gleaner Extra. She has also been an adjunct professor for Florida Memorial University, teaching journalism.

Tulloch served as president of the AIU South Florida Alumni Association Board of Directors while she was a student. She enjoyed the one-on-one interaction with her professors, and the access to

staff and advisors. "Having received my M.B.A. is one of the most important aspects that affects my current professional position," she says. She also has a B.F.A. in Visual Communications with a minor in Design Media Communications from AIU South Florida.

Tulloch's other interests include teaching, writing, dancing and worldwide traveling. She was recently named president of the Caribbean-American Journalists and Media Association.

A Single Mom becomes an AIU Online Alumna – to Advance Her Career and Improve Her Life

by Meghan Fitzpatrick



AIU Online alumna Christine Van Wieren, B.B.A. '09, accepts the 2009 AIU Online Distinguished Alumnus Award from Stephen J. Tober, AIU Chief Executive Officer and President of AIU Online.

American InterContinental University (AIU) Online selected Christine Van Wieren, a single mother of one son from Plano, Texas, as the sixth recipient of the AIU Distinguished Alumnus Award. Van Wieren graduated in 2006 with two bachelor's degrees, one in Management and a second in Accounting and Finance. Like so many other mothers, Van Wieren wanted to further her education to not only advance in the workplace, but also to make a better life for her son.

With the economic downturn and families across the United States tightening their belts, today's moms are stressed and

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AIU Online Davina Nolten

Bachelor of Business Administration, '05

Davina recently accepted a position as a disaster coordination specialist with Franciscan Health System, based out of St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma, WA. She covers disaster preparedness/emergency management planning and education for five hospitals and multiple outpatient clinics. "After 16 years and three other positions within Franciscan, this is my dream job," says Davina.

In 2007, Davina received the Stephen Farr Endowment Fund scholarship from the Franciscan Foundation towards a certificate in emergency management. This was the second time that she was awarded a Franciscan Foundation scholarship as she received a scholarship in 2005 towards the completion of her B.B.A. from AIU Online. Her goal is to earn a master's degree or graduate certificate in public health with a concentration in disaster preparedness/emergency management.

Davina is a volunteer for the city of Federal Way in their citizen's disaster preparedness program and received a Presidential Service Award in 2006 from the city council for her volunteer contributions. She also plays piano for the worship team at her church and knits and crochets for charity.

Stephanie Galindo

Master of Educational Technology, '05

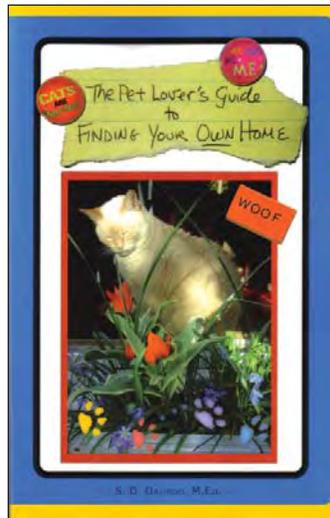


Stephanie Galindo's book *The Pet Lover's Guide to Finding Your Own Home* is a colorful, realtor- and veterinarian-approved action plan created especially for first-time home buyers with pets.

She loves the writing and design process, and had a number of photos and articles published in 2009 (read more: at www.fyohome.com/news-blog.html).

Stephanie does research for a Canadian firm and telecommutes as an

administrator/student dean for a small, online graduate school in California, where she also teaches an advanced writing course for doctoral students. She co-authored a chapter titled "Synthesizing Higher Education and Corporate Learning Strategies" in the *Sage Handbook for Online Learning* (2009) and is working on her doctorate in educational leadership and learning.



Christopher Sisney

Bachelor of Fine Arts, '08

Shannon Madden

Bachelor of Fine Arts, '12

Joseph Walker

Bachelor of Fine Arts, '08

AIU Houston graduates Christopher Sisney, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2008; Sharron Madden, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2012; and Joseph Walker, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2008; have founded The Collective Design Group (<http://thecollectivedg.com/>), a one-stop shop for all things design.

"We realized that most of the design institutions in Houston were at a disadvantage due to the fact that they all focus on one aspect of design," says Christopher. "That is when we decided that bringing all our talents into one COLLECTIVE would make the most sense for the consumer." They provide services for print, photography, web design, video production, motion graphics and three-dimensional animation. 📺

Setting New Traditions

By Claudia Aguilar

**Bachelor of Visual Communication
expected June '10**

Yao Restaurant exploded with excitement on Nov. 6, 2009! Frederick Richards, AIU Houston's Director of Career Services, and AIU alumni had a bash as they got to dine and socialize at Yao's club scene for their first AIU Alumni Social Mixer. Many memories were shared among the former students about their days at AIU. Many of them also got a chance to catch up with their friends since they've graduated. Indeed, everyone took this chance to network and have a blast at the same time!



AIU Houston

Dayton Hall, Ph.D.

Department Chair, Criminal Justice



Dr. Dayton Hall is the program chair for AIU Houston's Criminal Justice program. He also teaches one criminal justice class per quarter, serves on committees, works on curriculum, advises

students, prepares schedules and budgets, and plans for the future of the Criminal Justice program at AIU Houston.

"I teach the class Introduction to Criminal Justice, the first program course in the sequence, because I like to get to know the students early in their academic careers at AIU and to learn what their goals and aspirations are," says Dr. Hall. "That way I can more accurately guide and direct them through the curriculum and into a career path."

Dr. Hall's academic credentials include a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice and an M.S. in Criminal Justice Management from Sam Houston State University, and a B.S. in Social and Rehabilitation Services/Sociology from Stephen F. Austin State University. Prior to entering the academic world, he was an adult and juvenile probation officer in the State of Texas for 20 years. He started as a line officer in Dallas, Texas, and spent the last 10 years as a chief probation officer in rural Texas when he established the first probation department in Eastland County, Texas.

Since entering the world of academics, he has redesigned a bachelor and a master degree program in criminal justice and established two master degree programs. He has taught numerous criminal justice courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels and has watched his students succeed in the field and also pursue more advanced degrees. He has also been the director of a law enforcement academy licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and

Education (TCLEOSE) and wrote the first fully online training for Texas law enforcement officers.

"I see some very strong benefits to an AIU education, not the least of which is the experienced and qualified faculty," states Dr. Hall. "In addition to holding the academic credentials to teach at the university level, all of the faculty members have experience in the field that they are teaching. In my own case, my 20 years' experience in the field of probation gives me a perspective and background that someone with only academic credentials cannot possibly have. I can give the real-life application to the theories and systems that we cover in the program. I feel that this experience makes me a much better teacher than I would be without it and gives me more credibility in the students' eyes."

Dr. Hall sees AIU as being very student-centered. He emphasizes that its focus is on providing an excellent education and helping students as they navigate their way through the program and into the field. "Our small classes are a huge advantage over many of the public institutions," says Dr. Hall. "They allow for a closer relationship between the students and the professors, and encourage more class participation and discussions among the students which leads to a stronger and more complete learning environment."

"I love teaching and I love building programs. Coming to AIU Houston has given me the opportunity to do both," says Dr. Hall. "I get to spend time in the classroom observing and guiding our students as well as watching the program grow from no students at the beginning of 2009 to approximately 70 at the beginning of 2010, and it continues to grow. I look forward to adding additional programs and faculty to serve as many students as possible."

AIU South Florida

John Billingsley, Jr., M.B.A.

Business Faculty



John Billingsley, Jr. has been a professor at American InterContinental University South Florida's School of Business for eight years, teaching business and management courses and special topics in business seminars. He

has served as an academic administrator, retention director, School of Design director and foundation director during his tenure. He assists students in every aspect of their academic development as well as their personal and professional maturation.

Billingsley has a Master of Business Administration and Entrepreneurship from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Barry University. Prior to joining the business faculty at AIU, Billingsley served as an adjunct professor at Florida Metropolitan University and as a science instructor at American Heritage Academy and School in Plantation, Florida. He was also a division director for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations.

Billingsley sits on several university committees. "By participating as committee members, faculty can input their ideas, share their visions and network with other academicians about strategies and improvement efforts needed to improve the university's image, academic base of information and academic delivery system for our students," he says.

Professor B, as he is known by his students and colleagues, has served as vice mayor and city commissioner for seven years of the City of Lauderdale Lakes, where he was the chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for four years. There, he introduced and spearheaded major redevelopment efforts such as a \$150 million dollar mixed-use affordable housing project called Bella Vista that utilized AIU School of Design students to provide architectural renderings. Students were able to receive scholarships from the developer, United Homes International, Inc. According to the president and

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CEO of United Homes International, Inc., Anthony Mijares, Jr., he had never seen such superior work and professionalism exhibited by students like those from AIU.

Billingsley believes that in today's economy AIU alumni are facing a most difficult task of finding and securing career positions that will allow them to compete with mainstream graduates. "With double digit unemployment across our nation, internship programs are dwindling and valued positions have become scarce or nonexistent to our graduates," he says. "AIU South Florida has embarked upon leveraging the playing field for its alumni and graduating students by improving the academic, hand-on approach to perfecting the Corporate Partnership Program. This initiates internships and utilizes its Advisory Board members as mentors, councilors and program evaluators."

"We are also encouraging our alumni to come back to AIU for additional training and instructions in the graduate school," Billingsley continues. "Alumni can also take advantage of refresher courses designed to 'sharpen your saw' as is expressed by Professor Stephen Covey."

AIU Online

Kurt Diesch, Ph.D.

Program Chair, Information Technology



Dr. Kurt Diesch is chair of AIU Online's Information Technology program. "My real love is software development and I have been working in that area since the early '80s," says Diesch. Many

of the applications he has written have been sold in software stores around the world.

Throughout his career, Dr. Diesch had held executive-level positions in software development companies. He has managed engineering, quality assurance, technical support and product management for these companies. "My latest work is in the area of ASP.NET web development and I am currently managing a project for a

web application that serves many Fortune 500 companies," he reports.

Dr. Diesch has a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Science and a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from Iowa State University. He was formerly the dean of the College of Business and Technology at another online university and has taught over 100 online courses at several online schools. For five years he was a professor at Iowa State University. "So I have seen the brick-and-mortar view as well," Diesch explains. "My exposure to online education has made me a firm believer in this medium."

Dr. Diesch states that AIU focuses on the students and the quality of their education. "The course development process targets the course and curriculum objectives, and these courses offer many learning opportunities for the students," he says. "There is high-quality oversight on the courses to ensure that faculty are providing quality guidance for the students. The mix of synchronous and asynchronous interaction makes the AIU classes some of the best I have seen."

Dr. Diesch is involved in two areas where he is witnessing forward planning and development. First, the Academic Technology Committee, of which he is a

member, is working diligently to provide better tools in the classroom for students and faculty. "The course site has seen significant changes in the last year to improve the learning experience with more features that have been requested by students and faculty," he explains. "New grading and feedback views, better discussion boards, faster response, and other improvements show the commitment by the school to enhance the systems."

The second area is course development. "I am witnessing the detail and effort involved in these courses," Dr. Diesch explains. "The latest materials are used in the courses and the strict guidelines result in consistent and high-quality courses prepared by experts in their respective fields."

Dr. Diesch sees that AIU alumni face a challenge in the job market due to the current economy. "Preparation with quality skills provides students with an advantage in the marketplace, but this is not always enough," he says. "AIU provides significant help to students entering the job market. Guidance in résumé preparation and interviewing skills, and the location of employment opportunities all serve to help graduates find gainful employment in their fields of expertise." ■

AIU Atlanta Alumni Activities

by Jasen Hayes, M.B.A., '09

The AIU Atlanta Alumni Association is proud to know that we belong to a strong social network within the CEC family. This family has given us the opportunity to participate in the new AIU Atlanta campus grand opening ceremony, the Adopt-A-Family program for the Atlanta Children's Shelter, and an AIU Atlanta alumni and student mixer held at Sal Grosso Restaurant.

AIU Atlanta alumni participate in the Adopt-a-Family program for the Atlanta Children's Shelter, December 2009.



FEATURED PROGRAMS

AIU Atlanta

B.F.A., Fashion Marketing and Design

AIU Atlanta's Fashion Marketing and Design program provides specialized training in sketching, garment construction, patternmaking, computer-aided design, illustration and portfolio development. Emphasis is placed on creativity by mastering traditional and enhanced design skills used in the fashion industry.

The program is designed to provide students with the education and experience necessary for successful careers through training from a global perspective. It encompasses the areas of marketing, strategic planning, fashion retailing, event planning/promotion, public relations, product development and computer-aided design.

Students interested in all aspects of fashion may pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Fashion Marketing and Design. This program provides coursework that will give graduates the ability to enter the fashion field by combining the marketing and retailing knowledge of fashion with the creativity and technology of fashion design. The goal across the fashion programs at AIU Atlanta is to develop creative and innovative professionals who are equipped with industry-specific skills and attuned to the needs of the consumer.

AIU alumna Elena Pitts' design is featured on the escalated runway at the Fine Lines Design Exhibition at the Museum of Design Atlanta in 2009.



AIU South Florida

Business Program

Dr. Albert Infante
Business Department Chair



There are many exciting things happening with AIU South Florida's business degree programs. The Business Department offers associate, bachelor and master degrees in Business Administration.

Students in the associate degree program take 54 credits in general education, 18 credits in business core and a choice of 7 concentrations. Students in the bachelor degree program take 48 credits in general education, 42 credits of lower division

core, 66 credits of upper division core and a choice of 5 concentration courses. Students in the master degree program take 36 business core credits and a choice of 11 concentration courses for a total of 48 credits.

The extensive breadth of courses and numerous concentrations in all of AIU South Florida's business degree programs effectively prepare students for employment in this difficult economy. For example, recent attendees to AIU South Florida's business advisory board committee include Windmill Advertising, DStephenson and Associates Construction, LLC, and Workforce Development. The executives of these organizations discussed increasing the number of AIU South Florida student internships, and are currently partnering with AIU South Florida's Business Department to bring these offerings to the forefront.

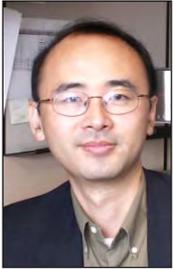
At the advisory board meeting, Dr. Albert Infante, chair of the Business Department, stated, "We continue to welcome area partnerships and look forward to helping students develop practical experience in line with the knowledge provided at AIU."

According to a recent study cited (list source) by the Business Department's Dean Elias Konwufine, individuals who graduate with a bachelor's degree versus a high school degree can expect increases in lifetime income worth \$900,000. Individuals who pursue an M.B.A. beyond a bachelor's degree can expect increases in lifetime income worth \$400,000. The variation in starting salaries for business jobs is minimal, and with an improved economy, this value is certain to rise for business graduates, according to cite source.

Featured Programs continue on top of next page

AIU Online Information Technology Program

Richard L. Cai, Ph.D.,
AIU Online IT Program Chair



As the business world becomes increasingly dependent on computers, the demand for Information Technology (IT) professionals has grown so rapidly that it far exceeds the number of university graduates

who have the necessary education and skills. The AIU Online IT program was created in response to that need.

AIU Online offers a Master of Information Technology (MIT), a Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) and an Associate degree programs that cover a wide range of IT topics. The BIT degree offers concentrations in Generalist, Networks, Programming, Security and Computer Forensics. The MIT degree offers concentrations in Internet Security and IT Project Management.

AIU Online's dynamic, flexible curriculum is based on market demand, and designed to keep pace with changing technologies. Students can acquire not only high-quality technical knowledge and hands-on abilities, but also key career skills in areas which include leadership, behavioral understanding, change implementation and project management. AIU Online students can also gain the industry insights, contacts and work experience to make an early impact in their careers. 🏢

Have You Moved Lately?

Please use the card included in the newsletter to update your address so we can continue to provide you with alumni news. You can also send your updated contact information to alumni@aiuonline.edu.

AIU Maintains High Alumni Survey Scores

AIU would like to thank all of the alumni who participated in the AIU NPS Alumni Survey in late October and early November. The NPS Alumni Survey is a way that AIU gauges our alumni loyalty. AIU is proud to be one of the first universities to utilize NPS to assess loyalty to a higher education institution.

The survey's focus is based on the question: "On a scale of 0-10, how likely are you to recommend AIU to a friend or colleague? (0= Not likely; 10= Extremely likely)." The results are calculated as follows:

0-6 = Detractors

7-8 = Passive

9-10 = Promoters

To get the Net Promoter Score, you subtract the percent of Detractors from the percent of the Promoters (Passive is not included in the calculation). Example: 60% Promoters - 30% Detractors = 30

The first goal for this survey is to not get a negative number, as that indicates you have more detractors than promoters, and then to continually increase your positive score.

AIU launched the first set of NPS surveys in May 2008 to all students, alumni, staff and faculty, and most recently to all of the aforementioned constituents in November 2009. Our alumni have proven to be very loyal to our institution, and for this we are truly grateful. For the first NPS survey launched in May 2008, the AIU Online alumni's NPS score was 32, and as of this November, we remain consistent with a score of 31.

All alumni who participated in the survey were given the choice of being contacted by the university about their experience with AIU. Upper management members at AIU spent several weeks making sure to contact each person individually to hear about their time at AIU.

Overall, AIU has made great progress in maintaining and increasing our NPS

scores over the past year. It is thanks to you, the alumni, and your loyalty. We strive each day to do our best and maintain the high standards we always have.

New Career Services programs available to AIU alumni

The Career Services Department is excited to announce a partnership with Optimal 2.0 to aid alumni in their career search and career management. You can create a résumé, have it reviewed by the Career Services staff, practice interviewing and search employers. Visit <https://aiu.optimalresume.com/> to begin using the Optimal resources! Join the thousands of alumni and students who have already logged into Optimal to maximize their résumés.

Vault is another new tool for alumni and students to utilize as a source of career intelligence. The database contains timely and accurate information to use when researching employers, industries and career subjects. Once you're inside you can download career titles on different Industries, companies and general career topics, research employers and explore Industries and professions. You can also gain career advice and discuss your interests and experiences with other users. (Another networking opportunity!) You must first create a login for this site. To get started, visit <http://careerinsider.vault.com/wps/portals/careerinsider?parrefer=7303>.

For alumni who attended class online, don't forget about the Virtual Campus <https://mycampus.aiu-online.com>. The AIU Resource Center has many areas that were recently revamped and you may want to take a peek! There are industry and association links, résumé resources and templates, as well as weekly tips that are posted by Career Services staff. You can also network with alumni and current students in the Virtual Commons area of campus. You can review profiles and find others in your geographic area, or industry. (You guessed it: another networking opportunity!) 🏢

Announcing the AIU Alumni Savings Connection

Your powerful new member savings benefit

Have you heard the news? AIU alumni members now enjoy incredible savings on movie tickets, travel, shopping and more. This value-packed benefit is called the **AIU Alumni Savings Connection** — and it's **FREE** for all of our members.

With the AIU Alumni Savings Connection, you get:

NATIONWIDE SAVINGS: Save on clothing, electronics, footwear and more at over 100 popular retailers, like Target, Coldwater Creek, Foot Locker and Dick's Sporting Goods.

DISCOUNT TRAVEL: Discover BIG savings worldwide on hotels, car rentals, cruises and travel packages. Simply log in and make your travel plans online at our new travel savings center.

ONLINE FACTORY OUTLET: Visit our online "mega-mall," packed with factory-direct products from top merchants and enjoy savings of up to 50% off MSRP.

DISCOUNT MOVIE TICKETS: Receive discounted rates — up to 30% below box office prices — at all major theater chains.

Make the AIU Alumni Savings Connection your portal to instant savings. Just log on today and discover why it pays to be a member of the AIU Alumni Association.



To save, simply log on to www.aiuniv.edu/alumni, scroll down and click on the Savings Connection icon. If you need help saving, call 877-701-3800 ext 15060 for assistance.

GOT NEWS?

Are you moving?
Got a promotion?
Received an
award? Starting
a new business?

We'd like to hear from you!

Contact the AIU Alumni Association

and share your news for publication
in this newsletter.

5550 Prairie Stone Parkway, Suite 400
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

Toll Free: 1-877-701-3800 ext 15060

E-mail: bbalachandran@aiauonline.edu

Include a digital photo of yourself if you
can, and be sure to provide your major,
degree and graduation year.

Join American InterContinental University's online communities via social media links

Join AIU on Woman Achieve,
You Tube, Twitter, LinkedIn, and
Facebook to build your valuable
AIU Alumni Association
connections!



ALUMNI LEADERSHIP GATHER

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in January really illustrates the enthusiasm and support of the alumni in enhancing their programs.”

The summit kicked off with a warm welcome from Gary E. McCullough, CEC President and Chief Executive Officer, and included highlighted success stories that featured programs launched at the campuses. Sessions held over the two days included understanding the alumni satisfaction cycle, engaging alumni leadership boards, serving alumni needs on campus, and planning outreach and events. Breakout sessions by strategic business units allowed for brainstorming and networking. Sessions also facilitated cooperation among multiple brand chapters and partnerships among campuses regionally.

All of the Alumni Association presidents who attended the 2010 Alumni Relations Summit participated in a breakout session that included creating over 90 colorful fleece winter scarves with fringe, beading and lots of creativity. Representatives from both the Alumni Relations and the Career Services teams presented the scarves to the Ronald McDonald House in Maywood, Illinois, the week of Jan. 25.

If you are an alumnus who is interested in getting involved or starting a chapter in your area, please e-mail us at Alumni@aiuonline.edu. 📧



Atlanta Alumni gathered for a holiday mixer.

ALUMNI “MOVERS”

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juggling more responsibilities than ever. You might think that this would be an unlikely time for a mom to invest the time and money in an education for herself. In fact, according to a recent Omnibus survey conducted by AIU Online, moms are twice as likely as women without children to consider going back to school to improve job prospects due to the current economy.

“While working in a clerical position at an insurance company in Texas, I saw my coworkers receiving promotions and advancing in their careers. Not having my degree was holding me back from moving up in the company,” said Van Wieren.

With the support of her family, friends and coworkers, Van Wieren enrolled in AIU. As a single mother, Van Wieren had to juggle many commitments while attending school. “I honestly don’t know how I did it,” said Van Wieren. “I just always kept on top of my work, if

you stay on top you never fall behind. I also made it a priority to get my work done during the week so to leave time for family and friends on the weekends.”

Soon after beginning classes, Van Wieren began seeing the real-world applications for what she was learning. “By earning my college degrees, I was able to land the job I thought would take 10 years to get,” said Van Wieren. “Instead, it took me two years and two months, an accomplishment I hold dear to my heart.”

When she was asked what makes her situation unique, Van Wieren instead illustrated how she was a great example for the many people who may be in a situation similar to hers. “I think everyone has their stories and challenges they face when life gets in the way,” she says. “I’m showing others that if you put your mind to it, you can do it and get the job that you want.” She plans on obtaining a master’s degree next. 📖

Have you ever thought of going back to school for your graduate degree?

What about completing your bachelor’s degree?

American InterContinental University (AIU) Education Partners can help you reach your academic goals by partnering with your employer’s Human Resource Department. AIU has established a grant that enables its corporate Education Partners to assist eligible employees by covering some of the costs of a degree or degree-completion program at any one of our campuses: AIU Online, AIU Atlanta, AIU South Florida, AIU Houston and AIU London. In addition to receiving a grant, eligible employees also qualify for an application-fee waiver. If you think that you and your company would benefit from a partnership with AIU, please talk to your Human Resource Department, or contact Petya Ganchovska via e-mail at pganchovska@aiuniv.edu, or by calling 877-701-3800 ext.16342.

University grants or scholarships are based on established criteria as published in the university’s catalog and are awarded after verification that the conditions of eligibility have been met. Financial aid is available for those who qualify. See the 2010 AIU catalog for details.

LETTER FROM THE AIU CEO

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continue to affirm the mission of American InterContinental University. They are the reason why the faculty and staff remain resolutely focused on serving you, our students – the pure joy of accomplishment, sense of pride and hope for new beginnings.

As we move into 2010, I assure you, we will continue making investments to grow and to support our student and alumni populations. I extend to you all the very best wishes and thank you for choosing AIU. On behalf of our 2,000 faculty and staff, it is our privilege to be a part of your educational journey.

Best regards,



Stephen J. Tober, J.D.

AIU Chief Executive Officer
and President of AIU Online

Campus Chapter Locations

AIU Atlanta

6600 Peachtree-Dunwoody
Road
500 Embassy Row
Atlanta, GA 30328
Tel: 404-965-6500
Fax: 404-965-6501
Toll Free: 800-353-1744
www.atlanta.aiuniv.edu/

AIU Houston

9999 Richmond Avenue
Houston, TX 77042
Tel: 832-201-3600
Fax: 832-201-3637
Toll Free: 1-888-607-9888
www.houston.aiuniv.edu/

AIU South Florida

2250 N. Commerce Parkway
Weston, FL 33326
Tel: 954-446-6100
Fax: 954-660-4100
Toll Free: 1-888-603-4888
www.aiufl.edu/

AIU London

110 Marylebone High Street
London W1U 4RY
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7467 5600
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7467 5601
U.S. Toll Free: 1-888-567-5888
www.aiulondon.ac.uk/

AIU Online

5550 Prairie Stone Parkway,
Suite 400
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
Toll Free: 1-877-701-3800
ext 15060
Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-647-9403
www.aiuonline.edu/

Career Education Corporation
American InterContinental
University
Alumni Relations

AIU Senior Director of Career
Services and Alumni Affairs
Betsy Balachandran

CEC Alumni Relations
Manager
Lisa D. Wright

CEC Senior Director of
Alumni Relations
John J. Stachniak

Creative Director
Michelle Rosenfeld

Writer/Editor
Marcelyn M. Kropp

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CEC2349666 123-22877 01/2010

The American InterContinental
University alumni newsletter is
a publication of the AIU Alumni
Association and the Office
of Alumni Relations.
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American InterContinental
University Alumni Association
5550 Prairie Stone Parkway
Suite 400
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
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ext 15060
www.aiuniv.edu/alumni/

