

AIU[®] ink



New Alumni Programs

Networking Tips

Alumni Spotlight: Opening Doors to Opportunity

2016 Commencement Ceremonies

AIU Alumni
The Power of Partnership

American InterContinental University

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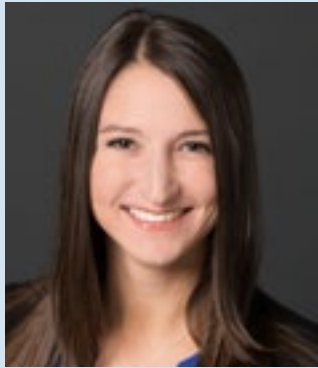
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Kristy Kotek

***Director of
Alumni Services***

Dear Alumni,

It's my pleasure to congratulate our 2016 graduates on their recent achievement and to welcome you all to the Alumni Association. Our AIU family just got a lot bigger!

As our community grew this year, so have the alumni offerings. The new programs are highlighted in this edition for you to check out. Whether you graduated this year or 10 years ago, there are a variety of opportunities for you to stay connected, get involved and share successes.

On countless occasions this year, I've also witnessed the genuine enthusiasm and commitment our alumni have towards AIU. I'm inspired by our prideful members and am humbled by your stories and post-graduation successes.

Strengthening the bond between the University and our alumni is a priority. If you have suggestions, feedback or would like to share your AIU story, please contact me at 847-851-5292 or kkotek@aiuonline.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Kristy Kotek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Kristy Kotek

Mentoring Program

Alumni have the opportunity to mentor new students and give them a lens into the AIU experience. The Alumni Mentor Program is all about the power of partnership. It brings together successful AIU graduates— like you— with new students in need of extra support and motivation.

How does the mentorship work?

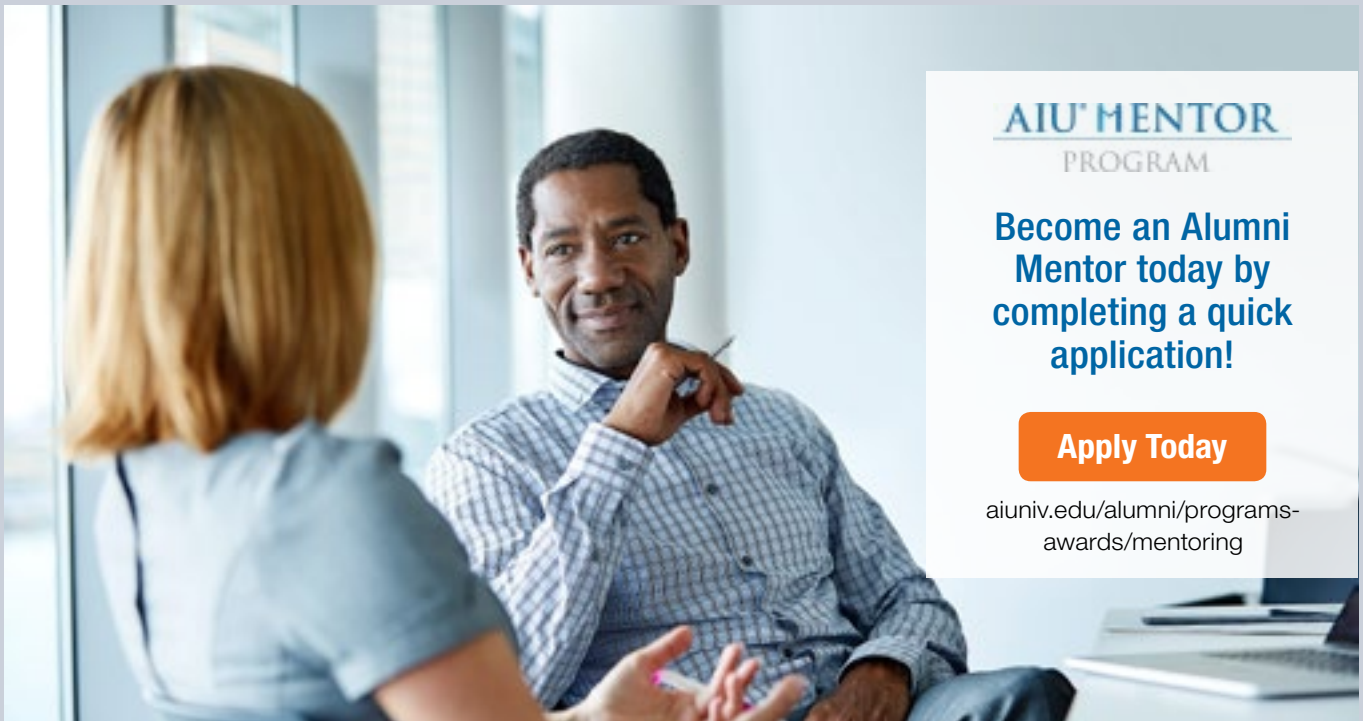
Mentors receive student assignments by email from Alumni Services and are asked to reach out to their mentees to establish a relationship and discuss the one-on-one mentorship goals. The mentorship is designed to last a minimum of three sessions and ongoing communication via email, phone or an online video platform are necessary to ensure the best experience for you and the student.

What do mentors share with students?

It's important to be open to sharing the hard-earned knowledge and insight that you've acquired because students want to learn from your success. Each mentorship will be a unique experience; discussing different topics, questions and goals. Often the mentor role will call on you to give a surge of motivation when a student is in need of encouragement.

What can mentors gain from the program?

Being a support line for students during their academic journey, can be a rewarding experience. Mentors have the opportunity to practice and fine-tune their active listening, coaching and motivational skills. Mentors will also connect with other mentors and Alumni Services to discuss best practices, which offers a chance to connect and network with other alumni. 🙌



AIU MENTOR PROGRAM

Become an Alumni Mentor today by completing a quick application!

Apply Today

aiuniv.edu/alumni/programs-awards/mentoring

Ambassador Program

Alumni Ambassadors have the opportunity to refer family, friends, co-workers and others in their community to AIU.

Your unique perspective as a graduate can inspire others to become a part of the AIU family! As you share your AIU experience offer insights about the university culture and talk about what you love most about AIU.

Alumni Ambassadors receive a personalized referral webpage to make referring easy. By sharing your link, prospective students can complete an online form to jump starts the process of potentially becoming an AIU student.

An Alumni Ambassador supports and inspires the educational dreams of others by sharing their personal testimony about their AIU experience and referring them to the University. 📖



Start referring by signing up to become an Alumni Ambassador.

aiuniv.edu/alumni/programs-awards/ambassador-program

Discounts and Savings Program



Everyone likes a good deal!

The Alumni Association recently upgraded its savings program to offer more discounts. Alumni can take advantage of the exclusive nationwide savings network available! Discounts feature big savings from popular restaurants, retailers, hotels, theme parks and so much more. Download a mobile app of the discount site for access to mobile coupons or easily print coupons online. 📖

Use registration code AIUAlumni#.

Sign up and start saving now at aiu.accessdevelopment.com

Networking Panel

In today's world, networking is a necessity and can lead to more opportunities and growth personally and professionally. As the saying goes, "It's not what you know, but who you know."

Brandy Hernandez

Sr. Career Services Coach at AIU



Say you walk into a networking event which happens to be flooded with industry professionals, professionals you would LOVE to connect with; however where to start when surrounded by strangers can be a difficult hurdle to overcome. Networking is all about establishing a connection with others, interacting with professionals in hopes to exchange information and further your career. So what is the one thing you happen to know most about? What is the one thing that people usually enjoy doing at events like these? They like talking about themselves! They enjoy discussing their successes and accomplishments and exchanging information. Using the notion of storytelling to help propel your networking abilities is a great way to establish meaningful connections and long lasting professional relationships that could possibly get you to where you want to be.

Here are some tips to help you network more authentically by the use of storytelling:

1. Be genuine: Show others you have a true interest in what they

have to say about themselves. People tend to share more and open up when others show a genuine interest in what they are saying. So fight off the nerves or the desire to connect with that CEO and just relax. Once you redirect your focus off of what you want to say and what you want to share, and put more focus on what others are telling you and their stories, you begin to establish more of a genuine connection.

2. Step away from the computer: Using social media for networking purposes is what most people do. It's quick, it's easy, however there are elements that get lost, your personality, your body language all shows others how genuinely interested you are. Face to face networking also is a great way to improve on your communication skills, helping to solidify those skills for the interview or when you start the job! So consider that job fair, that holiday party, attend a professional association's seminar or workshop. These are all great avenues to expand your contacts and build relationships.
3. Dig a little deeper: the opening line at networking events can be rough. "Tell me about yourself." "What do you do?" All of which typically can cause a person to pull out their rehearsed Elevator Pitch or canned

statement. People want to connect with other people. They want to establish professional relationships with individuals who have personalities, drive, and insight. Use an opener that allows others to present a story about their passion or why they decided to attend the networking event. Get them talking about themselves outside of the standard Q&A. This will allow you to get a glimpse into who they really are and will hopefully allow you to open up to others as well, giving them a glimpse of your professional self.

4. Still have an Elevator Pitch on hand: There is going to be a time when you will have to address what you do and focus on your skills/experience, but how you present that information can either make or break your networking attempt. Be prepared to talk about who you are as a professional, what unique skills/experience you use and who you serve (your client base).

Incorporating storytelling into your networking strategy is a great way to establish strong, long-lasting connections. Networking is known to help us expand ourselves professionally, but storytelling helps us connect as people. 🗣️

Joshua Waldman

Co-Founder and CEO at Writely, Founder of Career Enlightenment, Blogger, Writer, Speaker



Joshua Waldman—a top authority on social media job searching and author of *Job Searching with Social Media for Dummies*—recently spoke to students and alumni

in-person and virtually. Joshua shared his expertise on how to create a professionally written LinkedIn profile that makes a positive impression and helps you network! Joshua hits on three elements to make a powerful profile.

- Writing an attractive headline
- Creating a narrative summary
- Selecting the write photo



Check out Joshua's virtual presentation 3 Secret's to Using LinkedIn to get a Job!

breeze.careeredonline.com/p88d6fm1imt/

“The whole point of using social media is to accelerate the amount of time it takes for you to get in front somebody, a person. LinkedIn is very powerful to help you do that.”

– Joshua Waldman

Brian Bedford

AIU Alumni, Entrepreneur and owner of Network Job Training Services, LLC
<http://www.networkjobsllc.com/>



Why networking is an important part of job searching?”

Many people have success using networking as a tool to find new employment. Simply talking to others about the progress of your job search efforts, as well as your career goals, can benefit you in the short-run and the long-run.

Networking becomes a reality-check for job seekers with knowledge, skills and abilities. Professional people and industries fluctuate from time to time, making some workers' job qualifications outdated or obsolete. Networking with employed professionals and industry experts may help people get up to speed on their employability.

Some people desire technical skills in their industry. Some people shift to more efficient, automated equipment, machinery or software programs. Some job seekers don't realize that they have unrealistic salary expectations until after networking with existing employees and managers.

Searching for new opportunities may increase in difficulty when many hiring employers avoid advertising job vacancies. A large number of available jobs are advertised online and on company websites. Also recruiters and managers may rely on networking, as well as word-of-mouth and inside contacts, to find and attract potential job candidates. For Job seekers, networking may be important for turning up new and fresh job leads.

Job seekers can use downtime to network in professional groups and business associations. These organizations often give guidance on continuing education and career development for employees.

Companies generally appreciate workers who take the initiative to improve upon their talents and skills which could increase productivity in the workplace. Also hiring managers are impressed by job applicants who remain consummate professionals, even while being unemployed. These networking efforts follow you throughout your professional career.

Networking may also help avoid becoming discouraged during a protracted job search. Sometimes people need an understanding ear to vent about an unsuccessful job search or share in the excitement after finally landing new employment. Networking can also enhance your social life, as you find new venues to meet professionals, such as homeowner's associations, churches, community gatherings and even cocktail bars.

As a job seeker make sure you use your personal and professional social-networking websites as a job search tool for your next career goal in your life. 📌

Graduation Highlights

Atlanta Commencement Celebration



A private room at the Hard Rock Cafe was filled with excited graduates, their guests and university staff the evening before commencement. From posing for pictures on the red carpet at the entrance to sipping AIU blue mocktails and enjoying passed hors'dourves, it was hard not to feel like a celebrity for a moment. Meeting and taking photos with keynote speaker, Greg Gumbel, on the Hard Rock stage to memorialize the moment didn't disappoint either. He took time to have a conversation with each graduate before having a photo snapped! 📸

The Atlanta commencement this past June was one for the books. With 729 graduates registered to walk the stage at the Georgia World Congress Center and 397 registered to attend the other festivities, there are a number of highlights to share from the two day celebration with the alumni community.

The celebration began by honoring excellence on Thursday, June 23rd. Military and 4.0 graduates were recognized during an exclusive ceremony and brunch. Each graduate was called on stage and individually recognized for their accomplishment. Program Chair, Dr. Tanya MacNeil, presented honor medallions to academic achievers and Trent Orndorf, Military Relations Manager and veteran, proudly honored military graduates with their red, white and blue Americana Cord. The group of fine graduates received a standing ovation during the closing remarks, which was a special moment, and a great way to

kick of the commencement weekend.

In the afternoon, Joshua Waldman, Social Media Strategist, Owner of Career Enlightenment, and author of *Job Searching with Social Media for Dummies*, presented on how to create and leverage your LinkedIn profile. Joshua has visited universities around the country encouraging graduates to effectively market their brand through LinkedIn. We are glad he stopped at AIU to educate our graduates and share his advice.



Atlanta Commencement Day

Undergraduate candidates stepped into their regalia and arrived at the Georgia World Congress Center early Friday morning on June 24, while the Master's graduates participated in an afternoon ceremony. Both ceremonies shared the same level of energy celebrating our graduates' academic accomplishments.

The commencement address was delivered by Greg Gumbel, TV Announcer. Gumbel's standout work in the world of sports broadcasting has made his face, name, and voice as familiar as any in the industry. Throughout 40+ years in the business, Mr. Gumbel has become one of the most outstanding and best known announcers in sports television. During his speech, Mr. Gumbel stated "impossible is a dare," and challenged graduates to change the world.

Two inspirational student speakers took the stage to address their classmates. Nyeshia Carswell, AABA graduate spoke to the

Associate's and Bachelor's graduates. She shared a very personal story and encouraged everyone to pursue their dreams despite their challenges, "When people tell you "you can't" tell them "I can," and when they say "you won't," tell them that "you will!"

Kay Robinson, MBA graduate, also delivered a motivating message, "Today, we rejoice, we celebrate that our struggles were not without progress; the degree that was unattainable has been attained; and

that our perseverance has paid off. Whatever goals you've set for yourself continue your voyage and move forward." She received a thunderous applause from her fellow Master graduates before exiting the stage.

Our 2016 graduates dedicated time, put in the hard work, and made the sacrifices to achieve their goal. It was an honor celebrating their accomplishment and creating memories in Atlanta! 🎓



Houston Commencement

AIU's Houston campus kicked off their graduation celebration the Wednesday before commencement

with a reception at La Finca Mexican Restaurant. During the event, graduates were honored for

their hard-earned degree. High achieving faculty were also recognized.



Commencement followed on Friday, June 3rd at First United Methodist Church Houston-Westchase where 268 graduates were recognized. Tracey Wilen, thought leader, author and speaker on the impact of technology on society, work and presented the keynote address to graduates, their guests and the AIU administration. Graduate Maxanette Mendoza also delivered a compelling message to her peers before graduates were welcomed on stage to confer their degree. 🎓

Graduation Highlights

2016 Distinguished Alumnus Recipients

The Alumni Association grants the Distinguished Alumni Awards annually to prestigious graduates for their professional achievements and contributions to society. We were excited to honor two admirable alumni this year; one at each graduation commencement.

Atlanta Recipient

This year's Atlanta recipient of the Distinguished Alumni award graduated from the Bachelor of Business Administration program, specializing in Human Resource Management in 2010.

Michelamon'e Adger is a wife, mother, entrepreneur and role model. She became the first in her family to achieve a college degree, and inspired other family members who have since followed in her footsteps. She traveled from the Chicagoland area to Atlanta to be recognized at the commencement with her sister beside her.

Michelamon'e is the Founder of Chicago Style Magazine; a magazine she states is dedicated to placing "a direct spot light on beauty professionals in the Chicagoland and surrounding areas in an effort to place Chicago where it should be in the beauty industry."

Michelamon'e is also the Vice President and Co-Founder along with her husband, of the widely known R.E.E.C.H. project, which stands for Responsibility, Encouragement, Empowerment, Community and Honor. A non-profit

organization, the R.E.E.C.H. project gives back to the community through improving the quality of life in individuals and family unit through a variety of programs and services.

Her overarching goal is to give back through helping others. True to her giving nature, she gives credit to AIU for taking her career to new levels. AIU is honored to have Michelamon'e as a part of the AIU family and awards her as our AIU 2016 Distinguished Alumnus. 🙌



Houston Recipient

Dr. Princess Mokolo, founder and CEO of LUCINMA Women Development Center, is driven by a deep passion for human development and has dedicated her life to human and organizational capacity development projects. She is the author of the book: *Nonprofit Guide to Success in Securing Foundation Funding*. Years of hard work and dedication to the community along with her professional success and commitment to education make her an exemplary representative of the alumni community.

Dr. Mokolo earned an MBA from American InterContinental University Houston. She also holds a Master of Education degree from Houston Baptist University, May 2016. Not to mention, Dr. Mokolo also received a graduate certificate in HR Management from Cornell University and a Doctorate of Business Administration from Argosy University in Atlanta.

She has served as CEO of Prompt Enterprises, a commercial printing and publishing company since 1990. Dr. Mokolo also serves on the advisory board of several organizations including the Business Department of AIU Houston and the executive board of Care Hope College in Florida. Since 2012, she actively served the Houston community as a consultant to nonprofit organizations.

Dr. Mokolo is very passionate about working with women, youths, the unemployed and contributing to capacity development projects. Her lifelong dream is to provide free

and affordable capacity development opportunities to global communities of learners and to host her own T.V talk show. 📺



Have you made significant contribution to your community and experienced professional accomplishments as a result of your AIU degree?

Complete an application for the 2017 Distinguished Alumni.

[Learn More](#)

aiuniv.edu/alumni/programs-awards/alumni-award-nomination

Alumni Spotlight

Andrise Bass BSCJ, 2005 and MBA, 2006



“Education is the key. It’s a door that no one can open but you,” shared Andrise Bass when reflecting on her career accomplishments.

Her appreciation for education began when many take it for granted. Growing up in Haiti, Andrise was a child laborer with no rights to a proper education. But, in nearby rooms where others were allowed to study, she quietly hid under furniture sharing in a world she was not supposed to enter. She listened intently and taught herself to read and write. This is where her dream of obtaining a formal education began— where she opened her own door.

Schooling became available to Andrise when she was reunited with her family at nine years old. Teachers, who believed she had no exposure to education, were surprised that she surpassed her classmates. Motivated, she studied harder and has been endlessly driven to beat the status quo and the limitations put on her since. Subsequently, Andrise has dedicated her life to education and has taken everything she has

learned to make a difference in the world.

Now living in New York with her two children, Andrise operates two consulting businesses, is a Transformational Strategist Coach, and a well-respected community leader. Empowering and coaching others, especially young women, is her passion. While striving for social change, she has had the opportunity to collaborate with Hillary Clinton, former Secretary Madeleine Albright, and former Vice President Al Gore, to name a few. In 2008, she implemented the Lire Program, which strives to bring

“Education is the key. It’s a door that no one can open but you,”

literacy to children in Haiti. Since 2010, she has worked as a Business Strategist for women and girls at the United Nations. Among her efforts to improve societies, Andrise is writing a book which is due to be published in 2017 with all proceeds going to a Haitian school.

Andrise believes her journey towards greatness started with her formal education. “My passion started with the right foundation, the right teachers at AIU. Without my BSCJ and MBA degrees completed at AIU, I would not be able to pursue my higher education to have a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration, open my businesses and be able to work with some amazing people.”

Andrise recalled an AIU instructor pushing her to resubmit an assignment that didn’t reflect the

quality she was capable of. The encouragement she received to create better work motivated her to keep striving to be the best version of herself. “I didn’t feel like a number, I felt like a living breathing person,” Andrise remembered. For someone who came to American for the betterment of her life and education, her AIU experience left an imprint on her. “Being educated meant more than a million dollars. There is no price you can attach to a mind. That’s the reason I’m committed to educating others.”

Her children refer to her as an octopus for her ability to extend

herself in so many directions to help others. Professionally she is viewed as a social entrepreneur and education advocate. To all she is a courageous person with integrity and the compassion to serve others. Her mission is simple, to bring education to others so they can change their lives. That’s the world Andrise is working towards. 🍌

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Morris A. Matthew BBA, 2016



Morris Matthew was always successful in his jobs but he knew he had to take a leap of faith. He chose AIU to open doors because creating, crafting his own brand and becoming a writer were his ultimate goals.

Although taking courses fulltime at AIU, caring for his family, and working twelve hours as an Operator was a balancing act, he still found time to craft his dreams into reality. Now, Morris is the published author of the fictional novel, *The Saga of a Modern Day Lot*. This is one of his greatest accomplishments next to graduating with honors from AIU's Bachelor of Business Administration program and raising his three beautiful daughters.

When did your dream of becoming a writer begin?

My dreams of becoming a writer began almost as an omen. It seems as though I was climbing a descending ladder based off of poor decisions that I had previously made. I found myself asking God, why does this uphill climb have to feel so rigorous and punishing? Instantly, it came to me that I had a story to tell. Not just a short story, but an extensive story that included life lessons. I immediately grabbed a pen and pad and started writing. My writing intentions were to take life situations and put them on

steroids, in order to make it more interesting and to keep the attention of the readers. Once I started writing, I realized that there were so many other life lessons that could become exciting novel ideas, hence the reason of why I am now working on my second of which I pray will be many more novels to come.

What is your favorite story about your AIU experience?

I must say that my favoring story comes from a live chat in English Composition. We were working on effective essays with the focus on the introduction and thesis statement. The professor said that she wanted to read one of the introductions from one of the students. After she finished reading, she said that it was an excellent introduction. She also added that this student could probably sell this introduction today as a freelance writer. It was my paper, so yes that was my favorite story other than graduation.



When did you begin writing the book?

I actually starting writing the novel before attending AIU, but it was never consistent. I

thought that I would never finish with everything else I had going on in my life. After deciding to enroll in American InterContinental, it was my English Composition classes that compelled me to finish the novel that I had started, and now I cannot stop. Not only did my AIU classes educate me with more enhanced writing skills, the inspiring feedback from the staff was also a sign that I could really develop into becoming a good writer. My first novel, "The Saga of a Modern Day Lot," actually went

into the editing process two weeks after I completed my final two classes in March 2016.

How long did it take you to write the book?

I would say that it took approximately six years to finish my first novel, which included, four years of on and off writing, and two years of consistency. The most challenging part in writing, like everything else in life is balance. In order to successfully complete an extensive writing project, finding the time to write is a must, and has to be scheduled in order to block everything else out, and focus on your ideas.

What advice would you give to a fellow alumnus who aspires to become a writer?

My advice to my fellow AIU alums is that if you aspire to be a writer, is to remember that Rome was not built in a day. It takes time, but can be very rewarding. Know what you want to write about, know your target audience, and stay with it through the end. My best advice is to never stop thinking, never stop dreaming, and most of all never stop believing. Do not become complacent like that fisher on the pier that has been caching the same types of fish for all their lives. Grab a boat, and travel to the deeper waters, challenge yourself, and reap the benefits of a larger variety of fish never caught before.

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Alumni Spotlight

Inge D. Teal-King BBA, 2009 and MBA, 2016



Although a traditionalist at heart, Inge Teal-King found comfort attending online courses at AIU. This mother and self-branded “glam-mother” to her granddaughter was in between careers, managing military obligations and family matters during her education. Completing her BBA and MBA in Human Resource Management wouldn’t have been possible if she didn’t try coursework from the comforts of her home. Since making the leap, she feels blessed for taking the less conventional educational path. “AIU really helped me find that true balance,” Inge shares. “It taught me to become this unique individual, to manage time like no other.”

Every step wasn’t easy. The lows seemed endless in the beginning of her program. Many ‘naysayers’ called her crazy for putting so much on her plate when she needed encouragement. The doubt others conveyed impacted her self-esteem temporarily. “It brings tears to my eyes because I ‘almost’ believed them,” Inge admits. She also recognized that she needed to abandon negative self-talk and

believe in herself. Making time for school work required shifting priorities, which meant Inge had to step back from her social circle. She had to accept losing friends who didn’t understand her situation. “You have to come to terms with yourself when a commitment is made, you must follow through and never give up,” she says. Nothing was going to stop her from reaching her goals—not herself or others.

Her sacrifices paid off personally and professional. “I have this confidence of your modern day Kim Kardashian now. I’ve had interviews where the employer would call me back before I could

...AIU is the apple of my eye to have been that one college out of hundreds of on-line colleges for me to choose.

even make it home,” she gleams. Inge received so many career offers that she could be selective for the first time in her career. Making the decision to accept a new position as a Senior Specialist, Training & Development was one of the most exciting moments as a graduate.

“I had to have the correct number of years in experience and of course I had to have the proper education, AIU is the apple of my

eye to have been that one college out of hundreds of on-line colleges for me to choose. I am so glad I did because I feel great about my future and I am blessed.”

Using her hard earned knowledge professionally was another rewarding benefit. “My HR skills have kicked up to an all-time high and most of all, my communication skills whether written or verbally are where they need to be,” she shares.

Education transformed Inge in many positive ways. She is most proud to look into the eyes of her daughters and ‘glam-baby’ and be able to say with pride and tears of joy, “I made it, I have paved the way so that you all can see that it can be done,” she says. “Investing in myself through education has made me so glad, I am truly blessed!”

As she continues her journey of success, Inge’s next career aspiration is to become a Human Resources Manager. With her charisma, confidence and credentials, she is surely on her way. 🍷

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Sharing Stories

AIU Alumni Achievements

Your Stories. Your Success.



We are proud of our alumni.

Hearing about your AIU journey, career successes, initiatives, and achievements never gets tiresome. You've worked hard to accomplish what you set out to do, whether it's a large or small goal. We also know that there are obstacles and lessons learned between setting a goal and achieving it.

Sharing your story is one way that we can celebrate your amazing accomplishments with you and our community. Your story can also provide inspiration and motivation to others who are struggling to achieve a similar goal—whether it's educational, professional or personal. You can make a difference by contacting Alumni Services at alumni@aiuniv.edu to share your story. We will look for creative ways to share your story with the community! 📢

Are you an AIU alumnus and proud of your career success?

Alumni Services is excited that we now have a space for your career story!

Alumni Achievements is a place to exchange successes, network and empower AIU students who just began their journey. Submit your story, upload a photo and even include your LinkedIn URL.

Share, connect and inspire others by giving your story a home!

shareyouraiusuccess.hscampaigns.com/#submissions

AIU STORIES™

AIU recently shared three powerful stories. We celebrate Ramon, Lori and Amanda's journeys and accomplishments in a short video series, AIU Stories.



Ramon Romero

He's a first-generation American citizen and the first in his family to earn a college degree - and he finished it while serving a tour of duty in Iraq.



Lori Wilcox

She didn't let a cancer diagnosis, a divorce or the demands of her job stop her from achieving her goal of earning her degree.



Amanda Schmeichel

She left college to raise her kids and struggled to make ends meet as a single mom. Then, a friend recommended AIU.

Learn about these three unique AIU alumni who tackled their challenges and found success at aiustories.com. 📢



Join AIU®    

LinkedIn, YouTube, Twitter
and Facebook to build your valuable
AIU Alumni Association connections!

Contact: Alumni@aiuniv.edu
for more information.

AIU Alumni Association Mission

The mission of the AIU Alumni Association is to establish and strengthen a mutually beneficial relationship between AIU and its alumni, provide opportunities for the professional, social and intellectual growth of its members and enhance the stature of AIU by promoting its interests.

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