Letter from the Editor

Leap Year, Leprechauns, and a Little Bit of Fun
Jaimi Luckett

On the release of this newsletter, we will have just passed February 29, so I want to wish everyone a happy leap year and a happy birthday to all of you who only get to see your actual birthday pass every couple of years! For those who like a little trivia knowledge, you can read up on why we have leap years and how frequently it happens (not always every four years, to my surprise).

Coming just around the corner is St. Patrick’s Day, and having some Irish in my gene pool requires me to share some ideas of things you can do to celebrate the day. You can check out the "10 Best St. Patrick’s Day Festivals in the U.S." and st-patricks-day.com website with history, parades worldwide, and other event information. There are sure to be tons of activities in your area, so don’t limit your fun searching to these resources!

We hope you enjoy our March edition of the newsletter and as always, if you have any feedback, please don’t hesitate to tell us.

Featured Communities

- In Homeland Security
- Student Veteran’s of America
- Security & Intelligence
- AMU YouTube
- Visor Cards for Your Occupation
- Official AMU Google+ Page

You Can Also View All Our Social Communities and Groups

Milestones

Submit Your Milestone Today

Class of 2009
Kim Byers
(Bachelor’s in Homeland Security) was featured in Student...
We will be changing our release schedule moving forward, so our next edition will be coming out on May 3 this year. Please make note! As always, best of luck in your studies!

p.s. if you had just as much trouble with our stereogram puzzle as I did (I can never see anything in those kinds of puzzles!), here’s your access to the solution. Get excited, we sure are!

Health 101, a publication for Southernwestern Oregon Community College [...]  

Class of 2011  
Brenda Moore  
(Master’s in Emergency and Disaster Management with honors) has been selected as a Presidential Management Fellow [...] 

Faculty and Staff  
James Antal  
(Professor of Security Studies) was the guest speaker at the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Shanghai, China last month [...]
Class of 2012 Ring Sale Starts April 1

Show your university pride by ordering a class ring from Jostens Company. If you order from April 1 through April 30, 2012 you'll find discounted prices on all of our ring designs! Jostens offers a number of different class ring designs allowing you to design a ring that fits your unique personalities. You can choose to build your design from their online selections or they have additional options over the phone. Mark your calendar for this upcoming sale and when April arrives, visit their website or call 800-854-7464.

Contributed by April Airhart
New Student Organizations for Business Students and Collegiate Scholars

It is with much excitement that we welcome and introduce two new honor societies: the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Delta Mu Delta! The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) is a non-profit honors organization that recognizes and elevates high achievers within an associate program and those with less than 60 semester hours within their bachelor's program. Delta Mu Delta is an international business honor society that recognizes and encourages academic excellence of students within the School of Business.

**NSCS** provides career and graduate school connections, leadership and service experiences, access to discounts and savings, as well as $250,000 in scholarships annually. NSCS members are deeply committed to service, integrity, and scholarship and, as a result, are impacting their campus and local communities every day. Visit the NSCS chapter page on the Student Affairs Center for more information and eligibility requirements.

**Delta Mu Delta** strives to create a community of scholars through its lifetime membership. Visit the Delta Mu Delta chapter page on the Student Affairs Center for more information and eligibility requirements.

Interested in joining? The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Delta Mu Delta will host spring membership drives in March, inviting all eligible students to join.

Contributed by the Amanda Wilson

Return to Top
Our Career Services Might Give the Edge You Need

Sometimes the career outcomes connected to a given field of academic study may not be immediately self-evident, and even if they are, the path to achieving those career outcomes can sometimes be difficult to map out. The Office of Career Services has created a robust offering of programs and resources intended to help bridge the gap. In addition to offering a number of virtual tools, which you can use to chart your professional and educational goals, career services offers a range of new services, including a cadre of career coaches able to provide individualized guidance and assistance using the myriad career resources we have to offer.

A central theme running through our university’s mission is preparation. While providing an environment conducive to learning and academic exploration, our joint community of scholars and administrative staff are focused on providing direction and imparting knowledge intended to help you translate what you have learned in the classroom into personal and professional success.

From resume reviews to mock interviews, from virtual career fairs to a career website and blog, the Office of Career Services is focused on preparation: providing the tools and understanding necessary to convert your academic training into professional know-how. Many of the career services and resources we have to offer have been created for the express purpose of illuminating and demystifying the job application process, which, without professional insight, can sometimes be difficult to decode. Regardless of which services and resources you choose, the career services staff is dedicated to helping you prepare for life after you’ve crossed the commencement stage.

If you have career questions, or are interested in finding out what career resources, tools, and services we have to offer, contact careerservices@apus.edu or visit the career services page on the main website.

Contributed by the Ryan Harding

Return to Top
Become a University Advocate

Commitment to country, family, career, and higher education is what distinguishes our students and alumni from other universities. In an effort to highlight our most dedicated and passionate supporters, we are proud to launch the University Advocate Program. What is an advocate? An advocate is a student or graduate who proactively engages prospective students to share his or her experiences, accurately and enthusiastically promoting higher education and AMU, specifically.

The opportunity to share authentic experiences and personal stories further strengthens university relationships and is a guiding principle of our community of learners. If you’re interested in becoming a university advocate, visit www.AMUonline.com/advocate. You can submit a quote, testimonial, or story that describes how the university impacted your life as a student or graduate. You may even inspire someone else to take the next step in achieving their lifetime goal of higher education.

Contributed by Amanda Venkatesan
Reaffirmed National Accreditation with DETC

The Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC) met January 20, 2012 and voted to re-accredit APUS for the next five years. We have proved once again that at APUS, we prepare students for service and leadership by offering respected, affordable, online programs that meet high academic standards.

The DETC is a voluntary, non-governmental, educational organization that operates a nationally recognized accrediting association, the DETC Accrediting Commission. The DETC Accrediting Commission defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence in distance education institutions. The Commission is dedicated to fostering quality assurance, protection of the rights of the students and institutional self-improvement through voluntary accreditation via peer evaluation. DETC accreditation aims to instill public confidence in DETC institutions’ missions, goals, performances, and resources through rigorous application and peer-developed accreditation standards. For more information, please see their website at www.detc.org.

If you have any comments or questions regarding our regional (Higher Learning Commission) or national (DETC) accreditation, please feel free to send those to accreditation@apus.edu.

Congratulations!

Contributed by Lynn Wright

Return to Top
Give Back, Service Opportunities for All

In the spirit of service, we strive to find ways to give back to the community as often as possible. Recently students, alumni, and staff participated in a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and became judges and cyber guides for eCYBERMISSION. Currently, we need you to send a postcard to thank military personnel serving overseas and others deployed in support of disaster relief. We are always working to offer new ways to serve on both a physical and virtual level, but hope you’ll check out our recent and upcoming service opportunities.

Our Most Recent Service Opportunities
On December 10, 2011, university staff, students, and alumni joined thousands of other volunteers to lay over 10,000 wreaths across the graves of veterans in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA! One month later, we joined together to pick up those wreaths in the wreath pickup event also sponsored by Wreaths Across America. We appreciate all of you who were able to come out and mark this event that included over 500 volunteers from across the university!

In December and January, student and alumni began registering to be virtual judges and cyber guides for our partner, eCYBERMISSION. This organization coordinates a free, web-based science, technology, engineering, and mathematics competition for students in grades six through nine where teams can compete for state, regional, and national awards while working to solve problems in their community. We look forward to working with our volunteers on this initiative and hope you’ll read what past volunteers said about their experience—and perhaps consider joining the experience next year!

Send a Postcard to Those Who Serve
An opportunity we offer year round is the Thanking Those Who Serve initiative. Students, alumni, and university staff are encouraged to send a postcard to thank military personnel serving overseas and others deployed in support of disaster relief. Send your message to us today and we will send a handwritten note on the postcard of your choice!

If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact us at studentaffairs@apus.edu. You can also visit our website for more information on our current and past service initiatives.

Contributed by Tracee Figueiredo

Return to Top
Save the Date for Commencement 2012 at the National Harbor

The Office of Student and Alumni Affairs is excited to announce that the Class of 2012 Commencement will be on Friday, June 15, 2012 at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in the National Harbor at 201 Waterfront St., Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Located just across the Potomac River from downtown Washington, D.C., the Gaylord National Hotel is an easily accessible gateway to our nation’s capital! We have two ceremonies this year, so review the information for your ceremony carefully!

Master’s Degree Candidates
If you are graduating with your master’s degree in the August 15, 2011; November 15, 2011; February 15, 2012; or May 15, 2012 conferral, we hope you’ll join us at your commencement on Friday, June 15, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in the Potomac Ballroom of the Gaylord National Hotel.

Associate and Bachelor’s Degree Candidates
If you are graduating with your associate or bachelor’s degree in the August 15, 2011; November 15, 2011; February 15, 2012; or May 15, 2012 conferral, we hope you’ll join us at your commencement on Friday, June 15, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. in the Potomac Ballroom of the Gaylord National Hotel.

Networking Opportunity
The university is hosting a networking reception for the Class of 2012 graduates, deans, program directors, faculty, staff, and alumni on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cherry Blossom Ballroom of the Gaylord National Hotel. We hope you’ll take advantage of this opportunity to network! Additional information will be available in the coming months.

More information on your ceremony is available on the commencement website and a complete guide to commencement will be available on or before April 1, so check the site again for details. We hope you will join us at commencement as we celebrate all of the accomplishments of the Class of 2012. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact us at commencement@apus.edu. We look forward to seeing you in June!

Contributed by April Airhart

Return to Top
Alumni Shares Insight on Receiving Fulbright Fellowship

One of the most selective and prestigious programs funding overseas post-graduate study and research, the Fulbright application process is extremely competitive. Alumni Ryan Boudwin, however, received a coveted Fulbright fellowship to study in Poland this academic year. Ryan was recently interviewed and provided his insight on the Fulbright fellowship application process and his experience with the program thus far.

Could you provide a brief biographical sketch?
My wife Annika and I have been married for five years. We have two sons, Paul (almost 4) and Martin, who is two weeks old. I am a former correctional and police officer. More recently I was a network administrator at a software company. My B.A. is in international relations, and I am getting a M.A. in the same field here in Poland. I hope to find work as a political analyst in government or at a think tank somewhere, helping to make sense of the chaos of international politics.

What ultimately drove you to apply for a Fulbright fellowship? Did you find a particular part of the application process challenging?
I've always been interested in study abroad, but because of my work and family obligations it had never worked out before. A Fulbright was a chance to make it finally happen.

Getting everything in on time was the most challenging. I learned about the program about a week before the application deadline. Normally you want to start the process about six weeks ahead of time, and it was a little hectic getting all of my recommendations in on time. The APUS staff, faculty, and the staff at the University of Warsaw were all extremely helpful and made it possible to make the deadline on extremely short notice.

What propelled you to study in Poland? Is there something unique about Poland, geopolitically or in terms of its recent political or cultural history, which drove you to study there?
I wrote a paper for my capstone seminar at APUS about President Obama's reversal of Bush's missile defense plan for Poland. The more I learned about it, the more interesting it seemed as a country. Poland is a former communist country, now a free democracy, a member of NATO and the EU, and has a growing economy. Poland was the only country in all of the EU to maintain positive economic growth through the recent global recession, and is an example of a successful democratic transition to the rest of the world. I wanted to learn why they have been more successful than the other former Soviet satellites.

Briefly describe how you have used Fulbright.
Having a Fulbright fellowship has made it possible for a non-traditional student like me to focus exclusively on my education for the first time since high school. It is paying for my tuition, relocation, and living expenses for both me and my family. I would never have been able to afford to move to Europe to pursue a master's without this fellowship.

Have you encountered any challenges living overseas?
The language has been a barrier. All my coursework here is in English, but I have to speak Polish for almost everything else. Polish is my fourth language I am learning (I speak Spanish and Portuguese already), so I wasn't intimidated at the thought of learning another language. However, Polish has been far more difficult than any of the other languages I know and my progress has been slower than I would like.
Having a child born in a foreign country was also a little intimidating. Luckily for us, we were able to find a private hospital with English speaking staff. That made it a much less stressful experience.

Is there a common thread, in terms of your area of focus or the coursework you are completing, connecting your graduate and undergraduate studies?
I have found that the IR coursework I did at APUS gave me a strong foundation to build on. I feel like I was very well prepared for graduate school. I recently wrote a regime analysis of Poland, covering its political structures, economic and foreign policy concerns, and my take on its future. Writing it answered a lot of the questions I had from writing my senior capstone paper on missile defense in Poland.

What do you hope to gain from this experience?
I hope to master the Polish language and really come away with a good understanding of Slavic culture. Living abroad really opens your eyes. You start to realize that people in other parts of the world see things very differently, and that a lot of your own assumptions about the world come from your own cultural background.

What advice do you have for students or recent graduates who may be interested in Fulbright? About what, if anything, would you caution students who may be interested in applying to Fulbright?
Make sure that you keep your grades as high as you can, and that you can get strong recommendations from your professors or other people who know you well. Start gathering the paperwork as far in advance as possible, and have a professor or adviser look over your grant proposal so you can use their feedback to make it stronger.

In one word, describe your experience as a Fulbright recipient.
Understanding. My master’s program has people from all over the world, and I have loved hearing all their different perspectives. I feel like I can understand the world much better from knowing them. Hearing about the NATO interventions in the Balkans from a Serbian, provides a very different perspective, for example.

If you are interested in learning more about the Fulbright grant and how you might have an experience like Ryan’s, view the Fulbright website. If you have additional questions, you can also contact the university’s Fulbright program advisor, Dr. Patricia Campbell.

Contributed by Ryan Harding
Google+ in the Classroom

Google Inc. launched the highly anticipated Google+ social network in June 2011. Since then, more than 90 million people have signed on with Google+, allowing them to share messages, photos, links, and videos with friends, family, and acquaintances. How can this functionality be utilized in higher education? Check out this informative article from The Chronicle of Higher Education about some professors who are considering Google+ as a tool to enhance learning.

Google+ is similar to Facebook. The site's look and feel is comparable on both platforms, as is the way in which information is shared. Key differences that Google+ introduced are its Circles, Hangouts, and Sparks services. Users have the luxury of sharing information only with a circle of friends that they select. Google+ almost forces users to be more organized with their network—smart!

Just think—professors and students can host discussions and collaborate through file and image sharing in Google+ simply by having a circle established for each course they teach. Professors can use Google+ to offer online, "face-to-face" office hours. They can also facilitate exam review sessions by setting up a hangout and using the video chat feature.

[Check out our podcast: Google+ in the Classroom]

What do you think about using Google+ for the university—would you use it? Weigh in now by visiting our American Military University Google+ pages!

Contributed by Nicole Rodriguez

Return to Top

University News Articles

Class of 2012 Ring Sale Starts April 1

New Student Organizations for Business Students and Collegiate Scholars

Our Career Services Might Give the Edge You Need

Become a University Advocate

Reaffirmed National Accreditation with DETC

Give Back, Service Opportunities for All

Save the Date for Commencement 2012 at the National Harbor

Alumni Shares Insight on Receiving Fulbright Fellowship

Google+ in the Classroom

Archives

- December 2011
- September 2011
- June 2011
- March 2011
- December 2010
- September 2010
Student Spotlight on Chris Sturdevant: Running in a World Masters Championship

In almost a month from today, AMU graduate European History student Chris Sturdevant’s plane will land in Europe. Chris’ trip abroad will culminate in Jyväskylä, Finland, where he will exchange his walking shoes for track spikes, and be one of a number of athletes jockeying to place in the 1500m and 800m races in his age category. Chris’ itinerary for the days leading up to the World Masters Championship reads almost autobiographically, providing a window into some of the major forces driving Chris’ life, with running as the thing that set his life in motion.

As a rebellious high school student, writes Chris, “Running provided a passion and purpose in [my] life and opened many doors.” After a spectacular two-year high school career running track and then cross country—qualifying twice for Wisconsin’s State Cross Country Championships—Chris, once a seeming outsider with an openly defiant appearance, donning long-hair and listening to speed metal, found himself attending Carroll University, where he was recruited to run NCAA cross country and track, and studied physics and history.

While at Carroll, Chris ran the 8000m in cross country and “every distance race from the 400m on up,” he reminisces. As a collegiate athlete Chris achieved a personal record in the 800m of 2:02 and 4:08 1500m, each of which times bear some significance today, says Chris, as he hopes to surpass the USA Masters Track All-American Times for the 1500m and 800m, which are 4:24 and 2:06 respectively.

After a successful running career in college and service in the Air Force, Chris soon began a 12 year career as a librarian with Waukesha Public Library, the last seven of which he has spent as a children’s librarian. Driving Chris is the knowledge that “literacy is the foundation for civilization” and an evident passion for helping children to develop a positive relationship with books.

“So what will Chris be doing in Europe? In addition to leading a story time for Finnish school children, Chris will be speaking to a Rotary group, meeting with “Cold War preservationists in St. Petersburg, Russia,” and, of course, running.

Behind individual success often lays a number of sources of inspiration. Chris draws his inspiration from his wife, who three years ago was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, his three children, and his running coach (pictured on the right). Although the latter unfortunately passed before Chris could share news with him about the race, Chris can hear him imparting his trademark words of wisdom in response to the news, saying with that type of gruff affection for which distance coaches are seemingly renowned, “Sturdevant, you’re still ugly,” or “distance runners should be able to burp and fart on command.”

Good luck Chris! For additional information, see a recent WaukeshaPatch article highlighting Chris.
Alumni Spotlight on Veteran Alex Galicia: Finding Success in Civilian Life

If you are looking for a beacon of success and model of hope for all disabled veterans to follow, look to Alex Galicia. Alex, a 2010 AMU master’s in transportation and logistics management graduate, is a veteran of both the United States Army as well as the United States Navy, serving on active duty from 1985 to 1988 and as a Reservist since 1997. While serving as convoy commander in the California Army National Guard, he led high-speed trucks across Iraq’s treacherous deserts delivering food, supplies, and weapons to U.S. troops.

In 2004, when climbing out and onto a moving vehicle to count his convoy, he lost his balance and severely injured his shoulder, tearing ligaments. Even though this is the most visible wound he sustained during his duties there were others: Alex also developed respiratory issues from breathing the dusty desert air, and his mind was besieged with the sounds of shots being fired at his convoy.

After 15 grueling months in Iraq, a tattered Alex returned stateside and attempted to integrate back into civilian life. In 2005, Alex gained ownership of the family’s 29 year old plumbing business, BPI Plumbing. With the help of a local Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Alex worked through BPI’s management issues, prepared an application for a small business loan, and received his funding in 2007.

Not long after this triumph, Alex, with the help of the SBDC, applied to the EBV Entrepreneurship Bootcamp of Veterans with Disabilities through UCLA and Syracuse University. Due to his business success, recommendations, and his years of leadership in the National Guard, Alex was accepted into this prestigious program. The EBV Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities program was created to help the 50,000-plus military personnel disabled in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11 achieve civilian life success through small business ownership.

The nine-day boot camp brings together world-class faculty, disability experts, and successful entrepreneurs to help veterans learn the tools they need to launch their businesses. This is followed up by a year of mentorship aimed at helping them realize their entrepreneurial dreams. With the tools he has learned from his continued education, combined with his history of military leadership, and entrepreneurial mentorship Alex has led BPI Plumbing to 10% yearly profit increases propelling company revenue to increase from $185,000 annual in 2006 to $1.1 million in 2011!

Now Alex is giving back, helping disabled veterans just like him. After hearing of his astonishing business success the Mayor of Alex’s town, Chula Vista, CA, appointed Alex as a veteran’s commissioner giving him the ability to politically advocate for the 1 in 5 residents who are current or former military. He also serves on the board of The Elite Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Network (SDVOBN) which is a national 501(c)19 business organization dedicated to the advancement of service disabled veteran owned businesses.

Are you a veteran and a student at AMU? Consider joining the Student Veterans of America group today to network and find helpful resources. Looking for mentoring in your discipline, career, or interest? AMU has a wonderful mentoring program called the Global Mentor Network, email mentor@apus.edu for more information.

Faculty Spotlight on Tim Hardiman: Technical Advisor for "Law and Order: SVU"

Criminal justice professor Tim Hardiman took the NYPD Academy test as a “fall back” position, as his enlistment with the Marine Corps was ending. At the time, he had not really considered a career in law enforcement, but before the end of his service obligation with the Marines, Hardiman received a call from the NYPD notifying him of his acceptance to the
Police Academy. The Marines released Hardiman early to accept the job, and he entered the Police Academy six days after being discharged—he didn’t even need a haircut.

During his career with the NYPD, Hardiman served as a Lieutenant and was the commanding officer of the Brooklyn Special Victims Squad. His team worked closely with the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office’s Special Victims Bureau. A therapist from this office wrote for “Law & Order: SVU”. From time to time she would call Hardiman to ask technical questions, and then she began referring some of her fellow writers to him for technical advice. One day, Hardiman received an invitation from Dick Wolf and the show writers to fly to Los Angeles as the keynote speaker for their “writers retreat.” During this retreat, Hardiman shared information about his experience, proper procedures, and standard protocols.

Shortly thereafter, the show offered Hardiman a position as their part-time technical advisor which he promptly accepted. Since 2004, Hardiman has been working with the writers and often helps with dialogue and procedure. Hardiman advises the writers on a variety of topics from how dialogue should be phrased to what charges would result if certain crimes were committed. Once or twice a season Hardiman will go to the set and help set up a scene with the proper positioning for a tactical situation or provide actors with training on how to handle certain weapons and ways in which to detain suspects.

When asked about the differences between the television of law enforcement and real life situations, Hardiman says, “Most police TV shows don’t depict rookies walking foot posts and the less glamorous aspects of the job. Keep in mind that most of the detectives you see on ‘Law & Order’ or ‘CSI’ presumably started out that way and worked their way up. Sometimes that is alluded to in the back story and sometimes not, but that is the way it works. Everyone has to be willing to pay their dues. While they are learning the job on the streets they can make themselves more competitive. First they should do a good job, develop good skills, and earn a good reputation. Next enhance their knowledge of the area they are interested in through training and education.”

It’s apparent that Hardiman really enjoys his work with SVU. “I always find it fascinating to go to the set and watch a production in progress. I was on the set a couple of weeks ago for ‘Father’s Shadow’. They had transformed the set into an apartment and its hallway. The level of detail was amazing; even included a bicycle chained to the pipe outside and discarded newspapers tied for recycling. Some of the action wasn’t 100% accurate, but I know that we are creating entertainment not a documentary.”

Contributed by Grace Williamson

Return to Top
Milestones

Every edition we invite students, alumni, faculty and staff to share their most recent milestones with us, so that we may share their news with you! We hope that you celebrate with them in these moments, as much as we have. If you would like us to celebrate a milestone in your life, please use our online form and submit your milestone today.

Class of 2007

Douglas "Bo" Hewitt (Master's in Military Studies) was featured on page 16 in an edition of East Texas Outdoors Magazine, about his life journey toward opening a new gunsmith shop, Hewitt Custom Gunsmithing, in March 2011.

Dan Hawkins (Master's in Sports Management) was hired in October 2011 as public affairs specialist at Sheppard AFB, Texas Public Affairs Office. He has written stories and video features, is currently broadcasting high school and college football and basketball locally for Time Warner Cable, and doing radio work on 100.9 BOB FM for Midwestern State University (Mustangs; NCAA Division II) men's and women's basketball programming.

Class of 2008

Issac McBeth (Bachelor's in Legal Studies with honors) graduated summa cum laude from law school in May 2011, and later passed the Virginia Bar Exam in October 2011. His first novel, "Alexander Wisbal and the Hall of Heroes" (published by Tate Publishing), is now available for purchase.

Lawrence "Mac" McKeough (Master's in Public Administration with honors) and his wife Maureen celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, in Joplin, MO, just prior to the May 22 EF-5 tornado. Their house, "pretty much took a direct hit, but everyone was okay." It is currently being rebuilt.

Class of 2009

Kim Byers (Bachelor's in Homeland Security and current Master's in Homeland Security student) was featured in Student Health 101, a publication for Southernwestern Oregon Community College, discussing the challenges of obtaining education while deployed.

Marcelle Penn Mathis (Master's in Public Health) received an Army Achievement Medal for performing as the family readiness liaison officer for the Annual Army Reserves Family Holiday Luncheon in December 2011, completed online certification courses to teach business management at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in November 2011, and participated in a humanitarian mission to Haiti building houses, August-September 2011.

Shannon Myers (Associate in General Studies) has been selected for the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program.

Jennifer Lapriore Quiroga (Bachelor's in Child Development) recently graduated from Grand Canyon University with a Master's in Special Education. She finished her coursework with an amazing 3.95GPA.
Class of 2010

Art Ceballos (Bachelor’s in Intelligence Studies) has been accepted into Penn State’s homeland security program.

Joseph Gentile (Master’s in Intelligence Studies) is engaged and plans to marry on August 25 in Sacramento, CA. View his announcement in the Pittston Dispatch.

Greta Hyland (Bachelor’s in Environmental Studies and current Master’s in Environmental Policy and Management student) participated in a panel “Rewards and Challenges of Online Wildlife Degree Programs,” at the 18th Annual Wildlife Society Conference in Waikoloa, Hawaii.

Dennis Justice (Bachelor’s in Sports and Health Sciences) wrote and published an article for the Bleacher Report entitled “USSF Needs Its Own Title IX to Save Women’s Professional Soccer.”

Benjamin Miller (Bachelor’s in Business Administration and current Master’s in Sports Administration student) was hired by the Department of Commerce (NOAA) for Weather Satellite tracking after graduating from AMU. While he enjoyed his career he wanted to “venture off and do something” specific to his business degree. Recently he was hired by the largest oil and gas technology company in the United States. He proudly proclaims, “I love my new career and would like to thank AMU for making it possible. I have already been promoted after only 6 months and continue to pursue higher positions within the company.”

Marc Sordelet (Master’s in Business Administration) is currently on his second tour of duty in Southwest Asia, and has been selected for promotion to captain in the United States Air Force. He will pin May 28, 2012.

Class of 2011

Otis Cole (Bachelor’s in Management) is celebrating overcoming life hurdles. He is the first in his family to graduate from college even though he left high school at 10th grade to join the United States Army with the aims of helping his mother, a single parent. He later gained his GED and now has obtained his bachelor’s. Otis exclaims, “Thank the Lord above because he helps those who help themselves!!”

Stephen Gee (Bachelor’s in Homeland Security) recently discovered from his Navy recruiter that the United States Navy SEALs have offered him a contract to become a Navy SEAL. He says, “I hope that my education, which I received from AMU, will allow me to help defend my country. Thank you.”

Mathew Mortimer (Master’s in History with honors) has been teaching math and social studies at Riverside Gateway to College (RGTC) for the last six years. RGTC is a charter early college high school. Though he expects to remain in secondary education, Mathew plans to seek a position at the local community college that RGTC is connected to due to his new advanced degree.

Brenda Moore (Master’s in Emergency and Disaster Management with honors) has been selected as a Presidential Management Fellow. This fellowship provides the opportunity to work as a paid management intern for a federal agency for two years. Afterwards the agency will offer her a full time management position. Brenda is hoping she will be placed with FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, or the CDC.

David Salinas (Master’s in Sports Management) won his 500th baseball game as coach at Falfurrias High School in Texas, April 1, 2011. This accomplishment was particularly meaningful since the school is also his alma mater. He has been coaching at Falfurrias High School since 1989 and has led the team to the title of State Champions in 1991, and State Runner-up 1993 and 2006.

Roger Singh (Master’s in History with honors) is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in
Public Policy and Administration at Walden University. In October 2011, Roger traveled with the Witness for Peace delegation to Oaxaca, Mexico to study NAFTA and immigration issues. He later presented the delegation’s findings at various venues including the Farmingville, NY Residents Association, which is, “basically ground zero of anti-immigration reform measures.”

**Robert Stroud (Master’s in Security Management)** with honors) was promoted to chief of police at the PCMH Police Department August 3, 2011. In addition to police/security services, he is now responsible for employee parking and guest parking services. Robert says, “My education through AMU has been extremely helpful in this environment, and it played a factor in helping me obtain this new position.”

**Leonard Vernon (Master’s in History)** has had his thesis accepted for publication as a book by The History Press. Leonard’s book, “The Life & Times of Jersey City Mayor Frank Hague” can be purchased through amazon.com. Leonard says, “It is only through the efforts of my thesis advisor who encouraged me to edit the thesis and submit it for publication that this has become a reality.”

**Tony Wood (Master’s in Environmental Policy and Management)** is director of the National Spill Control School and a professor at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi, Texas. He assumed these positions just after the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Since that time he has given several presentations about the ramifications of the spill, which can be viewed on YouTube, as well as at natcom.org. Tony is also involved as a mentor in the Global Mentor Network. If you would like to learn more about the universities unique mentoring program, please email mentor@apus.edu or visit the mentoring website.

### Class of 2012

**Gregory Burnham (Master’s in Homeland Security)** was recently promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade with the U.S. Navy Reserve on November 1, 2011 after 22 years of service. Gregory has been attached to Special Operations Command, Central at MacDill Air Force Base, in Tampa, Florida since 2004. He is a full time Deputy Sheriff with the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office and works as a private security professional.

**James Studdard (Master’s in Humanities)** is a 68-year-old attorney in Georgia who is celebrating the change toward a more genteel lifestyle. After 40 years of defending clients for criminal offenses, James chose to enroll in AMU to obtain his Master’s. The recent graduate “could not be more pleased or fulfilled. The instruction has been superb as well as student support. I will sorely miss the school as I move on. Thanks AMU for a great experience.”

### Current Students

**Kerri Compton** (Bachelor’s in Information Technology) celebrated 20 years of employment at Betty Ford Center in December 2011. She says, “I am currently their Website & Social Media Administrator and I love my job!”

**Michael G. Petranick (Master’s in Military Studies)** recently published the book, “Peace Was His Profession: A Story of Sacrifice and the Strategic Air Command”, which "tells the story of Col. Albert G. Petranick from his tough upbringing in Johnson City, New York, to the halls of Notre Dame and a lost future on the football field, through to the skies over Vietnam flying a B-52." Michael’s book is now available for purchase through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

**Rebecca Hoog** (Master’s in Emergency and Disaster Management) published an article for Disaster Recovery Journal entitled, "Public and Private Sector Relationships in Emergency Management.” Rebecca would “like to thank Dr. Tom [Phelan] for suggesting that I submit my paper. I’m really happy that I had the opportunity and it has definitely encouraged me in my writing.”

**Samuel Pruitt** (Bachelor’s in Criminal Justice) has been promoted to assistant chief of detectives with his department after serving 20-years as a
police officer. He and his wife are also celebrating becoming proud adoptive parents of their 7 and 11-year-old foster daughters. He exclaims, "They are truly a joy in our lives!"

**Daniel Shinn (Bachelor’s in Emergency and Disaster Management)** will be riding in the Tour de Cure for the American Diabetes Association in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 14, 2012. For Daniel, a newly diagnosed diabetic, "this is an event that has very personal meaning along with it being an important fundraiser for the ADA and the nearly 26 million Americans with the disease." Go to his link for more information on diabetes and how you can help.

**Catherine Mayhew (Bachelor’s in History)** recently celebrated her 25th birthday in December and her son Parker’s 3rd birthday in November. Happy Birthday from everyone at AMU!

**Irma Boyd (Bachelor’s in Homeland Security)** is celebrating several remarkable things over the past few months! In the fall of 2011 she became a U.S. citizen. Early in 2012, she celebrated a ninth wedding anniversary to her husband, Kevin, who has 20 years of service in the United States Army and is a Purple Heart recipient. They were recently invited to a New Jersey Devil hockey game where Kevin was presented the American Patriot Goalie Stick Award by The American Patriot Program (TAPPS). While at the game, American Airlines, surprised them with a trip to the Bahamas for a long awaited honeymoon. Irma is also celebrating the completion of her first year at AMU.

**Adam Furman (Bachelor’s in Sports and Health Sciences)** recently published an article "Athletic Use and Abuse of Ergogenic Aids" on LiftForLife.com. In the article he defines and explains the workings, benefits, and risks of steroids, growth hormone, insulin like growth factor, amphetamines, and creatine.

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**Faculty and Staff**

**Katherine Anderson (Student and Alumni Affairs Liaison)** was engaged to Joseph R. Furtek on January 7, 2012 outside the National Gallery of Art, in Washington D.C., the site of their first date. The couple plans a May 2013 wedding in Richmond, VA.

**James Antal (Professor of Security Studies)** was the guest speaker at the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Shanghai, China last month where he spoke about Marine security guards actions in Sierra Leone during the 1997 coup d’etat. James is currently based in Shanghai and works as the regional security manager for GM International Operations.

**Loni Bramson (Professor of History)** published several articles: "Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)," "Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation," "Incest," "Movement to Abolish Prostitution and Pornography (MAPP)," "Pornography and Children," "Prostitution," "Sexual Abuse," and "White Slavery," in "Slavery in the Modern World" (ed. Junius P. Rodriguez, Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011). She has also received three grants over the past year: Faculty Tool-Up, a one year training grant in new technologies that can enhance online instruction; Open Course Library Grant, to design an open content world civilization course; and an online faculty mentoring grant.

**Christy Franklin (Professor of Science)** and adjunct faculty member in the chemistry department at the University of Nebraska recently spoke at the Goodrich Scholarship Program at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

**Martin Scott Catino (Professor of History and Military Studies)** spoke at VMI about his counterinsurgency experience in Musahi Valley, Afghanistan. He was invited by Dr. Geoffrey Jensen, John C. Biggs ’30 Cincinnati Chair in Military History at VMI. During the event, students asked informed questions that indicated not only their interest in the subject, but also possible scenarios that they may encounter as future military leaders.

**Valerie Colston (Professor of Anthropology)** published the book, "Teens Go Green!"
Tips, Techniques, Tools, and Themes for Young Adults” which is an approachable reference book for librarians or high school teachers looking for low-cost, environmentally themed art projects and programs that teens will relate to and find fun. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.

Everett Corum (Program Director Humanities, Religion, and Philosophy) presented at the National Communication Association’s 97th Annual Conference on Educating the Adult Learner in New Orleans, LA. The conference theme was “Voice,” and Dr. Corum’s panel “sought to illuminate ways to help adult learners to find their Voice in the Communication classroom, as well as across the curriculum in the institution at large.” His contribution dealt specifically with online students and “how we encourage them to communicate vocally in clear and precise language and how we use curriculum mapping techniques to verify that our students are learning what we intend for them to learn in our classes.”

Mary Dereshiwsky (Professor of Business) co-published “Assessing the Comparative Effectiveness of Teaching Undergraduate Intermediate Accounting in the Online Classroom Format” for the Journal of College Teaching and Learning. She also presented “Strategies for Effectively Mentoring Prospective Online Faculty” and “How Mentoring Online Faculty Helps You as the Mentor” at the Peer Mentoring Online Conference sponsored by the Learning Resources Network (LERN).

Lawrence Dietz (Professor of Intelligence Studies) wrote an article, “A Guide to Teaching Signals Intelligence,” which appeared in the Journal of U.S. Intelligence Studies, published by the Association of Former Intelligence Officers (AFIO).

O.N. (Onwuatuegwu) Echezona (Professor of Transportation Management) published an article “Ebja—America’s Secret Love Child—An Exploratory Study” in the International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research.

Brian Freeland (Program Director of Sports and Health Sciences) and Jay Richardson (Manager of Strategic Partnerships) were featured in the article, “More Coaches, Athletic Directors and Trainers Are Continuing Their Education Online” in the December edition of Coach and Athletic Director magazine. Jay was also interviewed for an article in Referee Magazine.

Angela Gibson (Instructional Strategist) recently co-wrote and published: “An Inquiry Into Relationships Between Demographic Factors and Teaching, Social, and Cognitive Presence,” in Online Learning and the New University, 1(1). She will present this work in April at the American Education Research Association meeting in Vancouver, BC. Angela also co-wrote “The Impact of Frequency on Achievement in Online Courses: A Study from a South Texas University” in the Journal of Interactive Online Learning, 10(3). She also has been selected as a participant in three NASA “Tweetups,” the most recent of which, was the NASA Mars Curiosity and Mars Science Laboratory Tweetup, at the Kennedy Space Center, FL, in November 2011.

Steven Greer (Professor of Terrorism and Security Studies) recently traveled to Ft. Stewart, GA to brief soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division. During his presentation to more than 100 Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers of the 4th Infantry Brigade, he discussed the importance of the strategic interrogation mission. Steven was also the keynote speaker at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center's Veteran's Day ceremony. More than 200 veterans and family members were present to hear his presentation in honor of America's fighting soldiers.

Anders Kinney (Professor of History) reviewed the textbook, "Voyages In World History", was interviewed for Sidlow and Henschen's "GOVT4" an upcoming government text book, and chaired the panel "Incorporating IT in Political Science Session: Teaching Political Science," at the Southern Political Science Association Conference in New Orleans, LA.

Kara Martinez (Professor of International Relations) served on an academic panel to discuss the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement at the Center on Rights Development at the University of Denver's Joseph Korbel School of International Studies on January 30.
Lisa Miller (Professor of Management and Sports Management) is the new editor of newly-redesigned Global Sport Management News.

Rob Mitchell (Solutions Designer) with Angela Gibson presented “The Online Military Learner: A Study of the Relationship between the Community of Inquiry Framework & Military Students” at the Southwest Educational Research Association conference in New Orleans, LA in February.

Mary Olea (Professor of Arts and Humanities, Lead Instructor of Russian Literature) has been elected to a four-year term on the Portsmouth, New Hampshire School Board. Dr. Olea is a W. K. Kellogg Fellow and a three time Fulbright recipient. She is currently planning research on Russian architecture and war memorials and will be traveling to Sevastopol, Ukraine to gain insight into Tolstoy’s Sevastopol stories.

Marissa Smith (Senior Online Librarian) was highlighted in the Springshare website for her work, along with the Librarian Team and their innovative application of Library Course Guides and the Semantic Reference Engine, Libanswers.

Bill Speer (Professor of History and Military History) was the guest of honor at the Freedom Battalion Military Ball, held at the Springfield Country Club, on November 18. The event was attended by over 100 ROTC cadets and guests.

Kennard B. Sproul (Professor of Science) wrote a guest commentary for the newspaper Brazil Times discussing the joys of volunteering. He “wrote the article hoping to somehow plant seeds and encouraging more and more of us to help others.” Dr. Sproul has a long history of practicing as a volunteer physician in places like Ethiopia, Swaziland (far southern Africa), Haiti, Guatemala, and Ecuador. He also volunteers stateside through Kid’s Hope USA, Habitat for Humanity, and various other organizations.

Jennifer Staley (Director, Instructional Design) with Angela Gibson presented “Cross-Institutional Online Course Development and Design Project: A Model for Design, Data, & Collaboration” at the 17th Annual Sloan-C Conference in Orlando, FL.

Kathleen Tate (Program Director, Teaching) recently published an article “Integrating Humane Education into Teacher Education: Meeting Our Social and Civic Responsibilities” in Teacher Education and Practice, 24(3), and was consequently interviewed for Institute of Humane Education’s newsletter for her efforts to integrate humane education into teacher trainings.
Join Us on the Quad!

Coming soon! Stay tuned for more information on our new student and alumni community. But get excited, because it’s gonna be great!