

AIU ALUMNI Newsletter



November 2007

Fall Issue

From the desk of

The Alumni Association:

Staying in touch with AIU Online students, instructors and alumni is just a mouse click away! The Virtual Commons through AIU Online is a vibrant community that offers a way for you to stay active with AIU Online no matter where you are.

The Virtual Commons features the newest Internet technology so you can connect with AIU Online friends and former classmates anywhere, anytime with an Internet connection. You can network with former classmates, search for new friends with similar interests or careers, join a professional club, keep track of birthdays and events and even go shopping!

Your Profile

You can create a profile on the AIU Online Virtual Commons that lists: your name, location, email address, education, professional experience, AIU Online club memberships, interests, your network of friends, and even a personalized picture. Don't worry about having your personal information published for everyone to see; use the privacy option to select what information is available to whom. For example, you may want your contact info only available to your friends. The Virtual Commons is also a secure site, and only students, alumni, staff and faculty members of AIU Online have the capability of logging onto the site.

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Visit our website at: www.aiuonline.edu/alumni

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

AIU: Supporting You All The Way

Welcome to the fall edition of the AIU Online alumni newsletter. Our goal is to keep you informed of the changes and successes of AIU Online as we move forward.

In today's competitive world, it's easy to think that you're all alone when it comes to getting ahead. Fortunately when it comes to careers, AIU Online is dedicated to supporting their students from beginning to end.

At AIU Online we know that the big difference between starting a degree program and actually graduating is having the support network that students receive along the way. Many students – especially adults that are out there in the workplace – are nervous about going back to school. They ask "Am I going to be able to do it?" "Will I be able to keep up?" or, "Will I give up and waste a lot of time and money?"

At AIU Online we want our students to succeed...to not only begin their degree programs but also to graduate – in as short amount of time as possible.

AIU staff members work together to help students succeed both in the classroom and in the real world. It takes an entire school to graduate a student, and AIU is committed to every student no matter what their area of study or current abilities are.

AIU offers convenient, flexible scheduling options that allow students to fit college into their schedules. Our amazing Virtual Campus allows students to study wherever they have access to the Internet and provides immediate access to resources like instructors, classmates, and the library.

At AIU we continue to support our alumni like you. Through the Alumni Association we offer access to the AIU Online library, a lifetime email account, a quarterly newsletter, and invitations to special AIU Online Networking and Development events.

In order to showcase the success we have been having with supporting students, we recently introduced the Outcomes page on our website (<http://www.aiuonline.edu/outcomes/>). Did you know that 83% of our students who have graduated are employed? You can view more great statistics on AIU Online graduates plus employment rates, news and events and student and alumni profiles.

Thank you for continuing to support AIU, as we support you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Drimmer".

Alan Drimmer, Ph.D.
President and Chief Operating Officer
AIU Online



AIU Online Opens New Learning Center

Students attending courses through the AIU Online Virtual Campus now have a new destination for academic support services, learning resources, and faculty guidance. The campus's new Learning Center opened in June and provides several types of resources to students seeking help outside of the classroom.

The Learning Center, located on the AIU Online Virtual Campus, includes the long-running Learning Labs as well as a brand new tutoring program.

The Learning Center's purpose is to provide services and resources to students seeking extra help, whether they need help getting comfortable with the rudiments of a broad area of study or needing help understanding a

specific concept in their classroom assignments. The idea is to provide an understanding atmosphere that helps students overcome anxieties and feel comfortable with unfamiliar topics, ultimately facilitating classroom performances. Tutors and Learning Lab facilitators – all drawn from the campus's faculty pool and possessing graduate degrees – make it clear to students that the Learning Center does not provide answers or do class work for students; instead, the staff members help students help themselves.

The Learning Labs, which are offered in seven general areas including math, English, and computer applications, are faculty-led workshops that include live chats (which are also archived for students' later viewing), projects on which students receive faculty feedback, and multimedia presentations that can be viewed at any time.

The tutoring program provides students with one-on-one working sessions with a faculty member. While the Learning Labs cover broad areas of study, the tutoring is focused on specific classes. Tutoring changes from session to session, and is currently offered in algebra, English, computer applications, art appreciation, introductory business administration, and statistics. Students self-register for tutoring slots that are held in interactive "rooms" that permit use of sound and Webcams, and as the program develops, the Learning Center plans to incorporate more amenities. Tutoring is offered on a limited basis, and registration is first-come, first-served. New tutoring slots are made available each week of a current school session.

In addition to the services provided by the Learning Labs and tutoring, AIU Online's Learning Center serves as a testing center for the campus's University-created Challenge Examinations that allow a student the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of course objectives in math, English, and computer applications and, potentially, earn course credit. Additionally, Diagnostic Assessments – online tests required of certain students that measure familiarity and mastery in certain fields for the purpose of determining if extra guidance is necessary to succeed in a degree program – are hosted by the Learning Center.

The Learning Center hopes to create a popular destination that students will want to visit, like the AIU Online Virtual Campus's existing Library and Virtual Commons (an online meeting center where students can discuss hobbies, entertainment, or simply have conversation). By providing a supportive place where students can visit when they need extra help, the Learning Center can help students overcome academic anxieties while enjoying the learning experience.

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Career Services

We're here for you!

The Career Services Department at AIU Online is available to help you with your career search. Advisors are dedicated to assisting students with résumés, cover letters, interview tips, and more! Additionally, this year the Career Services Department launched a series of online workshops available for students and alumni to log in for interactive job search strategies and a Q & A session to bounce ideas and questions off each other. In the beginning of 2008, the Career Services Department will begin to host the next series of online workshops. You can find out more information by logging into the Virtual Campus and selecting the "Careers" tab, or by contacting the Career Services Department at 877-701-3800 ext 15060 or careerservices@aiuonline.edu.

We hope to see you at one of our workshops!

Planning for your Career – Part One

- January 2, 2008, 7:00 pm CST
<http://breeze.careeredonline.com/partone010208/>
- January 3, 2008, 8:00 pm CST
<http://breeze.careeredonline.com/partone010308/>

Implementing your Career Goals – Part Two

- January 9, 2008, 7:00 pm CST
<http://breeze.careeredonline.com/parttwo010908/>
- January 10, 2008, 8:00 pm CST
<http://breeze.careeredonline.com/parttwo011008/>

Résumé/CV

- January 16, 2008, 7:00 pm CST
<http://breeze.careeredonline.com/cv011608/>
- January 17, 2008, 8:00 pm CST
<http://breeze.careeredonline.com/cv011708/>

Entrepreneurship

- February 6, 2008, 7:00 pm CST
<http://breeze.careeredonline.com/entrepreneurship020608/>
- February 7, 2008, 8:00 pm CST
<http://breeze.careeredonline.com/entrepreneurship020708/>



Martha Pena:

AIU Online Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

Meet Martha Pena: Setting Herself Up for a Career, Not Just a Job

AIU Online's second Distinguished Alumni Award winner knew she wanted to find a career, not just a job.

Martha graduated from AIU with her Bachelor's degree in Business Management in 2006 and immediately started pursuing her Master's degree in Education, also at AIU Online. The university announced she won the Distinguished Alumni Award in April.

Martha wasn't always sure she would be able to get her Bachelor's degree. Shortly after graduating from high school, she started at a community college near her home outside of Austin, Texas. Martha didn't have the luxury of concentrating solely on school. Working "at least full-time," she could only take a few classes. "It was my dream to get that little piece of paper and I wasn't going to give up on my dream that easily." It took Martha four years just to get her Associate degree from the community college.

In 2004, after she had earned her Associate degree and had taken a few classes towards her Bachelor's degree, Martha learned about online education. While she was willing to spend as much time getting her Bachelor's degree as necessary, if she could get it before she was "old and gray," all the better.

Martha wasn't selected as AIU's Distinguished Alumni Award winner solely because of her educational achievements. Now 27, Martha founded her own successful business when only 23.

By 2003 Martha had several years of on-the-job experience working in early childhood education and childcare. When one of her community college professors offered her a position at a new large and well-funded childcare center, Martha thought she had found her dream job. Martha quickly realized the center was more concerned with the money in the bank than with the welfare of its charges, however. With her dream job turning out to be not so dreamy, Martha decided to open her own day care center; a much, much smaller facility where she could give 12 children as much attention as they needed.

In 2004 Martha opened A Touch of Home Day Care Center with close friend and partner Magrietha Van Der Merwe. Although parents were initially skeptical of leaving their children under the care of someone as young as Martha, it didn't take long for them to realize she more than knew what she was doing. Word of mouth about A Touch of Home quickly spread, and Martha found herself with a waiting list.

Since graduating with her Master's degree in Education (with a concentration in Instructional Technology) this summer, Martha is looking forward to her next challenge. With half of her day care center's kids reading, adding and subtracting and ready to start first grade this fall, Martha will be closing A Touch of Home at the end of the current school year.

"I'm keeping my options open, but am looking forward to getting out into the real world of education," Martha says. "I'll have this great Master's degree – something I had never thought I would be able

to get – that I can use for any number of things. Maybe I'll work in the school system or work towards being a college instructor myself." Going along with her desire to be able to open doors to new opportunities, Martha will even be submitting her résumé to AIU Online as well as several higher educational facilities in the Austin area. "You never know what could happen," she says.

"A few years ago, I was wondering whether it would be possible for me to even get my Bachelor's degree and find a career. Now I almost have my Master's degree and any number of careers I want. Thanks to AIU Online, my dreams have become a reality!"

To learn how to apply to be the next Distinguished Alumnus see more information on page 4.



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From the Desk of the Alumni Association:

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Your Network

You can "friend" people by inviting them to your network. Only after a user accepts your "friend request" can they be on your network of friends list. The users in your network can be organized into friends, friends of friends, classmates and former classmates. You can even chat with friends using the Virtual Commons IM feature. You can search for alumni and current students or make new friends by using the "Search for Friends" tool. Search by name, degree, location, business organization, job function, industry and interests.

Your Clubs

Join professional, academic or lifestyle-oriented clubs within the Virtual Commons community. Clubs are a community of members who share a common interest, hobby, experience or goal. They are lead by a moderator (either faculty members or staff) and operate similar to the virtual classroom. The clubs have events (like special guest speakers) held on a regular basis, discussion boards and a link that allows members to view a roster of fellow club members. There is no limit to the number of clubs on the Virtual Commons that AIU Online students and alumni can be members – so join a club today!

Your Shopping

Buy AIU Online apparel such as hats, shirts, class rings, bags, mugs and more right from your computer. Check it out at: (<http://www.cudaapparel.com/aiuonline.php>)

Your Referral

Do you know someone who could benefit from a degree? Someone who might thrive in an online learning environment? If so, there is a referral area on the Virtual Commons where you can provide us with that person's contact information, and one of our Admissions Advisors will contact them to find if they would like to learn more.

Your Total Online Experience

The AIU Online Virtual Commons is a great way to continue to be part of the AIU Online community after graduation. Networking with other students and professionals can help you in your career plus you can socialize with other AIU Online students and alumni.

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Are You the Next Distinguished Alumnus?

Have you made a significant contribution to your community as a result of your education from AIU Online? What academic or professional accomplishments have you experienced as a result of your degree from American InterContinental University?

Now is your chance to be recognized for those contributions and accomplishments! Complete your application for the AIU Online Distinguished Alumni Award today. We are now accepting applications for our Spring of 2008 Distinguished Alumnus!

To be selected as a Distinguished Alumnus, simply summarize in your application how receiving a degree from AIU Online enabled you to better yourself, both personally and professionally, and how your education has allowed you to integrate into the lives of others in your community.

The recipient selected to be the American InterContinental University Online Distinguished Alumnus will be flown for an all-expense paid trip* to Hoffman Estates, Illinois (just outside Chicago) to receive their award and meet the campus president and staff members on May 17, 2008.

To apply, please visit www.aiuonline.edu/alumni. You will see a link on the left for Distinguished Alumni. Fill out the online application and upload a current résumé and letter of recommendation for your chance to be selected. We regret to inform that we had some technical difficulty with our website earlier this year. Applications submitted between April and August 2007 may not have been received and should be resubmitted.

For questions, please email alumni@aiuonline.edu or visit www.aiuonline.edu/alumni

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Covers coach-class travel, hotel accommodations for two nights, and meals for the graduate and one guest. Applications are due by March 15, 2008.*



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