Inaugural Alumni Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the TUI Alumni Association. As alumni, you are very special to TUI. You have been through the educational experience at TUI, which consists of high quality education at affordable cost, and, as alumni, have met your educational goals and dreams.

We hope that this newsletter will serve to keep us all connected, hence the name of the newsletter, TUI NETWORK. We are all part of an interconnected network of past, present and future students, faculty and the associated learning experiences offered at TUI. In this first issue we have included a variety of articles and features to give you perspective on TUI, and the student centered nature of its educational model. Most of the content for this issue comes from those directly involved in the educational process at TUI: students, staff, faculty and administrators. The TUI family consists of all students, past and present, along with all of the support staff, faculty members and administrators.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue and welcome your feedback and suggestions for future issues.

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TUIU Alumni Association is Officially Launched

Your office of Alumni Relations is anxious to make the Alumni experience and this newsletter an excellent resource for you and for TUI University. Dr. Edith Neumann, Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA), is leading the efforts to create an outstanding alumni organization. Other members of the Alumni team working with the VPAA are Mrs. Marge Louderback, Senior Assistant to the President of TUI University and Dr. Sheila Lewis, Coordinator of the TUI Alumni Ambassador Program.

The Alumni Association is up and running and a number of great things are happening so far. Below are a few of the benefits of the TUI Alumni Association to date.

As part of the continuous improvement efforts in all areas of service to current students and alumni, TUI University is updating and in the process of improving our Alumni Association benefits and activities.

http://www.tuiu.edu/alumni/index.htm

Following is a description as to what you can (cont. on page 2)
TUIU Alumni Association ... (cont. from p. 1)

expect as a TUI University Alumni member. If you are not currently a member of the TUI Alumni Association, we invite you to join for a $50 lifetime fee at:

https://cnsns.touou.edu/public/alumni_app.php

NEW BENEFITS:

TUIU EMAIL ACCOUNTS: Members of the Alumni Association will be given a TUIU email account to use. IT Support will email you a username and password a few days after you join the association. If you prefer not to have a TUIU email address, you may opt out by notifying the office of Alumni Relations.

UPCOMING RESEARCH AND LECTURES: Members of the Alumni Association will be able to go to the Alumni Directory where they can access CARMA Research. TUIU belongs to a consortium of research universities which share in web based lectures, presentations, and other resources. This is an excellent benefit which is available for our faculty and PhD students. TUIU Faculty Research Lecture Series will be archived for your access and utilization.

CAREER COUNSELING resources will be added to the TUIU Alumni Web site in the near future. The Alumni Association will also create a job listing resource based on job openings posted by Alumni or friends of TUIU where job seekers can browse and make contact with potential employers. This will the the TUIU ALUMNI JOB NETWORKING RESOURCE SYSTEM.

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER – TUI NETWORK: The TUI University Alumni Newsletter is intended to be a communication tool for alumni, students, faculty, administration and friends of the university. Please let us know what topics and information should be included in future issues of the newsletter. Please email Ms. Esmeralda Silva, esilva@tuiu.edu, with your suggestions and ideas. Other benefits include: TUI UNIVERSITY ALUMNI LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP CARD and ONLINE ACCESS to request Transcripts and Duplicate Diplomas.

TUIU Ambassador Program:

The TUIU Ambassador Program is off to a great start under the coordination of Dr. Sheila Lewis. We invite you to become an Ambassador for TUIU. Do you enjoy speaking to people? Would you like to represent TUI University in your local community? Become a TUI University Alumni Ambassador!

The purpose of the TUIU Alumni Ambassador Program is to offer a connection to the University and be a regional resource for all alumni, as well as current and prospective students living in the area. Serving as an Alumni Ambassador involves a commitment of time; however, it affords you an excellent opportunity to network with a variety of people and share positive experiences about your University experience. Ambassadors will keep up to date and informed about the activities of the University through the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs with support from the Office of Alumni Relations. If you are interested in donating a few hours of your time per year as an Alumni Ambassador, please contact Dr. Sheila Lewis; slewis@touou.edu

Making a Difference:

http://www.tuiu.edu/alumni/difference.html

We are writing up student stories for our Make a Difference site. If your education at TUI helped you to make a difference in your life. Some examples of these kinds of stories are included in this newsletter or in the lives of others please contact Dr. Sheila Lewis, slewis@tuiu.edu. We want to hear your story!

TUI University Alumni work in every profession, every field and every industry nationally and internationally. They are executives, leaders, academics, inventors and visionaries in their field. Read about your fellow alumni and discover the possibilities that are created when TUIU made a difference in their lives:

NEW to TUI University:

TUIU is a Military Spouse Friendly School and soon we will be offering Scholarships to military spouses to enable them to attend TUIU. http://www.military.com/spouse/0.,school_list,00.html

(cont. on page 3)
TUIU Alumni Association … (cont. from p. 2)

If you wish to contribute or know of others who may wish to help establish scholarships to enable military wives to attend TUIU, please contact Dr. Edith Neumann, VPAA, (eneumann@tuiu.edu). Two scholarships have already been pledged by two faculty members of TUIU, Dr. Ken & Dorthea Myers. The scholarship pledges are as follows:

The Merton F. Utter (former Chief & Professor of Biochemistry at Case Western Reserve University) $500 per annum Military Wives Scholarship and The Josephine Hirst & Naomi Myers $500 per annum Military Wives Scholarship (In memory of the Myers’ mothers who were both military wives).

TUIU is establishing a procedures and protocols for the establishment and disbursement of scholarships to Military Wives. As alumni of TUIU, this is an opportunity to benefit others in their educational pursuits.

We are committed to constantly improve all resources for TUI University Alumni. Please contact us with your comments and ideas. Please email Mrs. Marge Louderback at mlouderback@tuiu.edu

NEW NAME, SAME HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION

TUI University is the new name for what used to be Touro University International. Most of you alumni probably already know this but if you are not aware, here is a brief summary. On July 31, 2007, the following excerpt from a press release was made public:

NEW YORK CITY AND PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA (July 31, 2007) — Touro College today announced it has signed a definitive agreement to sell its online postsecondary education division, Touro University International (TUI), to Summit Partners, a global private equity and venture capital firm that has raised approximately $9 billion in capital since its inception. TUI’s existing institution with branches and campuses around the world.

This was the announced change of ownership which became effective November 1, 2007. So what has changed at TUIU besides the name? TUIU is no longer affiliated with Touro College in any way and thus the name has been changed to TUI University (TUI), which in Latin means “your choice” or “best choice”. Other than that, nothing has really changed except we have more students and continuing emphasis on quality and student learning. Part of the agreement of the sale of TUIU to

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New Name, Same High Quality … (cont. from p. 3)

Summit Partners was to keep the current staff, faculty and administration and to move forward with the existing Robust Learning Model which has always been used at TUIU. It has been five months since the transfer of ownership was made final and the difference in ownership is not detectable, except we have a few more resources for marketing and developing new markets for TUIU; other than that, the same high quality and commitment to excellence persists at TUI. President Yoram Neumann would have it no other way – the model, the people which make TUIU successful needed to remain in place and continue to serve the great students of TUIU. Alumni, you may have degrees which say Touro University International, but the programs and educational model you experienced are the same – assure because of continuous improvement we may change some courses around and add new courses or concentrations, but the learning approach is unchanged! Somethings change for the worse, TUIU's change is for the better!

Class of 2008 Prepares to Graduate

The class of 2008 will graduate on Saturday, August 9, 2008. This is the 5th graduating class, the first being held in 2003. The graduation is held at the beautiful Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, a multi-purpose theater near Cypress, California, home of TUIU. Please visit the TUI Web site, www.tuic.edu, for more information and details.

Alumni from prior degree programs. The keynote speakers have not yet been announced but in this article you will find a photo of last year’s speakers, the Sergeant Major of the Army and TUIU BSBA graduate, Kenneth Preston, and Lt. General (ret.) Joseph M. Cusamano, Jr. who is also the Sr. VP of KBR. It was an outstanding ceremony and this year’s ceremony promises to be very impressive.

The class of 2008 will be the largest graduating class in TUIU history. As the numbers of graduates increase, at some point in the near future, the TUIU graduation will need to be scheduled at a larger venue. One benefit of being an Alumni of TUIU is that you can always stay connected to the University and the graduation ceremonies by visiting the TUIU web site and now through the TUI NETWORK alumni newsletter. Below are two photos from last year's graduation. The faces of the students express the joy of graduation!
Ten years ago a dream, a vision, a hope was initiated by Dr. Yoram Neumann. Dr. Neumann, a champion of distance education, believed that high quality education could be delivered in an affordable manner to students worldwide through online technologies. That beginning in 1998 was the genesis of a world class, high quality, vibrant university that is now TUI University. From a single student in 1998 to over 8000 students in ten years is remarkable. Even more remarkable is the passionate loyalty of our alumni who took a chance with a new, online university which was unknown, unproven and just beginning from the “ground up”. Those alumni, you, took a risk with TUI and in return, received a rich reward: a BS, MA, MS, and/or PhD degree from TUI.

One of the greatest barriers to entry in the educational field is the achievement of regional accreditation. TUI originally was accredited by Middle States, which was the accreditation agency of the parent college, Touro College. Due to TUI’s quality and location in California, the accreditation is now through WASC, the same regional accreditation agency which accredits some of the finest universities in the world: University of California system, Stanford, Cal Tech, USC, and others.

From the beginning, Dr. Neumann, now the President & CEO of TUI University, believed in several defining principles for the university: an integrated Robust Learning Model (RLM) which focuses on student learning, continuous improvement of all processes and procedures in the university. This means continuously finding ways to improve such things as course quality, student services, teaching by faculty, and so on. These defining principles are the core values of TUI today and are responsible for the continuing success that TUI is experiencing. Today, many of TUI students are proud men and women of the US Armed Forces and the military has recognized the quality and benefits of a TUI education to all the members of the US military. With flexible approaches to help with the stress of multiple competing influences in life, and especially military life, a number of excellent relationships have been established with various branches of the military. For example, TUI is a member school of GO ARMY Ed, the portal for men and women in the US Army to receive tuition assistance for their education. TUI is part of the US Air Force initiative which automates the Tuition Assistance for men and women in the USAF. TUI is now fully recognized in all branches of the Serviceman’s Opportunity College (SOC) and has agreements with all the units of that organization. This ensures compatibility of transfer credits from member schools within that organization. There are many other agreements and initiatives with various units of the US Military which may be found in more detail on the TUI web pages.

TUI is licensed and regulated by the US Department of Education for making available federally guaranteed student loans (Financial Aid). There are many other agreements which are beneficial to both students and TUI which have been developed over the past 10 years.

You, as alumni of TUI are very important to the future growth and development of TUI. Most of TUI’s success comes from word-of-mouth contacts with current and former students, alumni, sharing their experiences with TUI education. We are looking forward to the next 10 years of even more great growth and development and with you as active members of the TUI family, TUI can continue to be the Online University of Choice!
Tent & Airplane Stimulates Student to Achieve Educational Goals

Time management is the key to success for current PhD student Criston W. Cox. He seems to find the time to work on his coursework in his tent and in between assignments flying in a C-17 USAF transport plane! TUI NETWORK (TN) submitted some questions to Criston for his response. TN: It looks like you are in the PhD program at TUI. Why did you decide to pursue a PhD and why did you select TUI to achieve that goal?
I chose to pursue the PhD as a commitment to life long learning and self improvement. The challenge is great, but the personal reward in accomplishing this endeavor will be greater. TUI's non-resident PhD program offered the level of flexibility I needed to accomplish my goals while continuing to support my family and demanding career expectations as a Marine Officer without sacrificing education quality and academic rigor.

TN: What is your rank, current assignment and background: I see you are a US Marine?
Captain, US Marine Corps. I'm a Communications and Information Systems Officer with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. I am currently two months into a 14 month tour on Camp Fallujah, Iraq, assigned as the Multi-National Forces West Data Systems and Information Technology Officer.

TN: What has been your experience in working on a PhD while: 1. Being on active duty with the USMC and being deployed to Iraq, and 2. In terms of the overall educational program such as courses, professors, expectations and so on?
I've traveled at least once per month, often overseas for military exercises or operations. This is my fourth trip to Iraq, although the previous three were much shorter. While deployed, there are no days off, nor an end of the work day. We pretty much work until bed time due to the operational tempo. Time management is the biggest challenge to keeping focused, but TUI has been extremely supportive in understanding the challenges we face out here.
What I like most about TUI is the stringent standards that I'm being held to academically. I'd doubted the quality of an online education, especially at the doctorate level, when I first applied. The last two years of course work, experiences and dissertation preparation have changed my mind. In fact, I'd venture to say that the structure, length of time, self discipline and initiative required to achieve the PhD makes the doctorate the most amenable to the online method. The professors have all been professional, and demanding, yet patient and understanding. I couldn't have made it this far through the process otherwise.

TN: How will your PhD assist you in your remaining USMC service and in life after the Marines? What are your ultimate goals with respect to the PhD?
The PhD sets me apart from my peers in terms of off-duty education accomplishments, but it is life after the Marine Corps that most drives my pursuit of the PhD. I currently manage two enterprise sized networks consisting of over 25,000 users. My goals are to balance my technical and managerial experiences with the PhD in Business as credentials for an executive leadership position such as CIO or CTO after retirement from the Marines.

TN: Please provide a brief bio of your background: education, family, military, anything else which may be of interest to our alums and other constituents.
During my 16 years of active duty services, I've

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served on both the enlisted and officer side of the Marine Corps in communications. I hold a BA in History and a minor in Political Science and Pre-Law from The Citadel, and an M.S. In Systems Technology from the Naval Postgraduate School’s Joint Command and Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (JC4I) curriculum. My wife, Theresa, and I have been married 16 years, and were junior high school sweethearts. We have three children, aged 15, 12, and 9, and enjoy playing music together as a hobby. The other photo for this article is of me working on my dissertation proposal while flying aboard an Air Force C-17 from Iraq to Qatar last week. Like I said above, time management is key.

Flashlight Illuminates Learning

Dedication, determination and stick-to-itiveness are attributes demonstrated by this recent MBA graduate from TUI. In his own words, read how he achieved his goals.

About six years ago, I started to pursue a goal that would get me a degree in Business. I realized my time in the Military was getting short as I blew by 20 years of active service, and the less time I have on active duty would decrease the amount of Tuition Assistance available to me.

In spring of 2001, I started the enrollment process in a University, to remain unnamed, to start a BS in Business/Administration Online Program. During this process, I had to deploy to Kosovo with my Unit. I contacted the University to tell them I am deploying but would like to continue the online program. They told me that since I would not have the capability to login to the Virtual Classroom regularly as required they would not admit me. After I returned from Kosovo in winter of 2002, I started to look for another University that offers the Business Program in which I was interested. In spring of 2003, I saw an Advertisement from Touro and read what I thought was a very profound statement. It read “A flexible program that meets your schedule needs.” I started the enrollment process and started the spring semester with my first three classes.

Again, my Unit was notified for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A few weeks latter, I was in Bagdad Iraq thinking how I am going to complete these three classes.

The Theater was in its early stage of development and we had not Internet connection, no phones that could call the United States. I was immediately behind in my studies with no way of catching up.

I spent many nights in the dark reading my course material with a flashlight. While going on convoys, I would sit in the rear of the vehicle so I can read more material and jot down notes. Every opportunity I had to visit important offices that had internet access, which were few and far, I would ask to get on the internet and download articles needed for
Flashlight Illuminates Learning (cont. from p. 7)

the course. The internet access was so slow at the time that I would often have to leave before the article was completely downloaded. When I returned from Iraq, I immediately contacted the University to explain my circumstance and hope for a solution. To my surprise, not much explanation was required. My professors were very understanding and worked-out a solution that got me back on track. Throughout the remainder of the program, I was away on multiple TDY trips, often to locations with no internet connection or computer access. Each time a short note to my professors was all that was needed to get back on track. I graduated with my BSBA and immediately enrolled in the University MBA Program. Again, I dealt with multiple TDY trips and worked with my professors to complete my course-work and get back on track. I have completed all my course-work and am currently pending graduation check was only possible because of the flexibility and understanding TUI's great Staff and faculty. I had colleagues deployed with me, utilizing other Colleges that were forced to drop out of classes and could not complete their degrees. Because of flexible programs at Touro University, I have exceeded my goal of a BS in Business Administration and am a Graduate of the University's MBA Program.

**PhD Students Achieve Success**

The PhD program at TUI University is a very challenging program. PhD students must take 44 units of coursework and pass a Qualifying Exam. This exam determines whether they are qualified to continue on to the Dissertation phase of the Program. The dissertation may take up to 3 years to complete and requires PhD students to accomplish a research project which will contribute to or extend new knowledge in a field or discipline. Below are a number of summaries of some of TUI’s recent PhD graduates and the impact the TUI program had on their lives.

**Dr. Shuk Wong** is currently an Information Systems professor at TUI University (TUIU). Although she harbored educational goals, her full-time job and three school-aged children meant she could not pursue her academic dreams for many years. She always believed that education could make or break her career so as her children grew, she began to search for ways to further her education with online degree programs. Through TUIU, she reached one of her educational goals when she attained a Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration. Dr. Wong believes that her Ph.D degree from TUIU has helped extend her confidence in her career field. Her professional experience includes Information Technology (IT) project management, IT security, business continuity planning, disaster recovery, business analysis, and risk management. Her time at TUI University as a student and as a member of the faculty has just been one incredible learning experience. Asked why she joined the TUI University faculty, Dr. Wong said, "I am inspired by TUI University’s commitment to academic quality and excellence. I also want to teach and guide my fellow students to follow my footsteps to success." Dr. Wong is currently involved in several professional associations as both a member and a presenter. Her research interests include international business, managerial and strategic decision-making, IT security, IT management, and risk management.

**Dr. Ryan Savitz** extends his greetings to alumni and other members of the TUI University family! My name is Dr. Ryan Savitz, and I am a 2006 graduate of the TUIU PhD in Business Administration. When I enrolled in the TUI doctoral program in 2003 (it was then Touro University International), I was an instructor of

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PhD Students Achieve Success ... (cont. from p. 8)

mathematics at Neumann College in Aston, Pennsylvania with three years of college teaching experience. I chose TUIU largely because my job and other responsibilities made an online program ideal.

My experience in the TUIU doctoral program was outstanding. I had many great professors and found the entire community to be extremely learner-centered. My experience with my dissertation was tremendous. I was blessed to have two extraordinary TUIU faculty members on my doctoral committee: Dr. Joshua Shackman served as my dissertation chair and Dr. Stephen Fitzgerald served as a committee member (my third member was Dr. Harbir Singh from Wharton). With their expert tutelage and guidance I wrote my dissertation entitled “Corporate Diversification and National Culture: Relationships and Implications, as Mediated by Corporate Debt.”

In 2006, shortly before my graduation from TUIU, I was promoted to the rank of assistant professor at Neumann College. A key factor in this promotion was the pending completion of my PhD at TUIU. Shortly after my graduation from TUIU, I co-presented with Drs. Fitzgerald and Shackman a paper stemming from my dissertation in the International Management Division of the 2007 Academy of Management meeting in Philadelphia. Then, in January 2008 I was further promoted to associate professor. This never would have been possible without the level of rigor and quality of my TUIU doctoral education and the subsequent scholarly accomplishments that my continuing collaboration with Drs. Shackman and Fitzgerald enabled. Most recently, we have revised our AOM paper and submitted it to a top tier journal in international management and look forward to the paper’s ultimate publication.

News of Recent Activities by TUI PhD Graduates & PhD Students

We’re 3 for 3 by recent graduates of TUI’s CBA PhD program for the National Meeting of the Academy of Management! Dr. Harlan Hammond’s paper was accepted for presentation in the Organizational Behavior division (one of the largest and ostensibly toughest divisions of the Academy of Management), Dr. Ruthann Russo’s paper was accepted for presentation in the Healthcare Management Division, and Dr. Capodacqua’s paper was accepted for presentation in the Gender and Diversity in Organizations division. Dr. Stephen Fitzgerald, a Professor in the College of Business Administration, worked with these three recent PhDs over the New Year’s holiday break to help them meet the early January AOM submission deadline.

Dr. Dan Sharir, an alumnus of TUI’s Doctor of Philosophy program in the College of Health Sciences (CHS), recently published his dissertation research entitled, “Social Support and Quality of Life among Psychiatric Patients in Residential Homes” in the International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation. The research was co-authored by his Dissertation Chair, Dr. Mihaela Tanasescu, along with Dr. David Turbow of TUI and Dr. Yair Maman of Touro College. The article appears online at the following URL:


Dr. Giuseppe Marelli (the 83 year old PhD graduate described on page 3 of this newsletter), Dr. Cathy Goodwin, and Dr. Alan Flaschner, full-time professors in the College of Business Administration at TUI, presented, "An Exploratory Study of the Influence of Ethnocentrism on Perceived Reliability of Technology." Twelfth Cross-Cultural Research Conference. December 12-15, 2007 at the
PhD Students Achieve Success ... (cont. from p. 9)

Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, HI

Dr. Guiseppe Marelli, Dr. Cathy Goodwin and Dr. Alan Flaschner presented "An Exploratory Study of the Influence of Involvement and Self Efficacy on Perceived Reliability of Technology." 2008 Academy of Marketing Science - Cultural Perspectives in Marketing Conference. Jan 16-19, 2008 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, New Orleans, LA

Dr. Bess Kathrins, a recent graduate of TUI’s Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences Program presented her dissertation research entitled “Physical Activity Behavior of Fitness Center Participants” at the “National Prevention and Health Promotion Summit: Creating a Culture of Wellness”, which took place in Washington, D.C.

The online link is http://www.cdc.gov/cochp/conference/index.htm. The research was co-authored by her Dissertation Chair, Dr. David Turbow, along with committee members Dr. Mickey Shachar, and Dr. Afrooz Afghani, all full-time TUI professors.

Dr. David Turbow, a professor in the College of Health Sciences at TUI, also recently published a research article entitled “Web-based investigation of water associated in illness in marine bathers”, which appears in the January 2008 issue of the journal, Environmental Research. The research was co-authored by Dr. Sunny Jiang and Erin Kent of the University of California Irvine, and centered upon an analysis of the types and severity of illnesses suffered by surfers and other marine bathers.


http://www.amazon.com/Still-Not-Equal-Educa-
tional-Opportuni-
dy/dp/0820495220/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=book-
oks&qid=1201281377&sr=1-1

Dr. Larry Banks, a PhD alum of the College of Business Administration reports the following activities:

1. Recently spoke at an ACCSCT national conference in San Francisco. ACCSCT is a national career school accreditation agency.

2. Presentation for the Louisiana Career College Association... topic - online and blended learning... what you need to know to meet accreditation standards.


4. In March, 2008, I am a presenter at the League of Innovations in Denver... Innovations is a national conference for community colleges. This is for McGraw Hill, Learning Solutions Group. I am an advisor to McGraw's learning solution group.

I am highly involved in some employer research for College 2 Corp.

Dr. Pamela Roberts, PhD, OTR/L, SCFES, CPHQ, FAOTA

As of December 2007, serving on the Editorial board as an Associate Editor for PM&R The Journal of Injury, Function and Rehabilitation.

Completed term December 2007 serving on the California Hospital Association Board of Trustees.

Completed term December 2007 serving as Chair for the California Hospital Association Center for Medical Rehabilitation Services

Recent publications:


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MSHS, MAED Degrees are Keys to Opportunities

Several students’ impressions of TUI and the impact of the educational experience on their careers and life after TUI are included below. These are from two students with Master's degrees in Education (MAED) and one student with a Master's in Health Sciences (MSHS). These impressions are represented in the student’s own words:

Edward Cameron Rice (US Navy): BSHS and MSHS

My name is Edward Cameron Rice and I have been a student from September 2003 to September 2007. During my time with TUI I have successfully received my bachelors degree (BSHS) (cum laude), my masters degree (MSHS) (summa cum laude) and graduate certificates in Quality Assurance and Human Resources. The curriculum at TUI afforded me every opportunity to excel even when I was stationed on board a nuclear powered submarine in the United States Navy making several underway periods at sea. While I was stationed at the Naval Undersea Medical Institute (NUMI) I was able to put into practice all of the fundamental principles I acquired while being a student at TUI. No matter what scenario I was placed into regarding military protocol or civilian protocol I could always fall back on my lessons learned at TUI to make me confident that I was very well prepared academically and could conquer anything.

I could always fall back on my lessons learned at TUI ... and could conquer anything ...

The educational benefits that I now cherished and worked hard for have made me able to now be retired from the military after 24 years of honorable service and have a job as the director of a medical center.

I am eternally grateful to the staff at TUI for affording me the ability of being all that I could be when I finally applied myself. It does not matter your age, background or current employment status. Just give TUI a try and let them change your life and future opportunities. The online learning experience will give you the freedom to pursue your educational goals and still be able to work full time. If you are committed to your studies TUI will create a schedule that will make you not want to stop going to school. Stop putting everyone else in your life first and let TUI put you first in getting your educational goals met.

With my demanding military schedule if TUI can get my educational goals met I am very confident they can unlock the doors that have stopped you from achieving the status you want and deserve.

Captain Roy Hessner (USMC): MAED and currently enrolled in PhD in Education program

I graduated from TUI with my M.A.Ed. in March 2007. I am writing to tell you a little bit of what my degree from TUI has enabled me to accomplish. My current assignment as a training of-

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ficer at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School is equivalent to a collegiate administrator. The application of an Educational Leadership degree in my current capacity is obvious. I have been able to introduce new pedagogical techniques to my school that have been very beneficial in producing a better trained Marine.

I was also the student speaker representing distance learning at our base graduate recognition ceremony. After my short speech I was approached by administrators from the local community college and subsequently hired as an adjunct faculty member. I am currently teaching Principles of Management, a freshman level course. I am a huge advocate for TUI's program, so much so that I have implemented a Session Long Project in the class that I currently teach!

Finally, I also developed a 6 hour educational leadership seminar that I have given to several K-12 schools in Southern California. That seminar was evaluated by the Association of Christian Schools International and I was granted authority to award Continuing Education Units (CEUs) required for teachers to maintain their ACSI Teacher’s Certificate. I was also a seminar presenter at this year’s (ACSI) conference in Anaheim, CA that was attended by over 8000 educators.

Once my daughter graduates from high school next year I will be a doctoral candidate. TUI’s format, flexibility and financial aid options have made my success possible and without TUI I would not be where I am today. I would be happy to take part in the TUI Ambassador Program. I love public speaking and I am a huge proponent of distance learning in general and TUI specifically. Please let me know if there is anyway I can help.

Mark A. Childress (US Army), MAED

Mark has served in the US Army as a combat engineer and is a Bronze Star recipient. He has earned four Army Achievement Medals and two Army accommodations but has found his “calling” in childhood education. He is currently a 1st Sgt in the Army.

My name is Mark Childress, and TUI has really broadened my horizon. I’ve been in the Army now for 18 years and 8 months. About two years ago, I got started in giving motivational speeches to at-risk teens through my sister who is an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Coordinator in Atlanta, GA. I now receive calls and e-mails to speak at various schools. Once I retire 14 months from now, I plan on going into corporate education or administration.

TUI has given me the knowledge base that I need to be successful in today's competitive world. Also I’ve encouraged four of my colleagues to enroll at TUI because of its outstanding curriculum. Please see the attached photo of one of the many speeches I’ve given to kids so you can see how much TUI has helped me grow in ways I never anticipated.
Educational advisors at TUI play a crucial role. They are the human interface between students and registration, enrollments in the University. They listen to life’s challenges and offer solutions, comfort and help. Below are spotlighted a few reflections written by several of our talented and caring Educational Advising Team members. These statements express their experiences and beliefs about TUI students, alumni and TUI University:

Michael Masters: The most rewarding part of my job as an Educational Advisor is the satisfaction of knowing that sometimes I make a difference in students’ lives. I’ve seen students struggling to balance full-time jobs, school, and family. I’ve heard several heart-breaking stories of how difficult it is for students who have family tragedies and personal struggles as they try to stay afloat in turbulent economic times. When students thank me, or when I see them crossing the stage in the graduation ceremony, I can’t help but get a little choked up. Education carries with it a tremendous sense of accomplishment. It’s nice to know that I can play a small role in helping students achieve their goals.

Ashley Page: I worked for TUI University a couple of years ago and had to leave due to unforeseen circumstances. As soon as I got back on my feet, TUI University welcomed me back completely. And that is how TUI University’s faculty and staff are, they are understanding of situations and will do whatever they can to help you out. This is the approach I personally take with all of my students. We understand that life happens and no matter how much you may plan for certain things, life ultimately does what it wants to and all you can do is try and cope. We will be here for you every step of the way in regards to your education. I have spoken with so many students who are worried and stressed about personal issues going on and almost want to give up on their education. What we do at TUI is try to remind our students how important their education is on so many different levels and how you really owe it to yourself to keep going. We will always do what we can for you as long as you let us know what you need from us and how we can help you. This is honestly the only University that I have seen that truly cares and understands and represents that completely.

Sheetal Khurana: Here at TUI University, we are honored that you have chosen us to be the place to foster your educational growth. We continue to improve our methods in finding more effective ways for you to learn more about your respected fields. Specifically, as Educational Advisors you can consider us as the “gardeners” who provide you with resources you need to eventually blossom into a college graduate. We encourage all students to use the services our advisors offer such as course advisement, degree plan development, and registration assistance via email/phone. Our goal is to help you get to the point where you have the skills and knowledge you require in venturing out into different career opportunities. Thanks again for choosing TUI University and we look forward to cultivating a memorable college experience for you.

Tressa Ramirez: As an educational advisor, we know that our students come first. Once a student is admitted, we become the initial voice of TUI University and essentially become the facilitator. We not only create degree plans, suggest course advisement, we are counselors who listen to each and every one of our student’s individual life situations. Whether it is someone who is deployed overseas in war and enduring a difficult time with turning in assignments due to no internet connection; or a student who is experiencing devastation from a natural disaster; a tragic death of a loved one; we are here to encourage the student to complete the course when she is near crossing the finish line. Every student has a story, and we understand that committing to an academic program in pursuit of higher education, is a journey only the person walking on the path only knows. If we can help you in anyway we can to attain your goal, we’re here every step of the way to make sure that you will achieve your accomplishments.

-you can consider us as "gardeners" ... you need to blossom into a college graduate...-

(continues on page 14)
Educational Advisor Corner:  ... (cont. from p. 13)

Jennifer Lares: Hello TUI Alumni! Welcome to our Alumni Newsletter! First and foremost, congratulations on your graduation! I hope that you have found all the information you need and then some. If you don’t, well you can always give an Educational Advisor a call or shoot us an e-mail. We are here for you. We are live people you can connect with and use as a resource. That often includes introducing new students on how to use TUI’s CD’s, course advisement, session planning, assistance with our university policy/procedures, connecting you to the right department and most importantly moral support. We too were students at one point in time and some of us are still continuing our own educational and professional pursuits. Therefore, we understand some of the challenges you, the student may be undergoing.

Christina Liebsack: As an advisor everyday is spent assisting students in any and every which way possible to guide them down their path to accomplish their educational goals. To know that students are not only are satisfied with their Graduate degree once completed but acknowledge and thank me as a force that helped them accomplish their goals makes my job worth while. Here’s a note from a graduate which made my day!

Good evening all, Great news! My TUI MBA graduation diploma arrived in the mail today! Trust me when I say, "It is my sworn creed to pass the knowledge in earning higher education you so generously shared with me with all my shipmates."

Again, a big thank you to all, I could not be happier. Everyone’s support & encouragement is greatly appreciated. My words do not do me justice this evening in how grateful and proud I am of everyone who has assisted me obtain this grandest of accomplishments. Karen, you were right! TUI is the best college to pursue my MBA! What a grand experience earning my MBA and interacting with the professional staff at TUI. WOW..Thanks!

Michael Martin: One of the things I appreciate most about serving in the advisement center is the variety of people I come into contact with. Talking to a 19 year old traditional undergrad in the morning, then answering an email from a 40-something working mother of 3, and then returning the call of a Sergeant Major in the US Army is a typical chain of events in the course of my daily duties.

All of these disparate people share a common goal, however- that of bettering themselves through education. Whether it’s the next step after high school, a re-commitment to learning after taking time out to raise children, or securing educational credentials in preparation for a transition from a military to a civilian career; all of my students have taken the initiative to pull themselves up to a higher level. This is a source of constant inspiration for me. My job, then, is to help my students along the road. We advisors are like guides on this road- we can point out easier and harder routes, we can accommodate rest breaks if necessary, and we can remind the travelers of the attractiveness of their destination.

I have to end with quotes, as I often do in my emails- they have to do with effort, and all of my students exemplify the logic of these quotes, to varying degrees:

Thomas Jefferson (attributed):
I’m a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.

Tom Lehrer:
Life is like a sewer. What you get out of it depends on what you put into it.

Vince Lombardi:
Leaders aren’t born they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that’s the price we’ll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal.

Vince Lombardi:
Dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. Hard work is the price we must pay for success. I think you can accomplish anything if you’re willing to pay the price.

Keep up the amazing work, scholars of TUI.
FACULTY CORNER

DR. ALAN FLASCHNER CARES ABOUT STUDENTS

Dr. Alan B. Flaschner is one of the original professors at TUI and has contributed a great deal to the success of TU over the past 9 years. He came to TUI University in 1999 after retiring from The University of Toledo as a professor of Marketing.

His primary fields of instruction include product and channel management in Marketing. He teaches marketing, management, and research methodology courses to undergraduate, masters and doctoral students. In the photo which accompanies this article, Dr. Flaschner is shown with Dr. Marelli, an 83 year old PhD graduate of TUI in 2007. Dr. Marelli’s dissertation was chaired by Dr. Flaschner.

Dr. Flaschner believes in the 5 T’s: Teach Them To Teach Themselves.

He believes that a University, College, or School and its Departments should provide an environment that encourages continuous improvement. Each of these organizational units should encourage its faculty to teach traditional students, non-traditional students, peers, and people in the communities of which its faculty members are a part.

Dr. Flaschner further believes that it is the responsibility of faculty members to teach in sufficient quality so that the learning that results from that teaching is satisfactory to every person and/or organization that has a stake in that learning.

Operationally, Dr. Flaschner fosters an academic environment in which he is an information resource and responds to student questions or comments with questions or comments, thereby, hopefully, encouraging his students to think critically.

Dr. Flaschner has authored a number of articles for professional and business publications. The articles reflect his interest in the processes and outcomes of influence. He has also authored two textbooks: Marketing Research and Retailing.

He received his Ph.D. in Business Administration from The University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; his MA in Sociology from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia; and his BA in Psychology from The University of Maine in Orono, Maine.

Dr. Flaschner is a high energy professor who views teaching as a joy at TUI. At the time of this writing, he has no desire to retire but to live his life in service to TUI students and the mission of high quality education to all.

STAFF CORNER

EARVIN SORTIANOSOS IS A "WILL DO" SUPPORT GUY

What is a guy with a bachelor's degree in biology doing supporting students information technology questions and problems at TUI? We asked Earvin Sorianosos, one of three key support experts which deal with thousands of questions from TUI students all over the world.

Earvin earned his BS in Biology from the University of California – Irvine in 2002. He decided it was time to transition from being a student to being a wage earner. He applied to a (cont. on page 16)
temporary employment agency to get some immediate work opportunities and landed at TUI in 2004 working in the shipping department; that’s right, packaging and shipping CD’s to thousands of TUI students every session. Earvin worked in shipping for about a year when his obvious talents and abilities were “discovered” and he was offered an opportunity to train and develop skills in Information Technology (IT) support.

Roy Finaly, VP of Information Technology at TUI, had no hesitation in offering Earvin full-time employment and in 2005 Earvin began being a support staff member. He didn’t require much training in the fundamental aspects of computing and use of technology. These skills were developed throughout his life since he had a strong personal interest in computers and electronics and developed a deep knowledge of many of these technologies which became hobbies for him.

Earvin spends a typical day working with students via telephone and email communications. He deals with all technical questions students may have dealing with TUI software, basic software such as the Windows or other operating systems software, Microsoft office products such as Word, Excel, and so on. Further, he assists students with TUI online library access, login issues with a number of different resources and many other types of questions and tasks. He receives a personal sense of satisfaction in helping students. He relates one particular memorable experience where a woman student working at a university was experiencing difficulties with lack of connectivity to TUI Coursenet. Therefore, she was not able to upload her assignments and was very frustrated because of this issue and also that her husband was working in the Philippines and unable to assist her. Earvin took a lot of time to calm her fears and assist her in finding a solution whereby she could submit her assignments and accomplish the requirements of her courses. Earvin has a strong conviction based in strong customer (student) support and going the extra mile to assist students and help them any way he can, even if the issues are not library or IT related.

In addition to assisting students on a personal basis, he is also part of the support team which sets up Coursenet each session for students, generates new email addresses for all new students and faculty, does graphical scanning for faculty and staff and many other tasks. Earvin is happy to be at TUI and finds every day a new opportunity to help the students of TUI achieve their educational goals.

He has his own goals and has been contemplating enrolling in the Masters of Health Sciences (MSHS) Program at TUI. Also he has been informed by the VP of Information Technology that he will have an opportunity in the future to become more involved in the TUI systems maintenance and development. Outside of TUI Earvin has an active life, largely centered around sports. He enjoys soccer, baseball, basketball and is a regular on the tennis courts. He is a big fan of pro-tennis, especially some guy named Federer!

The employees of TUI are like a big family and have a team mentality in working with students. Earvin Sorianosos may not be a big time biologist but he is a big time support to the students of TUI and, at the end of the day, this gives Earvin and his teammates at TUI a feeling of contentment.
AGE IS NO BARRIER FOR TUI DEGREE

What will you be doing when you are 82 years old? Many individuals are enjoying a life of retirement with travel, family, and relaxation but not Dr. Giuseppe C. Marelli. Dr. Marelli is TUI’s oldest graduate who received his PhD in Business Administration at the TUI graduation in August 2007. That’s right, he and his wife traveled from Turin, Italy to Cypress, California for this historic event.

Dr. Marelli already had accomplished much in the field of education and academics having previously earned a doctorate many years ago in 1948 from Università di Torino, Italy! He received a MBA from Florida International University in 1988, and a MS from Morgan State University in 1991.

Dr. Alan B. Flaschner, a TUI professor (see article in this alumni newsletter), was the chair of Dr. Marelli’s dissertation which is entitled "Relative effects of Co-branding and Country of Origin on Percep-

of Product Reliability". This is in the area of Marketing.

What does Dr. Marelli plan to do with his new degree? Teach, of course!! Dr. Marelli became a core (part-time) professor at TUI effective for the Spring 2008 session. He will be teaching Marketing and working with approximately 40 TUI students. At age 83, he is very excited to have this opportunity to work with TUI students.

Life Long Learning is a phrase we often hear these days – Dr. Marelli is a living example of this philosophy! What better way to continue a life time of learning with online, distance learning from TUI; the university without walls or constraints of time and space!

TUI University Alumni

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