

Generic

1 Get Started Next Week

Online courses at Ashford University begin every Tuesday. Get in touch with Ashford today!

2 Pursue Your Passion

Adult learners have experience on their side. Study what you love at Ashford University.

3 Classes Start Tuesday

New courses start every week. Take advantage of the flexible schedule & get started today!

4 Become a Student Again

Or enroll in college for the first time. Achieve your childhood dream of earning a degree.

5 Adult Learners Wanted

Turn your passion into your purpose. Classes start every week so there's no waiting.

6 Start Earning Your Degree

Introduce yourself to classmates next Tuesday when courses start. Contact Ashford today!

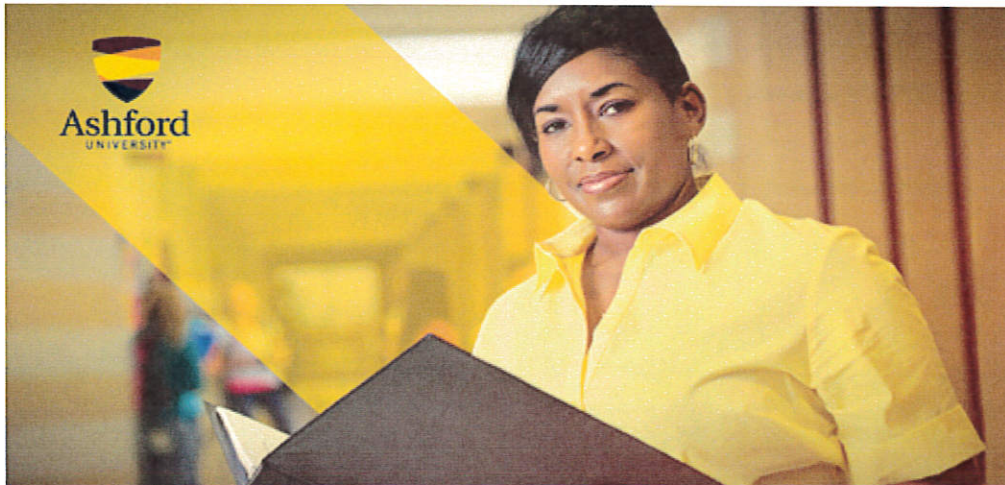


Ashford University

Sponsored (demo) · 🌐

👍 Like Page

For everyone. Take relevant online courses in the subjects that matter to your career.



School Comes to You

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

[DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU](https://degrees.ashford.edu)

[Learn More](#)



Ashford University

Sponsored · 🌐

👍 Like Page

Contribute to children's healthy growth. Study the stages of development from infancy through adolescence at Ashford University.



Earn Your BA in Early Childhood Education

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU

Learn More

6.3K Reactions 121 Comments 239 Shares



Ashford University ✓

Written by [nanigans_advertising_app](#) [?] · April 8 · 🌐

Study human behavior and learn the skills to transform lives.



Online Psychology Degree

Earn your Master's or Bachelor's degree from Ashford University's College of Health, Human Services, and Science.

DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU

Learn More

1,978,314 people reached

Boost Post

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Ashford University

Sponsored · 🌐

👍 Like Page

Contribute to children's healthy growth. Study the stages of development from infancy through adolescence at Ashford University.



ASH0897



Earn Your BA in Early Childhood Education

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU

Learn More

6.3K Reactions 121 Comments 239 Shares

News Feed

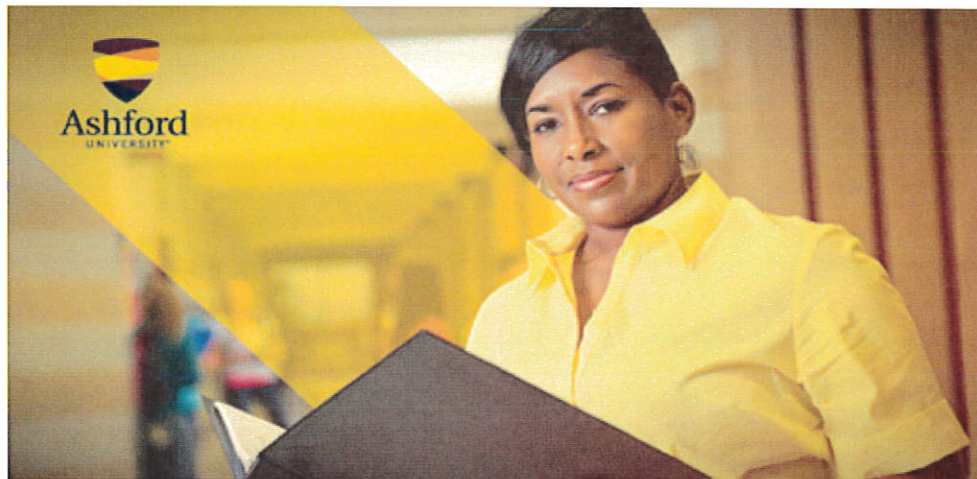


Ashford University

Sponsored ·

Like Page

For everyone. Take relevant online courses in the subjects that matter to your career.



School Comes to You

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU

Learn More

734 Reactions 56 Comments 96 Shares

Like

Comment

Share



Ashford University

Sponsored ·

Like Page

For everyone. Take relevant online courses in the subjects that matter to your career.



School Comes to You

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

[DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU](https://degrees.ashford.edu)

[Learn More](#)



Ashford University

Sponsored ·

Like Page

For everyone. Take relevant online courses in the subjects that matter to your career.



School Comes to You

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

ASH0899

DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU

Learn More



Ashford University

Sponsored · 🌐

👍 Like Page

Earn your Bachelor's or Master's Degree on your schedule with online courses from Ashford University.



School Comes to You

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU

Learn More



Ashford University

Sponsored · 🌐

👍 Like Page

Earn your Bachelor's or Master's Degree on your schedule with online courses from Ashford University.



ASH0900



School Comes to You

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

[Learn More](#)



Ashford University

Sponsored ·

Like Page

Your military experience may be worth college credits. Use them at Ashford University.



Apply Military Credits

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

[DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU](https://degrees.ashford.edu)

[Learn More](#)



Ashford University

Sponsored ·

Like Page

Earn your Bachelor's or Master's Degree on your schedule with online courses from Ashford University.





School Comes to You

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU

[Learn More](#)



Ashford University

Sponsored ·

Like Page

Earn your Bachelor's or Master's Degree on your schedule with online courses from Ashford University.



School Comes to You

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU

[Learn More](#)



Ashford University

Sponsored ·

Like Page

Contribute to children's healthy growth. Study the stages of development from infancy through adolescence at Ashford University.





Earn Your BA in Early Childhood Education

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU

[Learn More](#)



Ashford University

Sponsored · 🌐

[Like Page](#)

Investigate facets of a rapidly expanding health care industry at Ashford University.



Earn Your BA in Health Care Administration

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU

[Learn More](#)



Ashford University

Sponsored · 🌐

[Like Page](#)

Investigate facets of a rapidly expanding health care industry at Ashford University.



Earn Your BA in Health Care Administration

Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

[DEGREES.ASHFORD.EDU](https://degrees.ashford.edu)

[Learn More](#)

Facebook Ads – July

Tier 2

Health Care

Version 1

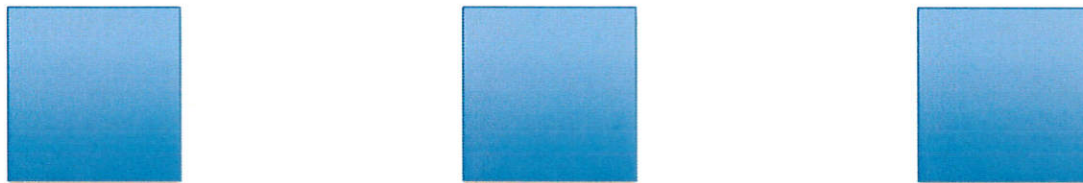
Master the skills you need to take your health care career further. Earn your degree online.



Psychology | Health Care Administration | Gerontology | Behavioral Science | See more at degrees.ashford.edu

Version 2

Earn your undergraduate degree in Psychology or Health Care Administration online. Apply now, and explore the possibilities.

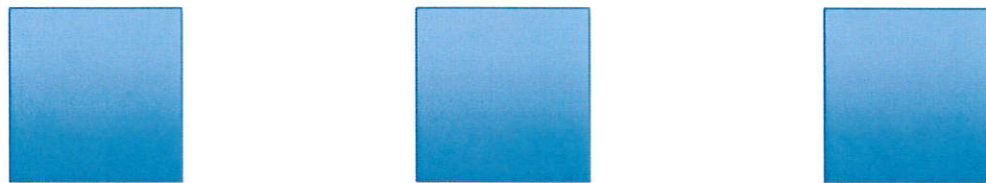


Study anywhere, anytime | Classes start this Tuesday | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu

Behavioral Science

Version 1

Prepare for a career solving critical social problems. Earn your Behavioral Science degree online.



Study Social Psychology | Study Research Methods & Statistics | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu

Version 2

Tackle critical social challenges. Increase your knowledge and expand your career possibilities when you earn your degree in Applied Behavioral Science.

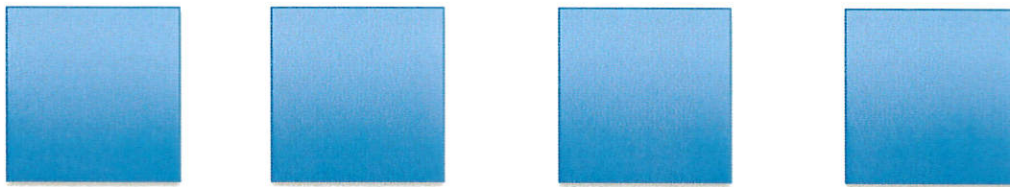


Take classes online | Classes start this Tuesday | See more at degrees.ashford.edu

Criminal Justice

Version 1

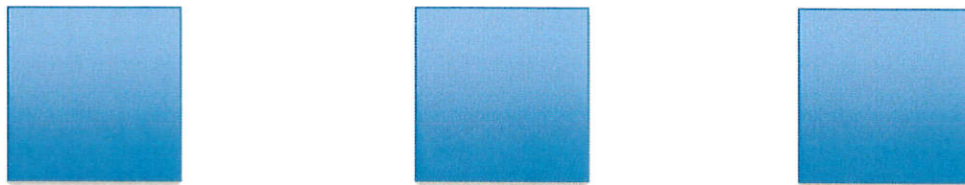
Earn your graduate degree in Criminal Justice online. Choose from four specializations.



Homeland Security | Cybercrime & Technology | Forensic Science | Law Enforcement & Corrections

Version 2

Get an advanced education to take your law enforcement career further. Earn your degree in Social and Criminal Justice online.



Take classes online | Military benefits available | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu

Tier 3

Military

Version 1

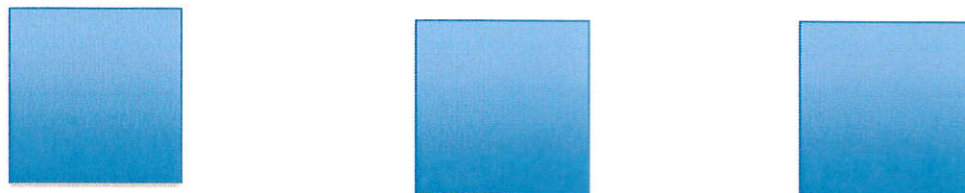
Your military training could translate to transferable credits. Explore the possibilities, and earn your degree online.



Spousal benefits | Student Veterans Organization | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu

Version 2

Take classes from nearly anywhere in the world, even while deployed. Explore the possibilities when you earn your degree online.



Military benefits | Transfer up to 90 approved credits | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu

Liberal Arts

Version 1

Enhance your law enforcement credentials. Earn your Bachelor's degree online.



Homeland Security & Emergency Management | Law Enforcement Administration | Social & Criminal Justice

Version 2

Enhance your skills in high demand fields with a liberal arts degree. Explore the possibilities, and take classes online.

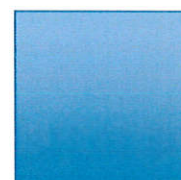
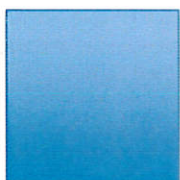
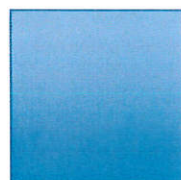


Military Studies | Cultural Anthropology | Sociology | Law Enforcement Administration

Bachelor's

Version 1

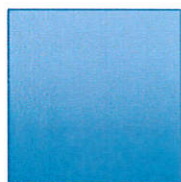
Bachelor's degrees available in Business; Education; Health, Human Services, & Science; and Liberal Arts. Apply now to take classes online.



Accounting | Child Development | Psychology | Social & Criminal Justice

Version 2

Explore Bachelor's degrees online. Choose the program that fits your goals and learn anytime, anywhere.



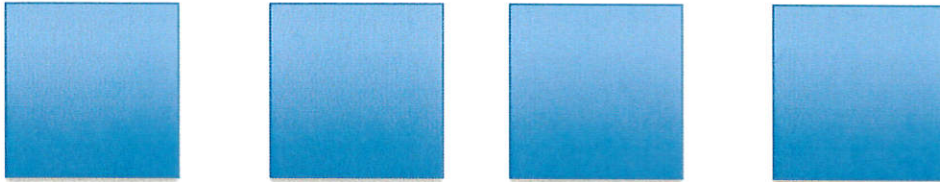
Transfer up to 90 approved credits | Scholarships and Military Benefits | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu

Tier 4

Degree Programs

Version 1

Earn your Bachelor's degree online. Enhance your skills in today's in-demand fields.



Psychology | Law Enforcement | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu

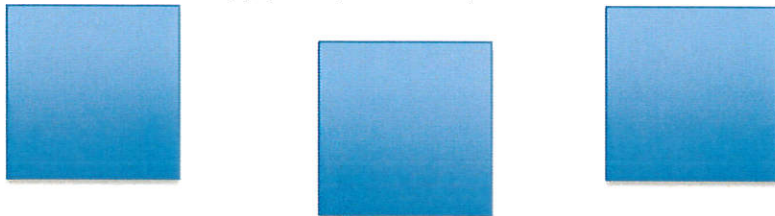
Business Administration |

Version 2

Business; Education; Health, Human Services, & Science; and Liberal Arts degrees for the on-the-go student.

Apply now, and earn your

Bachelor's degree online.

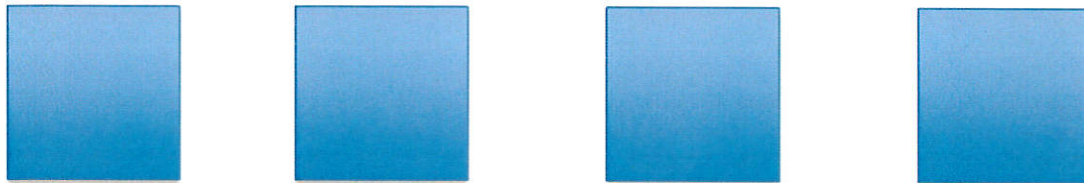


Classes start this Tuesday | Military Benefits and Scholarships | See more at degrees.ashford.edu

About

Version 1

Accessible, relevant learning for the on-the-go student. Explore online degrees in the field you want to work.



Business | Education | Health, Human Services & Science | Liberal Arts

Version 2

Your story isn't finished. Choose a new path when you earn your degree online.



Transfer credits | Military benefits | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu

NEW FB CREATIVE

Healthcare

Version 1

Ashford University

Create opportunities for yourself in one of the country's fastest growing industries.

[IMAGE]

Earn Your Health Care Degree Online

Programs include: Health Care Administration, Nursing, and Health Information Management.

Version 2

Ashford University

Make your resume stand out. Learn the skills today's health care employers demand.

[IMAGE]

Earn Your Health Care Degree Online

Programs include: Health Care Administration, Nursing, and Health Information Management.



healthcare 01 - stock-
photo-7408541...-and-lapdog.jpg



healthcare 02 - stock-
photo-4570180...lderly-person.jpg



healthcare 03 -stock-
photo-5929807...r-community.jpg

Education

Version 1

Ashford University

Wanted: Lifelong learners who will inspire future generations.

[IMAGE]

Earn Your Education Degree Online

Programs include: Child Development, Early Childhood Education, and Instructional Design.

Version 2

Ashford University

Technology is transforming the classroom. Learn the skills and knowledge needed to lead future generations.

[IMAGE]

Earn Your Education Degree Online

Programs include: Instructional Design, Teaching and Learning with Technology, and Early Childhood Education.



Education - stock-
photo-7268892...sing-laptop-.jpg



Education 02- stock-
photo-6268295...ad-notebook.jpg



Education 03- stock-
photo-8338275...-the-internet.jpg

Business

Version 1

Ashford University

Outsmart your competition in person and on paper.

[IMAGE]

Forbes School of Business®

Earn your degree online. Programs include: Master of Business Administration, Accounting, and Organizational Management.

Version 2

Ashford University

The brightest leaders never stop learning. Meet the challenges of tomorrow with your online business degree.

[IMAGE]

Forbes School of Business®

Programs include: Master of Business Administration, Accounting, and Organizational Management.



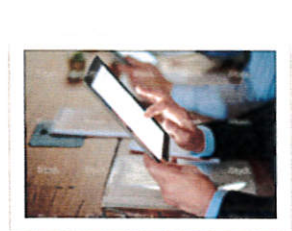
business 01 - stock-
photo-7645717...let-in-office-.jpg



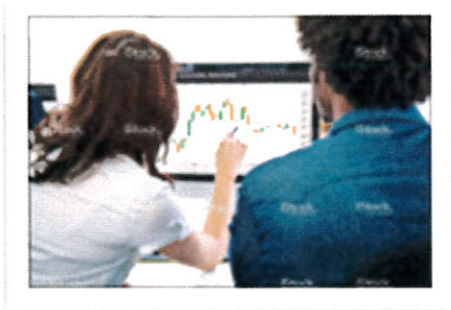
business 02 - stock-
photo-7980400...eas-concept.jpg



business 03 - stock-
photo-5971809...or-their-flight.jpg



business 04 - stock-
photo-8041747...s-all-the-info.jpg



business 05 - stock-
photo-5000819...things-easier.jpg

Psychology

Version 1

Ashford University

Study human behavior and learn the skills to transform lives.

[IMAGE]

Online Psychology Degree

Earn your Master's or Bachelor's degree from Ashford University's College of Health, Human Services, and Science.

Version 2

Ashford University

Use your head to get ahead. Courses include Social Psychology, Research Methods, Lifespan Development and Psychology of Learning.

[IMAGE]

Online Psychology Degree

Earn your Bachelor's degree from Ashford University's College of Health, Human Services, and Science.

Version 3

Ashford University

Use your head to get ahead. Courses include Developmental Psychology, Personality Theories, Psychopathology, and Research Design & Methods.

[IMAGE]

Online Psychology Degree

Earn your Master's degree from Ashford University's College of Health, Human Services, and Science.



psychology 02 - stock-photo-5633768...man-clients-.jpg



psychology 03 - stock-photo-5368572...man-emotion.jpg



psychology 04 - stock-photo-4567709...ort-at-home.jpg

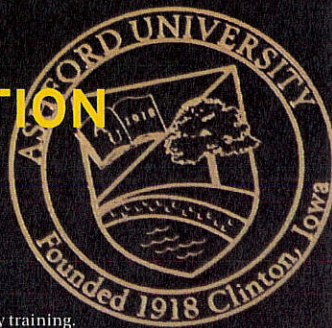


psychology 05 - stock-photo-4259561...ancial-advise.jpg



psychology 01 - stock-photo-6545253...tivities-cards.jpg

EVERY MISSION TAKES
TIME, EFFORT, AND
DETERMINATION



And the rewards will last a lifetime.

Transfer credits you earned through military training.

Receive the Ashford Military Grant to save money.

Use technology to keep you in class when deployed.

Earn your degree online and on your schedule.

Ashford University

CALL 888.243.1123
OR VISIT MILITARY.ASHFORD.EDU

TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING



15A04MD0463 • AC 10245 • PRINTED 05/11
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: 15A04MD0463

WE ALSO REQUIRE
DRESS UNIFORMS
**FOR OUR
CEREMONIES**

You may be eligible to receive
the Ashford Military Grant to
earn your degree online.

CALL **866.711.1700**
OR VISIT **MILITARY.ASHFORD.EDU**

TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING



Ashford
UNIVERSITY



WE ALSO REQUIRE
DRESS UNIFORMS
**FOR OUR
CEREMONIES**

You may be eligible to
receive the Ashford
Military Grant to earn
your degree online.

CALL 866.711.1700
OR VISIT [MILITARY.ASHFORD.EDU](https://military.ashford.edu)

TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING



Ashford
UNIVERSITY



**YOU EARNED IT.
NOW USE IT.**

EARN THE DEGREE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED!

Ashford University welcomes students transferring from other schools. Students can transfer up to 90 approved credits toward their Bachelor's degree that can be completed 100% online. Ashford University is accredited by WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

CALL : **866.894.0765**
OR VISIT **ASHFORD.EDU/TRANSFER**





**YOU EARNED IT.
NOW USE IT.**

**EARN THE DEGREE
YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED!**

Ashford University welcomes students transferring from other schools. Students can transfer up to 90 approved credits toward their Bachelor's degree that can be completed 100% online. Ashford University is accredited by WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

CALL : 866.894.0765
OR VISIT ASHFORD.EDU/TRANSFER





Proudly supporting the
**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
TAXPAYERS
ASSOCIATION**

ASHFORD.EDU

Proud to support the
**DOWNTOWN
SAN DIEGO
PARTNERSHIP**



Ashford
UNIVERSITY®

ASHFORD.EDU

ASH0919



Ashford
UNIVERSITY®



GO AHEAD.

CALL 800.242.4153 OR VISIT GO.ASHFORD.EDU

400 NORTH BLUFF BLVD., CLINTON, IA 52732

15AUC0033 • AC0255



ASHFORD UNIVERSITY VISIT DAYS

Go Ahead at Ashford

FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 2015

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

For students interested in the College of Education, College of Liberal Arts, or if you are undecided on a major.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 2015

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

For students interested in the Forbes™ School of Business, College of Health, Human Services, and Science, or if you are undecided on a major.

Get to know Ashford University up close and personal when you visit the campus in Clinton, Iowa.

Your Visit Includes:

/ Sessions on:

- Admissions Process
- Academic Programs and Support
- Financial Aid Assistance
- Athletics, Clubs, and Organizations

/ Campus Tour

/ Attending a Class

/ Lunch in our Dining Hall

/ Much, Much More!

RSVP TO CAMPUSADMISSIONS@ASHFORD.EDU

OR 563.242.4023, EXT.7383.

VISIT GO.ASHFORD.EDU

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ASHFORD, AND APPLY TODAY!



Become part of Ashford University – a supportive community where you'll learn, grow, and form lasting friendships. It's our passion for learning that binds us together.

The Ashford experience is more than just reading, homework, and meeting new people. When you commit to earn your degree, you bring your whole life to the effort.

And you'll receive all kinds of support. Besides academics, you have access to useful resources for your career, your well-being, and your personal growth.

You can count on Ashford.



Ashford
UNIVERSITY®

LEARN MORE TODAY!

800.242.4153

GO.ASHFORD.EDU

400 NORTH BLUFF BLVD., CLINTON, IA 52732



Become part of Ashford University – a supportive community where you'll learn, grow, and form lasting friendships. It's our passion for learning that binds us together.

The Ashford experience is more than just reading, homework, and meeting new people. When you commit to earn your degree, you bring your whole life to the effort.

And you'll receive all kinds of support. Besides academics, you have access to useful resources for your career, your well-being, and your personal growth.

You can count on Ashford.



Ashford
UNIVERSITY®

LEARN MORE TODAY!

800.242.4153

GO.ASHFORD.EDU

400 NORTH BLUFF BLVD., CLINTON, IA 52732



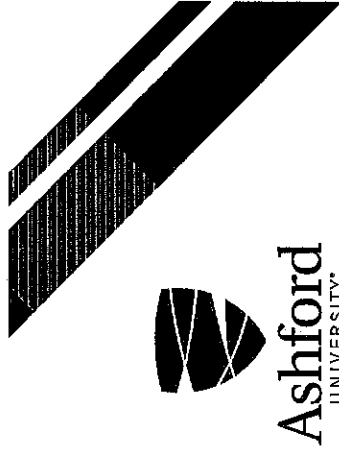
15AUC0179 • AC-0255

ASH0923

GO AHEAD!

CALL 800.242.4153
OR VISIT GO.ASHFORD.EDU

400 NORTH BLUFF BLVD., CLINTON, IA 52732
15AUC0203 • AC-0255



ASHFORD

CONNECTIONS | *AU Alumni Magazine*

ISSUE 08 / Spring 2014



SPEAKER SERIES LAUNCHES

10/ Steve Forbes kicked off the Forbes™ School of Business Speaker Series in March.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

3/ WELCOME LETTER

Provost Dr. Lori Williams welcomes readers to the issue.

22/ FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

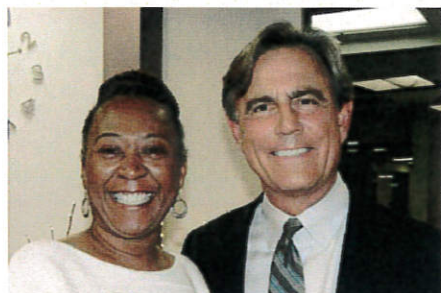
Dr. Dan Timanow and Dr. Katie Bojakowski are profiled.

24/ IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Two alumni pen pieces from their own points of view.

26/ CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

Men's soccer successes and a Service Learning trip are recounted.



6/ ALL THINGS ALUMNI

Several exciting initiatives for alumni are shared, including Industry Insight Tours, AU Rewards, the Alumni Ambassador program, and more.



16/ AN INTERVIEW WITH STEDMAN GRAHAM

Ashford's Fall 2013 commencement speaker shares advice on how to move from being a follower to a leader.



18/ ALUMNI STORIES

Sgt. Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour leads members of the U.S. men's and women's skeleton teams to medals in Sochi.

ASH0925

BELOW LEFT: A graduate enters the iWireless Center before the Fall 2013 Commencement Ceremony in Moline, IL. For more, see page 14.
BELOW RIGHT: Ashford campus students help provide relief to a tornado-stricken community. For more, see page 27.



SHOW YOUR ASHFORD PRIDE

**SHOP FOR
APPAREL • ALUMNI GEAR
ACCESSORIES • SALE ITEMS**
ASHFORD.EDU/GEAR-SHOP

MAIN COVER PHOTO:
Steve Forbes, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, and Dr. Richard Pattenau, President and CEO of Ashford University, at the launch of the Forbes' School of Business Speaker Series on March 4, 2014 in San Diego, CA.

ASHFORD CONNECTIONS IS PUBLISHED
SEMI-ANNUALLY BY ALUMNI RELATIONS.

Editor: Lorelei Plotczyk
Art Director: David Dickey
Designers: Brent Field, Jesse Caverly
Production: Jason Mandell
Contributors: Dr. Lori Williams, Courtney de Graen, Erik Siwak, Marianne Perez, Laurie Bianchi, Elihu Claiborne, Kevin Bessy, Larry Libberton, Ryan Thomas, Audra Adams, Jay Conner, and Dan Videtich

The contents of this magazine are the property of Ashford University. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior written permission of Ashford University. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior written permission of Ashford University.

CONTENTS

3/ WELCOME LETTER

by Dr. Lori Williams, Provost

4/ ASHFORD NEWS

Recent news about all things Ashford.

6/ ALL THINGS ALUMNI

by Laurie Bianchi

Ashford's Alumni Relations Manager shares several exciting new initiatives for Ashford alumni.

7/ Industry Insight Tours & AU Rewards

8/ My Career

9/ Alumni Ambassador Program & Alumni Tuition Grant

10/ SPEAKER SERIES LAUNCHES

by Lorelei Plotczyk & Erik Siwak

The Forbes' School of Business Speaker Series is kicked off by Steve Forbes. Plus: An interview with Steve Forbes.

14/ COMMENCEMENT

by Lorelei Plotczyk

Get all the highlights from the Fall 2013 commencement weekend in Clinton, IA and Moline, IL.

14/ A Tale of 4 MBAs

15/ Photo Gallery

16/ An Interview with Stedman Graham

18/ ALUMNI STORIES

by Lorelei Plotczyk and Jay Conner

Alumni stories are brought to life in words and in videos filmed at the Spring 2013 commencement.

18/ Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour

19/ Brittany Harris

20/ Michael Leach & Janice Dy

21/ Julie Ann McCoy Percevez & Brian Habel

22/ FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

by Lorelei Plotczyk

Meet Dr. Dan Tinianow and Dr. Katie Bojakowski, two College of Liberal Arts professors with interesting backgrounds in unexpected and diverse fields.

24/ IN YOUR OWN WORDS

by Elihu Claiborne & Kevin Bessy

Two Ashford alumni pen their own stories; Elihu on why our strengths are like pearls, and Kevin on an honor society-sponsored trip to South Africa.

26/ CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

by Ryan Thomas & Audra Adams

Learn about the Ashford Men's Soccer Team's run to the NAIA Semifinals and Service Learning trips to help with tornado relief.

28/ CLASS NOTES

Learn about the successes of recent and soon-to-be graduates.

30/ SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

Find out how to download special Ashford wallpapers for your devices and social media pages.

31/ PROGRAM LIST



With more than 25 years of experience in education, Dr. Lori Williams has served as Ashford University's Provost since October 2013.

by Dr. Lori Williams

DR. LORI WILLIAMS

University Provost

Dear Ashford Students and Alumni,

On behalf of the staff and faculty at Ashford University, I would like to welcome you to this issue of Ashford Connections. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I had the pleasure of joining Ashford University in October 2013. As the University's Provost, I am responsible for all aspects of Ashford's academics, including academic programs, accreditation and assessment, the academic mission, and the academic experience for students.

I bring more than 25 years of experience in education to Ashford. Most recently, I served as the Vice Provost of Curriculum Development and Innovation at Kaplan University. Prior to that, I was Executive Director of the Center for Student Success at Walden University. Previous positions include Vice President of Product Strategy and Development at Laureate Online Education, Executive Director of Laureate's eLearning Group, and Director of Instructional Technology at Union Institute & University. Through each position, I gained more skills and experience, which led me to the provost role at Ashford.

“

All are working hard to advance the mission of the University.

”

One of my main motivations for assuming the leadership of Ashford was working with such a talented, energetic, and passionate team. Everyone is so terrific! Clearly all are working hard to advance the mission of the University.

What is most inspiring to me about my position at Ashford is the ability to work with others to improve the quality of the academic experience for our students. As our programs continue to improve, the high quality of learning will allow our students to more easily and effectively become the professionals they know they can be, with the skills, knowledge, and competencies to grow in their careers.

Enjoy the issue!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Williams".

Dr. Lori Williams, Provost
Ashford University

ASHFORD NEWS



Watch highlights from the Forbes School of Business signing ceremony.

ASHFORD UNIVERSITY AND FORBES MEDIA INTRODUCE THE FORBES™ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

In a reception held at its headquarters in San Diego on December 12, 2013, representatives from Ashford University, Bridgepoint Education, and Forbes Media unveiled the Forbes School of Business, formerly the College of Business and Professional Studies. Students of the Forbes School of Business will gain online access to Forbes resources dating back almost a century. Forbes contributors may also be available to serve as guest lecturers, sharing their expansive knowledge with Ashford's online students. Other benefits for Forbes School of Business students and, in some cases, alumni, include invitations to unique speaker series ([read more on page 10](#)) and webinars featuring business experts from Forbes' roster of approximately 1,200 international contributors.

ASHFORD NAMED A 2014 RECYCLER OF THE YEAR IN SAN DIEGO

Ashford University and their parent company Bridgepoint Education have been selected by the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department as Recyclers of the Year in the 2014 Waste Reduction and Recycling Awards Program due to their "outstanding recycling and waste reduction efforts." The institutions were recognized by San Diego mayor Kevin Falconer onboard the USS Makin Island at a special media event on April 29.

ASHFORD UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH KYXY 96.5 TO PROMOTE LITERACY

Ashford University, in partnership with radio station KyXy 96.5, is encouraging reading and supporting literacy throughout San Diego with the Ashford University Book Club. Since February 2014 and for the remainder of the school year, KyXy 96.5 and Ashford University have been highlighting a new book each month, as recommended by the San Diego Council on Literacy in partnership

with Words Alive, for students in grades K-5. One lucky classroom each month wins a reading party hosted by KyXy on-air personality Little Tommy from the Jeff and Jer Showgram. The winning class will also receive a \$100 gift card for their classroom from Ashford University. "I am proud to be a part of the Ashford University Book Club," said Little Tommy. "There isn't anything better than reading to children."

FORBES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS OFFERING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Forbes School of Business at Ashford University will award ten scholarships valued at \$5,000 each to students throughout 2014. As a result of Ashford's partnership with Forbes Media, students will be able to apply for either a Senior Project Competition Scholarship or an Entrepreneurship Scholarship. As Dr. Michael Reilly, Executive Dean and professor for the Forbes School of Business at Ashford University, explained, "Funding an education can be challenging, and finding online college scholarships can be time-consuming and difficult." [Learn more about the scholarships.](#)



DR. ALBERT KARNIG JOINS ASHFORD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Albert Karnig has accepted a position on the **Board of Trustees for Ashford University**. His term began March 14, 2014. Dr. Karnig's career includes more than 15 years of experience in higher education. From 1997 to 2012, he served as the president of California State University, San Bernardino. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for several organizations, including the California University of Science and Medicine, the California Council on Economic Education, the KVCR Public Radio and Television Educational Foundation, and the San Bernardino County Alliance for Education. Dr. Karnig earned his Bachelor's degree from Augustana College and his MS and PhD in Political Science from the University of Illinois.



ASHFORD APPOINTS VICE PRESIDENT/CAMPUS DIRECTOR

Dr. Charlie Minnick has been appointed Vice President and Campus Director of Ashford's Clinton, IA campus. He has been in the position on an interim basis since January 1, 2014. "He has been at Ashford for eight years as campus dean for the Forbes School of Business (FSB) and has been an integral part of the campus leadership team," said Dr. Lori Williams, Ashford University provost. During his Ashford tenure, Minnick has been responsible for many initiatives, including launching the Office of New Student Experience and Engagement and the Office of Service Learning and Leadership and developing and launching many new degree programs, concentrations, and specializations. In addition, Minnick has taught undergraduate business and management courses and chaperoned a service learning trip to Toms River, NJ last year. Dr. Williams added, "We are confident that the campus will thrive under his direction."

HOMEFRONT HEROES SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO MILITARY SPOUSES

Ashford University, in partnership with Cox Communications, awarded **Homefront Heroes Scholarships** to five military spouses in San Diego County. Dr. Richard Pattenaude, Ashford University President and CEO, presented the scholarships at the Jacobs Music Center at Copley Symphony Hall during the Home for the Holidays concert on December 19, 2013. The scholarship recognizes the strength and support military spouses provide our nation's service members and covers tuition and books at Ashford University. The 2013 scholarship recipients are Paige Solis, Erin Beeman, Tracy Bernal, Amber Engle, and Monique Morales.

ASHFORD UNIVERSITY TO HOST FALL 2014 COMMENCEMENT IN SAN DIEGO

In response to requests from students to hold graduation on the West Coast, Ashford University announced that it will host the Fall 2014 commencement ceremony in San Diego, CA at the San Diego Convention Center. By offering a commencement ceremony in San Diego, Ashford is making the trip to graduation more affordable and convenient for online students who live in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Western Canada, and beyond. In California alone, there are more than 2,500 Ashford students slated to graduate in 2014. "Moving commencement to a west coast location will create more opportunities for students to personally meet the Ashford instructors," said Dr. Richard Pattenaude.



Two of the five Homefront Heroes Scholarship recipients and their spouses pose with Dr. Richard Pattenaude at the reception on December 19. **FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Danny Solis and his wife Paige Solis, a recipient; Dr. Richard Pattenaude; and recipient Amber Engle and her husband Ray Engle.

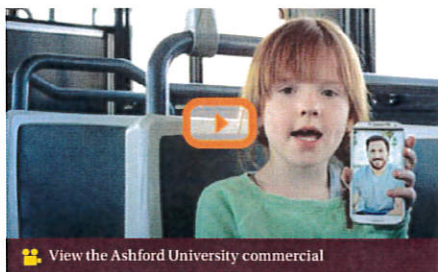


Moving commencement to a west coast location will create more opportunities for students to personally meet the Ashford instructors..."



NEWEST ASHFORD UNIVERSITY COMMERCIALS RELEASED IN FEBRUARY

Two new Ashford University commercials were released in February of this year; one for Ashford University and one specifically for the Forbes School of Business. The Ashford commercial, with a theme of "school comes to you," shows how technology makes it possible for working adults to earn a degree from anywhere. The Forbes School of Business commercial depicts how graduates of the School are empowered to hold their own in the business world. Check out both TV spots below! //



[View the Ashford University commercial](#)



[View the Forbes School of Business commercial](#)

ALL THINGS ALUMNI

by Laurie Bianchi, Alumni Relations Manager

The staff members behind the Ashford University Alumni Association (AUAA) have been hard at work planning exciting new initiatives for Ashford's nationwide community of alumni, including Industry Insight Tours, AU Rewards, My Career, the Alumni Ambassador Program, and the Alumni Tuition Grant. Learn more in this special section, Just For Alumni.





Cory Reynolds of Manpower (left) welcomed Ron Gaschler of Ashford University's Career Services and Alumni Relations department (right) during Ashford's first Industry Insight Tour.

ALUMNI RELATIONS LAUNCHES INDUSTRY INSIGHT TOUR PROGRAM

Have you ever wanted to meet decision makers, learn the inside story on a company, and find people to contact for employment or business opportunities? The Ashford University Alumni Association (AUAA)'s Industry Insight Tours aim to do just that. Industry Insight Tours are designed for Ashford graduates who seek jobs or want to expand their professional network.

Launched in January 2014 at Manpower of San Diego's headquarters, the tour featured Philip C. Blair, Chair and Executive Officer of Manpower Staffing of San Diego, Inc., who spoke about the company and the recruitment industry. Not only did attendees gain insight into a company that has placed more than 500,000 job seekers, but they also received a copy of Blair's new book, *Job Won!*, compliments of Ashford University.

The Industry Insight Tour program will bring similar opportunities to Ashford alumni in markets across the country. The program offers a win-win solution for both potential candidates and the companies who open their doors to Ashford alumni. Hosting a tour is a powerfully personal way for companies to meet qualified potential candidates and potentially do some recruiting.

Future Industry Insight Tours will be announced on the **AUAA Events** page. If you work for a company that might enjoy hosting a group of Ashford alumni in an Industry Insight Tour, please contact Laurie Bianchi, Alumni Relations Manager, at laurie.bianchi@ashford.edu. Finally, if you would like to know more about a leading employer in your area and nominate them for a tour, submit your ideas to alumni@ashford.edu.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Industry Insight Tour in your area!

AU REWARDS OFFER DISCOUNTS TO ASHFORD ALUMNI

BEING AN ASHFORD ALUMNUS HAS MANY ADVANTAGES, BUT DID YOU KNOW IT CAN SAVE YOU MONEY?

Ashford offers benefits to the entire Ashford community through our corporate partners, including discounts on Dell computers, on Ashford's **Beneplace** webpage. And now, Ashford's Alumni Relations department offers alumni-specific benefits with the introduction of the all-new AU Rewards program. To access AU Rewards, log into your **Student Portal** and select the Popular Links tab.

AU Rewards offers cost savings that best fit the needs and lifestyles of Ashford alumni. Benefits include savings on insurance, and will expand this year to include discounts on professional clothing, travel, and fitness.

GEICO Leads the Way on AU Rewards

Our first AU Rewards corporate partner is GEICO, who has stepped forward to design a discount program specifically for Ashford alumni, saving you money on your car, motorcycle, boat, and home insurance.

The Alumni Association's partnership with GEICO Auto Insurance gives alumni the benefit of great rates on high-quality car insurance. In addition to your Ashford alumni discount, which could shave as much as 8% more off GEICO's already low prices, you'll also receive 24-hour service online or by phone, efficient and fair claim handling, and the peace of mind that comes from being protected by an auto insurance company rated A++ for financial stability.



Learn more about AU Rewards discounts available on GEICO insurance.

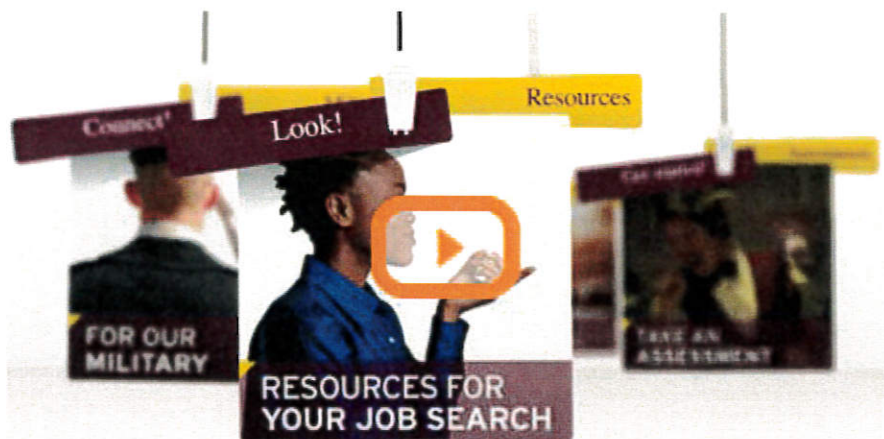
What Discounts Would You Like To See Offered?

As the program is just getting started, we would love to hear from you what kinds of benefits you'd like us to offer. Let us know what makes sense for you by emailing us at alumni@ashford.edu, and we will do our very best to deliver even more benefits to you and your alumni family!

Accessing the Student Portal and “My Career” as an Alum

To access My Career, log in to the Ashford University **Student Portal**. Under Career and Alumni Services, select the link to *My Career: Career and Professional Development Center*. If you don't remember your Student Portal password, use the **Forgot your password?** option on the login screen. If you cannot remember your student ID, write to student.records@ashford.edu using the email address on file with Ashford University and include your name and date of birth in your request.

JUMPSTART YOUR CAREER WITH “MY CAREER”



 View the above video to learn more about using “My Career: Career and Professional Development Center.”

Whether you are currently looking for work or are employed and motivated to develop professionally, Ashford University has a new resource available just for you! Free access to “My Career: Career and Professional Development Center,” launched in February of this year, is an exclusive benefit of being a member of the Ashford alumni community.

Within *My Career*, you may access a number of valuable resources, including the following:

- Résumé guidance, including a builder if you are just getting started, samples and templates to download, and the ability to submit your resume for professional review by a Career Services Specialist
- Complimentary access to take personality assessments and follow-up coaching regarding results – find out what your strengths are and how you can apply them for career success
- An events calendar to register for virtual and in-person career development workshops and hiring events
- A job search function with opportunities posted by employers seeking to hire Ashford graduates (note: if you or someone you know are interested in posting jobs, check out Ashford's **Hire A Champ** campaign)
- The optimal virtual interviewing practice tool, as well as options to schedule live mock interviews
- Connect, an area where you can meet others and engage in discussion boards and live chats with Ashford students, alumni, potential employers, faculty, and staff

As an alumnus, you have already made a huge accomplishment by achieving your degree. Keep the momentum going in the right direction by continually developing yourself to enhance your professional achievements. Ashford's Career & Alumni Services Department is committed to empowering you to achieve your greatest career potential. Log into *My Career* to get started today!

ALUMNI TUITION GRANT

Ashford University offers an Alumni Tuition Grant to alumni who graduate from an Ashford University or University of the Rockies (Ashford's sister school) degree program and enroll in another online Ashford University or University of the Rockies degree program. Students interested in furthering their education at either school will find the Alumni Tuition Grant helps eliminate some costs associated with doing so.

Gwendolyn Bates of San Diego, CA is just one of many alumni who have taken advantage of the Alumni Tuition Grant. After earning a **Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management** from Ashford in 2010, she immediately reenrolled at Ashford and applied the Alumni Tuition Grant toward her **Master of Business Administration** program, graduating in 2012.

*...with the degrees,
I am more credible
and competent.*

"With my degrees, I am able to view my company from a professional business perspective," she says. "I've been able to implement trend forecasts, marketing and SWOT [strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats] analysis, surveys, population samples, and a financial plan for growth and exit. The degrees have given me greater professionalism and self-confidence in owning and operating a business."

In addition to her many duties as a fledgling business owner, this busy mom is also president of her children's elementary school, a PTA board member, and a military spouse who serves as Ombudsman encompassing over eight Naval bases in San Diego. "Ashford has given me self-assurance in reorganizing my company to operate it with assertiveness and poise. I also feel that with the degrees, I am more credible and competent. I feel distinguished and accomplished as an Ashford alumnae."

Find out more about the Alumni Tuition Grant. //



Ashford alum Gwendolyn Bates took advantage of the Alumni Tuition Grant.



Ashford alumni are able to take advantage of many benefits and programs, including the Alumni Ambassador program.

ALUMNI AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

This summer, the Alumni Relations Department plans to launch the University's first Alumni Ambassador Program. This program will support Ashford students and alumni across the country and around the world. Alumni who apply and are approved for the Ambassador program will be able to share their experience and wisdom with students and peers who wish to connect with someone who has successfully graduated from Ashford. **Get more information and updates on alumni programs.**



ASHFORD UNIVERSITY™

Alumni Association

JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION >

FORBES™ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS KICKS OFF SPEAKER SERIES

by Erik Siwak and Lorelei Plotczyk

Nearly 150 Ashford University students, alumni, faculty members, and executives from the San Diego business community gathered on March 4, 2014 for the launch of the **Forbes School of Business** speaker series. Held at the University Club Atop San Diego's Symphony Towers, the event was the first in a line of speaking engagements designed to bring prominent business experts to the Ashford University's Forbes School of Business community. The first speaker invited was Forbes Media's Chairman and Editor-in-Chief himself, Steve Forbes.



Forbes™
School of
Business

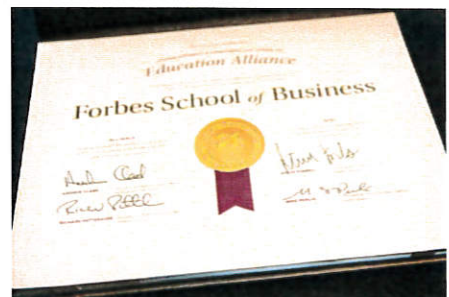


Left, below, and on the following pages: Steve Forbes, President and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, and other attendees at the December 2013 signing ceremony for Forbes' alliance with Ashford.

A significant benefit of the partnership between Ashford University and Forbes Media (**more on page 4**), the speaker series offers the Forbes School of Business community access to events and webinars featuring Forbes' extensive roster of approximately 1,200 international contributors. A diverse mix of high-level business leaders and forward thinkers will engage with the Ashford community throughout the year. These events will be live streamed and/or recorded in order to allow the entire Ashford community to participate. Ashford's leadership will

curate the speakers' backgrounds and the topics covered for relevance to the programs offered by the Forbes School of Business.

While the series is hosted by the Forbes School of Business, all Ashford students and alumni are invited, and the live stream will be open to all students and alumni as well. Additionally, adjunct faculty and staff members around the country will be invited to attend so that students and alumni can connect with them.



“Our mission is to provide quality education, and we are excited to have Forbes as a strategic partner in that mission.”



While introducing Steve Forbes at March's inaugural event, Ashford University President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Richard Pattenaude referred to the speaker series launch as a symbolic event, part of the University's journey to becoming one of the nation's best private online institutions. "When discussions of an alliance between Ashford University and Forbes Media began, one aspect I was most excited about was the chance for Ashford students to hear directly from the knowledgeable experts associated with Forbes Media," said Dr. Pattenaude. "Our mission is to provide quality education, and we are excited to have Forbes as a strategic partner in that mission. I'm pleased to say that more than 250 Forbes School of Business courses already reflect Forbes' rich intellectual content in their curriculum."

In his powerful presentation, Forbes addressed the state of the global economy, from the significance of the current (as of press time) Russia-Ukraine conflict to taxation in the United States, health care, monetary issues, entrepreneurship, and even Bitcoins. Forbes also addressed the future of the US economy, forecasting growth and improvement in 2014.



"With credit markets evening out and bank lending growing again, the US economy should be better this year than it has been in the last four years," Forbes told the students. "Study at Ashford and get ready for another period of global prosperity."

The public can watch a short overview video of the event on Ashford's YouTube channel. Additionally, students and alumni should keep an eye out for the presentation in its entirety, available exclusively to them, in the Student Portal. Parts of the presentation will also be built into Forbes School of Business curriculum for current students.

The next event in the speaker series will feature Ken Fisher – Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Fisher Investments. Fisher is a top investment analyst on the 2013 Forbes 400 list of richest Americans and Forbes list of world billionaires. He will be speaking and participating in a meet-and-greet at Ashford's Clinton, IA campus on May 3 during Spring 2014 commencement weekend. Though the deadline to RSVP occurred before press time of this publication, look for exclusive invitations for upcoming Forbes School of Business Speaker Series events in the near future! //





The Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, Steve Forbes, took a moment to answer some questions after his presentation.

Q&A WITH STEVE FORBES

by Lorelei Plotczyk

We had a chance to speak with Steve Forbes after his presentation on March 4. In addition to the below answers to our questions, he extended a personal congratulations to all this year's graduates of Ashford University.

Ashford Connections (AC): *What are your hopes for graduates of the Forbes School of Business?*

Steve Forbes (SF): Well, that they get the tools that they need to go out and develop their talents and learn to make mistakes . . . and be successes. And my grandfather said in the first issue of Forbes, "The purpose of business is to produce happiness, not to pile up money." And so it's about developing – it's an overused phrase, but absolutely true – human capital.

AC: *Can you speak to the ability of institutions like Ashford to be a disruptive force?*

SF: By giving people the knowledge and confidence to go out into the world, by creating and doing new things – that, by its very definition, is disruptive. So you come up with a new project, a new service, a new process; you are disrupting but serving the needs and wants of others. [Ashford University is] giving people the tools to go out and do it.

AC: *What's your biggest advice for fledgling entrepreneurs?*

SF: For fledgling entrepreneurs: one, don't be surprised if it doesn't work. It's like baseball; you don't always hit a home run when you go up to the plate. And very importantly: cash flow, cash flow, cash flow. Stay on top of that, because that's killed more new starting businesses than anything else. You think you're moving ahead, and you suddenly find you don't have the juice to do it.

AC: *How is an environment for innovation best created today?*

SF: An environment for getting ahead is very simple. Sound money, low tax rates, rule of law, and regulations that provide the rules of the road instead of telling people how to do things – and rules that are understandable and not at the discretion of bureaucrats. Then people will do the rest. //

“

The purpose of business is to produce happiness, not to pile up money.

”

Ashford University celebrated its Fall **commencement** on Sunday, October 13, 2013. More than 700 graduates and nearly 4,000 guests traveled to the Clinton, IA area to attend the graduation ceremony. Ashford graduated a total of 7,563 students since the University's previous commencement ceremonies in May. The ceremonies in Moline, IL capped off a weekend of celebration that began on October 12 with a variety of events for graduates and their families at Ashford's Clinton campus. We've gathered some highlights from the weekend to share with you here!



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Fellow MBAs Bobby Antee, Richard Rosas, Sara Schaeffer-Alsop, and Mari Foley were delighted to meet in person at commencement.

A TALE OF 4 MBAS

4 classmates meet in person for the first time – and unexpectedly – at their commencement ceremony.

"It was great to be able to put a face and voice to the names!"

Throughout their Master of Business Administration (MBA), Marketing specialization program – and especially in their final course – classmates Richard Rosas, Mari Foley, Bobby Antee, and Sara Schaeffer-Alsop provided support and encouragement for one another in the form of discussion board posts and group emails.

"Not only did we discuss the topics set forth by the professor," explains Richard, a Senior Rare Disease Specialist at Novartis, but we would lean on each other and encourage one another."

The coursework wasn't easy, but when all was said and done, all four were officially MBAs! And though they continued to stay connected through social media, they hadn't thought to communicate about whether anyone else in the group was attending the Fall 2013 commencement ceremony in Illinois. After all, they were from such far-flung locations as Texas, New York, and California.

So imagine their surprise not only to hear each other's names called out at the ceremony, but to discover they were only seats away from other!

Mari, a global marketing communications manager who hopes to work her way up to a director position, describes her delight upon being able to meet her support network in person. "It was really funny to all of a sudden hear someone's name called that you recognize. Then I heard the other two names, and it

just fell into place that our whole group was there. We hugged each other as soon as the ceremony was over. I felt connected and like I really belonged at that point with people who knew me and I knew them."

Adds Sara-Schaeffer-Alsop, a product support manager at Hewlett-Packard Company, "It was great to be able to put a face and voice to the names!" And Bobby, a senior consultant and aspiring entrepreneur, says, "I was so happy to see them. It was a wonderful feeling!"

Although the four in this group became particularly close, they also point out the strength of the learning community as a whole. Bobby calls his Ashford classmates "always passionate and willing to help. They push you further than just answering questions." Mari says, "We collaborated and bounced ideas off each other and were able to teach one another from our experiences and interpretations of the material we were learning. We communicated as much as possible to get the most out of the program."

Additionally, all four in the group have seen positive results professionally from having earned their MBAs. "In the past," explains Mari, "I was invited to high level professional meetings in which topics were discussed that I didn't understand, so I wasn't able to contribute. During my degree program, I learned the terminology and what it all meant, so I am now able to contribute and be a member that people turn to for help on their projects."

Bobby says, "I have used my knowledge with my current position by implementing projects and setting up presentation material." Sara points out that she is "empowered to better summarize financial results and better communicate her summaries," while Richard says, "My degree has helped me sharpen my skills and apply them to my current position."

Of the ceremony, Richard adds, "Encountering these classmates was one of my biggest surprises at commencement. They, along with my family and close friends, understood the work that was necessary to get to that day. Participating in commencement will be an experience I will always remember." Sara agrees, saying, "I made a point to remind myself to take it all in and store the memories away so I can recall them, since this will most likely be my last commencement ceremony."

In closing, says Mari, "I dedicated 22 months of my life toward this and I'm so glad I did, so I can cross it off my bucket list and not have any regrets. Meeting my classmates in person at commencement was the icing on the cake!" //

PHOTO GALLERY



A smaller reception was held on the Clinton campus for campus students only in December 2013.

RECEIVING AWARDS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WERE:

Amber Truckenmiller, Academic Excellence in Psychology Award; Veronica White, Joan Walsh Richeson Award; Allison Kibler, Sister Marilyn Shea Outstanding Dispositions Award; Alexis Kibler, Business Scholar's Award; Megan Nesbitt, James L. Mooney Award; Samantha Harr, Accounting Student Award; and Andrew Carbajal, Alex Esquivel Promising Teacher Award.



Nicole Gaynair, BA in Health Care Administration, 2013, prepares to walk to the stage.



Campus staff members Audra Adams, Manager of Service Learning, and Larry Libberton, Director of Communications, are always thrilled to meet online students at commencement.



Wounded warrior Mitch Chapman, BA in Operations Management and Analysis, 2013, is guided by his service dog Justice. The ceremony was 5 years to the day from his life-altering combat injury. [Read more about Mitch.](#)



See Aileen Coronel, MBA with a Project Management specialization, 2013, discuss the value of an MBA in this video.



73-year-old Patricia Turner, co-author of *The Encyclopedia of Ancient Deities*, earned her BA in Psychology. [Read more about Patricia.](#)

AN INTERVIEW WITH STEDMAN GRAHAM

by Lorelei Plotczyk

The official commencement speaker for the Fall 2013 Commencement Ceremony was none other than educator, author, and businessman Stedman Graham. He is Chairman and CEO of S. Graham & Associates (SGA), an adjunct professor to several universities around the country, and has authored eleven books, including two New York Times bestsellers. His latest release is "Identity: Your Passport to Success." Graham's presentations on the topics of identity development, maximizing leadership, achieving success, and personal and professional branding are driven by his Nine-Step Success Process®, a life and learning management system designed to organize your life around your identity. We got the chance to sit down and talk with him after he addressed the crowd of about 4,700 people at commencement.

Ashford Connections (AC): As an educator, author, and speaker, how would you describe the work you do in a nutshell?

Stedman Graham (SG): I teach identity development; I teach people how to find out who they are, how to take education and information and make it relevant to their purpose in life, and then transfer it to their minds – and then transfer it to the American free enterprise system in the global marketplace so they can organize a life around themselves and shape their future.

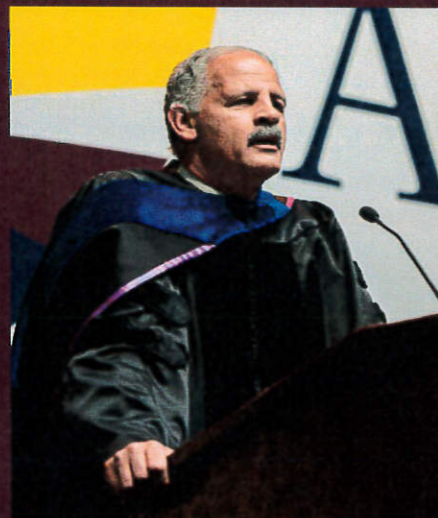
AC: Tell us a little bit about growing up and your first jobs, and how you got from there to where you are today?

SG: I grew up in a small town; Whitesboro NJ. I was a basketball player, I got a scholarship to college, and after I graduated I went into the service and played ball in Europe. After the service I worked in the prison system for 5 years. That wasn't my first job [though]; my first job was [as] a short order cook on the beach, which I got fired from because I ate too many of the profits. [Laughs]. But I worked in the prison system for 5 years, in public relations and marketing for years – I

used to own an advertising company – I worked in the sports marketing industry, and now I've dedicated my life to education and teaching people about identity development leadership.

AC: Talk about what reinvention means to you in the 21st century, and how adult learners tie in to that concept.

SG: Reinvention means that you have to prepare yourself in the 21st century, because the marketplace is really changing a lot through technology, and you have to be a lifelong learner and developer. You have to be more of an owner of your own development, stay on the cutting edge, be motivated, have good leadership skills, be a self-starter, and be focused. You have to know where you're going, how you're going to get there, and what the process is. And you have to be able to assimilate into a global marketplace and deal with all kinds of people, so you have to have good relationship skills.



Stedman Graham spoke to about 700 Ashford graduates and 4,000 of their guests at the iWireless Center in Moline, IL on October 13, 2013.

I think adult learners are on the right track. The fact of the matter is, we have to keep learning. We have to keep reinventing ourselves all the time and again, stay on the cutting edge, and get the best information that will make us relevant – the buzz word of the 21st century is relevance.

AC: You talk about the difference between having a true identity versus simply embodying the labels we are assigned by society – can you explain this, and how it's relevant to our career paths?

SG: True identity is really being able to get beyond the socially constructed labels that [otherwise] define you and put you in a box. People are defined by their race, and they get into a box, and they're defined by their family and their background and their job and title – and really, that's not who you are. Identity is about going deeper in your development, trying to figure out what you love, what your talents are, what your skills are, and really what your natural abilities are. Like I said, everyone has 24 hours [in a day], so the question is: what to do with your 24 hours so you can organize yourself every day? Then you can develop a process for continuous improvement.

AC: How can adult learners or anyone else turn their passion into a profession?

SG: The passion is the core. That's your authenticity, that's your foundation for growth and development, that's being able to organize your life around the different things that you love and care about. So it's a process of being able to get to that natural ability and figure out what is relevant to you, what makes you happy, what you care about, and take that information and make it relevant to that. So I call it developing a strong work-life balance, which is long-term. And to figure out how to clarify what's important to you, and what you should be working on.