



HONORING 26 YEARS OF ADULT LEARNING

“But what can I do with this degree?”

Well, in a sense, it depends on you, but here are some examples of what others are doing...





Ans Muller Bon/Lombard 1 ABS

“Returning to school at a ‘later age’ can be a life changing experience. Born and raised in the Netherlands, I came to the United States where I married and started my family.

In 1979 I discovered a way to realize my dream of continuing my education. It was called ‘National-Louis’

field experience program,’ an intensive study in behavioral science leading to a bachelor’s degree. After one year of hard work, I earned my degree – and then after two more years, I earned my Master’s in adult education.

With my RN in psychiatric nursing, I became a family therapist, earning a two year post-graduate degree from the Family Institute of Northwestern University. This opened doors for me I didn’t even know existed. I now became a nurse, therapist, and teacher!

Recently, I was approached by a nurse who had been one of my students many years ago. She told me, “I will never forget your group discussions. They changed my life. I can never thank you enough...” This is one of the best tributes to Education I can think of!”



ARLENE DULSKI: I was a stay at home mom with a high school degree raising four children. During that time, my husband had been ill on three separate occasions, meningitis one year, and a brain tumor on two other occasions. My third child, shortly after her third birthday became chronically ill and was treated with chemotherapy for over five years, ill for over ten years.

On my 44th birthday I realized there was a strong possibility that I would have to earn

a living and needed to be able to continue to support my four children and take care of my husband. So, I went to Jr. college. I had to do two remedial math classes to get up to speed for college level algebra. I got A’s in them (I had a dreadful fear of math...not my longest suit) THEN, I even got A’s in the three required college level math classes.

While working as a nanny during the day, I got my undergrad degree from NLU. During my last year, I met a young friend of my daughters who insisted she wanted to submit my resume to Hewitt Associates in Lincolnshire. I hesitantly gave her my resume, such as it was, and forgot about it, convinced that they would never be interested. I secretly hoped I wouldn’t be considered because I was terrified of the corporate world.

Mid-December 1999 they called me and did a phone interview. I hung up convinced they would never call again. Two weeks later they called to arrange an interview, and two weeks after that I was offered a job as a floating administrative assistant. This job afforded me the opportunity to work for many different departments at Hewitt. One of the departments I did work for was the legal department. After a year, I was offered a position as a compliance analyst in their legal department. I took the job even though it was numbers, because I wanted the experience and diversity.

After a year as a compliance analyst I still had a yen for working with people. I landed a job as an HR Coordinator for a company that rented and sold construction equipment. I had a wonderful time there, and got to experience working with the unions and was able to continue to grow my knowledge of HR.

While there I began to discover that people really did feel drawn to me and were comfortable with me – a talent I never realized I had. I returned to NLU and got my masters degree in Human Resources Management and Development. During



the time I was at the construction company, I went from HR Coordinator to Generalist/Manager.

In Fall of 2003 I began my search again, having completed my Masters Program, In December of 2003 I was offered the position of Manager of Human Resources at Fourth Presbyterian Church. We are a high profile church with over 170 employees, and we are an incredibly dynamic and powerful church in the City of Chicago. Although my commute is a bit long, the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful organization and the respect they give me and the way they value me continues to delight and surprise me. Bill, can you believe it's me?



Gwendolyn Brunt: Since completing the ABS program in September of 2003, we sold our home of 12 years and purchased a town home in Aurora, Illinois. In July of 2004, I accepted a position in the purchasing department as a purchasing assistant. This position, a promotion, is the second for me during my five year tenure at the College of DuPage. I love our new home, my new position and I look forward to taking courses towards my graduate degree in the near future.

Susan O'Connor: I'm starting the Master cohort in counseling orientation tonight. I am also enrolled at COD (classes start tomorrow) for the final two classes I need to sit for the addiction counseling license. Incidentally, Kathy Golz and I are thrilled to be taking this program together!

Sandy Marrero: Since my graduation from the ABS program wonderful things have happened. I accepted a position in 2004 as a Grant Management Coordinator for HUD in Naples, Florida. I'm enjoying the new job as well as the new scenery. I'd love to see how everyone is doing.

Chiquita White: Well, I'm up to a couple of different things. I just applied for a Cook

County Sheriff position and a Juvenile Probation officer position. Everything is looking great for both positions. I'm just wanting to see which one is going to come along first. I have also started a side job in real estate. I just purchased my first two flat building, and I'm currently working in a hospital in the financial department while volunteering at the DuPage adult probation department.

Janet Streem: In five weeks I'll have my MSW! [Aurora University]

Molly Howieson: A year ago yesterday, I left DuPage County for an organization called "Bridge Communities." Bridge partners with 38 churches in DuPage County to provide transitional housing for homeless families. I am currently case-managing eight families. Helping them access services/education & training with the hope of improving their earning potential and self sufficiency.

Last spring, I was elected in the Democrat primary to represent the 14th Congressional District at the Democratic Convention in Boston. I voted on the approval of our platform as well as the approval of John Kerry and John Edwards as our Presidential/Vice President candidates. I also was able to meet many Illinois officials and attend caucuses on women's & veteran's issues. Upon my return, I was crowned by family members, "The Queen of meeting famous people."

Yoshinao: Since the ABS program I have been admitted to the Graduate School of Loyola University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology for Fall 2005.

Jimmy Dominguez: I am presently an Assistant Warden at Stateville Correctional Center, Joliet, IL. This is one of Illinois Department of Corrections maximum security facilities. I am thankful first and foremost to God for this great opportunity and the realization of receiving my Bachelors degree from National-Louis University. My experience in the ABS program was eventful, challenging, exciting and most importantly rewarding. I am encouraged in continuing my education in the near future and returning to the University that equipped

me with the necessary tools to be where I am today. For that I say thanks and Hasta Pronto!

Roger Kim: (ABS Wheaton 56) Amazingly, I am still employed by AT&T - having survived four major downsizings and three reorganizations. Currently, I am about halfway through my Hospice Volunteer training with CNS Hospice. As of April 5th, I'll begin the NLU Human Services Administration masters program. Goal is to have the knowledge and skills to be an effective senior advocate.

Cherie Michelon: I planned on enrolling in the National Louis MAT program to reach my goal of working with children after completing the ABS program. I'm working with children now...my own! I'm a stay-at-home mom to three wonderful kids! During my ABS program, I became the mother of premature (12 weeks early) twin boys, and blessed recently with another son this past October. I still plan on enrolling in the MAT program to complete my dream after I enjoy the early years of my children.



MAT program to complete my dream after I enjoy the early years of my children.

Jeff Gilbert: Founded in October 1999, Hope for Tomorrow, Inc., is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that provides safe, structured, substance-free housing to men recovering from the diseases of alcoholism, drug addiction, and/or pathological gambling. Our mission is to help these individuals fulfill their needs to grow, to develop into what they are capable of becoming and to ultimately develop a life based upon truth, goodness, wholeness, justice and order, richness and totality, and self-sufficiency and autonomy.

Currently, we have 37 residential beds (both state licensed and faith-based). In addition, we have Level I & Level II Adolescent and Adult Outpatient Services, DUI Evaluations and DUI Risk Education. All outpatient services and 24 beds of the residential services are licensed

through the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Alcohol & Substance Abuse (DASA). I hold State of Illinois certification as an Alcohol & Other Drug Counselor (CADC), a Problem and Compulsive Gambling Counselor (PCGC), and a Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Specialist (MISA). [Note: Jeff was just awarded the prestigious Jefferson Award for 2005 by Channel 5 Television!]

Vince Bellafore: I graduated from ABS this past September. I then turned around and began the classes in the Masters program at National-Louis. I came back to school, after retiring as a sergeant from the Batavia Police Department. I chose the ABS and MSM programs because they fit the direction I am pursuing with my life...teaching leadership. I am the director of the Leadership Education And Development program (The LEAD program) at Marmion Academy in Aurora. I teach leadership life-skills to freshmen through seniors. It is a wonderfully rewarding job. My personal life is filled with family - my wife of 32 years, our three grown children and my 2 year-old granddaughter, who is the light of my life. I also love to play the guitar and sing every chance I get.

Timothy Hotchkiss: I am still in the Army with about a year to go on my present enlistment. I will be spending the rest of my time here at Fort Leonard Wood, barring any deployments. I have finished 24 hours toward my Masters of Divinity at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, MO. I will transfer to the Reserves next year and finish my degree, all 90 credits of it, full time. After I finish my degree, I will apply for active duty status as a chaplain in the Army. Things are going well. Every day in the Army these days is stressful. The longer we stay in combat the more stressful it is going to get, but I really enjoy being here and working within the chaplaincy.

Maureen Garcia: Since the end of our program last June, I have been promoted up two levels to an Instructional Designer (a position I never would have been able to obtain without my B.A.). I recently designed, developed and facilitated the material for U.S.

Cellular's first ever virtual classroom using Webex. This training is now facilitated weekly to all new hires across the country. Because I still have 12 more credits to obtain, I have just recently taken the first of my last three Dante's tests that will give me my diploma in June. I am eagerly looking for a Masters program that will give me the competencies to enter into the Organizational Development field as an OD Practitioner doing what I love to do, bringing people and groups together to solve problems. I truly miss and love all you guys and find myself often telling the stories of my experiences in our awesome group.

Pamela Pirtle is currently the Assistant Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Under the auspices of the Office of the Provost, Pamela has oversight responsibility for the University's policy and procedures for addressing discrimination and harassment. In addition, she also serves as the University's Grievance Officer for internally filed civil rights complaints. Pamela is the University's representative and liaison before all Federal and State civil rights enforcement agencies. She serves as the University's ADA/Section 504 Coordinator for the approximately 42,000 students and 10,000 employees at the University of Illinois. Prior to coming to the University of Illinois, Pamela was an Investigator for approximately eight years for the Illinois Department of Human Rights, and as a federal contract investigator for several government agencies. She received her Bachelor's Degree, from National Louis University in Applied Behavioral Sciences. Pamela is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Illinois. Pamela is the owner of Diversity Management Services, a professional HR company.

Colin Wilkie: In mid-August with the full, Cokay, three-quarters intention to continue my education towards becoming a biology teacher, school district 200 offered me an Assistant Director of Facilities Services position. After a slight hesitation, I accepted and am now an official administrator within the district. That means that I am no longer the co president of the CEA and have "gone to the

dark side" as my wife Judy likes to tell me. Judy's tasks have gotten larger as well as she became the Department Chair for Fine Arts (music, art, and all the rest) this year as well as accepting the teacher's union position of treasurer (Wheaton-Warrenville South HS).

So what does the future hold? Good question and one that can't be answered so easily. I would still like to move forward on my teaching degree. However, I look back amazed at the time spent on the last degree. Did I really have the time to pour into that class? It doesn't seem possible looking back, but the teachers as well as my fellow classmates (who I truly miss) helped make an otherwise difficult situation a pleasure and a thing of enlightenment for me. To sum it up, I can go back to my last paper for the class, (but not the toga) and recall the analogy I made then. For the time being I am on the Island of Calypso, and at least for awhile, enjoying the rest and the view.

Rev. Sherrie Albrecht: After completing the ABS program in 1996, I pursued my lifelong dream of becoming a priest engaged in full-time ministry. I found a home in a small independent denomination, The Free Episcopal Church. The clergy of this denomination work as chaplains in non-church situations like hospice and prison ministry. Much to my surprise, I currently find myself the Presiding Bishop of the FEC. My ABS degree gave me the valuable tools needed to form a cohesive and dynamic group of ministers from people of diverse backgrounds and from different parts of the country.



Ken Kohnke: To use a gratuitously shameful analogy, I feel like Charlie Bucket when Willy Wonka gives him an opportunity beyond his wildest dreams!! I am currently a teacher assistant at the school I did my student teaching at. I work with children with various special needs (Aspbergers, Autism, ADHD, Behavioral Issues), and I can honestly say I love it! I have learned more in the last few months doing this than you could ever imagine. I AM

making a difference in many of my students' lives, some of whom have never had a positive male role model before. ABS has served me well in this endeavor. It has provided me with several invaluable tools to work with, tools that will change your life. It has worked so well that I will be back next year as a Social Sciences teacher! Look out Ancient Civilization, here comes Mr. Kohnke!!!

Cindy Stevens: I rec'd some great news! I was accepted into a Graduate Teaching Assistantship position at NIU. I will be teaching part time- just one class for the literacy dept, but it comes w/ a tuition waiver and a stipend. It is full delivery of the course on my own. I may be going to full time if it is needed. I start 8/16! Looks like this will be the year! [Note: Cindy is in the doctoral program at NIU.]

Joe Boland: [Joe is attending IIT now, completing his degree in counseling psychology. He wants to work with returning veterans of foreign wars, a calling he is most suited for given his combat experience in Vietnam.] I have a wife Jean and four children: Amy, Jeremy, Lindsay, and Joey. Education is important to me. Four of us are currently attending college or soon will be. Both of my daughters will be pursuing Ph.D.s in their respective fields with the oldest starting this coming semester. As a returning adult student, National-Louis University's Applied Behavioral Sciences program provided me with the tools to excel in a reinvigorated life plan. I am now a committed life-long learner with challenging goals yet to achieve.

Maha Saad: I was motivated to go back to school and pursue my B.A degree after I had my beautiful triplets. They got me thinking about the future. So, I enrolled in the ABS program at NLU and met the greatest crowd of students and professors. I'll cherish the times we've spent together forever. Towards the end of my undergraduate studies, I started thinking about higher learning opportunities. I decided to work with children. As I looked back on a previous experience of volunteering for orphans overseas, I noticed that this is what I would like to be doing---working with orphans. I knew I needed to learn skills to be effective

in responding to their struggles and questions. I researched the Masters programs at NLU and discovered their counseling program. I am now in my first year of the Masters in counseling program at NLU and hope to fulfill my dream of working with orphan children to give them hope and a healthy view of their life journey. In the senior seminar, I wrote that the common thread that runs throughout the courses was humanity and how to be effective as a human being and a unique individual that has potential. So, here I am in the human services field. Thanks to everyone that contributed to my learning experience. I learned from each and everyone that I met, and from every experience that was brought into class.

Lynn Kirsch: I have been able to apply my LABS degree to all areas in my life. Each time I enter into a meeting, I think of Tuckman's theory of forming, storming, norming, and performing. It has helped me reach new levels of understanding about group development. When I read about economic development, I think about Ed Dixon's ability to reach me regarding economics. Each day I am reminded how much ABS program has enhanced my life.

Barb Phipps: I have completed the MA-Psych program, along with a Human Services Counseling Certificate (both at NLU). I quit my administrative job and now am engaged in getting "practicum experience" (currently working on completing internship requirements) - at Suicide Prevention Services in Batavia, IL, taking crisis calls, doing some counseling and various health fairs at local schools. I am also working a paid position as a substitute residential treatment program facilitator for DuPage County Health Department's Residential Group Homes.



Carol Schimel: Since graduating with my degree in Applied Behavioral Science in 1996, I've gone on to obtain my MA in Cultural Psychology at NLU. Both degrees have been instrumental in achieving my professional and personal goals. I am currently tutoring Special Needs students at York High School, working to help them develop the necessary skills that will take them beyond the secondary level of their education. My current arena of both learning and teaching is mastering animation software in the field of digital imaging. Whoever said "Choose a job that you love, and you'll never have to work a day in your life!" was absolutely correct!

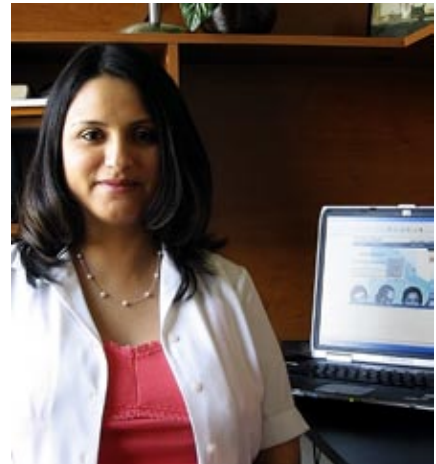


Kimberly Watkins: I wanted you to know that I am at the Lisle campus in the MAT cluster and I will be student teaching in January 2006. I will complete the program either Summer 2006 or December 2006 (depending on when I decide to take the last of my (gulp) research classes! I know that Mary (Warpinski) & Renee (Burwell) are doing the same at Aurora University and if I am not mistaken, they will student teach this fall.

Daysi Strong: I graduated from the Applied Behavioral Science program in June of 2002. The ABS program gave me a great foundation to build on, helped me to develop my skills, and helped to define my career goals. One of the projects for the ABS program was a literature review. I researched the challenges Latino students face in graduating from higher education. It was through that project that I decided to go into Higher Education Administration. Shortly after graduating I got an entry-level position at Morton College as the Student Service Center Specialist, and a year later was promoted to Assistant Director of Admissions and Records. At Morton I have the opportunity to help students overcome barriers and achieve their educational goals.

In the Fall of 2003 I was accepted into the Master's program in Educational Leadership at Northeastern Illinois University. I plan to graduate in the Summer of 2005. Currently, I am working on a Master Thesis for which I am interviewing foreign-born Latino students who have successfully transitioned into post secondary education. The purpose of the study is to determine what factors helped foreign-born Latino students transition successfully.

The faculty in the ABS program always encouraged me to continue my journey of education and personal growth. Consequently, I am very thankful to have gone through the program and feel it played an important role in helping me to successfully find my path. I wanted to let you know that my husband and I are expecting a baby!! I'm seven and half months pregnant and am due on June 24th. As you can imagine we are very excited about our new addition to the family.



Jane Zuckerman: Thought I would drop you a line to let you know what I have doing since graduating from the ABS program at NLU. In May of 2002, I graduated from Aurora University, George Williams College of Social Work with a Masters in Social Work. Currently, I am a school social worker at Edison Middle School in Wheaton. I also have a small private counseling practice in Glen Ellyn. I am looking forward to taking my LCSW exam this summer to obtain my clinical social work license. My life has been exciting the last few years. I am doing work that I love to do! I will always be grateful to National Louis for helping me complete my undergraduate degree in a flexible and creative manner.





Curt Johnson (WT 3), an alumnus of Berklee School of Music in Boston, sits down at the Steinway Grand in Lake Geneva. Simply said, Curt is a renaissance man. ("I said that." - the editor)

Maggie Finley/Asa Harris: [I took the] MA degree in Pastoral Study with a concentration in Pastoral Care, awarded 2003, Loyola University. Most of that concentration was not only in pastoral theology but psychology (mostly Jungian). Obviously, National-Louis ABS was the appropriate foundation for the masters, as well as working with and leading so many groups! A lot of what we learned in group work applies to my participation in four hospice teams, each one comprised of an RN, Medical Social Worker and Home Health Aide.

I finished a one-year chaplain residency (CPE-Clinical Pastoral Education) and garnered one of the two spots (!) at the University of Washington's Harborview Medical Center in 2004. This experience was a life changing event for me and a rare opportunity to grow both as a person and a minister. I started a full time job in September as a home hospice chaplain with Providence Hospice of Seattle, companioning persons into death. It's sacred work - I feel naturally suited to it.

Harborview serves the indigent and many immigrant non-English speaking persons (Asian, East African, Spanish [I got to use mine again]) the King County jail population as well as emergent care patients from Washington, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, and parts of Wyoming. No one is refused care (and that meant a lot to me, who grew up hearing about hospitals that let Negroes die on their door steps in the South).

Thanks to the CPE at Harborview and the encouragement and enthusiasm at PHOS, I am now integrating my theatre arts/music experience into my ministry approach. Working with such pluralistic needs calls on chaplains to be open and creative in meeting the holistic needs of people. I am now "preaching" many memorials (although stylistically I rely more on storytelling and engaging friends and family). I love what I'm doing...and I'm starting to get some inkling about a doctoral degree...who would've thought! But that's still in the future... peace, Maggie



stage works And Gorilla Theatre PRESENT



The Chairs

By Eugene Ionesco

In this tragic farce, the line between fantasy and hallucination blurs when an elderly couple whiles away the hours fantasizing about multitudes of expected guests while setting up rows of chairs for them to sit in. With brilliant eccentricity, Eugene Ionesco's *The Chairs* combines a comic portrait of human folly with a magical experiment in theatrical possibilities.

THE ARTISTS: Richard Coppinger with Midge Mamatas & Adam Bolvo, two newcomers whom Stageworks is delighted to welcome to our company. Anna Brennen directs.



Midge Mamatas has been in theatre for many years in the Tampa-St. Pete area. Her most recent involvement brought raves from theatre critics. In addition to various modeling stints (e.g., the Home Shopping Network - she'll kill me for this one), she has most importantly raised a fine young son, Tolee, who is now jetting about the world doing geographic research. [Incidentally, Midge jumps out of airplanes -sky dives, that is!]



Gorilla Theatre

4419 North Hubert, Drew Park, Tampa

January 6 - 23, 2005

Thurs. @7pm; Fri- Sat. @ 8pm; Sun. @ 3pm

\$22.00; Seniors: \$16.00; Student Rush \$11 1/2 hr. before curtain

CALL: (813) 879 - 2914 for more information

Sandy Weir (Elgin 15/ABS) talks with Tom Reardon at a recent Adjunct Faculty Development session. Sandy is ABD (all but dissertation), and Tom earned his Master of Science in Human Resource Management and Development. Both now teach for the ABS program while pursuing their own interests: Sandy in special education and Tom in HR, union law and negotiation.

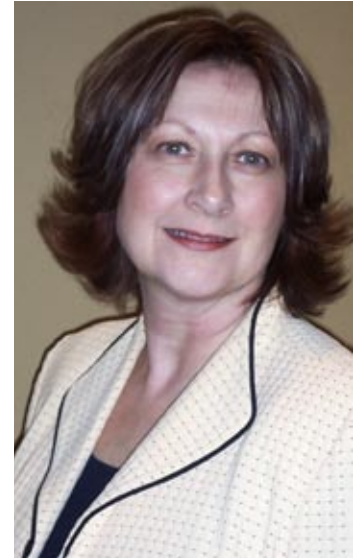


Dean Martha Casazza, Dr. William Boyle and Assistant Dean Maria Malayter at a recent Alumni gathering in Wheaton.



John Lamperis is the Director of Religious Education at St. Peter's Church. He works with over 1300 young people, ranging from pre-school to eighth grade AND 320 volunteers. "Do I need ABS? Oh, yeah!!!"

Since graduating, I accepted a position as General Manager of the WALTER E. SMITHE FURNITURE Orland Park showroom. Currently, I am the lead General Manager with a staff of 24. Fall of 2006 will see the opening of our new 60,000 sq. ft. flagship store in Orland Park. I will continue in my position as lead General Manager with a projected staff falling between 70 ñ 80. My ABS degree is utilized daily in my managerial interaction with staff and clientele.



Bev Ceko



Wheaton 5/UABS



Monique



Happy Spring, Friends!



Grace Wilkison and Margaret Berg
Career Services

Now that you've read about what other ABS Alums are doing with their degrees, you may want to pursue your own career development with the help of NLU's Career Services. We can help you with:

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- ...job searches and strategies
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- ...resume writing and interviewing strategies

Services are available to all our Alums as well as currently enrolled students. Please visit our Web site for an overview and give us a call at 630-874-4314 if you think we can help.

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