

THE CROSS ROAD

Alumni Newsletter of American National University



Update from Academics

BY DR. CAROLYN SCOTT, CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

As we reflect on the past quarter at American National University, it's evident that our commitment to excellence and innovation in education continues to shine through various milestones and achievements. Here's a brief overview of some key happenings:

Accreditation Success: In late February, we welcomed accreditation visits crucial to maintaining the high standards of our programs. The CAAHEP accreditation by MAERB reaffirmed the quality of our Medical Assistant Administration (MAA) program, granting us continued accreditation. Notably, ANU currently stands as the sole institution offering a fully distance education medical assistant program accredited by CAAHEP and approved by MAERB. Additionally, our Kentucky campus underwent an evaluation for continued institutional accreditation by ABHES, with Deans and academic chairs engaging with ABHES personnel and reviewers in March. We eagerly anticipate the report's arrival in the coming weeks.

Expansion and Residency: Exciting expansions were witnessed with the inauguration of our new in-residence location in Nashville, TN. This site will soon host its inaugural residency classes from May 17-19, marking a significant step in our mission to provide accessible education across diverse communities. Furthermore, DEAC will conduct visits to our Salem, VA site and the new Nashville location in August, underscoring our commitment to meeting and exceeding accreditation standards.

Celebrating Achievements: The quarter culminated in memorable celebrations of academic achievement. On April 25, 2024, we held our first-ever Senior Awards night, coupled with the induction ceremony for the Delta Epsilon Tau Honor Society. Witnessing the recognition of our students' hard work and dedication was a poignant reminder of the profound impact of education. As we honor our graduates, I'm reminded of the fundamental value of persistence and completion in the pursuit of knowledge.

As we move forward, let's carry the spirit of excellence and dedication that defines ANU. Together, we continue to shape futures and inspire generations through the power of education.

We Want to Hear From You!

Would you give us 1 minute of your time? We want to hear from you, in your own words, what you think makes ANU different from other colleges and universities.

Tell us by clicking this link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/0ZnvhZALhy>

or scan this code to bring you to the form:



Fulfilling Greatness: Laquae Macklin's Story

BY CHLOE DANIELS

While working from home during the pandemic in 2020, Laquae Macklin decided a change needed to be made for his future. He first graduated from American National University's Administrative Medical Assisting associate degree program in 2021, worked within the field, and took a break from education for two years. However, he still felt that there was something else out there that he was meant to do. So he came back to ANU in 2023 to enroll in our Pharmacy Technician diploma program. He enjoyed his first term thoroughly and dedicated much of his time to excelling.

Laquae mentioned trouble finding a job in his career during the pandemic as the reason he began the pharmacy technician diploma program. And he returned to ANU because of the way we structured our curriculum. "I love the school, I love the way the curriculum is set up, and I feel as if I went somewhere else, I probably wouldn't put in as much effort," *Laquae reflects*.

With his busy schedule, working two jobs while in school, scheduling flexibility is important. He explains, "if there's something that I can't do or if a particular Zoom course isn't going to work that day, it can be changed to where it can better suit me. And I really, really enjoy that, because it helps."

When it comes to his classes, Laquae enjoyed utilizing his lab kits in class. He describes all of the materials he received in them – from goggles, gloves, a scale, to even a lab coat. "I think that those courses where I'm going to be able to dive into that kit, I think that's really, really going to prepare me in being a pharmacy tech," he says. Laquae goes on to say that the small number of students in his courses has helped him focus as well. In speaking about one of his classes where he utilizes his lab kit, "I think, in that course, there was maybe six of us in there. So it was really easy to dive in and be quick to ask questions... and help each other out."

Overall, of his entire time at ANU, Laquae has enjoyed the curriculum. He explains that it's easy to navigate things like Canvas and his courses, everything is accessible, and everyone he speaks to is helpful. "If there's something I don't understand or don't get or find difficult to understand – I have the instructors right there, classmates right there. Everything is just at your fingertips."

For his future goals, Laquae wants to work in a pharmacy – working his way up from pharmacy technician. "I really want to see where this is going to take me... deep down in my gut, I feel like this is going to be it – this is my foundation," he says of his program, "this is where I belong." He hopes to go for pharmacy school in the future now that he is secure that pharmacy is the career he wants to be in. "I would definitely refer ANU to anyone willing to further their education in whatever they're looking to do," he says.



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LAQUAE MACKLIN

Faculty Feature

SHERI CLARK

Sheri Clark earns her Faculty Excellence Award, nominated by Paralegal Studies Dean, Wendy Notz, because of her dedication and commitment to her students. As described by Wendy Notz: “A student in Term 234 expressed and summed up exactly why Sheri should receive the Faculty Excellence Award on the Student Course Survey, “Ms. Sheri has always presented an EXCELLENT class regardless of the course she is teaching. She motivates me to surpass my potential and sees what I do with respect to my abilities. For that, you cannot rate the impact an instructor, like Ms. Sheri, has in one’s endeavor toward academic achievement. She listens, she hears, she assists, she understands, and she instructs on a level one cannot help but learn from. Ms. Sheri challenges me in every class I take with her. Every class I learn that much more. ANU employs the most knowledgeable, professional, and engaging instructors I have ever known, and I have been to many institutions of higher learning over the years. All these professors make me want to learn more. There are those who leave a lasting impression, and Ms. Sheri is one of those instructors. It is instructors, such as Ms. Sheri, that keep my quest for knowledge burning and why I probably will never stop seeking education. Thank you, ANU for recognizing what we, as students need to go forward and benefit society.” Faculty, staff, students, and I count on her efforts every day and she does not let us down. She is truly an asset for ANU!”

Sherri Clark has over 18 years of experience working in the educational sector and was admitted to practice law in 1999. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and a Master’s Degree in Education from Ball State University. She earned her Juris Doctorate from Indiana University. Sheri Clark was admitted to the Indiana State Bar to practice law approximately 25 years ago. Her legal experience varies and includes working for the world’s largest real estate investment trust, a small private law firm, and the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office. She also served for 7 years on a legal panel of 3 judges appointed by the Governor of Indiana to make policy decisions on Labor Law issues.

She loves working as a full time teacher with American National University and loves teaching and learning from her students. During the past 20 years, she has taught courses for both the ground and online divisions of many different colleges and universities. In addition to being an adjunct she has created college curriculum for half a dozen schools in legal, technical, and business subjects. She served as Operations Manager at a private institution, founded in 1930, with an undergraduate/graduate population of approximately 2000 students. At a small school in Texas, she also worked as a Criminal Justice Program Director, Paralegal Program Director, and Information Technology Program Director. As a General Education Program Director, she turned the program from one of the most failed programs to one of the most successful programs at the College.

She lives in Indiana with her husband of 25 years, her 20-year-old daughter, and 2 dogs. The family has an 8-year-old Jack Russell and a 2-year-old Cocker Spaniel puppy.



Continuing Your Educational Journey at American National University: Why Alumni Should Return for Their Next Degree

As a valued member of the American National University (ANU) alumni community, you already know the impact that continued education can have on your career and personal growth. Whether you're looking to advance in your current field, pivot to a new industry, or deepen your expertise, ANU remains your partner in lifelong learning.

Flexible Learning Options - We recognize that our alumni lead dynamic lives. Many of you balance career commitments and personal responsibilities alongside your educational goals. To accommodate your needs, ANU provides flexible learning options including online classes, evening courses, and accelerated programs. This means you can earn your degree at a pace that suits you, without sacrificing your professional or family obligations.

A Network That Supports You - One of the greatest assets of continuing your education at ANU is the robust network of professionals you join. Networking with fellow alumni and industry experts can open doors to new career opportunities and collaborations. Moreover, our faculty members are seasoned professionals who bring real-world experience into the classroom, ensuring that you gain practical and relevant knowledge.

Tailored Advanced Programs - At ANU, we understand that the landscape of professional industries evolves continually, and staying ahead requires an advanced skill set and up-to-date knowledge. That's why we offer a range of postgraduate programs designed to align with current market demands and future trends. From MBA to specialized master's programs in IT, Computer Science, Cybersecurity and Software Development, our courses are tailored to fit your career aspirations and busy lifestyle.

Additionally, ANU holds a close partnership with the University of Fairfax who also offers many master's programs such as Cloud Computing and Electrical Engineering as well as doctoral degrees in Business, Information Assurance, Software Development, and Computer Science.

Stay Connected, Stay Ahead - Choosing ANU for your next degree means more than just continuing education. It's a decision to stay connected with a community that values innovation, supports professional growth, and fosters lifelong learning. With ANU, you are not just investing in your education; you are investing in a community that invests back in you.

We invite you to explore the new programs we have on offer and to consider how returning to ANU can help achieve your next set of professional goals. Connect with our admissions team today to discuss how we can support your continuing education journey.

Remember, at American National University, your potential is limitless. Let's continue to grow together.

AMERICAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

CERTIFICATE & DIPLOMA

- Administrative Medical Assisting
- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Phlebotomy & ECG Technician
- Paralegal
- Medical Assisting
- Pharmacy Technician
- Medical Billing & Coding

ASSOCIATE

- Administrative Medical Assisting
- Business Administration Accounting
- Business Administration Management
- Health Information Management
- Medical Assisting
- Network Support
- Nursing
- Paralegal
- Pharmacy Technician

BACHELOR

- Business Administration Accounting
- Business Administration Management
- Cybersecurity
- Medical Health Services Management
- Network Administration
- Nursing

MASTER

- Business Administration
- Computer Science & Engineering
- Cybersecurity
- Information Technology
- Software Development

UNIVERSITY OF FAIRFAX

BACHELOR

- Network Administration
- Network Administration & Cybersecurity

MASTER

- Business Administration
- Computer Science & Engineering
- Cybersecurity Management
- Cloud Computing
- Information Technology
- Electrical Engineering

DOCTORAL & PHD

- Business Administration
- Information Assurance
- Software Development
- Computer Science & Engineering

Steering Your Student Loans: The Importance of Keeping in Touch with Federal Student Loan Servicers

BY BETH OVERBEY, VP FINANCIAL SERVICES

Driving through the world of student loans can often be a challenge to navigate unfamiliar roads. We are here to highlight a crucial aspect that many overlook - maintaining a close relationship with your federal student loan provider.

Imagine this: you are cruising towards financial independence, with your degree and a bit of student debt. Your federal loan servicer becomes your trusted guide, equipped with the knowledge and tools to guide you through the transitions and changes of loan repayment.

By maintaining open lines of communication, you can access valuable advice on repayment plans, deferment, forbearance, and even loan forgiveness programs. This communication is not just about staying in the loop; it is about taking the wheel of your finances.

Now imagine hitting a bump in the road or feeling overwhelmed by your payments. Your loan servicer is available to provide clarity and support, assisting you in navigating these challenges with confidence.

Additionally, staying connected allows you to promptly address any changes in your financial situation, potentially preventing financial difficulties. Understanding your rights and responsibilities as a borrower allows you to make informed decisions about managing your student loans.

Remember: your federal loan servicer isn't just another name on a bill; they are your partner in navigating financial stability. Reach out, ask questions, and engage in conversation. Together, you can overcome your student debt and pursue a better financial future.

Stay informed, engage in conversation, and be empowered.

Quick Hits

GRADUATION

Save the date!
2024 Graduation is
June 22, 2024

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Please scan the QR code to take this post-graduation survey



CLASS NOTES

Got married? Had a baby? Landed a new job? We want to hear about it! Submit a class note here:
<https://alumni.an.edu/class-notes/>

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Moved? changed your email or phone? Let us know where to send communication to here:
<https://alumni.an.edu/update-my-information/>

[Alumni.AN.edu](https://alumni.an.edu)