

THE CROSS ROAD

Alumni Newsletter of American National University



Update from Academics

BY DR. CAROLYN SCOTT, CHIEF
ACADEMIC OFFICER

Dear Alumni,

We hope this message finds you well. As we continue to innovate and grow at American National University, we are thrilled to share some exciting updates from the Academics Department:

New Program Launches

- *Associate of Science in Radiological Technology* - We are proud to announce the launch of our new Associate of Science in Radiological Technology degree. This program is designed to be fully remote, providing flexibility and accessibility to our students while maintaining the high standards of education you expect from ANU.
- *Updated Associate of Science in Nursing Program* - We have also updated our Associate of Science in Nursing degree program. The new version allows for fully remote, synchronous instruction complemented by on-site skills check-offs. This hybrid approach ensures that our students receive comprehensive education and hands-on experience.

Reaccreditation Process

We are in the process of reaccreditation with the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). This rigorous process reaffirms our commitment to providing quality education and continuous improvement.

Invitation to Teach

We are always looking for passionate educators to join our team. If you hold a graduate degree and are interested in teaching at ANU, we would love to hear from you. Please send your resume to me at cscott@an.edu.

Thank you for being a part of the ANU community. Your support and engagement are invaluable to us as we continue to strive for excellence in 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:



The Power of Education: Cynthia Adams' Story with ANU

BY CHLOE DANIELS

In 2013, Cynthia Adams graduated from American National University, known as National Business College when she attended, with a degree in Medical Assisting Education. When she saw an advertisement for National Business College in her local paper, Cynthia went to campus and began the admissions process. As quickly as she went in, she was enrolled. Now, Cynthia credits her degree for the success she has found in her career – and is returning to earn her bachelor's degree to achieve even more.

When she found us, Cynthia was reading through her local newspaper. The striking purple of our school colors stood out to her – and she called the number on the page to learn more. She was able to go in that very same day and enroll. "I just said I'm going back to school. I was looking at the paper and I saw that, and I called... It wasn't like I planned it!" And she started as soon as possible with how quickly National was able to get her through the doors. Cynthia always knew she wanted to be in the medical field, but she didn't want to be a doctor. She found our medical assisting program to be the perfect start to the career she was looking for – "you learn a lot about [the medical field]!" She recalls.

Upon reflection of her time at National, Cynthia instantly recalls the feeling of how her professors treated her during her time in her program. The professors during her education left such an impact on her that it moved her to tears to recall them. "Ms. Williams, may she rest in peace," she begins, before stopping to collect herself, "she was my academic advisor, and she was also head of the medical assistant program... she even developed a relationship with my mom. Where, if my mom didn't hear from me, my mom would call her!" She smiles at that memory. "She was so loving, so kind, and so encouraging. And I had trouble with the phlebotomy part of the class, and she literally taught me on an orange," she pauses again. "She told me I could do it. And she went the extra mile, because I'm a perfectionist, I didn't want a B, I wanted the A – and she tutored me day in and day out so I could get that A," this memory moved her to tears, emotion clouding her voice.

Cynthia goes on to talk about when she was nominated for the E.M Coulter Award, an award presented at graduation for high academic achievement. She explains that many instructors of her that nominated her for the award, her emotions getting the best of her during her explanation. Cynthia then goes on to name every instructor or faculty member that had a profound impact on her – Ms. Ackerson, Ms. Cather, Mr. George, as she names them.

She tearfully, with a smile, recalls interacting with ANU president, Frank Longaker, and how he shook her hand, "he said, 'I don't have many students like you. And I just want you to know I feel honored to have you in my college.'"

Along with that, she emphasizes how she was treated like a person at National, not like a number or a face to lose in the crowd. "I wasn't seen as this girl from New York, I wasn't seen as this black girl, I wasn't seen as this underprivileged black girl trying to do something with her life. It was personable – I just didn't feel like whatever society deemed me as [at National]. And that gave me the courage to keep going... And whenever I felt like I couldn't, the people that I named, including Mr. Longaker, gave me the push to keep going."

Cynthia has no plans of stopping her educational pursuits. "ANU, National Business College, is the reason I have excelled in my career as I have. Literally. And I mean literally!" She explains, bright smile on her face. Because of that success, she is returning to ANU to earn her bachelor's degree. And coming back to ANU was no brainer, "going back to American National University – I'm just going home." After she earns her bachelor's, she'd like to earn her master's, even her doctorate if she can.



“ANU, National Business College, is the reason I have excelled in my career as I have. Literally. And I mean literally!”

CYNTHIA ADAMS

Faculty Feature

DR. TEM BUGARIN

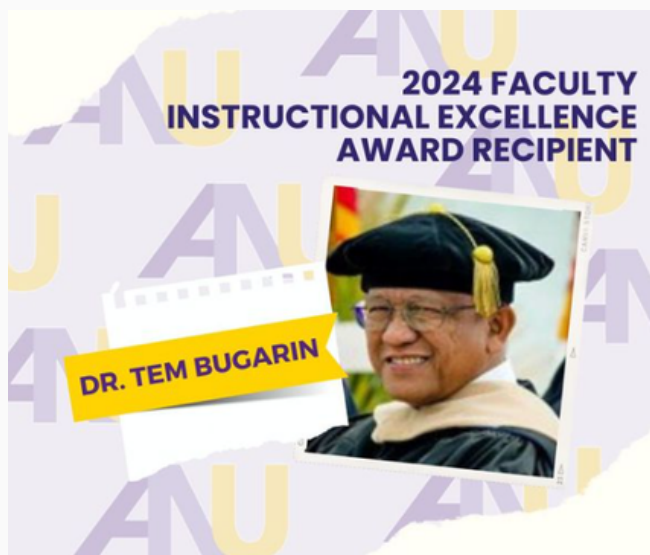
Dr. Bugarin served 30 years in the Navy with heavy experience in engineering and leadership. He is honored to be the first foreign-born in the Philippine Islands to come to America and command a US Navy Warship.

After serving in the Navy, Dr. Bugarin served over 24 years as a scientist and project manager in the private sector. Simultaneously, he has taught at various universities for the last 24 years, teaching primarily statistics, mathematics, quantitative analysis, and different management and leadership courses.

Along with his naval, engineering, and educational teaching experience, Dr. Bugarin has had the honor of working with several international students in their efforts to obtain and successfully defend their doctoral degrees. He served as the Dean of graduate studies at California International Business University and the lead faculty/area chair at the University of Phoenix.

In 2013, Dr. Bugarin earned the distinction of being chosen as the outstanding faculty of the year. His research interests include comparative analysis, optimized decision-making, evaluation of decision support systems and operations, statistical analysis, leadership, finance, and business.

He derives his maximum pleasure in mentoring graduate students in their efforts towards completing their respective graduate degrees. Dr. Bugarin is proud to have chaired and been the lead faculty member for 32 students who have completed their doctoral degrees. The opportunity to assist students in earning their life-changing degrees has been his crowning achievement and the achievement he is most satisfied with.



TELICIA WARD-THOMAS

Telicia Ward-Thomas is an adjunct professor at ANU. Professor Ward-Thomas has been teaching higher education since 2013 and enjoyed every moment of mentoring her students into their future careers.



Professor Ward-Thomas has her Master's in Public Health and Policy. She has been a certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) for over 20 years. Her experience and education both allow her to guide students into their new skills and knowledge.

Her spouse is in the military, so Professor Ward-Thomas is no stranger to packing up and moving to a new place. In her personal time, she enjoys spending time with her family, as well being able to relax in the sands of a beach.

She is nominated for her instrumental role in the Pharmacy Technician lab courses, her unique teaching technique, her ability to connect with students, and her eagerness to assist the Pharmacy Technician department above and beyond expectations.

Unlocking Opportunities: A Guide to Searching for Scholarships

BY BETH OVERBEY, VP FINANCIAL SERVICES

Securing a scholarship can significantly reduce the financial burden of higher education. Whether you are a high school student, a college student, or an adult learner, scholarships can provide you with the financial support you need to pursue your educational dreams. This guide aims to help you navigate the often-overwhelming process of searching for scholarships.

1. Start Early

The earlier you begin your scholarship search, the better. Many scholarships have deadlines that are several months before the start of the academic year. Starting early gives you ample time to research, prepare your applications, and meet all deadlines without rushing.

2. Understand the Types of Scholarships

There are various types of scholarships available, each catering to different groups of students:

- *Merit-Based Scholarships*: Awarded based on academic achievement.
- *Need-Based Scholarships*: Given to students who demonstrate financial need.
- *Student-Specific Scholarships*: Target specific groups, such as minorities, women, or LGBTQ+ students.
- *Career-Specific Scholarships*: For students pursuing a particular field of study.

3. Utilize Scholarship Search Engines

Several online tools can help you find scholarships that match your profile. They provide a vast database of scholarships and allows you to create a profile to match you with opportunities. Some popular scholarship search engines include:

- [Fastweb](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#)
- [Apply](#)
- [Salliemae.com](#)

4. Leverage Local Resources

Don't overlook local resources when searching for scholarships. Community organizations, local businesses, and even your high school guidance counselor can be valuable sources of information. Local scholarships often have fewer applicants, increasing your chances of winning.

5. Check with Colleges and Universities

Many colleges and universities offer their own scholarships. Check the financial aid pages of the institutions you are interested in. They often have scholarships for both incoming and current students. Some scholarships may require a separate application, while others might be part of the admissions process.

6. Apply for Niche Scholarships

Niche scholarships cater to specific interests, hobbies, or unique characteristics. For example, there are scholarships for left-handed students, students with a passion for knitting, or those who have overcome significant personal challenges. These scholarships might have fewer applicants and increase your chances of being awarded.

7. Stay Organized

Keeping track of scholarship deadlines, requirements, and application materials is crucial. Use a spreadsheet or a scholarship tracker to organize your applications. Make note of deadlines and ensure you have all the necessary documents ready ahead of time.

8. Write Strong Essays

Many scholarships require essays. Take the time to write compelling, personalized essays that highlight your achievements, goals, and why you deserve the scholarship. Proofread your essays multiple times and consider asking a teacher, mentor, or friend to review them.

9. Gather Strong Recommendations

Letters of recommendation can significantly strengthen your scholarship application. Choose recommenders who know you well and can speak to your strengths, achievements, and character. Provide them with sufficient time to write a thoughtful and detailed letter.

10. Avoid Scams

Be wary of scholarship scams. Legitimate scholarships do not ask for an application fee. Be cautious of websites that ask for personal information that is not necessary for a scholarship application. Trust your instincts and do your research to ensure the legitimacy of the scholarship.

Final Thoughts

Searching for scholarships requires diligence, organization, and perseverance. By starting early, utilizing available resources, and putting in the effort to create strong applications, you can significantly increase your chances of securing financial aid for your education. Remember, every little bit helps, so apply for as many scholarships as possible and keep pushing towards your academic goals. Happy scholarship hunting!

How to Find a Job After Graduation: 20 Tips

ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE ON FLEXJOBS.COM

It's both thrilling and intimidating to leave behind your college years and jump into the world of resumes, networking, and interviewing, but you can land a job you love by utilizing some key job search strategies.

If you're ready to take the next step in your career, consider these tips for landing your first job after graduation.

It's critical to approach your job hunt with a strategic mindset. The following tips will help you navigate the job market and land a job after graduation that aligns with your career goals.

1. Define Your Job Goals
2. Schedule Informational Interviews
3. Explore Different Career Paths
4. How Do You Want to Work, in an office or remote?
5. Consider Entry-Level Temp Jobs
6. Focus on Companies, Not Jobs
7. Utilize Job Search Sites
8. Hire a Career Coach or Contact Career Services
9. Network
10. Ask for Referrals
11. Customize Your Resume
12. Write a Compelling Cover Letter
13. Build a Portfolio
14. Check Your Online and Social Backgrounds for Distractions
15. Apply Thoughtfully
16. Prepare Answers to Common Interview Questions
17. Create a List of Questions to Ask
18. Practice in Mock Interviews
19. Keep Track
20. Get Social

The Next Big Step

The post-graduation job hunt may initially seem intimidating, but it's also exciting and manageable if you approach it with the right mindset. It won't be easy, but finding jobs after graduation can be easier with an experienced partner.

Remember that ANU Career Services is here to assist you, for life. ANU Career Services can help you with:

- Customized career advice
- Resume writing assistance
- Interview preparation tools
- Live mock interviews
- Searchable employment postings
- Instant online chats with career specialists

Quick Hits

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)