

## CCU Graduate Robby Giunta Achieves State Certifications and a New Career Path

"It is with great pleasure that I share my California Coast University experience and success story. The decision to pursue my Master of Science degree in Psychology from CCU was one of the best decisions I have made in my professional career. The rewards have been significant.



"In my search for a graduate program, I was looking for several things:

"First, I needed a distance program that could accommodate my need to work full-time. I live with my partner and our son. Having a son in college, a mortgage, a family and other everyday expenses, I did not have the luxury of quitting my job to go to school. CCU provided the self-paced program I needed to attend school while working full-time.

"The second thing I searched for in a graduate program was a school that was accredited. In searching,

I found out that all accreditation is not created equally. I learned that accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation was crucial for recognition by employers and certifying agencies. With the much-needed crackdown on degree-mills, lack of this level of accreditation may even make a degree unusable in many states. CCU's accreditation by the DETC was the "gold standard" I was looking for. It is recognized by all of the above.

"The third thing I needed was a Master's degree in Psychology. I am a substance abuse counselor in Missouri and wanted to pursue state certification. I am proud to say that since graduation from CCU's M.S. in Psychology program, I have been awarded a Certified Advanced Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) in Missouri and a Mental Illness/Substance Abuse Counselor (MISA II) in Illinois.

"I currently have a new counseling job at the St. Louis Department of Health and my salary has increased \$20,000. Furthermore, I have been accepted by two doctoral programs and am in the process of making a decision. What a luxurious decision to make.

"I am eternally grateful to CCU for providing me with an education sophisticated enough that I could pass state certification exams and be accepted to doctoral work. My career is on a completely new path of success. I am in the process of starting a private practice; a dream of mine since I can remember.

"My partner is now a student at CCU. We look forward to enjoying his success, too. Thank you California Coast University for partnering with me to succeed as a professional in a tough and competitive climate. My successes are our successes."

### In This Issue

- \* **CCU Graduate Robby Giunta Achieves State Certifications and a New Career Path**
- \* **Friends and Faces of CCU**
- \* **CCU Attends Distance Education Workshop at Notre Dame**
- \* **CCU Adds Andrew Jackson University to its List of Education Partners**
- \* **E-Learning Partnerships**
- \* **Learn the Real Facts about Websites**
- \* **The Study Spot**

### Student/Alumni Feedback

Do you have a suggestion to improve your experience at CCU?

Are you a current CCU student or graduate with something to share?

Have you recently been offered a position at a new company?

Did you overcome a great life circumstance to complete your degree program?

If so, we'd like to hear from you!

**Send your information to  
alumni@calcoast.edu.**

## Friends and Faces of CCU

### Thomas E. Stringer, Jr.

Charlotte, NC

Student, Master of Business Administration in Human Resource Management



In just six short months of working for MV Transportation, Inc., Thomas E. Stringer, Jr. has been promoted from Regional Special Projects Manager to Regional Vice President of Operations. His new job duties include working with public transit agencies throughout the United States in managing start-up operations and enhancing operations for both fixed routes and para-transits.

Mr. Stringer enjoys being able to travel regionally throughout the U.S. in his current position. At the end of the day, he takes pride in working with transit systems and human service organizations to implement transportation solutions.

Currently, Mr. Stringer is working toward his MBA in Human Resource Management at CCU. He says he chose the university because it provides flexibility in course scheduling, a self-paced format and faculty and staff that are readily accessible.

"I continue to find the faculty and staff at CCU very responsive and supportive of any questions or issues that arise," Mr. Stringer says. "My degree has helped me obtain a professional opportunity with one of the largest private transportation firms in the U.S."

### Cordell M. Svengalis, Ph.D.

Santa Ana, CA

Faculty, School of Education, California Coast University



California Coast University recently welcomed a new faculty member to the School of Education. Dr. Cordell M. Svengalis brings an array of expertise to the already impressive team of faculty at CCU.

Dr. Svengalis received his Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University. He then went on to attend the University of Iowa where he received both his M.A. and Ph.D. in Education. He has received many awards and recognitions throughout his career including a Service Award for the Iowa United Nations Association and a Study Fellowship from the U.S. Japan Foundation.

Dr. Svengalis has held positions at Southeast Warren Schools, the Iowa Department of Education and Cornell College, among others. Most recently, Dr. Svengalis served as Curriculum and Technology Director, Staff Development Coordinator and Web Site Developer for Southeast

Warren Schools in Liberty Center, Iowa. He has also served as the President of the Iowa Council for Social Studies, President of the Greater Des Moines United Nations Association and a State Coordinator for the U.S. Senate Youth Program.

In 2006, Dr. Svengalis moved to California to be closer to his grown children. It was at this time that he began a new career as a computer consultant, publisher, writer and adjunct professor. Some of Dr. Svengalis' publications include the Survey of State Social Studies Requirements for the National Council for Social Studies and Guidelines for Integrating Global Education Across the Curriculum for the Iowa Department of Education.

In addition to his extensive involvement in his field, Dr. Svengalis is also interested in grant writing, technology integration and curriculum mapping. In his free time, he enjoys reading, politics, travel and volunteer work.

## CCU Attends Distance Education Workshop at Notre Dame

California Coast University Vice President of Administration, Tina Trisler, and Vice President of Operations, Shelly Marquardt, recently traveled to South Bend, Indiana to attend a Distance Education Workshop at the University of Notre Dame.



*Shelly Marquardt, Vice President of Operations (left) and Tina Trisler, Vice President of Administration (right)*

CCU's accrediting agency, the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC), has hosted the bi-yearly event at Notre Dame since 1968. The DETC, institution administrators and staff gathered to discuss the ever-changing industry of distance education.

This year's Workshop Program was designed with the input of DETC-accredited institutions. A pre-workshop survey was conducted and sessions were created from the most popular topics selected. Discussion and forum topics included Webcams in Education, Credit Transfers, Proctoring, eBooks, Custom Publishing and Evidence of Student Learning.

*“An investment in knowledge always  
pays the best interest.”*

*— Benjamin Franklin*

## CCU Adds Andrew Jackson University to its List of Education Partners

**ANDREW JACKSON**  
UNIVERSITY

California Coast University has added Andrew Jackson University to its list of Education Partners!

Andrew Jackson University was founded in 1994 and offers undergraduate programs in Business, Communications, Criminal Justice, Health Care Management and Psychology. Graduate programs are offered in Business Administration, Criminal Justice and Public Administration.

All of the partnerships listed on the CCU web site were formed to assist alumni seeking to further their education.

Partner universities offer CCU graduates a broad selection of degree programs to choose from in addition to other benefits including tuition discounts, fee waivers, acceptance of transfer credit and a fast track to admission.

For more information on Andrew Jackson University, or for a complete list of Education Partners, please visit the CCU website at [www.calcoast.edu/partners.php](http://www.calcoast.edu/partners.php).

## E-Learning Partnerships

California Coast University recently formed E-Learning Partnerships with Betty Ford Center, Laerdal Medical and Iowa Health Home Care for employees interested in furthering their education.

the entire family in the recovery process, and stress the importance of each person identifying his or her own spiritual path. With more than 80,000 alumni throughout the world, Betty Ford Center has a

plication for medical therapy or training.

Iowa Health Home Care is a comprehensive home healthcare services company providing a complete range of services and home medical equipment throughout Iowa and specializing in the care of patients in their place of residence. Their mission is to improve the health of the community through healing, caring and teaching.

The purpose of these partnerships is to allow CCU to provide better customer service to all Betty Ford Center, Laerdal Medical and Iowa Health Home Care employees by streamlining the admissions process.

Within this process, employees will receive a 10% discount on tuition, be directed to the appropriate CCU department for tuition reimbursement and receive individual assistance with the enrollment process.

If a partnership with CCU would benefit your company or if you are interested in receiving more information, please contact Christi Okuma at (714) 547-9625 or [ccu@calcoast.edu](mailto:ccu@calcoast.edu).



By participating in this program, companies offer a flexible and economical way to deliver accredited, quality education to their employees.

Since opening in October 1982, Betty Ford Center has focused on a singular mission: providing effective treatment services for alcoholism and other drug dependencies. They emphasize involving

network of alumni and friends in nearly every part of this country and beyond.

Laerdal Medical is dedicated to helping save lives by providing products for CPR training, airway management, advanced life support training, spinal motion restriction, trauma training, monitoring and defibrillation. The company focuses on materials and software and their ap-

*“It is not so important to know everything as to appreciate what we learn.”*

*— Hannah More*

*Learn the Real Facts about Websites**The following is an excerpt from Questia.com*

There's a staggering amount of information available on the Internet — and a lot of it is inaccurate. Online search expert Tara Calishain calls them "Internet facts" and says, "They're not necessarily true."

"They're distributed," she explains in her book *Web Search Garage* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall PTR, 2005), 111, "via both the Web and e-mail." There are a couple of resources that are invaluable for checking out these sites, but in addition to these resources there are three e-mail characteristics that should raise a red flag for you:

1. You're asked to forward the e-mail to everyone you know.
2. The e-mail describes a problem — like a particularly horrible virus — that if it were legitimate would be on every cable channel as an emergency news flash, including the Golf Channel.
3. The e-mail promises you some kind of reward for forwarding/replicating the mail.

**Here are three of the resources Calishain recommends for checking out Internet sites and facts:**

**Snopes** — [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) - "Snopes is the first site I go to when I want to check out something that someone has sent me. It's never let me down."

**Vmyths** — [www.vmyths.com](http://www.vmyths.com) - Use this one, she says, to learn the truth behind virus warnings.

**Evaluating information found on the internet** — [www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/index.html](http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/index.html) - This site from The Sheridan Libraries at John Hopkins University "discusses the criteria by which scholars in most fields evaluate print information and shows how the same criteria can be used to assess information found on the Internet."

**questia**  
faster, easier research!

**The Study Spot Creating a Place to Get Your Work Done***By Jamie Littlefield, About.com*

If you're like most distance learners, you love the freedom of learning at home. You revel in the joy of taking an online math test in your pajamas and appreciate the fact that a snack from the kitchen is only a few steps away. But home distractions can become a problem, particularly if you haven't organized a special place to get your work done. If you feel overwhelmed by the constant distraction of phone calls, family or roommate interruptions, and disorganization, you need to create an environment where you can really get to work.

**What is a Study Spot?**

A Study Spot is a special place you put together just for completing the work you need to get done. Instead of working on the bed, near the television, or just about anywhere in the chaos of home life, you can create a place that is best suited to actually doing your work and doing it well. Most people set a few ground rules for their Study Spots to ensure that they won't be faced with the normal distractions while busy. When done correctly, creating a Study Spot can help save you time by letting you focus on your work and finish sooner.

**Organization is Essential**

The first step to Study Spot success is organizing the place that will be home to your studies. Walk around your home at its busiest hour (if you have family or roommates living with you, this will probably be when everyone gets back from school or work). Find the place that is the quietest in all the commotion. It may be in the corner of your bedroom or perhaps you have a den or a small room that isn't being used. Some people use a section of their garage. Whatever place you choose, make sure it is large enough that you won't feel cramped and check to see that the temperature can always be kept at a comfortable level. As soon as you find your place, begin organizing the materials you will need and setting up your Study Spot.

Completing the following steps will leave you with a well-organized, work-ready area you can call your own:

1. **Purchase a traditional desk.** One of the benefits of using an actual desk is that your work-related materials are always going to be near. Most desks have multiple drawers for supplies and room to hold a computer without getting in the way of your writing area.
2. **Get a good chair.** This is one of the most important tools of getting your work done at home. Go to an office supply store and invest in a chair that you actually want to sit in. Hard wood or metal chairs are uncomfortable and often deter people from sitting down for the time necessary to get their work done.
3. **Organize your supplies.** Make sure that all the supplies you need each day are easily reachable from your desk. It's easy to become distracted from your work if you constantly have to leave your studies to go look for supplies in another area of the house. Put books, pens, pencils, erasers, and everything else you need in the drawers of your desk. If you study online, make sure that you have all necessary software and passwords available. If you study through mail, make sure you have the needed stamps and addresses at your desk.
4. **Add your special touch.** Personalize your Study Spot and make it your own. If you like to study with background music, bring in your CD player and a bunch of your favorite CDs. If you like to munch while you work, put a box of your favorite snacks by your workspace. If you're an art fan, put your favorite paintings on the wall. Some people like to hang up inspirational posters or magazine clippings of people who are in the profession they are working on becoming a part of. Add anything that will help make your Study Spot feel like home and keep you focused on the prize.

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