

CONTINUUM

WINTER 2010



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Continuum is published by Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies for its students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends.

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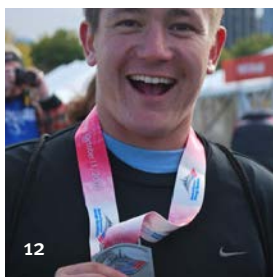
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Dear SCS Friends,



In good times and bad, there is no more firm a foundation for personal and professional growth than superior education. That has been the bedrock message of Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies for more than 75 years. While our commitment to this mission is unwavering, we know this message has added resonance in times of uncertainty. We see it in the interest of our students in programs that help them meet their professional goals. We have responded to this need by expanding our programs that allow students to earn the certificates, credentials and knowledge that are essential for advancement today. These efforts — and accounts of where they have taken three former students — are the subject of our lead story on pages 4–9.

There are few professions more uncertain than politics, and it is a testament to the resilience of Patti Solis Doyle (profiled on pages 2–3) that she has thrived in that sphere in the 20 years since she graduated from SCS. Her story is singular, and yet many of the qualities she has displayed on her journey — tenacity, a down-to-earth optimism — are those I see in so many SCS students.

A great university not only educates students and prepares them for success, it also addresses society’s problems. I am proud that SCS is rising to this challenge with the Master of Science in Medical Informatics (MMI) Program, which is at the heart of a much-needed revolution in health care. The program is strengthened by David Veillette (profiled on pages 10–11), who has joined the faculty. A true pioneer in the field of digital medicine, Veillette brings unique experience and real vision to the MMI program, only in its second year. His arrival also demonstrates a benefit of the distance learning SCS pioneered in the MMI program: Not only are we able to draw the best students from all over the country, we are also attracting industry leaders who would not otherwise be able to teach courses physically based in Chicago or Evanston.

Just as some of our degree programs are moving online, this issue of *Continuum* is presented exclusively in electronic form. While we are not giving up on the medium of print any more than we are abandoning “analog” classrooms and teaching, at this moment it seems an especially apt way to reach our expanding, increasingly disparate and digitally minded community.

“There is no more firm a foundation for personal and professional growth than superior education. That has been the bedrock message of SCS for more than 75 years.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas F. Gibbons, Dean

December 2009

Mother of reinvention

Patti Solis Doyle shares lessons on starting over



Patti Solis Doyle '89 does not mince words: "Everyone's going to fail at least once."

But she is quick to add, "It's how you respond to failure that counts. You have to be resilient." Solis Doyle shared that life lesson with SCS graduates at their Commencement in June.

Opportunities to bounce back from failure come thick and fast in the win-lose world of politics that Solis Doyle has chosen. Poised and pretty, she may not look like a fighter, but she knows how to take a media punch and get right back up.

A prominent political campaign strategist, Solis Doyle is best known for overseeing the launch of Hillary Clinton's run for President. Summarily dismissed as Clinton's campaign manager in February 2008 when the campaign faltered, Solis Doyle landed on her feet as chief of staff for vice presidential operations in the Obama-Biden campaign. Today she is president of her own strategic communications company and a partner in the

Washington, D.C., law firm of Utrecht & Phillips. "Only in DC can a non-lawyer be a partner in a law firm," says Solis Doyle, who consults for the firm as a political strategist. She is also writing a memoir, to be published next fall, about her late father's immigration story.

Solis Doyle grew up in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, the youngest of six children of Santiago and Alejandrina Solis, natives of Monterey, Mexico. Her father had a third grade education and her mother a sixth grade education, but their values were huge. Patti's brother Danny Solis, 16 years her senior, is alderman of Chicago's 25th Ward. "He started off as a community organizer, and his idea of babysitting me was to take me to political rallies," says Solis Doyle. "I got the organizing bug early. I learned that a group of people accomplishes more than a single person."

A standout student in high school, Solis Doyle earned a scholarship to Northwestern, and at first everything seemed golden. But she was soon "overwhelmed by parties and friends," she says. In the middle of her sophomore year, she lost her scholarship and had to leave school.

"I felt I had lost everything I worked so hard for," remembers Solis Doyle. "I had no idea how to get back on the right track. My dad told me, 'You're 19 years old; this shouldn't stop you.'" But before she could think about returning to school, Solis Doyle needed to support herself. She signed up with a temporary employment agency and soon found herself doing secretarial work — back at Northwestern.

That temp job turned into full-time work at Northwestern Law School, and the job's tuition benefit offered Solis Doyle the chance to restart her Northwestern education at University College, now SCS. "University College offered me the opportunity to start over, and I took full advantage of that," says Solis Doyle. "I worked until 6:30 and went to school at night. I started with two classes, but once I saw the degree within my grasp, I went at it full bore, adding weekend classes on the Evanston campus."



Patti Solis Doyle (far right) with fellow staffers in Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in early 2008

Comparing her stint as a teenage scholarship student at Northwestern to her experience as a working adult taking classes at night, Solis Doyle says that for her, harder was better. “As a day student I was getting a free ride. At night, when I had to pay my own way, I valued it more. I was determined not to mess it up, and my grades went up.” As difficult as it was to go to school and work full time, Solis Doyle says that her professors

staffers to join then Governor Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign and to work as a senior adviser for Hillary Clinton.

Solis Doyle followed the Clintons to the White House, where from 1993 to 2001 she worked for the First Lady, promoting administration policies on children, health care and women's issues. The toughest time for Solis Doyle was after the failure of Hillary Clinton's health reform plan in 1994,

“When I had to pay my own way, I valued it more. I was determined not to mess it up, and my grades went up.”

“understood that we had other things going on in our lives. Some of my classmates had kids and jobs and had to work even harder. It was inspirational.”

As a reborn Northwestern student, Solis Doyle majored in communications and minored in radio/TV/film with the idea of becoming a television anchor. She especially liked her sociology and psychology classes. The principles of psychology, says Solis Doyle, “fed my ability to think about what opponents would do.” That strategic thinking served her well when she decoded to forgo a career on the small screen for one in politics. “Political work is stressful and emotional, but it's a great feeling to help bring about change.”

After graduation she worked on Richard M. Daley's 1990 campaign for mayor of Chicago. Following Daley's election, Solis Doyle's political career took off “like a whirlwind,” depositing her next in Arkansas, where she was among the earliest

but the Clintons, she says, “were great teachers of how to pick yourself up and dust yourself off.” Solis Doyle took leave from the White House to serve as chief of staff for Hillary Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign. After Clinton became a senator Solis Doyle founded HILLPAC, a political action committee that became one of the largest and most successful sources of fundraising for Democrats.

Solis Doyle's love of strategy extends to family time playing Scrabble and other games with her husband, attorney Jim Doyle, and children, 11-year-old daughter Solis — known as Lee — and 7-year-old son Joey. “My daughter says she'll run for president,” says Solis Doyle. If that happens, Lee Doyle will not have to look far for a strategist — or for a role model who knows what to do when life knocks her down.

—*Leanne Star*

Louise Love: Lifelong learner

LOUISE LOVE UNDERSTANDS ADULT EDUCATION from both sides of the aisle.

After earning three degrees from Northwestern (SCS 76, G79, G84), teaching courses, and serving nearly two decades as an administrator in the School of Continuing Studies, Louise Love was honored last

Balancing act

During her time as an evening student, Love became a member of Alpha Sigma Lambda, a national honor society for adult evening students, and taught her first courses in literature at SCS — all while raising a family. “I did it like a job,” says Love. “I went to the library from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., preparing whatever I needed to do for my classes, and then I went home to take care of my family.”

After completing her PhD in 1984, Love accepted a job as coordinator for special programs in SCS. She was soon promoted to assistant dean for Summer Session. Love’s dedication and creativity led to a steady progression of promotions at Northwestern, including positions as associate dean in 1986; vice dean in 1995;

and finally acting dean in 1999. Love feels that her student background was an asset in her role as an administrator. “On many occasions,” she says, “I was able to give encouragement to students whose educational goals seemed far off by telling them of my own long journey toward my academic degrees.”

In 1986 Love also took the innovative step, in conjunction with Northwestern’s humanities departments, of developing a new evening graduate-level program, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS). The program remains one of Love’s proudest accomplishments.

“I’ve never seen a program that brought more pleasure to students and faculty than Northwestern’s MALS program,” says Love. “I am delighted to have been instrumental in its birth and development.” Love knows firsthand the power of the program, as her husband, Ernie, is a graduate (G94).

Love’s leadership has not gone unrecognized. She and her SCS team received the Team Leadership Award from the American Association of University Administrators in 1991.

Moving downtown

In the summer of 2000, after spending a total of 29 years at Northwestern as either a student or an administrator, Love took a new step in her career.



April with Northwestern’s Alumni Merit Award. Love is now the associate provost of Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Each year the Northwestern Alumni Association (NAA) presents Alumni Merit Awards to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their particular professions in such a way as to reflect credit upon their alma mater. In Louise Love the NAA honored someone who not only “reflected credit” on but also materially improved the educational life of Northwestern. In addition to her significant responsibilities at SCS, she served as assistant master of the Women’s Studies Residential College. In her role as Northwestern’s first sexual harassment prevention officer, she developed policies and training programs to prevent sexual harassment on campus.

Love began her relationship with Northwestern in 1971. After attending Columbia University’s School of General Studies for nine years as a part-time adult student, Love moved from New York to Chicago and enrolled at Northwestern in what was then called the Evening Division. Over the next eight years she received a bachelor’s and master’s degree in English literature, and in 1984 she completed a PhD in English Renaissance literature.

“The experience of being an adult student and a faculty member has been tremendously helpful for my career as an administrator. It allows me to see things differently and make modifications from a student’s perspective.”



She accepted the position of associate provost at Roosevelt University in Chicago. There her responsibilities include program assessment, re-accreditation, strategic planning, adjunct faculty relations, and undergraduate curriculum. “Most students at Roosevelt are the first in their family to go to college,” says Love. “Creating an educational opportunity for people who didn’t have it before has been a wonderful experience.”

As might be expected of someone with her curiosity, Love’s accomplishments are not limited to the workplace. She is the author of *The Complete Book of Pizza* (1980), which sold more than 300,000 copies. Love lives in Evanston with her husband. They are

the parents of two children, Sarah Love McOwen and Mary, both Northwestern graduates.

Commitment and persistence have been hallmarks of Love’s career and academic achievements. Love continues to apply the knowledge she gained at Northwestern to encourage students of all ages. “The experience of being an adult student and a faculty member has been tremendously helpful for my career as an administrator,” says Love. “It allows me to see things differently and make modifications from a student’s perspective.”

—Vivian Chen

SCS snapshot

Chicago has grown up — literally and figuratively — around Northwestern since the University first offered evening classes in the city in 1928.

Today SCS joins the Medill School of Journalism, the J. L. Kellogg School of Management, the School of Law, and the Feinberg School of Medicine in one of the nation's most bustling urban campuses.



Robert Miller brings passion to accounting

When Robert Miller was asked to deliver the 1983 Commencement address to the SCS graduating class, the accounting professor discovered that he had a difficult time articulating his thoughts without the use of a spreadsheet.

The man who has said, “Financial statements just speak to me,” was challenged to convey his ideas without numbers. In the end Miller relied on a metaphor often used in accounting. “Success,” said Miller, “is measured in a series of steps, and accounting is taught in the same way: one step at a time.”

Robert Miller should know how accounting is taught. In June he completes his 31st year on the School of Continuing Studies faculty. Miller credits his father for his passion and enthusiasm for life, numbers, and teaching. Professor James G. Miller was an accounting teacher and department chair on the SCS staff for the 40 years before his son arrived. Hence, there has been a Miller in the accounting department for 71 years at Northwestern. Says associate dean Adele Meadows, “We have been in good hands.”

By day Miller — who is credentialed as a certified public accountant, a certified forensic accountant, and a certified valuation analyst — is president of Miller and Associates, an accounting firm he founded in 1982. He specializes in tax accounting and auditing and serves as an expert witness in litigation. About a third of his time is spent providing litigation support to law firms.

By night Miller comes alive as a teacher at SCS. “Teaching keeps you sharp,” he says. “It keeps you on top of your profession and on top of your subject. It also keeps you young thinking.” Indeed, he has embraced the SCS mission for lifelong learning. In his spare time he studies “all the things I didn’t learn before. I am a perpetual student.”

His passion for learning has influenced his teaching methods. He is constantly keeping pace with the latest technology, and his students were among the first at SCS to benefit from the use of smart classrooms (those with Internet capabilities). Thanks to the Internet,



“Financial statements just speak to me.”

Miller is now able to post his exams and lecture notes and respond to questions about assignments by using Blackboard, a web site that students can log onto 24/7.

In addition to teaching, Miller annually reviews the SCS undergraduate and professional development programs’ accounting curricula. During his time at Northwestern, offerings in accounting have grown from just three courses to a robust selection of classes, making accounting one of the most popular areas of study at SCS. Miller also reviews the teachings standards for accounting faculty. To his credit, faculty turnover has been minimal, and most teachers have at least 10 years of tenure at SCS.

After the undergraduate accounting degree was phased out in 1966, Miller and the faculty worked to design a two-part certificate program that would still allow students to become CPAs. Students who complete only the first series of accounting courses receive a “fundamentals of accounting” certificate. Those who complete the more advanced second series of courses and a bachelor’s degree are prepared to sit for the CPA exam.

Recent events have inspired Miller to bring ethics back into the accounting curriculum. “The accounting industry has been dramatically affected by corporate scandals, and we are recovering from a bloody nose and a black eye,” he says. “It’s changed the way we think a bit. So I have incorporated ethics back into our classes through a series of case studies that examine how ethics can be compromised or championed in the workplace.”

—Tracy Berger (03)



Gloria G. Coco: radio/television/film major and Cook County Court judge

NAME Gloria G. Coco **HOMETOWN** Chicago **RECENT SCS LANDMARK**

I will graduate with a major in radio/TV/film and a minor in theater performance in spring 2004. **EDUCATION BEFORE SCS** BA, Mundelein College, Chicago; JD, Northern Illinois University School of Law.

DAY JOB Supervising judge, Domestic Violence Section, First Municipal District Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Last summer I wrote the one-woman play *The Passage of Grace*, which I will be performing this

spring, with Professor Ann Woodworth directing the production. Also, I am a member of Northwestern's chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, the national honor society for adult evening students. **HOBBIES** Weight lifting.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE SCS? It gave me the opportunity to earn the degree I always dreamed of from the School of Communication at Northwestern.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU MOST? The resounding words of my late mother, Graziella Manninice Pappalardo Coco: "Gloria, dear, age is irrelevant."

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A STUDENT AT NORTHWESTERN? Having the opportunity to be taught by the best faculty in the

country. **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?** *History of the Byzantine State* by George Ostrogorsky. **FILM?** *Citizen Kane*. **PIECE OF MUSIC?**

Anything by the Beatles. **WHAT BOOKS ARE CURRENTLY ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND?** *Running with Scissors* by Augusten Burroughs,

Collected Poems of W. B. Yeats, *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden, *The First American* by H. W. Brands, *Positively Fifth Street*

by James McManus. **WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?** The achievement that is yet to come! **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE**

THING ABOUT CHICAGO? The politics and the weather. **WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE PROFESSOR? WHY?** Ann Woodworth, because she believes in me.



Literary lights shine

With works by two faculty members — **Reginald Gibbons** and **Aleksandar Hemon** — in the finals of the 2008 National Book Awards, the reputation of the School of Continuing Studies' creative writing programs has soared.

"It was a great honor to have both Reg and Sasha as National Book Award finalists," said S. L. Wisenberg, codirector of the Master of Arts/Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Programs. "I think it's the first time that any writing program has had two finalists at the same time. And both Reg and Sasha are also known to be great teachers, which is not always the case with great writers."

Nominated in the poetry category was *Creatures of Day* (Louisiana State University Press) by Gibbons, codirector of SCS's creative writing programs as well as professor of English, classics and Spanish and Portuguese in the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and director of the Center for Writing Arts. The award committee described Gibbons's poems as "fresh, brave, [and] exactly suited to this moment in America."

Hemon, a graduate of SCS's Master of Arts in Literature Program and now an instructor in creative writing at SCS, was a finalist in the fiction category for his novel *The Lazarus Project* (Riverhead Books). The committee said "the warp and weft of this astounding novel is so tight, so sure that one cannot leave Hemon's pages unenlightened to the truth — as one of his characters sees it — that 'Every time, you



Aleksandar Hemon

think maybe this here is a different world, but it's all the same: they live, we die. So here it is again."

While hundreds of books were nominated by publishers for the awards, only a handful were selected as finalists. Hemon's novel earned the 2008 Heartland Prize for Fiction, part of the Chicago Tribune Literary Awards, which honors works "that reinforce and perpetuate the values of heartland America." In addition, the *Chicago Reader* named *The Lazarus Project* the best book by a Chicago author in 2008. Hemon received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2003 and a "genius grant" from the MacArthur Foundation in 2004.

The writing of Hemon, along with that of **Stuart Dybek** and **Alex Kotlowitz**, both on the creative writing faculty as well as holding other Northwestern appointments, was featured in the fall 2009 issue of the British literary magazine *Granta*, which celebrated the writing and writers of Chicago.

"It was a great honor to have both Reg and Sasha as National Book Award finalists. I think it's the first time that any writing program has had two finalists at the same time." — S. L. Wisenberg



TriQuarterly moves online with help from SCS

In other literary news, Northwestern's esteemed *TriQuarterly* magazine will be integrated into SCS's creative writing programs as it makes its transition to online journal in 2010. Among SCS faculty members who have been involved with *TriQuarterly* in the past are former editor Reginald Gibbons and Stuart Dybek.

In a *Chronicle of Higher Education* article about the surprised reaction of the literary community to the plans, Gibbons said that *TriQuarterly* is "still going to be a part of American culture, but now our students will actually get to participate in that culture. I think it's going to be a great opportunity for them."

The acquisitions, editorial and design aspects of the journal will be carried out as part of the creative writing program with technical support

provided by Northwestern University Information Technology staff. The journal will continue to solicit and publish offerings from external writers and will be made freely available on the web.

This evolution of *TriQuarterly* is consistent with its innovative history. Founded in 1958 as a faculty and student magazine, *TriQuarterly* was reconceived in 1964 as a national publication whose design and content would prove influential in the years to come. The *New York Times* called it "perhaps the preeminent journal for literary fiction" in America, while the *Times Literary Supplement* (London) said *TriQuarterly* "fulfilled the classic function of the literary magazine in the 20th century."

With help from SCS, *TriQuarterly* is poised to redefine literary publishing in the 21st century.

Faculty

Mary Kinzie received the 2008 O. B. Hardison Jr. Award from the Folger Shakespeare Library, a prize that recognizes a poet's teaching as well as writing.

Alumni and students

James R. McInerney (67) of Pearl River, Louisiana, retired as technical director of the automotive group at Valspar Corp. in Picayune, Mississippi. To his surprise, the lab was named in his honor.

Byron S. Dunham (73) of Savannah spends his summers in Chicago. In July he appeared onstage at the Center on Halsted to read "Dust," his essay on

Egypt that was published in Michael Luongo's anthology *Gay Travels in the Muslim World* (Harrington Park Press, 2007). Under the pen name Steve Dunham, he has written numerous short works of fiction based on experiences from his youth and since retiring from government service and journalism. His works have appeared in several collections and magazines. He is seeking a publisher for his novella "Cleopatra's Tomb."

Judy Neel Murphy (77) of Dowagiac, Michigan, a management consultant, was elected to the board of directors at Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Marjorie "Mar" Sue Durrbeck (80) of Evanston joined the Regal Financial Group, an integrated financial services firm in Northfield, Illinois, in March 2008. She is responsible for client relationships.

Tom Thornton (80) of Chicago wrote two novels, *Interlopers* (PublishAmerica, 2007) and *Cruel Messenger* (Publish America, 2008). He also has short stories available from Amazon Shorts.

Harris Meyer (82) of Yakima, Washington, won the South Florida Society of Professional Journalists Sunshine State Award for local political reporting in May 2007 as law editor of the *Daily Business Review* in Miami. He and his wife, Deborah, recently moved

to Yakima, where he is a freelance writer, covering politics, health care, law, fishing, wine, and other topics. They are enjoying life in the heart of Washington wine country.

Joan Papadopoulos (83) of Wilmette, Illinois, is an agent at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage after more than 20 years with KPMG and Deloitte as a national industry marketing director. She is also active in the Swedish American community, serving as treasurer of the Swedish American Museum Center in Chicago.

Constance Grimmer (88) of St. Joseph, Michigan, retired from law and became executive director of the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan in October 2006. She has published poetry and is currently writing a mystery novel.

Constance Cohen Garner (89) of Wilmette, Illinois, is a full-time faculty member at Harrington College of Design in Chicago, where she is teaching humanities and English. This is her ninth year at the school.

Vincent Hernandez Jr. (89) of Bolingbrook, Illinois, retired from Exelon/ComEd in February after 31 years. In October he and his wife, Linda, will celebrate 35 years of marriage. They have three children, Heather, Aaron and Ashley. He is now fulfilling a personal goal — working "to give back something to those in need." He is active in Operation Christmas — which distributes food,

clothing and gifts in the Bolingbrook community — the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at his parish, and F.I.S.H., a ministry that delivers food to families in need. He writes, "I have found great joy in helping others. It keeps me busy, and it makes me really appreciate all that I have."

Linda J. Carney (93) of Sebring, Florida, runs a residential real estate appraisal company in Florida from September through May. She started a second real estate appraisal service in the north woods of Wisconsin. She purchased a cabin on five acres in Wisconsin's Iron County and will work the territory as an appraiser from May through September.

Rodrigo Sierra (96, Kellogg 08) of Chicago, vice president of public affairs at Integrys Energy Group, graduated from the Kellogg School of Management's executive MBA program in June.

Phil M. Roxworthy (97) established Fixtures Kitchen Bath Outdoor in 2008. He and his wife, Emily Colborn Roxworthy (Comm 97, GComm 04), live on Point Loma in San Diego and are the parents of Lucy, Mack and Hope.

Sally L. Glick (98) of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, was named a principal with Sobel & Co., an accounting and consulting firm. As chief growth strategist, she is the first woman partner with the firm. She has received a Merit Award from the Northwestern Alumni Association.

**Where have you been?
What have you been doing?**

Tell us!

**Northwestern University
School of Continuing
Studies would love to
know about your recent
accomplishments.**

Send your news to
Northwestern University
School of Continuing Studies
Wieboldt Hall, Sixth Floor
339 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
60611-3008
or send an e-mail to
continuum@northwestern.edu

Mary Beth Olds (98) of Kildeer, Illinois, wrote the poem “Sandstone,” which was engraved on a stone in the Michigan Legacy Art Park on the grounds of Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, Michigan. She is working on a series of poems for publication.

Brian Dolan (99) of Oakland Park, Florida, an attorney with the law firm Camp & Camp in Fort Lauderdale, was installed as chair of the board of trustees of the Oakland Park general employees’ pension fund.

Eileen Brendel Monsurate (99) of Chicago, compliance assistant for treasury and security services compliance for JPMorgan Chase, earned the certified fraud examiner designation from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. She earned an MBA in financial management from Benedictine University in 2007.

Stephen Janowiak (00) of Carpentersville, Illinois, completed two Ironman triathlons — the Ironman Louisville and the Ironman Wisconsin — in a week to raise money to fund medical research for the Aplastic Anemia and MDS International Foundation. The Ironman is a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bicycle leg and a 26.2-mile run.

Jeffrey Persin (00) of Libertyville, Illinois, joined Northbrook Bank & Trust Co. as senior vice president in its commercial banking

division in August. His community activities include fundraising for Lake Forest Hospital and coaching youth sport programs in basketball and baseball.

Edgar I. Sanchez (00) of Glendale Heights, Illinois, a senior infrastructure design specialist, wrote “Learn Customer Service Principles from the Ritz” for CIO.com.

Franck Mercurio (01) of Chicago is the exhibition content developer for “Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age,” a traveling exhibition created by the Field Museum. The exhibition opens in Chicago in March 2010 and travels to 10 venues in North America and abroad.

Joseph Jaworek (02) of Boonton, New Jersey, an art therapist in private practice, joined the Mind-Body Wellness Center in Summit, where he provides individual and group art therapy for families, couples, children, adolescents and adults. He also serves the New Jersey Foundation for the Blind, teaching and lecturing on the art program he designed for individuals living with vision loss.

Mary-Jo Sumner (02) of Arlington Heights, Illinois, received a law degree and the labor and employment law certificate from Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Gloria Coco (04) of Chicago retired as supervising judge of the domestic violence division of the First Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2007.

She has joined the Route 66 Theatre Company and performed a solo piece, “Finding Uncle Alfio,” at Live Bait’s Fillet of Solo Festival in Chicago and in New York City.

Edward L. Oriole (05, Go8) of Northbrook, Illinois, became a therapist at Alternative Behavior Treatment Center in Mundelein in 2008.

Benjamin Dahlbeck (07) of Marietta, Georgia, is in the postgraduate program for creative writing at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He is enthusiastic about the program and teachers. “And the winds off of Lake Michigan blowing through Evanston prepared me well for the winds off the Firth of Forth and the North Sea!” he writes.

Erika Tovar (07) of Chicago began law school at Loyola University Chicago in 2008. She earned her bachelor’s degree from SCS after 3½ years of classes while working full time.

Vincent Francone (08) of Chicago won the top prize in the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, receiving a Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award for his long poem “Chicago.”

Victoria Sullivan (09) of Columbia, Missouri, is pursuing a master’s degree at the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri–Columbia. She is one of 10 students there to have received a Thurgood Marshall Scholarship.

In memoriam

Frances H. Knaphurst (38, GSESP43), Elmhurst, Illinois

Hugh A. Price (39), Pineville, Oregon

Ruth G. Vander Mey (40, G45), South Holland, Illinois

Esther Garber Port (41), Skokie, Illinois

Evangeline A. Juras (44), Wilmette, Illinois

Thomas G. Lehman (50), Jensen Beach, Florida

Charles Grenko (51), Plainfield, Illinois

John M. Kapp (52), Cleveland

Ellen “Dora” Airey Bean (53), Land O’ Lakes, Florida

Betty Smith Cox (53), Richmond, Virginia

Richard D. Collins (56), Whidbey Island, Washington

Donald C. Arries (57), Seattle

John L. Danz (59), Manning, South Carolina

Jules B. Cohen (60), Bettendorf, Iowa

Mary Singleton Bore (61), Cudahy, Wisconsin

Fred Eber (61), Danbury, Connecticut

Robert E. Lawler (61), Venice, Florida

Wanda G. Misewicz (61), Chicago

James L. Deuel (63), Durham, North Carolina

Gerald W. Hermann (63), Bellair, Florida

Elroy F. “Roy” Daleo (64), Chicago

Betty Mitchell Lutz (64), Overland Park, Kansas

Henry A. Ebertshaeuser (67), Freedom, California

Donald Kurbat (67), Evanston

Harvey D. Luber (68), Little Rock, Arkansas

George Alchimovics (69), Chicago

Kenneth J. Peterson (69), Montgomery, Illinois

Helene M. Rabinsky (69), Chicago

Dorothy Siemsen Sylvester (71), Valparaiso, Indiana

Harvey G. Brundage (72), Indianapolis

Dorothy Hogan O’Shea (74), Chicago

Elizabeth B. Butler (77), Rockford, Illinois

Nancy V. Madson (CB72, 77), Concord, New Hampshire

Kathleen Anne Bergman (78), Thorp, Wisconsin

Kerry Leavitt Lacko (87), Lincolnwood, Illinois

Jane Dewey Robinson (87), Wilmette, Illinois

Nancy J. Cheeseman (90), The Villages, Florida

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Breaking the glass ceiling

Although I had been a successful professional for 25 years, I became increasingly aware that I had created my own glass ceiling by not completing my college degree. I began to ask, “How do I evaluate my worth?”

Looking back, I see that my life choices were appropriate at the time, and I clearly would not have lived differently. But now, this single unfinished event was holding me back. The good news was that I saw the problem. The bad news was I was scared to death to solve it.

I began by taking a series of baby steps and signed up for harmless classes such as pottery, drawing, and yoga. Once I crossed some of the new-student hurdles, I took the daunting step of reviving my 20-year-old transcripts from the University of Southern California.

I held the envelope for nearly a week before I could crack the seal. Finally, I opened it — only to be reminded that I actually hadn’t been a horrible student after all, just a little short of focus.

I tried to stay focused on my assets and swiftly began thinking about what colleges would consider an old student with no specific direction their “target audience.” I came across several universities that were, in fact, targeting adult students. Interestingly enough, Northwestern was the only one that called us “adult learners.”

I crossed the next threshold and met with an adviser, who promptly confirmed that there was “nothing to be ashamed of” because there were lots of folks in my situation. He quickly mapped a fast track to get me to a graduation ceremony. I suddenly realized the finish line was only part of the issue. I now wanted to get an education. I combed over the class schedule and identified several classes that sounded compelling.

I finally selected a writing class, which happened to be a required course for my degree. To enroll in the course, new students have to take a placement exam. I rolled up my sleeves, cracked the blue book, and began to write. I submitted the filled book and proceeded to the registrar. I already felt a sense of accomplishment, and a week later I was informed that I had tested out of the entry-level class. Next step ... class.

To my surprise, no one giggled when I walked into my first evening class at Northwestern. The teacher — a professional writer — began our first class by explaining his expectations and then asking us to identify ours. New twist here, I thought: Teachers are listening to their students.

I left my first class feeling exhilarated that I had expectations of Northwestern and of myself. I became interested in every aspect of my learning. What was the best day to study? Could I coordinate my family routines, work full-time, and take more than one class? Should I commute to Evanston, or was Chicago a better choice? Because Northwestern had diverse courses and multiple campus options, crossing the finish line seemed inevitable.

I did cross that finish line in June of 2003, and I am certain that my education has only just begun. I am already skimming the course selections for my master’s degree. Why? Because my mind is just limbering up, and Northwestern has helped me remain objective about learning. I have stopped worrying about failure and have realized that I solved the larger question: My education now has personal value. As an adult learner returning to school, I have educational expectations, something traditional freshmen are generally less concerned about. The Northwestern faculty has met these expectations at every turn. They have been generous with their knowledge, time, and encouragement, and best of all, they have become a respected reference for potential employers and me.

Although my children earned their degrees ahead of me, they were there to see me collect my diploma. And they learned a valuable lesson: It is never too late to resolve issues that haunt us.

So what was my Northwestern education worth? It was priceless.

—Tracy Berger (03)





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