

Distance Education Fulfills Life-Long Dream

When John Halter left college in Texas in the early 1970's, he said goodbye to his dream of earning a bachelor's degree. "I have no regrets. I was out of money and will. After struggling years at West Texas State University to earn a Bachelor of Science in Geology, I finally called it quits. With no money and no prospects of a job, I enlisted in the Army with the chance of learning computer programming, which I heard was a hot career option."

Since leaving the service, John excelled in his career, reaching executive level and working for global multibillion-dollar software leaders. Even though successful, John realized his 30+ years in information technology wasn't going to maintain his viability in the job market or satisfy employer requirements for a bachelor's degree. "Nowadays, at my level and in my field, everyone not only expects you to have your bachelor's degree, but also your master's."

After taking courses at two major universities, John still felt he was not on track to the goals he had set for himself. "These schools really did not understand what a working, career-focused adult needs." Then in November 2003, a friend mentioned that the University of Management and Technology (UMT) might be a good place for John to consider.

John arranged to come to UMT for a visit, where he met with Dr. J. Davidson Frame, Academic Dean, and Dr. C. Eric Kirkland, Vice President. After his initial interview, John was impressed. "Their programs were top notch, and allowed me to fit my continued education into work and family commitments. Their willingness to work with me to create a learning plan was a major step towards achieving my immediate goals and long-term educational pursuits."

At UMT, John was able to pursue studies on his own terms, becoming a stellar student and earning his Executive Certificate in Project Management in record time. John then continued with work toward the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with a minor in information technology project management.

"UMT's BBA program was a good fit with my need to have a bachelor's degree to compete in the marketplace. I enjoyed my courses which reinforced my work experiences and expanded my knowledgebase. The UMT military scholarship also made it possible for me attend at \$750 per course... saving over half or more compared to some schools."

When UMT rolled out its computer science program in 2005, John was first in line to enroll. "I always wanted to be able to say I have a Bachelor of Science degree, especially in computer science since I have devoted my entire career to information technology. UMT was great about adapting to what I wanted."

John's learning program was adjusted to fit the new curriculum, and he took flight. By the end of September, he was THE first person to complete UMT's Bachelor of Science in Computer Science program, graduating magna cum laude! He also decided to continue his studies with UMT, pursuing a Master of Science in Management to complement his BSCS.

John says, “The future looks bright! I see opportunities I can go for that I never could have tried before. The degree programs at UMT balance the practical and theoretic. Their programs knock the socks off everything else I’ve looked at in distance education.”

Since 1998, the University of Management and Technology has established itself as a world-renowned leader in online education. UMT offers associate’s and bachelor’s degrees in business administration and computer science. UMT’s MSM and MBA programs draw students from around the globe. UMT also offers MSCS and MSIT programs. Students may concentrate their studies in management, IT management, project management, acquisition management, software engineering, information systems, or information technology.

UMT offers scholarships to all active duty personnel and honorably discharged veterans. UMT is affiliated with DANTES, SOC, and is approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs for students to use their G.I. Bill benefits. “Our goal is for our military students to have no out of pocket expense,” says Dr. Kirkland. “For active duty personnel, we offer a book scholarship to make sure this is true.”

In late 2005, UMT decided to offer matching scholarships for spouses of active duty personnel. This makes UMT as military friendly as any school can possibly be!

For more information about UMT, please visit their website at <http://griffon.umtweb.edu> or call 800-924-4883 ext 15