



# The Communicator

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Adult and Community Education

Adult Education and Communications Technology

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

## AECT Students Found Guilty

Every semester AECT students have a chance to gain teaching experience by volunteering at either the Armstrong/Indiana County Intermediate Unit (ARIN) or the American Language Institute at IUP (ALI). At ARIN, students teach ESL classes, (English as a Second Language) and GED classes. In addition, a third program was developed this semester through ARIN that allowed two students to teach at the Indiana County Jail.



*Anthony Newman tutoring an ALI student.*

At ALI, Brittany Pavolik, Matt Shick, Anthony Newman, and Tim Myers are also working on campus with a diverse group of international students to help them adapt to American culture. The volunteers work under Ms Sarah Tourtellotte, a Ph.D. candidate and AECT 2006 alumnus, who has been working at ALI for the past 6 years. The volunteers rotate every Tuesday and Thursday to teach the international students skills and abilities that they can adapt to their everyday lives. Some of these lessons have included a resume writing workshop, a presentation workshop, and mock interviewing. "Teaching at ALI is what I consider to be one of my most successful learning experiences" explains Brittany Pavolik. "It has given me the chance to implement what I've learned in my AECT courses, as well as the confidence to do so."

Jennifer Helman and Keila McCracken found themselves locked up at the Indiana County Jail (ICJ), but the only thing they were found guilty of was trafficking knowledge. These two ladies, who also volunteered at ARIN last semester, were picked to design a course that would teach a select group of women inmates basic employability skills. Jennifer and Keila worked together to create a 10 week program which consists of material such as interviewing skills, opening a checking/savings account, and examining career goals. So far, this program has been an extreme success. "Tammy (ARIN coordinator) has received some very positive feedback about how we are conducting the program" notes Jennifer.

AECT student Brian Matulay, who was an ESL volunteer last semester, was hired by ARIN to teach his own ESL class. "I didn't expect my volunteering at ARIN to lead to paid employment. It has proven to be an extremely beneficial work experience and much more on an interpersonal level." Brian works with international adults in the Indiana community that come from diverse backgrounds.

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## AECT Students Guilty con't...

He teaches them theme based lessons, for example, driving. Brian, along with ARIN as a whole, strives to, “enhance daily life and promote engagement in the community for the adult learners they serve.”



Tim Myers working with ALI students.

The time that these students are taking out of their busy schedules to volunteer at ARIN, ALI, and ICJ is worthwhile for the students they teach, but also for their future careers. Jennifer speaks for the entire group of volunteers when she says, “My tutoring gave me extremely valuable experience that writing research papers never would have been able to do.” •

Summer 2012 Academic Calendar	
AECT/ACE Ceremony.....	May 11 <sup>th</sup>
University Commencement.....	May 12 <sup>th</sup>
Early Summer Session	
Begin.....	May 14 <sup>th</sup>
End.....	May 31 <sup>st</sup>
Deadline to Apply For Graduation.....	
	June 1 <sup>st</sup>
Summer I	
Begin.....	June 4 <sup>th</sup>
End.....	July 6 <sup>th</sup>
Summer II	
Begin.....	July 9 <sup>th</sup>
End.....	Aug. 10 <sup>th</sup>

## Meet Sue Soltis

Sue Soltis, a 2011 AECT graduate, currently works in Johnstown, PA at Concurrent Technologies Corporation. At CTC, Sue holds the position of University Training Administrator. Her responsibilities include managing the university LMS (learning management system), training administrators, faculty, and employees on the LMS, developing, reviewing, and editing web-based and instructor led-training, and providing support to corporate training initiatives by developing content and delivering instructor-led training. With over 14 years of experience in the learning and development field, one may be baffled as to why Sue felt the need to come back to graduate school for her master’s degree, but the answer is easy. Sue did it for herself.

“I had over 14 years of experience in the learning and development field, but had never received formal training. Having been in the workforce for many years, I wanted to enhance my credentials with a graduate degree. I felt that the faculty of IUP’s AECT

program could augment my personal and professional experience.” Being a lifelong learner herself, Sue strives to help adults continue their education. She believes that as an adult educator, it is important to exceed a student’s expectations in any given situation.

Sue found that while receiving her master’s degree, her courses not only reinforced, but complimented her previous work and personal experiences. “I learned valuable skills in the communication media courses that I use at work every day.” Sue not only enjoys facilitating adult learning, but she also enjoys working with software programs to create engaging content. The technological expertise of the AECT faculty and staff provided her with the ability to do so.

Sue’s passion for lifelong learning has led her to some pretty interesting adult education workshops, including presentation skills, accelerated learning, and how to create engaging content. She encourages current students and alumni to join The American



## **Spotlight: Jocelyn Niedziela**

According to the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS), the average American's commute to and from work every day was approximately 50 minutes. Furthermore, 86.2% of people traveled by car, van, truck, or motorcycle, while 5.1% of people used public transportation such as bus, train, subway, or taxi. 3.5% of people made their way by foot or bicycle and 4.3% worked from home. If my math is correct, this leaves a mere .8% of people in the "Other" category, and this is exactly where ACE '02 alumni, Jocelyn (Swentosky) Niedziela, fits in. "It's a good thing I like to fly as you can't get to most of our schools by anything but airplane." That's right, folks, Jocelyn, Itinerant School Counselor for Yukon Flats School District in Alaska, makes her commute to work about every other week by plane.

Jocelyn dedicates herself to helping approximately 250 students in 7 villages through the school's Vocational Education Center. As a career counselor, she works with students to help them examine their interests, styles, and abilities to find and enter the profession that best suits

them. The school district's overall mission is to, "cultivate and nurture the social, physical, spiritual, and academic growth of all students by utilizing the rich local culture, language, and community/family partnerships so that graduates can be healthy, contributing members of society."

Currently, Jocelyn is looking to obtain grants to expand the adult and community education program at the school. According to Jocelyn, adult education has rapidly spread from the "lower 48" into Alaska, where adults are seeking their GED to obtain jobs to better than communities. The Vocational Education Center provides training for these adults in areas such as the Native Corporation to airport maintenance. I had the chance to meet with Jocelyn through Skype—noon PA time, 8 AM Alaska time—where we discussed her experience with the ACE program and her career.

**Jocelyn:** Sorry I didn't connect sooner, I was watching a herd of caribou cross the frozen river about 100 ft. away from the school.

**The Communicator:** What a great way to start your morning! How's the weather in Alaska?

**J:** Warm, actually. Today we have a high of 7 and a low of -15. On days like this it's almost too warm to wear your coat and boots. Laughs.

**TC:** Was the weather a hard transition for you?

**J:** No, actually. I've been having the most trouble adjusting to the massive amounts of sunlight we are experiencing right now. Every day 7.5 minutes of daylight are added on. Experiencing 12 hours of daytime can really mess up your sleep schedule!

**TC:** And I thought daylight savings time was rough.... How long have you lived there?

**J:** Since August. After graduating

*continued page 4*



*Jocelyn in front of the plane she commutes to and from each village in.*



## **Soltis con't...**

Society for Training and Development (ASTD), for they have provided her with an immense amount of knowledge, skills and abilities that she finds herself applying to the classroom on a daily basis.

Sue is not the only person in her family who strives for excellence. Sue's husband, Joesph, is also an alumnus of IUP and is Director of Human Resources with the Department of Corrections. Joseph is also the President of the Phi Kappa Psi Alumni Association at IUP. Her two sons, Andrew (IUP alumnus) and Thomas (Edinboro University alumnus) both serve in the Pennsylvania National Guard and are Phi Kappa Psi brothers. The family will be celebrating Sue and Joseph's 20 year wedding anniversary this coming May. The AECT department congratulates them both on that accomplishment!

In closing, Sue sends a note to current AECT students, "I would recommend that students take advantage of the professors' knowledge and experience by asking questions and fully participating in classes." Sue greatly appreciates the passion and enthusiasm that each professor displayed during the program, and in turn, we appreciate you, Sue! •



Sue Soltis

## **Spotlight con't...**

from the ACE program in 2002, I received my School Counseling degree from Duquesne in 2008. After working a few years in the mental health field, I received an offer from Yukon Flats and here we are now... and I love Alaska.

**TC:** What about the Alaskan culture?

**J:** The Alaskan culture is nothing like living in the lower 48, meaning the rest of the US. Up here they encourage traditional culture and do not want to lose it. Classes such as how to create Fish Wheels- the tool used to fish salmon- is an example of one of the cultural classes taught here.

**TC:** So what are your duties as a career counselor?

**J:** Well I help the students figure out themselves, and the ACE program has helped me with a lot of the teaching strategies I use to do so. I also help the students transition from their village life, usually less than 100 people, say, to living a life in Fairbanks, where there are 30,000 people. The transition is very

difficult for these kids because the culture is just so different.

**TC:** Are there many students leaving the villages to work in cities?

**J:** No, but there has been an increase. The most encouraged field here is Education. If a student decides they want to be a teacher, our school district is behind them 100%. We will go to any lengths to find them grants and funding. Having teachers in the village is very important. Other occupations consist of working in stores, the Native Corp., Tribal Government, and airport maintenance.

**TC:** Airport maintenance is not a major you'd find at IUP!

**J:** Well there are no roads here! Everything and everyone travels by plane. By the way, gas here is about \$8.00 a gallon... and \$12.00 in other areas. When my PA friends complain to me, I don't pay them any attention! I actually have a blog that talks about my



## Spotlight con't...

experiences' in Alaska so far (*blog at end of article*).

**TC:** Speaking of internet... I'm surprised with how clear the connection is.

*Skype Message: The other parties connection has been lost. Reconnecting....*

**J:** Sorry about that! You spoke too soon.

**TC:** Well I guess that answers my question about the internet connection in Alaska!

**J:** Actually, Alaska was just given a grant by the Federal Government called Open Skies Alaska. This provides internet access to many of the remotely located homes so that satellite internet can be accessed from anywhere.

**TC:** Has this promoted any sort of e-learning or distance education?

**J:** Actually, we still utilize correspondence learning. There are some villages with only 1 or 2 students, and reaching them by correspondence is the most feasible way to educate them. I'm working right now on my Type A Certification which will allow me to teach in Alaska via distance education.

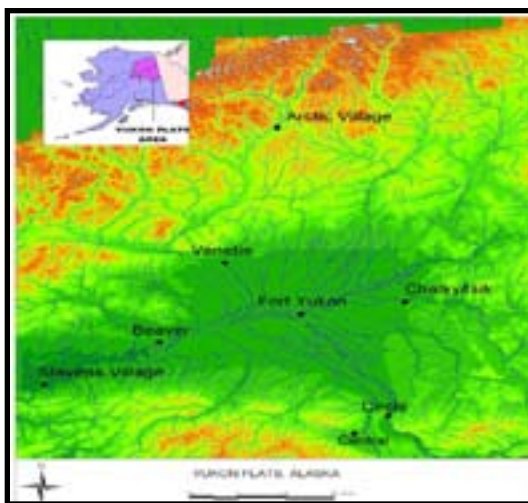
**TC:** What a *lifelong learner* you are.

**J:** Well that is another thing that ACE provided for me... an opportunity. It was a jumping off point that opened up so many doors. It also gave me the background to teach and a well-rounded community education experience.

**TC:** Well Jocelyn, I will let you go back to... well, with it being only 8:30 AM in Alaska... I will let you begin your busy day.

**J:** Thanks, Brittany. Tell the professors I say, "hello!"

*To check out Jocelyn's blog on Alaska, visit [gazle.blog.spot.com](http://gazle.blog.spot.com). For more information on the Yukon Flats School District, visit [www.yukonflats.net](http://www.yukonflats.net). If any readers have information on any obtainable Adult Education grants, please e-mail Jocelyn at [jocelyn.niedziela@yukonflats.net](mailto:jocelyn.niedziela@yukonflats.net). •*



*A map of the villages Jocelyn travels to.*

# ATTENTION!

**AECT STUDENTS,**

**IF YOU PLAN TO GRADUATE IN  
AUGUST, 2012 YOU MUST**

# APPLY

**FOR GRADUATION ON URSA BY**

# JUNE 1ST, 2012



## **Lloyd of All Trades**

Here is some living proof that ACE knowledge can be used in any situation. Erik B. Lloyd, AECT 2010 alumnus, is currently in Afghanistan on the border with Pakistan. Erik is currently the Medical Officer for the field artillery battalion and is in charge of the battalions medical training and administration. On top of his military duties, he runs a weekly radio show that focuses on basic medical issues, such as dysentery. “The show gets aired and picked up by hand cranked radios in the region.”

Erik also plans to produce a medical training video with members of the Afghan Border Police and Afghan National Security Force. He will produce the film footage and edit the video to its final product. “It should be an interesting product once it is finished. The challenge is that it will all be in Pashtu, so I will have to rely on my interpreter to help me with the post production cues.” Using even more of his AECT skills, Erik is planning to design and instruct basic trauma first aid and medical classes with some of the local clinics and local doctors. We wish you luck, Erik, and a quick, safe homecoming. •

## **What’s Happening?!**



**Matthew Spangler, AECT ‘11**, has worked his way up from an audio production intern to the Education Program Manager at 93.1 WYET in Pittsburgh, PA. Matthew is creating media for the station, teaches Radio Production, and helps lead Teen Center Programs. Congrats!



**Therese Rossman, ACE ‘99**, just recently finished her doctoral work and now has a Ph.D. in Administration and Leadership Studies. Well done, Therese!

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### **2012 December Graduates**

#### **AECT**

Michael Gregg  
Gregory Kress  
Adam McGraw  
Jason Olear  
Dawn Smidga  
Jonathan Smiley  
Daniel Yaffee

#### **ACE**

Asma Alameer  
Patrice Johnson  
Lori Roles

**Congrats, Graduates!**

What to update alumni and current ACE/AECT on *What’s Happening?!* in your life? Send your news and an updated photo of yourself to [g.j.dean@iup.edu](mailto:g.j.dean@iup.edu) or [jritchey@iup.edu](mailto:jritchey@iup.edu). We want to keep in touch!



## What's Happening con't...



2011 was a year full of name changing for who you may know as **ACE '01 alumna Karen L. Posa**. Karen and husband Mike tied the knot during a beautiful December wedding after she successfully completed her doctoral work. You may now refer to her as **Mrs. Karen L. Amrhein, Ed.D.** Congratulations on both of these accomplishments! Karen is Director of University Wide Mentoring at California University of Pennsylvania.



A special thank-you goes to all of the alumni and current students that participated in the production of our upcoming ACE video! We will send updates when the video is complete.



**Angela Isabella, ACE '07**, is Director of Faculty Development at All State Career School.



**Denise Buckey, ACE '09**, is now a Registered Dietitian/Certified Diabetes Educator for the Visiting Nurses Association of Western Pennsylvania.



**Ron Skena, ACE '09**, is a Technical Writer for Emerson Process Management.



**Greg Null, ACE '09**, is now Director of Student Services at Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics.



**Cydney Daniel, ACE '09**, has been promoted to Director of Housing and Client Services for the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force.



**2012 Summer Course Schedule  
(Summer I Classes Only)**

Course	Section	Title	Days	Time	Location	Instructor
ACE 650	801	Current Topics in ACE	-	-	ONLINE	Ritchey
ACE 740	001	Internship in ACE	TBA	TBA	TBA	Ritchey
ACE 795	001	Thesis	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
ACE 750	001	Seminar in AECT	M&W	5:30-9:00	124 Davis	Lenze
GSR 615	002	Elements of Research	T&TH	TBA	TBA	TBA

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN  
ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY  
2012**

**American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE)**  
Las Vegas, Nevada November 4-9  
<http://www.aaace.org/>

**Laurel Highlands Communications Conference (LHCC)**  
Indiana, Pennsylvania November 10-11  
<http://www.iup.edu>

**2012 Adult Education Research Conference**  
Saratoga, New York June 1-3  
<http://www.adulterc.org/>

**Association of Training and Development 2012  
International Conference and Exposition**  
Denver, Colorado May 5-9  
<http://www.astdconference.org>

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