October/November 2013 Issue

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New! Career Center Now Live for All Students
At the end of September, we officially launched American Sentinel’s Career Center. This resource is available to all students who have completed two courses within the university. The website offers resume and cover letter help, has a job search feature, and allows students to read articles about trends in their industry.

New! Writing Center Now in Moodle
We are also pleased to announce that we have created a writing center in Moodle, the online classroom, for all students. The writing center offers APA, punctuation, and grammar help; this resource is designed to target the problems that we most frequently see addressed in student papers.

New! SchoolsApp Now Available
Additionally, the switch from MyCampus to SchoolsApp is complete! We are hoping that this new social network serves as a more inviting platform for students to connect with one another (as well as staff and faculty) regarding questions or anxieties they may have. The students are able to join groups and discuss shared interests, recipes, news, etc.

Staff Spotlight: Jason Rankin
Meet Jason Rankin, Nursing Student Success Advisor. Jason has been with American Sentinel University for a little over three years. Originally, Jason was hired to handle the front desk at American Sentinel University. After eight months, Jason moved into the newly formed Student Success Advisor team. He was part of the initial core group of five people. After about a year in Student Success, Jason moved into the role of Academic Coordinator for the nursing program. He enjoyed supporting professors and working with academics, but his passion is helping students succeed. After six months in academics, Jason returned to the Student Success Advisor role to work with nursing students. He has worked the gamut in the nursing program and now specializes in supporting our growing Doctor of Nursing Practicum (DNP) program. Jason works with DNP students for the duration of their DNP program, plus he is actively involved in their residency in Denver. The DNP program has grown quite a bit, largely because of the skilled support Jason provides his students.

Outside of work Jason is a bit of a wild man. He has traveled abroad to Switzerland, Italy, and Mexico and he admits to being a bit of an adrenalin junkie! Some people would not dream of jumping out of a perfectly good plane, but that list would not include Jason! He says, “Bring it on!” Additionally, he gets a thrill over the idea of dangling at the end of a bungee cord; we had no idea our mild mannered Jason was so adventurous!

After a wild adventure, Jason likes to return home to his family, Mr. Cheeks and Nugget. Mr. Cheeks, a Green Cheek Conure (a type of bird), is a dancing machine, and Nugget is an adorable kitty that rules the house. Those who are close to Jason have a nickname for him, J-Hollywood, because of his amazing smile, which is almost as huge as his big hearth!

Technology News

Police Officer Turned Crime GIS Analyst Turns to American Sentinel to Enhance His Knowledge

American Sentinel GIS student Senior Cpl. DJ Beaty, police GIS and geospatial analysis for the Dallas Police Department, points out that none of the precinct’s officers have GIS degrees — he wanted to be the first.

The son of a 20-year U.S. Army veteran, DJ was encouraged from the time he was a teenager to join the military. However, he decided to follow the path of law enforcement, and joined the Dallas Police Force in 1995. He started out as a patrolman, then moved into covert operations and eventually ended up as a neighborhood policing officer. To his surprise that work is what got him into GIS. Find out more about Senior Cpl. DJ Beaty.

Changing Roles for Medical Informatics: Are You Ready?

By earning a health informatics masters degree you are meeting the market demand for the growing profession. Informatics is not just for data analysts anymore – it can be applied to a number of different industries.

Medical informatics — the marriage of health care delivery with information technology and data analysis — has already become an important tool in the medical industry. But the understanding of its importance is only expanding, as you can tell with the growth of medical informaticist executive positions and the need for people with the appropriate training: physician informaticians. That will ultimately mean an expanded need for people with a health informatics degree to do much of the necessary work. Learn More.
**Health Care News**

**New E-book Assists Nurses in Preventing Hospital-Acquired Infections**
American Sentinel’s new guide helps nurses build leadership skills they can use to minimize the occurrence of hospital-acquired infections (HAIs). This e-book can serve as a health care professionals go-to resource for basic intervention methods and prevention measures for a successful nursing career. [Check out the new ebook today.](#)

**Two Recent Studies Reveal Factors Leading to Readmissions**
Nurse managers creating effective patient care plans is critical in reducing hospitals readmissions. Recent research suggests increased hours of nursing care results in decreased readmissions, which most facilities agree is preventable. An online master’s degree in nursing may help nurses develop these plans, become a leader and improve care for their patients. [What did the research uncover?](#)

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**Business News**

**Data: For Business, It’s Practical, Not Just Theoretical**
When it comes to MBA degree programs, the emphasis is typically on analysis of business cases; strategic thinking; best practices; and standard techniques of management, marketing, finance, manufacturing, and other functional areas. But one area of study often underrepresented is the use of data.

The choice of what data to consider or exclude, or the techniques of interpreting the data, will affect decisions and courses of action. Sometimes a given type of data like sales history might have little bearing in the context of new markets or product introductions. Data is necessary, but its use can be tricky. [What role does data play in business?](#)

**Neurosciences ICU Manager Gain the Business Skills Needed to Improve the Health Care Industry**
If you’d told American Sentinel student Cindy Martinez when she was 18 years old that one day she would hold an MBA Health Care degree and have an impressive nursing career under her belt, she wouldn’t have believed you. It was a lifelong interest in the science of the human body that eventually led Cindy back to school—at the age of 30. While raising three young children, Cindy earned an associate degree in nursing and joined the University of New Mexico Hospital, a level 1 trauma center. She gravitated toward neuroscience and moved into the neurosciences intensive care unit. In 2003, Cindy earned a BSN and worked her way up to become director of the unit. [Read Cindy’s story.](#)