

## Pack Your Bags!

BLS Success Story: by Corky Templeman

**P**ack your bags! These words were music to my ears on June 23, 2004, when my advisor Dian Gottlob informed me I would be graduating July 30. I have experienced many joyous moments in my life, but with the single exception of my son's birth, this one eclipses all the rest.

My parents, son, and a close family friend had been on alert for a possible trip to Iowa for several months. Now, with tips from Dian regarding where to fly into and ideas for places to stay, we made our travel arrangements.

I had never been to Iowa before, and other than one postcard that my mother sent me when she traveled through the area in the mid-90's, I had never seen the campus. On July 29, as we drove from the Cedar Rapids airport towards Iowa City, the first thing I was struck by was the green, rolling, pastoral landscape. It reminded me of a combination of Massachusetts (north of Boston in particular) and north central Oregon in many respects. On the outskirts of Iowa City I grew more excited seeing signs that actually read "University of Iowa."

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**I had done it! I had graduated!**

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By the time we arrived in Iowa City, I could barely contain myself. "This is my alma mater!" I blurted to my fellow travelers. "Go Hawkeyes!"

Pulling up to the Iowa House, the on-campus hotel located in the Iowa Memorial Union, (I highly recommend it—a great location), I was delirious. I bounded up the stairs to the registration desk, exuberantly announcing our arrival.

"Hi! I'm Corky Templeman. My family and I have reservations for the next three nights. I'm graduating tomorrow night!"

The clerk didn't miss a beat.

"Good for you! Congratulations!"

"Thank you. It has taken forever, but I finally finished."

The next day, July 30, my mother and son accompanying me, we traveled on foot across the serene Iowa River to meet my advisor. I couldn't get over how beautiful the

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**Beginning with this issue, *The BLS Beacon* is online at [www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/ccp/bls/index.html](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/ccp/bls/index.html) Would you prefer to receive *The Beacon* electronically instead of by mail? Send an e-mail to [diane-debok@uiowa.edu](mailto:diane-debok@uiowa.edu).**

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## Don't Forget Your HawkID

Please remember that you need to connect with your HawkID and e-mail. This is the key to opening your University of Iowa e-mail account and accessing various online services available to you as a University of Iowa BLS student. Information on your HawkID and how to connect was included with the material that you received from the Office of Admissions. If you have not received the material or are confused about the process, link to the following university website for instructions and assistance: <http://hawkid.uiowa.edu/>.

**It is your responsibility to file a Degree Application with Graduation Analysis.** You may do this online using your HawkID. To file your Degree Application, obtain information on your application deadline, or to find general information about graduation dates for the current academic year, go to: <http://www.registrar.uiowa.edu/graduation/>.

## SkillSoft Courses Now Available to the Public

Affordable one-year subscriptions offered

In previous issues of *The Beacon*, we have told you about SkillSoft courses which are available to University of Iowa students (BLS students included), faculty, and staff at no charge. Now these courses are available to the general public at affordable rates thanks to a new partnership between UI Learning & Development and the Division of Continuing Education.

For \$125 per person/year, subscribers have unlimited access to 300 courses and hundreds of job aids, ranging from communication and leadership topics, to software applications and web design. Additionally, Project Management Institute or Microsoft IT certification-preparation subscriptions are available for \$250 each (for one year).

Courses are provided by SkillSoft, the world's largest e-learning provider, and offer broad-based professional development in an interactive, Windows-based format. While courses are non-credit bearing, continuing education units (CEUs) and skill-mastery assessments are available.

## Early Spring '05 Registration Opens November 15

Registration for spring 2005 Distance Education courses begins the week of November 15. Both online semester-based courses and telecourses broadcast over Iowa Public Television (IPTV) will be open for enrollment. Of particular interest to BLS students are:

### World Wide Web

*30:175 Politics of Film: Horrors in Troubled Times, 3 sh*

*34:141 Juvenile Delinquency, 3 sh*

*6T:113 Small Business Accounting, 1 sh*

### Telecourses (IPTV)

*113:136 Faces of Culture, 3 sh*

*7P:106 Child Development: Stepping Stones, 3 sh*

For descriptions of these and other spring courses, go to [www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/ccp/courses\\_programs.htm](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/ccp/courses_programs.htm) and click on the link for Spring 2005.

Once you've chosen your Distance Education course(s), you can enroll in one of two ways:

**Telephone:** 800-272-6430 or (319) 335-2852 or

**Online** at: [www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/ccp/del\\_regform.htm](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/ccp/del_regform.htm)

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The courses are ideal for Iowa small businesses, organizations, and professionals with limited training budgets.

Do you have friends and family who are University of Iowa alums? Through a partnership with the University of Iowa Alumni Association, UI graduates can activate a free, 30-day trial of the entire subscriber course library.

There are also two free courses which anyone may try.

To find out more about SkillSoft courses, and to try the free offers, go to [www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/skillsoft/](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/skillsoft/) or telephone the UI Division of Continuing Education at (319) 335-2755.

river was, as well as the campus buildings along the river. Arriving at the Center for Credit Programs I asked to see Dian.

I took a deep breath. Dian and I had many conversations over the phone spanning several years and subjects. When I had nearly lost my mind (which happened more than a few times), it was Dian who very calmly gathered my marbles. A few moments later, out came Dian, wearing a Hawaiian shirt just like me! I had told her my “uniform” consisted of jeans, Birkenstocks, and Hawaiian shirts. She had dressed in my honor!

Dian very thoughtfully arranged for my original advisor, Scott Wilcox, to be there, and Janet Harding, who in recent years (I was in the BLS program for almost 17 years!) very patiently answered my e-mails about receipt of assignments and pending grades. The three of us visited for at least a half hour. I was so grateful to meet these people in person--to attach faces and personalities with names. More than anything I was struck by a feeling of belonging. I instantly realized how beneficial it would have been had I made this visit during my studies, not just at the end of them.

We took pictures, hugged, and promising to stay in touch, I left. I felt like a kid who had been taken to the toy store, and just as I was to buy something, I had to leave. I wanted to stay. I wanted to move to Iowa. I wanted to work with these people. I could not believe how at home I felt.

Graduation day wore on and we walked all over the campus and up to the bookstore, where I promptly proceeded to buy as many Iowa mementos as possible. Everywhere I went I told people I was graduating and every reaction was similar “Way to go! Congrats!” I felt as if the entire city of Iowa City was celebrating with me.

At 6:00, we walked to over to Hancher Auditorium for the graduation ceremony. The sun was setting and a light breeze guided us along the river walk--absolutely lovely. Arriving at the auditorium I was surrounded by fellow students, none of whom I knew, but whose anticipation I shared. Although the majority were far younger, we all knew what it had taken to be walking down the aisle, the strains of *Pomp and Circumstance* floating from the piano. We found our seats on the stage as the 157<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony officially began. I introduced myself to two young women

## Students Receive First BLS Scholarships

Funds Awarded for 04-05 Academic Year

The first tuition scholarships in the new BLS scholarship program have been awarded. Students received the funds for the 2004-2005 academic year. Congratulations to these recipients:

Mick Bunn • Rebecca Carter  
Ann Fisher • Angela Gillis  
Monique Holtkamp  
Anna Lopez • Alex Lorack  
Jenevive McLandsborough  
Rebecca Phelps  
Brandi Sharkey  
Judy Stahl • Rita Strom  
Kathryn White  
Jennifer Wyatt

The scholarships are awarded to BLS students who have earned an Associate of Arts degree at an Iowa community college.

For more information about the scholarship and to download an application form, go to [www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/ccp/bls/index.html](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/ccp/bls/index.html) and click on the Scholarship Information link.

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on either side of me, one of whom said to me “I didn’t realize how nervous I’d be!” I couldn’t have said it better.

The moment came when our row stood up and started walking toward the front of the stage. Each student’s name was announced as he or she walked across the stage to shake hands with President Skorton.

“Corinne Oakes Templeman.”

My forever-loyal family cheered! I confidently strode across that stage, shook the President’s hand, and waved to the crowd.

I had done it! I had graduated!

## Significant Dates for Fall 2004 Term

Late applications for December graduation are accepted after October 19, but a late fee is charged.

November 1	Last date for undergraduates to drop semester-based Saturday & Evening and Distance Education courses
November 15	Last date for undergraduates to withdraw entire semester-based registration  Winter and Spring term early registration begins
December 1	Last date to file for CCP scholarship for spring course
December 8	Final grades for GIS courses due for December graduates

*The BLS Beacon* is produced at the Center for Credit Programs, 116 IC, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-1802

Editor/Designer: Diane DeBok  
diane-debok@uiowa.edu

Contributors: Dian Gottlob  
dian-gottlob@uiowa.edu

Judy Rowles  
judy-rowles@uiowa.edu

Angela Ward  
angela-ward@uiowa.edu

Anne Zalenski  
anne-zalenski@uiowa.edu

If you have questions or would like more information about any of the items you see in *The Beacon*, phone the Center for Credit Programs, toll-free, at 800-272-6430 or direct at (319) 335-2575.

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Division of Continuing Education  
Center for Credit Programs  
116 International Center  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242-1802

