Welcome to the Boston University Office of Distance Education Newsletter – your source for information about online education, successful online graduates, and the future of distance education.

This Newsletter celebrates the first graduates of Distance Education, the successes of a recent alum, and the launch of several new and enriching degree programs.

Boston University Distance Education links students from around the world who desire to study at a world-renowned University.

We invite you to discover...

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I am delighted to be welcoming you back to the Fall 2004 semester at Boston University. Some of you have been taking courses all the way through the summer with just a short break between semesters. For others, you've had the luxury of taking the summer off, or this is your first semester with us. The Office of Distance Education welcomes all of you, and we look forward to a productive fall semester online.

We've been busy preparing three new degree programs that will be offered starting this fall and spring:

- Master of Science in Computer Information Systems (MSCIS)
- Master of Science (for post professional) for practicing Occupational Therapists
- Executive Undergraduate Degree Completion Program (starting January 2005)

We're very excited about these new offerings as we expand the number of programs and degrees offered online. We hope that you will tell your friends, families, and colleagues about our online degree opportunities.

In order to better serve you, we've expanded our staff here at Distance Education. At the end of this newsletter, you will find a list of our current staff.

We hope that you will call on us if you have any questions or problems. You can contact us at 617-358-1960 or by emailing us at online@bu.edu.

Have a great Fall 2004, and we wish you much success in your coursework.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Kryczka
After nearly 8,000 miles, Mikko Mori of Japan landed at Boston’s Logan International Airport and made her way to Commonwealth Avenue for the first time during her four years of study at Boston University. Mori, a graduate of the first online Master’s in Criminal Justice degree, joined 130 others from around the world for what would be a monumental occasion for not only Boston University, but also for higher education.

The online graduates joined 5,600 other Boston University graduates at the May 2004 Commencement. Keynote speakers, such as Doctor Craig Venter who helped lead the effort to decode the human genome, encouraged graduates to achieve more, seek more, and act more. Speakers stressed the importance of never accepting the immediate present and to always anticipate what graduates’ endeavors and the future will hold.

December 2004 and next May’s Commencement hold similarly proud moments when new online graduates will accept their diplomas. In December, 40 more individuals will have the honor of accepting their Master’s in Criminal Justice degree and will join 62 graduates of the Master’s in Management Studies degree. In addition, 30 graduates of the first online Boston University doctoral degree, the Transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy (tDPT), will celebrate their accomplishments and proudly accept their well-earned distinction.

For more information about Commencement 2004, please visit the Distance Education Homepage (www.bu.edu/disted) under “News” for an article written by The Boston Globe about the graduation for the Criminal Justice degree recipients.
**Master of Science for Practicing Occupational Therapists**

Students of this program will examine current practices in relation to the guidelines of the current Occupational Therapy Practice Framework for occupation-focused, client-centered, and evidence-based occupational therapy. Students will plan and conduct educational programming for clients and their caregivers, peers, students, policy-related bodies (local, state, and federal), and the general public.

[www.otdegree.com](http://www.otdegree.com)

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**Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**

This program is designed for students who wish to combine technical skills in information systems with knowledge of managerial and organizational issues. The Program prepares students to assume professional responsibilities as information security analysts, system analysts, and information system leaders. Metropolitan College and the Computer Science Department are the only college and department offering part-time study with national certification for the quality of its security curriculum, as awarded by the Committee on National Security Systems.

[www.buonlinemasters.com](http://www.buonlinemasters.com)

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**Executive Undergraduate Degree Completion Program (EUDCP)**

The EUDCP provides a completely online curriculum for those prepared to finish the second half of a bachelor's degree. Beginning in January 2005, this sixteen-course distance education program provides an interdisciplinary, liberal studies degree for working adults who meet Boston University's selective admissions standards. Rather than broad surveys, these courses focus on a particular aspect of a field as a lens for learning the issues, methods, and overarching theories of that field.

[www.buonlinedegree.com](http://www.buonlinedegree.com)
Recent graduate of the Boston University Online Master in Criminal Justice degree Roger White shares his candid thoughts and experiences on BU Distance Education.

“Although the online program was relatively new, I was impressed with the commitment Boston University had made.

My initial foray into online education was somewhat hectic. The learning platform required some getting used to with respect to finding where to post and get assignments, as well as how to read and absorb lectures. My facilitators were very helpful and, although they only existed in the virtual world, their manner, encouragement and feedback made the transition much easier. The various personalities began to manifest themselves as well.

Completing my MCJ degree has opened many doors for me. I was hired by my local school district as a teacher, and I am now in the process of implementing a brand new program teaching secondary students in the field of Emergency Services.

I believe that distance education will have a huge impact on how adult learners pursue and receive education in the future. The convenience, quality, and economics are all key benefits to consider. Essentially, that future is already here, and it will only become more popular as technology and resources continue to advance.

BU’s commitment to the online MCJ program is very evident and continues to develop. While there will always be some minor glitches to deal with, the 24 hour online support was incredibly helpful, always available, and always willing to help.

For many adult learners like me, there may be no other option for advanced degrees. When I look at the BU diploma on my office wall, I can’t help but feel good about myself and I understand that my only limitations are within me.”
With days already too short, it is becoming increasingly more difficult for individuals to return to school to finish or begin a degree program. Numerous universities have recognized these limitations and, therefore, are offering an influx of online degree programs.

According to the Princeton Review, “going to school as an adult is fun. It is a chance to bring your maturity and hard-earned practical experience into a rigorous intellectual environment. An academic credential will also unlock doors for you as you continue to pursue a career. The Internet provides opportunities and choices unheard-of as recently as a decade ago.”

There are over 60,000 online college courses being offered this Fall, and this number is only going to increase as the demand for an education over the Internet becomes ever more popular. The hassle of traveling to classes during an all-too-busy day has been eliminated with the development of many renowned distance education programs.

“The new, online approach combines quality and rigor, as well as providing anytime access to the electronic classroom for both students and faculty.” Those who question the quality of a distance education degree: watch out. Online education mitigates psychological, physical, and social barriers and requires individuals to submit written responses that are clear, coherent, and well developed.

There is a heavier emphasis on writing as opposed to verbal group discussions in a traditional classroom. “Online education also demands a high level of interaction, meaning students will be expected to contribute to class discussions frequently and in depth.” You dictate your own study schedule and, as is the case with most online education programs, you have complete access to course work, information boards, and more—24 hours a day.

No matter where you are, and no matter how busy you are, distance education allows you to fit higher education into your schedule. And it’s this ability to link ambition that will ultimately advance personal and professional agendas of all individuals seeking quality education.

“The future of distance education

“Today's students are busy with work and family. Completing a degree is not their only priority. Between work and family, students find a distance learning opportunity as a way to "have it all" without giving up their present commitments or income.” (Princeton Review)
linking ambition

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