

2002 Distance Learning Association Awards

DAU Named Winner for Second Consecutive Year—Knowledge Management Officer Honored

CHRISTINA CAVOLI • COLLIE JOHNSON

FORT BELVOIR, Va. (April 10, 2002)—How will the digital age change the way we learn? Using technology to improve and expedite learning, to excite and entice students, teachers and administrators, is a hot topic for educators at all levels—academic, professional, business, and government. The widespread interest in applications of distance learning was evident at the 12th Annual e-Learning Conference & Expo, held April 8-11 at the DC Convention Center.

Thousands of corporate executives, education professionals, and government and military personnel attended the conference. Keynote speakers included former Mayor of New York City Rudolph Giuliani. A crammed exhibit hall blazed with innovation, new ideas, demonstrations, possibilities—all showcasing the marriage of technical achievement with educational goals to produce a superior product delivered in a more useful way.

In the arena of distance learning, the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) is receiving its share of awards and recognition for innovative programming, forward-thinking ideas, and individual excellence.

On April 10, the U.S. Distance Learning Association (USDLA) presented 11 Distance Learning Awards to professionals, organizations, companies, and institutions for excellence in teaching, programming, and outstanding individual achievement. DAU, for the second year in a row walked away a winner, earning two of the coveted awards.

Cavoli is a freelance writer and Johnson is managing editor of Program Manager Magazine, DAU Press, Fort Belvoir Va.



Excellence in Distance Learning Programming—Government Award—Presented to DAU Vice Provost Dr. J. Robert Ainsley, and DAU Provost Richard Reed, representing DAU President Frank J. Anderson Jr. Pictured from left: Glenda Mathis, USDLA President; Ainsley; Reed; and Dr. John G. Flores, USDLA Executive Director.

The purpose of the USDLA Awards is to acknowledge the efforts of innovators and “pioneers,” and highlight those that are excellent in the field. Categories included Higher Education, Government, K-12 Education, Corporate/Business, and Telemedicine.

USDLA President Glenda Mathis introduced this year’s award winners. “A few years ago,” noted Mathis, “it was hard to explain the concept of distance learning, much less find effective examples. Now, there is an explosion of high-quality programs and instructors in distance learning.”

Excellence in Distance Learning Programming—Government Award

DAU Provost Richard Reed and Vice Provost Dr. J. Robert Ainsley, accepted the USDLA Excellence in Distance Learning Programming—Government Award on behalf of DAU, for providing an outstanding model of distance learning. DAU President Frank J. Anderson Jr., unable to attend the awards ceremony, commented on this year’s win.

“Technology has fundamentally changed the way we live and work. DoD is committed to moving to an e-Business en-



U.S. Distance Learning Association (USDLA) Most Outstanding Achievement by an Individual in Government Award—Presented to DAU Knowledge Management Officer John Hickok at the 12th Annual e-Learning Conference & Expo, April 10, 2002, at the DC Convention Center. Pictured from left: Glenda Mathis, USDLA President; Hickok; Dr. John G. Flores, USDLA Executive Director.

corporating technology provides convenient, economical access to education, training, performance support, and expert advice to all members of the DoD acquisition community.

DAU works to effectively deliver a quality product to an audience of over 138,000 students worldwide. Since 1998, nearly 42,000 students have completed distance learning classes; the re-engineering of the Acquisition 101 (ACQ-101) course alone has resulted in a 157 work-year return to the workforce, which translates into an annual productivity return of almost a million dollars.

Currently, annual DAU online course graduates exceed 12,000. DAU predicts that by the end of 2002, traditional classroom education will drop to 64 percent for all DAU students. Online instructional time has increased from 15,570 hours in 1998 to over 1.5 million hours in 2002. Online course graduates at DAU will top 60,000 this year. These numbers indicate an improved learning environment that also offers reduced education and training costs.

environment. Our goal is to facilitate this business transformation by training the way we will work—*e-Learning* to support *e-Business*.”

Anderson said that DAU must accelerate the transformation of DoD acquisition training, and that smartly applying

technology would facilitate the university's journey into the future.

Distance learning complements the training mission of DAU: to provide a program that fully embraces certification training, performance support, and a culture of continuous learning. In-

Most Outstanding Achievement by an Individual in Government Award

The Most Outstanding Achievement by an Individual in Government Award went to DAU Knowledge Management Officer John Hickok, for his exemplary contribution to the DAU Distance Learning

DAU Faculty, Staff Combine Efforts to Develop Comprehensive Content and Online Performance Support and Learning Modules (PSLMs)

- Air Force Maj. Jim Ashworth (Policy)
- Bill Bahnmaier (Risk Management, Program/Project Scheduling)
- Dave Brown (Systems Engineering)
- Steve Brown (Logistics)
- John Claxton (Test and Evaluation)
- Dan Costello (PM Briefings)
- Tom Dolan (Acquisition Excellence)
- Dr. Owen Gadeken (Leadership)
- Dr. Mary-jo Hall (Strategic Direction and Balanced Score Card)
- Larry Heller (Total Ownership Cost)
- John Kelley (Integrated Product and Process Development/Integrated Product Team)
- Norm McDaniel (Acquisition Strategy)
- Bill Motley (Manufacturing Management)
- Cathy Pearson (Civilian Personnel Management)
- Robert Pratt (Earned Value Management)
- George Prosnik (Software Management)
- Julian Roberts (Business, Cost Estimating, and Financial Management)
- Bob Stryjewski (Cost As an Independent Variable)
- Chip Summers (Contract Management)
- Randy Zittel (Modeling and Simulation)

program. Hickok's vision and leadership have been pivotal in the conception and implementation of the online DAU Project Management Community of Practice. Allowing global acquisition and logistics personnel a way to collaborate and disseminate information and best business practices, Community of Practice supports continuous learning and performance support.

"Over the last several years the ship of DAU has been slowly changing its course," said Hickok, "from purely classroom instruction to *lifetime* education, training, and job support for the entire AT&L workforce."

Hickok emphasized that the success of DAU's initiatives in Knowledge Management, and specifically with respect to providing online performance support to the AT&L workforce, is due to the tireless efforts of DAU's faculty and the critical support of DAU's leadership team.

He noted that several members of the DAU faculty and staff (see preceding

page) have been instrumental in developing comprehensive content and online Performance Support and Learning Modules, or PSLMs.

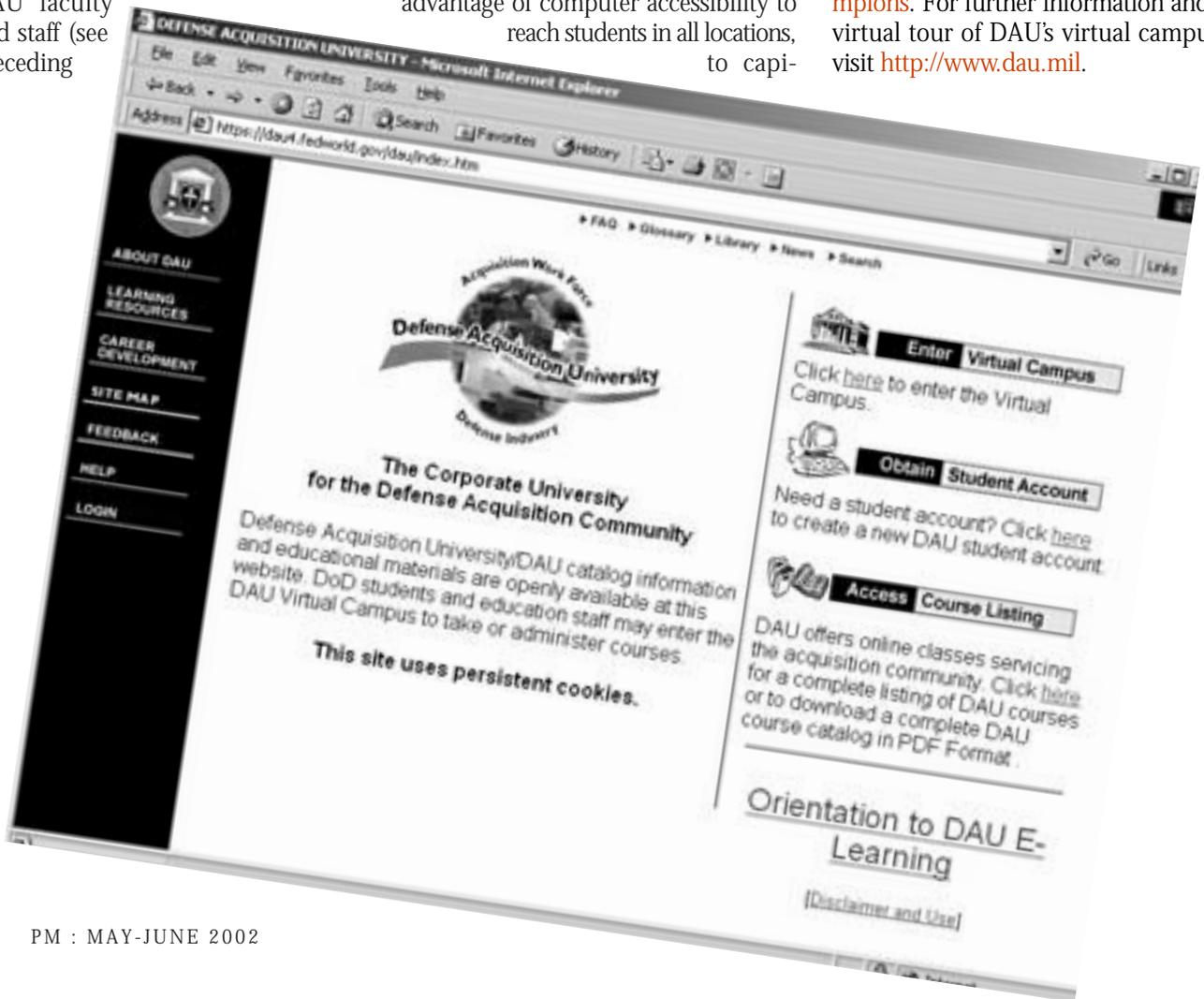
DAU, according to Hickok, plans to use its PSLMs to enable the development of some 15 career field communities of practice to support the job needs of the AT&L workforce across the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Services, and Agencies. He added that to date, DAU Professors Bill Bahnmaier, Dave Brown, and Chip Summers have been groundbreaking leaders in the development of Communities of Practice for Risk Management, Systems Engineering, and Major Weapon System Contracting respectively. These Communities of Practice, he explained, have been developed under the Program Management Community of Practice, developed jointly by the Navy's Acquisition Reform Office and the Defense Acquisition University.

e-Learning No Longer a Future Goal
Distance learning, or e-Learning, takes advantage of computer accessibility to reach students in all locations, to capi-

talize on time, and provide a greater degree of individualized training. E-learning uses the power of the Internet and computer-based instruction to make learning accessible anytime, anywhere. Instructors and students can take advantage of technology to create an interactive and responsive learning community, regardless of physical location.

The effectiveness and efficiency of e-Learning over the traditional classroom environment are well-documented. Studies have shown that distance learning produces better test scores in 98 percent of students, while decreasing instructional time by one-third.

DAU, e-Learning, and USDLA
With a current membership of over 2000, USDLA is a leading source of distance learning information and policy. To read more about the organization, visit their Web site at <http://www.usdla.org>. For other success stories in the field of distance learning, visit <http://www.elearningmag.com/morechampions>. For further information and a virtual tour of DAU's virtual campus, visit <http://www.dau.mil>.



e-Learning Magazine Names "Champions" of Distance Learning DAU President Cited for Leadership, Vision



Frank J. Anderson Jr.
President, Defense Acquisition University

Defense Acquisition University President Frank J. Anderson Jr., has been selected by *e-Learning Magazine* as a 2002 real-life "Champion" of distance learning for his leadership and vision in the field of distance learning. *e-Learning Magazine* is the e-Learning industry's voice for management leaders who drive technology-enabled learning and training.

"Champions" were selected from over 100 nominations of individuals and organizations that have made great strides in distance learning. Anderson's development of a rapidly growing Distance Learning program for DAU was singled out for providing a superior e-Learning model: an improved learning environment that capitalizes on technological

possibility while driving down the cost of training and education.

Anderson became involved with e-Learning as an e-student. As leader of the U.S. Air Force's contracting organization, he enrolled in an e-Learning course that allowed him to take the course when it was convenient. His first experience as an e-Learning provider was in his current position as DAU President. His challenge was to develop strategic direction and an overarching e-Learning vision that accurately communicated value-added contributions.

Under his guidance, online instructional time at DAU increased from only 15,750 hours in 1998 to over 1.5 million hours in 2002. Likewise, the number of course

graduates at DAU will increase to over 60,000 this year.

For other success stories in the field of technology-enabled learning and training, visit <http://www.elearningmag.com/morechampions>.

Acquisition and Logistics Excellence Week 2002 **Services, Agencies, All DoD Acquisition & Logistics Organizations** **to Design Their Own A&LE Week Activities**

In a March 8 memorandum, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) E.C. "Pete" Aldridge Jr. announced that instead of a DoD-wide Acquisition and Logistics Excellence (A&LE) Week, each Service, Agency, and organization should select a time during the year to focus on acquisition and logistics excellence, and then design their own A&LE activities. As in past years, he emphasized that the time should be set aside to share implementation successes and challenges, and determine how best these successes can be applied to respective missions.

"The Defense Acquisition University," said Aldridge, "will support your efforts." Toward that end, DAU stands ready to offer its support for A&LE events planning. The University has opened an A&LE Activities Web site at <http://www.dau.mil/alea/> that lists

Service/Agency/Regional points of contact for your A&LE Week activities. In addition, the DAU regional campuses are also available to provide training resources and help develop materials tailored to each organization's needs.

"We are excited about the opportunity to team with you and share the benefits provided by DAU's transformation to a regional campus concept," says DAU President Frank Anderson Jr. "Our goal is to support you in accelerating implementation of the Department's acquisition and Logistics initiatives."

Editor's Note: As we go to press, the David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Team Awards will be presented by Aldridge in a separate June 2002 ceremony at the Pentagon (date and time to be announced).