Air Force vet seeks to give back

James Elliott seeks to use his education to better the community.

By John S. Adams

If you’ve been around the North Campus for any length of time you’ve probably run into 67-year-old James Elliott, a retired Air Force veteran with 25 years’ service. During that time, James spent a year and a half in Vietnam as a combat medic and another 10 years stationed in Japan.

Nowadays he’s finishing up a paralegal degree and starting a bachelor’s program in Business Administration. It’s not easy being an older student, but James has found a home at North.

“IT has been a struggle, but the teachers at BSC have supported me 100 percent,” James said. “I’m not ‘old-old’, but I’m old, and my learning curve is a bit steeper than younger students.”

So why would a man of James’ (Continued on page 4)

& Contest Winners Announced

Recently, Syracuse North participated in the “& Story Contest,” inviting all members of the Bryant & Stratton community to answer the question: “What’s your & in life?” Students, employees, and (Continued on page 3)
We have a variety of degree programs here at Bryant & Stratton, each designed to draw upon unique interests, skills, and goals. In this issue, The Expression would like to highlight the accounting program. Bill Rava, a longtime instructor here at Syracuse North, gave us the inside scoop.

According to Bill, no prior accounting experience is necessary, since instructors teach as if no knowledge or skills are present. However, students do need to be motivated, have a strong work ethic, and be committed to complete assignments in a timely manner. Accounting majors also benefit from basic computer skills, particularly knowledge of Excel.

Effective time management is a key component of success. The most difficult obstacle for students to overcome is balancing their work, personal lives, and school obligations.

Once enrolled in the program, students can look forward to projects that will prepare them for real-world accounting tasks. In Principles of Accounting I, students create a set of accounting records for a service entity using Excel, while Principles of Accounting II switches the focus to a merchandising entity. The project for Tax Accounting requires use of real IRS forms; the Accounting Systems course involves the use of QuickBooks Pro.

The accounting program is staffed with instructors who have a minimum of 10 years of teaching experience, as well as strong backgrounds in the accounting field. “We teach because we like to. It's not just a job,” Bill said.

Most upper-level classes do not exceed 10 students, making it easy for students to work with each other. Instructors offer skills assistance times for their students, and continuously strive to upgrade the accounting software.

This dedication, on the part of both students and instructors, pays off when students look for jobs in the accounting field. Possible career directions include public, private, nonprofit, forensic, managerial, and financial accounting; taxation; and accounting systems.

Placement has been exceptionally high in the Accounting Program with one of the highest salary bases, Bill said, noting that one recent graduate has been hired as a collections analyst earning over $50,000.
Contest winners announced, cont’d

Cont. from p. 1 alumni contributed unique perspectives on the difference Bryant & Stratton has made in their lives.

“It was really cool to hear their stories,” said Academic Advisor Paul Applebee, who organized the contest and posted stories on Facebook. “That was the best part.”

The suspense ended September 22 when Director of Syracuse Colleges Sue Cumoletti announced the randomly-selected winners. Students Joe Fermil and Jenelle Lynch received generous grants to apply to tuition, while associate winner Jackie Nocevski and alumni winner Kelly Calianese walked away with gift cards.

Also announced was the winner of the Above & Beyond award. This award honored associates who “approach campus interactions as a privilege.” Again, the winner was chosen at random from many worthy contributors to our campus community. Julie Zhu, head librarian, was the lucky person who will be enjoying a weekend getaway in the near future.

According to Paul, the grant money awarded reflects our college’s commitment to prioritizing students and recognizing their needs. “We know our students on a very personal level,” he said. “You don’t see that in many other places. I can’t think of any other college that would offer this to their students.”

On behalf of everyone at Syracuse North, The Expression would like to congratulate all the winners and thank Paul Applebee for making the contest a success.

Winners include clockwise from upper right student Jenelle Lynch, with Director of Syracuse Colleges Sue Cumoletti; associate winner Jackie Nocevski; alumni winner, Kelly Calianese; and the Above & Beyond winner Librarian Julie Zhu. The other student winner, Joe Fermil, is shown on page 1.
James Elliott cont’d

“We all got along,” James recalls of that childhood. “We played together, swam together, socialized together and went to church together. We were so tight in Eastwood it just was never an issue. If I was in the inner city I might have had a different attitude. I was hardly aware of color until I was about nine.” His childhood may not have been the best, but his mother always made sure he and his siblings had clean clothes and were taught to not lie or steal.

But now James thinks the culture is broken. “We have an economically deprived and psychologically challenged culture in the inner city,” he says “It’s not enough to give people welfare programs. We need to change people’s attitudes by making them accountable by giving the people ownership.

“How do you do that?” James asks, sensing the obvious question. Currently “there is no organization similar to the Urban League, that I am aware of to help inner city people pull themselves up by their bootstraps,” and thus something he’d like to start. “We as a people have to work out our problems together with God,” James said.

James admits his ideas can be controversial and sometimes rub people the wrong way, but insists Bryant & Stratton College has always provided an environment where he can speak his mind and think out loud. “This is why I love going to Bryant & Stratton College. They allow me to express myself. “I want to take that knowledge and apply it to fix the many ills we have in society. That’s what I want to do.”

On Tuesday, October 20th from 1:00-2:30, we will be hosting a career chat to provide an opportunity for you to learn about skills employers are seeking, opportunities you can target at graduation, etc. Below are the names of the employers attending so you can conduct research in advance. There will be a question-and-answer session along with an opportunity to network! Bring copies of your résumé for any possible on-the-spot interviews!

Please stop by Career Services if you have any questions.

Criminal Justice/Paralegal
Facilitators: Susan Fennessy/Steve Kempisty
Room 110
Sheriff’s Department-Kevin Williams
Rapid Response Monitoring-Valerie Dunn
Southern Wine and Spirits-Paul Gottfried
Syracuse Pavilion-Teresa Printup

Graphic Design/Technology
Facilitators: Bill DeForest/Marie Radley
Room 113
ShoreGroup-Olesh Iwachiw
ACC Technical Services-Michael Rost
Syracuse New Times & Family Times-Bill Brod
Avalon Document Services-Aimee Tarin
PostNet-Katie Michele

Accounting/Business/OIT/HRS/Hospitality
Facilitators: Cindy Garofalo/Regina Drumm
Room 115
USDA-Theresa Odekirk
Time Warner Cable-Ed Neubauer
Sutherland Global Services-Cathisa Grady

Inficon-Fran Emmi

Medical
Facilitator: Sherry Pearsall
Room 103
AMP-Karen McCargar
Upstate-Heather Baldwin and Roxanne Burton
Endoscopic Procedure Center-Beth Wood
Crouse-Amber Irving
COMM 115 class takes library tour

Approximately 19 students from Kim Reed’s section of COMM 115: Introduction to Information Literacy visited the library September 23 to hear a presentation from Librarian Alissa DiRubbo.

The presentation began with a tour, concentrating on the print book collection. Students were given an assignment to find a book on their major and fill out citation information. This included author, title, year, and city of publication. The presentation concluded with a raffle drawing for school supplies with Alicia Paul the winner.

Alpha Beta Gamma Answers Your Questions

You’ve probably heard the term “ABG” on campus, but aren’t exactly sure what it is. (It’s ok, you can admit it…) If this is you, FEAR NOT! Here are the answers to the questions you didn’t even know you wanted to ask...

What: ABG or Alpha Beta Gamma – in short, the honor society. The group consists of top students at the North Campus. And YOU could be one of them.

Who: Deb Lum (the new advisor). For more information, stop by her office in Instructional Services, or email her at dlum@bryantstratton.edu.

When: Wednesdays at noon (day students) and 5:30 (evening students)

Where: Room 103

Why: Our chapter (Mu Alpha) exists to raise funds for community organizations and individuals in need. Past events have included hot dog sales, bake sales, and raffles. Future events include charity walks, community outreach opportunities and more. Got a good idea for a great cause? Let us know!

What: To get involved, you (yes, you) need to maintain a GPA of 3.0. Induction ceremonies take place every fall and winter semester, and ABG membership lasts a lifetime. Plus it looks great on your résumé, and even gets you discounts on products and services.

Consider joining the Business Club

The Business Club meets Mondays 12-1 pm and Tuesdays 4:45-5:30 pm in room 108. The club’s mission is to teach skills needed in business and illustrate how those skills benefit students in general.

This year’s president is Sherri Bell, and the vice president is Joe Fermil. The club also supports charitable organizations and is always seeking to recruit new members.

All majors are welcome to join us.

Financial Aid: What NOT To Do

The Financial Aid Department here at North recently advised The Expression about what students should NOT do in regard to financial aid:
1. Don’t pay someone to do your FAFSA,
2. Don’t pay someone to consolidate your loans,
3. Don’t ask your friends to answer your FA questions, contact FA,
4. Don’t pay to apply for a scholarship.

What’s the bottom line?
Syracuse North has a team of financial-aid professionals, and you should turn to them with all of your questions.

Other financial tips:
If you win a scholarship outside of Bryant & Stratton and it is competitive we will match it 100 percent up to the cost of attendance.
Pre-clearing will be here before you know it, so stay tuned for updates.

Constitution Day Observed

Syracuse North celebrated Constitution Day, September 17, with patriotic games, snacks, and the opportunity to register to vote. Students also entered to win a gift basket filled with school supplies. The winner was networking major Tiffani Vosseller.
Women’s Items: (please specify size needed)

Pants: _______________________________
Shirts: _______________________________

Men’s Items: (please specify size needed)

Pants: _______________________________
Shirts: _______________________________

Contact information:

Name: _______________________________
Phone: _______________________________
Date needed by: _______________________

Bryant & Stratton College Professional Clothes Closet

It’s important to make a terrific first impression when you’re interviewing for a new job or internship. Bryant & Stratton College understands dressing for the part is the key to your success! College faculty and staff have generously donated clothing to help you succeed. To participate, please fill out the request form below.