One of my highlights as Director of the BAAS Program is visiting with graduates as they line up on graduation day. On this special day students reflect on the last four (eight, twelve, or twenty) years of their educational journey! I hear the different stories and pathways which led to our BAAS students’ degree completion, and their success. Our graduates come from near and far; even as far as Italy…Italy, Texas that is! Regardless of how far or how long each student has come, they all shout in unison on graduation day, “We did it!”

As a nontraditional student (part-time student, full-time employee, family responsibilities, societal responsibilities, financial difficulties, military commitments, and other priorities) you have been statistically identified as having unique obstacles and barriers in your path towards degree completion. If you are an online student you will undoubtedly have a few additional obstacles in your path! Remember that you have support, encouragement, and resources as you work toward your degree. Begin listing those who have been instances of support for you.

I hope family, friends, and those in your professional realm are near the top of the list. I also hope that you consider your professors as resources. Remain in constant contact with them. Let them know early if you are having problems with assignments, confused with requirements, or having an emergency which conflicts with submitting your work in a timely manner. Your list should also include personnel in the BAAS office. We work to ensure your success and we will help with study strategies, provide and clarify program information, or simply discuss your progress and goals. Remember that all of us at Midwestern State University look forward to seeing you walk across the stage on your planned graduation day!

Association of Nontraditional Students in Higher Education is another resource I would like to share with you. This professional organization provides networking and support for the nontraditional and adult student. Please visit their website for additional information: www.myantshe.org.

Dr. Delores Jackson
Director, Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Program

Source: Association of Nontraditional Students in Higher Education Website www.myantshe.org.
A 1988 graduate of Burkburnett High School, I first attended Midwestern State University in the fall semester after high school graduation. I completed up through the spring semester of 1989, and although still unsure of my ultimate goals, I declared a major in biology. I postponed my education, not returning for the fall 1989 semester.

I joined the U.S. Army and served for four years. My husband and I married while both of us were in service, and he served twelve years. I’m a service connected disabled Gulf War veteran. Although I worked as an electronics technician in the military, my interests remained in health related sciences or biological studies.

During military service and in the subsequent years, I went to different schools on and off as circumstance permitted. After service, I acted as the primary care-giving parent for my three children. Due to choosing to raise a family and dealing with personal health issues, my educational effort remained sporadic and ill-defined.

At this current point in my life, my youngest child is seventeen, graduated from high school, and employed part time. I’ve returned to my native Texas, and purchased my grandmother’s home in Aubrey. The time to enter a new chapter of my life is a page turn away, and I decided to return to school. The traditional BAAS allowed me to use the credits I’d earned over the years, and I’ll graduate this May 16th.

I’ve a clear career path in mind in health information management. While finishing up my BAAS, I am also registered in health information management courses so that I can sit for certification exams in 2016. Although the certification courses ultimately provide an associate’s degree, I felt I was too close to my bachelor’s to pass the opportunity up. As I also desire to enter the masters of health administration program with a focus in health information management here at MWSU, my BAAS is vital to achieve all my goals.

Online courses and degree programs offered wholly online have allowed me to accomplish my aims. A distance learner has to be well organized and self-motivating. Since I’ve worked for the Census Bureau from my home office, and as a teleworker for a large non-profit, I not only have a home office equipped for all my studies, but experience in time management and working out of the home. This has helped me to attain my successes with online coursework.

A quiet and comfortable space to study and complete coursework, along with specific and regular times set aside for school, are vital for realizing that online degree. I need just as many notebooks, note cards, and stickies as before, although most of those are green now -saying paper. I am fortunate that I can attend as a full time student and not need to also work a job, leaving time for me to volunteer and serve as a foster for a small dog rescue.

Online degree programs and the BAAS degree seem perfect for non-traditional students like me.

-Sharlotte King, February 2015

We recently received some very exciting news regarding one of our BAAS graduates. Chief Steve Mylett was recently named the new Chief of Police in Bellevue, Washington! Chief Mylett graduated from Midwestern State University with a BAAS in 2007. He went on to earn a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University.

Chief Mylett is currently the Police Chief in Southlake, Texas. He will be moving on to his new position in Bellevue, Washington soon. In case you were wondering, Bellevue is the largest suburb of Seattle! Congratulations and best of luck on your new adventure, Chief Mylett. It’s always so great to see our graduates achieve their goals and move on to do great things!
BAAS senior, Misty McBride, took advantage of a unique learning experience by participating in the Midwestern State University Study Abroad Program last summer. Misty recounts visiting Big Ben, Parliament, Ireland, Paris, and Wales among the highlights of her trip. Misty is a police officer in Dallas with the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Department. Misty initially had some reservations about travelling so far from home. She was concerned about leaving her 9 year old daughter, but after attending the interest session and making arrangements with her family for her daughter’s care, she decided to take the leap and seize a once in a lifetime educational opportunity.

Many students believe that the study abroad program is available only to traditional, on-campus students, but Misty’s experience shows that non-traditional students can also benefit from studying abroad. More information can be found by visiting the following link: http://www.mwsu.edu/academics/studyabroad/
Congratulations to our December 2014 Graduates!

We want to take a moment to recognize and extend a special note of congratulations to our December graduates! All of us at the BAAS office are so proud of every one of you and all of the hard work you have put forth to accomplish this goal. Best wishes for a bright future, BAAS grads!

December 2015 BAAS Graduates:
Douglas Joe Andrade
Alexander Edward Bastida
Pierra Arielle Boardingham
Nicole Ann Conrad
Ronny Lynn Crain, Jr.
Kyle Kent Eddins
Joshua Logan Ellis
Stephen Anthony Faulkenbery
Robert Scott Freire
Forrest Stuart Fuxan

Janie Priscilla Garza
James Herbert Hager
Courtney Leeanne Haney
Lisa Lee Hubbard
Maggie Denise Jarratt
Christopher W. McLaughlin
O.W. Menser
Brittany Elizabeth Meo
Anne B. Moran
Nora Gayle Nelson
Samantha Nicolea Payne
Lisa Renee Reed
Samy Dario Sabogal-Sanchez
Matthew Bryan Scott
Nathaniel Bernard Vital
Jeffrey Robert Ward
Melissa LaRue Whitaker
Richard L. Whiteley
Tamara A. Wiggins

Important Reminder!

Just a quick reminder that early registration is coming up very soon. Remember that classes fill up very quickly, so it is extremely important to take advantage of early registration. Early registration dates are as follows:

- April 6 & 7—Seniors
- April 8 & 9—Juniors
- April 10 & 13—Sophomores
- April 14 & 15—Freshmen

BAAS Staff:
Dr. Delores Jackson
Director
Ms. Carley Kundert
Academic Advisor
Ms. Brenda Rich
Secretary II
Ms. Chelbi Daily
Student Assistant

940-397-4400
http://www.mwsu.edu/academics/education/baas/