ELMHURST COLLEGE
The School for Advanced Learning

“The future belongs to colleges that open their doors and welcome adult learners.”
-CAEL

Annual Report
December 31, 2005
**Introduction**

In fall 2004, the reorganized offices of Adult Programs and Graduate Admission became The School for Advanced Learning (SAL). Sal is committed to serving the needs of adult learners enrolled at Elmhurst College. Adult learners are students who have assumed major life responsibilities and commitments, and whose principal identities have moved beyond the role of full-time students. SAL recognizes the many obstacles common to adult learners, and strives to remove those barriers in order to help them achieve their educational goals, and make the most informed career choices.

SAL is a centralized office that provides adult learners a single point of contact at Elmhurst College. Adult learners enrolled in undergraduate programs, graduate programs, or continuing education courses can purchase books, register for classes, receive academic advising, pay tuition, and even file for graduation in the SAL centralized office located in the lower level of North Hall. Although SAL is an administrative center, it has “virtual” and prescribed connections to every academic department on campus, the Buehler Library, and the Center for Professional Excellence. This centralized office, staffed by personnel who understand the special circumstances of adult learners, provides clearer leadership and ensures closer interaction with adult learners, a *vital constituency* to Elmhurst College. The SAL faculty and staff are dedicated to individualized, student-centered education in a collaborative learning environment. The Elmhurst College administration is dedicated in its commitment to serving adult learners, and fully supports the mission and operation of SAL.

SAL offers programs leading to the completion of bachelor’s and master’s degrees in formats designed to fulfill the adult learner’s expectations of academic rigor, time efficiency, financial accessibility, and location convenience. Additionally, SAL offers “stand-alone” courses necessary for the adult learner’s professional development. SAL has a *primary objective* to market, recruit, and enroll adult learners efficiently and effectively. We implement creative, successful recruitment strategies that identify well-qualified prospective students, and market our educational offerings in a way that is meaningful and accessible to individual adults, business, and industry. SAL counselors provide high-quality and accessible student support services on an individualized basis, and admission procedures
that consider appropriate, contemporary assessments of adult potential. Working *directly with the Faculty*, SAL has the responsibility to assess, monitor and change program offerings as required by market forces in order to adapt our programs accordingly as they are impacted by trends of growth or decline.

**Statement of Purpose**

The Elmhurst College School for Advanced Learning is committed to:

- Serving the needs of adult learners;
- Acting as a full-service, central point of contact for adult learners enrolled in undergraduate degree completion programs and graduate programs;
- Recruiting and enrolling highly qualified adult learners into academically rigorous degree programs.

The fundamental purpose of The School for Advanced Learning is to equip students with an application-oriented education that is firmly grounded in the long tradition of the liberal arts.

August 2004
The School for Advanced Learning

2004-2005 Staff

Dr. Patricia A. Lynott, Dean, The School for Advanced Learning

Dr. John A. Bohnert, Dean, Graduate Study

Timothy J. Panfil, Managing Director, Director of Adult & Graduate Enrollment

Anna Locascio, Director, Adult & Graduate Student Support Services

Elizabeth D. Kuebler, Director, Adult and Graduate Admission

Linda Brinkman, Associate Director, Adult and Graduate Enrollment

Sarah B. Kleiner, Associate Director, Adult and Graduate Admission

Dr. Mary Pabst, Director of BSN Partnerships, Hospital BSN Completion Programs (*This position moved to the Deicke Center for Nursing Education in fall 2005.)

Nancy Cheeseman, Program Coordinator, Elmhurst Life Skills Academy (*This position joined the SAL staff in summer 2005.)

Dr. Heather Hall, Adjunct Faculty Advisor

James Quinlivan, Adjunct Faculty Advisor

Judy Yarbrough, Secretary

Cynthia Pomeroy, Secretary

Norma Petersen, Receptionist
SAL Accelerated Degree Programs

When the Office of Adult Programs was moved into The School for Advanced Learning, it brought a number of accelerated degree programs with it. The goal was to continue to recruit and enroll adult students into these programs, now being coordinated by the SAL staff.

The Elmhurst Management Program (EMP)
The Elmhurst Management Program is an accelerated program that allows students to finish the major requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in business administration in 15 months. Additional general education requirements and electives may be necessary to complete the bachelor’s degree depending on the evaluation of a student’s course work from other colleges and universities and the evaluation of a student’s life and work experience. This program is offered to adult students currently working in the business field who are interested in enhancing their professional credentials. The program is also well-suited to adult students planning on going to graduate school once they have completed the bachelor’s degree.

Information Technology Program
The Information Technology Program is an accelerated program that allows students to finish the major requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in information technology in 13 months. Additional general education requirements and electives may be necessary to complete the bachelor’s degree depending on the evaluation of a student’s course work from other colleges and universities and the evaluation of a student’s life and work experience. This program is offered to adult students who are interested in completing a major that prepares them for information technology positions at the top national companies including Allstate, the Chicago Board of Trade, Motorola, Sears, and many others.

Managerial Communication Program
The Managerial Communication Program is an accelerated program that allows students to finish the major requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in managerial communication in 15 months. Additional general education requirements and electives may be necessary to complete the bachelor’s degree depending on the evaluation of a student’s course work from other colleges and universities and the evaluation of a student’s life and work experience. This program is offered to adult students who are interested in completing a major that prepares them for positions in management. The program is also designed for current supervisors, managers, and executives who wish to
develop proficiency in managing oral, written, and technology-based communication as it relates to corporate and organizational strategy. It is widely recognized that communication plays a vital role in the functioning of any business or professional organization. Corporate managers report that they spend 60 percent of their day communicating orally in face-to-face contexts. In a recent survey of recruiters from companies with more than 50,000 employees, communication skills were cited as the single most important criterion in choosing managers.

**Psychology Program**
The Psychology Program is an accelerated program that allows students to finish the major requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology in 13 months. Additional general education requirements and electives may be necessary to complete the bachelor’s degree depending on the evaluation of a student’s course work from other colleges and universities and the evaluation of a student’s life and work experience. This program is offered to adult students who are interested in completing a major that prepares them for positions in human services and business. The program is also well-suited to adult students planning on going to graduate school once they have completed the bachelor’s degree.

**Online Courses**
Since adult students often have work and family obligations that make it difficult to attend traditional courses, Elmhurst College offers courses in an online format to fulfill the College General Education requirements. In the 2004-2005 academic year, the following courses were offered online:

- CHM105 The Chemistry of Color
- CHM 110 Chemistry and Issues in the Environment
- FL 209 World Literature in English: Latin American Literature
- GEO 101 Introduction to Weather and Climate
- MUS 212 Music in Western Culture
- PSY 210 General Psychology
Intercultural Studies Minor*

“Employers who now stress teamwork and are concerned about the high cost of turnover, are looking for employees who understand diversity issues.”

-Carol Kleiman, “Jobs” columnist for the Sunday Chicago Tribune

The Intercultural Studies Program enables students to learn about cultural and cross-cultural skills and relationships in the United States and beyond. The program uses an interdisciplinary and developmental model to examine cultures and subcultures, dominant and subordinate group interrelationships, and cross-cultural communications and interactions. It is designed to help students to participate more meaningfully in their social, civic, and increasingly global world of work roles.

The Intercultural Studies Program has been available to traditional undergraduate students studying during the day for a number of years. In this past year, the course work has been expanded in order to be available to adult students studying in the evening who want to add the minor to their academic programs.

The minor requires five course credits. Students take two core courses, two focus elective courses, and two one-half credit intercultural courses. At least half must be taken at Elmhurst College. Some focuses, especially international, may need additional foreign language competency.

CORE Courses:
BUS 271  Introduction to Global Business
BUS 350  Managing Diversity
COM 315  Multicultural Communication
ENG 230  Readings in Race, Class, and Gender
ICS 275  Introduction to International Studies
PSY 320/420  Majority-Minority Relations

Intercultural Studies Courses:
ICS 270  Intercultural Basics
ICS 370  Intercultural Capstone

*Major available upon request.
**SAL Academic Partnership Programs**

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree-Completion Program (BSN Completion Program)**

Before becoming part of The School for Advanced Learning, the Office of Adult Programs had already established strong academic partnerships with a number of hospital sites in order to offer the course work required for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree-Completion Program. The Deicke Center for Nursing Education provides the educational depth and breadth that nursing graduates need to step confidently into positions of professional leadership. The clinical focus enables professional nurses to develop their mastery of nursing practice and principles, while the liberal arts curriculum provides a wide, deep understanding of the complicated contexts in which they work. On-site degree-completion programs are offered at the following facilities:

- Bethany Hospital
- Good Samaritan Hospital
- Hinsdale Hospital
- Illinois Masonic Hospital
- Lutheran General Hospital

**SAL Academic Partnership Programs**

**New in 2004-2005**

**Bachelor of Arts Degree in Special Education**

In fall 2004, The School for Advanced Learning and the Elmhurst College Department of Education joined in an academic partnership with The School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED) to offer the major coursework needed for the bachelor’s degree in special education/teacher certification to SASED employees. Classes are taught on-site at one of the SASED facilities.

Students offered admission to the program are required to have an AA or AS degree from an accredited community college, or hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university. Students are required to complete any College general education courses not yet completed and the major coursework in special education/teacher certification.
SAL Graduate Degree Programs

When the Office of Graduate Admission joined the Office of Adult Programs to become The School for Advanced Learning, seven graduate programs were being offered to adult students. Those programs included the following:

Master of Arts in English Studies
This program is designed specifically for teachers of English, though it also attracts professionals in library science, corporate communications, and related fields. Students examine the theory of contemporary literary and composition studies, and explore the ways in which they can apply the theory to the classroom. Students deepen their knowledge of literary study, explore challenges in the practice and teaching of writing, and examine the literature of cultural diversity.

Master of Arts in Industrial/Organizational Psychology
This program prepares professionals to apply the latest in psychological theory and research to the most pressing and practical problems of organizations and the people who work in them. By linking the science of psychology with the challenges of everyday life, the program prepares students to become an innovative and effective problem-solver in today’s workplace. Students also learn how teams work, and sometimes fail to work, and they will learn how to develop their capacity to think critically and communicate effectively.

Master in Business Administration (MBA)
This program teaches not only cutting-edge business knowledge but also intensely practical business experience. The combination of the two gives students an invaluable competitive edge. Every course in the MBA curriculum strengthens the student’s problem-solving skills and effectiveness at implementing solutions. Every course maintains the essential balance between advanced business theory and its practical applications. Every course builds the core competencies required for strong business leadership, including team building, analytical thinking, interpersonal communication, information technology, negotiations, an understanding of business ethics, and the capacity to thrive in a diverse, increasingly global business environment.
**Master of Education in Early Childhood Special Education**

This innovative, interdisciplinary program is the only one in the Chicago region that blends the disciplines of early childhood education and special education. The program prepares students to work with young children with disabilities at a critical time in their lives, when effective intervention can have a substantial positive impact. The program integrates course work and field experiences and gives students the opportunity to build learning partnerships with seasoned professionals in the field, with young children with special needs, and their families.

**Master in Professional Accountancy**

This program prepares students to earn the CPA, if that is what they want to do. The program also provides students with essential tools for success in today’s most demanding and exciting careers. Students learn the ins and outs of information systems, the principles and practice of interpersonal communication, the complex issues of ethics and diversity, and the problem-solving skills needed to solve the ambiguous accounting and business problems that accountants face on the job. Students become broad-based accounting professionals; ready to thrive in auditing, business consulting, corporate accounting, governmental accounting, and many other areas.

**Master of Science in Computer Network Systems**

This program trains leaders in computer communications knowing that it takes more than technical know-how to become a leader. In this program, students learn to identify and evaluate an organization’s needs, and then translate those needs into systems that work. As successful computer experts, Elmhurst master’s graduates will manage people and information, and communicate effectively throughout today’s complicated workplaces. The curriculum covers programs and databases, the ins and outs of WANs, LANs, distributed databases, client server systems, and local and wide-area networks. Students also refine critical management and interpersonal skills, examine the developing field’s urgent ethical questions and prepare to become confident professional leaders.

**Master of Science in Supply Chain Management**

This program builds on the College’s extensive experience as the only Chicago-area provider of an undergraduate program in logistics and transportation management. It draws strength from the College location at the geographic center of one of the major transportation and logistics hubs in the world. Students gain a sound technical foundation in supply chain management. They develop additional skills that are critical for today’s business professional: communication, team building,
information technology, analytical thinking, negotiation, ethics, working in a diverse business environment, and business decision making. All course work maintains a balance between current theory and practical business application.

**SAL Graduate Degree Programs**
**NEW in 2004-2005**

**Master of Education in Teacher Leadership**
*(To begin in spring term, 2006)*
This program’s purpose is to advance classroom teachers’ knowledge, skills, and thinking in ways that will enhance their practice and enable them to become change agents and leaders within their school communities and profession. The curriculum is designed to promote informed decision-making processes that are based on critical inquiry and collaboration. Teachers are engaged as critical thinkers in studying the current issues and practices in the field of education as they apply best practices and develop innovative projects for their classrooms and school communities. Program courses are constantly updated and differentiated to meet the needs of master’s students through focused projects and interdisciplinary study.

**Master of Science in Nursing**
This program prepares students for leadership in a variety of clinical or educational settings. Graduates may function in faculty roles in schools of nursing as well as nurse educators in staff development and continuing education departments in healthcare agencies. The nursing education track includes M.S.N. program core courses to master the knowledge, skills, and leadership needed for an advanced role in nursing. Concentrated courses in research, educational designs, and instructional technology provide students with skills in curriculum design, methodology and evaluation. A clinical practicum with a master teacher provides teaching experiences in academic and/or healthcare settings.
Programs for Elmhurst Graduate Alumni

Computer Network Systems
The Life-Long Learning Option
In an effort to promote life-long learning and to keep Elmhurst graduates updated in their field, students who completed the Master of Science in Computer Network Systems program are invited to return to the College to take any of the CNS graduate courses being offered in a given term for a fee of $400. Each year the graduate courses in this program are revised and updated based on current information and trends in the field and this is an opportunity for alumni of this program to continue to advance the knowledge that impacts their careers.

The MBA Option Program
The Center for Business and Economics and the Master of Business Administration program invite graduates of Elmhurst’s master’s degree programs in professional accountancy, computer network systems, industrial/organizational psychology, and supply chain management to apply for admission to the MBA Option Program, a special one-year MBA program. Admission requirements and prerequisites for the MBA program apply to students seeking admission to the MBA Option program. This program requires the student to take the six required core courses over the first year of the program. When the students completes the core courses, course work from the first master’s degree is pulled into the area of specialization and the MBA degree is complete. In three years, part-time, the graduate student can earn a master’s degree in a specialized area and the MBA.

ELMHURST PARTNERS

Elmhurst College created Elmhurst Partners as its corporate training arm to further its commitment to life-long adult education. Elmhurst Partners is now part of The School for Advanced Learning because of its focus on life-long learning for the adult student. Elmhurst Partners provides companies with targeted employee development solutions using standard courses, customized training initiatives, and specialized human performance consulting. Utilizing professionals with broad business and academic expertise in training, competence, knowledge, and change management, Elmhurst Partners offers organizations a wide range of learning options.
In addition, Elmhurst Partners welcomes the opportunity to develop specialized programs for groups seeking advanced education and training within the college setting and drawing upon the history and expertise in education that Elmhurst College is able to offer.

**Computer Network Security Boot Camp**
The Computer Network Security Boot Camp is a certificate program for people interested in gaining knowledge on how to protect their networks, their data, and their identities. Participants must have a basic knowledge of computers and operating systems and an interest in networking and ensuring the safety and security of networks. Topics include:

- How to install and secure a Local Area Network (LAN), a Wireless Access Point, and a VPN Client
- How to secure an e-commerce website with SSL
- How to install and test anti-virus solutions to protect against viruses, *phishing* and identity theft
- Why a storage management solution is critical to a business

**The Elmhurst Life Skills Academy (ELSA)**
The Elmhurst Life Skills Academy (ELSA) is a four-year, inclusive program that offers further educational experiences for high school graduates with significant learning, cognitive, and developmental disabilities. The program provides a college-like experience for many who may never have had the chance for one. ELSA students have the opportunity to enhance their skills, explore job possibilities, participate in campus activities, and enjoy their young-adult years. ELSA classes are taught by faculty members, graduate students, and upper-level undergraduate students.

**Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**
The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program is a college credit, non-degree cohort-based certificate program. Students learn the skills necessary for making effective and efficient use of geographic information to provide location-based services (i.e. E-911, maps and directions to automobile drivers), better transportation and traffic management, Homeland Security measures, business and marketing strategies, telecommunication infrastructure development, public safety management, utilities planning, as well as other services. The program consists of a total of five courses from both the Geography and Information Systems Departments. The student normally completes the majority of the coursework online and formally meets in alternate week evening classes over a period of one calendar year (but may extend this to a maximum of two years if necessary).
RECRUITMENT/ENROLLMENT

The enrollment staff in The School for Advanced Learning developed a recruitment plan for 2004-2005 which included on-campus and off-campus programming, community college visits, REACh education fairs, and, in cooperation with the Office of Marketing Communications, an advertising and direct mail campaign focused at reaching the largest audience possible within the resources available.

On-campus programming included a graduate programs information session in fall 2004 and a combined adult programs and graduate programs information session in spring 2005. In addition, the recruitment staff hosted several week day evening adult programs information sessions and several graduate program specific week day evening information sessions.

Off-campus programming included visits to the following community colleges:
- College of DuPage
- Moraine Valley Community College
- Oakton Community College
- Triton College
- Wilbur Wright College
- William Rainey Harper College

Community college visits are meant to connect Elmhurst College adult and graduate programs with adult students enrolled in similar programs at the community college, like the fast-track program at the College of DuPage. In addition, these visits give the recruitment staff the opportunity to meet and talk with adult students interested in traditional programs, and possibly graduate programs, at Elmhurst.

The staff also attended REACh (Resources for the Education of Adults in the Chicago Area) education fairs at corporations such as: Argonne National Laboratory, ADP (Elk Grove Village), United Airlines, Federal Reserve Bank, Pampered Chef, State of Illinois Building, MacNeal Hospital, Advocate/Good Shepherd Hospital, Borg Warner, and Rush University Hospital. Corporate outreach programs included “Lunch and Learn” presentations by The School for Advanced Learning at HSBC, Acxiom, and SASED (School Association for Special Education in DuPage
County, and attendance at community outreach programs like the OBAACI (Oakbrook Chamber of Commerce) Business Expo.

Graduate fairs were held off-campus at St. Xavier’s University, Benedictine University (I-88/290 Grad Fair), and Dominican University (I-88/290 Grad Fair).

**Enrollment**

The School for Advanced Learning experienced an increase in enrollment in fall 2005 compared to enrollment in fall 2004 in all categories of adult students attending Elmhurst College. Enrollment increases were seen in traditional undergraduate students, undergraduate students in special programs, and graduate students. In addition, new students to the College were enrolled in the ELSA program.

**THE SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED LEARNING**

**Honors**

Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society is a nonprofit organization devoted to the advancement of scholarship and to the recognition of nontraditional students continuing their higher education. The Society was established in 1945-1946 to honor superior scholarship and leadership in adult students. The Elmhurst Chapter was established in 2003.

This year, 2004-2005, the Elmhurst Chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda was pleased to offer membership to forty-seven adult students enrolled in accelerated programs. Those students inducted into the Society were:

- John M Adams
- Roheamon Alexander
- Earl J. Arndt
- Donald A. Cafarella
- Susan M. Canine
- Annemarie Chanclor
- Ronald W. Colliander
- Sophia Collins-Nelson
- Evelina Copot
- Theresa A. Crespo
- David Czaplicki
- Daniel Dorman
- Dena R. Downer
- Mary J. Mangan
- Carly Martin
- Erika Matias
- Deborah S. Maxwell
- Mary McDermott
- Chad G. McNeil
- James J. Prerost
- Claudia Ramirez-Alano
- Ronald Rossi
- Cathy B. Schlesinger
- Margaret M. Schmoldt
- Shirley A. Segretto
- Christine Semler
NEW FOR ELMHURST STUDENTS

ECconnect.com
ECconnect.com is a career website specifically designed for Elmhurst College that will maximize communication between the Center for Professional Excellence and Elmhurst College students, alumni, and the employers who specifically look to hire them. All Elmhurst College students, alumni, and faculty are invited to use this website.

Students who use the website have 24 hour access to part-time, full-time, seasonal jobs and internships. They are able to use the Job Agent feature to receive emails when positions matching their criteria are posted. In addition, students can upload unlimited resumes, cover letters, writing samples, reference letters, and other documents to simplify the application process (Education majors can also upload credential file documents). Students’ resumes are also seen by selected employers searching for qualified candidates. The website provides information for upcoming career-related events (job fairs, on-campus interviews, workshops) and the option for users to RSVP for these events online. Students are able to contact alumni willing to provide informational interviews, resume critiques, and mock interviews.

ECconnect is for current Elmhurst students and for alumni needing job search assistance after graduation.