

Life After AU

Advice from AU Alumni about life after graduation

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You Made It!

To our newest alumni:



Congratulations! All of your hard work, your late nights, your anxious moments, and your determination is now being realized as you become a graduate of Anderson University. What a great accomplishment for you.

When you first stepped onto the Anderson campus, a new chapter of your life began as a college student. Today, another chapter of your story begins as an Anderson University Alumni. Your story is now added to the more than 26,000 alumni stories who have gone before you.

On the following pages, you will see notes, words of encouragement and practical nuggets of wisdom penned by some of those alumni to encourage and support you. We trust that this information will help you to recognize the unique history and legacy you now share with these individuals. We hope you will find places where your story may intersect with the pages of other alumni.

We look forward to hearing and learning from you in the years ahead as you explore the story that God is writing for your life.

It is my privilege to welcome you to the Anderson University Alumni Association.

Many blessings to you in the days ahead.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Tilley".

Scott Tilley, '86
Director of Alumni Engagement

Time to Take a Break?

What happens after graduation? Do you immediately head off to graduate school, take a few years off, or not go at all? Here are some tidbits that should help answer these questions.

1. Look at the cost vs. the end goal; is it really worth it to pay more money if going to grad school is not needed for the exact career you want?
2. Sometimes experience is more than further schooling. Look at the end goal.
3. Talk to professionals in your field and ask what they did in relation to graduate school.

Fastest growing jobs that require graduate school:

- Industrial-Organizational Psychologists
- Genetic Counselors
- Physician Assistants
- Postsecondary Health Specialties Teachers
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Orthotists and Prosthetists
- Postsecondary Nursing Instructors
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physical Therapists
- Audiologists

Source: careerplanning.about.com

“You won’t have the rest of your life regretting meaningful pursuits if you choose to do them now.”

Ryan Carrell, BA '02



Going on a Job Hunt

Since job hunting can be quite the task, we did some research for you. We found helpful networking tips for conducting information interviews.

- Ask for advice, not a job.
- You are more memorable when you meet someone face-to-face.
- Prepare what you want to say in a meeting and practice; it is really not that cheesy.
- Make a GREAT first impression whether through email, a phone call, or in person.
- End the meeting by asking “What can I do for you?” instead of saying “What can you do for me?”



Top 10 careers for 2017:

1. Dentist
2. Nurse Practitioner
3. Physician Assistant
4. Statistician
5. Orthodontist
6. Nurse Anesthetist
7. Pediatrician
8. Computer Systems Analyst
9. Obstetrician and Gynecologist
10. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Source: U.S. News

“Remember as you set out into the ‘real world’, your job is not your life. Live YOUR life, be yourself. Keep perspective and understand that your identity is so much more than your occupation.”

John Sala, AU Football Coach

Alumni Wisdom

“Know your strengths and weaknesses. If you are qualified for a career, go for it. Do not say “no” too quickly to opportunities offered.”

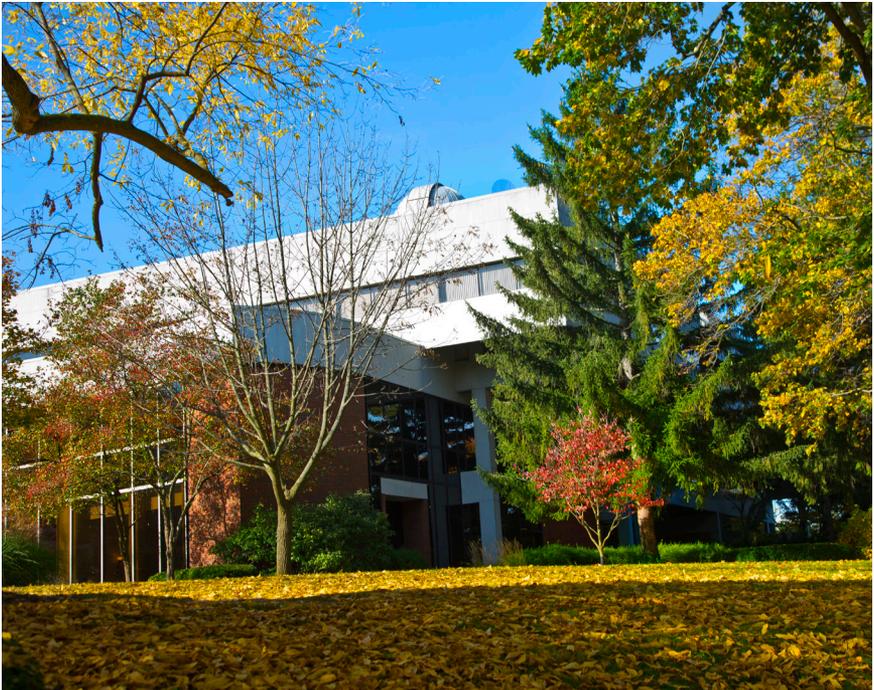
James Litton, BA '52

“You have gifts to offer; know them, & sell them. When you get the job, show up for work at least 15 minutes early every day & don't be among the first to leave at quitting time. Meet your deadlines. Be friendly, cooperative, smile, and be very positive.”

Ross Pipes, BA '61

“Anyone can buy credentials, but character is earned through blood, sweat, and tears, and few are willing to pay that price. Be one of those few and you will easily distinguish yourself from the rest. Allow God to mold your character through the trials of life and you will be blessed.”

Jeff Clendenin, BA '84



All About your Résumé

Listing a career objective: If you have a specific goal for your career, go ahead and list it on your résumé. If you only have a vague idea of a career objective, do not make it part of your résumé. However, if you are applying for a specific job, create an objective that matches the job description.

List your school, degree year, and honors: Fresh out of college and new to the workforce, you will want to highlight your education at the top of your résumé: your university, major, degree, and year of graduation. Also include academic honors such as the dean's list or any academic honor societies you were invited to join. If you graduated cum laude, summa cum laude, or magna cum laude, or if you graduated with any other academic honors, include that information as well.

When to list coursework: Only list coursework you've completed that is relevant to your major and career objective. If, however, your career objective is different from your major, list completed coursework relevant to the job you want.

Take a fresh look at menial jobs: A low-level job may also look impressive to employers. Many jobs you may think of as low-level can be cast in a light that is appealing to employers. Did you manage multiple tasks or schedules? Interact with clients? Create a business for yourself (i.e. a summer lawn-care business)? Add them to your résumé.

Extra-curricular activities and a real-world job: Don't dismiss experiences that didn't come with an internship or job. If your involvement in extra-curricular activities also included tasks such as coordinating events, developing a fundraiser, or managing volunteers, include it on your résumé.

Could coursework be considered work experience: Many students complete projects for coursework that are equal to projects in the workforce. For instance, you may have taken an entrepreneurship course where you collaborated with team members to create and implement your own business. That's not just coursework; that's work experience!

Source: "How to Write a Résumé When You're Just Out of College," by Susan Adams, Forbes.com.

Landing and Keeping a Job

Now that you have found the job you want, it is time to reel it in. Once you have been given a job, you cannot just sit back and relax, this is when you really need to start turning your gears.

Here are some of the best ways to do just that:

- Turn off your phone!
- Go above and beyond.
- Ask questions; repeat answers.
- Be ready for the unexpected.
- Branch out to coworkers and clients.
- Be enthusiastic about your work.
- Document everything you do.
- Demonstrate what you know.
- Be a problem solver.
- Take ownership and responsibility.
- Step out of your comfort zone.
- Take your work seriously.
- Do not be afraid to fail.
- Be the first to arrive and the last to leave.

“Enjoy the ride and learn something from every experience - failure or success”

Victor Powell, BA '05



Alumni Wisdom

“Employers are willing to hire college graduates that can clearly articulate how your past experiences have developed a set of skills that demonstrate your interest in the specific position. Know the company you are interviewing at and be able to communicate your x-factor that separates you from the other applicants.”

Kyle Schroeder, BA '10

“No matter how overwhelming your new job may be, set aside time for church and daily prayer. Humility is key! What we often overlook is that those who are more experienced than us have a great deal of wisdom to share with us. Be open to their wisdom and advice, but stay true to yourself, as well.”

Becky Olsen, BA '10

“Be your own advocate. Take the job that you will enjoy the most even if it pays less. It’s really hard to keep going to a job that you don’t enjoy. Listen to God and he will bless you.”

Andrea (Hanstra) Patrie, BA '08

“Don’t be afraid to be at the bottom of an organization. It allows you to learn humility, work diligently, and ultimately, earn lasting respect.”

Jack Young, BA '12

“It isn’t all about getting to the top of the mountain. It’s about the journey.”

Susan Shambaugh, BA '97

The Best Plan for You

When you begin your new job, the HR department will ask you to make decisions that will be very influential in your future. If you have not yet been informed about the questions they are asking, you may end up making some detrimental mistakes. Take it from us when we say PAY ATTENTION and do not be afraid to ask the questions below (just do not ask these during the interview)!

- Do I have to pay for health insurance coverage? If so, how much is it for individual coverage and/or family coverage? Is the premium deducted from my paycheck? How much is the deductible?
- Can I review a summary of the health insurance plan options? What restrictions and limitations are there? What about pre-existing conditions? When does coverage begin?
- How much sick time, vacation time, and holiday time is provided? When do benefits start to accrue?
- What type of pension plan is there? How much does the company contribute? Is life insurance provided?
- Does the company offer short-term and long-term disability coverage?
- Are educational and training benefits provided?
- When can I start my 401K?

How to Network

Actually, we mean connect

Networking is an idea of the past. Rather than collect as many business cards as possible, take the time to make connections. Even if it's in a professional context, these relationships should be friendships.

Be yourself

Rather than worry about acting a certain way, calm down and be yourself. By being yourself, you will be able to make genuine connections.

Ask questions (and listen)

People like talking about themselves. Want to get a conversation going? Ask a question. Or two. You will be showing interest in the other person while also learning more about them. But you have to listen. Follow up questions should never be something that the person already said.

Prepare a few safe topics ahead of time

Even before you meet someone, come up with three things that you could talk if you feel uncomfortable. Some examples would be restaurants you want to try or just visited, a new life event (like your new job or a new project), or something in the news (but avoid religious and political topics).

Reach out

Want to pick someone's brain? Ask them to coffee. See someone you've always looked up to? Introduce yourself. Connecting takes work and effort... but it's worth it.

It's okay if you don't "click"

From time to time, you will meet a person who just doesn't click with you. That is normal. Focus on the connections that work instead of beating yourself up over the connections that don't.

Source: thecollegeprepster.com

Insurance — You Need It

Car insurance and rental insurance are a no-brainer, but many find difficulty in choosing the best and cheapest insurance plan for them. Here are more questions to help you decide what type of insurance is best for you.

Auto

- Do you want complete coverage, or just the bare minimum? For complete coverage, choose liability amounts like 100/300/100 to ensure you have maximum protection. This means 100k coverage per person, 300k per accident, and 100k for property damage.
- For bare minimum coverage, check your state's requirements, or go for the average 25/50/25. Is your car financed or leased? If it is, add comprehensive coverage to protect yourself.
- Do you have health insurance that would cover a car accident? If not, add Under / Uninsured Motorist Bodily Injury Coverage. If you elected for minimum coverage, you can stop here.
- If you want maximum coverage, do you have people riding with you frequently? If so, add Personal Injury Protection (PIP).

Health

- Identify the “must-haves.” In other words, look at family history and anticipate the need for maternity coverage.
- Do not overbuy. A plan with a deductible of \$1,000 or more is likely to cost you considerably less per month and could save you money in the long run.
- Make sure the physicians and specialists you like are in the network of the plan.
- Know your share of the costs through copays and coinsurance.
- Make sure that whatever medications you need are covered, especially if they are expensive.
- Look into annual limits on coverage and services.
- Factor in your dependents — any children under the age of 26.
- Walk through several plans and give them more than just an overview or a first glance.



Life

- All policies fall into one of two categories: There are term policies and the many types of whole life. These policies combine an investment product and build value.
- Buy enough term coverage to fill your needs: Life insurance is no place to skimp, especially with generally low rates. Buy enough to cover a funeral and your debt.
- Buy when you are healthy: Older people and those not in the best of health pay higher rates for life insurance – so buy as early as you can
- Tell the truth: There is no sense in shading the facts on your application to get a lower rate. Be assured that if a large claim is made, the insurance company will investigate before paying.
- Use the Web to shop: Buying life insurance has never been easier, thanks to the Internet. You can get tons of quotes and avoid the pushy salespeople.
- Talk to a financial advisor you can trust who can help you navigate all these options. If you do not know one, log on to AUconnect.org to find an alum in the industry.

Climbing Out of Debt

Unfortunately, debt can ruin livelihoods. As Proverbs 22:7 says, “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.” Dave Ramsey seems to be a hot topic lately, and we really like his debt snowball plan, so we decided to share it with you below.

Debt Snowball Plan

The principle is to stop everything except minimum payments and focus on one thing at a time. Otherwise, nothing gets accomplished because all your effort is diluted. First accumulate \$1,000 cash as an emergency fund. Then begin intensely getting rid of all debt (except the house) using the debt snowball plan. List your debts in order with the smallest payoff or balance first. Do not be concerned with interest rates or terms unless two debts have similar payoffs, then list the higher interest rate debt first. Paying the little debts off first gives you quick feedback, and you are more likely to stay with the plan.

Web Resources

bit.ly/1hA42Jc

bit.ly/1SSuvme

bit.ly/1VAIFfl



“Teach yourself to live off 70% of your income, save the rest”
Victor Powell, BA '05

Alumni Wisdom

“Get out of all debt as soon as possible. On a side note be patient and work hard, don’t expect because you have a degree that it will get you anything. Love God first and you’ll be fine.”

Luke Price, BA ‘08

“Sacrifice early in order to build up an emergency savings fund that provides a level of security for the variance in life.”

Kyle Schroeder, BA ‘10

“If you have student loans, figure out how much ALL of your monthly student loan payments will be when they are due. Use this and create a budget for each month of income and expenses. If you don’t know how to do a budget, contact someone at the Falls School of Business and have them walk you through it.”

Jessica Michael, BA ‘09

“There are over 800 scriptures that relate to money/finances in the Bible, second only to the topic of love. Here is what I have learned in relation to a couple’s personal budget to keep them financially healthy in the present and future: First: Give at least 10% to the Lord. This recognizes that everything belongs to Him in the first place. Second: Save 10% toward retirement as soon as possible. Third: Save 10% until you save at least 6 months of income in a savings account. Use this account to make auto purchases and a down payment on your home. Fourth: Save 10% toward your children’s college. College costs increase at a rate double that of inflation, so it is never too early to start saving. Finally: Live on the other 60%. Living by God’s Financial Plan will allow you to be like God....Generous!”

Jim O’Bold, BA ‘87

Saving for Your Future

Now you have the job, it's time to start paying down your debt and saving for the future. Below are five things financially stable people do. Learn from them:

1. Cut out the money wasters (grabbing coffee on the way to work, buying anything food or medicine from a gas station, etc.).
2. Reduce or eliminate fees (use cash instead of a card, free checking account, etc.).
3. Track your expenses (save EVERY receipt for 3 months to see how you are spending your money).
4. Create a budget that you can live with (cutting out all fun money will result in a binge shopping trip or night out).
5. Set up an automatic transfer to a savings or investment account (\$5/week makes a huge difference when you forget it is there).

Source: midwestmodernmomma.com



Where to Invest

Your Emergency Fund

Some of life's events are unpredictable and there may come a time when you are suddenly hit with bills that you never could have seen coming. With an emergency fund you can be prepared for events such as these. Experts recommend keeping a minimum of \$1,000 in this fund.

Low Risk Investments

CDs are Certificates of Deposit that you put money into for a long period of time, and the longer you go without touching it the greater rate of return you will receive. MMDAs are Money Market Deposit Accounts that require a larger starting balance than CDs but offer better interest rates and provide more flexibility to accessing the funds in the account.

Stocks

Stocks are risky but have great growth potential. Stocks give you part ownership in a company, so choose a successful one in which to invest. Stocks are typically bought and sold in shares and sometimes the company will pay dividends (a part of its profits) to stockholders.

Mutual Funds

These are professionally managed by investors who decide what stocks or bonds to buy and when to buy and sell them. There may be a high risk involved but there could also be a great return.

401K

Many businesses provide you with this in your benefits plan but you are often the one who decides just how much of your income will go into it. Most financial planners advise putting at least 10% of your income into your 401K if possible.

What is a Credit Score?

Your credit score is designed to predict risk; specifically, the likelihood that you will become seriously delinquent on your credit obligations in the 24 months after scoring. Your score can affect any loans you apply for, including obtaining a mortgage or a car loan. It is important to become knowledgeable about your credit score and how the choices you make will affect it.

What is your credit score based on?

- **Payment history:** (35%) — Your account payment information, including any delinquencies and public records.
- **Amount owed:** (30%) — How much you owe on your accounts. The amount of available credit you are using revolving on accounts is heavily weighted.
- **Length of credit history:** (15%) — How long ago you opened accounts and time since account activity.
- **Types of credit used:** (10%) — The mix of accounts you have, such as revolving and installment.
- **New Credit:** (10%) — Your pursuit of new credit, including credit inquiries and number of recently opened accounts.

Live Below Your Means

As Dave Ramsey says, “If you live like no one else, later you can live like no one else.” We are providing you with some of the best ways to live below your means in order to save money. Consider the future when you are living and spending in the present.

- Whenever possible, buy store brands. Even if the savings are small on an individual item, using this strategy every time you shop makes a big difference. Remember, this is a long-term plan.
- Brown bag your lunch. You will avoid greasy, high-calorie fast food and you’ll save money.
- Use coupons, but be smart about it. When a name brand product still costs more than a store brand, even after the deduction for a coupon, it is no bargain. Most coupons are for new products companies want you to try, so be selective.
- Keep your car as long as you can and have it serviced regularly. Today’s cars can last well past 150,000 miles if taken care of.
- Severely restrict your credit card spending. Credit cards make money unreal. When you pay in cash and watch those bills disappear from your wallet, you become much more careful.
- Reward yourself for your efforts. An occasional treat helps you keep up the good work.

Negotiate Like a Pro

You know exactly what car you want, but you want to spend the least amount of money possible for the car you want. Negotiation is the key word in this scenario, so we are going to teach you how.

- Check the dealer invoice. This is the price the manufacturer charges the dealer for a car. Before negotiations begin, ask the dealer to show you the actual invoice. Through online research, you should already have a sound idea of what the dealer paid for the vehicle. The invoice will also tell you how long the vehicle has been on the lot.
- Know if there are dealer cash incentives. Manufacturers often provide the dealers with temporary cash incentives to sell specific car models. These are dollars the customer never sees and often does not know about without digging into the research.
- Decide what you want to pay for the car and then begin negotiations at a number below that, moving up from there. Make them think they are making progress as you move toward the price you have in mind.
- Shop around and play dealers off of one another.
- Do not try to negotiate when the dealership is busy, like on Saturdays.
- Line up your car financing before going to the dealership so you are a cash customer. This can help avoid dealer's attempt to negotiate the monthly payment.
- Be prepared to walk out if you do not get the price you want.

To Rent or To Buy

- The annual cost of owning a home, taxes, interest, insurance, maintenance, and HOA fees are often greater than the cost of renting.
- One way to tell whether it is better to rent or buy is by checking the price-to-rent ratio (or P/R ratio). This number gives you a rough idea of whether homes in your area are fairly priced or not. Find two similar houses (or condos or apartments), one for sale and one for rent and then divide the sale price of one place by the annual rent of the other. The resulting number is the P/R ratio.
- The New York Times has a rent vs. buy calculator that can help you decide which is best for you.
- GET RENTER'S INSURANCE if you choose to rent!



“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”

Proverbs 24:3-4

Letting Loneliness Set In

It is an undeniable truth that when you leave college, things will change. You will have to meet new people and seek out new experiences. Do not let the loneliness get to you; get involved and get to know your new community just as you got to know AU. The changes in your life can evoke a lot of loneliness, but the good news is that there are remedies!

“Don’t let fear dictate your life. Put yourself in places outside your comfort zone. You should thrive, but if you fail, learn from that and move on. Don’t get to the end of your life and regret what you haven’t done because of fear.”

Mark Benson, BA ‘81

- **Staying in on the weekends:** Although this may seem boring or unexciting, you may actually look forward to a relaxing weekend after a stressful week at work. Take time to refresh yourself and participate in your favorite hobbies.
- **Not going home for the holidays:** Your new job or where you live may make it difficult to go home for the holidays. Find family closest to you or seek out people at the church you attend. Where you work there may also be people who are lonely over the holidays.



“Relationships should be the most important goal early in your career. You can never go back over a burnt bridge.”

Ryan Carrell, BA ‘02

Staying Fit

Staying Fit Physically

- **Hike with friends:** Exercise, enjoy nature, and strengthen connections...all at the same time.
- **Walk:** Even a 15-minute brisk walk is enough time to get in almost a mile. Do you have a 30-minute meeting at work? Suggest a walking meeting instead.
- **Rock Climbing:** This is one of the best arm/back/forearm workouts in existence, and you feel awesome when you reach the top of the wall.
- **Geocaching:** Geocaching is a adventure nerd's dream. It combines treasure hunting with exercising.
- **Dancing:** Ever tried swing dancing, hip-hop, or the tango? You'll be sweating within ten minutes.
- **Martial arts:** If you ever wanted to impress your friends and family with kung-fu-like moves, there's a martial art out there that will make you feel unstoppable.
- **Build a standing desk:** It's no surprise that there's a strong correlation between sitting all day and an early grave.
- **Stop meeting for coffee:** If somebody wants to meet up for coffee, suggest something active: throwing a baseball, tossing a Frisbee, going for a hike.
- **Adult gymnastics:** Gymnastics may be the best way to strengthen your body, and it's all done in a playful way without a single weight being picked up. Swing from rings, somersault, flip onto pads, and more. There are gyms all over the country.
- **Yoga:** Build flexibility, strength, and learn to relax.
- **Play video games that make you be active:** Wii Tennis, Wii Fit, or Just Dance on Xbox Kinect. Playing a normal game? Make a rule that you can only play while standing up.

- **Play a musical instrument:** Did you know playing the violin for an hour burns about as many calories as walking around a track at a moderate pace for an hour?
- **Join a recreational league:** If you are new in town, this is also a great way to meet people.
- **Bike to work:** You get from Point A to Point B, you save money on gas, and you get a workout.
- **Play a childhood game:** What games did you play as a child? Capture the flag? Kick the can? Simple tag? Get a few friends together and give it a try!

Source: nerdfitness.com

Staying Fit Mentally

- **Do crosswords:** They usually get progressively more difficult as the week goes on, culminating in the most challenging puzzle on Sunday. If you don't get the newspaper, you can find many free crossword puzzles online.
- **Keep up with the news:** Whether your interest is politics, world news, or your local small-town gossip, staying current with the news stimulates your mind.
- **Read:** Read anything... Books, magazines, or the back of the cereal boxes. Reading keeps your mind stimulated, and you learn new things at the same time. It's definitely a bonus if your reading material has some depth to it.
- **Watch movies:** Watch a thought-provoking movie. Certain films can leave your brain pondering about what you watched for days afterward.
- **Play video games:** Some video game playing can help prevent Alzheimer's.
- **Get a hobby:** Start a new hobby or take up an old and forgotten one to get your creative juices flowing.



Staying Fit Spiritually

- **Meditate:** Take time to think about who God is. Think about his faithfulness to you in the last year of your life. Think about the answers to prayers you have seen. Think about his power, his love, and what he means to you.
- **Praise Him:** God always hears our complaints and our laundry list of prayer requests. Make it your mission to praise him as much as possible. Praise him for the sunshine, the green lights on your drive to work, the friendly cashier, the laughter of your child, your spouse's welcome home kiss. Just do it!
- **Read the Bible:** We have heard it a million times, but it is true. How can we learn more about our God if we are not actively reading his words? Make it a point to find quiet time to spend with your savior.
- **Talk to Him:** Tell God about your day. Tell him about the crisis at work. Tell him how tired you are. Tell him that you can not decide what color to paint your bedroom. God cares about each little detail of your life. He is your best friend.
- **Witness:** Always be ready to share Christ to those who need him.
- **Go to church:** Attend church on a weekly basis and get involved in the community there.



Stay Connected for Good

Here in the Alumni Office we are committed to keeping you connected to AU. We want to stay updated on what is happening in your life too—the good and the bad. We want to support you in your career and rejoice with you as you excel. We also want to encourage you to help any AU students that come after you through giving and networking.

Stay Connected:

- **Update your information:** It is how we will stay in touch. Keep us updated with your correct email address so you will not miss out!
- **Attend AU events:** This of course includes Homecoming and other events on campus, but it also includes events that may be taking place near you.
- **Let us promote your success:** Tell us what you are doing. We love bragging about our alums.
- **Connect with current students:** Networking with alumni is how many AU students find careers. You have the potential to mentor and lead an AU student that comes after you. Provide them with the help that you had or wish you would have had.
- **Recruit new students:** Share your AU story with those around you.
- **Give back:** Any donation to the university is meaningful, no matter the amount. Make the financial burden easier on students that come after you by providing money for scholarships and grants.
- **Stay Connected via LinkedIn:** If you don't already have a LinkedIn profile, create one at LinkedIn.com. Once you have a profile created, be certain to join the Anderson University Alumni Network group. Within this network, you can search for jobs and network with other AU alumni, find alums in the new location to which you may be moving, and keep up with AU alumni news and upcoming events. Stay Connected via LinkedIn: If you don't already have a LinkedIn profile, create one at LinkedIn.com. Once you have a profile created, be

certain to join the Anderson University Alumni Network group. Within this network, you can search for jobs and network with other AU alumni, find alums in the new location to which you may be moving, and keep up with AU alumni news and upcoming events.

Alumni Wisdom

“Always continue learning about your beliefs in God. Prepare for the future but live in the present. Always know that the unexpected can happen.”

Scott Vannatter, BA '03

“Make quiet time alone with God a priority...every day!”

JoEllen Boggess, BA '84

“Always seek God’s guidance in your life. He will never fail you.”

Sue Custer, BA '83

“We dream of doing heroic and romantic things. I think what really counts is to embrace the inconvenient and let the Holy Spirit of Love flow through us to overcome the messes and love the people that are in front of us.”

Darrell Norrick, BA '75

“Do all you can do to be a lasting example with Christ shining forth instead of yourself. We all think so much more highly of ourselves than we should but the proud will be humbled.”

Janet Durham Carlson, BA '69

“Just always believe in the Lord. He really does give advice when you get down on your knees and pray.”

Charlene Cheeks-Cook, BA '55

“Since you don’t get do-overs, learn and re-learn lessons and move on. Relationships matter most. Losses are a part of life; metabolize them—let them become part of who you are. Learn to live with your own limits— and be gracious with others who have theirs.”

James Cook, BA ‘68

“No matter how many times you think that your life is not going the way you planned, just stop, step back and realize that God has put you there for a reason. You may not realize why, but trust God and know that he is always with you.”

Melanie Shreves, BA ‘07

“Give thanks. Laugh. Be gentle. Listen. Love God. Serve Him. Take pleasure in God’s beauty.”

Dr. David E Luellen, BA ‘61

“At AU, you had a chance to develop great friendships, and maybe even find the love of your life. As you continue on your journey, keep those relationships strong and your relationship with God strong, too.”

Sandy (Lehman) York, BA ‘99

“You will endure life experiences that will either make you better or bitter. Always remember that you have a choice. And always remember that the simple and often taken for granted things in life are really the most valuable assets you will ever acquire. Search for Him and you will find Him, because He constantly searches for you! God has gifted you in very unique ways. Use what He has given you (the giftedness and the gifts) to make a difference in this world.”

Ellen Daniels, BA ‘84

“Live cheap and save as much as you can. Buy only if you have the money. Take risks early. Don’t become sedentary. Travel and connect with the world beyond the USA. Give 10% of your time to a worthy cause.”

Norberto Kurrle, BA ‘97

“FOLLOW your desires no matter what path they may lead you to. You might have to move to a state you never thought you would live in, or work for less money than you had hoped to be earning, but I can tell you that there is no purer joy than to be doing what you love. The amount of money in your checkbook or your surroundings will never outweigh your inner happiness!”

Mark DeFazio, BA ‘78

“Your life is a journey and you are just completing one chapter. Now it is time for you to join the world of working, find something you enjoy doing and learn to do it well. If you have not already, find a good mate and become best friends and cherish he or she for the rest of your life. Dream big and don’t let anybody take it away. Life is wonderful but it is up to you, you get to decide.”

Ron Marsh, BA ‘66

“Stay in contact with your AU friends. You never know when you might need their help or they yours. Also, have more than one occupational goal. Life changes our situations and you have to have some flexibility to be able to support yourself and your family. God should always be your first choice for advice in decision making; other people who have godly wisdom can help you too.”

Cheryl Bertschman, BA ‘73

“Be confident in what you know. All of your AU experiences have prepared you for this: life after AU. Even when you feel like you don’t know how to handle the transitions to ‘adulthood’, trust in God’s plan for your life, have confidence in yourself, and seize any opportunity to learn something new that you can.”

Christy Kihm, BA ‘03

“When you have a passion, you will find yourself showing up in a variety of places - sharing your life with others. It’s a wonderful ride!”

Rev. Karen Helsel, BA ‘96

“Embrace process rather than frantically rushing to choose your next steps! Sitting with questions can be a messy yet creative process that allows you to discover pathways and possibilities that you never before considered.”

Dori Elliott, BA ‘11

Make as many friends as you can because some of them will hire you in the future, and pick your battles because if you enjoy your work and your colleagues, you enjoy your day – and that means a lot over time. And even though you may think that your job is all about you, the truth is that people pay you to make their lives better – so always make sure that your boss or client is glad that they picked you.”

Kristi Stone Hamrick, BA ‘85

“God can and will use us wherever we go, but don’t miss what he wants to do to you and through you. DO IT NOW!”

Michael Fox, BA ‘84

“Live within your means. Give glory to God. Be sure to tithe. Whatever you do, do it as unto the Lord.”

Phil Engbrecht, BA ‘86

“Keep God first in your life. You exist to love God and love others! Keep your life goals always about relationships...they are the only thing that is important. Measure every choice against the impact upon the people closest to you. Avoid debt! Use credit cards to build credit and pay off each month prior to interest charge. Faith, integrity, and loyalty are virtues this present age seems no longer to value. Restore these values for your family and community. Learn the truth of Psalm 37:4; ‘Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.’”

Michael Schwartz, BA ‘85

“Don’t let fear dictate your life. Put yourself in places outside your comfort zone. You should thrive, but, if you fail, learn from that and move on. Don’t get to the end of your life and regret what you haven’t done because of fear.”

Mark Benson, BA ‘81

“Always strive to learn in order to make positive changes within your community as a scholar-practitioner. Life is a journey of learning; however we also learn an exceptional amount of information through shared learning. Don’t be afraid to network and to share the valuable information that you know. Not only will it possibly assist someone else, but it may also assist you on your path in life!”

Christina Dean, BA ‘03

“Be accountable for your own learning.”

Robert Chaney, BA ‘74

“God’s plan is always better than your own. Even when it looks unconventional. Even when society tells you that you’re doing life wrong. God knows what He’s doing. It will be difficult and uncomfortable at times, and disappointments will arise, but it will all be worth it. Hang in there, kid. He’s got you.”

Amanda Bray, BA ‘12

“When people say ‘go the extra mile’ here is what it means: don’t do what is normal. Work outside of typical 40 hrs. Even if you are hourly. Just be you and speak uplifting positive words.”

Douglas Downing, BA ‘08

“Enjoy the journey! We often get so stressed over getting this done or that accomplished that we lose sight of life that happens along the way! Savor every moment of every day!”

Mike Gee, BA ‘85

“There is a thrill and wonder to life. Search for it. Go after it. Pursue it. Don’t listen to complaints. Go forth to climb the highest mountain. You have a choice. You can stay where you are safe and in your comfort zone. You can listen to those that say it’s too risky. Or you can ‘live’ this life, now. Enjoy it. Hear the voice of adventure! Adventure with God. Take His challenges. See through His eyes. Enjoy His spirit of compassion. Follow His direction. Follow His impulses. Start something new. Find a new future. Make a difference. Take that faith-risk with your Heavenly Father.”

Donna S. Thomas, BA ‘49

“Learn what it means to actively listen, and then practice it. Model accountability. This isn’t easy especially when others are looking for someone to blame. Do it anyway. Be the one to find a way to get stuff done. Mature leaders don’t want to hear about who’s to blame or all the reasons something can’t be done.”

Jon Hinkle, BA ‘00

“Seek Truth, and remember you are not acitizen of this world, but only passing through – so make a difference! Be kind and respectful. Give—even when you think you have nothing to give. Tell those you love, that you love them, and live your life in a way that you will have no regrets. Life is short.”

Donna Jean Walls Gafford, BA ‘80

“Be determined to never be idle, you will be surprised what you can do when you are always doing. There is no such thing as an impossibility and remember that in life and living there is always something else to learn.”

Jack Kirchner, BA ‘79

“Be intentional about plugging in somewhere as soon as you are settled. Remember that your relationship with God is number one. More important than a new career, new friends, new stuff!”

Jessica Michael, BA ‘09

“So, be confident in the ‘you’ that is now emerging; you’re prepared to meet change with an open mind and heart. You’re also well-suited to try new things and seek out new experiences on the regular. So, do it. Don’t let fear or the opinions of others dissuade you from doing something that is unconventional, risky, weird, or even crazy.”

Adam Barone, BA ‘00

“Let people know about Anderson and all the ways it helps you. So live to make the college proud. Contribute to it when you can. Stay in touch with fellow students.”

Shirley Chapman Stansbery, BA ‘58

“Always stay close to God. Don’t judge or criticize. Listen, Learn, and Love.”

Robert Chaney, BA ‘75

“He who created a great work in you will complete it! Trust in HIM! Isaiah 40:28-31.”

Stephanie Beltz, BA ‘93

“Keep the end goals in focus as you begin. With no clear targets you can waste precious time and resources as you wander among the distractions of things that will not last. Clarify your purpose, your values, your most important relationships and whom it is you will serve with the best that you can offer. It’s all about choices: ‘Then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’ Joshua 24:15”

Jerry Fox, BA ‘79

“Only live one day at a time. It’s really all we have. It’s so easy to always be thinking ahead to the next thing, but guard against it. Live today only! You’ll have better memories if you do. Philippians 4:4-8, Proverbs 3:5-6.”

Carol Filkins, BA ‘80

“Always be kind to everyone—it’s amazing how this simple courtesy in and of itself sets one apart from and above the crowd and you’ll know you did the right thing, no matter what the other person’s reaction is. Never burn bridges— it’s amazing how often paths cross again. It’s not brown-nosing to leave a job on good terms, it’s just good common sense. Choose your friends wisely and stay in touch, be intentional about making time to connect.”

Tim Julian, BA ‘80

“Put God first in everything you do. Be flexible, serve others and give back to society and your church.”

Dr. Averil Van Putten, BA ‘61



Stay in Touch



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