



University of MOUNT OLIVE

Daytime Student Alumni Success Stories

PATRICIA PURVIS



Growing up in Wayne County, Patricia Purvis was no stranger to the University of Mount Olive. She attended Southern Wayne High School, where she was active in FFA and developed a love for agriculture. School functions led Purvis to visit UMO numerous times, and she was eager to attend the University for her higher education. After graduating from SWHS in the spring of 2012, she enrolled at UMO. "I was drawn to UMO because of the close distance to my family and the Agriculture Department. The idea of the small classes and having a personal relationship with my professors was also appealing to me."

To read more of Patricia's story, [click here](#).

Michael Munoz has experienced tremendous success throughout his four years at the University of Mount Olive. Despite being admired for his awards in academics, athletics, and community service, Munoz admits that his road to a college degree was a challenging one. After talking with UMO's head cross country and track coach, Munoz decided UMO was where he would continue his academic journey. "The UMO faculty and staff, as well as Dr. and Mrs. Kerstetter, have all been very influential and helpful in guiding me towards the correct path for my academics and profession," said Munoz.

To read more of Michael's story, [click here](#).



MICHAEL MUNOZ

KELSEY CIRRITO



Kelsey Cirrito of Manassas Park, VA just graduated in May and has been accepted into the athletic training master's degree program at UNC-Greensboro. Cirrito attributes her success to the experiences she had as a student-athlete and athletic training intern at UMO. During her senior year, Cirrito has interned with the UMO Athletic Training Department. All four of the UMO athletic trainers encouraged Cirrito to take that next step towards graduate school. "UMO helped me find my passion, and I am so excited to put the knowledge and skills that I gained from my academic, my athletic, and my internship experiences to work at the graduate level!"

To read more of Kelsey's story, [click here](#).



University of MOUNT OLIVE

Adult Student Alumni Success Stories

HENRY EDMUND



Henry Edmund of Lake Waccamaw spent 27 years working in the banking industry, but he always felt like something was missing. Without a college degree, Edmund found it hard to advance, so he enrolled at the University of Mount Olive at Wilmington in 1999. After graduating, Edmund started climbing the corporate ladder. He attributes his tremendous success to UMO. "The University is the happy beginning to many success stories. Because UMO made their educational programs available to working adults like me, my life was definitely transformed, which in turn affected many others lives that I have had the pleasure to work with over the years," said Edmund.

To read more of Henry's story, [click here](#).

Kykky Thomas of New Bern started her educational journey at her local community college, and while juggling courses and jobs realized she wanted to pursue her four-year degree. After hearing about the one-night-a-week program at UMO, she applied and began the early childhood education program. "UMO has transformed my life by giving me the opportunity to establish my love for teaching and to be the best me that I can be! UMO has allowed me to provide more for my family, inspire others to finish their higher education goals, and has given me confidence in myself. I am so proud that I have accomplished this degree," smiled Thomas.

To read more of Kykky's story, [click here](#).



KYKKY THOMAS

JOSH BYRD



Josh Byrd immediately enrolled in a local community college after high school while juggling a part-time job. Byrd soon realized that his calling was in teaching and research within the early childhood field. In 2013, Byrd enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program at the University of Mount Olive at New Bern. After graduating, he has been accepted into the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Ph.D. program in the Child, Youth, and Family Studies Department. "As a soon-to-be graduate student, UMO has provided me with the framework of how to conduct myself as a professional researcher," Byrd said.

To read more of Josh's story, [click here](#).