



Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

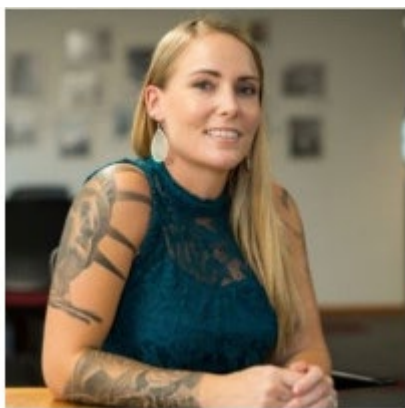
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Forward-Thinking and Doing: Norwich's College of Graduate & Continuing Studies

Representing another innovative chapter in Norwich's history, the College of Graduate & Continuing Studies (CGCS) launched in 1997 with a Master of Arts degree in Diplomacy & Military Science. In the nearly three decades since its inception, online programs have emerged as a powerful tool for advancing equality in higher education. They offer flexibility and accessibility and remove the geographic constraints which had previously been a barrier for military personnel, working professionals, parents and others to advance their education.

One of the first female CGCS graduates was Deborah Trimpe Burger-Hogg M'02 of the Netherlands, a former member of their Royal Navy. More than 10,000 men and women from across the nation and around the world have graduated from CGCS programs to date.



Melanie Soto '19

Melanie Soto '19, Bachelor of Science in Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis

Melanie joined the Air Force directly out of high school in 2004. Her boss at the time had earned his master's degree from Norwich and expressed how military-friendly the school was. "I knew that an online program was the best bet for finishing my degree."



Deborah Yemisi Ayodele M'21

Deborah Yemisi Ayodele '21, Master of Science in Cybersecurity

Deborah was a business intelligence/risk management analyst in Nigeria before relocating to the U.S. "The changes in the technology world and the desire to become a role model motivated me to pursue my degree in cybersecurity," she says. "Norwich has made me a better person. I have gained up-to-date knowledge that I wouldn't trade for gold."



Catherine Carroca M'17

Catherine Carroca '17, Master of Science in Nursing

"I had a friend who went through the MSN program at Norwich, and she encouraged me to apply," says Catherine. "I wanted to set an example for my children that anything you can dream of is possible if you apply yourself." Catherine says she thought online courses would be easy. "I was wrong. I was challenged in every class. I never finished (traditional) high school and now I am graduating from Norwich with honors and applying to Doctor of Nursing Practice programs."



Kelley Lawrence '16

Kelley Lawrence '16, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Setting an example for her children was Kelley's motivation for earning a degree as well. "When my son was younger, he said he didn't want to go to college because neither of his parents did. That's when I knew it was important for me to get my bachelor's." Originally accepted to Norwich as a traditional undergraduate when she was 20, Kelley chose not to go. But a Norwich degree continued to be her dream. "In 2014 I learned about the online program and it was perfect for me."



Marcia Bryan M'16

Marcia Bryan '16, Master of Business Administration

Marcia wanted to further her education and evolve her career. "I learned many things about myself including my drive to succeed. Through the group projects—which I always hated in the past—I learned to be accommodating, tolerant, and not to sweat the small stuff." With her degree in hand, Marcia is thinking about starting her own consulting business. She says she continues to carry the Norwich spirit. "I don't know if I can define it, but I feel it. The quest for excellence, integrity, loyalty and duty."

Norwich Online is leading the way with more than a dozen bachelor's and master's degree programs and graduate certificates. To learn more about the College of Graduate & Continuing Studies, visit <https://online.norwich.edu/>





Attend the Homecoming Women Kicking Glass Gala!

Friday, September 20, 2024 - [Women Kicking Glass Gala](#), Plumley Armory,
Norwich

Limited Edition Women Kicking Glass Merchandise Available

Treat yourself and others to these custom [Women Kicking Glass wines, apparel and gifts](#) to mark 50 years of trailblazing women.



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Stories and photos from 500 NU and Vermont College women spanning six decades of Norwich history. [See more.](#)

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Just Added: Glass Ceiling Brooch by California artist Vivian Shimoyama

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