

Some Maryland Memories

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March 2021

I have served in the State of Maryland's system of higher education since 2000, which, at the time of writing (March 2021), puts me close to almost twenty years of service.

After teaching for the European Division (2000-2002) and the Asian Division (2002-2005) of University of Maryland University College, I taught for two years at UMUC Adelphi (2005-2007) and then for four years at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) in Arnold, Maryland.

I rejoined the European Division of UMUC in 2014.

As I am, as they say, still on "active service," the term "memoirs" might be premature.

Memories, on the other hand, of my time with UMUC/UMGC, I have many.

Which are noteworthy? Teaching in Kuwait after 9/11 and having to move my classes to the desert to complete them is certainly one thing I won't forget.

Three of my courses were about to be cancelled, but the local commander provided a Spec-4 and a HMMV so that I could finish the courses in the field.

I felt like a prophet teaching in the desert, and my students were always happy to see me because it meant they did not have to dig ditches or complete other labor-intensive tasks.

Former UMGC President Miyares used to say that the military was part of UMUC's DNA, and I think UMUC is part of my DNA because my father was a career NCO in the Air Force, and I was trained to be an Army engineer officer.

I taught a course at the now-defunct Rhein-Main Air Force base where my father used to be the night manager of the NCO club. I called him from there, and we both were amazed about how things changed over time.

What has not changed over time is the commitment that UMGC faculty make towards our students worldwide. Dealing with different challenges is something that all UMGC faculty members do on a regular basis.

Now, in times of distress and danger, I see my colleagues doing what they have always done: taking care of all those who want to further their education via the University of Maryland Global Campus.

This inspires me to continue with what I have been doing for the last twenty years: serving Americans who have put their lives in harm's way and to assist them in getting the education they deserve.