

Linnai-Anne Camacho

Appreciating Life's Experiences, Big and Small



Linnai-Anne Camacho has traveled an interesting road on her way to college, and has experienced more than the average person might in a lifetime. Born and raised on the island of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, Camacho traveled to Puerto Rico immediately after high school graduation and enlisted in the US Army. Though she was offered full scholarships to several colleges, she saw the military as the path to maturity and independence for her and her infant daughter.

Camacho was drawn to computers at a young age and entered the Army as a Human Resources Specialist with additional Information Technology (IT) duties. Her initial assignment was with the 122nd Signal Battalion, stationed in South Korea. There, she served from 2001 to 2003 as both the Information Management Officer and the Promotions and Awards Specialist at the Battalion Personnel Office.

Camacho then served with the 555th Engineer Brigade in Fort Lewis, Washington. She spent the remainder of her military career with

the 864th Engineer Battalion, where she carried out operations with computer hardware and software – like ghosting, remote services, and networking – that solidified her passion for the field.

After a tour of duty with the 864th in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan, Camacho left the military in 2006 as a Sergeant (E-5), with more than 10 prestigious awards to her name.

"I've experienced things that an average person wouldn't experience, but they've helped me become who I am."

Reflecting on the impact that her years of service have had on her life, Camacho said that they have made her more appreciative of the "little things." "I'm more grateful for simple things like a bathroom, a shower, the bonds that I make with others, and true friends. Just being able to wake up every day and look at my kids; I love it." Camacho is now the mother of a 14-year-old girl, an eight-year-old boy, and a two-year-old girl.

After completing her military service, Camacho attended Tunxis Community College, where she earned an associate's degree in Computer Information Systems and graduated with a 3.9 GPA. While at Tunxis, she took many IT classes with adjunct professors, from whom she learned a great deal, thanks to their "real-life perspectives on what IT is, not just theories."

Outside of the classroom she volunteers her time consulting with small companies and providing IT advice, and uses her remote access

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At the CCSU Veterans Day Ceremony in November 2012 (at right), Camacho was presented with the Student-Veteran Public Service Award and Student-Veteran Excellence Scholarship from President Jack Miller.



Scholarship Established in Honor of Retired Dean of Graduate Studies

In honor of the retirement of Dean of Graduate Studies, Emeritus Paulette Lemma, a new scholarship has been established in her name. Once endowed, the Paulette Lemma Scholarship will be awarded to a well-deserving and high achieving graduate student at CCSU who has demonstrated excellence in his or her field.

Lemma began her career at CCSU in 1988 as an Assistant Professor in Teacher Education. From 1994 until 1998, she served as chair of the Department of Teacher Education. In 1997 she became a full professor, and in 2001, she was appointed Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

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skills to help her family with computer problems. Not that she needs any more content for a resume; Camacho humorously remarked that hers is already too long at three full pages. In the future, she plans to put all of her skills to work by opening her own IT firm.

Camacho is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology with a concentration in Networking Technology, and a minor in Spanish at CCSU, where she is a chapter officer of the Golden Key International Honor Society. She chose her minor to get re-acquainted with her Puerto Rican heritage and to help teach her eldest daughter the formalities

of the Spanish language, since she lived in the English-speaking Virgin Islands while Camacho was deployed.

Camacho plans to graduate in 2016. She is still recovering from a brain injury she sustained in Iraq that sometimes affects her cognitive processes. Though the injury forced her to ease slowly into her classes at Central, in retrospect, she would not change her decision to join the Army. "I've experienced things that an average person wouldn't experience, but they've helped me become who I am. It's part of my life, and one day it will be part of my legacy."

– Adam Saucier

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Krisztina Dearborn

work the way they do and to uncover the underlying mechanisms behind physical phenomena. Her enthusiasm for science and her attention to the subtle details of logic are great strengths for a career in physics. Krisztina also possesses excellent organizational and team building skills which benefit her classmates and the members of the Physics Club where she takes a leadership role. Whether she is making instant ice cream with liquid nitrogen or conducting a complex experiment with lasers and optics, Krisztina shares the fun of physics with those around her. In juggling her many commitments, athletic as well as academic, Krisztina always manages to give her best to each endeavor."

While Dearborn's academic achievements are impressive, her successes as a Blue Devil on the cross country and track teams are equally outstanding. The fact that she runs between 85 and 95 miles per week is a feat in itself. During her sophomore year, Dearborn broke the University's 10K outdoor record at Bucknell Invitational. She has since re-broken the 10K outdoor record,

and has also broken the 5K outdoor record and the 3K and 5K indoor records.

Head Cross Country and Track Coach Eric Blake is very optimistic about Dearborn's future: "Krisztina has been fully invested in the program since the day she arrived as a freshmen. She has made tremendous strides as a distance runner – a direct result of her competitiveness and work ethic. She has a very bright future."

Because Dearborn is paying for school on her own, her academic and athletic success has been vital to her college career. She considered withdrawing from the University during her freshman year, but knew that she couldn't – completing college in four consecutive years was always part of her life plan. Today, as the recipient of numerous scholarships, including an athletics scholarship, the Honors Program scholarship, and the Computers, Math, and Physics Honors Scholarship, she no longer faces the stress of being unable to pay her tuition.

Dearborn will graduate this spring with a BS in physics and a BA in mathematics.

– Alayna James

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