Education’s Power

Elia Haggar is a Ph.D. student at Capella University, an online university. Although he has advanced multiple sclerosis (MS), Haggar has become an accomplished landscape painter and teaches art history at the college level. He is pursuing a doctoral degree in post-secondary adult education.

Because he uses a wheelchair and has lost sight in one eye, Haggar says Capella’s online focus influenced his decision to attend the university. However, he finalized his decision only when he learned of Capella’s accreditation (by the Higher Learning Commission) and reputation for excellence and rigorous academic standards. For his Ph.D. dissertation, he is exploring how adult education can be better applied to students with disabilities.

Haggar currently is an adjunct faculty (art) member at Cerritos College, Norwalk, Calif. He is interested in teaching online in the future, hopefully at the university level once he receives his Capella Ph.D.

“Art takes me to a place where there is no pain nor dizziness or suffering,” Haggar says. “This disease will not stop me from doing what I came to Earth to do: pass along knowledge and wisdom,” Haggar says.

Born in Lebanon and educated in design at the American University in Beirut, Haggar moved to the United States 20 years ago. He is married and the father of five children.

Despite living with advanced multiple sclerosis, accomplished landscape painter Elia Haggar (inset) teaches art history at the college level.

“Art takes me to a place where there is no pain nor dizziness or suffering.” — Elia Haggar

Capella University is committed to providing people with disabilities the accommodations to enable their academic success. Its Disability Services Department currently supports 350 learners with disabilities. Founded in 1993, Capella offers graduate-degree programs in business, information technology, education, human services, and psychology. A bachelor of science program has ten specializations in business and information technology.

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Mentoring Day

In Washington, D.C., U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy Roy Grizzard officially kicked off the seventh annual