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could take some classes for free. I took classes the whole time we were there, but when he finished, it was time to move on. Sadly, there was no diploma for me (although Dave gave me a framed P.H.T. — Putting Husband Through — diploma), just the hope that when we got some money I'd return to school.

Fast forward to 1987, and we've had three kids in three years. I have neither the time nor the money to go back to school. I was busy being a mom. I ran carpools, sat through ballgames and practices, and was a homeroom mom and school volunteer. The kids and their schedules took over my life. Thoughts of returning to school rarely crossed my mind, and when they did, I thought I was getting too old to return.

A huge turning point in my life was in 2003. My daughter, Abby, was a sophomore at Purdue; my son, Nick, a senior; and daughter, Kaitlin, a junior at Bishop Luers. Within 70 days, I lost my dad (my hero), my grandma (who had lived with us for 10 years), my niece, and my job. The deaths were extremely hard, but it was the loss of my job that took the biggest toll. The people with whom I would have shared my grief were my coworkers, and when I lost my job, I felt very alone. I applied for every job I was qualified for and got nothing. I grew more discouraged as weeks turned into months and still no job.

A random conversation started the ball

rolling on my return to school. While volunteering at the kids' school, I was sharing with someone about my hunt for a new job, and it became apparent that I needed more training. My friend told me that she had met with Robin Newman in the Center for Women and Returning Adults at IPFW and was scheduled to take a class in the fall. I confided in her that getting a degree was always a dream of mine, and she encouraged me to meet with Robin. I called Robin a few days later and made an appointment. She helped me realize that this dream was possible.

I registered for classes and nervously waited for them to begin. Prior to the start of classes, I skeptically came to the STARS evening for returning adults. I was pleasantly surprised to see the Walb Ballroom filled with "old" people like me! I listened as other returning adult students shared their experiences. I have to admit that I've put many of their suggestions to practice. It has been a learning process to juggle school and home, but I feel such a sense of accomplishment in doing this. I just finished finals and have completed my first 14 credits. Whew!

I'm already looking forward to the day I graduate and can begin teaching. I hope I can impart on students that it is never too late to follow your heart and achieve your dreams. After all, who needs a lottery ticket? I feel like I've won the lottery by being able to return to school.

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mediated civil and domestic relations cases averaging eight hours per month with a 99 percent success rate. (This was combined with an active litigations practice.)

Many years ago, Judge Bell graduated from IPFW with Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees.

Since 2001 she has been associate faculty at IPFW. She has taught Elements of Law for the Division of Organizational Leadership and Supervision and off-campus through Continuing Studies as well as Women and the Law in the Department of Political Science and Women's Studies Program. Judge Bell says, "I not only enjoy the law, in whatever form, but enjoy working with IPFW students."

At this time Student Legal Services is part time, but has the potential to become full time. Judge Bell thinks that as students become more aware of the existence of Student Legal Services, it could grow.

When asked if she had any advice to incoming freshmen, she said, "As a mother of an incoming college freshman myself, I would advise a new student to develop good study habits from the start, to attend classes, to get enough sleep, and to eat the right foods. As an attorney and adult, I would advise anyone, not just incoming freshmen, to ask someone knowledgeable to clarify anything you do not understand whether that be homework, directions, or documents. Do not sign anything that you do not fully understand and that you cannot fulfill; seek assistance from professionals. Finally, I would advise you to visit the student government office in Room 225 of Walb Student Union to meet the officers, staff, and myself. We are here to make your campus experience the best it can be! I look forward to meeting each of you and working with you. Good luck and much success throughout your college experience!"

FUTURE EVENTS

CENTER FOR WOMEN AND RETURNING ADULTS

Students with Families Events

- ▼ Friday, Feb. 11, 2005: Workshop on winter wellness. Activity for kids: Algerine Hill, Songstress and Story Teller, in the Character of Harriet Tubman; 6-6:45 p.m. Pizza; 7-8 p.m. Workshop/Presentation
- ▼ Friday, April 22, 2005: Keystone the Clown; 6-6:45 p.m. Pizza; 7-8 p.m. Presentation

STARS (Starting, Transfer, and Returning Students) orientation

- ▼ Thursday, Aug. 18, 2005: fall 2005 orientation; 5-8:30 p.m.
- ▼ Thursday, Jan. 4, 2006: spring 2006 orientation; 5-8:30 p.m.



CONTACT US

Center for Women and Returning Adults

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne ▼ Walb Student Union, Room G25
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. ▼ Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499
260-481-6029 ▼ Fax: 260-481-6045 ▼ E-mail: newmanr@ipfw.edu ▼ Web site: www.ipfw.edu/cwra/

Rapport

Spring 2005

IPFW Center for Women and Returning Adults

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

JEANNIE DICLEMENTI

Q How long have you worked at IPFW?

A I have been here three years; I am midway through my fourth year.



Q Where have you worked in the capacity as a professor in the past?

A I was a senior instructor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Colorado at Denver from January 1987 until I came here in 2001.

Q What college did you attend to receive your credentials?

A I earned a B.A. in psychology and an M.A. in psychology from the University of Colorado at Denver and a Psy.D. (Doctor of Psychology) from the University of Denver.

Q Have you always aspired to be a professor?

A No.

Q What words of advice would you give to a student who is new to IPFW, whether he/she is a returning adult or a traditionally aged freshman?

A Don't underestimate the worth of life experiences. If you already have them, use the knowledge and skills you gained from them. If you don't have them, go out and get some.

Q&A

Q During your days in college as a nontraditional student, what was your biggest challenge and how did you deal with it?

A Time management. I learned to rely on my day timer and used different colored highlighters to visually cue me as to where I needed to be. I now have a PDA; I sure wish they had been invented about 20 years earlier.

Q Do you think that today's nontraditional student faces the same challenges that you dealt with as a nontraditional student?

A I think that today's students face more challenges: economic, as the cost of education is increasing drastically, and technological, as students are expected to come into college with a wealth of technological knowledge and skills. That's not always possible for returning adults.

Q What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in the classroom setting?

A Oh, geez, I can't possibly narrow that down. I have had a lot of funny things over the years from students' spontaneous comments to equipment malfunctions, etc.

Q What trends do you see in the near future in the world of psychology?

A More and more it will become a multidisciplinary field as people finally "get it" that we cannot separate the psychological from the physical.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

PATRICIA SHIFLEY

You've seen the signs. Powerball \$100 million...and then your mind goes crazy. What if? What would I do with all that money?

It was a conversation with my husband, Dave, and a friend over that subject: What would you do with the money if you won?

Dave and our friend listed all the usual things — pay off bills, travel, new cars, charity, and so on. Me, I told them, "If I'd win, I'd go back to college." That statement blew Dave away: "Would you really?" "In a heartbeat," I said.

We graduated from high school in 1976. Dave headed to Purdue, and I entered the workforce. I couldn't afford to go to college then and planned to work, save some money, and then go back to school. Instead, I married Dave and moved into married student housing with him. I still worked as a secretary, and because it was for the university, I



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Center for Women and Returning Adults
Indiana University-Purdue University
Fort Wayne

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IPFW STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

The new IPFW Student Legal Services program, initiated by former IPFW student body President Matt Shilling and OLS Professor Mitchell Sherr, will begin in fall 2005. Shilling and Sherr spent many hours planning and coordinating this program before finally making it a reality. They both researched how to best tailor legal services specifically to the needs of IPFW students and who best to implement the program. The program will be staffed through the IPSGA (Indiana-Purdue Student Government Association) under the tutelage of Judge Janet Seiwert Bell.

IPFW Student Legal Services will advise and counsel students concerning their legal issues and inform students of their legal rights and responsibilities through private interviews, publications, and seminars.

Neither IPFW Student Legal Services nor Judge Bell will represent students. Instead, counseling will be provided in the following areas: consumer (contracts, warranties, credit matters, purchases and leases, defective products and repairs/services), family law (divorce, adoption, paternity, child custody and support, restraining orders, name changes, guardianships, simple wills/inheritances), property (actions related to both personal and real property), traffic offenses, employment (Social Security eligibility, pay and compensation, discrimination, and unemployment), agreement to purchase real estate, landlord tenant (repairs, security deposits, eviction, and termination of leases, interpretation of leases), and notary services (acknowledgments, powers of attorney, and preparation of affidavits).

The following are areas in which IPFW Student Legal Services will not provide counseling (the program will suggest

people/departments/agencies from which to seek assistance): where a conflict of interest is or potentially is involved; issues with IPFW staff; disputes between students (unless both students request Judge Bell to serve as mediator); issues with the city, county, state, or federal agencies or government; criminal issues; copyrights and patents; security cases; or representation at a trial or administrative hearing.

IPFW Student Legal Services

Location: In the IPSGA office, Walb Student Union, Room 225

Hours: Vary between morning, afternoon, and early evening on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Hours will be posted on the IPSGA calendar as well as in the IPSGA office. Additional times may be arranged.

Scheduling: Contact the IPSGA administrative assistant (in person or by telephone: 481-6586) or during walk-in times that will be posted on the calendar on the door of the IPSGA office.

All currently enrolled IPFW students who have paid the student activity fee are eligible to use IPFW Student Legal Services. Continuing education students, faculty and staff, and members of the community are not eligible. There is no additional cost to the student for these services.

An eligible student may schedule no more than 50 minutes per semester with

the legal counselor because there are nearly 12,000 students, and the position is staffed part time. If demand exceeds the time offered, the program will be revisited by the IPSGA to better accommodate students.

About the Judge

IPFW Student Legal Services will be staffed by a retired judge/licensed attorney who is also a mediator, with assistance from IPSGA support staff. Judge Bell will be available to students for personal interviews, for consultations, and as a speaker for recognized student organizations.

Judge Janet Bell is a retired U.S. administrative law judge and retired Air Force



Janet Bell

judge advocate general (Colonel, O-6, INANG). She is also a licensed attorney and former partner in the law firm Burt, Blee, Dixon & Sutton but does not actively practice law other than as the legal advisor in Student Legal Services. She is also a civil and family mediator and a private pilot. She has more than 24 years of progressive experience as a civilian attorney in Allen County and 26 years in the military. She began her military career as an enlisted person and ended it as the highest ranking female judge advocate in the U.S. Air National Guard.

In her civilian capacity, she was the Hearing Office chief administrative law judge in the Office of Hearings and Appeals, managing a 40-person, then 2-union office. She was responsible for managing, planning, and coordinating the administration of the hearing process and for implementing national and regional management policies. She was the first line supervisor to administrative law judges, the supervisory staff attorney, and the hearing office manager. She also managed a full caseload during that time. She held hearings and made and issued decisions on appeals from determinations made in the course of administration of Titles II, XVI, and XVIII of the Social Security Act which involved disability and Medicare issues.

As a partner attorney with Burt, Blee, Dixon & Sutton, she was responsible for the family practice division and co-department head for the litigation division. She supervised support staff and attorneys in the family practice division; assigned cases; represented clients in family practice and general litigation; and trained office personnel on rules, procedures, and cases pertinent to domestic relations, mediation, and worker's compensation.

She was a worker's compensation judge for Indiana for a seven-year period assigned to northeast Indiana. As a worker's compensation judge, she heard cases in a 22-county area as a single member as well as sat on the appellate bench in Indianapolis, hearing appeals from the trial level. She was selected as one of the first state-certified mediators on Jan. 1, 1992, and actively

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PHOTOS FROM PREVIOUS STUDENTS WITH FAMILIES PIZZA FUNCTIONS



On Nov. 19, 2004, magician Jim Barron entertained students with families; kids played Duck, Duck, Goose; and families enjoyed refreshments.



RETURNING TO ACADEMIA AFTER 12 YEARS AWAY FROM SCHOOL



Andrea Scherer

By Andrea Scherer, mom and pre-radiography student

Recently, I attended the STARS (Starting, Transfer, and Returning Students) program presented by IPFW. This program was very beneficial. I strongly recommend it for any nontraditional student. Being out of school for 12 years, I had great anticipation as well as fear of college. The program gave me a sense of ease. It offered several different free sessions to learn about college life and expectations. The information provided was

extremely helpful. I was able to activate my IPFW e-mail/network account. It also opened up an opportunity to talk with some other students. Being able to talk with people that shared the same concerns and excitement that I had seemed to calm my nerves. I quickly realized that I was not alone. As it turned out, some of the students I had talked to were actually in my class. The program not only gave me a background of the school but also gave me a foundation for friendships that I am sure will last long beyond IPFW.