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of fall 1973 I received a letter from IU strongly suggesting I take a break from attendance until such time as I felt I could get the discipline to improve my grades to bring my GPA up to at least a 2.0.

I played for several months from Virginia to California and back until illness forced me back home to Indiana. During recovery, I took a course in emergency medical services, then in its infancy in our state. While it was a spark of interest for me, it did not seem like a life option. Marriage and a move to Iowa brought me to work at a busy ambulance service. I was trained as a paramedic and spent the next several years relishing the work. But I also realized that I wanted to finish my bachelor's degree, and preferably before I got "too old" to go back to school.

By the time that I lost my stomach for emergency work and realized I had to find another profession, I was divorced and floundering. I made two stabs at college-level courses with nominal success (Well, I got two C's, and they were not easy!). I moved to New Mexico, and after a year of job hunting, discovered retail. My finances fell apart within two years and I returned to Indiana. I stayed with retail for the next 10

to 12 years, and watched my nieces and nephews graduate from college and move into careers that not only they enjoyed but paid well too. In May 2003, after almost three years as a small-store manager with only one raise in that time (and a big 2 percent at that!), I decided it was time to finish my degree. At IPFW, I met the most helpful people who offered unsolicited suggestions of areas of study to look into as I worked on my return. I learned that my credits (all 64) from IU were transferable into the right program. That made my decision to be a general studies major pretty easy. I left my job and so far am eeking by on savings and student loans. I also spent the past winter as full-time caretaker for my parents, a task I had not anticipated. After 19 completed credit hours since my return last summer, I am off academic probation, have been inducted into the Omicron Psi National honor society for nontraditional students, and am happy with the direction of my life. I have adjusted to life on campus and have tentative course plans for spring 2005 already. So far, 9 credit hours are about all I wish to work on at a time. Because of this, I anticipate four to five years at IPFW to finish up my degree.

As a nontraditional student, I am very

impressed with the individual attention I have received from all departments on campus. It is a far cry from the impersonal atmosphere I felt as an underclassman at IU. A lot has changed in 30 years! Robin and Susie, of the Center for Women and Returning Adults (that's me!), have been supportive and helpful in answering questions and/or directing me to those who can answer a question. They've also provided insight to different classes that may be of interest to me. Jill at ACCS was exceedingly helpful in offering ideas in selecting a major. Through her, I realized that I was an individual at this campus, not another number to push through the system. I found the courage to approach department heads to inquire not only about particular courses, but about the instructors as well. All have been considerate and courteous towards me, and each has offered courses for consideration. How neat!

It has been 30 years in the planning, but this is by far the best career move I have made in that time. If I am able to stay on track, I hope to celebrate my 60th birthday with a master's degree in something! Then we'll see what a party is all about!

## FUTURE EVENTS

### CENTER FOR WOMEN AND RETURNING ADULTS

#### Students with Families Events

- ▼ Friday, Sept. 10, 2004: Pizza Dinner — Kickoff! With Sponge Bob Square Pants; 6–6:45 p.m. Pizza; 7–8 p.m. Presentation
- ▼ Friday, Nov. 19, 2004: Workshop on writing essays for scholarships and the connection between scholarships and financial aid. Activity for kids: Magic show put on by Magician Jim Barron; 6–6:45 p.m. Pizza; 7–8 p.m. Workshop/Presentation
- ▼ 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, Jan. 6, 2005: spring 2005 orientation; 5–8:30 p.m.
- ▼ Thursday, Aug. 18, 2005: fall 2005 orientation; 5–8:30 p.m.

#### Other future events:

- ▼ Mentoring kickoff luncheon: Monday Sept. 20, 2004, at noon in Walb Union Ballroom

## CONTACT US



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# Rapport

Fall 2004

IPFW Center for Women and Returning Adults

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

### DONNA BIALIK, DEAN OF STUDENTS



**Q** How long have you worked at IPFW and in what capacity?

**A** I will be starting my 29th year at IPFW in August. I began my career at IPFW in August 1976 as a lecturer in economics. After I completed a Ph.D. in economics in August 1978, I became an assistant professor of economics. I was tenured in 1985 and promoted to associate professor of economics in 1994.

I became chair of the Department of Economics and Finance — later to become the Department of Economics — in December 1993 and served in that position for approximately eight years, part of that time splitting myself between department chair and director of the Northeast Indiana Center for Economic Education and then between department chair and dean of students. I have been dean of students since September 1997 and have served full time in the dean of student's position since 2001. In addition, I teach an independent study course in introductory microeconomics for the IU School of Continuing Studies and remain active in writing and editing instructional aids such as learning guides and tests banks.



**Q** What is your educational background, and have you always aspired to be the dean of students? And besides grade

appeals and discipline cases, what are some other aspects about the dean of students that most incoming freshmen, or any student for that matter, would like to know about your office?

**A** I have a B.A. in social science from Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio, an M.S.T. in economics from the University of Missouri Columbia, and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Missouri Columbia. I did not aspire to be dean of students! In fact, I was perfectly content being an economics professor, but events led to me becoming chairperson of my department in 1993, and then in 1997 I was offered the dean of students' position. I've continued in this position for several reasons, including — of course — my keen interest in students and their issues and the opportunity the position gives me to work with faculty and staff from many different university offices and departments.

My office oversees the Freshman Mentoring Program and several departments that provide important services to students. The Freshman Mentoring Program is open to all entering freshmen and pairs the entering student with a peer or faculty/staff mentor who welcomes the student to IPFW and helps the student connect with the university and its many activities and services.

Departments that the dean of students oversees include the Center for Women and Returning Adults, Services for Students with Disabilities, Personal Counseling, the Child Care Center, and the Indiana-Purdue Student Government Association. Of course, as is

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## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

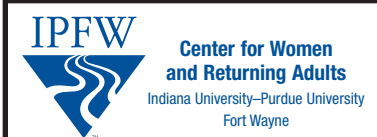
### "DOOG" OLSEN



"Doog" Olsen at the Tri-Kappa Art Show in the Auburn Public Library, where he won first place for his black-and-white photo "Bench in the Winter Snow."

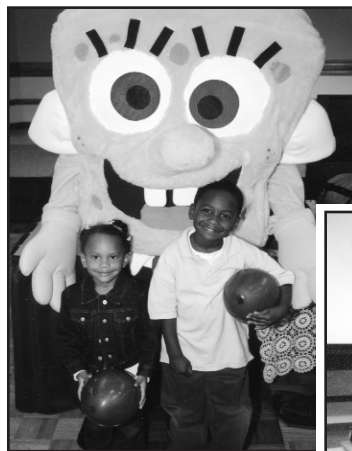
From 1971 through 1973, I attended Indiana University Bloomington. Ah yes, the good old days when happy hippies took coffee in the commons while expressing, "Up the establishment — we ain't gonna take it anymore!" Oh, and classes. That was my downfall. I had a tendency to "forget" about classes more often than is beneficial to a proper education. At the end

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**PHOTOS FROM PREVIOUS STUDENTS WITH FAMILIES PIZZA FUNCTIONS**



*Sponge Bob and his buddies on Sept. 26, 2003.*



*Gerry Curd and LaSaundra Floyd presenting Financial Aid Scholarship Workshop on Friday, Nov. 7, 2003.*

*Children take part in Mad Scientist's presentation on Nov. 7, 2003.*

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stated in the *Bulletins* and the *Student Handbook and Planner*, the dean of students can be contacted regarding any problem a student is experiencing with the university! Sometimes I am able to provide direct assistance with problems, e.g., the need to drop all of one's classes after the withdrawal deadline, but sometimes the assistance simply takes the form of explaining relevant university policies and procedures and referring the student to the appropriate individual or office.

**Q What kind of advice would you give a recently admitted or a current returning adult at IPFW?**

**A** One bit of advice that I give to all IPFW students is that they seek help immediately whenever a problem arises. Too often students wait so long to seek help that it is difficult, if not impossible, to find good solutions to their problems. If a student has a problem that relates to a particular course, then the student should first speak to the course instructor. If the problem relates to something other than course work, e.g., financial aid or personal circumstances, then the student should make an appointment with someone in the appropriate office, e.g., Financial Aid or Personal Counseling, or ask individuals in

offices such as the Dean of Students or the Center for Women and Returning Adults for a referral to an appropriate individual or office. Another bit of advice I often give students is, "If you don't know, then look it up or ask! The IPFW *Bulletins* and the IPFW *Student Handbook and Planner* are excellent sources of information about IPFW policies and procedures. Not knowing is never a good excuse!!"

**Q What is most important to you in higher education?**

**A** The most important thing to me in higher education is student learning. That's why I chose to stay at IPFW after completing my dissertation. Teaching and learning are normally top priorities at campuses like IPFW.

**Q What is the mentoring program about in the office of the dean of students?**

**A** The mentoring program that is housed in my office is for entering freshmen and its purpose is to help new students make the transition to college life. The program was launched in 1996, and it has changed a bit over time, e.g., in how mentors/mentee are matched and in the number and type of group

activities sponsored, but the purpose of the program has stayed the same throughout its existence. The transition to college can be a frightening experience for "high school admits" and returning adults alike, particularly if you are the first in your family to have attended college. Having someone who has the knowledge, experience, and interest in helping you adjust to the college environment is sometimes just as important to academic success as having the aptitude and motivation that it takes to earn a degree. That so, the program is very important to me, both as a faculty member and the dean of students.

**Q What are your hobbies?**

**A** I used to have a lot of hobbies, e.g., tennis and golf, but between work and family responsibilities I don't get much time to myself at this stage of my life. However, when I get the chance, I like to travel, particularly to places with "active bodies of water," e.g., Cancun!  
Another "hobby" of sorts is my love of cats, particularly Maine Coon cats. I have a female Maine Coon by the name of Ripley who walks on a leash and "demands" to be walked every morning and evening and any time in between that I happen to be home.

# PARENTING SUPPORT GROUP

## DOUBLE LIVES: A SUPPORT GROUP FOR OUR STUDENTS WITH CHILDREN

Double Lives is a support group offered to students by the Center for Women and Returning Adults and the Personal Counseling program.

This group is an exciting new opportunity designed to provide a place for students, who are also parents, to give and receive support as they manage the often-overwhelming prospect of raising a family while managing a college career.

All too often, our students feel isolated from the people in their pre-return-to-school lives and even more isolated from their fellow students who are not struggling with raising a family. The truth is, there are many, many students who are also parents and feel just as isolated. This group is an ideal way to network and form a community of understanding supportive individuals that will be invaluable in helping you fulfill your academic goals.

The group meets weekly for 90 minutes with Garrett Gilmer, personal counselor, and Robin Newman, director of the Center for Women and Returning Adults.

For more information contact Robin, 481-6029 or newmanr@ipfw.edu, or Garrett, 481-6601 or gilmerg@ipfw.edu.

**Eating Disorder Support Group "Accept Yourself...Accept Others"**

**Purpose:** Individuals come together to support each other through thoughts and actions that offer hope and motivation to stay with recovery steps.

**The Group**

- ▼ Provides positive support, education, and information to those affected by eating disorders
- ▼ Provides hope and motivation to make lifestyle changes
- ▼ Is common ground for sharing information and gaining feedback.
- ▼ Provides awareness and information to anyone interested in learning about eating disorders
- ▼ Provides nonjudgmental, respectful, and peaceful setting for appropriate communication and support

**Everyone Has**

- ▼ A journal
- ▼ Weekly personal goals
- ▼ Weekly group goals

For more information call Judy at 481-6647 or e-mail tillapau@ipfw.edu

**Support Group Recommended Resources**

**Recommended Books:**

- ▼ *Walking in the Truth* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss
- ▼ *Loving Our Body* by Dr. Deborah Newman
- ▼ *The Power of a Praying Wife* by Stormie Omartian
- ▼ *The Power of a Praying Husband* by Stormie Omartian

**Support Group Recommended Discussion Topics**

- ▼ Enhancing Body Image
- ▼ Communication Skills
- ▼ Boosting Confidence
- ▼ Music Therapy
- ▼ Meal Planning
- ▼ Self Talk for Success
- ▼ Media Messages...Be Critical
- ▼ Changing Distortions

# SCHOLARSHIPS

The Center for Women and Returning Adults has a database of many scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. All students at IPFW are welcome to use the free service. The office is located in Walb Union around the corner from Multicultural Services. The following scholarships are among many available in the Center for Women and Returning Adults.

**Scholarship Criteria**

**Adell M. White Scholarship**

**Application Deadline:** Aug. 1  
The following criteria are general requirements for those applying for this scholarship:

- ▼ Applicant must be a returning adult student, with preference to female students, and currently enrolled at IPFW.
- ▼ Applicant should have been out of high school for five years or more (general nontraditional student).
- ▼ Applicant must be on good academic standing within their school, having a GPA of 2.5 or better.

- ▼ Preference will be given to students majoring in education or teaching fields.
- ▼ Financial need will be considered in the selection process but is not a singular criterion.
- ▼ Applicant must complete a scholarship application prepared by the Center for Women and Returning Adults.
- ▼ Applicant must demonstrate in their personality and work a high level of caring for others.

The scholarship awarded will be in the amount of \$500 per year, given to one recipient. Applications will be accepted in the summer prior to the beginning of fall semester through the Center of Women and Returning Adults.

**Tapestry Scholarship**

**Application Deadline:** Oct. 15, 2004  
The Center for Women and Returning Adults is pleased to offer two \$500 scholarships for the spring semester, January 2005.

The following criteria are general requirements for those applying for this scholarship:

- ▼ Applicant must be a currently enrolled student at IPFW.
- ▼ Applicant must be in good academic standing within their school, having a GPA of 2.5 or better.
- ▼ Preference will be given to students majoring in a health-related field.
- ▼ Financial need shall be considered in the selection process but is not a singular criterion. Current FAFSA must be on file in IPFW's financial aid office.
- ▼ Applicant may be pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree.
- ▼ Applicant must complete a scholarship application prepared by the Center for Women and Returning Adults.
- ▼ Applicant must demonstrate in their personality and work a high level of caring for others.

The scholarship awarded will be in the amount of \$500 for spring semester 2005, given to two recipients. Applications will be accepted through the Center for Women and Returning Adults.