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IT!!!!!! As I mentioned earlier in my interview, goals have been a huge part of my success in college. My desire to go back to college not only gave me the strength I needed to stay focused, but also to reach my goal of going back to school.

When your first day at college finally arrives, remember you're only new the first day you go back! As I look back on my years as a returning adult student, I wouldn't trade them for anything in the world. My journey back to school has taught me many things about myself. The most important is that I can and I did finish my goal of graduating from college.

Q What is your degree in?

A My degree is a Bachelor of Fine Arts and my major was in painting.

Q Why did you choose the course of study?

A I have always loved art and I wanted to finish my degree that I had started so many years ago. I need to say that when I came back to college this time, I chose drawing for my major. After being out school for many years, I kind of felt a little unsure of picking up the paint brush once again. So, in the beginning I chose drawing; however, the burning desire for painting seemed to overshadow my choice of drawing as my major. I now know every day that this was the best thing for me to do. I have learned and grown from my experiences as a returning adult. It is literally "never too late" to go back to school.

Q What was your favorite memory of college as a returning adult?

A I can't choose just one. However, the most memorable one for me was meeting fellow students and

the times we would get together for lunch or coffee. Sometimes we would get together after class and other times we would meet to study for a test, or just talk with each other and hang out.

Another favorite memory for me was the support I received through the Center for Women and Adults. The center is a safe haven that I would go to when things got rough and I needed a place to regroup and realign my priorities for the day.

Robin Newman, the Director of the Center for Women and Returning Adults, was a great asset to me as she is so resourceful. She offered direction and help to me concerning everyday student life and as I approached graduation day, she had useful suggestions on how to present myself in the business world. She is a calm, kind and cool collected individual and is very helpful and supportive to the students. She cares and she listens to her students.

Of course I cannot leave out telling you about Susie Renfrow, the secretary for Robin Newman. She too is there for the students through the thick and thin. She also is a great listener and loves to talk and encourage all whom she meets. She is awesome. I must be honest and tell you she is my sister as well. She was one of the biggest encouraging factors to my return to school and I owe her a world of thanks!!!!

Q Did you think you would ever see the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel?

A At times in my life, things beyond my control affected my pursuit of going to school. As a single divorced mom, juggling it all on my own, I found it wasn't easy, but I didn't give up. At times that light at the end of the tunnel seemed so far away. But you do make it with persistence, determination and the desire to meet your goal at the end. No regrets!!!!

**Starting, Transferring, And Returning Students
STARS Orientation
Registration Dates**

Spring 2006 Thursday, Jan. 4, 2006
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Fall 2006 Thursday Aug. 17, 2006
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Spring 2007 Thursday Jan. 4, 2007
5:30-8:30 p.m.

**New adult student organization
Omicron-Psi: What is it?**

Omicron-Psi National Honor Society. National Omicron-Psi Honor Society is established specifically for the nontraditional student (any student over the age of 22). Established as a non-profit organization in 1993, Omicron-Psi chapters are located through the United States. The organization recognizes the achievements and sacrifices that are made by its members and encourages their continuing academic pursuits by offering scholarships and awards.

The Darwin Foundation governs Omicron-Psi; students must meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 22 years of age
- Have attained junior status or higher
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Be involved in at least three community/school activities
- Maintain the principle of duty, honor and service
- Demonstrate high ethical standards in all aspects of life.

Each semester, the officers and advisors of the IPFW Chapter of Omicron-Psi will review qualifications of new juniors. A letter of invitation will be sent to those students who meet the age and GPA requirements.

Life-long membership dues for the IPFW Chapter of Omicron-Psi are \$39.95 and can be paid at the time of application on the National Honor Society's Web page. Members will be inducted into the organization at a special ceremony in the spring of 2006.



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Fall 2005

IPFW Center for Women and Returning Adults

**WELCOME!
FROM ROBIN NEWMAN**

Dear New Student:

The Center for Women and Returning Adults (CWRA) welcomes you to IPFW. We provide a continuum of services directed toward an extremely diverse subculture within the campus community. The nature of our services extends beyond the campus or student life spectrum into the life-planning arena that is specific to non-traditional students or individuals and family members.



The center advocates for returning adults by providing academic, financial, and personal guidance, while simultaneously familiarizing them with the network of services available on campus. Childcare, housing, financial and domestic abuse issues also require that our services be directed from the campus to the community. Special ongoing efforts designed to meet the needs of our diverse subculture include:

- ▼ Adult Student Orientation at the beginning of each semester
- ▼ "Students with Families" programs
- ▼ Adult Freshman Success class – IDIS 110 (1 credit)
- ▼ Individual appointments
- ▼ Non-traditional student club
- ▼ National Omicron Psi Honor Society (for adult students)
- ▼ *Rapport* newsletter
- ▼ Scholarship resources for women & adults

Please feel free to contact me by email, newmanr@ipfw.edu or visit our Web site at www.ipfw.edu/cwra. Our Web site will keep you current with the center's programs, events, and services geared specifically towards your needs.

As an adult student, you will face the challenge of balancing multiple roles and commitments. Yet, your experience, motivation and focus will assist you in achieving your goals. Take the time to get to know your professors and others on campus who can help make a difference. I welcome you to one of the most challenging and rewarding times of your life and encourage you to take advantage of all of the student services and opportunities that IPFW has to offer.

Sincerely,

Robin Newman

Robin E. Newman, Director
Center for Women & Returning Adults
Assistant Dean of Students
newmanr@ipfw.edu

**STUDENT
HIGHLIGHT**

PEGGY CARON



Q Peggy, what prompted you to return to school?

A I graduated from North Side High School 1976. Soon after I enrolled in classes at Saint Francis College. My goal at that time was to pursue a degree in art. A few years later I decided to start my family and stop attending college. During those years we had three beautiful daughters. However, the burning desire for college never went away. I loved art so much and it had always bothered me that I had not finished such an important goal in my life. Goals are a huge part of success in college.



Q What advice would you give a new freshman with a family?

A My advice to incoming students is to seek out all who support what you are doing. Avoid people who do not support your efforts; if it is at all possible, keep a safe distance from them.

If you are a student reading this article and you feel nervous and scared, you may find yourself wondering about fearful things like "Am I too old to do this?" "Will I be able to fit in with all these young kids?" "Will I be able to juggle school, home, kids and all?" My answer is YES! GO FOR

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

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STAFF HIGHLIGHT

GERRY CURD

Q What department do you work in?

A Financial Aid Office

Q When did you start working at IPFW?

A Sept 17, 2001

Q Where did you attend college?

A I started at Phoenix College which is part of the Maricopa Community College district in Phoenix, Arizona. I also attended Arizona State University for three semesters. After a number of years being out of school I returned to Northern Arizona University as a non-traditional student and graduated from there.

Q What advice would you give to a freshman returning adult?

A It is easy to get discouraged by looking way down the road at what it is going to take to reach your educational goal. The demands for your time shared between school work, family, friends, and employment along with the total resources needed and all those credit hours that it will take to complete the degree. At times I felt I wouldn't make it! I found I should just focus on the short term goal of completing each semester, a step at a time, and celebrating each accomplishment.

So hang in there and have a support group that provides positive support like the Center for Women and Returning Adult Students or friends that are encouraging you along the way.

Q What dates are most important for students regarding their financial aid?

A Well, the most important date is to have your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) complete by March 1 of each year. If a

student doesn't make the date of March 1, then have the FAFSA done as early as possible each year.

Q What are common mistakes you see made on a daily basis?

A Not making contact with the Financial Aid Office after the FAFSA is filed each year. The student needs to make sure things stay on track. It is so important for the student to know the status of his or her file and the steps involved in processing financial aid. For example, the student needs to know if the financial aid department received all required documents necessary to complete the student's application. Another crucial thing to know is when the financial aid money will be awarded to the student and how the student goes about accepting it. It is so important to follow up with the financial aid office and not put things off because it seems there is so much time before the due date. There are so many variables that could delay receiving financial aid funds that a student does not have control over.



Q If a student receives financial aid and he/she receives a scholarship for the same semester, will the student receive more money above and beyond the financial aid money?

A In most cases the scholarship money will provide the student more money above the federal and state assistance for which they are eligible. The most common situation where they don't receive more money is if two financial awards are for tuition only so what is left after tuition is paid can't be given to the student to cover other educational expenses.

Q What does FAFSA and SAR mean?

A FAFSA stands for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. When only the paper form of the FAFSA was available, the Student Aid Report (SAR) was a very important piece of paper because students received this as their eligibility form from the Department of Education. They would take the SAR to the school they would be attending so federal and state assistance could be awarded based on the expected family contribution (EFC) that was on the SAR. Recent changes have made it possible for students to choose between a paper form and the internet when applying for financial aid. Whether a student completes the paper FAFSA or does it on the internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov, the paper SAR isn't really needed and students don't generally receive it. In the past schools received information through the mail. Now schools receive all information on eligibility electronically directly from the Department of Education.

Q Anything relevant to new and returning students here at IPFW?

A Just to emphasize what I have covered, and to get things done as early as possible. Stay in contact with the Financial Aid Office, and have a strong support group of friend, family or a campus organization.

Mentoring Program

The Dean of Students office sponsors the Freshman Mentoring Program at IPFW. The mentoring program was founded in 1995 and is open to all incoming freshman who wish to participate. The purpose of the program is to support freshmen with their transition into college, and to help them feel welcome, connected, and at home. Students interested in joining or who know someone who would be interested can get applications in Walb Union 111. The mentoring program is a great resource to utilize in the transition into college as a freshman whether the student is a traditional age student or non-traditional age student.

Q&A

STUDENTS WITH FAMILIES PIZZA PARTIES

Friday, Sept. 9, 2005

Opening program
Sponge Bob Square Pants!!!

activities and childcare provided for children of returning adult students. Student does not have to have children or a significant other to attend. Everyone is welcome.

doing an interactive skit in the character of Rosa Parks for African American History Month.

Friday, Oct. 14, 2005

A special evening for returning adult students. We will be focusing on future programming for non-traditional student groups, support groups, future student with families pizza party workshop themes, and other relevant topics. Fun

Friday, Nov. 11, 2005

Mr. Puppet and his friends

Friday, April 14, 2006

Llamas, pigs, and horses? Yes, you read this correctly; we look forward to our last hurrah with our students before spring semester comes to an end.

Friday Feb. 10, 2006

Algerine Hill, artist and songstress, will be

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Center for Women and Returning Adults in Walb Union 120 has many scholarships available to students of IPFW. Listed below are three of many scholarships in the database.

Fort Wayne/Kekionga, Business & Professional Women (BPW)

Application Deadline: October 1st.

Award Period: Before the end of December.

Requirements: The Fort Wayne/Kekionga Business & Professional Women (BPW) Scholarship is presented to men and women who are starting college after high school or returning to college in the state of Indiana. Financial need is not required. Your involvement with one activity with Fort Wayne/Kekionga Business & Professional Women is required within in one year of receipt of scholarship.

Grahame and Thelma Somerville Scholarship

Application Deadline: July 15

Requirements: The Grahame and Thelma Somerville Scholarship was established to continue education for people classified as non-traditional students.

A nontraditional student is defined as one who did NOT begin their college immediately upon the completion of their high school career, but rather is one who graduated from high school or received their GED and delayed the entrance into college.

The fund is designed to give preference to non-traditional students who wish to

further their education and/or training as a way of enhancing their employment skills.

Qualified recipients include adult students who wish to re-enter the job market, advance in their current field, or enter the job market for the first time after hardship circumstances, such as divorce, health complications involving family members, loss of employment, or other obstacles (barriers) and who live within 50 miles of Fort Wayne, Indiana and attend a college, university technical or trade school located within 50 miles of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Kazimour Scholarship

Application Deadline: November 30

Requirements: Dr. Kim Kazimour and ANTSHE sponsor the annual Kazimour Scholarship. Three \$500 awards, two for undergraduate students (two-year and four-year) and one for a graduate student, are awarded each spring semester. The deadline is November 30.

- Applicants must submit a personal statement.
- Applicants must be a current member of ANTSHE.
- Applicants must submit an official transcript forwarded by the institution to the ANTSHE Scholarship Chair
- Applicants must submit completed application.
- Applicants must submit a professional letter of recommendation from a faculty or

staff member.

- Applicants must submit a personal reference letter.

Enrollment and Grade Point Average Requirements

An applicant for the undergraduate scholarship award must:

- Be enrolled in a degree or certificate program
- Registered at the time of scholarship award for a minimum of 6 credit hours
- Have completed a minimum of 15 credit hours at an accredited two-year or 30 credit hours at a four-year institution.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 calculated based upon the last 15 credit hours for a junior college or 30 credit hours for a four year institution.

An applicant for the graduate scholarship award must:

- Have completed a Bachelor's degree
- Either be accepted into an accredited graduate program at the time of application (copy of acceptance letter must be attached to application) or be enrolled in an accredited graduate program for a minimum of 6 credit hours
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50.
- Must submit official transcripts verifying proof of degree awarded and current official graduate transcripts forwarded by the institution to the ANTSHE Scholarship Chair.

Note: No handwritten application material will be accepted!