

## Students with Families Pizza Dinners

Friday, Feb. 10, 2006

**Activity for children of adult students:** Algerine Hill, a local songstress and storyteller, will be taking the children of adult students on a trip back in time in the character of Rosa Parks.

**Workshop for students:** While the children are being entertained by Algerine Hill in the ballroom, the adult students will be participating in a workshop on "Careers for Nontraditional Students" with Jill Parker and Alison Delicati from Academic Counseling and Career Services. The workshop will be in Walb Student Union, Rooms 114 and 116.

Friday, April 14, 2006

**Activity:** Animal Grams will be here for all students and their families, featuring pigs and other cute little creatures.

Friday, Sept. 8, 2006

**Activity: SpongeBob SquarePants!** The Center for Women and Returning Adults will be kicking off the 2006-2007 academic year with a bang!

Continued from front

**Q When will you graduate?**

**A** I am scheduled to graduate in May 2006.

**Q What kind of advice would you give a new or returning adult student?**

**A** Have faith in yourself. At first I was so scared, and I was sure I just couldn't pass my first exam. I have shocked myself. I hope to graduate with honors this coming May. The second thing is to get your mind set that everything will not be perfect. Your house won't stay perfectly clean, the laundry will probably get behind, and you will at times have to choose homework over an activity. But that's okay. It won't be forever. Find some students on campus to share the experience with and my strongest advice is, if you have a support system, let them help. That was the hardest for me because I am a planner and everything has to be done now. When I started school, I had a two-year-old son, foster children, and a husband who was ill, and worked part-time. If you are married or have teenage children, let them help.

**Q What was your toughest semester and how did you survive?**



### CONTACT US

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**A** Actually, this is my toughest semester. Everyone told me that my first year would be the hardest, but it really wasn't. To survive, I just take each day and each assignment as it comes in. If you try and look at the whole picture, you begin to feel overwhelmed. Sometimes to get through each day, I plan a weekend off or call a friend to go out for the evening.

**Q What was your fondest memory of IPFW?**

**A** Being inducted into the honor society, and my second fondest was sitting in my lounge chair, reading biology to my two-year-old son. He needed attention, and I needed to study. So this was the perfect solution.

**Q What are your plans after graduation?**

**A** When I asked my husband this question, he responded, "WORK!" I do hope to find work in my field but also to attend graduate school in the fall here at IPFW. I want to be a school counselor, and I need my master's degree in order to do that. I truly never saw myself going to grad school. One thing is for sure, however, I am definitely celebrating on graduation night.

# Rapport

Spring 2006

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 nontraditional 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
- ▼ National Omicron Psi Honor Society (for adult students)
- ▼ *Rapport* newsletter
- ▼ Scholarship resources for women and adults

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail, [newmanr@ipfw.edu](mailto:newmanr@ipfw.edu), or visit our Web site at [www.ipfw.edu/cwra](http://www.ipfw.edu/cwra). Our Web site will keep you current with the center's programs, events, and services geared specifically toward 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 E. Newman, Director  
Center for Women and Returning Adults  
Assistant Dean of Students  
[newmanr@ipfw.edu](mailto:newmanr@ipfw.edu)

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

TONI WILLMERT **Q&A**

**Q What was the motivation behind your decision to go college?**

**A** I have always wanted to get a college degree. I remember coming out of high school, many years ago, trying to do just that. However, at that time I had moved out on my own and had to choose between college and survival. I chose surviving. Through the years, the dream to return was always there and in 1998 my husband was diagnosed with leukemia. Together, we decided that in 2000 it was time to return to school. My husband, Carl, wanted me to have a career to fall back on in case the inevitable happened. Now five years later, I am about to finish.



**Q What is your major?**

**A** Initially my major was elementary education. But that has changed to the human services. I will also be graduating with a minor in sociology.

Continued on back



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

## Inside Rapport

Staff Highlight	2
Stars Orientation	3
Students with Families	4
Scholarship Highlights	4

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

### DOUG NEITZEL, DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC COUNSELING AND CAREER SERVICES



**Q** What department do you work in and how important should your department be to a returning adult student?

**A** Like most “advising offices” should be, Academic Counseling and Career Services is a good “home” to undeclared adults—often for advice or referral, having little to do with course choice. Also, it’s never too early to consult career staff about your concerns for the future where you make the best use of elective choices, create a record of involvement and leadership, and address the job search, resumes, and interviewing.

**Q** How many advisors are in your department?

**A** We have 3.5 career staff and 5.5 academic advisors. You guessed it; one individual does them both half time.

**Q** What are the top ten jobs that will be in high demand in the next five years?

**A** It doesn’t matter. If that wonder job is in Dallas and you’re confined to job seeking here in Fort Wayne, nursing seems to be one of the few “high demand” non-technical areas. The rest seem to be engineering and technology areas. But look closer; this is about supply and demand. Many of these careers have had cyclical (up and down) issues in the past. They will again. Your “top” job will be the one for which you prepared, then for which you have skills, interest, and a good fit. It will also be the one for which you beat out somewhere between 40 and 400 other less prepared applicants.

**Q** How long have you worked at IPFW?

**A** I have worked at IPFW seven and one-half years. Well, actually five and half; the other two I spent at Fort Wayne intersections waiting to make a left turn.

**Q** Where did you attend college?

**A** I received my bachelor’s in history at Westmar College in Iowa, my master’s in history at Wichita State University, and my doctorate in education at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

**Q** What is your fondest memory of IPFW?

**A** Hands down, the experience of my life (except for the birth of my kids) was meeting my wife, Ann Marie. I didn’t see that coming!

**Q** What kind of advice would you give a new or nontraditional student?

**A** Find someone to mentor you. There’s a lot more to your future than what you select as a major. Oh, and mentor a younger student. They have much to learn, and you have a lot to offer them.

## Speaking from Experience: Family Fun Night!

By Tim Griffin, IPFW undergraduate student

It is a wonderful opportunity afforded IPFW students to attend Family Nights. SpongeBob was a particularly interesting show, since both of my daughters watch him on the Nickelodeon channel. After signing in, the evening began with a pizza party. There was a coloring contest for the kids and several games available for willing participants. Another activity was SpongeBob SquarePants trivia. All the attendants who were asked questions and answered them correctly received prizes. I was quite impressed by their SpongeBob knowledge.

When the games ended, the show began with Sandy the Magician picking three victims out from the audience. Those

three audience members happened to be men. Sandy pulled out some outfits from her gym bag and asked the men to put the outfits on over their clothing for a beauty contest. She dressed them up in bikinis and funny costumes and asked them to dance. The children and adults all got a good laugh and were recruited to judge the contestants. I was ruled a tie.

The next part of the show was a magic act. The youngsters were captivated by the slight of hand and the illusions they experienced. It was thrilled when my daughter was chosen to participate in the show. Sandy demonstrated a magic trick on top of her head involving an egg. My daughter Briana looked nervous as Sandy

cracked jokes and handled an egg loosely above her head. Having a family member involved with the act made the evening even more enjoyable.

To me and my family, SpongeBob was a great success. My wife, Rachael, got involved before the trivia started because her chair didn’t have a number underneath it. She had to switch chairs so she could have a chance to answer a trivia question. My girls were entranced with the whole program from beginning to end. The evening was such a joy to attend from start to finish. I relished the pizza and conversation that I had with some of my freshman success IDIS class members in attendance.

Students with Families  
SpongeBob SquarePants

Starting, Transferring, And Returning Students

## STARS Orientation Registration Dates

**Spring 2006** Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006  
5–8:30 p.m.

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

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

### About STARS

STARS is an evening of speakers and workshops designed to orient you to campus life prior to the beginning of the semester.

The SOAR program includes advising and registration for classes along with orientation throughout the summer. STARS is a one-evening program of individual workshops and orientation (without advising and registration) to enhance your successful transition to IPFW. Whether you have attended SOAR or not, you are welcome to attend STARS!

Workshop topics may include: (Choose up to three)

- ★ How to conquer your math anxiety
- ★ Study skills and note taking
- ★ How to use the computer for academic success  
*(For students who want to activate their computer lab accounts and learn much more about basic computing.)*
- ★ Time management: The balancing act
- ★ Careers for adult students

If you want more information or have questions, please call Susie at the Center for Women and Returning Adults: 260-481-4140.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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

### 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 his or her college immediately upon the completion of high school, but rather is one who graduated from high school or received a 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, Ind., and attend a college, university, technical, or trade school located within 50 miles of Fort Wayne.

### Indiana Extension Homemakers Association

**Application Deadline:** March 15

**Requirements:** Must be a

homemaker 25 years of age or older and a resident of Indiana.

**Contact:** Rosalind Richey, 1813 N 650 W, New Castle, IN 47362

### Aboite River Woman's Club Scholarship

**Requirements:** Woman or girl in Allen County with financial need who intends to pursue a post-secondary education. Applications can be downloaded at [info@fwcfoundation.org](mailto:info@fwcfoundation.org).

### Ron and Mary Bonar Scholarship

**Requirements:** Returning adult students with financial need for two-or four-year college or vocational school; priority given to women and minorities. (Applications can be downloaded at [info@fwcfoundation.org](mailto:info@fwcfoundation.org).)