

of course, is why didn't you go to med school "back when"?)

2. What path, circuitous or not, have you traversed from "then" to "now" that would indicate an ongoing interest in medicine? In other words, did this idea just leap out of the blue because you are dissatisfied with your current career, or is there an obvious connecting thread along the way? For instance, do you have a law degree and suddenly decide that medicine is for you? Or, do you have a law degree in which you help the homeless and medically disadvantaged (in your practice or in a volunteer capacity) in a way which shows an ongoing interest in medicine? Perhaps you have been a nurse for a number of years, and now want to obtain your M.D. Or you've been in research, and it's time for you to be a clinician. Or, or, or. These are just a few examples of the myriad

of possibilities.

3. What is your academic history? Admissions committees want students who can handle the academic rigors of medical school. Have you taken classes recently to show your academic ability? Have you done well on the MCAT?

4. Naturally, you will be expected to have had some clinical exposure to make sure you have challenged your own desires for a career in medicine (just as "traditional" students are expected to have). The bottom line: be prepared to answer the question(s): Why medicine? Why now? Why not back then? If your history weaves into a pattern that is understandable for the situation, and you meet the academic expectations for all applicants, you must do everything possible to turn your passion for medicine into an M.D. degree. Go for it!

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## Students with Families Pizza Dinner Schedule

**Fri., Feb. 15, 2008** *Walb Student Union Ballroom*

6-6:45 p.m. **Light Meal**  
7-8 p.m. **Puppet Show for Children**  
7-8 p.m. **Winter Wellness Workshop**

**Fri., March 21, 2008** *Walb Student Union Ballroom*

6-6:45 p.m. **Light Meal**  
7-8 p.m. **Mark's Ark**—Hands-on animal experience for everyone

**Fri., April 18, 2008**

*Walb Student Union Cafeteria (lower level)*

**Coffee House with Live Entertainment**  
6-8 p.m. **Light meal, coffee...** assorted drinks, and of course, guitars and singing

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE

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



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## 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.



Robin Newman

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
- ▼ Individual appointments
- ▼ National Omicron Psi Honor Society (for adult students)
- ▼ *Rappor* 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

JOY LEPANT

**What is your major and when did you or when do you expect to graduate?**  
Nursing, May 2007

**What kind of advice would you give to a new freshman adult student?**

Set realistic goals for yourself so you feel like you are accomplishing something while, at the same time, not overwhelming yourself. If you bite off too much one semester, try to tough it out if you can, and



Joy Lepant

do a little less the next semester, until you find what works for you. This may change as your life changes and as the classes get harder. It is not

a race to see who gets done first.

Go to CASA! It's in the basement of Kettler Hall. Use the tutoring services! They are free! You don't have to be a failing student to use them. Many A students use the CASA resources to stay A students. The Writing Center is also a great resource next to CASA. If you have a paper to write, visit the center. Also, pick your professors' brains. If you have questions and can't get them answered in class, make an appointment with them.

But maybe more important, make sure to have a little time for yourself outside of work, school, and family responsibilities, even if it is just a bath instead of a shower,

*Continued on next page*

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a quick walk around the block, or a phone call or e-mail to a friend. Do whatever helps recharge you.

One of the most important things is to stay positive. Negative people and situations wear me out, so avoid negative situations when possible and choose to be positive. Surround yourself with positive people.

**Share a fond memory you have of IPFW.**

Wow, there really were so many. There is a group of us that toughed it out together for two years in the nursing program, but the pinning ceremony had to be the best. Professors were crying, students were crying—all happy tears of course. The nursing program is tough, and we lean on each other to get through it. Now, here we are at the end, so happy for everyone in our graduating class. You can't help be as proud and happy for everyone in the room as you are for yourself. My friend Charisse got an award that was voted on by the professors. We didn't know who was getting it until they said her name that night. She is so deserving of it! She was a returning adult student with children; she was a key part in my support system. It is hard to express the emotion I felt during the pinning ceremony in Walb Student Union that night. I will always cherish that moment of being with my nursing student friends, my kids, my fiancé, and my mom as they watched me walk across the stage to get my pin. I hope it will be an inspiration to my children.

**Share the funniest thing that happened to you as an adult student?**

This is not something I would necessarily recommend, but we had a student who decided to test the nursing professors and clinical instructors. I guess with every paper this student wrote, the person put some crazy statement in the paper to see if the instructor would catch it. It was never anything bad, but some really off the

wall statement in the middle of the paper, like, "Are you really reading my paper?" or something to that tune. After four semesters of writing several papers this way, only one clinical instructor found the phrase in one of the last clinicals. The instructor didn't take any points off; I think she may have even been a little amused, especially when she learned that she was the only person to ever catch the student doing this.

**What has been your toughest semester as a returning adult.**

The toughest semester was definitely during the last semester of nursing. The clinicals change every few weeks, so just about the time you would get into a routine, boom, you had a new clinical at a new location, new floor, new type of patients, and new instructor. I was also in a pediatrics class; the class is hard for most nursing students because so much is different with kids. There are so many phases of growth, development theories, and immunization charts. You have to care for children of different ages in different ways. The list goes on and on. Plus, with the clinical schedule changing, it was really tough. In nursing, a 74.9 percent is failing; there is no rounding, so there is not much room for error.

Then there was my busy family! My kids, Rebecca and Doug, were my inspiration to go back to school and do better for them. My kids both play soccer, and do gymnastics. My daughter is also in 4-H and Girl Scouts. I am her troop leader. My soon-to-be step-son Cody is in baseball, Tae Kwon Do and 4-H. We attend activities with him also, so I had a lot to balance on top of being full time in school, but somehow I pulled through it thanks to my nursing buddies and family encouraging me on. Thanks everyone!

**What are your hobbies?**

Well, for the last few years it has been reading textbooks. During school, I made

family-oriented activities a priority when not studying. With two kids and being a single mom, the going could be tough, but I had a great support system. I couldn't have done it with out them. My mom and Rich (my fiancé) were a great help with the kids. I get a lot of enjoyment watching my kids enjoy their activities as they grow.

Time for me included a little football on Sundays, catching a few pages of a book or magazine a couple times a week, and working with my daughter's horse for 4-H. I do not have my own horse yet, so we share, Sandy. I did some gardening also. And can you call sleep a hobby? I did that, too, when there was time. You should always find time for sleep.

**Do you work? And if so, where do you work?**

I began at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn in June 2007 after passing my state boards. During school, I worked at CASA in Kettler Hall. I did SI (Supplemental Instruction) where I tutored for a few semesters. The schedule was flexible and the job was rewarding. It was also convenient to work on campus.

**Has all your hard work and dedication been worth it?**

Oh yes! There is no doubt that I will enjoy nursing. I am still learning my way around the hospital, learning where to find things and learning policies and procedures of which there are many for nursing. But I really enjoying working with the patients as much as I did through my clinicals at IPFW. The best part is when patients thank you for your help and when you can see them getting better and they go home. Some need more help than others, but sometimes it's not the medicine they appreciate, but a few minutes of listening to their troubles and just being there for them.

**Faculty Highlight: George McClellan**

**Who are you, and how long have you worked at IPFW?**

I'm the vice chancellor for student affairs. I've been on campus since mid-June, but my official start date was July 1. I'm one of the new kids on campus.

**Where did you attend college?**

I have a bachelor's degree in English and American literature from Northwestern University, a master's degree in higher education with an emphasis in college student personnel from Northwestern, and a doctorate in higher education with a major in college student personnel and a minor in Native American studies from the University of Arizona.

**What trends do you see occurring in the future for student affairs?**

Let me limit myself to addressing two important trends that are already at play, but that are likely to continue into the foreseeable future. The student body we serve will continue to diversify in a variety of ways. That has the potential to continue to enrich our campus community, but it also requires that we continue to be creative and purposeful in finding ways to connect the great resource of those diverse life experiences to our curriculum. We must connect our curriculum in meaningful ways to the experiences of the diversity of students we serve.

Another trend that is likely to continue is the need to continue to find ways to help address issues of access and affordability in higher education. Costs rise more quickly than government support, and



George McClellan

to enrich our campus community, but it also requires that we continue to be creative and purposeful in finding ways to connect the great resource of those diverse life

students find themselves increasingly in the position of needing to work or borrow to fill the gap between available aid and costs. That has potential implications for their academic progress, the career choices they can make when they graduate, and their ability to become financial supporters of their alma maters down the line.

**What are your hobbies?**

I enjoy working with students so much that I don't really have time or interest in hobbies. I do like to read for fun. I enjoy music of all sorts. I'm a big fan of football and professional wrestling, and I'm looking forward to getting to as many Don games (in all the sports) as I can.

**Where did you work at before you came to work at IPFW?**

I served as vice president for student affairs at Dickinson State University for four years before coming to IPFW. Prior to that, I was at the University of Arizona for four years following a nearly 20 year run at Northwestern as a student and member of the staff.

**What kind of advice would you give to a non-traditional student?**

Believe in yourself. Share your wonderful life experience with your faculty and classmates, as that experience has real value. When short-term challenges present themselves (and they will), remember that college is an investment that will pay a long-term dividend for you and your family (and it will).

The only thing I would add is that I have tremendous respect for returning students and/or adult learners. IPFW is grateful that you have chosen our institution as the place where you will pursue your educational goals, and we hope and believe that you will come to see that the choice was a great one.

**Feedback**  
BY JUDY COLWELL

**How do admissions committees view the older, non-traditional student?**

Throughout my years in the Stanford Medical School admissions process, I received many, many phone calls from applicants, and rather often the caller explained in hushed tones, "I'm a non-traditional applicant. Do I have any chance at all of getting into (Stanford) medical school?" Followed by, "What are you looking for in a non-traditional applicant?"

First we must define our terms. What is a non-traditional applicant? Is it someone who is two or three years out of college looking to apply to medical school? No. More and more applicants have opted to acquire some worldly experience and wait a couple of years before applying to med school. In my estimation, this is a good thing. And, statistics show that the average age of the medical school applicant is creeping upward.

So, what is a non-traditional applicant? It is often someone who has taken a different career route out of college, and after some years (three? five? ten?) decides that his or her submerged passion for medicine (which existed in, or prior to, college and was then discarded) can no longer take a back seat to the current reality. Or, it is someone who is in the healthcare field who wants the broader professional responsibility of a physician. It is usually an applicant who is moving close to age 30, and can be as old as the early 50s.

Obviously, admissions committees view these applicants with a slightly different set of criteria than they do with the applicant who is about to graduate from an undergraduate program. Here are questions that admissions officers are interested in knowing the answers to:

1. Why are you considering medicine now? (The unasked question,

