Whatever your life situation, General Studies is here to serve you and wants to help you achieve your dreams, just like the alumni featured in this edition of Generally Speaking

Rebecca Goetz earned an associate degree in interior design from IPFW in 1990 and decided to return to school and work on a bachelor’s degree to expand career opportunities. As a single mom, she enrolled in General Studies because of the program’s flexibility. She particularly enjoyed the online courses that made it possible for her to work two jobs and raise her family while completing her education as quickly as possible. Upon graduating with a B.G.S. in 2012, Rebecca was offered a full-time position with Pizza Hut and was promoted to chief interior designer in 2013.

Sometimes it takes a life-altering event for people to realize that change is needed. For 2007 General Studies graduate Doug Hartle, the turning point was 9/11. “When September 9, 2001 hit, the family business we had . . . was numbered in its days and we knew it. I needed to prepare for whatever was coming next.

While finishing his degree, Doug worked in the General Studies office as an academic peer advisor, which led to his becoming a professional certified life coach with his own practice, called Stages. And just for fun, he co-owns and sings for a professional vocal group called Classic Voice.

Winemaking has become a burgeoning industry across the U.S., and IPFW’s General Studies degree program is playing a behind-the-scenes role for Eric Harris in the operation of at least one Indiana winery.

When enrolled at IPFW, he felt that being a General Studies major was the only way he could acquire the unique skill set he needed for his multi-faceted career. Eric is co-founder, winemaker and manager of the Two-EEs Winery near Huntington. He completed his Bachelor of General Studies degree in 2009. “This long strange trip has given me a solid foundation to build on with real-world experience in organizing and developing a new business,” he reflects.

“General Studies proved to be more broad and I could pick and choose many of the classes based on what I was interested in.”

Doug Hartle, B.G.S. 2007

continued on page 2
You could say that 2006 General Studies graduate Nick Hill is living the American dream. "The General Studies degree sounded great to me. Because I didn’t know what I was going to do as far as a career, I felt that the broad background would be more beneficial to me—that I would be more marketable," Hill reflects.

His future direction came as the result of attending a job fair at IPFW, leading to an offer from Wells Fargo. "Through the General Studies degree program, I was able to package my college credits in a way that made me a viable candidate for my current job," he believes.

Former IPFW men’s basketball coach Dane Fife called him the "ideal student athlete" not only for his prowess on the basketball court—he scored more than 1,000 points while playing for the Dons from 2005 to 2008—but also for his academic success. Chicago native DeWitt Scott achieved not one, but two degrees from IPFW, including a Bachelor of General Studies in 2007 and a Master of Liberal Studies in 2008. DeWitt went on to play for the Fort Wayne Mad Ants from 2008 to 2010. From there, he returned to the Windy City, where he accepted a position in the College of Education at Chicago State University. He currently is serving as Student Teacher Coordinator for the college and pursuing a doctorate degree in education.

He liked the versatility of the B.G.S. and M.L.S. curricula and believes the degrees “put me over the top in the job market” and helped him to be open-minded about career opportunities.

Life was my biggest challenge.” That was the response of Caren Vachon-Jones when asked about the obstacles she faced while pursuing her college degree. But, when I was ready, IPFW and General Studies were there for me.” “The completion of my Bachelor of General Studies degree, coupled with my work experience, helped lead to my becoming a Regional Manager for Wells Fargo, working with a team of 10 to 12 direct reports and responsibility over five states.” Future plans include working toward a master’s degree to help her advance even further in her career.

All apparel should be ordered online this year. No orders can be placed online after April 21. All online orders shipped to campus will be distributed at the Senior Salute event.

Steel Dynamics Keith E. Busse
IPFW Alumni Center
Tuesday April 28, 12–8 p.m.
Wednesday April 29, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Keep connected through social media to many of our friends and mentors and take pride every time I see IPFW on the bottom line.
You and your guests are cordially invited to attend a Graduation Open House on Monday, May 11, 2015, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Steel Dynamics Keith E. Busse IPFW Alumni Center 1528 East California Road Honor Cord Presentation at 7 p.m.

R.S.V.P. by May 1: 260-481-6828

December 2014 Graduates

Associate of Arts in General Studies
Justine Fey Rachael Hagen Bethany Meyers Derrick Milton Teela Sullivan Ty Whitacre

Bachelor of General Studies

Honor Cords: Honor degree candidates who participate in Commencement wear honor cords and receive special recognition during the ceremony. Students eligible to wear a cord will be notified by mail. Honor students may keep the cord as a memento. Honor cords will be distributed to General Studies graduates at the General Studies Open House Monday, May 11, from 6:30–8 p.m. at the Keith E. Busse Steel Dynamics IPFW Alumni Center.

IPFW Commencement Ceremony 2015

Wednesday, May 13, 2015  ▼  4 p.m.
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

Who is eligible to participate?
• Students who completed their degree in December 2014
• Tentative May 2015 candidates
• Tentative summer 2015 candidates

How long does the ceremony last?
• The student and faculty processional will begin at 4 p.m. The ceremony lasts about two hours, and the recessional begins around 6:30 p.m.

What if you need special accommodations?
• If you have disabilities requiring special accommodations, or if your guests include people with disabilities who wish to request special accommodations, please contact the Academic Ceremonies office at least two weeks prior to Commencement so appropriate arrangements can be made. 260-481-6460

What happens after the ceremony?
• Diplomas for May graduates will be distributed immediately following the ceremony.

Visit ipfw.edu/commencement for more details.

Dates to remember:

April 28 and 29: Senior Salute and gown distribution
May 11: General Studies Open House and Honor Cord Presentation
May 13: Commencement
Purdue President Mitch Daniels, on behalf of the Purdue Board of Trustees, has formally requested that the Commission for Higher Education change the designation of IPFW from “Regional Campus” to “Metropolitan University.” You can read the news release at: www.ipfw.edu/news

The President also requested that the Commission modify the metrics applied to IPFW through the state’s performance funding formula to reward our degree production in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

These two changes would open the door to additional funding, fewer restrictions as we collaborate with our region, and more flexibility in developing and offering new degree programs at the graduate level, especially doctoral programs.

(From the Desk of the Chancellor 2-5-15)

Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory

The recently released results of IPFW’s SSI survey included some great news about our academic advisors. IPFW scored higher than the national average in the overall Academic Advising area and on all five of the nationally normed academic advising items in the SSI:

- My academic advisor is approachable
- My academic advisor is concerned with my success as an individual
- My academic advisor helps me set goals to work toward
- My academic advisor is knowledgeable about requirements in my major
- Major requirements are clear and reasonable.

(From the Desk of the Chancellor 2-5-15)

New Initiative to Help First Generation Students

The Center for Women and Returning Adults announces Being First, a new, grant-funded initiative to help IPFW’s first generation students of all ages and genders. This program features a series of programs, a study group for math and science classes, and a peer mentor program.

For more information, check out the resources at: www.ipfw.edu/cwra and click on “Programs”