BRIEF Faculty News

Kim McDonald is currently serving as interim associate dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science.

Linda Hite is currently serving as interim chair of OLS, as well as director of the graduate program.

Dina Mansour-Cole is preparing for the Girls Leading Others (GLO) program for middle and high school girls this summer.

Bob Abel is working with IPFW Continuing Studies on a leadership workshop that will be available to the northeast Indiana community.

Max Montesino will return from his extended sabbatical in the Dominican Republic this fall.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Yes, I want to make a difference in the quality of education at IPFW!

OLS Swinehart Scholarship Fund —

Please make your check payable to the IPFW Foundation. Note “OLS Swinehart Scholarship” on the memo line.

My gift of $_________ is enclosed.

Matching Gift Information

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2101 East Coliseum Boulevard

Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1489

Chair’s Corner

It is my pleasure, as interim chair of OLS for this semester, to introduce this year’s newsletter. In this issue, you will find highlights of OLS students, including an inside look at Ambassadors, an elite group of students chosen to represent IPFW, and a focus on co-operative education with the personal perspective of a senior fulfilling her co-op experience in human resources. The faculty section represents OLS in action, connecting with the community through training and development, as well as career transitions, featuring an introduction of the newest member of the OLS faculty and the coming retirement of our longest-term faculty member.

We appreciate your continued support and interest in the OLS program. If you have not been in touch for a while, we invite you to re-connect: check our Web site, send us your business card, or volunteer to be a guest speaker or advisory committee member. We look forward to hearing from you.

Linda Hite, Interim Chair

IPFW Ambassadors—Service, Engagement, Involvement

Krissy Mieszcanski

M.Ed., Associate Director, Student Life

The IPFW Ambassador program was created in 2004 to develop student leadership, spirit, and campus pride. Since the inaugural year, the program has evolved as one of the elite student leadership positions on campus and Ambassadors continue to promote university excellence and pride in their service and dedication to IPFW’s mission and values. Ambassadors strive to educate their peers that involvement with the university should be a lifelong commitment based on a holistic collegiate experience. Above all, the Ambassadors serve the IPFW and Fort Wayne communities with pride and dedication, communicating IPFW’s commitment to excellence with a variety of constituencies on campus and in the Fort Wayne and Indiana state communities.

The Ambassador’s mission is to promote IPFW to the Fort Wayne community through service, engagement and involvement, and they stand on the principles of responsibility, integrity, leadership, excellence, and service. Student Ambassadors are chosen from around 3,000 students who meet GPA and class credit requirements and then apply to the program. Around 20 Ambassadors are selected every year to represent IPFW by serving at high-profile events and participating in service projects aimed at improving the community.

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Michelle Brodzinski
My name is Michelle Brodzinski. I am a current senior at IPFW. I am majoring in human resources, with a concentration in human resource management. I have been part of the Ambassadon program for two years now. Ambassadons has helped me further my educational career by teaching me ways to strengthen my leadership skills.

I would greatly recommend any OLS major to look into joining the Ambassadon program. I feel any major would be qualified to join this group, but since Ambassadons focuses on leadership and how to make a better you, it would definitely give you hands on experience of what you are learning in the classroom.

Ambassadons is not all about going to meetings; Ambassadons connects you with the IPFW community. It is also a way to give back to the school that has taught you many things to better your future after college.

Cooperative Education Program a “Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience”

Chelsey Sholl
Student
I am currently a senior at IPFW with a major in OLS, concentrating in human resources. I have been in a parallel co-op position with Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC in Huntington, Ind. for the past year and a half. I found out about the co-op program during a meeting with my advisor, Dave Cleveringa, while discussing the opportunities for experience. Registration with the co-op department was a quick and easy process. Once Bendix called for an interview and I accepted the position, I was on my way to having the on-the-job experience in the human resources field I was looking for.

Every day that I am at work, I am able to apply the lessons I’ve learned in the classroom. The paper I write at the end of each co-op session, along with the review I receive, provide opportunities to improve my performance on the job. I am truly fortunate to be given this once-in-a-lifetime experience before graduation.

Debra Barrick
Director of OACS
IPFW cooperative education students enjoy benefits and rewards far exceeding those of many other college students, including real-world experience, higher post-graduation placement rates, and FAFSA-exempt wages. With all those perks, it would stand to reason that many students would be interested in becoming a co-op. So, how does an OLS major take advantage of those opportunities?

Potential co-ops must be working towards a bachelor’s degree, have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher, and have completed all of the freshmen requirements, as well as OLS 252, 268, 274 and 280.

Interested students should contact the co-op office to schedule an application/orientation appointment. During the orientation, program policies and procedures will be discussed, as well as the student’s educational and career goals and their interests in relation to co-op opportunities.

Some students ask the question, “Why should I become a co-op?” They should be asking, “Why shouldn’t I become a co-op?” The registration process is quick and easy, the requirements are readily attainable, and the benefits are excellent.

For more information, contact the IPFW Cooperative Education office in Neff 337 at 260-481-6093 or smallbus@ipfw.edu.

Welcome Gordon B. Schmidt

Gordon Schmidt joined the OLS division as a visiting instructor for the 2010-2011 academic year. He will continue on as a tenure track faculty member in OLS. He received a Bachelor of Science in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University in 2004. He received a Master of Arts in industrial/organizational psychology from Michigan State University in 2008. He is currently in the process of completing a Ph.D. dissertation in organizational psychology from Michigan State University.

Gordon Schmidt’s primary research interests relate to the impact of social media on organizational life, how people are motivated through the creation and revision of personal goals over time, and the effects of office gossip on organizations. He has been published in Industrial and Organizational Psychology: Perspectives on Science and Practice and Applied Psychology: An International Review. He has also presented his work at a number of academic conferences, including the Society of Industrial/Organizational Psychology (SIOP), the Academy of Management (AOM), and the American Psychological Association (APA).

In OLS, he has taught OLS 25200 Human Behavior in Organizations, OLS 37600 Human Resource Issues, and OLS 47500 Human Resource Development.

Professor Mitchell Sherr Announces Retirement from IPFW

Professor Mitchell Sherr is retiring from IPFW after teaching in OLS for 30 years. He said his greatest satisfaction has been working with the many students during years. He taught Elements of Law, Personnel Law, Collective Bargaining, Legal Issues Seminar, Discrimination Law, Labor Management Law, and Elements of Law. He developed the Hospitality Law and Copyright and Patent Law courses for departments outside of OLS.

After many years of planning, he developed the free legal service program through the IPFW Student Government. Today, students can speak with an attorney without charge regarding a variety of personal legal issues. Professor Sherr was an advisor to the Barnes Association and student Society for Human Relations (SHRM). He procured two teams of students over a five-year period to compete with various Midwest universities, answering questions relating to human relations topics. These teams were very successful in the competitions.

Professor Sherr published numerous articles in professional journals and local news media regarding discrimination and labor laws. He made presentations at numerous international and national conferences, especially in the area of diversity.

Professor Sherr plans to stay active with teaching and community volunteering activities. After more than 30 years in Fort Wayne, he is relocating to South Carolina, where the sun shines for 12 months and the sand is much easier to push than snow. He said that he will miss IPFW and the two generations of students and families that he taught. Oh, the “probable cause green coat” is staying in Fort Wayne.