Student and her mentor extol the benefits of mentoring

Tina Funkhouser had attended an e-Mentoring event as a General Studies senior. The experience was so positive she returned the following year as an alumna looking for someone to mentor.

That's when she met Rebecca Tietz who had recently enrolled at IPFW as a General Studies major to complete her junior and senior years. “Instead of getting by with just the minimum requirements, keeping my head down, and never asking for help, I decided to utilize the resources available to me as an IPFW student,” Tietz says.

“There is nothing wrong with asking for input, help, tutoring, or advice, and I am incredibly thankful for the General Studies Program for serving as the catalyst for personal and professional change,” she adds.

She describes her relationship with her e-mentor, Tina Funkhouser, as “an incredibly positive experience.”

“She (Tina) embodies what I envision a mentor to be, not only because she bent over backwards for me with regard to my job search, but also for her persistence in calling me regularly to check in with me. I feel that our relationship is one of mutual respect and I believe that is one of the key ingredients of our relationship."

Since their initial meeting in 2009, Tina and Rebecca have stayed in contact via e-mail, phone, and meeting for coffee. “We made an instant connection because we share a lot of the same interests and enjoy volunteering,” Funkhouser says. An ‘08 graduate, she is a resource facilitator for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana in Fort Wayne and northern Indiana helping persons with brain injuries secure rehabilitative services and any assistive devices they may require.

“Rebecca has a great skill set,” Funkhouser notes. “I was recently called as a reference for Rebecca and was able to give her a glowing recommendation. The education she received at IPFW, her diverse skills, and her genuine exuberance make her the ideal employee.”

Tietz admits her initial expectations of the e-Mentoring Program were low. She is grateful to have been proven wrong.

“Having a mentor has proven to be incredibly beneficial, and I am often reminded of her kind

Exemplary IPFW student wins state-wide recognition

Going back to college was a leap of faith for Corinne Johnson. In 2009, she and husband Don, who had just left a 17-year career, packed their belongings and their six children into the family car, drove away from an unsold home in Michigan, and headed to Fort Wayne.

While Don would attend Concordia Theological Seminary, Corinne could complete her college degree, they reasoned. With no income between them, she would probably qualify for a Pell grant that would cover most of her tuition. They would make do living on the balance of their student loans.

“Now that it is almost over, I’m tempted to say it wasn’t that hard. But, it would be more accurate to say that it was worth the work,” Corinne says.

“The first day I drove into the parking lot at IPFW and caved under pressure. I was sure I couldn’t do it and almost drove back home. But, then, I did what I had to do. I got out of the car, applied for financial aid, and registered for classes.”

Corinne had gone to community college right after high school, but got married, had children, and became busy with life. Finishing a degree had always been a pipe dream, although she had already established a career as a professional writer.

She had read the Bulletin from cover to cover looking for courses she realistically could complete. After considering her priorities—home-schooling Christian mom, helpmate to her husband, and professional writer (in that order)—she chose to major in General Studies and focus on journalism and professional writing.

“I’ve always been a planner, so even in community college, I took core classes, knowing that someday I would transfer them. Still, after fifteen years, I was thrilled to find out IPFW would take all my credits. I was even able to earn credit for a course by turning in a portfolio of work I’d already done,” Corinne said.

This gave her a huge head start and made her believe she would actually be able to finish.

The most challenging thing about taking classes was the time commitment — fitting classes into her daily schedule. Corinne took advantage of Saturday morning and evening classes. To free up her daytime schedule, she took classes online, allowing her to study when and where she wanted.

When Corinne felt she needed study support for Biology 101, she started a study group and became so proficient in the course material that she was asked to be a supplemental instructor the following semester—a great boost to her confidence.

Fulfilling the internship requirement was a new challenge. Corinne was able to adapt the

Be a stand-out in the job hunt

IPFW seniors, graduate students, and alumni are invited to participate in a series of professional development webinars offered by the Office of Career Services on the third Thursday of every month. During the webinar you’ll be able to hear the presenter, see a slideshow, type in questions to the presenter for a live response, and take online polls to see how your opinions compare to the other virtual attendees.

Check out upcoming Mastodon Career Call webinars at ipfw.edu/offices/career/news and use the Web site to register.

- Staying Competitive in Your Job Search
  March 15, 2012—noon to 1 p.m.
  Learn what makes one candidate stand out over others, and how you can deliver an effective message about your qualifications from the beginning to maximize your potential for an offer.

- What Recruiters Look for on Résumés
  April 19, 2012—noon to 1 p.m.

- Transition Out of College — What’s Next?
  May 17, 2012—noon to 1 p.m.
Phase-out of Associate of Arts in General Studies (A.A.G.S.)
IPFW has confirmed the closing of several associates degrees offered on the Fort Wayne Campus. The following two changes are still in effect for IPFW students:

• Fall 2012 will be the last semester for admitting the following student groups:
  > Students at IPFW in another major
  > Students currently in the B.G.S. program who want to earn the A.A.G.S.

There may be financial aid implications for this change. Please check on your own funding.

• Current A.A.G.S. students, those students who are returning to General Studies after stopping out, and those in category 2 have at least until December 2016 to complete their A.A.G.S.

IU undergraduate independent study courses
Registrations in, and extensions for, undergraduate independent study courses offered through the IU School of Continuing Studies will end on June 30, 2012. Students who register for courses by May 31, 2012, will have one full year from their registration date to complete all of their coursework (including exams and extensions). Students who register for courses between June 1 and June 30, 2012, will have until June 1, 2013, to complete all course work.

Graduation audit for summer '12 and fall '12
General Studies students are required to meet with an advisor and complete a degree audit now. If you are one of our “at a distance” students, we will work with you to make other arrangements.

Students on academic probation should attend ASAP! workshops
General Studies students who received notice of probationary status are urged to take part in ASAP! support workshops and faculty intervention during critical weeks of the semester. You will be contacted by a General Studies advisor by phone or e-mail when the faculty notice is received. We encourage you to meet with an advisor before scheduling summer or fall classes.

Learn how waitlisting can help you secure the classes you want
IPFW will be piloting the electronic wait list feature of the student information system for summer and fall 2012 registration in select courses. The electronic wait list is designed to help students secure a seat in a preferred course section.

Students using wait list should check their IPFW e-mail daily to watch for notifications from the Registrar’s office when a seat is available to avoid missing the 24-hour deadline to register. Students with probationary holds on their accounts should make arrangements with their advisor to allow access to the wait list.

Learn more at www.banner.ipfw.edu/WGTraining/WaitlistInformation.PDF

IPFW General Studies online program makes national rankings
In the newest 2012 national rankings of online, undergraduate programs from U.S. News and World Report, IPFW ranks tenth in faculty credentials and training, nineteenth in teaching practices and assessment, and ninety-seventh in student services and technology.

“The IPFW rankings highlight our continued commitment to providing the best learning opportunity to all students, regardless of how they attend,” said William J. McKinney, vice chancellor for academic affairs.

According to McKinney, the data also shows where the institution needs to focus.

“It is important that as IPFW expands its online offerings, it also ensures that online students have access to the support services they need to be successful.”

Exemplary (continued from page 1)
assignment to fit her priorities by working with her husband’s field work church to develop a Vacation Bible School curriculum.

“It was a rewarding project combining several of my passions and one I would love to do again,” she says.

When people ask how she has kept her grades up (Corinne has a 3.93 GPA), she replies, “Stubbornness... I have high expectations of my children and don’t allow them to do less than their best, so how could I?”

She realized her professors usually laid out their grading criteria at the beginning of class. She would read over the syllabus, highlight what she had to do to get an A, and plan her time to accomplish it.

“I would be lying if I said this journey has been easy. As I prepare for graduation this spring I think, oh, it wasn’t that hard, but then I remember how I felt that first day sitting in the car, certain that I was facing an impossible giant. I did it!”

Corinne Johnson’s remarkable story led to her recent nomination for the Indiana Council for Continuing Education (ICCE) Student of the Year Award. In her nomination of Corinne, Suzanne Rumsey, Ph.D., assistant professor and internship coordinator for the Department of English and Linguistics, wrote, “Corinne has been an exemplary student who pays careful attention to course requirements. Moreover, she is a creative and engaged student who finds ways of making each course suit her own intellectual needs and goals. She has shown dedication, patience, and perseverance to earn her degree while maintaining her family, their education, and support for her spouse. I am sincerely honored to have had her as a student.”

Corinne Johnson was recognized as the ICCE Student of the Year in Indianapolis earlier this month.

Student (continued from page 1)
words and actions throughout our relationship... She has taught me to always believe the best in every situation and to also expect and anticipate the best in others. To sum it all up: Tina Funkhouser is amazing... I would love one day to be a “Tina” to someone else.

The assessment of mentoring is mutual.

“Mentoring Rebecca far exceeded my expectations. I was impressed with her eagerness for information and her follow-through with advice,” Funkhouser says.

“It is important that graduates pass on what they have learned through their college experience to the next class. Sometimes the smallest effort can make a huge impact on someone. It certainly did for me.

“What I gained from being an e-mentor is the joy of giving back a piece of the knowledge that I gained from my e-mentors,” she says.

“The lessons I have learned from Tina are many, but I think one of the most impactful lessons has been to share with others,” Tietz says.

“Everyone has a story and an ability to make an impact.”
Academic Honors Cords
Honors students will wear honors cords at the May 9 ceremony. A tentative list of General Studies honors candidates, based on the fall 2011 cumulative grade-point average, has been submitted. Those who are listed and who purchase a cap and gown will receive a letter of confirmation from Marianne Messmann, coordinator of academic ceremonies.

General Studies honors cords will be presented at 6 p.m. during the pre-Commencement party. Although honors status will be listed on diplomas and transcripts, students must attend the Commencement Ceremony on May 9 to receive their honors cords. Questions or concerns about academic recognition can be directed to your General Studies advisor or Marianne Messmann at 260-481-6460.

Information regarding Commencement 2012 can be found at ipfw.edu/commencement. Questions regarding Commencement 2012 may be sent to commence@ipfw.edu.

Congratulations graduates!

In recognition of the completion of your General Studies degree, you are invited to attend a very special pre-Commencement celebration at 5:30 p.m., May 9, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. December, May, June, and August graduates will receive personal invitations by mail in April. Your family and friends are welcome to join in the festivities.

The pre-Commencement party is sponsored each year by Indiana University School of Continuing Studies alumni. Their generosity is appreciated.

We cordially invite alumni to join us to honor these graduates.

Graduating in 2012?
What you need to know about Commencement 2012

Who Can Participate
To be eligible to participate in the May 9, 2012, Commencement Ceremony at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, you must have completed graduation requirements by December 2011, May 2012, or within the summer sessions of 2012.

To be considered for graduation, you must submit an application for graduation. If you do not apply for graduation by the deadline posted in the Registrar’s Web site (ipfw.edu/registrar/graduation and click on application for graduation) you may not be considered for honors, your name may not appear in the program, and your spring degree may not be available at Commencement. Contact the General Studies office if you have questions about your graduation status.

Attendance at the ceremony is not required, but it is encouraged.

The two-hour ceremony will be followed by a postgraduation celebration at the Coliseum. No tickets are necessary for you or your guests to participate. If any of your guests has a disability, special accommodations can be arranged by contacting Academic Ceremonies at 260-481-6460 at least two weeks before Commencement.

Caps and Gowns
Caps and gowns are to be worn by all candidates attending the Commencement Ceremony. You may purchase this apparel from Follett’s IPFW Bookstore during regular hours. The $31 fee is payable at time of purchase for the associate or bachelor’s cap and gown. No tickets are necessary for you or your guests to participate. If any of your guests has a disability, special accommodations can be arranged by contacting Academic Ceremonies at 260-481-6460 at least two weeks before Commencement.

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Alumnus earns Bronze Star

U.S. Army First Lt. Christopher Baber was awarded the Bronze Star for his “exceptionally meritorious service” as a scout platoon leader in Iraq from May 8 to Dec. 15, 2011. The narrative accompanying Baber’s award states, “First Lt. Baber demonstrates the professional skill, knowledge, and leadership to be admired by any leader throughout his deployment in support of Operation New Dawn.

“First Lt. Baber was responsible for over 35 soldiers with different backgrounds, skills, training, and combat experience. He took the responsibility on himself to properly train these soldiers to become a cohesive fighting platoon.” Baber graduated with the B.G.S. in 2009 when he was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant at the first commissioning ceremony after the start of the ROTC Program at IPFW in 2007.

First Lt. Baber

Avi Goltz and Sabrina Gilig, B.G.S. ’11
Alumni in the news

Sherry Myers, B.G.S. ’02, is a 2012 Athena Award nominee, a paralegal at Pantello, Morris, James and Logan, and outreach coordinator of Clothes Closet, a mission to provide professional clothing for women in transition.

Andre Patterson, B.G.S. ’02, executive director of Just For Youth, was keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King Celebration 2012.

Melissa Twitchell, B.G.S. ’02, HR, Fort Wayne Metals, has been named to the board of directors of Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Northeast Indiana.

Shellie L. Goetz, B.G.S. ’04, J.D. has been named a Rising Star by Indiana Super Lawyers.

Mary Hagan, A.A.G.S. ’04, B.A. Soc. ’06, received the National Apartment Leasing Professional Designation.

U.S. Army First Lt. Christopher Baber, B.G.S. ’09, was awarded the Bronze Star medal.

Albert T. Brownlee, B.G.S. ’06, MBA ’11, has been appointed executive director and CEO of Genesis Outreach, Inc.

Christopher J. Heath, B.G.S. ’09, Lt. U.S. Army, Strategic Intelligence, is currently serving in Afghanistan.

Rita Bailey, B.G.S. ’10, has accepted a new position as executive administrative assistant at Steel Dynamics.

Richard Bicknase, B.G.S. ’10, volunteers to teach music weekly at Imagine Master Academy.

Tobias Magatti, B.G.S. ’10, has been admitted to a graduate program at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

In Memoriam

Lyna Weaver, B.G.S. ’06, lost her battle with cancer in September, 2011. Lyna was a former Personal and Professional Development staff member in the Division of Continuing Studies. She had completed the Bachelor’s of General Studies and was working on a master’s in Organizational Leadership and Supervision. Lyna had been an enthusiastic member of the IPFW Alumni Board where she served for eight years as the General Studies representative. A talented story-teller with a gift of imagination and a theatrical flair, Lyna entertained campus Summerfest audiences with her interpretations of the Camp Nurse and Cafeteria Lady, and Joy P. Love at Christmas events. General Studies staff and alumni alike acknowledge the loss of a special friend.

Alumni Events

March 1–28 .... Easter Basket Collection
March 13 ....... Omnibus Lecture Series: Diane Ravitch
March 24 ....... The Big Event (Community Clean-up)
March 31 ....... Cirque Kidz & Ice Cream Bar After Party
April 27 ............ Tapestry: A Day for You
June 14 ............ IPFW Alumni Night at TinCaps
June 25 ........... IPFW Riverfest
For more information, call 260-481-6807 or e-mail alumni@ipfw.edu

IPFW/YLNI Partnership

IPFW Division of Continuing Studies and YLNI have joined forces to promote leadership development to young professionals throughout Northeast Indiana. University programs in leadership development include the Accelerated MBA, professional development certificates, and a flexible Bachelor’s Degree in General Studies. These options are flexible, affordable, and of high quality. They will help young professionals position themselves for new opportunities through focused course work and a vast network of resources. Visit ipfw.edu/leadership for more information.

Generally Speaking...

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Because you never stop learning!