



Spring 2013

Student’s story of courage and determination wins Indiana Student-of-the-Year recognition

Two years after her arrival in the U.S. from Sri Lanka, after meeting obstacles that would have signaled retreat for the more faint-of-heart, Arosha M. Perera has nearly completed her college degree. She also was recently recognized by the Indiana Council for Continuing Education as one of the top adult learners in the State of Indiana, selected on the basis of her academic achievement and personal strengths.

This is Arosha’s story:

When Arosha M. Perera, 41, boarded a plane in January 2011 in her native Sri Lanka and headed for America, it was to fulfill a long-term goal—to enter a good university, continue her studies, and later, reunite with her husband and two children whom she was leaving behind.

The 9,000-mile journey was emotion-packed and difficult, complicated by her limited use of the English language and the unbearably cold winter weather she experienced in Fort Wayne when she arrived. Her country was much more temperate.

But Arosha was determined to make the most of her opportunity. The process of obtaining a student Visa had taken months. After two failed attempts, she was granted a student Visa only after committing to return to Sri Lanka to teach after graduation. (The admission process at IPFW had been much easier.) Arosha’s sister, who lived in Fort Wayne, had recommended IPFW by reputation. The sisters would share her home.

After her father died in 1995, Arosha set her sights on becoming a teacher. In 1998, she was selected by competitive exam to attend a two-year program at Government Teacher Training College. She taught elementary and high

“IPFW is incredibly proud of Ms. Perera for having been recognized with this honor, and we are pleased to note she joins a list of IPFW students who have been recognized in this way. Ms. Perera’s selection as ICCE Student of the Year is testament to her efforts and achievements and to the supportive efforts of our staff in General Studies. It is also meaningful in that the recognition has been bestowed on a member of our international student community as that group plays such a vital role in the strength of our campus community.”

*Vice Chancellor
for Student Affairs
George McClellan*

school classes to Sri Lankan children for about 10 years before coming to the U.S.

At IPFW, Arosha initially enrolled as an elementary education major and tested out of some lower-level English courses. (Like many from her country, she had studied English since she was very young, although her pronunciation needed improvement.) Later that year, she learned she could transfer 90 credits from the Government Teacher Training College to the Bachelor of General Studies at IPFW and changed her major.

With the guidance of her General Studies advisors who directed her to the courses and teachers best suited to her needs, Arosha earned a GPA of 3.675 in her first semester

and a place on the Dean’s List in 2011 and again in fall 2012. She also was initiated into the Omicron-Psi Honor Society.

In the summer of 2011, Arosha was reunited in Fort Wayne with her husband and daughters, now ages 8 and 11. While having her children with her has reinforced her determination to finish her degree, helping them adapt to a new language and culture has added a layer of responsibility to her heavy schedule as a full-time student. Arosha helps her daughters with their schoolwork before beginning her own, often working until midnight and never missing an assignment, she adds. She believes her diligence sets a good example for her children.

Because Arosha’s husband is not eligible for a work Visa, the family has had to live off their savings. To cover expenses, the couple has turned to innovative ways to add income, including catering Sri Lankan meals and collecting aluminum cans. She also is a student-worker at the Center for Women and Returning Adults helping during special events.

Student’s story (Continued on page 2)



Arosha (L) and General Studies Advisor Sandy McMurtrie at the ICCE Awards Ceremony

International Student Services

▼ Office of International Education

Walb Student Union Room 145
ipfw.edu/liss

The Office of International Education is the home away from home for international students and scholars at IPFW. Their team is dedicated to support all international students and scholars at IPFW with a wide range of knowledge and experience in many areas to ease the transition to a new university and a new home in a new country.

- Learn what you need to do before enrolling at IPFW
 - View documents in multiple languages
 - Get answers to your questions about immigration, health insurance, academic issues, and life in the U.S.
- The office also handles study abroad with IPFW partners in Asia and Europe.

▼ Center for Academic Support and Advancement (CASA)

Kettler Hall G23
ipfw.edu/casa

All students whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in English before admission to IPFW. Testing, support services, and assignment to appropriate advising is assigned to the staff of the Center for Academic Support and Advancement (CASA) located in KT G23.

▼ Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs

Walb Student Union Room 118
ipfw.edu/odma

Office of Diversity & Multicultural Affairs provides support to many diversity-based, student-led organizations and encourages students to become more involved in organizations such as ISO—International Student Organizations.

Academic regulations change for auditing courses

A change from audit to credit or credit to audit may occur only during the first six weeks of class as of spring 2013. Changes of auditing status require the signature or written acknowledgment from the course instructor and the academic advisor next to the appropriate notation on the schedule-revision form.

Students receiving VA benefits should consult with appropriate VA counselors to determine the consequences of dropping or auditing classes. The Financial Aid office does not give information about VA benefits. Stop by IPFW Military Student Services in KT 104 or call the office at 260-481-0205.

Midterm grades can initiate academic holds

Please be advised that a hold will be placed on your account if you receive unsatisfactory midterm grades (below C-). You will be required to consult with your academic advisor before registering for classes. The advisor may be able to recommend resources or assist you in developing strategies to improve your academic performance. To view midterm grades: Log on to your MyIPFW account; click on the Academics tab; grades submitted by your instructor will appear in the Student Grades channel on the left side of the Web page.

This program was piloted by 40 faculty members in the Math, English, and Communications departments during the fall 2012 semester. The Office of Academic Affairs is not offering mid-term grade submissions to all faculty.

Alumni Senior Salute and Gown Distribution

Steel Dynamics Keith E. Busse
IPFW Alumni Center

April 23, 2–8 p.m.
April 24, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Class bricks and class rings will be available for purchase at this event.



Brother 2 Brother Mentoring Program aims to increase retention and graduation rates

Brother 2 Brother is a peer-to-peer, minority enrichment mentoring program for male students designed to increase the retention and graduation rates. Its mission is to affect all aspects of these students' post-secondary education experience through guidance, direction, and support.

Andre Patterson, XTE/STEM coordinator who oversees the program, states that through Brother 2 Brother, participants should benefit in the following ways:

- Feel an increased sense of belonging and connection to the IPFW campus
- Become more engaged and involved in campus activities and programs
- Develop a social support system of peers, mentors, staff, and faculty members
- Increase semester and overall cumulative GPA

The expectation is that increased success both in and out of the classroom will lead to increased retention and graduation rates.

For more information on Brother 2 Brother, contact Patterson at 260-481-0134 or pattat01@ipfw.edu.

General Studies Success course is launched for probationary students

Twenty-two students are participating in a pilot program initiated this spring by the General Studies office to bring probationary students back on track to graduate.

Delivered online, the General Studies Success course is patterned after a course developed by the IPFW School of Business. Each week for six consecutive weeks, students are asked to watch short video clips, visit information links, or view PowerPoint presentations on topics related to academic success. The course is intended to help at-risk students find focus, renew motivation, and improve time management and study skills.

After reviewing materials each week, students are asked to write a short reflection, and complete a brief quiz. After six weeks, they meet with an academic advisor to discuss a plan for success, at which point the probation holds restricting registration will be removed and they register for fall courses.

If you want to learn more about this online course, contact Crystal Milton at miltonc@ipfw.edu or 260-481-6828.

Student's story (Continued from page 1)

Despite the many demands on her time, Arosha volunteers her services at the Turnstone Center for Children during the summer and at the Indiana Buddhist Temple's Center for Meditation in Hoagland where the local Sri Lankan community gathers. She also is a registered volunteer at her daughters' school, Whispering Meadows Elementary, and serves as a co-catechist at St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Church where the girls attend religious education classes. During the fall 2012 semester, at the request of the IPFW Learning Center, she began tutoring students.

Tenacity, courage, perseverance, and self-determination are some of the personal traits that have contributed to Arosha's successes. She sees herself as an effective time manager who never wastes a minute that could be used for study. She plans her studies at the beginning of each semester, keeps a mental timetable, and tries her best to complete her target for each day. She never hesitates to talk with an instructor to clarify questions about course material and has always found her teachers to be helpful and encouraging.

"I believe Arosha is an exceptional student with great integrity... she brings an enormous wealth of experiences and personal qualities that make her worthy of this honor," Dr. Michelle Drouin, one of Arosha's professors, wrote in support of her nomination for Student of the Year.

Arosha will graduate with the Bachelor of General Studies in May with a minor in Psychology.

General Studies Open House

*You and your guests are cordially
invited to attend a*

Graduation Open House

*on Monday, May 13, 2013
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 2012 Graduates

**Distinction **Highest Distinction*

Associate of Arts in General Studies

Allissa Carol Barnhorst	Magdelene Marie Knezevich
Kelly Lynn Brooks	Emilie M. McBride
Johnathan R. Burris	Ashley Kate Morrow
Melissa Ann Cartwright	Trista Lyn Moyer
Ellen M. Chamar	Andrew J. Nichols
Karen A. Chaney	Kayla Marie Norman
Michelle Ann Davis	Elizabeth Ann O'Malley
Brittany Nicole Edwards	Taquisha Monique Simpson
Matthew James Freds	Brian Anthony Turk
Jamarqus Alan Green	Allen Richard Wine*
Holly Annette Hartzell**	
Katrina Danielle Heckman	

Bachelor of General Studies

Nicole C. Ball	Daniel Bradford Mader
Daniel J. Berta	James Joseph Maley
Brett Tyler Bishop	Beth Ann Martinsky
Stephanie Sue Bixler	Lawrence Dean McGuire
Thomas M. Buchtman	Sarah J. McIntyre*
Miranda Anne Carella King	Michelle Renee Meyer
Abigail Marie Carteaux	Nicholas Ryan Miller
R. Eric Castetter	Thomas Dale Treace Moody*
Demetrius Lynn Chapman	James Lee Moody Jr
Ashley Nicole Chin	Andrea Marie Morrow
Mark R. Church	Raelynn Rachele Mott
Louise Lee Crago	Dillon Russell Nellans
Joy S. Cryer	Ngochanh Nguyen
Donelle Renee Dancer	Naoko Numazawa
Benjamin Allen Deetz	Abigail Nondas Panyard
Amanda L. Dekker	Liridon Qafleshi
Brandon Lee Demaree	Mary Elizabeth Rian
Stephanie Renee Dielmann	Gretchen Louise Roehm
Matthew Larry Dillon	Megan Ann Sauer
Jane F. Feller*	John Edward Seely
Amy Lynn Fryback	Nina M. Shaw
Patricia Darlene Gautsche	Monica A. Shively
Chelcey Lyn Glassley	Susan Margaret Small
Vanessa Ann Gregory*	Jacob Ryan Smith
Emily Jimenez Guerrero	Adrienne Courtney Sorrell
Michael Christopher Hagenbush	Stephanie Nicole Spade*
Donna Jean Hamilton	Carli Marie Sprunger
Daniel Andrew Harting	Darcy Mariah Sroufe
Ryan James Hilton	Jamie Lynn Steeg
Stacy Lu Horn	Cameron Douglas Stuart
Eric Edward Houser	Larz Wayne Swager
Christiane Shalon Jackson-Rogers	Kayla Ashley Sweet
Jenna Lee Kaiser	Timothy J. Swygart
Barbara Ann Kraegel	Victoria Chantel Thrasher
Jessalyn Kay Krause*	Kayla Nicole Thrush
Candace Denise Lee	Sarah Elizabeth Tighe**
Maddie P. Leffers	Katherine Ann Vanover
Ashley Anne Lenhart	Christopher James Vogel
Kaylie Kristine Lewallen	Jessica Ann Waggoner
Marita Ann Lindsay	Kristin Lynne Walker
Molly Kaye Jasso	William Nathaniel Ward
Brian Patrick Jones	Lisa Kay Whitfield
Jason Scott Lorent	Brittany Rae Wilke
	Brandon Emerson Zolman

IPFW Commencement Ceremony 2013

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 ▼ 4 p.m.
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

Who is eligible to participate?

- Students who completed their degree in December 2012
- Tentative May 2013 candidates
- Tentative summer 2013 candidates

Where do you get tickets?

- No tickets are required for guests and there is no limit to the number of guests you may invite.
- Students must purchase their cap and gown so Academic Ceremonies staff know they plan to participate in the ceremony.

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.

Is there a rehearsal for students?

- There is no student rehearsal. Detailed instructions concerning the ceremony will be sent to students after they purchase their cap and gown.

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.

What happens after the ceremony?

- Diplomas for May graduates will be distributed immediately following the ceremony.

Visit ipfw.edu/offices/commencement/information/ for more details.

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 13, from 6:30–8 p.m. at the Keith E. Busse Steel Dynamics IPFW Alumni Center.

Caps and Gowns: Caps and gowns are to be worn by all candidates attending the Commencement Ceremony. They can be purchased at Follett's IPFW Bookstore or online through Herff Jones. Recycled gowns may be worn if they match this year's style and color.

Dates to remember:

March 23–April 19 Order cap and gown from Follett's IPFW Bookstore if you are not ordering online directly from Herff Jones

April 23 and 24 Senior Salute and gown distribution

May 13 General Studies Open House and Honor Cord Presentation

May 15 Commencement

GENERAL STUDIES DEGREE PROGRAM
INDIANA UNIVERSITY–PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE
DIVISION OF CONTINUING STUDIES



Students in the news

Regina K. Gordon, tentative B.G.S., August '13, has been selected to receive an award from the Purdue Black Caucus of Faculty and Staff recognizing outstanding African American students with strong academic performance and noteworthy service and leadership. Gordon is not only a student at IPFW, she is a member of the TRiO Support Services staff.

Frank Gaines, tentative B.G.S., May '13, set an IPFW scoring record that had stood for 20 years at the February 23 win against Bowling Green. Gaines scored his 1,766th point to become the leading scorer in IPFW men's basketball history.

Alumni Events

- March 23** ..Community clean-up: The BIG Event
March 27 ..Dining Etiquette Dinner (STAT Event)
April 1 Water Cooler & Professionalism (STAT Event)
April 16 Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana (YLNi) Networking
April 23 Backpack to Briefcase (STAT Event)
April 23 and 24 ... Senior Salute
April 26 Tapestry: A Day for You

For more information on any of these events, visit ipfw.edu/offices/alumni/news.

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IPFW Is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University.

Alumni in the news

Lola Weaver, M.S.Ed. '07, B.G.S. '01, teaches logistics certification for the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council at the Anthis Center.

Allen Haynes, B.G.S. '99, partnered with Auburn Arts Commission to host, “Art in Agriculture – Conservation as Art” at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Matthew Joram, B.G.S. '99, MANPOWER staffing specialist, staffed a booth at the Fall 2012 IPFW Career Fair and presented at the Fall 2012 Networking Event for General Studies.

Mickail Kashani, B.G.S. '08, M.S.OLS '11, HR Manager, Apera, staffed a booth at the Fall 2012 IPFW Career Fair.

Joyce Carroll, B.G.S. '90, has joined Premier Inc. Realtors as a salesperson.

Cheryl Umphrey, A.A.G.S. '99, was elected secretary of Tawasi Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals for the 2012–13 term.

Myra Shelby Scott, B.G.S. '95, was named to the board of directors of The Lutheran Foundations; she has more than 20 years of experience at Lincoln National Corp.

Laurel D. Reinking, B.G.S. '98, M.A. English '02, recently earned a Ph.D. in English as a Second Language from Purdue University.

Tina Funkhouser, B.G.S. '08, received an award from the IPFW Alumni Association as Alumni Top Volunteer for her service to General Studies e-Mentoring Event and student referrals.

Nina Carter, B.G.S. '10, is president, Mirror Me Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization to empower women to understand the importance of education and self-worth.

Albert Bownlee, B.G.S. '07, M.B.A. '11, was nominated for “40 Under 40” award recognizing enterprising young professionals in the Fort Wayne Community.

Judy Zehner, B.G.S., retired director of community relations/marketing for Science Central is serving Continuing Studies Personal and Professional Development group in developing the program, “Rewire! Refire! Reboot!”

Andre Patterson, B.G.S. '03, M.A. in Sociology candidate, is IPFW Outreach Coordinator facilitating Brother 2 Brother mentoring program to improve retention and graduation rates among minority male students.

Karen Hook Case, B.G.S. '06, is a senior admissions counselor at Manchester University.

In Memoriam

Michael P. “Mickey” Grinager, B.G.S. '12, passed away on Friday, February 22, 2013, in Auburn. He was employed at Pyromation Manufacturing in Grabill and is survived by wife, Emily, and twins, Lillian and Gehrig Grinager.

Teresa “Terri” Jones, B.G.S. '08, worked in the HR department at GE for more than 25 years. She had graduated with Highest Honors from the General Studies program and was a loyal donor to the Alumni Scholarship.

Call 260-481-6828 NOW!
Graduating Summer or Fall '13?

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