Adult Student Center gains in popularity

By MORIAH WHITTAKER
Staff Writer
whittakm@ius.edu

IU Southeast's new Adult Student Center, which opened Nov. 15, has been built to house the growing number of non-traditional students who use the facility.

A survey done in 2004 shows adult students make up 37 percent of the total number of students attending IU Southeast. Ruth Garvey-Nix, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, said the estimate is now closer to 35 percent. However, the number of students who are using the center had grown over the years, thus prompting IU Southeast to accommodate them.

"It was visibly obvious that we were overcrowded in our old space," Kimberly Pelle, Non-Traditional Student Program Coordinator, said. "Students would come in to study or use the computer and would find neither. And during social times, like lunch or pitch-ins, there would be two students sharing a chair."

Last November the Adult Student Center moved from the Life Science Building to the top floor of the University Center.

"Overall, the greatest improvement is the space and having more room for them to study," Pelle said.

Pelle has been with IU Southeast for 11 years and recalls when the center was in its prior location.

"I remember students coming to the door and seeing how crowded it was, which was discouraging," she said.

The center's new location now provides more tables, better decorations and a more spacious area.

"I love it, and I think the students love it," Pelle said.

Brian Mannix attended IU Southeast in 1993 and came back in 2003 to get his BA in English.

"I find this center more relaxing than I did in other computer labs," Mannix said. "I felt uncomfortable there because they were so much younger than me, but not here."

"I was uncomfortable using the lunchroom because people looked at me like I should not even be there. But here you have peers you can talk to," Susan Dickson, whose concentration is in Elementary Education, said.

"I use the new center every morning," Dickson said. "It has a quiet atmosphere, and [the people] here become your family."

They all agree that Pelle enhances the atmosphere.

"Kim is always upbeat and if you have a stressful day you have a shoulder to lean on," Dickson said.

Photo by Moriah Whittaker
Susan Dickson (left) and another student take advantage of the computer resources available in the Adult Student Center.

The Adult Student Center has been providing a home to non-traditional students since 1990. Another objective is to give adult students a place to go to study and be in an environment with people who share common goals.

"In my opinion, the best features of the Adult Student Center are that it provides adult learners a place to gather with others who have similar situations and interests," Garvey-Nix said. "It offers programs that are geared toward their interests and needs."

A non-traditional student is typically characterized as any person who is older than 25, but that is not always the case.

"A 20-year-old student who is a single parent and works full time might have more in common with the non-traditional students than he/she would have with other 20-year-olds," Garvey-Nix said.

"I know a lot of students enjoyed having an Adult Student Center on that side of campus [Life sciences]," Pelle said. "Those students have followed me back to the University Center and are so pleased with the new facility. Probably 10 percent that use the center are of traditional age. I am delighted to assist all that need me."

Student leaves career to follow dream

By C. ERIC BANISTER
Staff Writer
cebanist@ius.edu

The clinking of coffee cups slowly quieted as all attention focused forward. Michael Maupin, English and journalism junior, stood at the podium set up for the 2007 Winter Gala hosted by the IUS English department. Maupin quietly read an essay about the surgery of his nephew detailing the emotions he felt and recounting what his nephew's presence in his life had meant to him.

Sitting in the audience were Maupin's sister, brother-in-law and nephew, there to show support as Maupin was nominated for four awards at the ceremony.

"My sister, her husband and my nephew were the only three people in my family who were supportive of my writing," Maupin said. "Everyone else thought I was crazy."

Maupin grew up in the small Indiana town of Campbellsburg, a town in Washington County located off of State Highway 60 with a population of less than 600 and surrounded by fields. Growing up in such isolation allowed, or perhaps caused, Maupin to turn to creative pursuits.

"For my seventh birthday my aunt bought me a Brother typewriter," Maupin said. "I would sit at this typewriter and just come up with this crazy stuff for hours and hours and hours. I was just so in love with words and making these words appear on this piece of paper.

"I have always loved to read and one day I just realized that someone made this book. Someone wrote these words down. Then I started writing all of the time. I wrote stories; I kept a journal as a kid," he said. "I excelled at that in high school when I didn't excel at anything else."

While his desire to create and dedicate his life to something he loved stayed in the back of his mind, choosing writing as a career never seemed to be an option.

'I just thought I can either go back to school and do something with my life or I can just languish in that whole professional world of not being fulfilled.'

Michael Maupin
English and journalism junior

"In Campbellsburg you either had to farm corn, drive a tractor for someone who farmed corn or work in a factory. If you didn't fit that mold you were screwed," he said. "You graduated from high school, got married, had a baby and then you die."

After high school Maupin decided to become a paramedic.

"I graduated in 1994 and went to Ivy Tech and received a basic EMT certification, then I got the paramedics certification," he said. "A few years later I taught a few of the EMT training courses and I really liked that."

Maupin said he always wanted to earn a master's degree, so the first step would be completing his bachelor's degree. Just after his 30th birthday he enrolled at IU Southeast.

"I worked as a paramedic for 12 years and I was making pretty good money," Maupin said. "Then I was sitting at home three months before my 30th birthday and I had this vision of being 50, jumping out of an ambulance and breaking my hip. I thought, 'I can't keep doing this.' Plus it was killing me slowly, just a bunch of bad stuff happening every day."

Writing began to creep back into his life and his love affair was rekindled.

During his time as a paramedic, Maupin had an article published in an emergency services magazine and after writing an op-ed piece for the Corydon Democrat, the paper's editor gave Maupin his own column which ran for two years. At that point he made the decision to leave his career and return to school.

"I just thought I can either go back to school and do something with my life or I can just languish in that whole professional world of not being fulfilled," he said.

Maupin returned to school in 2006 without the support or understanding of his family, but knowing that he was doing something he loved.

After winning first place in the "Common Experience" essay contest in 2007, Maupin's creative efforts were further rewarded at the 2007 Winter Gala.

He was awarded second place in the flash fiction category, second and third place in the short fiction category and second place in the research category.

While quite adept in all of these categories, Maupin loves to write essays and memoirs the most.

"I consider myself a short story writer, but I think I am a stronger memoir writer," he said. "I feel more fulfilled when I write in that genre."

Maupin feels that many people gravitate toward reading memoirs in an effort to identify with someone else who might have shared similar life experiences, good or bad.

He said he also feels writing is a way to help people heal, and he desires to help people with his writing.

"I write because I feel like I have to and because I am supposed to," Maupin said. "If that feeling ever stops, I guess I'll go back to school for something else."

'A certain degree of neurosis is of inestimable value as a drive, especially to a psychologist.'

– Sigmund Freud

SARC series begins new season

By ASHLEY MEREDITH
Staff Writer
almeredi@ius.edu

On Thursday, Jan. 10, the Summer Achievements in Research and Creativity had their first lecture of the new year.

SARC is a program in which faculty and students can apply for fellowships to further research their interests and fields in the summer months.

"The lecture series gives them the chance to come back and share their research with colleagues, staff and with the campus community," Deborah Finkel, dean of research, said.

Bernie Olson, assistant professor of criminal justice, presented her research on Critical Issues in Profiling: Variations in Investigative Paradigms.

In the summer, Olson conducted the second stage for her research on this topic.

The first stage was her graduate school dissertation where she gathered a survey on how much experience, training and education mattered to how well a person excelled as a profiler in law enforcement.

Utilizing that data and taking it to the next level, Olson's summer research was based on finding answers to the conclusions of the survey she conducted. Her sample consisted of police officers and profilers from five different countries.

"One of the interesting things in the notion for policing is, is it better to be a generalist and sort of do everything or should we have specialists," Olson said.

Other factors that were addressed were changes in the recruiting of law enforcement, access to certain resources and technology and expectations.

The media showed to have an influence on the results, such as crime shows on TV.

"CSI is a huge one," Olson said. "Both the police officers and profilers are frustrated because it distorts incoming police officers and what their expectations are."

Research also revealed that traditional police work, like going out and talking to people, is a value and gets results.

She discussed that technology is taking over investigations and that basics skills were lost in this process.

Olson hopes to further her research and actually be able to obtain real profile cases and match them to her research results.

"Because I'm not a cop and I'm not a fed, they tend to not talk to me," she said.

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