



Nomination  
Deadline  
Apr. 11, 2008

# Distinguished Alumnus Award 2008

Ivy Tech Community College Alumni Association

## Nominate Someone Today!

The candidate must be a graduate of Ivy Tech Community College, having received an Associate of Applied Science or Associate of Science degree or a Technical Certificate. The finalist must also satisfy the following criteria and submit the following support materials:

1. The candidate must have graduated prior to 2003.
2. The candidate has made notable career moves.
3. Through leadership and/or active volunteering, the candidate has made a positive impact on his/her community and/or Ivy Tech Community College.
4. A minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) letters of recommendation must accompany the nomination.
5. A *current résumé* must accompany the nomination.

Please feel free to nominate yourself. Visit [www.bloomington.ivytech.edu/community/alumni](http://www.bloomington.ivytech.edu/community/alumni) to download the nomination form. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact Sam DeWeese at (812) 330-6260 or [sdeweese@ivytech.edu](mailto:sdeweese@ivytech.edu)

IVY TECH  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION



Bloomington

the newsletter

# 3 MORE REASONS TO LOVE IVY TECH

The stories of John Ginn, Obie James and Tonya Thurman will make you a believer



issue #3



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AS '07  
**OBIE JAMES**



COMMUNITY SERVICE, CIVIC engagement, and student leadership have all been buzz words of my time spent as a student at Ivy Tech - Bloomington. There is also another component of my education – less spoken about – which is just as empowering; friendship.

From my very first day at Ivy Tech - Bloomington, I was welcomed by warm and friendly Enrollment Services staff.

I was empowered with the knowledge of class instruction, and learned to navigate the looming and intimidating mechanics of Financial Aid. I consider myself lucky to have friends at Ivy Tech - Bloomington because both faculty and staff are diverse. Confucius said “cultivated people

harmonize without imitating. Immature people imitate without harmonizing.” Not only does Ivy Tech - Bloomington resonate with this profound statement, but my experience at Ivy Tech - Bloomington has allowed me to better harmonize.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Sunday, March 2:**

### **IU vs. Michigan State Men’s Basketball Game**

**Where:** Watch the game with fellow alumni at Coaches, 245 N. College  
**When:** TBA

**Thursday, April 3:**

### **Career Expo (FREE) When: 1:30pm-4:00pm**

**Where:** Ivy Tech, Lamkin Hall and Student Commons

Whether you are looking for a new career or just building your professional network, the Career Expo is an excellent opportunity to meet with local employers.

For more information, contact Katie Anderson at [kanderso@ivytech.edu](mailto:kanderso@ivytech.edu) or (812) 330-6018

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT WAYS TO “FEEL THE LOVE” FOR IVY TECH AND HERE ARE A FEW ...

JAN. 2007 - DEC. 2007  
**JOHN GINN**



**John Ginn and mentor, Katie Anderson**

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE has been a tremendous aid in helping me find a job. The courses I took and the instructors I became friends with both helped me to achieve the goals I set.

In the beginning, I encountered a situation where the classes I needed were full. Fortunately, my future

professor and knowledgeable advisor, Dr. Lou Pierro, opened a seat in her class, and extended the allotted number of students for me.

I found Career Services to be an excellent resource at Ivy Tech. I had the opportunity to not only have my résumé enhanced, but to meet my next mentor, Katie Anderson. Katie is very helpful and

has some great ideas on how to look for jobs, prepare for interviews and more.

With Katie's help, I was able to find an internship working for a local pharmaceutical company in their Information Technology department. After nine months of learning, training, and working hard, I was hired! My life has completely changed, thanks to Ivy Tech.

## Mentor students at Career Expo!

On April 3rd the Ivy Tech Career Center is sponsoring its 10th annual Career Expo. We are always looking for alumni to mentor students entering the workforce. As a volunteer you could help students improve their interviewing skills, résumés, or offer advice on beginning the job search.

If you are not available April 3, there are other days we could arrange for you to meet with students. You are also invited to attend the Career Expo as a job searcher!

## EVENTS RSVP:

**Sam DeWeese**  
Ivy Tech Alumni Association  
(812) 330-6260  
[sdeweese@ivytech.edu](mailto:sdeweese@ivytech.edu)  
[www.ivytech.edu/Bloomington](http://www.ivytech.edu/Bloomington)

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

TONYA THURMAN | AAS '93

I WANTED TO GO TO COLLEGE after I graduated from high school, but due to various reasons, I went to work in the production area of a local manufacturer. Over the next few years I applied for several jobs within the company, and each time the answer was the same. I was told I simply didn't have the skills required to move into another position.

What a rude awakening! Weren't the basic skills I had learned in high school enough? The plain, simple and truthful answer is no. I needed to obtain the skill set required, but the thought of going back to school was daunting.

After much thought and consideration I scheduled a meeting with an Ivy Tech advisor. To my surprise, the advisor was very encouraging, and soon after I enrolled in two evening classes.

I had many feelings of self-doubt prior to attending my first class. Would I be able to work full-time, attend classes, and still have time for friends and family? Would I be able to make the grades I so desired? Would I be significantly older than my fellow classmates? Would this really help my career move forward?

Many of those self-inflicted fears were put to rest that first evening of class. The instructor was genuinely interested in helping students learn and the class contained a wide cross-section of backgrounds and ages. So I made it through that first evening and pressed on through my first quarter. The rest is history.

With help from excellent Ivy Tech faculty, encouragement from fellow classmates, family and friends, I reached a goal that I had dreamed about since high school graduation – I earned my AAS degree. The best part of going back to school is that mid-way through my Ivy Tech career; I was awarded a job transfer. That first

obtain a bachelor's degree. The only question in my mind was “will the credits I earned at Ivy Tech transfer to a 4 year university?” My fears were put to rest upon receipt of the acceptance letter stating that I had been accepted into the program, and that 90% of my credits were transferrable.

I went on to earn my Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management. I still work for the same company and am currently responsible for global medical device registrations and clinical trial administration.

I truly enjoy my career, and know that without Ivy Tech I would not have been a benefactor of career advancement. Thank you Ivy Tech!

*“With help from excellent Ivy Tech faculty ... I reached a goal that I had dreamed about since high school. I earned my AAS degree.”*

promotion was a direct reflection of the skills and hands-on training I received at Ivy Tech.

After a seven year hiatus from college, I decided to return to school to

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

There are a number of different reasons why graduates have a connection with Ivy Tech. Many Ivy Tech graduates have acquired the necessary skills to advance their careers. Others are thankful for the confidence Ivy Tech has given them, and a number of graduates are thankful for someone they met at Ivy Tech who has changed their life.

The Ivy Tech Alumni Association understands everyone has a story to tell, and *we want to hear yours!* Please check out the list of upcoming events included in this issue. So we can better serve you, please complete the enclosed survey.

