ADP graduate uses degree to find a surprising career

It’s a familiar story told by adult students. Because of obligations at work and home, they can only enroll in the few, yet time consuming, night classes. Credits are earned only a few at a time and the prospect of completing a bachelor’s degree feels like a lifetime away.

Mike Dixon found himself as the main character in such a story. He was enrolled at Kent State University as a traditional student, but unlike many of his classmates, he was also employed full time and had two children at home. In order to provide a better life for his family, he needed that degree, but he also needed his job to pay the bills while pursuing it.

And so after three years of struggling through traditional higher education, he was introduced to the new Geneva College Adult Degree Programs that allows busy adults to complete their bachelor’s degree while still fulfilling responsibilities at home and work. Mike was 27 years old at the time, but just beginning a journey that would lead him to an exciting—and surprising—career.

Mike Dixon graduated from Kent State University at the age of 27. He then enrolled at the University of Akron for his Juris Doctorate degree in law and graduated in 1994. From there he worked at a law firm in Akron, but in 2002 he accepted a position at John Deere in Illinois. He currently practices patent law in the Intellectual Property Department as Senior Counsel/Manager. His bachelor’s degree in human resources gave him the impetus to explore his talents and strengths, which led him to a career in law.

The Adult Degree Programs provide options for adults looking to better their careers or fulfill lifelong dreams. With classes located around Western Pennsylvania and three programs entirely online, the adult student doesn’t have to put life on pause while in school. Mike believes that the Geneva College Adult Degree Programs was a “godsend as it allowed me to complete my degree and apply to law school. If it had not been for this program, I do not know where I would be right now.” And while the Adult Degree Programs helped Mike obtain his degree in human resources, it was Mike himself that chose the direction he would go.

If it had not been for this program, I do not know where I would be...

Mike Dixon, 1991

Applause

THERESA JONES ’13, Human Services
Class 022, Pittsburgh, is pursuing her master’s degree in criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is scheduled to graduate May 2014.

We are proud of your achievements! Keep us informed so we can share your story with others.
800.576.3111
adultdegree@geneva.edu
Who knows what is coming next? We all know that it is impossible to predict the future, but we live like we have some control over what the future holds, or at least try to decrease the likelihood of unpleasant possibilities. For instance, we keep the brakes on our cars in good repair so we are more likely to maintain control of our cars and less likely to cause accidents.

Several years ago I bought a book, Seeing What’s Next (C. Christensen, et. al., 2004), that says that by using theories of innovation, an organization can predict change coming to its industry. The idea is to either improve existing products in terms of quality or price or to introduce new products that change the way people do things. The title of the book suggests that organizations often seek to control the future market to their advantage.

What’s Next? What is the future holding for you? You cannot control your future, but you can prepare for it and be ready to make effective decisions. Talk with one of Geneva’s enrollment counselors about programs offered in classrooms or online to see if one of the majors in the Adult Degree Programs can help you prepare to meet your future.

Dr. Ralph N. Phillips

The story of 1991 graduate Mike Dixon in this issue of Progression may help answer some of these questions. Mike knew he needed to obtain his bachelor’s degree to achieve his life goals, one of which was to attend law school. He needed a program that not only provided the rigorous learning that he needed to enter law school, but also provided it in a context that allowed him to keep his job and family. While he could not see what was next or predict that he’d end up with John Deere, Mike began to take some control over where his life was headed by consulting with enrollment counselors at Geneva College as he developed and executed a plan. He found that a degree in human resources provided what he needed to enter law school. He further found that Geneva’s Adult Degree Programs offered a way for a working adult with a family to complete his degree requirements and open the door to the future that he had envisioned. He took some positive steps in the right direction and the rest is history.

Are you thinking that you would like to take some positive steps to help you understand what’s next? You cannot control your future, but you can prepare to meet it more effectively. Talk with one of Geneva’s enrollment counselors about programs offered in classrooms or online to see if one of the majors in the Adult Degree Programs can help you prepare to meet your future.

Mike Dixon, 1991 Geneva College Graduate

**Bridge Program**

The Bridge Program is designed for busy adults who need to earn credits either to enter the Geneva College Adult Degree Programs or to complete their degree after finishing the courses in their major. This program helps you “bridge the gap.”

Classroom Bridge courses meet from 6 to 10 p.m. For course descriptions or to register, visit [www.geneva.edu/bridge](http://www.geneva.edu/bridge).

**ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**
3 human services core or elective credits
Mondays, March 17 – May 5

**CLASSICAL & CHRISTIAN CULTURES**
3 humanities core or elective credits
Tuesdays, March 11 – April 29

**HUMAN DIVERSITY**
3 human services core or elective credits
Thursdays, March 13 – April 10

**CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP**

**INTELLIGENT DESIGN & EVOLUTION**
3 natural science core or elective credits
Mondays, January 13 – March 10

**CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**
3 elective credits
Wednesdays, March 12 – April 30

**FULLY ONLINE**

**JANUARY 15 – MARCH 12**

**FUNDAMENTALS OF ACCOUNTING**
3 accounting principles core or elective credits

**OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY**
3 Old Testament core or elective credits

**CLASSICAL & CHRISTIAN CULTURES**
3 humanities core or elective credits

**RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT**
3 humanities core or elective credits

**INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY**
3 social science core or elective credits

**EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE**
3 natural science core or elective credits

**FAITH & MONEY**
3 elective credits

**PRIORITIES, GOALS AND ATTITUDE**
3 elective credits

**Bible Challenge Exams**

For prospective and current Adult Degree Programs students.

- Biblical Introduction I Old Testament

Courses fulfill core requirements for Christian ministry leadership majors, and elective requirements for human resources, organizational development, organizational leadership and human services.

Earn three semester hours for each exam.

**BEAVER FALLS**
- Saturday, January 18, 2014
- Saturday, September 6, 2014

**PITTSBURGH**
- Saturday, March 15, 2014
- Saturday, November 1, 2014

Advance registration required. Call for details and study guide: 800.576.3111 • adultdegree@geneva.edu

**BEAVER FALLS**
- January 15 – March 12
- 3 elective credits
- 3 natural science core or elective credits
- 3 humanities core or elective credits
- 3 social science core or elective credits
- 3 elective credits
- Register and begin class up to March 17. For registration and financial aid information, call 724.847.5683

**Bridge Program**

**LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT**
3 human services core or elective credits
Tuesdays, January 14 – March 4

**GLOBALISM & MULTICULTURALISM**
3 elective credits
Wednesdays, January 15 – March 5

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**
3 natural science core or elective credits
Thursdays, January 16 – March 6

**FAITH & MONEY**
3 elective credits

**Priorities, Goals and Attitude**
3 elective credits

**environmental science**
3 elective credits

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