

Students Gain New Vocations

By Lawyer Jones and Ben Marrero

Ernie Bariente, Manuel Martinez, Ron Myers and Ed Soltys have enhanced their skills by taking courses offered at JobLink. They are now reaping the benefits.

These students have turned their skills into a vocation or avocation which has benefited not only themselves, but their friends and neighbors as well. These vocations range from catering and landscaping to stained glass and carpentry.

Ernie Bariente, an Inland Steel employee for 20 years, was laid off for a few months early in 1994. He made the

best of this temporary set back and took his first class in the Culinary Arts using the tuition assistance program at JobLink.

Ernie now has a prosperous catering business which has served from 50 to 400 people at each event, and he needs only a few credits to qualify for an Associate degree in Hospitality Administration from Ivy Tech.

During his youth, Ed Soltys had often noticed the stained glass windows in his parish church. He enjoyed the warm colors and the symmetry of the windows' design. This interest remained dormant until recently. Ed took Stained Glass I and II at JobLink, and his

interest in the art form was reignited. Now repairing broken stained glass panels, along with creating and designing, brings great joy and satisfaction to Ed. Making sun-catchers and votive candle holders is also fulfilling, yet the greatest satisfaction is the pleasure Ed sees in the faces of his customers.

Ed recently started a major project of restoring a German stained glass mirror. It has 117 pieces. This is a challenge that Ed will enjoy.

Manuel Martinez has also developed his skills with special interest courses taken at

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JobLink 2000 and turned them into an avocation.

Bogolia Overcomes Obstacles



Dave Bogolia, known as Lefty

By Manuel Hernandez

In the summer of 1968, Dave Bogolia was a typical eighteen-year old. Life was good; he had recently gotten a job with Inland at the Coke Plant. He enjoyed weight lifting and had won a competition when something happened that would

change his life forever.

While at his job Dave was run over by five boxcars. He managed to roll out from under the cars. When he was out, he noticed his left arm was severed above the elbow, so he retrieved it. He then walked 100 yards to the nearest building, climbed up five flights of stairs, called for help, and went back down to wait for the ambulance. Enough to ruin any person's life, right? You don't know Lefty.

Today Dave, a 30-year Inlander and a father of three grown children, has a myriad of interests, including bicycling and working out. He has taken just about every class offered at JobLink from Computer I to Access, including many mechanical and electrical,

carpentry, and landscaping classes. He also finds time to counsel young people who suddenly find themselves in a life-altering situation. Visiting with the elderly in nursing homes and helping out in his church are favorite activities of his.

Most of life's activities require two hands. Dave has had to use his ingenuity to get by. He has come up with many ideas to make his life easier and more fun, both in and out of the work place.

One of Dave's interests is bicycling. He has developed a breaking system that simultaneously stops both wheels with one hand control. He has plans to pedal a bike all the way to California to see his

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Your link to lifelong learning



From Diane's Desk

by Diane Lentz, JobLink Coordinator

Once again we are looking back at 1997 as a year of accomplishments through JobLink. Students have participated in

community projects, received Associate & Bachelor's degrees, learned skills that have enabled them to remodel and build homes, built furniture, repaired technical and automotive equipment, built computers, and mastered the mysteries of computer software programs -- including Web pages. And what will 1998 bring?

Here's a sneak preview for the coming year. Kids Camp in the summer, spouses and retirees at JobLink, more technical certificate programs available through JobLink, open labs in computers

and woodworking, and First aid courses are just a few of the upcoming opportunities. In 1998 JobLink will continue to offer classes that can lead to certification --one course at a time.

In addition, the clock will no longer dictate which classes Local 1010 members can attend; in 1998 classes can be taken through the Internet. These classes can be taken with TAP money either using JobLink computers or computers at home. More information will be made available soon on classes through the Internet.

We wish you a healthy, happy new year and look forward to sharing the year with you through our many varied and challenging courses.

The Importance of Transition classes

By Steve Wagner
Local 1010 Representative

Many times I'm asked about the types of classes that can be taken through our Career Development, JobLink 2000. There is a wide spectrum of classes offered at or available through JobLink. These courses include carpentry, heating & air conditioning, computers, residential wiring, taxidermy, stained glass,



neon lighting and many, many others.

These classes do not have to lead to a degree, nor do they have to be job related. However, one thing they must have in common is a curriculum which will enable us to have more stable and rewarding personal and family lives, enhance our career opportunities or provide meaningful retirements.

We have classes like art and music to enable us to feel comfortable with learning again. Many of us use these classes as a confidence builder to transition from not going to class for quite a while to preparing ourselves for more formalized learning.

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Manuel is the vice president and groundskeeper for the Indiana Harbor Little League Organization. He and his classmates were instrumental in refurbishing the playing field located at the east end of Block Stadium with the help of Rich Gomez, East Chicago Parks superintendent, who funded the project. Manny used the skills and knowledge he picked up in the Landscaping class. "The class was excellent," he said. "The instructor was really good. The hands-on was great. I thoroughly enjoyed the class." The next project Manuel wants to attack is the washroom facilities at the park which are in need of repairs. He hopes he can get more help from fellow JobLink students.

Ron Myers is a skilled carpenter and has his own business to prove it. Ron has taken all the carpentry classes JobLink has, as well as VCR repair, electrical and computer classes. Ron says that the courses he has taken at JobLink have helped him immensely. "They afforded

me the opportunity to try different things and to develop the knowledge to do them."

Ron, along with his son, has opened up a small business in construction. They build decks, do home siding, garages, home re-modeling and additions, and other related work. "With my son earning a Construction Technology degree at PUC, I was able to open this business and hire him as well." Myers Builders presently employs six people.

Ron recently finished a Gazebo located at the White Oaks Estates in Highland and has also been hired to do more work for the town of Highland. You can also see a lot of Ron's work in Munster and Cedar Lake where he has built and put up many decks.

Links is a publication of Joblink 2000

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Let's Go Surfing Now, Surfin U.S.A.



So, you bought that new computer and you want to surf the Internet but you do not know where to start?

Try one of the large search services as your jumping off point. Yahoo (www.yahoo.com) is one of the oldest and best. It starts you off with a listing of categories that contain pages of links. (Links are words or objects that you click on to take you to the sites they represent.)

Excite (www.excite.com) is also a good place to start. Both of those services also offer user-customized pages. (my.yahoo.com and my.excite.com, respectively.)

Yahoo is a better pick for news-hounds, offering more choices than Excite, which is better for sport fans. Lycos (www.lycos.com) is also a good place, although it doesn't offer the "my" option.

Set up your browser so one of those services is your "home page". (Your home page is where your browser starts you off at when you first start it up. You will find how to do this in your help file.) Or, set it up so your "Bookmarks" or "Favorite Places" are your home page.

Another good way to surf without searching, is to buy a copy of the New

Rider's WWW Yellow Pages. It comes with a CD-ROM chock full of links to sites that cater to a variety of interests. Sam's Club has it cheap.

Those seeking information about religions, should check out OCRT (www.religioustolerance.org.) as well as the WWW Virtual Index. It informs but doesn't try to convince.

Book-lovers scrounging for certain

books, try www.bibliofind.com, as well as the following sites for new books: www.bookstore.com www.amazon.com www.barnesandnoble.com. Powell's (www.powells.com) is great source of used books.

Have fun surfing.

Staff News

Who's Doing What At JobLink?

by Tom Zmigrocki

Did you know that some of your teachers at JobLink are on the staff of a local college? Nate Kleefisch, Tim Spanos, John Stroz and Bob Olson are faculty members of South Suburban College.

Nate Kleefisch teaches a variety of classes in the construction field including, Carpentry I & II, Masonry, and Cabinetmaking I & II. He has given seminars on Steel Framing, Gazebo building, Vinyl siding, Drywall, Deck Accessories, and other Do-it yourself classes.

Nate feels that "The Super Gazebo" is one of the most interesting projects that the students have worked on. "I am sure that the experience will linger in the minds of the students who helped build it."

Tim Spanos, who teaches Residential Wiring I & II and Electrical Troubleshooting, will teach a new course on Security Systems. Tim feels that the "Christmas in April" project was his most memorable project because it provided "real world hands-on experience."

John Stroz teaches VCR Repair I & II, Small Appliance/Microwave Oven Repair, TV/Computer Monitor



Nate Kleefisch, Tim Spanos and John Stroz, of the South Suburban Faculty enjoy the JobLink gazebo. Not pictured: Bob Olson

Repair and Electronic Troubleshooting. John finds the VCR Repair classes most interesting because the students really apply themselves.

Although they teach a variety of subjects, these teachers have one thing in common. They all enjoy teaching at JobLink! The teaching staff, the facilities and especially the students are what Tim likes best about teaching here. John feels that the students are really interested in learning and enjoy the courses they take. Nate says that they "are a great group of people to be around, and they make my job of teaching fun, stimulating and rewarding."

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daughter when he retires. I asked him what made him keep going, to face all the obstacles with only one arm, his answer: "My philosophy of life is to never quit or give up, no matter how things go wrong; just keep trying."

Dave is an inspiring roll model to many of us. Anyone who rides a bicycle at a speed of sixty miles per hour down a mountain road, one handed no less, I take my hat off to. When you happen to be at JobLink and you see a "one-armed Man" chomping on an unlit Stogie, stop and say "Hello" to Lefty.

JobLink 2000

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JobLink 2000 Subcommittee: Diane Lentz, David Perez, Steve Wagner

JobLink 2000

THINK SUMMER

Ahh! Warm Breezes,
flowers blooming, birds
chirping, JobLink MINI-
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think about summer.
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offered this coming
summer at JobLink 2000.
And don't forget to get
the family involved.

All
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basis; almost all are free of charge.

Register at: Joblink 2000 Learning Center, located at 3333 Michigan Ave., East Chicago, Indiana

To receive the Links newsletter, call JobLink at 399-8136, Fax 399-8137

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**Benny, Manny, Anthony, Tom, Mary Jo,
Lawyer (not shown)**