

# **DEBBIE RECKER**

From the Midwest, to the East Coast, to the West Coast

Graduate: Class of 1973

Occupation: Library Director

“Don't sit back and watch life go by without you,” advises Debbie Recker, a 1973 graduate of Forest Park High School. Debbie speaks volumes when she talks. She believes in experiencing life, whether it's traveling, volunteering, or attending a theatrical performance. Her overall belief is to be passionate about life. This Ferdinand, Indiana, resident has tried to show this passion to her twenty-six year old daughter Erica, a college professor in Georgia, and to me, her nephew.

After graduating from high school, Debbie attended Vincennes University in Vincennes, Indiana, and received an A.S. degree in elementary education. She then continued at Indiana State University in Evansville, Indiana (ISUE), and obtained her B.S. degree in that same field as her A.S. degree. Debbie worked various jobs in education and business until 1990 when she received her master of library science degree from Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.

In her fourteenth year as library director at Vincennes University, Jasper, Indiana, Debbie also teaches part-time at the university. She is the advisor for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. At the 2008 international conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she was named a top 25 advisor out of over 12,000 advisors. This enabled her to go to the honors conference in San Francisco, California, in June 2008.

Her post high school highlights include the following: president of the National Education Club and membership in Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society for education majors. Learning has always and continues to be a priority for Debbie.

This priority started in high school. She graduated in the top ten of her class, and she was also a member of the National Honor Society. Debbie received numerous academic awards. My Aunt Debbie engages in various hobbies. She enjoys getting her hands dirty while working in her enormous flower gardens. Quite a traveler, Debbie enjoys seeing the world with her eyes. Her love of learning continues daily as she reads and writes for a hobby. She then shares these works with her students, friends, family, and anyone else willing to listen. On any clear night Debbie can be found looking up at the night sky stargazing.

Making money is important; however, satisfaction in life is as equally important. To her, bonus pay is hearing a student tell her that she has made a positive difference in his or her life. She also enjoys talking and assisting with students as they climb the ladder of education.

Debbie believes that opportunities surround us, and we need to take advantage of them. When she graduated, she could not wait to get away from this area. She felt it produced much prejudice and much narrow-mindedness. By moving away she had the opportunity to meet and work with people of all races and backgrounds. This became her greatest lesson-no matter how many differences we have, we all have the same need to be loved and accepted.