

In Memoriam
Tiffin M. Adkins
July 8, 1966 – December 16, 2017

Tiffin M. Adkins, 51, died suddenly Saturday, December 16, 2017 at St. Joseph Hospital in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He was born in Richmond, Indiana on July 8, 1966 to Raymond and Nancy Groff Adkins. He is survived by his parents, his sister Lynn Chirinsky (Ben) of Trinity, Florida, two nieces and a nephew. He was preceded in death by a brother, Dane Adkins.

Tiff received a Bachelor of Science and Master's degree in Technology Education from Ball State and then spent 6 years teaching at Salem Middle School in Salem, Indiana. After earning his Master's in Library Science at Indiana University, Tiff served as a librarian at Ball State and IU East. Tiff joined the Helmke Library faculty in 2001 and earned promotion to Associate Librarian and tenure in 2007. Tiff's personal goal was to identify ways to improve the IPFW community's experience of the people, services, and resources at Helmke Library. He immersed himself in campus life, promoting the library to students and representing the library in faculty governance and leadership. Tiff was an active, thoughtful, and respected Faculty Senator for the library (2012-2017), Chair of ACITAS, and a member of the inaugural IPFW Leadership Academy. He continually sought ways to help students develop a sense of belonging and pioneered the library's involvement in STARS, SOAR, Summer Bridge, First Year Experience, and Collegiate Connection. He also led many of Helmke Library's other outreach initiatives for students, including our welcome tent in the fall and coffee table during finals. From making personal connections with high school teachers to enhance IPFW's dual credit program to developing orientation programs for new students and graduate teaching assistants, Tiff's work impacted every member of the IPFW community.

Because of Tiff's commitment to IPFW students and to student success, he encouraged new teaching initiatives in the library and fostered a high quality of teaching among his fellow librarians. His expertise in technology and education kept Helmke Library on the forefront of educational technology. He led the development of the library's Electronic Information Training Center and the campus-wide use of NetOP School software in computer teaching labs. He wrote and directed an innovative nine-minute television program called "Making the Grade" that aired on local cable television to help students feel comfortable about asking for assistance in the library. Tiff's passion for excellence in teaching impacted the entire library team, from encouraging development of peer-reviews of teaching, chairing the Library Faculty Council, and mentoring junior librarians and staff.

Tiff served as a liaison to the College of Education and Public Policy, where his expertise and engaging teaching supported the success of thousands of students. The faculty and staff there benefitted from his knowledge and friendship and considered him a part of their family, just as he was part of the Helmke Library family.

Tiff was frequently recognized for his stellar contributions. He was selected for the highly-competitive Association of College and Research Libraries Information Literacy Immersion program in 2002 and was inducted into Indiana University's Faculty Academy on Excellence in Teaching (FACET) in 2006. He was often commended in letters and Ripples Awards for his willingness to give of his time even in difficult circumstances. As noted by one of his library colleagues, "We can always count on you to step up and help out. You are always the first one to pitch in when there is a need." Another faculty member

praised Tiff's above-and-beyond effort during a student orientation program, saying "I appreciate your presentation – and your willingness to do so on a Saturday during a snow storm!" This dedication and generosity of spirit characterized all of Tiff's work. Librarians around the state and others who had the privilege to know and work with Tiff have used the same words to describe him: cheerful, kind, caring, and gentle.

Though we remember him mostly for his academic activities, Tiff had a great love of the outdoors. Fishing, camping and motorcycles were just some of the many adventurous activities that he loved. As one colleague said, "And that is an image I will keep of him – on the open road, out in beautiful nature, riding through a tunnel of trees."

The staff and faculty of Helmke Library will remember Tiff as a mentor, a listener, a team leader, an encourager ("Come on team, we're almost there."), and someone with a sense of humor who was always ready to be delighted. Having Tiff as a colleague has been a blessing and privilege. He will be missed.