IU Northwest undergraduates enjoy access to research projects, funding

Psychology alumna Angela Phillips receives regional research award

“If you want to pursue a higher degree in psychology, you absolutely need research experience.”

Though spoken in reference to her particular field, this advice from recent Indiana University Northwest graduate Angela Phillips applies to most other disciplines, as well. Aiming to get the most out of her education, Phillips went looking for a research opportunity and found herself in the office of Assistant Professor of Psychology Frances Daniel, Ph.D., who invited Phillips to assist in her research.

While students at larger universities do not always have access to research projects or the financial support to carry them out, such opportunities are plentiful at IU Northwest. Oftentimes, the research to which students contribute is published in professional journals or otherwise creates real-world impact within their disciplines and beyond.

During this spring’s Public Affairs Week, sponsored by the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), for example, 10 students presented data they’d collected and analyzed from area hospitals to investigate the need for a trauma center in Northwest Indiana. Under the direction of Associate Director of SPEA Samuel Flint, Ph.D., the students showed that Northwest Indiana qualifies for a trauma center. The research is being used by physicians and administrators to help establish the case for funding a trauma center in the region.

After working alongside Professor Daniel, Phillips soon developed her own research project, which eventually won her a prestigious award. It all started when Daniel told her about the Undergraduate Research Fund (URF), a program in which upper-level students can apply for an opportunity to engage in a faculty-sponsored research project. A URF grant furnishes financial support and a stipend, along with the most invaluable asset of all — hands-on research experience.

During the 2011-12 academic year, 14 students took advantage of the URF and more than 60 students presented research projects at the College of Arts and Sciences’ (COAS) Undergraduate Research Conference in early April. In addition, IU Northwest’s Office of Academic Affairs also provides travel grants to support students’ travel to conferences to present research.

When Phillips received her URF grant, she launched her research project, entitled “Effects of Gender and Ethnicity on Memory for Criminal Events,” and presented her findings at the April conference. She later presented her research at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) in Chicago in May. Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology, was so impressed with Phillips’s work that the organization presented her with a regional research award, an honor bestowed upon only 24 researchers out of more than 430 submitted abstracts.

Phillips, whose interests lie in social psychology, said she formulated the project after reading some interesting prior research. Researchers had discovered that, when asked to recall a criminal event, women tend to be more accurate observers. However, men tend to express more confidence in the accuracy of those memories than women.

This intrigued Phillips, especially given the importance of eyewitness testimony in court cases. She wanted to replicate studies that revealed this nuance, but she wondered whether eth-
nicity might also play a role. Phillips suspected that ethnic stereotypes people hold might influence what they remember about a crime.

Under the direction of Daniel, Phillips conducted part one of her experiment with students who were taking core psychology courses. She asked them to read two passages describing a non-violent crime, with the details varying slightly for each. One week later, the participants were asked to recall what they had read and to write down as many details as they could remember. They were also asked to rate how confident they felt about the accuracy of what they had recalled.

With 28 subjects and only four males in Phillips's research sample, it turned out that her preliminary results were not statistically significant. However, as Phillips discovered, this is all part of the learning experience.

Phillips hopes to continue her research while at the same time pursuing graduate school and eventually a doctorate in social psychology. She aspires one day to be able to put her research to work in the legal system.

"It's possible this whole field of research, of looking at the accuracy of witness memories . . . could have a big impact on the court system and how much importance is placed on eyewitness testimony," Phillips said.

Another resource for students is IU Northwest's Minority Opportunity for Research Experience (MORE) program, which strives to connect students from minority or low-income populations with faculty mentors on research projects.

Still another is the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program, which is designed to increase substantially the quantity and quality of students, especially underrepresented students, who study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. LSAMP offers science and math majors the opportunity to receive a stipend for doing research in their major field.

"When you get involved in your own project, something that you create, you are invested," Phillips said. "It's hard as an undergrad to know where to look for resources to begin your own research project. That's where I think Dr. Daniel was helpful in that respect. She brought this to my attention, that IU Northwest has this entire fund of money that they want to give students to start their own research projects."
IU Northwest students are among Indiana’s most civically engaged citizens, study reveals

Research points to high civic engagement and spotlights opportunities to increase community involvement in support of the campus’s mission

In an era of low voter turnout and increased demands for volunteers and community connectivity in Indiana, graduate students from the Indiana University Northwest School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) were tasked with researching this question: “What is the civic health of our student body?”

The search for that answer produced a semester’s worth of research focused on the IU Northwest student body’s voting behavior, civic engagement, social connectedness, volunteerism, and perception of the IU Northwest mission. The study, dubbed the IU Northwest Student Body Civic Health Index (SBCHI), was led by IU Northwest Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Joseph Ferrandino, Ph.D.

Ferrandino’s class of 17 graduate students was largely inspired by a similar study, the Indiana Civic Health Index (INCHI), conducted in late 2011, which compared the level of civic participation in Indiana to that of other states. The students closely modeled their study after INCHI to measure and record the level of IU Northwest civic engagement against that of the citizens of Indiana.

Survey Highlights
One of the most promising SBCHI findings showed that voting is something IU Northwest students truly value as a civic duty. Eighty-five percent of IU Northwest students reported being registered to vote, and two in three students (66 percent) voted in the 2008 Presidential election.

“This data was extremely interesting to me and my students, particularly because the IU Northwest student body appears to be much more involved in the democratic process than the rest of the state,” Ferrandino explained. “When a similar question was posed in the INCHI study, only 61 percent of Indiana residents were registered to vote, and, ironically, only 61 percent voted in the 2008 election.”

Ferrandino believes this heightened level of civic participation by the IU Northwest student body may be directly related to the campus’s mission and commitment to community engagement, which is demonstrated daily through course work and projects that help to connect students with the community.

“Our study shows the campus has done quite well in the conveyance of its mission relative to the importance of voting, civic engagement and volunteering,” Ferrandino said. “More than half (57 percent) of the student body agrees that IU Northwest stresses the importance of voting and voter registration for students.”

Results of the SBCHI survey also showed that 68 percent believe IU Northwest provides students with volunteer opportunities. In fact, nearly two-thirds of those surveyed (64 percent) reported that they have volunteered at least once in the past 12 months.

In comparison, the INCHI survey found that Indiana ranked 32nd in the nation with a volunteerism rate of 26.1 percent, very close to the national average of 26.3 percent.

Despite a level of student volunteerism that is more than 150 percent higher than the state average, 26 percent of respondents said they have only volunteered between one and 10 hours in the last year.

“Though the students in this sample are more engaged than the average Hoosier on many dimensions, there is a clear, untapped capacity in terms of the total hours spent volunteering,” Ferrandino said. “Our (IU Northwest) students perceive the university as providing opportunities to volunteer, but many are spending less than 10 hours a year in the community.”

Lessons Learned
Students in Ferrandino’s class, like project leader Jennifer Clark, 28, of Schererville, hope this study will help to spark a greater level of volunteerism among the student body.

Clark believes the low level of volunteer hours can be attributed to the many adult learners, as well as younger students, who attend IU Northwest and must balance the competing demands of college with work and family responsibilities.

Clark, who attests that she also is hard pressed to volunteer a more significant number of hours, does volunteer for her church and the local United Way. She urged her fellow IU Northwest students to “find something they love and love doing.”
IU Northwest further extends its reach with shared university center in Portage

Portage University Center follows Arts on Grant as latest satellite location

Thanks to the convenient location of The Portage Commons on U.S. 6, hundreds of students from Porter County currently take courses with Indiana University Northwest each semester at a location closer to home.

University administrators expect that number to increase significantly once the new Portage University Center opens its classrooms this fall to students from IU Northwest, as well as to those from Ivy Tech Community College, Purdue University North Central and Valparaiso University.

When the 31,500-square-foot building opens late this summer at 6260 Central Ave., IU Northwest will move out of The Portage Commons and into the new, larger space, which will facilitate additional course offerings. Students will be able to take many freshman core courses and upper-level education and criminal justice courses, as well as Spanish and business courses, among many others.

Since then, the Arts on Grant facility has matured into a bustling cultural hub for IU Northwest. Students file past artists’ easels and pottery wheels as they find their way to classes in ceramics, sculpture, photography, printmaking, graphic design, and painting. The theater department’s scene and costume shops are also located here. A smaller nearby building has been transformed into an intimate “black box” performance venue for Theatre Northwest, the performance arm of the Department of Performing Arts.

“There is a kind of optimism and enthusiasm that the new facility has brought to our students because of the added space and the communal atmosphere that is evolving,” said Professor of Fine Arts David Klamen, who is chair of the Department of Fine Arts. “I think that the work being created in our department is the strongest in its history. It is remarkable, compared not only to peer institutions but any institution.”

The spacious parking lot at Arts on Grant provides additional parking for students, faculty and staff, and a free RedHawk Shuttle service provides safe and easy transport to the Moraine Student Center and the Library Conference Center on campus.

But Arts on Grant does more than just offer a solution for the academic arts programs. It also provides a boost for the Gary neighborhoods that surround it.

“Heightened activity in an area typically equals an economic benefit for surrounding business,” Malik said. “The bigger IU Northwest’s footprint in the community, the bigger the impact on the economic health of a community. The shuttle even affords the opportunity for campus staff and students to visit those businesses for lunch and shopping.”

Klamen said that he is forging a partnership with an arts and culture subcommittee of the City of Gary that he expects ultimately will strengthen the arts community in Gary. Though the scope of that relationship is yet to be determined, Klamen said that he is excited about the potential for collaboration and the expansion of arts in the region.
Indiana University Northwest welcomed more than 800 graduating students to its family of esteemed Indiana University alumni on Thursday, May 10, at the 46th Annual Commencement ceremonies.

IU Northwest’s Class of 2012 consists of 815 individuals who collectively received 138 associate’s degrees, 548 bachelor’s degrees and 129 master’s degrees.

Conversations with graduates about their journeys seemed to follow common themes. Regardless of their backgrounds and circumstances, the ability to take advantage of support, resources and opportunities was integral to their success.

From applying for internships to utilizing campus support services, these grads understand what it takes to succeed.

Adam Brown: The importance of staying focused

Life certainly is good these days for Adam Brown, of Gary. The 22-year-old graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration on May 10; he was married on May 25; and he already has a human resources job lined up, thanks to an internship that led to a permanent offer.

Though it is clear that the 2008 Class Valedictorian for William Wirt High School has his life together, Brown admitted that reaching this point was never easy. Staying focused on his studies was a significant challenge throughout Brown’s college career.

In particular, he described “battling alternative mindsets,” like being lured away from college by well-paying short-term jobs, or the idea that he could get by with less than stellar grades or finish school in more than four years.

To remain on task, Brown had a few talks with himself along the way.

“I knew that if I work hard now, I won’t have to worry about my family later on,” Brown said. “Four years really isn’t a long time when you think of the grand scheme of things. . . I would rather be poor for four years than poor for 40.”

Despite the modest income that a college student typically earns, Brown still had to work at least 20 hours a week at Best Buy while carrying 15 to 18 credit hours. This, along with serving as a deacon at New Beginnings Fellowship Church in Gary, didn’t leave room for much else.

Brown did all this while making every Dean’s List and accomplishing a 3.5 grade point average.

Ultimately, Brown wants to use his business savvy to help run his father’s construction business. It would be his “dream job,” he said, to become a partial owner and play a significant business role in running the family enterprise.

Cheyla Camacho: From academic probation to Chancellor’s List

Cheyla Camacho, 21, of East Chicago, enrolled at IU Northwest immediately following high school. She admitted that she was nervous and ill-prepared for college and had poor study habits. She found herself on academic probation after her first semester.

Three internships later, it seems that Camacho has found her niche. Her internship experience in the Human Resources Department at Methodist Hospitals has confirmed that a hospital setting is where she wants to stay, preferably as an HR professional and, one day, a director.

“I feel like I found exactly what I want to be doing,” Camacho said. “I am really excited about that.”

In May, Camacho crossed the Commencement stage to receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Service Management with a minor in Public Health. She intends to dive directly into a graduate program.

Besides a master’s degree, Camacho is looking forward to house-hunting and planning a 2014 wedding.

For other students who face academic challenges in college, Camacho offered some profound advice that is based on her own success story.

“You are going to have your down days,” Camacho said. “But you can accomplish anything you set your mind to, honestly. If you can’t do it yourself, then find a good support system. I feel like, with the staff at IU Northwest, you are able to find somebody to help you.”
Professor of Sociology Charles Gallmeier, Ph.D., above left, and Chancellor William J. Lowe, above right, prepare to participate in the conferral of 815 degrees to Indiana University Northwest’s Class of 2012 at the May ceremony. After collecting their diplomas, the graduates are all smiles as they take in the remainder of the 46th Annual Commencement.
Each year, the Office of Diversity Programming recognizes students, faculty, staff and members of the Northwest Indiana community as influential change agents in promoting the IU Northwest mission of diversity, inclusion and understanding. Nominated by their colleagues and selected by a committee, the awardees are recognized for the work they do to advance diversity practices. During a reception in April, the 2012 honorees were presented with distinguished awards worthy of their efforts.

Champion Awardees

**Associate Professor of Education Janice Grskovic, Ph.D.** Dr. Grskovic's areas of interest include emotional, behavioral, and learning disorders, ADHD, and gender influences in education. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including more than 20 research studies on effective instruction for students with disabilities. A lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, she has served the IU Northwest faculty since 1998.

**Professor of Communication Dorothy “Dee Dee” Ige, Ph.D.** Dr. Ige has published more than 20 scholarly articles and book chapters on communication, education instruction, and cross-cultural and gender communication topics. Most recently she co-authored a major chapter on diversity in the textbook *Public Speaking and Responsibility in a Changing World*.

**Assistant Professor of Minority Studies Regina V. Jones, Ph.D.** Dr. Jones has used her vast experience with students to create opportunities to address various diversity issues. She uses research, as well as her service as a faculty advisor for the student group Kuumba, to study the cultures and creative efforts of Africans and Africans of the diaspora.

**Mark Spencer.** This Gary native and IU Northwest alumnus began his career as a teacher of speech and drama, spending more than 20 years in the classroom and as an administrator of arts and theatre. Since 1996, he has served as director of the West Side Theatre Guild. From Shakespeare to R&B concerts, Mr. Spencer creatively demonstrates the benefits of broadening cultural perspectives through performing arts.

Diversity Advocates

**Professor of Marketing Subir Bandyopadhyay Ph.D.** Dr. Bandyopadhyay has published two papers highlighting how the perceptions of quality health and social services for minority consumers differ from white consumers. To promote awareness of pertinent issues that diverse groups face, he collaborated to develop a set of assessment instruments that measure the level of diversity aware-

**Affirmative Action Director Ida Gillis.** The IU Northwest faculty recruitment process was formulated and implemented under Ms. Gillis’s guidance and direction. She was instrumental in the development of the process for online submission of vacancy notices and approvals, as well as the approval of search committees, interview requests and actual employment offers. The process provides the assurance of having women and minorities well represented in the composition of the committees. Thanks to her contributions, qualified applicants are now sought from previously untapped locations.

**Diversity Friends**

**Officer 1st Class Melvin Blakely.** A native of Gary, Officer Blakely is known around campus as “Officer Friendly.” A public safety officer since 1996, he is also known for his commitment to youth. His passion for mentoring is matched only by his dedication to providing assistance, safety and knowledge to those whom he serves. He works diligently on campus as well as in the community with programs that address youth violence prevention, the Glen Park Community Break-In Project, and others.

This year’s Diversity Awards honorees were recognized at a reception in April. Pictured from left are: Cynthia O’Dell, Ph.D., Paul Sharpe (Committee Chair), Officer 1st Class Melvin Blakely, Ida Gillis, Mark Spencer, Dorothy “Dee Dee” Ige, Ph.D., James Wallace (Interim Director, Office of Diversity Programming), Regina Jones, Ph.D., Chancellor William J. Lowe, and Janice Grskovic, Ph.D. Not pictured is Subir Bandopadhyay, Ph.D., who also received a Diversity Award.

**Associate Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs Cynthia O’Dell Ph.D.** Active in promoting the diversity message through her teaching and volunteer time with women and gender issues, Dr. O’Dell shows commitment and dedication to programs designed to reinforce diversity and inclusion. She works with the campus Diversity Fellows, Minority Opportunity for Research Experience (MORE), and the New Student Success Program (NSSP).

**Diversity Landmark Wall of Fame**

Chancellor William J. Lowe recently recognized the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 recipients of the Diversity Landmark Wall of Fame Award, who were honored for their original quotations.

**Instructional Design Specialist Angela Soli** submitted, “Experience is the fence that divides ignorance from inclusivity.”

As **Gavin Mariano,** (student, Social Work), said, “It’s pointless to waste precious time in life on judging others for their differences. Those who do will one day yearn for that time lost.”
Tenure and Promotion

Indiana University Northwest recognized this year’s tenure and promotion recipients at a luncheon in Merrillville on April 27. The following faculty members were honored for their achievements:

Tanice Foltz, Ph.D., promoted to Full Professor of Sociology; Donna Krause, promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Education; Juanita Robinson, promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Education; Mark Thomas, Ph.D., tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Social Work; Christopher Young, Ph.D., tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of History.

IU Northwest Chancellor William J. Lowe noted that all of this year’s honorees had been promoted, and he described promotion as the more important aspect of the tenure and promotion process.

“Promotion is actually, in my mind, of greater significance, because it’s possible to get a continuing appointment and not get promoted,” he said. “Promotion is about excellence. While we give it a lot of attention, tenure is really about the minimum. Promotion is about that extra contribution that you are making, striving toward excellence in your discipline.”

David Malik, Ph.D., Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, encouraged this year’s promotion recipients to reach out to colleagues who also may be striving to achieve tenure and promotion at IU Northwest.

IU Northwest faculty promoted this year included: Clinical Associate Professors Juanita Robinson (left), and Donna Krause (right), pictured above (left) with Chancellor William J. Lowe, and Professor of Sociology Tanice Foltz, Ph.D., pictured above (right) with COAS Dean Mark Hoyert (left) and Sociology Department Chair Charles Gallmeier, Ph.D., (right).

“The philosophy here is that we really care about the untenured people. We want them to be successful,” Malik said. “It’s important that you realize that you have a role. You can be the one who talks to your colleagues about what it is they need to do.”

Prof. Robinson said that collegial support and advice played a key role in her and Prof. Krause’s decision to apply for promotion.

“We’ve been here forever, and we just never took the time or had anyone to really mentor us, until we got into the College of Health and Human Services, to really give us the push to strive for better,” she said.

Submissions sought for upcoming Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences conference

83rd annual conference set for Oct. 12; deadline for submissions is June 15

The Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences (IASS) invites faculty and students to submit their abstracts, papers, and session proposals by Friday, June 15 for consideration at the 83rd annual conference.

The conference, entitled “Working Together for a Better Tomorrow,” will take place Friday, Oct. 12 at Indiana University Northwest.

The academy is seeking proposals in the academic disciplines of social sciences, history, business and international studies, criminology, gender studies, and environmental studies. Papers can be submitted for publication consideration in the peer-reviewed Journal of the Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences.

Electronic copies of abstracts, papers and session proposals can be submitted at http://www.iass1.org/meetings-area/2012-annual-meeting.

For more information, contact Surekha Rao, Ph.D. at (219) 980-6934 or skrao@iun.edu; or Chuck Gallmeier, Ph.D. at (219) 981-4236 or cgallmei@iun.edu.

Notes of Distinction Shorts

Crystal Shannon, Ph.D., RN, MBA, Assistant Professor of Nursing, was awarded a $1,000 fellowship from the IU Northwest Diversity Fellows Program to develop a course revision for the Developmental Issues in Health course, which is required of all students in the School of Nursing.

Carina Pasquesi, visiting faculty member in Women’s and Gender Studies, was awarded a $1,000 fellowship from the IU Northwest Diversity Fellows Program to develop a course revision for the 8230-Developmental Issues in Health course, which is required of all students in the School of Nursing.

Subir Bandopadhyay, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing, received a $2,500 exploratory travel fellowship from Indiana University’s New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities research program.
IU NORTHWEST
IN THE NEWS

Indiana University Northwest appears in the news on a daily basis. Below is a recap of some of those news stories featuring IU Northwest faculty, staff, students, and academic programs.

Why Some Medical Students Are Learning Their Cadavers’ Names
Time.com
Thursday, May 17, 2012
http://ti.me/cadavers

Rev. Jesse Jackson: Gary, Chicago affect each other
Post-Tribune
Monday, May 14, 2012

Pfleger delivers powerful speech, sermon, plea at IUN conference
Northwest Indiana Times
Friday, May 11, 2012

Tamarack Hall’s history revealed
Northwest Indiana Times
Thursday, May 10, 2012

GUEST COMMENTARY: IUN is proud of grads, especially veterans
Northwest Indiana Times
Thursday, May 10, 2012

IUN prof wants to make movie about the real Gary
Post-Tribune
Wednesday, May 9, 2012
http://bit.ly/ProfMovie

Local students, universities finding more success with job placement
Northwest Indiana Times
Saturday, May 5, 2012

Noted child advocate underscores historical roots of ‘whoopings’
Northwest Indiana Times
Saturday, April 28, 2012

Being smart about money
Northwest Indiana Times
Saturday, April 28, 2012

IUN data analysis shows need for local trauma center
Northwest Indiana Times
Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Youth Foundation restoring Buffington Park
Post-Tribune
Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Youth violence organizers hope to make a difference
Post-Tribune
Sunday, April 22, 2012

IUN students meet the real world at job fair
Post-Tribune
Friday, April 20, 2012

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
IU Northwest degree gives grad a wealth of opportunity
MBA in hand, banker Tom Devine went from entry level to assistant VP in just 15 months

Since graduating with his MBA in 2011, Tom Devine has been busy climbing the corporate ladder.

This 25-year-old alumnus of the IU Northwest School of Business and Economics gives much of the credit for his early success to his IU Northwest education.

Devine completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 2009 and elected to continue his business track in the IU Northwest MBA for Professionals program instead of going to law school.

“The degree led me to this whole other level,” Devine said. “I was able to move from working in sort of an entry-level position … to wealth management. I started as an investment assistant. And, fortunately, our leadership at our bank looks very highly upon higher education, in particular an MBA, and especially from a local, highly recognized university. In 15 months, I went from an entry-level position to an assistant vice president and wealth management officer.”

As a wealth management officer at People’s Bank, Devine is now charged with helping individuals and companies to manage their investments.

Devine credited IU Northwest’s AACSB-accredited business school with giving him the tools to succeed. In particular, he said that his finance and accounting courses helped him to understand the fundamentals of evaluating companies in order to make sound stock investments. The high level of analytical preparation, Devine said, helped him to understand and meet his clients’ needs.

Accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate School of Business International (AACSB) is the premier quality marker for business schools worldwide. Only 15 percent of
business schools in the U.S. have earned this prestigious certification of quality.

“The importance of the AACSB accreditation,” Devine said, “is that you have professors that have been in the real world and were able to experience a lot of things and then bring that knowledge to the classroom.”

During his graduate coursework, Devine took an independent study course with Professor of Management Charles Hobson, Ph.D. in which the two put together a report for a Head Start consortium to help the organization increase its volunteer friendliness. The opportunity to work directly with the professor and individuals at the consortium, Devine said, served his education immeasurably while also providing a valuable community service.

“Not only was I able to derive a lot of knowledge and experience from that,” Devine said, “but they were also a huge benefactor of what we did and it gave them the ability to raise more money and help more students and help more families in that area.”

Devine described his graduate-level business education as “extremely rigorous.”

“Undergrad was extremely intense and the graduate (program) took it to a much higher level than I had anticipated,” he said.

Devine currently serves on the board of the IU Northwest Alumni Association as an alumni representative of the School of Business and Economics. He hopes to use his board position to forge new partnerships between IU Northwest and the business community for the betterment of the region.

A world-class IU education appears to be a Devine family tradition. Devine’s uncle and grandfather both earned their MBAs at IU’s Bloomington campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8
DIVERSITY JOB FAIR
The Times Media Co. will host its fifth annual Diversity Job Fair and Business Symposium on Friday, June 8 in the Savannah Gymnasium. The event will combine a job fair to enable companies to recruit diverse professionals with a business symposium discussing diversity strategies, insights, challenges and successes for Northwest Indiana business executives and leaders. The business symposium is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by the job fair from 12 to 4 p.m.

June 9
ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL
Make plans to attend the Summer Arts & Music Festival on Saturday, June 9. The fun-filled afternoon for all ages will begin at 2 p.m. in the Gallery for Contemporary Art, with the opening of the Department of Fine Arts Alumni Exhibit, which will feature artwork from more than 60 Fine Arts alumni who will be on hand at the reception until 4 p.m. The exhibit will be on display until June 20.

Following the artists’ reception, the South Shore Brass Band will perform in the campus courtyard from 4 to 5 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy the soulful sounds of cornets, horns, trombones, tubas, and more.

The Arts & Music Festival is free and open to the public. Free visitor parking will be available in all campus parking areas. In case of inclement weather, the concert will take place in the Savannah Gymnasium.

IU Northwest event sponsors include the Gallery for Contemporary Art, the Department of Fine Arts, the Alumni Association, and the Office of the Chancellor.

June 19
SEMI-ANNUAL RETIREMENT RECEPTION
The Semi-Annual Retirement Reception is planned for 3 p.m., Tuesday, June 19 in the Anderson Library Conference Center (Room 105 ABC). Those being recognized are retiring staff and faculty members Donald Coffin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business and Economics; Sheila Trzcinka, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Education; and John Pappas, Database Administrator. Trzcinka and Pappas will not be in attendance.

June 21
THEATRE NW PRODUCTION
Theater Northwest will present its spring production, “Baby with the Bathwater,” June 21 – 24 at Theatre Northwest at Arts on Grant. The performances will take place at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 21, Friday, June 22, and Saturday, June 23. The final performance will be at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 24. Tickets are $10 each and can be purchased by contacting the Theatre Northwest box office at (219) 980-6810. Any remaining tickets may be purchased at the box office prior to the event.

June 21
THRILL OF THE GRILL
Save the date for the first Thrill of the Grill of the season, from 12 to 2 p.m., Thursday, June 21 in the Anderson Library courtyard. Menu and live entertainment to be announced.
“Get involved in the community,” she said. “You never know who you will meet or the opportunities you will experience.”

In a report detailing the SBCHI findings, the SPEA students proposed a simple solution for increasing the level of volunteerism throughout Northwest Indiana: If each IU Northwest student volunteered one more hour each month, that would equate to 66,000 volunteer hours per year, or the equivalent of 33 full-time employees for local organizations and governmental agencies.

“This minor change in the lives of students would be beneficial to so many throughout the Northwest Indiana region,” Clark said.

“This (data) represents an important and available resource that is not used to its capacity, which is a promising find for the local community network and the students (who) need to strengthen their ties to the community,” Ferrandino said.

Onward

Strengthening community ties is a core area of interest and expertise for Ferrandino, who is an expert in criminal justice, public policy, and civic health and engagement. Graduate students who take his Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semester courses will engage in similar research.

This type of research, Ferrandino explained, shows great synergy between the SPEA and IU Northwest missions.

“The IU Northwest student body is engaged, but needs to strengthen its weak ties and put the university’s mission into practice on a large scale to provide our community partners with quality, well-needed work to enhance their overall capacities,” he said.

About the Survey

The class (V506, Statistical Analysis for Effective Decision Making) surveyed students at the undergraduate and graduate level through an online survey. To achieve the sample, several emails were distributed through the IU Northwest list-serv to ensure that all students had the opportunity to complete the survey. Faculty and staff were asked to encourage students to participate. The survey was open from January 11, 2012 through February 17, 2012.

A total of 374 students responded to the survey; the margin of error was calculated at +/- 4.9 percent.

Sarah Jackson: Switching gears and inspiring others, at 46

After graduating from high school in 1984, going to college wasn’t a priority for Sarah Jackson, of Valparaiso. Anxious to get into the workforce and earn a salary, she headed first into military service before beginning a trail of jobs from social service to retail to banking.

As someone who was repeatedly passed over for positions she desired because she lacked a college degree, the Gary native is now a staunch advocate for higher education.

Juggling the responsibilities of being a wife and mother to a school-aged daughter along with her job, Jackson enrolled at Ivy Tech Community College before transferring to IU Northwest.

As she grew more and more committed to her goal of a college degree, Jackson eventually left her job and devoted herself 100 percent to her discipline.

“This gave me a chance to explore marketing in depth and pick up two minors (in computer information systems and communications),” she said.

Jackson took full advantage of the opportunities available to her to further hone her skills. She served as president of the student chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) and president of the National Society of Leadership & Success (NSLS) and also took advantage of two internships and two work-study opportunities, which she credited with solidifying her preferred career path.

Now 46 years old, it seems that Jackson has succeeded in reinventing herself. On May 10, she crossed the Commencement stage to receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Although she has two courses to finish this summer before her degree is official, Jackson is already well on her way to better job opportunities.

“I want to find a position where I can market a company,” Jackson said. “I want to be able to put them on the map and show them that new media is useful in making sure others can reach them.”

Jackson is also a first-generation college graduate and the first of five siblings to earn a college degree. Her success has inspired her older sister to return to school, Jackson said.