Indiana University Northwest faculty and staff members gathered over lunch in late April to recognize the contributions of three outstanding faculty members and four outstanding staff members at an annual luncheon hosted by the Office of Human Resources/Payroll.

Those recognized included three outstanding faculty members:

Barbara Peat, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), was awarded the Distinguished Service Award.

Christopher Young, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, was awarded the Founder’s Day Teaching Award.

Subir Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing, was awarded the Distinguished Scholarship/Creative Activity Award.

Four staff members were acknowledged for their significant contributions:

Ellen “Naomi” Palagi, secretary in the Department of Modern Languages, was awarded the Outstanding Clerical Staff Award.

Noelle Bates, director of Fiscal and Administrative Operations, was awarded the Outstanding Professional Staff Award.

Larobson “Rob” Seals, Manager of Media Equipment Services, Instructional Media, was awarded the Outstanding Technical Staff Award.

William Durkin, locksmith for the Physical Plant building maintenance crew, was awarded the Outstanding Service/Maintenance Staff Award.

(Pictured from top) Linda Rooda, Ph.D., RN, Christopher Young, Ph.D., and Rob Seals, were among those who collected their awards from Chancellor William J. Lowe, Ph.D., and David Malik, Ph.D., at the annual luncheon.

continued on next page
Employees who have dedicated many years of service were also recognized during the luncheon. Attendees applauded 67 staff members who celebrated service milestones, including Linda Rooda, Ph.D., RN, of the School of Nursing, who has devoted 40 years to IU Northwest. Rooda served the campus as the Dean of Nursing for 13 years before resigning her post in January. She continues to serve the School of Nursing as a faculty member.

40 Years of Service (1972)
Linda Rooda, Ph.D., RN

35 Years of Service (1977)
Arlene Adler
Clarence Green
Catherine Mezzacapo
Levonda Moseley
Richard Sheffer, Ph.D.
Silquia Vela

30 Years of Service (1982)
George Bodmer, Ph.D.
William Buckley, Ph.D.
Stephen McShane
Joseph Pellicciotti, J.D.
Timothy Sutherland
Henry Wyzinski, Ph.D.

25 Years of Service (1987)
Donald Coffin, Ph.D.
Charmaine Connelly
Mary Kirkish, Ph.D.
John Pappas
Diane Robinson
Stephanie Shanks-Meile, Ph.D.
Kay Washington
Patricia Woosley

20 Years of Service (1992)
Spencer Cortwright, Ph.D.
Barbara Gunn
Dipika Gupta, Ph.D.
Kathryn Lantz
Rene Long
Ella Morgan
Anna Rominger, J.D.
Vernon Smith, Ed.D.
Douglas Swartz
Melvin Wells

15 Years of Service (1997)
Julie Bishop
Sandra Hall Smith
Kristin Huysken, Ph.D.
Sandra Mendoza
Rita Jablon
Patricia Ogrinc
Krishna Yelavarthi, Ph.D.

10 Years of Service (2002)
Jon Holmes
Taylor Lake, Ph.D.
Diane Larson
Anja Matwijkiw, Ph.D.
William Odefey
Rob Seals
Linda Templeton
Vernal Thornton
Valerie Winbush

5 Years of Service (2007)
Jennifer Anderson
Peter Avis, Ph.D.
Anne Balay, Ph.D.
Jonathyne Briggs, Ph.D.
Rochelle Brock, Ph.D.
Harold Burtley, Jr.
Alice Chess
Konya Crawford
TerryAnn Defenser
Karen Downing
Lucyna Drozd-Nurek, Ph.D.
Evelyn Gossett
Joseph Guzik
Deborah Hankins
Larry Hayden
Ellen Hennessy-Harstad
Beverly Lewis-Burton
Kathy Ligon
Ellen “Naomi” Palagi
Sheila Taylor
Indiana University Northwest regretfully announced in late April the passing of Leroy Gray, the former director of the Office of Financial Aid. Gray, a resident of Gary, passed away Friday, April 20.

Peter Kesheimer, who retired as IU Northwest’s Registrar in 2007, worked alongside Gray for 20 years.

Kesheimer has fond memories of the continuing banter that he exchanged regularly with Gray about their favorite basketball teams. Gray was a “rabid IU basketball fan,” as Kesheimer put it, while he supported his native team from the University of Kentucky.

In fact, at Gray’s retirement reception, Kesheimer recalled approaching the podium dressed in a buttoned-up trench coat. After relaying his memories of Gray, Kesheimer opened the coat to reveal his University of Kentucky sweatshirt. This drew hearty laughter, as all those who knew Gray also knew of his love for IU hoops.

A Hoosier through and through, Gray received both his bachelor’s degree in education and his master’s degree in higher education from IU. Before beginning his career at IU Northwest, Gray served as an English teacher for Roosevelt High School.

He served the IU Northwest campus from 1970 to 2006. Early in his tenure at IU Northwest, Gray left for one year to work at the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, before returning to IU Northwest in 1972.

Colleagues said that Gray enjoyed serving the public with yearly financial aid seminars that he presented at area high schools. For many years, he coordinated the annual College Goal Sunday financial aid event.

“He was one of the kindest, friendliest people that you would ever hope to meet,” Kesheimer said. “He was extremely supportive of the student who came to him and would go to any lengths to ensure that they received the maximum amount of aid that they were eligible for.”

“Leroy was one of the kindest, gentlest people that you would ever hope to meet,” Kesheimer said. “He was extremely supportive of the student who came to him and would go to any lengths to ensure that they received the maximum amount of aid that they were eligible for.”

“He was a kind, gentle man willing to go the extra mile for any student that came in.” - Paulette LaFata-Johnson

Kesheimer said that Gray had a particular knack for advising students and helping them to achieve a healthy balance while juggling all of the obligations common to IU Northwest students.

“He always had an open ear for students,” Kesheimer said.

Paulette LaFata-Johnson, director of the Office of Alumni Relations, worked with Gray some years ago when she worked as a financial aid counselor.

“He was a kind, gentle man willing to go the extra mile for any student that came in,” she said.

IU Northwest extends its deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Leroy Gray. ■
In the summer months, a corner laboratory in Indiana University Northwest’s Marram Hall bustles with activity as young ecologists come and go, depositing their muddy boots at the door and dropping lab notebooks smudged with earth on the countertops. Following an afternoon in the field, their sweat-covered faces peer into computer monitors as they pour data from the day’s work into an Internet database.

This scientific sanctuary, located on IU’s Gary campus, is the headquarters for the Northwest Indiana Restoration Monitoring Inventory (NIRMI), which is fast becoming a valued resource for those who have a vested interest in the booming business of ecological restoration. Here, detailed records about Northwest Indiana’s numerous restoration efforts are archived and available to guide scientists for generations to come.

Launched in 2010, NIRMI is now an expanding database that land managers, researchers, educators and the general public can use to learn about the various species of plants and how well they are thriving in the restoration sites being monitored by the NIRMI team. Currently, the NIRMI team is monitoring 28 sites, with more added each year.

“It is going to tell us how much the restoration is benefitting the region,” said IU Northwest Assistant Professor of Biology Peter Avis, Ph.D. “If you didn’t have these ways of looking at it, you wouldn’t know if the (land being restored) is healthy or not.”

Despite its longstanding reputation as an environmentally challenged region, Northwest Indiana actually is undergoing a “restoration revolution.” Such was the topic of a paper by local environmentalist Lee Botts in 2006, and that paper ultimately resulted in the birth of NIRMI.

“In it going to tell us how much the restoration in this region is benefitting the region.”

-Peter Avis, Ph.D.

Botts approached Avis, who was familiar with the agencies that could fund such an enterprise. He also had a pool of eager students with great ideas.

Avis called first on student Jason Palagi, who is credited with building the framework for what NIRMI would become. Now an IU Northwest alumnus, Palagi is pursuing a doctorate at the University of Illinois at Chicago and continues to serve NIRMI as an advisor.

The monitoring process involves plotting out a 50- by 20-meter portion of the restoration site and identifying the plants, a process overseen by Botanist Gayle Tonkovich, who serves as NIRMI’s procedural manager. Students and NIRMI staff frequently measure the density of vegetation as well as how much area it covers, the chemistry of the soil, and more. The data is put into a database, a process managed by Wyatt Gaswick, a field ecologist and computer scientist.

Avis said that, without access to a tool like NIRMI, the entities charged with restoration projects have few resources to draw upon over the long term in any real, systematic way. Doing so is a real challenge, especially given the fact that getting a true picture of success could take decades, he said.

Another benefit to housing the database, Avis said, is the unique, hands-on opportunity that students enjoy as they explore ecology as a career. He noted that there are many jobs to be had in ecological restoration, especially in this region.

“For a long time, people thought of Northwest Indiana as an environmental wasteland, but here, we have very clear metrics, very clear data on how it is not,” Avis said. “The pollution is decreasing and the restoration is increasing and those restorations are good.”
IU Northwest biology professor makes prairie restoration his personal mission

Thanks to one man’s community service project, 11 acres north of the campus are slowly returning to their natural state

The undeveloped area just north of the Gary campus’s main parking lot bordering 33rd Avenue and Broadway is not just some wild expanse of land left to its own processes. Fortunately for this delicate young prairie, it happens to be situated at the workplace of a biologist who has adopted it and personally nurtures it as it works to reclaim the natural state that Mother Nature intended for it.

Associate Professor of Biology Spencer Cortwright, Ph.D., is frequently found among the greenery, carefully seeding, pruning and monitoring this developing prairie. Officially, the land is named the Little Calumet River Prairie and Wetlands Nature Preserve, but most folks at IU Northwest know it simply as “Spencer’s Prairie.”

It all started in the late 1990s, when Cortwright noticed workers building a levee to control flooding.

“When I looked at the position of the levee and the land around it, I said to myself, ‘No one is going to be able to do anything with the land near that levee. There’s not enough of it there; it’s damp in some areas and you are not supposed to build near a levee because it is there for flood protection,’” he said.

Still, he saw potential in the land, which was then dominated by European weeds, and so Cortwright set out to become its caretaker. When he learned that the land was owned by the Gary Parks Department, he sought permission to re-vegetate parts of it.

Originally trained as an amphibian ecologist, Cortwright had grown weary of late, rainy nights chasing frogs and salamanders. He needed a change of scenery and “this plant project fit the bill,” the biologist said.

By the time legal documents had been signed allowing Cortwright to care for 11 acres of the land, non-native species had taken over about 99 percent of the prairie. Cortwright explained that a nature preserve cannot support a robust food web if your plants are mainly European.

Visitors to campus frequently see Cortwright in action where the prairie meets the parking lot. Often, he is pushing a cart along the edge or hefting a backpack filled with herbicide; at such times, he may be collecting and distributing seeds; transplanting more sensitive plants that he has grown or purchased to speed things along; or cutting down small trees that are trying to take root. Unfortunately, a hefty dose of garbage detail is part of the job, too.

“The long-term goal is to have it be a good representation for what a tall grass prairie looked like,” Cortwright said. “It’s not there yet, but we’ve made good strides.”

In total, Cortwright said there are about 54 acres that deserve attention -- too much for Cortwright and his student assistants to handle, even with the permission of the Parks Department. He estimated that it would take about $500,000 to hire a company to handle the remaining acreage. He admitted that he likes that idea.

The prairie also provides students with a lab experience. Cortwright’s zoology class studies the foraging habits of small mammals in the prairie, for instance, and the biology club learns how to conduct a controlled prairie burn.

As Cortwright knows too well, waging a one-man battle with nature is not always easy.

“In 2008, I did a survey and had about 200 (native plants), so we were doing well,” he said. “But then came the flood in September of 2008 and I would guess we lost 50 or more species. . . . I’ve been trying to get back to 250 or so ever since.”

What’s the best strategy to restore native species to a prairie? One way, believe it or not, is to burn it.

The landscape’s slightly injured appearance in early spring is the result of a prairie fire, intentionally set to warm the soil and clear away last year’s dead vegetation to encourage new growth. The practice also controls non-native plant species, fertilizes the soil and controls insects. Animal lovers can rest assured that the small mammals remain safe in their underground burrows, Cortwright said.

Cortwright explained that controlled prairie fires are an essential part of the natural landscape. Without human intervention, he said, they tend to start by way of a lightning bolt. Native Indians once set prairie fires to get grasses growing early, thus attracting bison to their homeland.

“After a burn, you have higher plant production than you would without a burn,” Cortwright said.

Now that the prairie is well-known and highly visible, Cortwright said that he feels a certain amount of pressure to keep it looking nice.

“That’s the kind of pressure I can live with,” he said.
What started out as a mindless, daily household chore of loading the dishwasher turned into a million-dollar idea for Indiana University Northwest student Darnelius Hill. In 2009, Hill, a junior studying sociology, was going about the business of tidying his home when the idea hit him, he said, like a ton of bricks. Or gold and platinum, in this case.

Hill, 30, a member of IU Northwest’s Student African American Brotherhood, has more than five years of experience in the jewelry business as a certified gemologist. Working for a local, independent jewelry store got him to thinking that there probably was “an easier way for customers to clean their jewelry.”

He found that easier way. Hill’s entrepreneurial spirit led him down a winding path of prototypes and patents until, recently, he decided on his final product: The Jewel Washer™.

The product, Hill said, is truly as simple as the name sounds. Any piece of metal jewelry, with the exception of watches, can be loaded into the small, blue dishwasher-safe plastic container that fits onto the top shelf of a dishwasher. The container has very small holes that allow water to pass through, but, more importantly, they enable a build-up and release of steam, which helps to bring one’s jewels back to their original pristine condition.

“No special detergent is necessary,” Hill explained. “Just add The Jewel Washer™ with your dirty pans, cups and plates, and within one wash cycle, you’ll have clean dishes and jewelry.”

The journey from prototype to patent has helped Hill to remember his father, and to serve as a mentor, educator and inspiration to local children and entrepreneurs.

“I want people to know that...great things come out of the region.”

-Darnelius Hill

Hill credited his first-place victory to the simplicity of his product. “This works because our jewelry is like silverware; it’s stainless steel. Gold, platinum and other precious metals are more durable than steel. The temperate range for those metals to melt is higher than steel.”

Hill said that the majority of today’s most successful inventions have simple solutions. Consider, for example, the enormous popularity of the Snuggie®, or better yet, Silly Bandz®.

Hill’s entrepreneurial spirit stems from his late father, who like Hill, took a simple approach to solving his problems. “A lot of people go through their whole life not even knowing what a patent is, how it works, and what intellectual property is,” Hill said. “My dad showing me what a patent is at age 7 actually led me to create this (The Jewel Washer™).”

Paying forward that same entrepreneurial spirit, Hill, a single father of three, recently brought the patent process to life for a local, kindergarten class through The Jewel Washer™ for Kids program. He had each student color a picture of The Jewel Washer™. The backside of the paper defined the patent process in a context young children would understand. The student with the best and most creative coloring of The Jewel Washer™ was awarded a $100 cash prize.

The JewelWasher™ is currently in production and will be available for purchase in 2012. Orders have already been made by local, independent jewelry stores, and consumers will be able to purchase the product online, or through mail orders, in the coming weeks.

Hill said he hopes to see the product carried globally by mass retailers such as Wal-Mart or Target fairly soon.
Brother2Brother teams up with young men from Calumet High School for the 2012 SAAB National Conference

Nine IU Northwest students who are members of the Brother2Brother (B2B) College Success Program served as mentors for 12 Calumet High School students who are members of their school’s chapter of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB). Both groups traveled to Indianapolis in late March for the SAAB 2012 National Conference.

Members from chapters across the country participated in the two-day conference headlined by Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe, the Founder and National President and CEO of the B2B / SAAB organization. The conference theme was “Brothers Igniting Leadership and Influencing Change.”

The primary objective of B2B is to help underrepresented minority male students at IU Northwest achieve graduation. The program provides academic support, as well as fiscal, personal, and professional resources to significantly increase the probability of graduation, and readiness for productive citizenship.

IU Northwest students who attended included Eldrick Hereford; Oscar Hinton; Michael McCoy, Jr.; Jose Meza, Edgar Mota; DeAndre Nwannunu; Gabriel Sotres; Cory Thames; and Christopher Watson. B2B staff who attended the conference included Alan Roger Currie, Program Coordinator; Jeffery Moseley, Jr., Coordinator for the Office of Diversity Programming; and James Wallace, Interim Director for the Office of Diversity Programming.

B2B members were also busy in late April as part of the 4th Annual Earth Day Clean-Up. A group of 40 individuals worked to tidy up 35th and 36th Avenues from Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to Pierce Street in Gary.

In other activities, the Office of Diversity Programming (ODP) celebrated Irish-American Heritage Month and Greek-American Heritage Month. The Diversity Programming Series welcomed Latino/Polian comedian and hip-hop theatre artist Joe Hernandez-Kolski in March and Cuban-American journalist, essayist, novelist, and educator Achy Obejas in April.

For more information about the Brother2Brother organization, visit Room 109 in the Moraine Student Center, or call Alan Currie at (219) 980-6738. The Office of Diversity Programming is located in Lindenwood Hall, Suite 404, and can be reached at (219) 980-6596.
The IU Northwest chapter of the Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching (FACET) invited international expert Kathleen McKinney, Ph.D., to campus in mid-April to conduct a workshop on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL).

McKinney is a professor of Sociology at Illinois State University and the Cross Endowed Chair in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), a university-wide endowed chair reporting to the Office of the Provost.

Co-sponsored by FACET and IU Northwest, the event was well attended by faculty members from all IU campuses who were interested in pursuing SoTL research and publication. The attendees included the 2012 IU Northwest FACET inductees. The event included an informal discussion with FACET Director Robin Morgan and Administrative Manager Kim Oli- vares, who spoke about goals, issues and concerns facing the IU Northwest FACET membership.

One of the key features of the workshop was the interactive session between McKinney and individual researchers who were anxious to discuss their own SoTL projects. Several participants took this opportunity to gain valuable feedback from a renowned expert in the field.

Subir Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., workshop coordinator, is very optimistic about the future of SoTL at IU Northwest.

“It was evident that several faculty members have already collected a substantial amount of SoTL-related data,” Bandyopadhyay said. “They are already involved in a number of research projects on SoTL. We sincerely hope that the workshop will serve as a catalyst to generate a steady stream of research on SoTL by the IU Northwest faculty.”

For those who could not attend the workshop, the slides from McKinney’s workshop are available through the FACET listserv and FACET website, as well as on the CISTL website.

NOTES OF DISTINCTION

IU Northwest faculty gains valuable insight about the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning from international expert McKinney

Ted Bae, Ph.D., of the IU School of Medicine – Northwest, has been informed that his tenure has been approved. As of July 1, Bae will be the Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology.

Tatiana Kostrominova, Ph.D., of the IU School of Medicine – Northwest, has also been informed that her tenure has been approved. She will now be the Associate Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology.

Ernest Talarico, Ph.D., of the IU School of Medicine – Northwest, has been informed that his tenure has been approved. As of July 1, Talarico will be the Associate Professor of Medical Education and Course Director of Human Gross Anatomy and Embryology. Talarico has been recognized internationally for his innovative approach to human gross anatomy education.

Subir Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., has been informed that his article, “Developing and Validating AFFINITY: A New Scale to Measure Consumer Affinity toward Foreign Countries,” co-authored with Nittaya Wongtada and Gillian Rice, is being published in the Journal of International Consumer Marketing on May 31, 2012.

Congratulations to the following individuals who have been awarded with this year’s Trustee Teaching Awards: Jon Becker; Gianluca Di Muzio, Ph.D.; Kristin Huysken, Ph.D.; Dorothy Ige, Ph.D.; Vesna Kilibarda, Ph.D.; Michael LaPointe, Ph.D.; Lori Montalbano; Ju Park, Ed.D.; Scooter Pegram, Ph.D.; and Christopher Young, Ph.D.

At its annual induction ceremony in April, the IU Northwest chapter (Sigma Alpha Pi) of the National Society for Leadership & Success (NSLS) inducted Chancellor William J. Lowe, Ph.D., as an honorary member and honored Assistant Professor of Mathematics Axel Schulze-Halberg, Ph.D., with an Excellence in Teaching Award. Forty student members were also inducted into the national organization.

FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES

Please welcome the following individuals who have joined the IU Northwest campus:

• Karen Joppek, part-time student counselor (Student Services)
• Kris Falzone, Interim Executive Director for External Relations
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.

**IUN archaeology instructor leads students in campus dig**
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Tuesday, April 17, 2012

**IUN students get a taste of the real world**
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Friday, April 13, 2012

**IUN archaeological dig unlikely to bear fruit**
*Post-Tribune*
Wednesday, April 11, 2012

**Demolition under way at Indiana University Northwest’s oldest building, Tamarack Hall**
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Friday, April 6, 2012

**IU Northwest students participate in mock interviews, resumé critiques**
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Friday, April 6, 2012

**IUN Police Officer honored for Service Above and Beyond the Call of Duty**
*Northwest Indiana times*
Thursday, April 5, 2012

**Science Olympiad points the way for future microbiologist**
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Thursday, April 5, 2012

**Health care reform facts, myths discussed**
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Tuesday, April 3, 2012

**IU Northwest Weekend MBA students travel to Israel**
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Sunday, April 1, 2012
http://bit.ly/WeekendMBAsIsrael

**IUN prof wants broadband Internet access for NWI**
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Wednesday, March 28, 2012
http://bit.ly/BroadbandInternet

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**CLASS NOTES**

Tamara “Tammi” McGill (B.A., Psychology, 2011, and B.G.S, 2010) is pursuing her master’s degree in psychology (specialization in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and plans to graduate next year. McGill is also tutoring math, psychology and beginning Spanish at Purdue University Calumet.

Betty Hiemstra (B.S., Business, 2011) joined the IU Northwest Library staff in September 2011. She works as the Assistant Head in Circulation/Reserves.

Cozey Weatherspoon (B.A. 1990) serves as Gary’s director of General Services. He was lauded in the news recently for the stellar “first impressions” his team leaves on the city when it carries out tasks like snow removal, the filling of pot holes, lawn maintenance and more.

Linda Rawles (B.A., Political Science and Criminal Justice Studies, 1988) was recently appointed General Counsel of Brookline College, a multi-campus higher education organization headquartered in Phoenix. She will provide general counsel and advisement on issues in a variety of areas, including policy and procedures. Rawles holds a J.D. from University of Chicago Law School. She is a resident of Carefree, Arizona.
May 4
**SPEA RESEARCH FORUM**
The School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) has introduced a new opportunity for academic researchers and working professionals to put their collective knowledge to work for the betterment of practice in the community.

The next session of the Spring 2012 Research Forum is scheduled for 12 p.m., Friday, May 4 in the Dunes Medical/Professional Building, Room 2134. Assistant Professor of Public Affairs Atta Ceesay, Ph.D., will address the use of microfinance initiatives as alternative strategies to sustain development and grow in poor communities.

Immediately following Ceesay's discussion, at 1:30 p.m., Melissa Bowen, a SPEA student, will discuss unfair labor practices and how they yield low employee morale. She will provide recommendations on helping future generations of service workers in the food-service industry demand proper treatment, training and fair wages.

The research forum is relevant to such professionals as judges, prosecutors, re-entry coordinators, law enforcement, employers, and all types of agency professionals.

For more information, contact Monica Solinas-Saunders at (219) 980-6676 or msolinas@iun.edu.

May 10
**TAMARACK HALL TIME CAPSULE OPENING**
A time capsule celebrating the history of IU Northwest's first building will be opened at a celebratory event in remembrance of Tamarack Hall on Thursday, May 10. The 12:30 p.m. reception will be followed by a ceremony at 1 p.m. in the Moraine Student Center.

Special guest Dr. John C. Buhner will be in attendance. Buhner, the former Gary Center Director and former IU Northwest Dean and Acting Chancellor, was present at the 1958 setting of the Tamarack Hall cornerstone. Tamarack Hall, the campus's first building, has been demolished. The building officially closed in September 2008 as a result extensive of flooding damage.

Attendees are asked to R.S.V.P. to Delores Crawford at (219) 980-6800 or decrawfo@iun.edu.

May 10
**COMMENCEMENT**
IU Northwest will host its 46th Annual Commencement on Thursday, May 10 beginning at 4 p.m. at the Genesis Center, located at 5th Avenue and Broadway in Gary.

Graduates should arrive at the Genesis Center at least 90 minutes before the ceremony begins and be ready to assemble by 3 p.m. The ceremony is expected to last about two hours. Tickets are not required for family members and friends to attend Commencement.

The RedHawk Shuttle will drop off/pickup directly in front of the Genesis Center. The shuttle will operate from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., and will resume 15 minutes following the closing of Commencement and run for one hour. There will be two shuttles making rounds every five to 10 minutes. Designated free parking areas and RedHawk Shuttle location pick-up/drop-off locations will be marked with signage.

Free handicapped parking is located on the first floor of the Genesis Center parking garage.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (219) 980-8769 or alumninw@iun.edu.

May 11
**YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION CONFERENCE**
Nationally recognized anti-violence activist the Rev. Dr. Michael L. Pfleger will headline the Fifth Annual Youth Violence Prevention Conference, with the theme "Stopping the Loss of Our Treasures," from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, May 11, in the Savannah and Moraine Student Centers.

Pfleger, who has ministered in the African-American communities on both the West and South Sides of Chicago since 1968, will deliver the keynote address at 1 p.m. At 10 a.m., Muhibb Dyer, a Milwaukee community activist and writer, will present "From Kings to Thugs to Presidents," a play intended to encourage youth to strive for a better future. Other workshops of interest include "Healthy Relationships," "Stress Management for Youth," "Sex and You," "Family Dynamics," "Drugs," "Boundary Setting," "Bullying," "Just for Girls," and "Just for Guys."

The adult registration fee is $75 and the youth registration fee is $25. Early registration is encouraged for this event, as space is limited. To register, or to learn more, contact Mary Lee at (219) 980-6702 or mfllee@iun.edu.

May 14
**GARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING**
IU Northwest is proud to be the host site of the annual meeting and luncheon of the Gary Chamber of Commerce, scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Monday, May 14 in the Moraine Student Center. The annual luncheon serves as the venue to install new chamber officers and the board of directors.

The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., an internationally known civil rights, religious and political leader, will be the luncheon's keynote speaker. Jackson will address avenues for successful businesses, barriers to businesses, and the need for viable businesses in urban areas.

The luncheon is open to the public and costs $25 per person. Pre-registration is encouraged by calling the Gary Chamber of Commerce at (219) 885-7407. Walk-ins will be accepted but will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

May 23
**LIFELONG LEARNING**
The IU Northwest Alumni Association and the IU Alumni Association - Lakeshore Region Chapter are here to help you achieve your learning objectives and goals through a series of free "Lifelong Learning" seminars.

This month's presentation, "Moonlight in Duneland: The Story of the South Shore Line's 1920s Poster Campaign," will take place at 5:30 p.m., Friday, May 23 in the John W. Anderson Library Conference Center, Room 105ABC.

Ronald D. Cohen, Ph.D., and Stephen G. McShane, co-authors of the book *Moonlight in Duneland: The Illustrated Story of the Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad*, will discuss the South Shore’s marketing campaign of the 1920s, which contributed significantly to the enormous success of the railroad prior to the Great Depression.

For more information, or to reserve your seat, contact the IU Northwest Office of Alumni Relations at (219) 980-6769 or alumninw@iun.edu.