Want to learn how to build your own App? Come to Professor Ranjan Kini’s garage

By introducing App creation skills, professor is bringing innovation to IU Northwest’s business education

Many people know that the first Apple computer was invented in the late CEO Steve Jobs’ garage. But, perhaps not as many know that the “i” preceding Apple product names represents a number of concepts, including internet, individual, instruct, inform and inspire.

Much like in Jobs’ garage, the birthplaces for innovation are often in unlikely places, perhaps even a tiny room off the first-floor lounge in the Dunes Medical / Professional building at Indiana University Northwest. This is where Professor of Business Administration Ranjan Kini, Ph.D., is introducing some of his business students to a tool that could help them one day make a name for themselves with their own “garage-style” innovation.

Welcome to IU Northwest’s iGarage, where the “i” stands for innovation.

After first learning some basic computer skills in Kini’s business classes, students who want to learn how to create their own Apps and download them onto their handheld devices have the option of visiting the iGarage on Friday afternoons. There, Kini introduces them to tools that make easy work of putting the building blocks of complex computer coding together.

In the iGarage, business students -- who often shy away from anything that resembles computer programming -- quickly realize that they, too, can create what they may have thought only an advanced computer programmer can do.

Used together, a program called Scratch and another called App Inventor enable students to make their App ideas into a reality without knowing a single bit of programming language and within only a couple of hours.

Kini wants to see that imagination become entrepreneurship and marketability for business students.

That is the edge that IU Northwest business graduates will have, Kini said, “Businesses need business majors. But they also need tech-savvy folks to develop Apps relevant to their businesses. Our grads will provide both of those experts, rolled into one.”
“If these students can learn App development, their ideas can be converted to Apps, and this makes them more marketable in the business world,” Kini said. “You don’t need an IT expert to conceptualize an App. Apps are conceptualized by users, who then ask their IT people to develop the App. Why not give this capability to our business majors?”

Larry Davy, a junior majoring in business administration, recently attended Kini’s Friday iGarage session. After about 40 minutes of going through tutorials, he made a cat meow on his phone. And while a cat’s meow may not have much practical use in business, learning the steps to make it happen help students hone marketable skills. They will learn how to apply those skills in a more practical way, like pulling business data together from their company, for instance.

“I’m interested in learning how all of these things that people are putting onto the phones, how they are doing it,” Davy said. “Depending on the business, if they have Apps or don’t have Apps, I could develop one for them specifically.”

App creation is a skill that is increasingly being taught to middle school-aged children in other parts of the country and is quickly filtering down to younger students, Kini said. App Clubs are popping up in numerous high schools in other parts of the country, Kini said, but not yet in Northwest Indiana.

IU Northwest is ahead of the curve when it comes to the relatively new field of App creation, Kini said. “Our intention is to first, give students the capability and tools and confidence that they can do this. Then, they can easily move into whatever development is sought after now. Companies are pouring a ton of money into App development right now.”
Analyzing data from police and fire departments for insight on how to better allocate law enforcement and emergency services is nothing new. Large metropolitan cities like Chicago have entire staffs to do just that, but smaller urban areas like Northwest Indiana typically don’t have such resources.

What these communities do have is Joseph Ferrandino, Ph.D., an associate professor of criminal justice in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at Indiana University Northwest, and an entire brigade of criminal justice students.

Through IU Northwest’s Center for Urban and Regional Excellence, which focuses on helping community partners drive positive change by co-creating solutions to their challenges, police and emergency agencies in the region now have access to sophisticated computer statistical analysis methods typically only available in large metropolitan cities.

In 2012, The Center introduced Ferrandino to Gary Police Chief Wade Ingram, who wanted to replicate a practice he’d been accustomed to while he worked for the Chicago Police Department. CompStat, short for Computer Statistics, is a concept first implemented in New York in 1994, in which crime is mapped geographically and discussed at regular meetings. This helps to identify patterns of activity in the city and tailor responses and deploy personnel accordingly.

When he came aboard the Gary PD, Chief Ingram wanted to be able to use statistical analysis in planning. He formed a crime suppression unit and called on Ferrandino as a resource.

“I knew how CompStat should go,” Chief Ingram said, “but I just didn’t have the technical skills. Dr. Ferrandino has been taking our data and making it comprehensible . . . It pretty much drives the way we do police work.”

The relationship has proven to be mutually beneficial.

“We use Dr. Ferrandino’s expertise to benefit the department and in return, he has real data, real life experiences to work with. Not academic, not theoretical, it’s real,” said Ingram. “I recognize the need for law enforcement and the academic community to work together.”

A growing following

Word of the successful partnership has spread. As a result, Ferrandino is busier than ever after developing several other community partnerships.

“Once we start getting the data, we can put it into the officers’ hands and empower them,” Becker said. “We can make better decisions about where to patrol, discover more about where the issues lie, and stay a step ahead.”

This type of analysis is among the many ways the Center for Urban and Regional Excellence helps regional agencies address challenges in Northwest Indiana communities, according to Ellen Szarleta, Ph.D., J.D., director of the Center and a faculty member in SPEA. The Center works collaboratively with organizations, with particular focus on the government and nonprofit sectors, to advance research, teaching and services.

“IU Northwest is committed to engaging with the community to address priorities and concerns that affect citizens,” Szarleta said. “The Center’s current projects address diverse areas including economic development, government efficiency, nonprofit leadership development, and transportation policy, as well as public safety.”
Author Wes Moore visits campus

Wes Moore, a New York Times and Wall Street Journal best-selling author of The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates, spoke about his book and his experiences to an audience of campus and community members in March.

In the book, Moore describes the lives of two young men, both from the same city and similar circumstances, and with the same name, who follow divergent paths toward astonishingly different destinies. One Wes Moore grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other Wes Moore is serving a life sentence in prison for felony murder.

The book explores an ongoing relationship between the two men in which both learned a lot about each other, themselves, and the people in their lives.

During the much-anticipated lecture, the audience heard about Moore’s experiences first-hand and had the opportunity to personally ask him the questions that arose in their minds as they read the book. Afterwards, Moore greeted each person in attendance as he autographed their copies of his book.

The event was a highlight of the One Book … One Campus … One Community reading initiative that is continuing throughout Spring 2013 Semester. The reading program is intended to build an intellectual and social rapport among students, staff, faculty and community members through the collective experience of reading, thinking about, and discussing challenging ideas and themes that raise important social issues, especially those surrounding issues of diversity.
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE
One in three adults are diagnosed with hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against the artery walls as the heart pumps richly oxygenated blood to the body. Blood pressure is measured as “systolic” (upper number) and “diastolic” (lower number) pressures. Systolic refers to blood pressure when the heart beats while pumping blood. Diastolic refers to blood pressure when the heart is at rest between beats.

Know your numbers:
This is what the numbers in a person’s blood pressure reading mean:
• Normal: systolic less than 120 and diastolic less than 80
• Pre-Hypertension: systolic 120-139 or diastolic 80-89
• High Blood pressure:
  - Stage 1: systolic 140-159 or diastolic 90-99
  - Stage 2: systolic 160 or higher or diastolic 100 or higher

The major risk factors for hypertension are:
• Older Age: Blood pressure tends to rise with age.
• Race/Ethnicity: HBP is more common in African American adults than in Caucasian or Hispanic American adults.
• Overweight
• Gender: Before age 45, men are more likely to have HBP than women. After age 65, the condition is more likely to affect women than men.
• Unhealthy Lifestyle Habits:
  - Eating too much salt
  - Drinking too much alcohol
  - Lack of physical activity
  - Smoking

Other Risk Factors
• A family history of HBP
• Long-lasting stress
• Pre-hypertension: blood pressure that is in the 120–139/80–89 mmHg range.

Hypertension usually has no signs or symptoms. It is called the Silent Killer. You can have hypertension for years without knowing it. During this time, the condition can damage your heart and other organs.

Complications of hypertension include heart failure, aneurysm, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and blindness. The treatment goal is to get your blood pressure below 140/90.

Recommended lifestyle changes:
• Follow a healthy diet
• Limit the amount of salt that you eat. You should eat no more than about 1 teaspoon of salt a day.
• Limit alcoholic drinks. Men should have no more than two alcoholic drinks a day. Women should have no more than one alcoholic drink a day.
• A good diet to follow is the DASH diet eating plan: http://dashdiet.org/
  - Being physically active
  - Maintaining a healthy weight
  - Quitting smoking
  - Managing your stress and learning to cope with stress

Source: Centers for Disease Control

Did you know … there are blood pressure machines located in the vending areas of the Moraine Student Center and Library Conference Center available for all to use for free?
From their early days as brand-new college students, to nearing retirement, a married couple chronicles their life’s journey after graduating from Indiana University Northwest in the early 1980s.


One is now a Security Attaché/DS Supervisory Special Agent working at our U.S. Mission in Vienna, Austria. The other stages homes for realtors in Virginia. They are married to each other and have two adult daughters Jennifer and Julia. Both separately and together, their residences over the past 30-plus years have included West Germany, Greece, Niger, Malta, Pakistan, Austria as well as numerous temporary assignments for Keith to Iraq, Afghanistan and countless other foreign service posts throughout his career. In between these overseas assignments Keith has served at the Chicago Field Office as well as multiple postings in Washington, D.C.

Sound glamorous? Not necessarily, remarks Ingrid. Nonetheless, their journey is fascinating.

“Unbeknownst to me,” she said, “I was writing to headhunters. . . . One lady got a kick out of that and said, ‘you are pretty gutsy asking for a position because we only deal with salaries of $150,000 and up.’ ”


Impressed with her enthusiasm, that recruiter found her a place at a French bank – the nation’s fifth largest – that needed her language skills, albeit with a lower salary.

Meanwhile, Keith had changed jobs and the couple moved to Dallas. Not long after came Keith’s position with the U.S. State Department in 1987, where he has been employed ever since.

The family, which now includes two daughters in college, has been moving ever since. Ingrid also held various positions in foreign and civil service. She eventually started her own company, Eschweiler-Walker Interiors, and continues to stage homes for realtors in Virginia.

The Walker daughters spent 10 years of their childhood overseas and attending American international schools. And while they are certainly more culturally aware
thanks to their international upbringing, Ingrid said that living the life of a foreign service family, required to move wherever the Embassy decides every three years, isn’t always as glamorous as it may sound.

In the end though, their daughters’ experiences contributed to where they went to next – prestigious engineering and justice programs at Penn State and George Mason University.

Education remains a top priority for the entire family. In between his overseas duties, Keith earned his Master’s degree in Military Studies at the Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia, in 2003 and also earned a post graduate certificate in the prestigious ISMA Leadership Program at Georgetown University in 2011.

"Without any doubt my business management degree that I received at IU Northwest gave me the essential core job skills I needed to succeed in the Foreign Service," Keith said. "My educational background at IU Northwest was crucial during the initial selection process to become a Diplomatic Security Special Agent, and more importantly throughout my entire career in managing and leading complex security programs in both overseas and domestic environments, normally with large budgets attached.

“Prior to meeting my wife Ingrid, I was considering a career in the Marine Corps," Keith said. “Upon meeting her on her first day of work at the Consulate I was immediately attracted to this strong-willed, educated German lady. Over the course of our dating she observed potential and encouraged me to do even more with my life. So with her gentle (but firm) nudge, I left the Marines at the end of my enlistment to pursue completing my college education. Initially, the first semester at IU Northwest was a bit challenging, as I was holding down a full-time job in addition to my studies. However, with a little mentoring by my first semester’s Communication and Business professors, I quickly adjusted to academic life. The rest is history; I fully credit Ingrid with her loving guidance in achieving this life-changing opportunity.”

The Walkers expect to do one more Washington D.C. posting after Vienna before it’s time to retire. They are thinking of settling down in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

“You get to an age where it gets more and more difficult to get up again and leave everything behind,” Ingrid said.

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Not limited to police work

Ferrandino’s expertise is not limited to crime mapping, however. The Gary Fire Department has used his maps and analysis to optimize the operations of the city’s emergency responders. Ferrandino’s graduate-level statistics class is currently working on a full analysis of the fire department’s data for the past 10 years. By examining the department’s response times, as well as the concentration of and types of calls, the research is expected to help the department better allocate its resources.

Ferrandino’s crime-mapping expertise and its implications for local law enforcement have garnered national attention. The U.S. Attorney’s Office has asked him to write a two-year grant in support of Project Safe Neighborhoods, for which he will also serve in the role of research consultant. This nationwide program aims to stimulate innovative approaches to dealing with gun and gang violence and will include law enforcement agencies in Gary, East Chicago, Hammond and Grant County, which is the county of Marion, Ind. If accepted, the project would allow police departments in the area to broaden their capabilities and work together in teams to better focus their efforts in high crime areas.

Ferrandino said it is gratifying to put his academic and theoretical background to use in a practical way that directly impacts communities and their residents. He added that working with police and fire departments to map their statistics is important work that he never imagined he’d be able to do from his university post.

“It’s exciting to be involved in the actual policing of a community like East Chicago as opposed to just writing articles about it,” he said.

Continued from page 3

CLASS NOTES

Danita Johnson Hughes (B.S., Public Administration, 1977; M.S. Public Affairs, 1980) is the president and CEO of Edgewater Systems for Balanced Living, a behavioral health care services organization in Gary. She was recently inducted into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. Read it here.

Rick Zormier (B.S., Criminal Justice, 1991), of Hobart, was recently named the police chief of the Hobart Police Department. Read it here.

Abbie Prasco (B.S. Elementary and Special Education, 2012), a Valparaiso resident and Lowell High School graduate, was recently appointed as the newest Child Care and Development Center coordinator at the Portage Township YMCA. Read it here.

IU NORTHWEST IN THE NEWS

Indiana University Northwest appears in the news on a daily basis. For a recap of some of those news stories featuring IU Northwest faculty, staff, students, and academic programs, please visit the media coverage section of the Office of Marketing and Communications’ web pages, accessible here.
NOTES OF DISTINCTION

Congratulations to Frederick Chary, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of History, who has been invited to deliver a keynote address at the opening of an international symposium at Le Memorial de la Shoah in Paris on June 9 and 10. The purpose of the symposium is largely to commemorate the year 1943 and the Holocaust in South-East Europe. The intention is to share with historians the complexities of remembrance process in this part of Europe.

A Fulbright Scholar decorated by the Bulgarian National Assembly, Chary served as a guest lecturer at the U.S. Department of State’s Foreign Service Institute. He is the author of numerous published articles and the book, The Bulgarian Jews and the Final Solution. He has traveled extensively for research and educational purposes in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, and the former Soviet Union; and lived in Bulgaria for several months on four separate occasions.

Congratulations to Ernest Talarico, Jr., Ph.D., Associate Director of Medical Education and Associate Professor of Anatomy & Cell Biology at IU School of Medicine - Northwest, whose manuscript, “A Change in Paradigm: Giving Back Identity to Donors in the Anatomy Laboratory” was published in the March 2013 issue of Clinical Anatomy. The manuscript describes how medical students are given information about the identity of their cadavers, which represents a significant paradigm shift in the way information about cadavers is handled. This article describes Dr. Talarico’s interdisciplinary learning approach, and his approach that includes medical students and undergraduate students in common learning venues.

Congratulations to Charles Hobson, Ph.D., Professor of Management in the School of Business and Economics, who was recently appointed to the advisory board of Stop Educator Sexual Abuse, Misconduct and Exploitation (S.E.S.A.M.E). Hobson is the author of Passing the Trash: A Parent’s Guide to Combat Sexual Abuse/Harassment of Their Children in School.

As said by representatives of S.E.S.A.M.E., “In his dedication of Passing the Trash, Charles writes, ‘This book is dedicated to the millions of past and current victims of educator sexual abuse/harassment. I am sorry that our society, our educational system, and people you trusted have failed so miserably.’ It is these words that make Charles’ addition to our board of advisors so appropriate. This is what S.E.S.A.M.E. is all about and what Hobson’s book embraces – empathetic understanding of the dynamics of Educator Sexual Abuse and the desire and means to prevent further abuse of our nation’s students.”

Congratulations to IUPD-NW Officers Mike DeVries, Ricardo Garcia and Lt. Wayne James who were recently received Officer Recognition Awards at the 12th Annual Outstanding Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Officers awards ceremony in March. They were among the 25 officers and two policing programs honored at the event. Read the full story here.

Congratulations to Lt. Wayne James, who was recognized for the apprehension of suspects, as well as Officers Shane Hendron, Darrell Shaffer and Corporal Richard Nester who were jointly credited with apprehending a suspect in multiple bank robberies in Illinois in December. All received an award at the District 1 Law Enforcement Council recently.

Congrats to IU Northwest!

The Northwest campus was presented with the ‘Community Relations Award’ in March by the Urban League of Northwest Indiana. This award went to a local organization that encourages and supports diversity in the community.

In a video shown at the luncheon, Georj Lewis, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, said IU Northwest is one of the most diverse universities in the region.

“It is not just something that we say on paper or in brochures; it’s a way of life.”
## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- Helps the community

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