As thousands of friends and family members looked on, IU President Adam W. Herbert urged the 806 students who graduated during the annual commencement ceremony on May 11 at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, to be leaders of the future by “giving back, cultivating the arts and humanities, and taking risks.” He challenged the graduates to take advantage of the unique perspectives their college careers have given them and to apply their knowledge and the power of their educations to everything they do, in meaningful ways that will positively impact their communities.

Chancellor Bergland commended the graduates on their achievements, and spoke of a few students who had overcome exceptional physical, emotional and financial barriers to obtain their degrees. “You made it,” said Bergland, “You have demonstrated a drive for success and the strength necessary to accomplish your goals.”

Harry Mark Petrakis honored with Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree

This year, IU Northwest honored Harry Mark Petrakis with a Doctor of Humane Letters for being a role model who has contributed to cultural diversity through his fiction. Many of his stories focus on the experiences of Greek immigrants and Greek Americans in blue-collar industrial regions, a subject that resonates well with the many working-class descendants of eastern and southern Europeans who populate northwest Indiana.

Petrakis has worked as a laborer, real estate agent, speech writer, steelworker, and salesman and is now known all over the world by one vocation: an award-winning author. The 82-year-old resident of Chesterton has written 18 novels and was twice a finalist for the National Book Award in Fiction. He has honorary degrees from the University of Illinois, Roosevelt University, Hellenic College, and Governors State University. His most recent honorary degree was from the American College of Greece in Athens in the summer of 2004 where he delivered the commencement address. The New York Times has called him “one of our finest writers.” His novels include “A Dream of Kings”, which he adapted to a screenplay for a major motion picture starring Anthony Quinn.

“Harry Petrakis has visibly contributed to the development of understanding about Greek

See Petrakis, page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Campus Happenings.........................page 2
CETL.................................................page 2
Notes of Distinction.......................page 3
Comings & Goings.........................page 4
Campus calendar.............................page 4
The Indiana University School of Medicine-Northwest, located on the campus of IU Northwest, has been selected by the American Physiological Society to host a local high school science teacher this summer. Kathryn Hedges, a science teacher at Campagna Academy in Schererville, has been awarded a 2006 Frontiers in Physiology Professional Development Fellowship. Ms. Hedges will spend this summer doing laboratory research with IU School of Medicine faculty Drs. Stephen Echtenkamp, Brian Kennedy and Nancy Mangini. In their laboratories she will examine the role of calcium transport in the retina of the eye and will help develop the zebrafish as a model for vision research. At the end of her fellowship, Ms. Hedges will travel to a national scientific meeting to present her research experiences with other middle and high school science teachers from around the country. No stranger to excellence in teaching, Kathryn was a finalist for Indiana Teacher of the Year in 2005. She plans to use her experience at the IU School of Medicine-Northwest to develop new science education tools for her students at Campagna Academy.

Recently, MBA students from the IU Northwest School of Business and Economics MBA program competed in a nationwide business strategy competition of over ninety teams. The teams actively manage a virtual corporation and apply knowledge they have learned over the course of their MBA studies. Two teams from IU Northwest placed in the top ten in various categories. Team Andrews, which consisted of Tami Pae, Joshua Powers, Tonya Rightsell and Marcus Smith, placed 4th in the nation cumulative profit and 5th in the nation stock price. Additionally, Team Chester ranked in the top ten in the nation in return on sales.

Indiana University Northwest's Non-Profit Institute, Center for Regional Excellence and GRANTS, Inc. will be holding a Non-Profit Open House and Resource Fair on Friday, June 30. Please contact Susan Eleuterio (suee1@juno.com); Sandra Bowie (sandrabowie@msn.com) or Tashena Lollis (trlollis@iun.edu) at (219)-981-5673 or (219)-981-5629 for more information. Lake County non-profit organizations, board members, and volunteers will want to attend this exciting resource fair.

The Northwest Indiana Center for Data & Analysis at the IU Northwest Library was recently recognized for its partnership with the Northwest Indiana Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Forum. Last fall, the Data Center accepted a 2005 Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program grant to provide metadata outreach activities and training to regional creators of spatial datasets. A metadata record is information which captures the basic characteristics of a data or information resource. It represents who, what, when, where, why and how of the resource. Geospatial metadata are used to document geographic digital resources such as Geographic Information System (GIS) files, geospatial databases, and earth imagery. Metadata helps people who use geospatial data find the data they need and determine how best to use it. Metadata supports producers in locating and using their own data resources and data consumers in locating and using data resources produced by others. In addition, this spring, the collaboration was awarded a 2006 Indiana Geographic Information Council award for the creation of an Online Metadata Tool at the annual State GIS Conference. The Metadata Tool encourages GIS professionals to generate metadata by eliminating many of the stumbling blocks.
NOTES OF DISTINCTION

Gianluca DiMuzio, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy, had his paper “Theism and the Meaning of Life” accepted for publication by Ars Disputandi, a journal specializing in the philosophy of religion. The essay is a longer version of a paper he presented at the IU Northwest COAS Research Conference in the Fall of 2005.

Janice Grskovic, Ph.D., assistant professor of special education, Sheila Marie Trzcinka, Ph.D., assistant professor of special education, and Saleem Rasheed, Ph.D., assistant professor of special education, all of the School of Education, presented an invited session on “Empowering Teachers to Teach Behavior” at the 24th Annual Indiana Conference on Educational Programs on Students with Emotional Disabilities, “Closing the Gap,” April 27-28, 2006 in Nashville, IN. This conference was presented by The Behavioral Institute for Children and Adolescents in cooperation with Indiana Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders and Ball State University. The conference focused on innovative and best practices that demonstrate effective evidence-based strategies designed to meet the needs of students with emotional and behavioral disorders and was attended by 300 general and special education teachers, administrators, teacher trainers, alternative school personnel, and others who provide direct or indirect services to children and youth.

In addition, Janice A. Grskovic, Ph.D., and Sheila Marie Trzcinka, Ph.D., presented a paper “Applying the Circle of Courage as a Framework for Successful Collaborations” at The Third International Conference on Positive Behavior Support, March 23-25, in Reno, NV. In this session, they presented a framework and best practices for communication skills and collaboration techniques for diverse stakeholders involved in the inclusion of children with disabilities in general education classrooms.

William Allegrezza, Ph.D., lecturer in English, presented a paper, “Using Sources in Contemporary Poetry: Susan Howe’s The Liberties,” at the &NOW/Lake Forest Literary Festival. He also presented poetry readings at the following: University of Illinois at Chicago, February 2006; Innovailers & Outsiders Poetry Reading (Austin, TX), March 2006; Lewis University (Romeoville, Illinois), April 2006. In addition, he had a chapbook of poetry titled “Ishmael Among the Bushes” published (Dusie Press, Switzerland).

Zoran Kilibarda, Ph.D., assistant professor of geosciences, with undergraduate student Jason Doffin presented a poster “Late Silurian Kokomo Limestone- Mudcracks or Syneresis cracks?”, Paper 35-1, at Geological Society of America, North-Central Section 40th Annual Meeting, Akron, Ohio, April 20-21.

Zoran Kilibarda, Ph.D., assistant professor with Erin Argyilan, Ph.D., assistant professor of geosciences, and Kris Huysken, Ph.D., assistant professor of geosciences, presented a talk “Inland Dune System Study” at IU Northwest’s 1st Annual Excellence in Research and Creativity Conference on April 28.


Nancy Mangini, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy and cell biology, and Brian Kennedy, Ph.D., associate professor of physiology, were recently informed that the American Health Assistance Foundation, Macular Degeneration Research, approved funding for their grant application entitled “Role of melanin and a novel Nab:K:Ca exchanger in age-related macular degeneration, AMD, in the amount of 200,000.

Roman Dziarski, Ph.D., professor of microbiology and immunology, was commissioned to write a chapter on Innate Immunity for the latest 4th edition of a Microbiology textbook, which was just published. This is a popular textbook for medical students used as a main text by many medical schools. Dziarski, R. 2006. Innate immunity. Shaechter’s Mechanisms of Microbial Disease, 4th Edition, Engelberg R, and DiRita V (eds), Chapter 6, pp. 66-89, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

Tanice Foltz, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology, was one of the Founder’s Day Teaching Award finalists, and one of the CETL Laptop computer winners. She was the keynote speaker for the Indiana University Inter-campus Women’s Studies undergraduate research conference, held at I.U. Kokomo, on April 1, 2006. Her speech, “The Resurgence of Sophia in Modern Times: Women’s Spirit in Action,” spotlighted contemporary women heroines in both the public eye as well as in the private sector, as well as women leaders in her research on drumming, focusing on their activism and their legacies. In addition, her article, “A Drumming Re-enchantment: Creating Spiritual Community” was published in Lynne Hume and Kath McPhillips’ edited volume, Popular Spiritualities: The Politics of Contemporary Enchantment, by Ashgate Publishing: Aldershot, Hampshire, U.K. in 2006.

Subir Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., professor of marketing, has been awarded the Trustee Teaching Award this year. He has also been inducted in the Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society. The membership to this society is restricted to the graduates of management schools accredited by the prestigious AACSB International. Dr. Bandyopadhyay has also been informed that his collaborative research proposal with Manoj Pardasani, Ph.D., titled An Exploratory Study of the Ethnic Diversity in Northwest Indiana, has been funded by the Center for Regional Excellence.

Ranjan Kini, Ph.D., professor of management and Subir Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., professor of marketing, have been recently notified that their article Adoption and Diffusion of mCommerce: Can eCommerce Show it the Road to Success? has been accepted for publication at the Encyclopedia of Mobile Computing and Commerce. When published later this year, this Encyclopedia will contain the most comprehensive collection of research papers on mCommerce.”

Samuel Flint, Ph.D., assistant professor of public affairs, will be serving as an expert witness in two Medicaid lawsuits in federal District Courts in the states of Illinois and Oklahoma. I submitted expert witness reports on May 1, 2006 in Illinois and May 15, 2006 in Oklahoma. I shall be giving depositions in both cases within the next three weeks and testifying in court at a future date. In both cases I have been engaged by Plaintiffs’ attorneys who are defending Medicaid beneficiaries suing their state’s Medicaid program.

Dave Klamen, Ph.D., professor of fine arts, exhibited several paintings at the European Fine Art Fair in Maastricht, the Netherlands, last month. He also exhibited at the “ADAA Art Show” in New York with Richard Gray Gallery in February.

American society and serves as a model for present and future generations,” says Patricia Lundberg, executive director for the Center for Regional Excellence at IU Northwest. “His creative work and many awards and achievements have been earned in a framework of high personal integrity and concern for the public good that would make his father—a Greek Orthodox priest—very proud.”

“His work reflects values that Indiana University Northwest is striving to embody,” says Bruce Bergland, chancellor of IU Northwest.

Petrakis became entranced with books when he was bedridden with tuberculosis as a child. He soon started writing poetry, and though he thought he was “not very good,” he continued writing as a means of expression. He soon switched to writing short stories, which he submitted to publishers for ten years before one was accepted. His first published story, “Pericles on 31st Street”, appeared in The Atlantic Monthly when he was 32. Petrakis settled in Indiana in 1968 and continues to draw inspiration for many of his characters and settings from the area.