Sculpture Garden unveiled as newest cultural focal point

As soft music filled the air and delicate hors d’oeuvres were served on silver trays, the bronze creations of Neil Goodman, professor of art, were unveiled as the newest focal points of cultural beauty on the IU Northwest campus.

The June 24 unveiling ceremony was the culmination of six years of planning and fundraising and hundreds of donated hours by artist Goodman and landscape architect Cynthia Owen-Bergland. Goodman, a renowned artist throughout the country and Owen-Bergland, an innovative, environmental landscape artist, designed a space that transcends the hustle and bustle of activity that surrounds it.

They created a garden that features a waterfall reflection pool, native grasses, plants, flowers, and the bronze sculptures that, individually, serve as a window to another piece in the garden. "Our goal was to provide a beautiful space for our students, faculty, and staff to enjoy, and in doing so also to exhibit the excellence we already have in visual arts," said Bergland. And it appears that they have accomplished just that.

Troy Webdell conducts members of the South Shore Chamber Orchestra in "Shadows and Echoes," at the dedication of the new sculpture garden on June 24. Webdell composed the piece especially for the evening’s ceremony.

Dunes Professional Medical Building officially dedicated by IU President Adam W. Herbert

The newest building on campus has officially been dedicated and is now being occupied by its new inhabitants, which include the School of Nursing, SPEA, the School of Business and Economics and the IU School of Medicine-Northwest, to name a few.

The building dedication on June 22 was presided over by IU President Adam W. Herbert, Chancellor Bruce Bergland, IU School of Medicine Dean Craig Brater, and members of the IU Board of Trustees, including Clarence W. Boone, Sr.

“This is a facility that will bring together, under one roof, many disciplines which will also enable us to pursue the leadership role befitting IU Northwest in professional and medical education and health and human services,” said Bergland.

Last month, the IU School of Medicine-Northwest launched a new research institute and named a laboratory dedicated to fighting HIV/AIDS and related diseases. This is just one of several exciting developments already taking place within the new building. The Northwest Indiana Health Research Institute (NWHRI) will be funded through the support of the Joseph A. Negri Trust and has already purchased some of the most state-of-the-art research equipment in the region.

The building also houses special observable examination rooms and the cytogenetics clinic and laboratory, which offers prenatal counseling, diagnostic evaluation and laboratory services to the community so that local physicians don’t have to refer patients to Indianapolis or Chicago. The medical library, which is used by hospitals in Lake and Porter Counties, now has room to grow and will provide greater research opportunities for post-doctoral and graduate students.

Herbert discusses future of IU Northwest with faculty and staff

While on campus for the dedication of the Dunes Medical Professional Building, IU President Adam W. Herbert met with faculty and staff to share information regarding campus developments and strategic plans.

Herbert explained that within the next decade, it is feasible for the student body to double in size to approximately 10,000 students. He said this is possible if we identify what attracts students, identify their needs and provide a safe and positive atmosphere for learning to take place. “We need to do more to celebrate our presence. We are laying the foundation to do exciting things,” said Herbert.

Meeting with Gary Mayor Rudy Clay, President Herbert and Chancellor Bergland discussed the possibility of future growth, citing properties adjacent to the campus that IU Northwest has acquired. Some of those locations were formerly locations of questionable activity, and IU Northwest has been able to weed some of that out through the acquisition of this land, and hopes one day to expand the campus.
Inside this Issue

Sculpture Garden unveiling...........................................page 1
Dunes Building dedication............................................page 1
Notes of Distinction................................................page 2
IU Northwest named Patron of the Year......................page 2
Meet Kwesi Aggrey................................................page 3
August Calendar.......................................................page 4
Student Guides host blood drive.................................page 4
HIT program avoids a miss.........................................page 4

Northwest NEWS Staff

Editor in Chief
Michelle Searer
OMC Director
(219)980-6686
msearer@iun.edu

Managing Editor
Christopher Sheid
OMC Specialist
(219)980-6802
ccsheid@iun.edu

Creative Director
Ryan Shelton
OMC Specialist
(219)981-4279
rydshelt@iun.edu

Contributing Writer: Alisha Throckmarten

Northwest News is published each month by IU Northwest’s Office of Marketing and Communications (OMC). We invite you to send your comments and story ideas to: Northwest News, Sycamore Hall, rm. 203; newsnw@iun.edu; (219)980-6686; fax: 981-4244; or download a submission form at: www.iun.edu/~marcom or www.iun.edu/~newsnw.

Notes of Distinction

Margaret Skurka, MS, RHIA, CCS, professor of health information management and program director of the HIM Programs, recently represented the North Americas at two meetings. She traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark as a member of the Executive Board of the International Federation of Health Records. She presented a follow-up report on the work of the group since last fall in Tokyo. She also is currently sitting as a three-year appointee to the World Health Organization Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) Joint Collaboration committee. She is the co-chair of this group with a colleague from Australia, which is moving to establish an international coding certification, raising the bar in coded healthcare data worldwide. She also presented a summary of the work to date at a meeting in the United States in Tucson, Arizona. Margaret is scheduled to speak at the Tunis meeting in October and the official IFHRO meeting in Seoul next spring when the first international coding certifications will be presented.

Ana Osan, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish, delivered the paper titled, “El otro lado de la historia de la tribu: El poema largo y las poetas espaZolas del siglo XX.” (“The Other Side to the Story of the Tribe: The Long Poem and Spanish Female Poets of the Twentieth Century”), on June 26, 2006, at the IV Congreso Internacional del Asociación Hispánica de Humanidades, in Madrid, Spain. On June 30, 2006, she was invited to deliver a second paper titled, “El desván de Penélope: La odisea de una niZa de posguerra en Ítaca, de Francisca Aguirre.” (“Penelope’s Attic: A Postwar Girl’s Odyssey, in Ithaca, by Francisca Aguirre.”), at the 88th Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, which took place at the Palacio de Congresos in Salamanca, Spain.

Saleem A. Rasheed, Ph.D., assistant professor of special education, is the lead author of a paper that will be published later this year in the Journal for Vocational Special Needs. The article, which Rasheed co-wrote with two other authors, is titled “Person-Centered Planning: Practices, Promises and Provisos.”

Dorothy Ige, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences presented the keynote address for the Gary Community Schools Academically Gifted Program on June 2, and received a plaque as a Citation of Appreciation for the speech on “Communication Power: Excellence in Education and Beyond.” Students, teachers, community parents, and administrators were audience listeners. Also, June 22-25 Dr. Ige attended the international Learning Conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica and presented a refereed research paper on “Pedagogies for a Multicultural Transitional World: A Communication Perspective.”

IU Northwest named South Shore Arts Patron of the Year

The South Shore Arts (formerly the Northern Indiana Arts Association) recently named IU Northwest as its Patron of the Year at the Moonlight on the Dunes 13th annual Beaux Arts Ball. The university was recognized for its support of the association, as well as its commitment to the arts. With public displays such as the bronze sculptures around campus, the artwork on display in various buildings, the theatre presentations, the newly unveiled sculpture garden, and the Gallery for Contemporary Art, the IU Northwest campus is known throughout the region as a place where artists of all genres can expand their creative talents. They find that there are many people dedicated to promoting and encouraging individual expression in many forms.

Accepting the award were IU Northwest Professor and artist David Klamen, left, Chancellor Bruce Bergland and Professor and artist Neil Goodman with their spouses Dianne Lauble, left, Cynthia Owen-Bergland and Joellyn Codespoti Goodman.
Kwesi Aggrey, Ph.D., new vice chancellor for academic affairs

By Christopher Sheid

When Indiana University Northwest’s new Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Kwesi Aggrey, Ph.D., tells faculty members that he understands their needs and concerns as educators, he’s speaking both from the heart and from experience. Aggrey, who joined the IU Northwest campus July 1, spent years in the classroom himself as a chemistry professor before making the move into administration at Ramapo College of New Jersey in 2000. Even as the college’s Vice Provost for Technology, Aggrey continued to teach as time allowed, something he also hopes to do at IU Northwest.

“I still think of myself as a faculty member,” Aggrey said during a July 21 interview with Northwest News. “If I can get back in the classroom and see what the faculty members are dealing with, and have firsthand experience with it and know what it is, then I will have a better understanding of what their needs are. I have always been able to get along with both faculty and administrators, because of the way I approach my work,” he added.

Aggrey said he enjoys the process of teaching and the interaction with students. “I enjoy seeing some of my students end up in very good places,” he said, noting that one former student of his is now a professor at Yale.

Aggrey, 49, spent the last academic year at Lockhaven University of Pennsylvania, where he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs. A native of Ghana, West Africa, Aggrey earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry in his home country, where his alma mater recently awarded him with an honorary doctorate. He later earned his doctorate at the University of Hawaii.

Aggrey’s decision to join IU Northwest was based, he said, on the quality of the institution and on the nature of the community it serves. He acknowledged that the city of Gary and Northwest Indiana as a whole face many challenges, but Aggrey expressed confidence that IU Northwest has positioned itself to be a major player in crafting the solutions. He praised the University’s Shared Vision initiative as a good example of how this institution is examining seriously its role in the community.

“I would say it was the size of this institution, the focus of the institution, and the challenges that both the institution and the city of Gary face (that appealed to me),” he said. “It’s something I want to be a part of. I see real opportunity here.”

Aggrey said that both he and his wife, Deborah Hamlin-Aggrey, who works in the public health field, enjoy community service, a value they also have instilled in their three children. IU Northwest’s community-improvement efforts, such as its involvement in the Glen Park Weed & Seed Initiative, added to the campus’s appeal for Aggrey, who said he plans to involve himself in finding additional ways that IU Northwest can assist with community revitalization.

Aggrey has spent much of his first month getting to know people on campus, and he said that his reception from administrators, faculty and staff has been quite positive. “I put a high premium on getting to know people, because that’s what this office is all about: working with people and looking at how you interact with each other,” he said.

IU Northwest represents a departure of sorts for Aggrey because the previous institutions at which his work featured faculty unions. In those situations, he said, administrative policies and actions are dictated largely by labor agreements. The absence of a unionized faculty at IU Northwest presents both challenges and opportunities, Aggrey said.

“There is more flexibility here,” he said. “I am aware of the abuses that can sometimes occur in the absence of a union. I also agree that sometimes the unions can go too far. I would like to take the middle ground. I would like to bring the two sides together to get the best of both worlds.”

Aggrey said he initially pursued a career in administration because he wasn’t satisfied that administrators at Ramapo College were doing everything that could be done to assist him and other professors in maximizing their teaching potential. By bringing his faculty member’s perspective to the administration, Aggrey said, he was better able to represent the faculty’s needs and interests.

Aggrey reflected on his time at Ramapo with pride, saying the northern New Jersey college’s reputation ascended from that of a minor state institution to one of U.S. News and World Report’s top-ranked schools of its size in the Northeast. He attributed the turnaround to 15 years of dedicated work by the faculty, administration and staff to improve Ramapo’s educational performance and its image with prospective students.

Aggrey said there are many parallels between Ramapo, which was located about 45 minutes from Manhattan, and IU Northwest. Both schools are situated on the edge of major metropolitan regions, both schools serve heavily unionized regions of the country (Ramapo, like IU Northwest, offers a labor-studies program), and both belong to communities that face distinct revitalization challenges. He predicted that IU Northwest, like Ramapo, would continue to build on its strengths and bolster its already-strong standing in the community it serves.

Among Aggrey’s other priorities this academic year are the organization of IU Northwest’s School of Health and Human Services and a major review of the campus’s academic programs. Foremost in his thoughts as he undertakes each of these tasks, Aggrey said, will be the need to maintain and expand the kind of academic and campus atmosphere that allows students to feel comfortable and be successful. Aggrey also said he looks forward to working with the University’s Office of Marketing and Communications to promote this image throughout Northwest Indiana.

“We want to be able to promote ourselves in the community so that IU Northwest will be one of the first choices students will consider as they look at colleges,” he said.
IU Northwest to participate in nationwide voter-registration push

University officials announced on July 21 the school’s participation in a 30-state voter-registration push aimed at putting college students on the voter rolls before the 2006 general election. The non-partisan IU Northwest effort is part of an 80-school nationwide program initiated by the American Democracy Project of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, which hopes to see 40,000 students sign up to vote before fall registration deadlines.

“The election in 2004 proved that if you ask them, they will vote,” said Robin Hass Birky, director of the IU Northwest chapter of the American Democracy Project. “Massive outreach efforts in 2004 resulted in young voter turnout increasing 11 percentage points over 2000 levels – that’s more than four million more young voters in 2004. In 2006, we’ll register students here in Indiana and continue the momentum of increasing young voter turnout.”

At IU Northwest, administrators and student coordinators will team up to register young voters on campus and at home, and coordinators will work with instructors to offer classroom presentations. Incoming students will receive voter registration information in their student handbooks.

American Red Cross blood technician LaTrese Simmons (left) applies a blood pressure cuff as a tourniquet to locate a vein in donor Allyson Johnson’s arm during the Student Guides’ July 13 blood drive in the Moraine Student Center. It was Johnson’s first time donating blood. The drive collected 26 units of usable blood, which will be donated to area hospitals. The next campus blood drive is scheduled for October.