Donor appreciation is Gala’s new focus
IU Northwest thanks its supporters during elegant dinner event Nov. 9

After 20 successful years as an institutional fundraiser, the annual Indiana University Northwest Gala on Nov. 9 marked its 21st year with a change in theme and direction.

Because IU Northwest has enjoyed a healthy number of donations in recent years — the University pulled down $891,000 in contributions last year from more than 1,700 individual donors — the Gala itself no longer needs to function as a fundraising vehicle. So, University officials decided this year to reduce the cost of attendance and bill the elegant dinner affair, held at Avalon Manor in Hobart, as an appreciation event for the institution’s many generous supporters.

IU Northwest Chancellor Bruce Bergland told the audience of approximately 250 donors, alumni, faculty and staff members that the Gala’s change in focus is a permanent one.

“This Gala will always be here to thank you for what you’ve done for us,” Bergland said during his brief remarks to the audience.

The Chancellor hastened to add that, although the University no longer requires an annual fundraising event, the need for financial support from Northwest Indiana’s charitable community remains great.

“We need your support to help us grow and develop into the kind of institution that we want to be and are growing into,” Bergland said. “The investments you’ve made here are starting to show up in some very tangible ways.”

Bergland outlined the recent fruits of donors’ generosity to IU Northwest, including the $600,000 sculpture garden and the soon-to-open $500,000 dental health clinic, both of which were funded by private donations. The Chancellor also pointed out that many IU Northwest scholarships are made possible through donations. Bergland said that donor support would continue to assist IU Northwest as it pursues its missions of excellence in sustainable regional vitality and cultural discovery and learning.

“We want to contribute significantly to the vitality of this region, and we feel that we have done that,” the Chancellor said.

‘Drawing the Lines’ conference emphasizes ‘sense of place’

Anyone who was looking for easy answers to urban problems at the three-day Indiana University Northwest conference “Drawing the Lines: International Perspectives on Urban Renewal Through the Arts” learned one thing above all else: There are no easy answers. Even communities that appear to have overcome issues like crime, unemployment, urban blight and negative reputations have paid some kind of a price for that success.

Many presenters at “Drawing the Lines” tried to reinforce this notion as they discussed the almost magical transformation of Bilbao, Spain from an economically depressed steel town into a thriving European metropolis of arts and culture, aided in part by the establishment of a Guggenheim Museum there. Bilbao was the inspiration for the November event, thanks to a visit there by IU Northwest faculty and administrators in 2005.

As Prof. Joseba Zulaika, of the University of Nevada at Reno, pointed out in his Nov. 2 evening keynote address, “Dreams & Cathedrals: Bilbao’s Model of City Reinvention,” Gary, Ind. is not the only city that has taken notice of Bilbao’s arts-and-culture route to revitalization.

“More than 80 cities have asked the Guggenheim to bring a museum there and create a new Bilbao,” Zulaika said.

But Bilbao’s success with the Guggenheim has not come easily or cheaply. Zulaika said that financial and cultural issues have accompanied the emergence of Bilbao and the entire Basque region of Spain from their post-industrial funk.

It cost the Basque government $100 million to bring the Guggenheim to Bilbao and to fund the design and construction of architect Frank Gehry’s widely acclaimed building. In addition, the government contributes annually to the museum’s operating fund. For such an investment, Zulaika said, what Bilbao got was essentially a franchise museum. The Guggenheim also has operations in New York, Las Vegas, Berlin, and Venice, so while Gehry’s glorious steel building is certainly one of a kind, the institution itself is not. Also, Zulaika said that the Guggenheim often brings what he called “blockbuster exhibits” that attract countless visitors but that might seem slightly out of place in an art museum. These are considerations, Zulaika said, that can detract from the cultural appeal of the so-called “Guggenheim effect.”
Methodist Hospital supports new student clinic

In January, Indiana University Northwest will open a Student Health Clinic on campus in cooperation with Methodist Hospitals. The clinic will provide basic medical services to students, faculty and staff at low cost.

On Nov. 10, Methodist Hospitals donated five exam tables and other office furniture and equipment for use in the clinic’s exam rooms. The donation helped give form and substance to an idea that had been in the works for six years.

Marcia Mulcahey, who is a registered nurse and a lecturer for the IU Northwest School of Nursing, said that despite long-standing plans for a student clinic, there was no place to house such a facility until the new IU Northwest Dunes Medical/Professional Building opened last summer. Once office space was dedicated to the project, Methodist Hospitals stepped up to help outfit the exam rooms with extra tables and equipment from its own facilities.

Mulcahey said this partnership with Methodist has made the dream of a campus clinic a reality.

“It’s not happened until we got into collaboration with Methodist,” Mulcahey said. “They have really made it possible.”

Ed Charbonneau, president and CEO of Methodist Hospitals, said the decision to assist IU Northwest in starting up its clinic was a natural outgrowth of the historically close working relationship between the University and the hospital. Methodist partners with the IU Northwest School of Nursing on its student-nursing program, providing students with internship experience that helps prepare them for employment in a healthcare setting.

“We have, in the past, explored different ways of partnering with the University,” said Charbonneau. “This is just one of the ways that we have found to do that. This clinic is going to be a real positive for the citizens of Northwest Indiana and the students at IU Northwest. And it’s proactive. I’m glad to see this kind of proactive healthcare.”

On Nov. 13, IU Northwest nursing students worked to clean the donated equipment, which had been held in storage at the Methodist Northlake campus. In addition to providing the campus community with access to convenient, affordable healthcare, the clinic eventually is expected to utilize student nurses in a supporting capacity.

“They probably will have a chance to take patient histories and gain some experience with patient interaction,” Mulcahey said.

Mulcahey will be one of three nurse practitioners staffing the clinic, which initially will be open 20 hours per week. The clinic will see students, faculty and staff on a first-come, first-served basis. Clinic visits will cost $10, plus any additional costs for lab work.

Mulcahey said she hopes the clinic ultimately will be able to open its doors to residents in the surrounding community, though she emphasized that initial availability will only be to members of the campus. For students who are tight on time or funds, the clinic will be able to provide basic health services in a convenient location at low cost.
The premier of Free State Province, South Africa, visited the city of Gary and Indiana University Northwest on Tuesday, bringing words of goodwill and a proposal for international cooperation to a community that she said is confronting many of the same problems and issues as her own state.

“It’s almost like home. The challenges you face here are the same challenges we are facing there,” said Premier Frances Beatrice Marshoff, who led a delegation of Free State government officials to Gary as part of a weeklong trip through Indiana.

The picture of America that Marshoff has seen by visiting Gary and other U.S. communities contrasts sharply with her earlier notions of the United States, the premier admitted. Marshoff said that she once believed everyone here enjoyed the same opportunities and quality of life. Now that she has learned differently, she believes there is much to be gained from so-called “twinning” programs that help unite cities from different countries in a common search for answers to urban problems.

“There is nothing to prevent us from reaching out to each other and bringing this global village closer to our hearts,” Marshoff said. “It does us no good to sit in our ivory towers and philosophize. We need to do something.”

Marshoff, whose position in Free State is akin to state governor here, cited poverty, education, youth violence, and economic redevelopment as major issues for her government, which is headquartered in the capital city of Bloemfontein. Formerly known as Orange Free State, Free State Province has a population of around three million people.

Free State is looking to tourism as a tool for economic redevelopment. Free State officials are trying to develop programs that will encourage young people to earn an education, the premier noted, but violence and teen pregnancy are obstacles for the state’s youth.

Those students who do complete a college education don’t always stick around to use what they’ve learned in their home state, Marshoff said, noting that “brain drain” is particularly a problem in the healthcare industry. The premier said that many of South Africa’s highly qualified healthcare workers come to the United States.

“Please do not pull from our healthcare workers,” Marshoff said. “We invest a lot into training our healthcare workers.”

Gary Mayor Rudy Clay joined other city and IU Northwest officials in welcoming Marshoff’s delegation to the Steel City. Delayed by other obligations, Clay had sent Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant to the luncheon at the Library Conference Center to present Marshoff with a key to the city and a plaque commemorating Nov. 14, 2006 as “Free State Province of South Africa Day” in Gary.

Just about the time Tousant finished her presentation, the mayor arrived and repeated it for posterity.

“I think it’s important that the mayor of the city give you the respect that you deserve,” Clay told Marshoff and the delegation. “You have a friend in the mayor’s office in Gary, Ind.”

Stephen McShane, curator of the Calumet Regional Archives at IU Northwest, and Prof. Earl Jones of the minority studies department, briefly discussed the history of Gary and its steel mills. McShane told the South African delegation that land for U.S. Steel had been leveled and prepared for building entirely by “horsepower, mule power and manpower.”

“Whether or not you like U.S. Steel or like the idea of steel mills on the lake, you can’t help but admire the engineering and construction that went into this huge project,” McShane said.

Jones relayed Gary’s cultural history to the University’s visitors, explaining that what once existed as a truly multicultural city eventually became divided, with the manager class settling into the East Side, the worker class settling into the West Side, and many immigrants and African-Americans living in under-developed areas of the city.

“It was an area that was divided by race and class,” Jones explained, noting that many other cities followed this same pattern of division. “And that was the stamp that was put on Gary ... the stamp of race and the stamp of class.”

South Africa only emerged from the shadow of apartheid in 1994, and Marshoff acknowledged that the lingering impact of that racial segregation would affect her state for years to come. But the premier said that Free State could not use apartheid to excuse or justify its present problems.

“We always say, after 10 or 12 years, we can no longer blame apartheid for who we are or where we are,” Marshoff said. “But the effects of apartheid will be with us forever.”

Marshoff and her group presented Gary and IU Northwest officials with gifts, and she encouraged those at the luncheon to reciprocate the visit.

The Free State delegation hopes to establish cultural, educational and economic-development ties with Indiana. Other stops during the visit included Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis, and the office of Ind. Governor Mitch Daniels.

The trip was organized by Philip Rutledge, a professor emeritus at IU Northwest who is also a senior fellow at the National Academy of Public Administration. That organization works to help forge international ties between governmental units of different countries.

“This group is here to develop a longer working relationship with the state of Indiana, with IU and Purdue, and also with two cities in the state,” Rutledge said of Marshoff’s delegation. “The cities that are under consideration are Indianapolis and Gary.”
The official theme for the third annual College of Arts and Sciences Research Conference was “Standing on the Shoulders of Giants,” but the tone struck by the conference’s pair of keynote presentations was a bit more irreverent and even morbidly entertaining.

Certainly, the Nov. 9 address by bestselling author and radio personality Sarah Vowell and the Nov. 10 presentation by IU Northwest Profs. Stephanie Shanks-Meile and Charles Gallmeier complemented each other in terms of subject matter. Vowell, author of “The Partly Cloudy Patriot” and “Assassination Vacation,” kicked off her appearance by reading from the latter tome, a personal account of her research into America’s first three presidential assassinations and her visits to the sites where the deeds were committed. Shanks-Meile and Gallmeier presented their research into the worship and veneration of dead celebrities James Dean, Natalie Wood and Rudolph Valentino.

Both topics dealt, in part, with Americans’ continuing fascination with national tragedies and the legacy of famous lives cut short. Yet both presentations took a lighthearted approach to the material, finding humor as well as social relevance in the details of a play at Ford’s Theatre or a candlelit graveside service for Dean in Fairmount, Ind.

Vowell, who is a contributing editor and voice personality on National Public Radio’s “This American Life,” is known for examining American history and current events through the lens of her own peculiar sensibilities, leading to very personalized and entertaining commentaries on this country’s cultural identity.

“I never really dealt with history when I first started writing, but I kind of stumbled into it,” Vowell told an audience of more than 100 people who assembled at the Savannah Center Auditorium to hear a mix of live readings and on-the-spot commentary. “It’s just this treasure trove of stories. Man, it is just so juicy when you get into that and find out about how all of those old people were just as greedy and sexed-up and horrible as we are.”

During her presentation, Vowell treated the subject of dead presidents with respectful irreverence and saved many of her Wittiest observations for the events’ supporting characters or the assassins themselves.

When researching the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield and William McKinley, Vowell learned that Lincoln’s son, Robert Todd Lincoln, was present for all three assassinations, leading the writer to dub the junior Lincoln “Jinxy McDeath.” Vowell told the crowd that Garfield assassin Charles Guiteau, whose life prior to his infamous act of treachery included involvement in a vegetarian sex commune, was “one of the greatest jackasses in American history.” And Vowell gave her fascination with presidential doom a present-day perspective by voicing her mixed emotions about the prospect of a Barack Obama presidency.

“I found myself thinking, ‘I hope he’s as good as I hope he is, but not so good that he gets shot.’ There’s a fine line,” Vowell said.

As a professional writer, Vowell told
the nuances of history’s great events and personalities than she did while writing papers as a student.

“When I was in college and I would research a paper that was usually due in three hours, I would discover all of these interesting facts and tangents, and I wouldn’t have time to follow them,” Vowell said. “The great thing about writing a book – besides getting paid – is that you get to follow all those tangents and stuff.”

While Vowell’s presentation focused partly on presidential murderers, the well-attended Nov. 10 lunchtime address by Shanks-Meile and Gallmeier – “Gravers: Deaners, Nat-Packers, Sheiks, and the Civil Religion of Dead Celebrity Icons” — looked at the more benign phenomenon of dead-celebrity worship as it is currently practiced by a startling number of devotees across the country. Strange though it may seem to many, some everyday Americans have incorporated their fascination with dead actors and actresses into a sort of religious observance that, according to Gallmeier, incorporates the usage of symbols, saints and sacred places in much the same way as more traditional religions.

“They tend to be young,” Gallmeier said of those late celebrities who become revered icons to worshipful fans. “They usually have a mysterious death. There is usually someplace where people can go to experience their life, some kind of Mecca. They are often people who were seen as controversial in life.”

Whatever their life circumstances, Gallmeier said, these celebrities represent something far greater than mere stardom for the people who cherish their memories.

“These people were seen as having transcended it all,” he said.

Gallmeier, who shared his research, and his experiences gathering it, on the “Deaners” — fans of the “Rebel Without a Cause” actor — said that for Dean, the sacred site is his childhood hometown of Fairmount, Ind. There, where the actor was buried following his death in a car accident in 1955, the Deaners gather on the anniversary of his death to attend a church service and mourn at the actor’s grave.

Gallmeier said that an essential element of Dean worship is the importance of the actor’s Hoosier roots. Most Deaners believe that Fairmount was of central importance to the actor’s life. This is part of what Gallmeier called the mythology of Dean.

“In reality, this is about as true as that George-Washington-and-the-cherry-tree parable,” said Gallmeier, noting that Dean was only too happy to escape his small-town existence.

As part of their research, Gallmeier and Shanks-Meile attended the annual Dean celebration in Fairmount on the anniversary of his death. Gallmeier said the observances have all the form and solemnity one would expect of a religious service. Fans — many of whom were not even alive when Dean died — gather to sit where the actor sat, walk where he walked, place flowers, letters and other items on his grave, and testify to his enduring impact on their lives during a candlelight graveside service.

Shanks-Meile said that her research into devotees of Valentino and Wood revealed many similarities between those stars’ adherents and the Deaners, though she also highlighted a number of differences. Shanks-Meile noted that Wood’s hometown of Santa Rosa, Calif. does not hold the same importance for the actress’ fans as Fairmount does for Deaners, since

“I never really dealt with history when I first started writing, but I kind of stumbled into it. It’s just this treasure trove of stories. Man, it is just so juicy when you get into that and find out how all those old people were just as greedy, sexed-up and horrible as we are.”

-- Sarah Vowell
author of “Assassination Vacation” and “The Partly Cloudy Patriot”

Best-selling author Sarah Vowell reads from her 2005 book “Assassination Vacation,” a darkly comic tome about America’s first three presidential assassinations, during her Nov. 9 presentation at the Savannah Center Auditorium. Vowell, who is also a contributing editor for National Public Radio’s “This American Life,” delivered the evening keynote address for the third annual College of Arts and Sciences Research Conference.

For Wood, who drowned in 1981 at Catalina Island after apparently falling from husband Robert Wagner’s yacht, celebrations of her life and observances of her death tend to be more private and subdued than for Dean, Shanks-Meile said.

“They want low-key. They don’t want the carnival-esque,” she said of Wood’s fans. The professor noted that one fan she studied extensively had incorporated his belief in all things Natalie into his practice of Catholicism. This man even claimed to have experienced Natalie-related coincidences that he interpreted as spiritual direction from Wood.

“He no longer prays to the saints. He prays to Natalie,” Shanks-Meile said.

As for Valentino, the Italian silent-film heartthrob who died from peritonitis in 1926 at age 31, Shanks-Meile said that his cult of celebrity is both large and highly politicized, with various factions disputing points of “Rudy’s” mythology and issues surrounding the annual observances.

“Because of all the divisions, there are a lot of speakers at the memorial service to keep everybody happy,” Shanks-Meile said. She noted that some Valentino adherents find disfavor with the larger group because they also profess a fascination with other celebrities, whereas others are dismissed as film historians or theorists who participate in Valentino worship for academic reasons.

“If you don’t just like Rudy, you’re toast,” Shanks-Meile explained. “There are people who really believe that Rudy lives, that his ghost lives on.”

Shanks-Meile and Gallmeier emphasized that most of the people they have encountered during their research have been regular folks, not cranks or disaffected loners.

“Most of the people we met, they’re not down and out or on the skids,” Shanks-Meile said. “They’re fairly upwardly mobile. These people, if you met them, they’re average Joe Citizen. They’re not loners in the attic.”

Before she began research into the civil religion of dead celebrities, Shanks-Meile conducted research into American white-supremacy groups, a line of academic inquiry that occasionally placed her in hazardous situations. Following some fairly serious health issues, Shanks-Meile said, she decided to investigate a less dangerous subset of American society.

“This topic, even though it was about death, seemed lighter,” she said. “I guess I had death on my mind, since I’d had a close brush with it myself.”
Economic Education recently had been that the business school’s Center for Indiana to hold such a distinction. The it’s the only public university in Northwest Collegiate Schools of Business, and that the prestigious Association to Advance Business and Economics is accredited by possible in part by the generosity of the variety of points of pride for IU Northwest, people tend to feel greater attachment to state to state is common, he said, in Europe America, where relocation from city to city or to their region of the country. Unlike in general have a strong sense of place relating of Bilbao and the Basque area of Spain in hopes to rebuild itself. He said that residents “sense of place” for any community that reinvents itself needs a major corporate sponsor to do so. In the Nov. 3 panel presen- tation “Cool Cities Through Their Creative Class,” Prof. Bruce Frankel of Ball State University explained the stages of development that many communities go through while rising up from urban blight to artistic mecca.

The first stage, Frankel said, is the arrival of the so-called creative class, artists, writers, musicians and others who entrench themselves in a blighted community to take advantage of low rent, renovation prospects and other economical opportunities. Developers who respond to the need for affordable housing in the area can make a long-term investment in old buildings, adapting them to residential uses.

“We’re talking about affordability,” Frankel said. “These creative class people do not, at this stage, have financial resources. They have budding ideas that need to be nurtured.”

Once these artists establish a beachhead of sorts in a struggling community, Frankel said, they are able to begin fostering redevelopment by drawing clients, customers and others into the community. Eventually, as the area develops a reputation as a community on the rebound, the process of gentrification takes hold, attracting upwardly mobile professionals to the area. Finally, Frankel said, a once-struggling community enters the Gold Zone phase.

“Lion King” musical, the resulting transform- The Theatre in the 1990s to create a venue for itsation – from a community struggling with development but not necessarily from the last one. Larry Francer, another speaker on that same panel who discussed the rejuvenation of the small town of Farmland, Ind., cautioned that communities should take care to preserve their unique character and sense of place when succumbing to the forces of redevelopment.

“We want to make sure that we don’t have such cool cities, such gentrification, that we push out all of the charm,” Francer said.

The “Drawing the Lines” conference hosted close to 200 visitors over the three days. In his opening address at the conference, IU Northwest Chancellor Bruce Bergland said that “Drawing the Lines” was intended to serve as a catalyst for “redevelopment, renewal and regeneration” in Northwest Indiana.

“The point of doing this isn’t just to get some notoriety,” Bergland said. “We’re doing this because it’s a natural outgrowth of our commitment to the area. While this might be the first step in that regard, it certainly is not the last.”

Yet, Zulaika acknowledged that Bilbao’s museum has ignited an exciting transformation – he called it the city’s fourth such reinvention – from a community struggling with crime, pollution and unemployment to one that is moving into a successful service and information economy.

In her Nov. 2 paper presentation entitled “Constructed Spaces: Disney and the Art of Valuing Commodity,” Hilary Cook of the School of the Art Institute in Chicago discussed Disney as another major corporate facilitator of redevelopment. Cook noted that Disney’s impact on Orlando, Fla. and on New York City’s Times Square provide strong examples of how a major corporate makeover can uplift a community while simultaneously limiting that community’s capability for self-determination and displacing some of its constituents. Cook, like Zulaika, emphasized that even a powerful agent of economic change like Disney or Guggenheim can have unforeseen consequences on the communi- ties that host them.

In Orlando, where Walt Disney World began operations in the 1970s, the company bought so much land and made such heavy investments in the area, Cook said, that it was basically allowed to develop a form of self-government that exempted it from city zoning laws and other regulations. In the once-seedy area of Times Square, where Disney renovated the New Amsterdam Theatre in the 1990s to create a venue for its “Lion King” musical, the resulting transforma- tion pushed out many shop owners and purveyors of more affordable entertainment.

Cook noted that many of these defunct establish- ments had been considered lewd or unseemly by city officials, but that such margi- nalization had a negative impact even on the more respectable business owners.

Zulaika was one of several presenters to address the concept and importance of a “sense of place” for any community that hopes to rebuild itself. He said that residents of Bilbao and the Basque area of Spain in general have a strong sense of place relating to their region of the country. Unlike in America, where relocation from city to city or state to state is common, he said, in Europe people tend to feel greater attachment to their homeland. So the desire to improve or redevelopment a struggling area is very strong.

“There, you are an orphan or an immi- grant if you move someplace else,” Zulaika said. “So there really is no choice but to stick to your roots. The Basque people have a strong sense of place, a strong sense of histo- ry.”

Of course, not every community that reinvents itself needs a major corporate sponsor to do so. In the Nov. 3 panel presen-
Sheila Marie Trzcinka, Ph.D., assistant professor of special education, recently provided a ‘conversation’ session at the joint annual conference of the Teacher Education/Technology and Media Divisions of the Council for Exceptional Children in San Diego, California. Entitled “Reflections on Inclusion,” the session gave participants an opportunity to learn about and discuss the effective course structures that facilitated the implementation of inclusion.

Joe Pellicciotti, J.D., associate vice chancellor for enrollment management and professor of public and environmental affairs, had his 2006 Loyola Law Review article — “The Employee Polygraph Act of 1988: A Focus on the Act’s Exemptions and Limitations” — noted in a May issue of “Workplace Prof Blog,” which is part of the “Law Professor Blogs,” a national network of web logs for law professors.

Judy Donovan, Ph.D., assistant professor in the School of Education, presented a paper entitled “Strange Bedfellows and the Color Line: O’Connor’s Evolving View of Race in ‘Judgment Day’” at Flannery O’Connor in the Age of Terrorism: An Academic Conference on Violence and Grace, which ran Oct. 5 – 7 at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich. Donovan also presented two papers at the E-Learn 2006 World Conference on E-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare and Higher Education in Honolulu, Hawaii in October. Her papers were entitled “Active Learning in the Online Classroom: Affect on Academics and Engagement” and “Traditionally Delivered versus Online Student Evaluations of Faculty.” Donovan noted that in addition to presenting her papers in Hawaii, she also survived the October earthquake there.

Rasheed A. Saleem, Ph.D., assistant professor of education, recently co-authored the article “Students’ Attitudes and Perceptions toward Technology-Based Applications and Guided Notes Instruction in High School World History Classrooms,” which will appear in the spring 2007 issue of the journal “Reading Improvement.” The purpose of the study was to examine students’ attitudes and perceptions toward the use of technology-based instruction (i.e. Inspiration 6.0 software) and a guided notes format as an instructional strategy in inclusive world history classrooms. The study included 49 students in two inclusive world history classes. Twenty-nine of those students were classified as general-education students, 12 were classified as learning disabled, and eight were classified as emotionally disturbed. One class received technology-based instruction while the other class used a guided notes format in a counterbalanced order. The results revealed that students with and without disabilities were positive toward the use of the software and the guided notes format. However, students with disabilities appeared to have a more positive attitude toward the technology-based instruction, while students without disabilities preferred the use of the guided notes instructional format.

Alan Barr, Ph.D., professor of English, recently had his new anthology, “Modern Anglophone Drama by Women,” published by Peter Lang. The anthology brings together 11 English-language plays by women of international stature from Africa, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as Canada and Ireland.

David Klamen, M.F.A., professor of fine arts, enjoyed his third solo exhibition at the Haines Gallery in San Francisco from Oct. 19 through Nov. 25. Klamen’s new body of work continues his visual investigation into the process of “reading” artworks. Using diverse aesthetic techniques, Klamen challenges and slows viewers’ ability to understand what they are looking at. The paintings in Klamen’s new exhibition are landscapes and architectural interiors painted in oil on paper or canvas. These paintings explore the distant memories of Klamen’s experiences with the architecture of academic buildings, museums and landscapes, locations that were fundamental to the development of his sense of self. In addition to these single works, Klamen exhibited a new installation comprised of numerous painted canvases, hung salon style, that have been abraded, heavily varnished or layered with numerous pigments. In each painting the artist utilized architectural imagery and forms based on a Mies van der Rohe high-rise building in Chicago.

Tin-Chun Lin, Ph.D., assistant professor of economics, recently presented his article “Economics of Restaurant Tipping Behavior and Implication: A Theoretical Analysis” to the 81st Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Conference, which was held July 29 – Aug. 3 in San Diego, Calif. He also presented a new article, “The Optimal Weighting Algorithm of the Education Index in an Empirical Economic Growth Model,” at the 43rd Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA) Conference, which was held Oct. 26 - 28 in Minneapolis, Minn.

IU Northwest was recently named an Abitibi Paper Recycling Superstar by the paper recycling company. The award was presented to the IU Northwest Physical Plant in recognition of the University’s “outstanding commitment to paper recycling and dedication to environmental stewardship.” IU Northwest collected 42.7 tons of recyclable paper materials during the past year.
Turkeys, oysters mark holiday at University

(Left photo) Winners of the 1.5-mile Turkey Trot race that was held Nov. 20 at the South Gleason Golf Course pose with their prize turkeys. The event was part of a class project for a sports management class taught by faculty member Donn Gobbie. The top two male runners were (back row, from left) second-place finisher Eugene Barksdale and winner Dan Grabarek. The top two female competitors were (front row, from left) second-place finisher Alex Perez and winner Emily Krodel. Other competitors received a variety of gifts. (Right photo) Raymond Fontaine (left), director of counseling services for IU Northwest Student Services, and Charlie Orr, owner of the Maple Tree Inn restaurant in Blue Island, Ill., dish out servings of jambalaya oyster shooters at the Nov. 21 Glen Park Conversations. Orr and Fontaine discussed different recipes for traditional Thanksgiving foods, including White Castle stuffing and turducken.

December events at IU Northwest

Saturday, Dec. 2
"Department of Communication Speech Forum," 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Raintree Hall Room 102. IU Northwest speech students will deliver persuasive speeches on a host of current topics as part of the communication department’s bi-annual forum. A reception with free food and beverages will follow. The forum is open to the campus and the public.

Tuesday, Dec. 5
Calumet Corner Chorus, 12:30 p.m., Savannah Center Lobby. This Munster-based barbershop quartet will perform holiday tunes in their trademark a capella style. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Susan Higgins at (219) 980-6923.

Wednesday, Dec. 6
IU Northwest Holiday Gathering, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Savannah Center Gymnasium. This holiday event for University faculty and staff will feature a musical presentation by the Andrean High School Music Department, including their choir, pep and jazz bands, and dance troupe. Lunch will be served from noon until 1:45 p.m. RSVPs are required by Dec. 1.

Thursday, Dec. 7
Diversity Awareness Video Series, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Savannah Center Room 205/206. This presentation is the final video in this 12-part series of cultural presentations and discussions. The topic is Jewish-American culture. There will be a 25-minute video presentation, followed by discussion. Anyone who is familiar with Jewish culture is invited to attend and share knowledge with others. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch.

Sunday, Dec. 10
Susan May and the Bobby Schiff Jazz Trio, 2:30 p.m., Tamarack Hall Theatre. Theatre Northwest will host a holiday performance by acclaimed St. John jazz vocalist Susan May and Chicago’s Bobby Schiff Jazz Trio. May has appeared on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” and has been profiled in the Chicago media. Her two albums, “The Rose” and “Black Coffee,” have earned May the admiration of Chicago and Northwest Indiana jazz fans and critics. The Bobby Schiff Jazz Trio is part of the Bobby Schiff Band, which has been a Chicago musical mainstay for 35 years. Tickets are $10.

Monday, Dec. 11
IU Northwest Retiree Reception, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Library Conference Center Room 105 A, B and C. IU Northwest will honor this year’s retirees with a reception to recognize their years of service to the University. This year’s honorees are: Florence Sawicki, Leroy Gray, Michael Certa, and Patricia Lundberg.

Thursday, Dec. 14
Basque Art Exhibit Reception, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., IU Northwest Savannah Gallery for Contemporary Art. The Basque exhibit, entitled “Rust to Restoration: Basque Art and the Bilbao Effect,” will showcase the work of 20 Spanish artists from the country’s Basque region, highlighting how art and architecture have been used to revitalize the city of Bilbao. The exhibit will run concurrently at Savannah and at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Ind. from Dec. 4, 2006 until Feb. 18, 2007.

Reception for December graduates, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Savannah Center Gymnasium. IU Northwest will honor this year’s December graduates with a reception. Grads and their families will be in attendance. Faculty members are encouraged to participate, as are the deans of the academic schools that the grads attend.

Saturday, Dec. 16
IU Northwest RedHawk Debate Tournament, 8 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., campus-wide. High school debate teams from across northern Indiana will compete in this annual event. The first round of debates will begin at 8 a.m. and will take place in classrooms across campus. The awards ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. in the Savannah Center Auditorium. The RedHawk Debate Tournament is free and open to the public.

Monday, Dec. 18
Final grades are due for the Fall Semester 2006.

Friday, Dec. 22