IU Northwest honors December grads
More than 200 students complete their degrees in fall semester

Although formal graduation ceremonies will not take place until May 2007, Indiana University Northwest held a reception Dec. 14 to honor students who completed their degrees last month. Held in Moraine Student Center, the well-attended event gave students who may not be available to attend next spring’s commencement an opportunity to share the excitement of their academic accomplishments with family and friends. In all, 235 graduates completed their degrees last month.

“This is a good time to get together, because some of our graduates may not be around the area next May,” said Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Kwesi Aggrey. “Hopefully, our graduates will have gotten good jobs somewhere. But wherever they are, we know that they will still remember that this is the place where their education jelled, and we do hope that they will come back and visit us.”

Dorothy Ige, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, noted that IU Northwest graduates a wide variety of traditional and non-traditional students, each with his or her own set of unique goals and challenges.

“This is certainly a time to celebrate,” Ige said. “I know that sometimes it’s been tough, whether you were here for two years, four years or 22 years. But you made it.”

Bert Scott, chair of the Division of Continuing Studies, said that earning a degree can be particularly memorable for general studies students, some of whom resumed their education after years away from school.

“We have a high number of students who are adults, and who maybe started college years ago and then came back to finally get their degree,” he said. “We assist them in realizing that lifelong dream. We also have a lot of students who are the first in their family to go to college.”

The academic heads of each school or division congratulated their graduates as each stepped up to announce their names and majors. Many students also offered thanks to their professors, their families or their fellow students for supporting them as they pursued higher education.

Gary Martin names new award for Gary Martin

Gary Martin wasn’t present for the graduation of the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy’s 15th class of police officers at Indiana University Northwest, but he was the guest of honor nonetheless. Martin, a longtime police officer and IU Northwest faculty member, was killed along with Indiana State Police Lt. Gary Dudley in a tragic downstate highway accident Aug. 22 while participating in a charity bike ride to benefit the families of fallen officers.

On Dec. 8, Martin’s friends, colleagues and NILEA students remembered the man who taught them so much about what it means to be an officer of the law.

“What can be said about Gary Martin that has not already been said?” asked Timothy Wardrip, NILEA’s executive director. “We all remember him in our own way, because he touched our lives in so many ways. I can tell you that Gary loved this police academy, and this academy loves Gary Martin.”

To honor Martin, who not only taught at the academy but also had been active in working to bring the program to IU Northwest, the NILEA Board of Directors this year created a special award, the Gary L. Martin Mental Attitude Award. This recognition is given to the graduate who best reflects Martin’s love of law enforcement and his positive approach to the job.

With Martin’s immediate family — wife Olga, daughter Jennifer, and son Greg — present in the audience, Wardrip joined other NILEA officials in presenting the first Gary L. Martin Award to graduate Roger Blanton of the Lake County Sheriff’s Department. Afterward, Lake County Police Chief Marco Kuyachich joined Lake County Sheriff Rogelio “Roy” Dominguez in announcing that Dominguez would establish a $1,000 annual scholarship to be awarded to the recipient of the Mental Attitude Award.

Martin served more than three years as Lake County Police Chief under Dominguez, beginning in 2003. Kuyachich served as Martin’s deputy chief. Kuyachich said that Martin had more students than just those who sat in his classes; working with the man, he said, was an education all its own.
Gary council honors students’ park cleanup

For class project, Social Work students give Pachter Park a makeover

The Gary Common Council on Dec. 19 recognized three Indiana University Northwest graduate students for improvement efforts they undertook last summer in the city’s Pachter Park as part of a class project.

Second-year Master’s of Social Work students Sandy Schaeffer and Kristi Pryatel, both of Valparaiso, and Michelle Taggart, of Hobart, chose Pachter Park, located in Gary’s Tarrytown neighborhood, as the focus of a summer project assigned to them by Prof. Beth Eldridge, who was a visiting faculty member at IU Northwest for the summer term. The trio assessed the park’s needs, solicited material donations from local businesses, including Home Depot, Target and Hobart Lumber, and even brought toys, bikes and other items for neighborhood children to help get them involved in the project.

“We showed them how we were cleaning up the park, and the kids really helped us out,” Taggart said.

The renovation, carried out during a number of summer Saturdays, involved more than just picking up litter, she said.

“We cut grass, picked up garbage, painted, repaired equipment, everything,” Taggart said.

“There was lots of mulch,” Pryatel added. “And lots of sunburns.”

The end result of the students’ work was a community park much improved in appearance and functionality. At the Gary Common Council meeting on Dec. 19, Council Vice President and 4th District Councilwoman Carolyn Rogers commended the students and their professor for turning a class project into a positive venture for Gary’s youth.

“I was elated to see what a major difference they had made at the park,” Rogers said. “It was absolutely beautiful.”

Rogers awarded Schaeffer, Pryatel, Taggart, and Eldridge certificates of appreciation on behalf of the council.

“If I thought it would be very fitting to thank them and acknowledge them for all of their hard work and for making Gary a better place, especially for the children,” she added. The students’ professor was equally complimentary of their efforts.

“‘The assignment was that they had to effect some kind of change in the community,’” Eldridge said. “And they did a very nice job.”

Schaeffer said the project at Pachter Park showed her just how much good can be accomplished with only a little bit of planning and hard work.

“We had a great time doing it, and the community was very appreciative,” she said.
I
ndiana University Northwest and South Shore Arts have joined with a host of other regional sponsors to bring a significant international art exhibit to Northwest Indiana. The dual exhibit “From Rust to Restoration: Basque Art and the Bilbao Effect” opened simultaneously at the Savannah Gallery of Contemporary Art and at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster on Dec. 4. Receptions were held mid-month at both galleries to celebrate the display’s arrival.

“I think this marks a very important turning point for our institution, not just because of the international aspects of this, but because I think you’re seeing, in very real terms, our commitment to arts and culture,” IU Northwest Chancellor Bruce Bergland told the sizable audience gathered for the University’s reception on Dec. 14.

John Cain, executive director of South Shore Arts, thanked Bergland and IU Northwest for its role in bringing the exhibit to Indiana. He also thanked the exhibit’s various other sponsors for their contributions. Cain noted that “From Rust to Restoration” is intended to reach a broad Northwest Indiana audience.

“We’re trying to make this accessible to everybody and not just to the art elite that I usually want to reach out to,” he said jokingly.

Other sponsors of “From Rust to Restoration” include NIPSCO, People’s Bank, the Geminus Corp., the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Times of Northwest Indiana, the Post-Tribune, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Prof. Eva Mendieta, chair of the modern languages department and associate professor of Spanish at IU Northwest, hails from Bilbao, so the Basque exhibit is especially meaningful for her. Mendieta helped to lay the foundation for the growing partnership between IU Northwest and Bilbao, and she was one of the organizers of the three-day November conference “Drawing the Lines: International Perspectives on Urban Renewal Through the Arts.”

“This is a dream come true for me,” Mendieta said.

“From Rust to Restoration” is an extension of last month’s “Drawing the Lines” conference, which focused on Bilbao’s transformation in the 1990s from a depressed steel town into an international center of arts and culture. Bergland said the new exhibit is meant to reflect Bilbao’s journey from its old image to its new identity.

“There are some interesting parallels between what Bilbao went through and where this area is at today,” the Chancellor said. “It makes you think that places like Gary, Hammond and East Chicago can have such a transformation also.”

Patti Lundberg, executive director of the IU Northwest Center for Regional Excellence, noted that all of the pieces in the “From Rust to Restoration” exhibit are for sale. She encouraged art connoisseurs to select a favorite piece and make it their own.

“We would like not to have to ship the art back,” she said.

Also last month, as part of the burgeoning relationship between IU Northwest and Bilbao, Physical Plant employees planted a permanent sculpture by Basque artist Jesús Lizaso on a concrete foundation just east of the Dunes Medical/Professional Building.

Lizaso, who is among the artists featured in the “From Rust to Restoration” exhibit, donated the piece to the University. The metal sculpture is part of a group of works entitled “Optical Exercises,” and it recalls the shared industrial heritage of both Bilbao and Northwest Indiana.

University employees had some trouble unloading the piece, which weighs in excess of 1,400 pounds, because the crate in which it was shipped cracked in transit. Once the crated sculpture was unloaded safely, it sat for several days until Physical Plant could arrange to use a crane to set the piece in its permanent place of honor on campus.

“From Rust to Restoration: Basque Art and the Bilbao Effect” will run in both galleries through Feb. 18.
Conference brings ethics closer

Scholars, local officials take part in ethics panel at IU Northwest

By Carrie Frank and Dinna Jaber
Center for Regional Excellence

“Coming Closer ... Ethics in Northwest Indiana” was the title of the interdisciplinary one-day conference, held at Indiana University Northwest on Nov. 13, that brought local elected officials, campus faculty and students, invited scholars in various fields, and members of the public together to hear about a historical effort to promote ethics in local government and business.

To trace the roots of this movement, we interviewed Anja Matwijkiw, Ph.D., assistant professor in the department of history and philosophy, who has been involved in the effort since the beginning.

“Well, it [the effort] did actually start in 2004,” Matwijkiw said. “In January, Ed Charbonneau (at that time the director of the Local Government Academy at IU Northwest) urged the Lake County Community Development Committee (LCCDC) to pass a resolution endorsing the concept of ethics ordinances, which they did. Furthermore, Cal Bellamy, the now-former chair of the LCCDC, as well as former chair and CEO of Bank Calumet, established the Ethics in Government Taskforce (as a sub-committee under the LCCDC), and this met for the first time in February. Historically speaking, the Ethics in Government Taskforce was the first crucial step in that it designed the ethics ordinances themselves, with the assistance of experts.

“I am proud that IU Northwest was strongly represented,” she continued. “Together with Anna Rominger (dean of the School of Business and Economics), I became a co-author of “The Ethics Pledge for Candidates for Public Office in Lake County, Indiana” (2004) and “The Municipal Code of Ethics and Values” (2005). The last-mentioned was written upon the prior request of elected officials from Crown Point, Highland and Munster. Some of these were also extremely active in the whole process, especially (Crown Point Mayor) Dan Klein, (Highland Councilman) Rob Mangular, and (Highland Town Council President) Joe Wszolek. These politicians see themselves as public servants; They wish to benefit the interests of the community, and they emphasize ethics as an antidote to corruption, be it in local government or business, or, with this, schools, which have some of the largest budgets.”

Matwijkiw said that ethics as a practice do not come easily.

“Strictly, ethics ordinances are theory, just words on a piece of paper,” she said. “You cannot transform the community unless you are able to change the mindset of the people who live and work within that same community. That is why the Shared Ethics Advisory Committee for Lake County (SEAC), consisting of experts on law, ethics, leadership, and business, began its work on ethics training in 2006. The objective is to develop ethics training for all levels of local government. In this way, we hope to teach people the standards, principles and values that are necessary for an ethical culture.”

As the only member of SEAC who is also an ethicist, Matwijkiw expects to continue to play an important role in the committee’s activities in the future.

As interns at the IU Northwest Center for Regional Excellence, we appreciate the centrality of schools as platforms for all kinds of learning. With this in mind, we solicited the response of Willie Mack, Ph.D., a former school superintendent. At the conference, Mack delivered a thought-provoking paper entitled “Children First Ethics, Superintendents and School Boards.”

“Not all politicians or school leaders are corrupt....” Mack began, showing his concern about generalizations. “However, too often, and in spite of audits and oversight, a number of unprincipled politicians and school officials have conspired to rig jobs, to fabricate contracts in construction, remodeling, food services, consulting, and to falsify invoices for suppliers. Here at the conference, my talk is focused on two stakeholders: the students and the school superintendent.”

Highland Town Council President Joe Wszolek (left) and Crown Point Mayor Dan Klein discuss ethics in local government during one of several panel discussions held Nov. 13 in the Library Conference Center as part of the day-long multi-disciplinary conference “Coming Closer ... Ethics in Northwest Indiana.”
Trustees to consider HHS college in March

Planning for the proposed College of Health and Human Services at Indiana University Northwest will continue in early 2007, and the organizing team responsible for crafting the formal proposal plans to deliver that document to IU President Adam Herbert by early February. The IU Board of Trustees will consider the matter at its March meeting.

Pat Bankston, assistant dean and director of the IU School of Medicine – Northwest, has been named interim organizing dean of HHS, and Linda Delunas, who is the faculty assistant to the chancellor and a faculty member of the School of Nursing, has been appointed interim organizing coordinator. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Kwesi Aggrey announced their appointments at a town hall meeting Dec. 14.

Bankston told faculty and staff members assembled for the update session that he and Delunas would work with the deans from the involved schools and representatives of related academic programs to formulate the proposal. He also promised to cast as wide a net as possible in the search for cooperative partnerships with other campus departments.

“I am very excited about this, and I hope that we are able to infect you – that’s an odd word to use here, isn’t it? – but I hope we’re able to infect you with that same kind of enthusiasm,” Bankston said.

“Our vision is the function of finding the single definition of ethical behavior ... until we develop the wish that “real experts” in ethics, who are morally equipped, have a role in society; [the goal is] to bring the vision of ethical behavior into the forefront of our minds,” Wszolek said.

As one of the most active political leaders in the effort, Wszolek stated: “There is the function of finding the single definition of ethical behavior ... until we develop the wish that “real experts” in ethics, who are morally equipped, have a role in society; [the goal is] to bring the vision of ethical behavior into the forefront of our minds,” Wszolek said.

“The journey of ethical collaboration would be a long one.

“Concerning the students, I argue that their interests ought to be favored over the interests of politicians, vendors and school leaders,” Mack continued. “I outline several principles that support the position that students are owed a quality education and should not have their resources diverted to benefit unworthy or corrupt characters. I claim that moral meritocracy should prevail against amoral mediocrity.”

Regarding his vision for the conference, Mack stressed the need for more cooperation, saying that he would like more municipalities to get involved in the effort to promote ethics. He also expressed the wish that “real experts” in ethics, meaning professors who have received a proper education within the discipline, would assume a leadership role in the future.

“My hope is that professors from the University will guide the politicians, business and school leaders to see that applying ethics is in their own best interest, as well as that of their clients, customers and students,” Mack said.

Wszolek, who agreed with Mack that the “Coming Closer” conference was a step forward in the effort to promote ethics, delivered a paper titled “Ethics and its Role in Government Service.” This paper was unique in that it drew on the thoughts, reflections and experiences of a government official who is involved in the creation of a better community, a community with high ethical standards.

As one of the most active political leaders in the effort, Wszolek stated: “There is a wide variety of definitions for ‘ethical behavior,’ and we are now embarking on finding one that we can all embrace as a society.”

Wszolek was asked if he thought the journey of ethical collaboration would be a long one.

“Yes, it appears so, because of those varied definitions,” he said. “The journey is the function of finding the single definition of ethical behavior ... until we develop this, we will be faced with different expectations from different areas (i.e. business, schools, public service) of our society.”

Like Mack, Wszolek viewed the Nov. 13 conference in extremely positive terms.

“In the perspective of Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, it was one small step for man, and one giant leap for society; [the goal is] to bring the vision of ethical behavior into the forefront of our minds,” Wszolek said.

Bankston assured the audience that campus community members would have opportunities for additional input into HHS issues in the future. There are plans to hold a retreat later this year for that purpose.

The overall concept for an HHS college calls for the integration of related disciplines into a comprehensive academic unit. This reorganization of existing programs is meant to foster a collaborative and multidisciplinary learning environment.

University officials believe this interdisciplinary approach to health and human services will help IU Northwest further establish itself as the premier center for healthcare higher education in Northwest Indiana.

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Retirement is usually a sad business — if not for the retirees, then certainly for the friends and colleagues they leave behind. But there were more laughs than tears Dec. 11 at the Indiana University Northwest Retirement Reception, as well-wishers gathered at the Library Conference Center to say farewell to retirees Leroy Gray, Florence Sawicki, Patricia Lundberg, and Michael Certa.

“In a time when there was no diversity training, Leroy was ahead of the curve,” said IU Northwest Registrar Peter Kesheimer. “He never addressed me using the H-word – hillbilly. At least not in front of me.”

Kesheimer, a Kentucky Wildcats fan, wore that school’s blue shirt to the reception as a kidding gesture to his longtime friend. Several people commented on Gray’s steadfast loyalty to the Indiana Hoosiers.

Basketball rivalry aside, Kesheimer told Gray that his service to IU Northwest students during the past 35 years remains much appreciated. Although Gray actually began his retirement months ago, Kesheimer said, students continue to ask for him.

“That’s a real testament to someone,” Kesheimer told Gray. “Of course, sometimes you had to tell students no, but you did it in such a way that they always felt it was fair ‘no.’”

Gray joined IU Northwest in 1971 as assistant director of financial aid. He was appointed director of the department in 1979 and since then has served alternately in either of the two positions. Gray is also an alumnus of IU Northwest, and he spoke fondly of his history with the University.

“I tell people that I didn’t lay the first brick here, but I may have helped lay the second,” said Gray, who enrolled at IU Northwest in 1960. “I think it is a privilege to work for your alma mater. I just want to say thank you for allowing me the privilege of being able to work here.”

Flo continued to show up and serve the school of education and its students,” Wigle said.

Associate Dean Ken Schoon said the best testament to Sawicki’s importance to the School of Education came during a December graduate reception one year, when a student expressed humorous but heartfelt gratitude for the professor’s presence.

“She said, ‘Thank God for Dr. Sawicki. She was a real breath of fresh air.’ I don’t know what that meant about the rest of us,” Schoon said.

Sawicki joined the School of Education as assistant professor in 1978. She was appointed associate professor in 1983. Since then, she has served as director or coordinator of a variety of programs, including the field placement, the developmental reading and, from 2002 up until her retirement, the critical literacy programs.

Sawicki recalled that the first committee she joined after coming to IU Northwest was the planning committee for the very first campus retirement reception. She said the committee had been asked to plan a really nice event that wouldn’t cost anything.

“Now, 30,000 committees later, here I am, and I’m ready to retire,” Sawicki said. “You have no idea how fast the time goes.”

Sawicki added that the fondest of her many fond memories in the School of Education involved the many children’s programs she helped to develop over the years.

English Department Chair George Bodmer told the audience that for all of Lundberg’s success as an administrator, her greatest talents can be found in the classroom. He expressed lighthearted but nonetheless sincere dismay that Lundberg, who was promoted to full professor earlier this year, gave up many of her teaching duties to join the “dark side of the Force” in administration.

“She was a great teacher to all who had her, but I think she was an especially strong mentor to our women students,”
Bodmer said.

Tasheena Lollis, interim assistant director of the Center for Regional Excellence, explained how, as a student, she actively avoided Lundberg’s classes because she’d heard how difficult they could be. Then, when she applied for a job at the Center, Lundberg interviewed Lollis and tried to talk her out of accepting the position. Lundberg told her there were many other, better jobs at the University for which she was qualified.

After working for Lundberg, Lollis said, she was glad she didn’t listen.

“For the past year I’ve been in complete denial. I thought that Patti wasn’t really going anywhere,” Lollis said. “She had already ‘retired’ five or six times. I thought it was just a phase. Then she filled out her paperwork. Then I lost her paperwork. Then she filled it out again.”

“It rarely feels like she’s a boss,” Lollis said. “When you’re working on a project with her, it always feels like you’re working on it together.”

Lundberg joined the University in 1989 as a visiting assistant professor of English. She received a permanent appointment to the post the following year. She received tenure in 1994 and was appointed associate professor of English and women’s studies. From 1994-97 Lundberg served as director of the women’s studies program. She later held administrative posts as associate dean and interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and she also served as interim associate vice chancellor for academic affairs for six months in 2001.

Following a two-year leave of absence, Lundberg returned as the founding executive director of the IU Northwest Center for Cultural Discovery and Learning. In 2005 she was appointed interim executive director of the Center for Sustainable Regional Vitality, and she led the merger of both entities into the CRE, for which she has since served as director.

Lundberg emphasized to the audience that hers is an early retirement, one that will allow she and her husband, George Lundberg, M.D., to spend more time together in California, where his career is based. Lundberg said the decision to leave IU Northwest was not easy, adding that she hopes to teach again in California.

“It’s been a true, true joy,” she said. “I am going to miss you all enormously. I wish you would just move everything to California so we can do it all again.”

Bill Dorin, chair of the department of computer information systems, commend-ed Certa not only for his thorough and caring teaching style but also for the countless hours he’s spent on the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. Dorin said that Certa’s dedication to his students’ success was absolute.

“Mike wanted them to succeed in his computer science class, and that was his unending goal,” Dorin said.

University Division Assistant Director Mary Bertoluzzi recalled the time she took a COBOL class and had to turn to Certa for help because she just didn’t understand the material. He assisted her as much as was possible, Bertoluzzi said.

“I’ve always felt this connection with Mike because of that,” she said. “He was a great teacher, but I still didn’t get COBOL.”

Certa came to IU Northwest in 1981 as adjunct lecturer for the School of Business and Economics. He was appoint-ed assistant professor of computer information systems in 1985 and became associ-ate professor in 1991. He also served as the CIS department chair from 1991-95.

Certa, another IU Northwest alum-nus, said that he met his wife, Mary, on campus in 1965. He recalled that he’d worked here once prior to joining the faculty in 1981, and that Kesheimer actually had been forced to let him go.

“I’ll never forget the time that Pete Kesheimer fired me,” Certa said. “But Pete, in his usual gentle way, did it tact-fully.”

Certa acknowledged that he, like the other retirees, has seen many ups and down at IU Northwest during the years. Yet through good times and bad, he said, it’s the memories of people that have most closely stuck with him.

“There were some of you with whom I got along very well, and I hope that I reciprocated,” Certa said. “Some of you drove me absolutely crazy … and I hope that I reciprocated.”

IU Northwest Chancellor Bruce Bergland said the turnout for last month’s reception was the largest he’d ever seen for a retirement event here. He commended the retirees for having made such a significant impact on the University and on their colleagues.

“I had never been at an institution before that had an occasion like this, until I came to IU Northwest,” Bergland said. “I’ve come to enjoy the comments and sto-ries that are shared at these events.”
The traditional view of Cold War relations between the United States and France has always been that America called the shots and the French toed the line. But in his new book, “A Question of Balance – How France and the United States Created Cold War Europe,” author and Indiana University Northwest alumnus Michael Creswell, Ph.D. argues that France really acted as a significant partner with the United States, and not just as an acquiescent follower, in shaping the defensive alignment of Western Europe.

The book, published earlier this year by Harvard University Press, is the result of nearly 10 years of research by Creswell, who chose the topic for his doctoral dissertation at the University of Chicago back in the mid-1990s. In it, Creswell explains how France’s Fourth Republic stood its ground during negotiations with the United States on the rearmament of West Germany, a plan that was centrally important to America’s vision of a European defense force but which caused the French understandable concern.

Despite the traditional historical image of American dominance in postwar Europe, Creswell argues in his book that France, through shrewd and tenacious diplomacy, actually got much of what it wanted out of American-European security agreements. The United States, he says, achieved its goal of West German rearmament, but the French contributed much to the deal’s details and framework.

“The U.S. was unable to push France faster or further than France wanted to go,” Creswell said in a phone interview with the Northwest News. “Basically, France forced the U.S. to adopt a strategy that was more in line with what the French wanted than with what the Americans wanted.”

Creswell credited Prof. Marc Trachtenberg, Ph.D., of the UCLA Department of Political Science, with suggesting the U.S.-French Cold War relationship to him as one of several potential dissertation topics. He credited IU Northwest Prof. Jean Poulard of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs with introducing him to the topic of international affairs. In the book’s acknowledgements, Creswell thanks Poulard for that introduction.

“The first class I took with Dr. Poulard was Intro to American Government,” Creswell recalled. “I told him that I had enjoyed that class very much, and he said, ‘Well, if you liked that one, why don’t you take my next class, on international politics? You’ll really enjoy that.’ So I took it, and he was absolutely right.”

From there, Creswell’s fascination with international politics and diplomacy took hold. Not only did he earn a political science degree from IU Northwest in 1985, but he also traveled to France as part of the University’s study-abroad program. Creswell said that relationships he initiated while studying in France aided him greatly during his extensive research for “A Question of Balance.”

Creswell, who lived in the Crown Point area during his college days, had attended IU Bloomington for two years before transferring to the Northwest campus.

IU Northwest grad Michael Creswell, shown here with his diploma from the University of Chicago, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1997, has written a new book about French-American relations during the Cold War. Creswell graduated from IU Northwest with a degree in political science in 1985.

The MAC program, in addition to his business credits from IU Northwest, will give him the 150 credits needed to qualify for the CPA examination, he said.

Mistarz credited the professors, curriculum and class sizes at IU Northwest with helping to provide him with the academic foundation he needed to succeed in graduate school and in the business world.

“I really enjoyed it there,” he said of IU Northwest. “I felt the curriculum was really good for any business student. One thing I liked about IU Northwest was that the class sizes were usually pretty small. You could really get to know the professors and get help whenever you needed it.”

IU Northwest grad Ryan Mistarz, the decision to attend graduate school or immediately start looking for a job? For Indiana University Northwest grad Ryan Mistarz, the decision was simple: He did both.

Mistarz is a Cedar Lake native and Lake Central High School alumnus who graduated from the AACSB-accredited School of Business and Economics in 2006 with a B.S. in financial accounting systems. With a superb academic performance and a 3.88 grade-point average to back him up, Mistarz applied for and received a prestigious Master’s of Accounting (MAC) Fellowship at the University of Chicago. From there, Creswell’s fascination with international politics and diplomacy took hold. Not only did he earn a political science degree from IU Northwest in 1985, but he also traveled to France as part of the University’s study-abroad program. Creswell said that relationships he initiated while studying in France aided him greatly during his extensive research for “A Question of Balance.”

Creswell, who lived in the Crown Point area during his college days, had attended IU Bloomington for two years before transferring to the Northwest campus.

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agent's words was always clear. Martin, Rees said, wanted his students to search within themselves for the kind of personal conviction that makes law enforcement not just a job or a career but a true calling. Although the class Martin taught at NILEA dealt with the jurisdictional aspects of police work, Rees said his instructor shared wisdom that reached far beyond the parameters of that class.

“Gary was supposed to come back and teach the second block of our class,” Rees said. “I can only imagine what that second block would have entailed, but I know it would have been memorable.”

After the ceremonies, Martin’s son, Sgt. Greg Martin of the Gary Police Department, said his father would have enjoyed the tribute given him by his friends, students and colleagues.

“He would have thought it was great,” Greg Martin said. “He really loved the academy, and he loved teaching students. I think he liked having an audience, somebody to laugh at his jokes.”

Amidst the fond recollections of Martin, speakers at the NILEA ceremony also took time to reflect on the nature of police work and the often difficult and thankless tasks that face the academy’s newest graduates. FBI Agent Mark Becker of the Bureau’s Merrillville office, who gave the keynote address, warned the young officers that they would be asked to make split-second decisions and place themselves in harm’s way to ensure the safety of people they might never meet and who might not say “thank you” if they did.

“And if you did meet some of them, you probably wouldn’t like them very much,” Becker joked. He told the officers that the law enforcement community, despite its various divisions and jurisdictions, is like a large, supportive family, one upon which individual members can rely in a time of need.

“Like all families, sometimes we fight amongst ourselves,” Becker said. “The city cops wonder what the sheriff is doing here in town, and you both wonder what the state boys are up to. But you all become united when you cross paths with the feds. Nobody likes the feds. We are, after all, just here for the glory.”

On a more serious note, Becker said that the events of Sept. 11, 2001 marked a turning point for the FBI, which has since turned its focus more toward intelligence-gathering and security issues. This adjustment in mission, Becker said, means that some criminal cases formerly handled by the Bureau now will require more local and state police involvement.

In addition to the Gary L. Martin Mental Attitude Award, NILEA officials also recognized the top students in the following categories: in criminal law, with a 99 percent test score, Brian Ray of the New Chicago Police Department; in overall achievement, with total scores of 238, 240 and 240 out of 240 possible, Felipe Fontanez of the Gary P.D.

Poulard recalled Creswell as an enthusiastic and inquisitive student, someone who took genuine interest in classroom topics and who often sought out relevant articles and brought them to his instructor’s attention. The professor noted that Creswell served two years as president of the international affairs club, and Poulard said his leadership and preparation for the club’s various roundtable discussions and other programs helped to boost the organization’s popularity on campus.

“From Michael as well as taught him,” Poulard said. “I am sure he could teach me a few things now, as well.”

Creswell earned his master’s degree in international affairs and his Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago. Before joining Florida State’s faculty in 1999, Creswell was the Annenberg Visiting Assistant Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania. He has also served as an adjunct professor of strategy for the U.S. Naval War College.

Creswell said his next book likely would focus on how France’s Fourth Republic dealt with its armed services following World War II. In particular, Creswell said he wants to explore the extent of the French military’s purge of troops and officers who had remained loyal to Vichy France during the war. He’s also interested in how French military training and strategy changed amidst the transition from the Vichy government to the Republic, especially in light of France’s military failures in the war.
Travis understands the need for mentors at IU Northwest

Denise Travis, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work and director of the Division of Social Work at Indiana University Northwest, began her teaching career at IU — South Bend as an adjunct professor in 1992, when that campus began to offer the Master of Social Work degree. Two years later, Travis was recruited by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to teach the MSW pilot class that was offered at IU Northwest.

Travis joined the Division of Social Work faculty at IU Northwest full time in 1998 after receiving her Ph.D. in Social Work from Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

According to Travis, her philosophy of teaching is built on the importance of sharing knowledge with others, who in turn are able to internalize it.

“A significant responsibility of my teaching role is to supply real-life case studies and bridge the dynamics of the case back to theory,” Travis said. “In doing this, the student increases the likelihood of internalizing the specific social work process as they prepare for their field practice and subsequently their employment following graduation.”

On the clinical level, Travis believes it is important to provide the tools for the social work student to understand the clinical dynamics of human distress, develop plans to promote growth, and facilitate the process for the entity being served. On a social policy or administrative level, it is equally important that the social work student be equipped to evaluate policy deficiencies and formulate/implement changes that will increase growth, efficiency and a better standard of living.

To accomplish these tasks, Travis employs a series of methods, including Socratic lecture, videotapes, small-group discussion, case studies, role-playing, and guest speakers. Travis has developed two courses for the Social Work Curriculum that are now required for graduation and licensure:

- Social Work Practice with Groups and Social Work Practice with the DSM IV, which has evolved into Assessment in Mental Health and Addictions.

Mentoring is also a critical piece of Travis’ work at IU Northwest on several levels. Mindful of the importance of mentoring from her own experience, and keenly aware of the detriments of not having a mentor, Travis did not hesitate to volunteer to chair Outcome 4 of Chancellor Bruce Bergland’s Strategic Plan. A major cornerstone of this outcome is faculty and staff mentoring. Faculty and staff were surveyed on the importance of mentoring and whether mentoring had been provided in their current job positions. According to the survey’s results, the vast majority of respondents valued mentoring; few of them, however, had been assigned a mentor.

Travis’ additional role is to work with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning to select workshop topics and give an overview of the IU Northwest mentoring process at the new-faculty orientation. On the division level, Travis has mentored new faculty members. This mentorship not only involved assisting them with their acclimation to the University but also introducing them to key stakeholders and community resources in their areas of research and practice interests. Part of the result of this mentorship has been exposure to the regions we serve, community collaboration in a variety of areas, and linkages for future research and scholarly production.

On the student level Travis attempts to mentor at every contact. Beyond the classroom and advising, she has been involved with several student projects that have resulted in student presentations on local and state levels. In 2001, she worked with five MSW students whose proposal, “Adoption and Safe Families Act: A Legislative Analysis,” was presented at the Indiana Association of Foster Care and Adoption. During the 2005-06 academic year, Travis received a grant from the Center for Sustainable Regional Vitality to work with two MSW students on the project “Service-Learning with Vulnerable Populations.” Their findings were presented at the first annual Conference for the Center for Regional Excellence in April 2006.

Travis has been a member of the Steering and Advisory committees for CETL since its inception. In 2006 she became a member of the Faculty Colloquium of Excellence in Teaching (FACET).

Name-change study one of five CRE grant recipients

Will Northwest Indiana residents ever buy into the proposed rechristening of the Region as the “South Shore”? Prof. Subir Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., of the Indiana University Northwest School of Business and Economics, plans to undertake a marketing study that will assess whether such a re-branding effort could be successful here.

Bandyopadhyay’s study, which he will conduct in cooperation with the Quality of Life Council, will be funded by a $4,200 grant from the IU Northwest Center for Regional Excellence. It was one of five fellowship grants awarded Dec. 6 by the CRE’s Sustainable Regional Vitality Board, which annually provides financial backing for research projects of significance to Northwest Indiana. This year’s grants total $17,300.

Other projects awarded grants by the CRE’s Sustainable Regional Vitality Board included:

- A $2,500 grant to Charlotte Reed, Ph.D., executive director of the IU Northwest Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, to form a regional consortium on service learning involving six regional institutions of higher learning;
- A $4,800 grant to Julie Peller, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, for a study entitled “Chemical Analyses of Oriental Bittersweet and Native Bittersweet Collected along the Indiana Dunes”;
- A $2,000 grant for Profs. Bogdan Vajiac, Ph.D., Vesna Kilibarda, Ph.D., and Henry Wyzinski, Ph.D., of the math department, to collaboratively research and implement the project “Interventions to Improve Students’ Retention in M118 Finite Mathematics Class,” which will include 11 undergraduate students;

And a $3,800 grant for Profs. Yonghee Suh, Ph.D., and Judy Donovan, Ph.D., of the School of Education, partnered with Timothy Sutherland, director of the Center for Data Analysis, to study the effect of using GIS in PK-12 public schools in Northwest Indiana, a project involving student-learning opportunities.

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Bandyopadhyay, who teaches marketing at Indiana University Northwest, said his study will gauge current perceptions of the term “Northwest Indiana” and determine whether the phrase inspires predominantly positive or negative associations with the project’s participants. His study also will research how name-change advocates might apply product-branding strategies to their efforts at rebranding a locale like Northwest Indiana. Therein lies the academic value of the name-change project to a researcher like Bandyopadhyay, whose specialty is brand management.

“It’s very much a marketing strategy issue,” he said.

Bandyopadhyay, who lives in Munster, has taught at the university for six years. As a relative newcomer to Northwest Indiana, he goes into the re-branding study with relatively little bias for or against the Region’s current label. He knows that others in the area have well-defined opinions on the matter.

“I was informed that this is a controversial issue,” Bandyopadhyay said. “Many people are pessimistic and don’t believe that something like this could be achieved. But others are optimistic. Already, the Northern Indiana Arts Association has changed its name to South Shore Arts. We have the South Shore Railroad. There are very visible entities that have changed over.”

The “South Shore” marketing study is an outgrowth of discussions by QLC members that began more than a year ago. Dan Lowery, who at the time was the QLC’s executive director, pointed to the Northwest Indiana Forum’s South Shore Poster Series, which began in 1997, as the impetus for the “South Shore” tag. He said the phrase seemed to sum up, in a positive way, much of what defines the Region.

“It emphasizes our relationship with Chicago, the best aspects of our industrial heritage, our environmental heritage, the lake, the Dunes, everything,” said Lowery, who is the vice chancellor for academic affairs at Calumet College of St. Joseph. “It seems like something that we could all embrace. And with some of the things that are happening now, with the Marquette Plan and the (Regional Development Authority) and so forth, it seems like the right time to take a look at it.”

The Marquette Plan is a multimillion-dollar lakeshore development project that seeks to transform up to 75 percent of the Lake Michigan shoreline between Whiting and Portage into contiguous public-use land. While Bandyopadhyay said he expects to have undergraduate students participate in the project, he emphasized that it’s not intended to be a classroom exercise; rather, it will be a comprehensive marketing study featuring detailed research.

“This is a very serious project,” Bandyopadhyay said. “I am willing to take this on, but not in any casual way. I need complete support from the QLC in terms of putting together the focus groups.”

QLC Chairman Guadalupe Valtierra confirmed that the council is supportive of Bandyopadhyay’s marketing study and is willing to assist the researcher in establishing focus groups and carrying out other logistical functions.

“I think it’s good that somebody is going to be asking those questions,” said Valtierra, who is chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College Northwest. “How do we identify ourselves? How are we seen by others? Will one name create a more positive image than another name? These are all issues we’re going to be looking at. That’s what the study is going to tell us, what’s in people’s minds about this.”

Indiana University Northwest celebrated the holiday season in grand fashion last month, as campus community members enjoyed several events highlighted by food, music and creative performances. (Left) IU Northwest faculty member Susan Higgins leads the ladies of the Calumet Corner Chorus, the Munster-based a capella group, during one song as part of their Dec. 5 performance in the Savannah Center lobby. The pictured singers include (front row, from left) Margaret Blazevich, Irene Manous and Leila Bashaw, and (back row, from left) Sharon Pitts, Sharon Hovezak and Sharon Mersch. The Calumet Chorus is directed by Lanette Crutchfield. (Above) Dancers from Andrean High School perform a holiday dance number as part of a program from that school’s performing arts department at the annual IU Northwest Holiday Gathering on Dec. 6. (Photos by Christopher Sheid/Northwest News)
IU Northwest to host civil rights expert, Harvard prof Lani Guinier

On Sunday, Jan. 14, Indiana University Northwest will celebrate the upcoming Martin Luther King holiday by hosting the program “An Afternoon with Lani Guinier,” featuring the esteemed civil-rights advocate and Harvard law professor.

Guinier is known best as President Bill Clinton’s 1993 nominee for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Though her nomination ultimately fell victim to political issues, Guinier has since established herself as one of the country’s foremost authorities on civil rights, particularly with regard to issues like voting rights, minority representation versus majority rule, and race and gender in politics.

In 1998, Guinier, a graduate of Radcliffe College and Yale Law School, became the first African-American woman to receive tenure at Harvard Law School. She had previously taught for 10 years at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

During President Jimmy Carter’s administration, Guinier served in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department as special assistant to Assistant Attorney General Drew Days. In the ’80s, Guinier led the Voting Rights Project for the NAACP.

Guinier is the author of six books, including “The Miner’s Canary: Rethinking Race and Power,” “Lift Every Voice: Turning a Civil Rights Setback into a New Vision of Social Justice,” and “The Tyranny of the Majority.” She regularly lectures at top American law schools and universities.

Guinier has said that her decision to practice law was inspired by a desire to advocate fair play in the rules that govern our society and our democracy.

IU Northwest is pleased to host Guinier at 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 14 at the Tamarack Hall Theatre. Theatre doors will open at 1 p.m. This free program is open to the public. All campus community members are encouraged to take part in this thought-provoking presentation.

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Nicole Ramirez, a graduate of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, gave a tearful tribute to late SPEA instructor Gary Martin, whom she credited with helping to put her educational career on track. Martin died in a tragic highway accident during a charity bike ride in August.

“He’s the one that got me into this (criminal justice) program,” Ramirez said. “He was a really great professor here.”

IU Northwest Chancellor Bruce Berglund concluded the low-key ceremony with a final wish for the graduates’ success in their future endeavors.

“We hope your experiences here will help you to find what you’re looking for in life, and will lead you to an exciting and rewarding career,” he said.