Burtley returns as financial aid chief
New director fulfills longtime ambition of working for his alma mater

Harold E. Burtley, Jr. has been here before, and he’s glad to be back. Burtley, 41, the new director of the Indiana University Northwest Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, graduated from the University in 1990 with a bachelor’s degree in organizational communication and liberal studies. From there, he went directly into the field of financial aid, working at a number of institutions in the Chicagoland area during the last 17 years.

“I’ve always wanted to come back to the school in some capacity,” said Burtley, who is a Schererville resident and Bishop Noll graduate. “The fact that I’ve come back to do something I love is kind of surreal. I get to help students come here and do what I did.”

Most recently, Burtley worked for Pivot Point International, a Chicago-based cosmetology school. Although he enjoyed his job there, Burtley said, the stifling daily commute ate up at least four hours of each day. Burtley said he would often pass the IU Northwest exit sign on I-80/94 and reflect on how much he wanted to work for his alma mater one day.

In January 2007, Burtley spied a newspaper advertisement for the University’s opening for financial aid director.

“I saw it right near the end. I think the position closed on January 15 and I saw it on Jan. 11,” Burtley recalled. “My wife said, ‘You’re always talking about working there. Why don’t you apply?’ I thought, ‘Well, I’m happy where I’m at, except that I don’t like the commute.’ So I put in my application.”

When Burtley visited campus for his first interview, he said, the memories hit him hard.

“It was the first time I’d been back on campus in six or seven years, and I really felt a connection here when I first walked in,” he said. “All the memories started flooding back. I got a real positive feeling.”

Even now, nearly a month into his new job, Burtley said he finds himself smiling as he walks the same halls he once strolled as a student. Back then, Burtley’s champion in the financial aid office was longtime financial aid counselor and director Leroy Gray, who retired last year. Burtley credited Gray with helping to inspire his decision to pursue a career in the field.

“Leroy Gray was instrumental in helping me get through the financial aid process,” Burtley recalled. “He was a great guy. I really felt like someone cared.”

That caring attitude is something Burtley said he tries to extend to students he assists, as well.

“Even though my title is financial aid director, I am still a financial aid adviser and counselor,” Burtley said. “It’s my job to help the students and their families navigate the process of federal financial aid, which can be a difficult process.”

Burtley described the financial aid process as something akin to language translation. Counselors must become fluent in the convoluted terminology of federal and state regulations, he said, and they must be able to translate those terms into more straightforward explanations for students and families.

Burtley described financial aid as a field that involves long hours and considerable stress. For him, though, the work strikes a nice balance of challenge and reward.

“There’s no major for financial aid,” Burtley explained. “You can take accounting, marketing or business, but there’s no major or program for it. You just have to make a decision to get into that field. And you usually know within the first six months whether it’s something you like or not.”

In the quest to help students access the funds they need to acquire an education, Burtley said, there are the occasional disappointments. Not every student is able to get everything he or she needs.

“That can be the toughest part,” he admitted. “We just can’t go beyond the regulations to get people assistance. But we always try to find other opportunities for students. We don’t want them to internalize that and feel like IU Northwest just doesn’t want to help them. That’s not the case. But we have to abide by the regulations.”

On the other hand, Burtley said, helping students receive needed assistance and then watching them fulfill their academic potential can be a rewarding professional payoff.

“When you see them graduate with their degree, or when they send you a card or come back in to say ‘thank you,’ that’s a good feeling,” he said.

In his free time, Burtley enjoys creative writing, playing video games, and spending time with his wife, Jameelah.

“We have a lot of fun together,” Burtley said of his wife. “She’s fun to hang out with.”
Kilibarda, Miller win Founders’ Day honors

Assistant Professor of Geosciences Zoran Kilibarda, Ph.D., and Adjunct Instructor of Mathematics Cynthia Miller were named in April as this year’s winners of the IU Northwest Founders’ Day Awards. Kilibarda won the full-time faculty award and Miller received the part-time faculty honor. Both educators were recognized during the Years of Service/Outstanding Employees Awards Luncheon on April 23 and during the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Luncheon on April 24. Kilibarda and Miller were among four finalists selected by the Founders’ Day Committee. The other two finalists were Assistant Professor of History Jerry Pierce, Ph.D. and Assistant Professor of Geosciences Erin Argyilan, Ph.D.

Hozo named to FACET

Lecturer Stela Pudar-Hozo of the IU Northwest Department of Mathematics and Actuarial Science was one of 17 IU faculty members selected in April to receive the 2007 Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching Award. Hozo, who joined the IU Northwest faculty in 2002, will become one of 372 IU full-time faculty members admitted to FACET since its inception in 1989.

FACET awards are presented to IU faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to teaching and learning through areas of self-evaluation, course preparation, research, instructional skills, and student impact. New FACET members will be honored before a group of University administrators, trustees, FACET alumni, and special guests at the 19th annual FACET Retreat in May.
Neal-Marshall Club honors grads, achievers

Prof. Earl Jones receives group’s Outstanding Faculty Award at April 26 reception

One of the quests of honor didn’t make it, but that didn’t deter the Northwest Indiana chapter of the Neal-Marshall Alumni Club from paying tribute April 26 to the night’s other honorees, to this year’s graduates, and to the alumni whose accomplishments inspired the group’s existence.

Emmy Award-winning TV news veteran and ABC Channel 7 feature reporter Harry Porterfield was not in attendance to receive the club’s Legacy of Leadership Award, but the night’s other two honorees addressed the audience of alumni, University officials and 2007 graduates. IU Northwest Associate Professor of African-American Studies Earl Jones, Ph.D., was the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award, and he told the crowd that education, to him, means having the ability, the initiative and the information needed to make changes whenever necessary.

“It’s all about change,” Jones insisted during his brief remarks. “It’s about knowing where you want to go and doing what you need to do to get there. That’s what education is all about.”

Jones has taught at IU Northwest since 1989 and has previously served as chair of the Department of Minority Studies. In addition to his teaching duties, Jones has engaged and energized the Gary community with his involvement in such endeavors as the Gary Historic Midtown Project, which seeks to promote the preservation of Gary’s Midtown district and to encourage the development of an economic-revitalization plan for that area. Jones also serves as an advisor for the IU Northwest Black Student Union, and he works successfully to help bring a variety of guest speakers and events to the campus.

Jones announced to the audience that, in August, the Planning and Black Community Division of the American Planning Association would hold its 2007 conference at IU Northwest. Jones said that Gary and the University beat out such cities as Dallas, San Antonio and Orlando for the honor.

“We won because of what IU has to offer and what the city of Gary has to offer,” he said.

Interestingly, local business owner Sharon Mallory, recipient of the Emerging Leader Award, is not an IU graduate. Mallory confessed to feeling some initial perplexity when she was notified of the honor, especially since she’s a Purdue grad.

“The first thing I thought was, ‘What’s my connection to IU?’ And let me say that I appreciate the alumni association reaching out to graduates of other universi-

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States and the graduates. He pledged to the constituency groups, including the African-American community. The Chancellor asked those present never to hesitate in offering constructive criticism whenever it’s warranted.

“We want to hear the good things, too, of course,” Bergland said. “But we also want to hear about where we’re missing the boat or where we can do better. Because that’s how we’re going to improve.”

The Neal-Marshall Alumni Club was organized in 1977 to meet the needs of African-American alumni from Indiana University. The organization also seeks to address the needs of African-American students, faculty and staff while promoting awareness of the history, traditions and legacy of African-Americans at all IU campuses.
More than 500 people from across Northwest Indiana attended an April 11 peace rally at Indiana University Northwest to hear and cheer "war mom" and peace activist Cindy Sheehan, whose son, Army Spc. Casey Sheehan, was killed in Iraq in 2004. Sheehan joined a chorus of voices calling for the immediate withdrawal of all American troops from Iraq and for the impeachment of President George W. Bush.

With the exception of one unidentified audience member who submitted an anonymous question to Sheehan, no one in the boisterous crowd countered the evening's litany of anti-war commentaries with support for Bush or for the conflict in Iraq. The lone dissenter queried about whether Sheehan felt like a traitor for demanding that Bush explain why her son had died in Iraq. Sheehan had previously joined other grieving parents of deceased soldiers in meeting with Bush in 2004, but she later said that the president's commitment to peace.

Unfazed by the questioner's written reference to her as a seditious liar, Sheehan told the audience that Bush was the liar, and she suggested that he had betrayed the country and the U.S. Constitution by initiating the war in Iraq. "We are the laughingstock of the world. We are hated and detested because of George W. Bush, not because of Cindy Sheehan," said Sheehan in her first public address in Indiana.

Sheehan accused the Bush administration of giving conflicting justifications for entering the conflict and said U.S. service- men and women, including her son, were oftentimes sent into harm's way without the proper equipment.

"My son was killed wearing a Vietnam-era flak jacket," said Sheehan, who has written a book, "Not One More Mother's Child," about her son and her anti-war efforts. "He was wearing a green (camouflage) jacket on a desert camouflage uniform."

Sheehan first came to national attention in 2005, when she began publicly demanding that Bush explain why her son had died in Iraq. Sheehan had previously joined other grieving parents of deceased soldiers in meeting with Bush in 2004, but she later said that the president's comments at that meeting were not satisfactory. Bush has refused a second meeting with Sheehan and has insisted that a quick withdrawal from Iraq would be a mistake.

Sheehan recalled the day she learned that Casey had been killed as the worst of her life. She expressed extreme empathy with any other parents who endure the same tragedy.

"It's something so terrible, you can't ever imagine how you will survive," said Sheehan, who noted that, immediately following Casey's death, her family had concerns that she might attempt suicide. "You really, at that point, just wish you could die, too."

Sheehan disputed the notion that she is an "anti-war" activist. Rather, the Texas resident said that she is a "peace activist." Sheehan suggested that most of those in the audience at IU Northwest shared that commitment to peace.

"None of you belong to the anti-war movement," Sheehan told the crowd. "You belong to the peace movement. There was an anti-war movement in Vietnam. What happened when that war was over? Everyone took their peace signs and went home. I will keep fighting for peace in the world for the rest of my life."

Although Sheehan headlined the peace event, she was joined by speakers from a variety of peace groups in the Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland areas. These included several veterans of the Iraq conflict who have since spoken out against the war.

One of these men, Derek Giffin, said he attended IU Northwest prior to enlisting in the U.S. military early in the current decade.

"It feels as though I've come full circle in my life, even though I am only 26," said Giffin, who served in the 1st Cavalry Division of the U.S. Army. "The fact of the matter is, this war haunts me."

Giffin said that, upon his deployment to Kuwait's border with Iraq seven weeks after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, he and his fellow soldiers were told specifically that Iraq's military capabilities had been destroyed by the U.S.-led 1991 invasion, and that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein did not possess any weapons of mass destruction. That's why Giffin said he never believed the Bush administration's initial justification – the threat of WMDs – for invading Iraq.

"I knew before I went back to Iraq in 2004 that it was all a lie," he said.

Another Iraq vet from Northwest Indiana, Vincent Emmanuelle, said he envisioned his job in Iraq as one of helping the people there rebuild their country. But Emmanuelle said his missions did not include humanitarian efforts.

"It was a frustrating experience," he said. "We couldn't help anyone. There was no painting houses or building schools."

Sheehan acknowledged the concerns of many war supporters who fear that withdrawal from Iraq will only lead to more bloodshed amidst a full-scale civil war. But she said America is not capable of winning that fight and is not justified in trying.

"There will be a power struggle. But the Iraqi people want it to be their power struggle," she said.

Sheehan also told the audience how she responds to opponents of her efforts who insist that freedom is not free, that a price must be paid to achieve and maintain it.

"Of course freedom is free," Sheehan said. "That's why they call it freedom. If it wasn't free, they would call it expensive-dom."

"If my son had to die, and other young men had to suffer, for you to have freedom, then I pity the kind of freedom you have," she added.

The April 11 rally, "Speak Peace to Power," was sponsored by the IU Northwest Latino Studies Program, the Black Student Union, ALMA, the group IU Northwest for Social Justice, and a variety of peace groups and other organizations across Northwest Indiana.
Summit sheds light on Hip Hop culture

By Rahsaan Taylor
IU Northwest News

Anyone who listens to the radio or pays attention to the media at all knows that the form of musical and lifestyle expression known as Hip Hop has become a huge part of life for many people. Originally considered a fad, Hip Hop has survived to become a part of the fabric of everyday life.

Although the music and culture that Hip Hop invokes are as varied as they are misunderstood, there are people both inside and outside of the academic community who are trying to create discussion about the many faces of this urban juggernaut.

On April 4, Indiana University Northwest held its second annual Hip Hop Summit. Organized by Assistant Professor of French Scooter Pégam, Ph.D., the event was intended to shed some light on the issues surrounding Hip Hop while also providing a venue for local Hip Hop artists to show their talents. The summit featured a mix of spoken word, music, dance, and debate that delighted and educated the audience.

The keynote speaker for this year’s summit was Dr. Rachael Ross, M.D., Ph.D., a practicing physician and board-certified clinical sexologist who also happens to be an avid participant in Hip Hop culture. Dr. Rachael, as she is popularly known, is a Gary native who practices at a family-owned clinic in the city, and she is also a deejay who often spins hip-hop in the Chicago nightlife scene. Dr. Rachael appeared on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” in 2003, and she is featured every Thursday morning on B96 FM in Chicago.

Dr. Rachael’s address, “Is Hip Hop Ruining the Community,” struck to the heart of today’s Hip Hop issues. Dr. Rachael said she grew up in Gary during the formative stages of the Hip Hop movement. She talked about how the music gave voice to her own experiences.

“The first time I was proud to be black was through Hip Hop,” Dr. Rachael said. She added that the pro-black message running through the work of many Hip Hop artists helped her to cultivate a love for the art form that will last throughout her life.

Another lesson Orbe took from “Crash,” he said, was the notion that everyone carries “baggage” related to their view of other races.

“Even those of us who have an intercultural background carry racial baggage that affects how we communicate,” Orbe said. “We need that baggage. It helps us to be informed in how we communicate. But there’s a difference between roll-up baggage and a 50-foot U-Haul truck. That much baggage can get in the way of how we relate with other people.”

Orbe also concluded from the movie that our differences, far from being a hindrance, can actually be a source of much knowledge and wisdom.

“I believe we learn the most from people who are most different from us,” he said. “That’s why diversity is so important to a college education.”

During the question-and-answer session following his presentation, Orbe was asked whether communication theory, which can sound so neat and clean in the lecture hall, truly can be applied to the real world with any efficacy. Orbe said he believes it can be.

“Theory must be practical, and theory must inform practice,” he said. “Theories are like corrective lenses. The first time you get your corrective lenses, you see things that you’ve never seen before. Good theory allows you to see things differently.”

Prior to Orbe’s talk, communication students debuted several public service ads they had written, directed and produced during this academic year. These ads, along with a diversity-themed documentary consisting of interviews with area residents, will air on local cable-access stations and on WIUN, the University’s Web-streaming radio station. This project, “Dialogues in Diversity,” aims to bring Northwest Indiana residents closer together by addressing the issues that force them apart, according to Assistant Professor of Communication Taylor Lake, Ph.D.

“The point is to get people with different experiences and points of view to listen to each other,” Lake said. “If they won’t engage each other face to face, then at least they will be able to see each other and hear each other on video and radio.”

See HIP HOP page 11
Successful non-traditional grads prove that you should Never give up!

Regional campuses of major institutions such as Indiana University often are mischaracterized as junior partners in those schools’ educational missions. But among this year’s 892 accomplished graduates at IU Northwest are many persistent and successful non-traditional students who have demonstrated the value and importance of the educational experience offered by the regional campus system.

For these individuals, the road to a college diploma was neither straight nor fast. But despite a variety of challenges, obstacles and sometimes difficult circumstances, each of them embraced the learning opportunities presented to them at IU Northwest, and each of them persevered to achieve goals they once might have thought were beyond their reach.

These graduates typify the sort of vision, ambition and hard work that students at IU Northwest and other regional campuses bring to this academic environment. Their achievements speak unambiguously to the power of education and to the ability of regional campuses like IU Northwest to facilitate the learning process for the benefit of all who desire to participate in it.

Winding Paths

While most traditional students transition to college directly from high school, IU Northwest each year graduates hundreds of non-traditional students who have followed a more circuitous route to educational success.

Sociology grad and Munster resident Charlotte Noble’s journey began back in the fall of 1990, and it’s a trip that may well last the rest of her life. Noble plans to pursue her master’s degree in medical anthropology on a full two-year scholarship at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Beyond that, she expects to earn a doctorate and go into teaching herself one day.

But in 1990, as a pre-med student, Noble’s ambitions appeared impossibly distant. Difficult personal circumstances left her unable to continue at IU Northwest beyond her first semester, and Noble withdrew from college and followed a different life path. She married, raised a daughter, spent four years living in Japan, and even lived sort of a real-life version of the popular HBO series “Six Feet Under.” (Noble’s husband, John, is a funeral director, and they currently live in a funeral home.)

After 10 years of valuable life experience, Noble returned to IU Northwest, this time to study nursing. Again, family commitments intervened. After another year spent away from school, Noble returned a third time with more determination than ever to finish her degree and graduate-level work. Now, five years later, she’s set to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in sociology, an associate degree in anthropology and a minor in French.

“People tell me, ‘You got into grad school because you’re smart.’ No, I got into grad school because I was stubborn,” said Noble, a River Forest High School graduate. “I wasn’t going to let anything or anyone stop me from going to grad school.”

A Confident Future

Indeed, while determination plays a key role in any student’s educational achievements, it seems to be especially important for those who have stepped away from the academic environment for a considerable length of time. Jobs, families and other commitments can make going back to school dreadfully daunting, especially for students whose high school experiences weren’t particularly successful.

Gary resident Dawn Harris-Cartwright, who will graduate in May with a bachelor’s degree in performing arts and a minor in communication, said schoolwork was never her strength in high school. Although Cartwright graduated from Lew Wallace High School in Gary, her grades convinced her that she would never be “college material.”

“My grades were terrible in high school,” said Cartwright, who is 41. “I just never thought I was smart enough to go to college.”

But, after years spent working various jobs to help support her family, Cartwright decided it was time to find out if her misgivings had any basis in reality.

“I was in my 30s, and I figured if I didn’t do it now, I never would,” she said. “I was working different jobs and going to trade schools, and nothing seemed to be falling into place. Nothing seemed to capture my interest or hold my attention.”

So Cartwright, a mother of four children who range in age from 4 to 22, enrolled at IU Northwest and spent six years working toward her degree. In that time, she has worked in various capacities for Theatre Northwest, including a stint as house manager during the most recent academic year. Cartwright also made her first stage appearance last November in the Theatre Northwest production of “Permanent Collection.”

As for the coursework, Cartwright said it’s not been like the high school work she remembers.

“I found out I’m not too bad at it,” she said. “My grades are actually pretty good.”

That kind of confidence, the kind that
comes from hard work and good results, can be an important motivating factor in education. Nobody knows that better than Michigan City resident Cindy Faryniak, 35, who will graduate with high distinction in May with a bachelor's degree in math.

Faryniak dropped out of high school in ninth grade and at one point had decided that she didn't need a "piece of paper" to prove that she was a smart and capable adult.

"What happened was, I found a job that I wanted, and I couldn't get it because I didn't have my GED," Faryniak recalled. "Somebody said, 'Why don't you go ahead and get it?' So I did. And I realized that it wasn't hard at all."

After obtaining her GED, Faryniak decided that school was for her, after all. She enrolled at IU Northwest and immediately began to demonstrate a strong aptitude for mathematics, a challenging subject that many high schools honors graduates seek to avoid.

"I just thought, 'Why stop?' I love to study," Faryniak said. "I have a passion for learning."

Faryniak, who is married and has one son, managed to complete her degree in four years while also working part time. She has been accepted into the M.S. Computer Science program at DePaul University. And her thoughts about that "piece of paper" called a diploma? She now understands its value and importance.

"I'm very proud to be graduating this year," Faryniak said.

Support and Inspiration

Sandra Hall Smith is another graduate who's justifiably proud of what she has accomplished at IU Northwest. Smith actually came to work for the School of Public & Environmental Affairs here in 1997, then set out to complete her bachelor's degree starting the following year. Now, Smith has a bachelor's degree in sociology, a graduate certificate in non-profit management and, as of May 10, a master's degree in public management.

For Smith, being able to work in an academic setting provided a boost to her academic ambitions. The encouragement she received from her colleagues in SPEA was an important part of her success, she said.

"It was a learning environment," Smith said. "So I felt free to go back and study. The department just really worked with me and encouraged me to do it. They really wanted me to be a lifetime learner."

Although Smith initially left college in the mid-1980s to focus on her family, she always intended to return one day. This determination was reinforced, Smith said, by an unlikely inspiration: former Illinois First Lady Brenda Edgar, wife of former Governor Jim Edgar. Smith recalled reading a newspaper clipping about how Mrs. Edgar had returned to school to complete her bachelor's degree after 32 years.

"If Brenda Edgar could do it after 32 years, I knew I could do it, too," Smith said. Cartwright, meanwhile, credited her family and especially her mother with helping to sustain her spirits and anchor her determination when the struggle to push forward became difficult.

"I feel like she's been to school with me, even though she's never actually been there," Cartwright said. "She would say, 'Where will you be in five years if you give up now?'

A Multitude of Options

Regional campuses often labor beneath the unwarranted perception that they offer limited options for academic study and research. In fact, opportunities for a multi-disciplinary education abound at IU Northwest for students who are willing to work hard and get creative with their course selections.

Noble pointed out that her main field of interest — medical anthropology — did not come packaged in a complete academic program. Rather, she had to take classes from a number of available disciplines and mold a program to suit her needs. But each of her areas of concentration — sociology, anthropology and French — will figure directly into her graduate studies.

"There are some great professors here, and there really is a good education to be had here if you work at it," Noble said. "But it's not necessarily all laid out for you. I had to be stubborn and get creative."

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NEVER from page 7

For Cartwright, the theatre degree program at IU Northwest provided her with an outlet into the world of her own creative imagination. In the acclaimed 2006 Theatre Northwest production “Permanent Collection,” Cartwright gave her first stage performance. The experience, she said, was liberating.

“To be out on that stage and be someone else for awhile...it was beautiful,” Cartwright said.

Saving the World

Despite the old cliché about the idealism of youth, it seems that non-traditional students often have a clearer and more philanthropic vision of what their education can accomplish than do younger traditional students whose primary concerns frequently involve careers and salaries.

Cartwright hopes one day to open a community center in Gary where students can express themselves through the arts. She said public schools are increasingly de-emphasizing such classes, and that those outlets are important for children and teens who are learning to express themselves as individuals.

“I believe there was a purpose for me to do this,” Cartwright said. “It was God’s purpose for me to finish college, and I didn’t want to fail God, or fail myself, or fail those teens who I believe I’ll be able to help one day.”

Noble’s change of discipline hinged on a class she took several years ago about the African Caribbean. In particular, it was Haiti’s history of slavery, occupation and oppression that intrigued her. Although Noble is Latina, she found much in the Haitian experience that clarified her own feelings about her cultural heritage and experiences.

“I actually learned more about myself and how I felt as a minority and as a woman in that class than I learned about the African Caribbean,” Noble said. “I really felt like I related.”

The plight of today’s Haitians also touched Noble’s heart and compelled her to learn more about the country and its problems firsthand.

“I thought, ‘If there’s any group of people that’s been kicked around, this is it.’ So I thought I had to go to Haiti,” she said. With the help of a field-study grant from the Anthropology Club, a grant funded by the club’s biannual book sale, Noble hopped a plane last year with a group of surgeons and landed in an impoverished nation that seemed a world away from Northwest Indiana. The trip opened her eyes to the troubles faced by residents of the world’s many underprivileged countries, and she fell in love with the Haitian landscape and the Haitian people.

“Haiti is a hard and beautiful place,” Noble said.

Noble’s eventual goal is to teach, but she said field research would always be an important element of her career. Through direct research and interaction with the residents of Haiti and other nations threatened by HIV/AIDS, Noble hopes to find ways to ease the suffering and brighten the prospects of those whose lives have been devastated by this illness.

The altruistic goals of Noble, Cartwright and other graduates reflect the philosophy of learning espoused by Jose Reed, a 2007 Master’s of Education graduate who spent 10 years pursuing his graduate work while also teaching English at Emerson Visual and Performing Arts School in Gary. Reed also overcame a variety of obstacles to achieve his educational goal, and he plans to study for his doctorate and eventually teach at the college level. Smith, a 10-year employee of the School of Public & Environmental Affairs, took advantage of the academic environment in which she worked to pursue a bachelor’s degree in sociology, a graduate certificate in non-profit management and her master’s degree in public management.

Smith has been a student at IU Northwest for nine years.
State’s child-services director notes improvement
Speaking at SPEA forum, Payne says IDCS caseworkers must be college grads

As part of the School of Public & Environmental Affairs’ 17th annual Child Abuse & Neglect Forum held at Indiana University Northwest on April 13, Indiana Department of Child Services (IDCS) Director James Payne visited the campus to deliver an update on the changes his department has made since he took over in 2005.

Though Payne emphasized that there will always be room for improvement in a department as crucial as his, he did say that IDCS has hired 400 new caseworkers in two years, all of them college graduates as mandated by the department’s new hiring guidelines.

“Caseworkers must be college graduates,” Payne said during his keynote address. “We’ve established a hiring process to make sure we get the very best. We not only want to have the best, but we also want to make sure they have the tools and training necessary to do their job well.”

Payne said that IDCS has contracted with the IU School of Social Work to handle all of its training programs, and he noted that the department has initiated a new program, “Transfer of Learning,” in which new caseworkers alternate classroom work with field experience under the supervision of a mentor. Distance learning is another tool IDCS uses to make training more convenient and time-effective for employees across the state, he said. Payne added that caseworkers are now equipped with laptop computers and other technology so they can maximize their efficiency in the field.

Though such improvements almost always involve funding, Payne said the real key to implementing change is hiring caring, committed people who will make the local IDCS offices effective and responsible agents for children and families. It helps, Payne said, to hire caseworkers that not only have education but who also have families of their own. Without empathetic counselors and administrators, Payne said, the system can never really get better.

“Money is not the most important thing in the world,” he said. “But it does rank up there pretty highly.”

Payne mentioned that, in 2005, IDCS moved up in the state’s administrative hierarchy to the status of cabinet-level agency.

“As we were doing that, I didn’t truly realize the significance of it,” Payne admitted, noting that many other states do not give their child-welfare programs that kind of status. “But this is not an insignificant achievement of this administration.”

Despite IDCS’ many advances, Payne said the quest to improve must continue unabated.

“Being good is not good enough,” he said.

Payne was one of many speakers at the SPEA forum. Others included Jane Bisbee, director of the Lake County IDCS Office, and Wendy Kaplan, vice president of the Prevent Child Abuse Lake County Board of Directors.

Social Work students carry out regional needs study

The IU Northwest Division of Social Work, in partnership with the Northwest Indiana Community Action Corporation (NWICAC), recently completed a Regional Needs Assessment of older adults in the seven-county region. The report will be utilized by the Indiana State Department of Aging Services to determine regional funding allocations for the coming year.

The survey was designed, carried out and analyzed by four Social Work students – Irene Kersh, Pamela Key, Kimberly Smith, and Anita Lewis – and was supervised by IU Northwest Assistant Professor of Social Work Manoj Pardasani, Ph.D. The project was an undertaking of significant commitment and passion for these students, according to Pardasani, as they had to juggle full schedules, internships and full-time employment while conducting the study.

The Needs Assessment evaluated the social-service utilization patterns of older adults living in Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, Pulaski, and Starke Counties in Indiana. Nearly 700 older adults from all seven counties participated in the study, which assessed and documented the demographic characteristics of the participants, as well as their unmet needs and the challenges of aging that they face.

The Needs Assessment will help NWICAC, which serves as the Regional Area Agency on Aging for Northwest Indiana, to determine its program design, service offerings and budgetary allocations for the coming year. NWICAC provides a diverse array of community-based social services and supports for older adults living in the area.

The Regional Needs Assessment is the second project to emanate from the IU Northwest/NWICAC collaboration. Last year, in another service-learning project, graduate students created a Manual and Resource Directory for Caregivers for the benefit of those who care for older adults. More than 5,000 copies of this publication were distributed free of charge to Indiana caregivers.

“We hope to continue this unique and strategic partnership with NWICAC to enhance the lives of those living in this region,” Pardasani said.
CETL closes out another successful year

During this academic year, the Indiana University Northwest Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) has provided many forms of support to faculty members to help facilitate improvement in the classroom. CETL’s professional staff has focused on improving the quality of teaching and learning through such activities as hands-on workshops, presentations, guest speakers, collaborative projects, and professional-development and course-assessment grants.

By offering such activities, CETL has been able to accomplish the following objectives: the enhancement of faculty development; the transition of some classes from face-to-face instruction to various stages of online instruction; the familiarization of faculty with cutting-edge instructional methods; the strengthening of service-learning awareness as a pedagogy; and the general promotion and celebration of the importance of teaching. In addition, as CETL has provided faculty members with one-on-one consultations, they have been encouraged to try various instructional strategies, integrate technology, expand their methods of assessment, and consider various forms of scholarship such as the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL).

CETL has provided faculty members with “Service-Learning Course Assessment Faculty Fellowships” to six faculty members and “Professional Development Grants” to eight faculty members in Fall 2006; conducting “Service-Learning Needs Assessment” through the Center for Management and Development in the School of Business & Economics in Fall 2006; providing brown-bag discussions facilitated by faculty members, including Ms. Mary Pflugshaup of the English Department, Prof. Zoran Kilibarda, Ph.D., of the Geosciences Department, Prof. Karl Nelson, Ph.D., of the Psychology Department, and Prof. Jerry Pierce, Ph.D., of the History Department; offering workshops by CETL Instructional Technology Specialist Jodie Reminder, M.S., and Instructional Design Specialist Ju Wigle, Ph.D. These workshops focused on technology and service-learning, and they included such topics as “Tech to the Point” and “Understanding Service-Learning in Higher Education.”

Other notable CETL initiatives have included: collaborating in Fall 2006 with the Enrollment Management Council to offer the workshop “Focusing on Successful Advising”; featuring various faculty members in the increasingly popular “Preparing a Case for Excellence in Teaching” workshop in Spring 2007; and participating in special campus events, such as the Non-Profit Institute Open House in Fall 2006 and “Make IT Happen” in Spring 2007; and, finally, bringing local and national guest speakers to campus to address important topics. This year, these speakers included Prof. Peter Frederick, Ph.D., who presented the workshop “Embracing Our Diversity” in Fall 2006, and Prof. Emily Dixon, Ph.D., who presented the workshop “Rubrics: The Key to Making the Best Chocolate Chip Cookies” in Spring 2007.

Please join CETL in Fall 2007 as it continues to celebrate its fifth anniversary at IU Northwest. For more information on CETL’s programs, call (219) 980-6755 or visit us at www.iun.edu/~cetl.

Early Literacy to put $30,000 grant to good use

The Early Literacy Academy at Indiana University Northwest announced in April that it has received a $30,000 grant to provide books to 14 lending libraries throughout the city of Gary. These libraries, located at schools, child-care centers and Head Start programs in the community, offer children and their parents a convenience opportunity to borrow and enjoy age-appropriate books that will help establish young readers’ literacy and form an important basis for future educational success.

Funding for this year’s grant was provided by Capital One, and the grant was allocated to the ELA through Reading is Fundamental, Inc., a national advocacy group for childhood literacy. This is the second consecutive year that the ELA has received $30,000 in funds through Reading is Fundamental; last year, the grant was provided by Colgate-Palmolive.

The money will be used to purchase books for a series of lending libraries throughout the city of Gary. That lending system was established last year as part of the ELA’s first $30,000 Reading is Fundamental grant; books purchased with those funds are still being distributed.

Heather Harder, Ph.D., executive director of the ELA, said the academy receives significant discounts on its book purchases, anywhere from 25 percent to 75 percent off. Therefore, $30,000 in funding can result in more than $100,000 in books, she said.

The purpose behind the lending-library program, Harder said, is to give children ready access to appropriate reading materials they might not otherwise be able to take home. She said that while the community’s public library system is quite good, many parents don’t actually take the time to visit those facilities and obtain a library card.

“This is like stepping down the library process a notch to make it a little easier and more convenient for children and their parents to gain access to books,” said Deborah Culver, the ELA’s education coordinator.

By bringing the lending program to schools and child-care facilities, the ELA is able to support a point-of-contact presence where children and parents can easily borrow and return books. Officials at lending-library sites must request to host the program, and they must appoint a site coordinator to oversee the smooth operation of the lending library, Harder said.

In addition to its lending program, which also features a lending site on campus where local teachers can borrow books for use in their classes, the ELA offers a variety of workshops, community literacy events and student assessments aimed at promoting early childhood literacy. Founded in 2002, the ELA relies almost exclusively on grants and other donations to fulfill its mission.

Though Harder said the ELA would apply for the Reading is Fundamental grant again next year, she pointed out that Reading is Fundamental tends to view its funding as seed money rather than a permanent support fund. There is a good chance the ELA will have to find other donors to help support the lending-library program in future years, she said.

“We know that we’re a purpose-driven organization that has a very important impact on the community,” Harder said. “We know that people with vision will continue to help fund us.”

The ELA is administered by the IU Northwest School of Education. Dean Stan Wigle, Ph.D., said the academy’s role in the community is an essential one.

“The function of the Early Literacy Academy is to better prepare early childhood caregivers by giving them the books and skills necessary to work with young children in the area of early literacy,” Wigle said. “Early literacy is the single most important factor when it comes to a child’s later success in school.”
IU Northwest Years of Service Honorees

The University congratulates employees who have achieved career milestones this year.

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<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Honorees</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 Years</td>
<td>Valerie Cooks, Peg Fiala, Taylor Lake, Xinna Li, William Odefey, Michelle Seear, Vernal Thornton, Minhui Wang</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Years</td>
<td>Bishop, Julie, Rita Jablon, Sandra Mendoza, Ana Osan, Sandra Hall Smith, Krishna Yelavarthi</td>
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<td>15 Years</td>
<td>Spencer Cortwright, Barbara Gunn, Kathryn Lantz, Elizabeth McKee-Backus, Ella Morgan, Charlotte Reed, Vernon Smith, Melvin Wells</td>
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<td>20 Years</td>
<td>Anderson, Linda, Charmaine Connelly, Karen Grabske, John Pappas, Kay Washington, Dorothy Van Scyoc, Patricia Woolsey</td>
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<td>25 Years</td>
<td>Bodmer, George, Subir Bandyopadhyay, George Bodmer, Wickie Bandyopadhyay, Subir Bandyopadhyay, George Bodmer, Wickie Bandyopadhyay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Years</td>
<td>Arlene Adler, Clarence Green, Krishna Yelavarthi, Richmond Shiffer, Catherine Tallos, Silquia Vela, Gary Wilk</td>
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<tr>
<td>35 Years</td>
<td>Linda Rooda, Lary Schiefelbush</td>
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IU Northwest Notes of Distinction

Scooter Pégram, Ph.D., assistant professor of French, presented his paper entitled “Representing Reality through French Hip-Hop: Ethnic Identity and The Rhyme,” and also led a panel discussion, “Identity and International Hip-Hop,” at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association in Oakland, Calif. in April.


Gianluca Di Muzio, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy, recently had his paper, “The Problem of Divine Inefficiency,” accepted for publication by Think, a peer-reviewed philosophy journal.

Subir Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., professor of marketing, has been elected to the board of the Northwest Indiana World Trade Council for 2007-08. The NWIWT promotes a better understanding of Northwest Indiana’s role in the global community through education, communication, marketing, and connections, and the group seeks to increase international trade through resource coordination, investment, innovation, and direct assistance.

Peter Caithamer, Ph.D., assistant professor of mathematics, has been invited to serve as a keynote speaker at the 33rd International Conference on Applied Mathematics in Engineering and Economics in Bulgaria. Caithamer will speak on the topic of stochastic equations.

Iztok Hozo, Ph.D., professor of mathematics, recently published the article “When Should Potentially False Research Findings Be Considered Acceptable?” in the journal PLoS Medicine.

Ada U. Azodo, Ph.D., assistant professor of African and African Diaspora Studies (AADS), attended the 33rd annual meeting and conference of the African Literature Association of America at West Virginia University in Morgantown from March 14-18, 2007. Azodo participated in a the Roundtable “Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: A New Nigerian Literary Voice,” and she also presented the following papers on two panels: “Gender and Sexuality in Africa: Apprizing My New Book, Gender and Sexuality in African Literature and Film,” and “New Forms in Mariama Bâ’s So Long a Letter: A Postmodern Feminist Reading.”

Hip Hop from page 5

Dr. Rachael agreed that many of the lyrics present in some rap songs are not meant for children, but she said it’s parents’ duty to keep their kids away from undesirable or inappropriate material. Dr. Rachael also asked critics of Hip Hop music to listen to the lyrics and the messages behind them before judging them. During a panel discussion that followed the keynote address, supporters of Hip Hop music insisted that, despite how it’s portrayed in the media, much of the genre’s best work features positive themes.

Hip Hop is a culture that includes many art forms: music or spoken word; dance; and graffiti. Deejays also are considered artists in Hip Hop culture. At the April 4 summit, Asia Dickens and her dance troupe invigorated the crowd with some dizzying Hip Hop moves, while James Dillon and Justin Webster provided a deep message through spoken word.

The Hip Hop Summit was sponsored by: Pégram; the IU Northwest Black Student Union; the Diversity Programming Series; Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority; Gamma Sigma Omega Fraternity; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; ALMA; the Department of Minority Studies; Pi Delta Phi Honor Society; and the Foreign Languages Club.

May 2007 Northwest News 11
Wednesday, May 9
School of Nursing Pinning and Recognition Ceremony – 5:30 p.m. in Tamarack Hall Theatre. The School of Nursing will honor its 2007 graduates, with reception to follow.

Thursday, May 10
IU Northwest Commencement Ceremony – 6 p.m. at the Gary Genesis Center. The University will honor its 892 graduates of the Class of 2007 during its 41st commencement program.

Tuesday, May 15
Glen Park Conversations – 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Library Conference Center, second floor. This monthly gathering of IU Northwest and Glen Park community members features guest speakers, fun discussions and terrific door prizes.

Friday, May 18
Institute for Innovative Leadership Seminar: ‘Power, Passion, Purpose’ – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Library Conference Center Room 105. This skill-building workshop will help current and future leaders maximize their potential and achieve even greater results. The cost is $50, and this fee may be tax-deductible as a continuing-education expense. Call (219) 981-5631 to reserve a seat.

Gallery Reception for artist Bill Boyce – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Savannah Gallery for Contemporary Art. IU Northwest will celebrate its latest exhibit with an open reception for the artist.

Wednesday, May 23
Diversity Awareness Video Series – 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Savannah Center Room 205. This monthly series of discussion events, sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Equity, uses videos, guest speakers and conversation to explore different cultures.

Benefit Concert – Emerson School for the Visual and Performing Arts Orchestra – 6 p.m. in Tamarack Hall Theatre. Contact Jennifer Potter at (219) 980-6705 or e-mail her at jerpotte@iun.edu for more information.

Indiana University Northwest welcomes faculty and staff members who have joined the campus community since March 1.

Harold E. Burtley, Jr.
Director of Scholarships/Financial Aid

Kevin J. Parli
Audio-Visual Production Tech

Patricia D. Thomas
Senior Secretary
College of Arts and Sciences