Hodges arrives as Student Services chief

Diane Hodges knows that one significant challenge she must address as the new Vice Chancellor for Student Services at Indiana University Northwest is to find ways to inspire greater student participation in campus activities. As a commuter campus, she said, IU Northwest doesn’t have the sort of captive audience for special programs and events that a residential school enjoys.

Still, Hodges expressed confidence that her division can continue to build on a recent string of successful programs and events and entice more students to take advantage of the myriad learning opportunities and social activities the campus offers outside of the classroom.

“There may be a need to assess students’ interests more closely,” Hodges said during a July 19 interview with Northwest News. “What are the things they are most interested in? What would be a hook for them? What would be something that they would be so interested in that they would stay here instead of getting into their car and going away?”

Hodges acknowledged that many students at IU Northwest have jobs, families and other demands on their time that may limit their chances to participate in evening or weekend campus activities.

“I think we probably need to think about doing more programming midday, when the greatest masses of students are on campus,” she said. “It may just be getting things done more toward the lunch hour, when more people are here.”

Athletics is one aspect of IU Northwest student life that Hodges said needs to receive stronger campus and community support. With local basketball legend Pete Trgovich on board as the RedHawk’s new men’s basketball coach, Hodges, who is a big hoops fan, said she expects interest in the team among students and area sports enthusiasts to jump significantly. Hodges advocated the inclusion of halftime contests and themed game nights as other ways to attract more students to sporting events.

“We need to use a number of hooks,” Hodges said. “One of them is to have student-organization nights at the basketball games. For instance, you might have the Greeks versus the health organizations at the games. You can do something at halftime to have competitions between those student groups. The other thing is to have, say, the School of Business Night at the game, where you try to get that school to bring as many faculty and students to the game as possible.

“I also want to see if we can’t get our student government more energized,” she said. “I know that has been a challenge. There are cycles. Some years you will have students who are very high-energy and really invested in campus, and the next year you’ll have students who (are not).”

Indiana University Northwest will go smoke-free on Aug. 20 in compliance with IU’s system-wide ban on the use of tobacco at its campuses.

The new policy, which was announced earlier this year, is intended to promote the health and well being of all campus community members, including smokers and those whose health may be impacted by second-hand smoke. Although no specific punishments, such as fines, have been established as part of the IU Northwest policy, campus administrators and members of the Tobacco-Free IU Northwest Task Force expect peer pressure and the added stigma of outlawed behavior to erode the use of tobacco by faculty, students and staff, at least on campus.

During a June 6 town-hall meeting to discuss the impending tobacco ban, IU Northwest Chancellor Bruce Bergland explained to faculty and staff in attendance that the Gary campus is not the driving force behind the new policy, which was set forth earlier this year by then-President Adam Herbert and the IU Board of Trustees.

“We are not in a position where we have a choice not to implement a no-tobacco policy,” he said. “We have to do this.”

Bergland did acknowledge his support for the plan, saying the tobacco-free policy would contribute to a healthier campus climate.

Some IU campuses, such as IUPUI, have already made the switch, while others are in the process of doing so. IU Northwest’s conversion to a non-smoking campus will take place in stages.

On Aug. 20, new non-smoking signs will be placed near all campus ashtrays. Larger metal signage for buildings and parking areas will follow. When students and faculty return to campus Sept. 3 following the Labor Day holiday, the ashtrays will be gone.

See HODGES page 8

See TOBACCO page 10
Visitors to the Weekend MBA for Professionals open house hosted July 24 by the Indiana University Northwest School of Business and Economics heard many good reasons for pursuing their Master of Business Administration degree at IU Northwest. But program director John Gibson’s pitch eventually came down to dollars and cents, investment versus return.

“The MBA is still, dollar for dollar, one of the best investments you can make over time,” Gibson told prospective students who attended the evening event. “MBA’s still make about 25 percent more than any other graduate degree, and the numbers don’t lie. “It’s the gateway to more money,” he said. “It’s the gateway to prestige. And it makes you an impact person in your community.”

Having covered the return aspect of the business school’s latest offering, Gibson then explained the investment: an all-inclusive tuition of $25,000. The school’s director of graduate and undergraduate programs quickly put that number into perspective.

“Our nearest competitor in Northwest Indiana ... is $34,000,” Gibson said, noting that the rival business school of which he spoke is not accredited by the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, which has accredited IU Northwest’s business school. “We can start looking in the Chicago market at $60,000.”

The Weekend MBA for Professionals cohort condenses the business school’s evening MBA program into five semesters of Saturday and online classes. The alternating Saturday structure allows students to maintain some free time for other commitments, and the program will break for two months in July and August 2008.

Students enrolling in the program’s August 2007 cohort will receive a laptop computer and all of their books as part of their tuition cost. The business school will also provide breakfast and lunch on class days.

“I don’t think we could possibly make it any more convenient for you than with what we have come up with this program,” Gibson said. He added, however, that the expedited pace of the 18-month schedule would likely prove demanding.

“I don’t want to stand here and lie to you, and say you’re just going to go online, do your stuff, and that’s it,” Gibson said. “This is graduate school. My guess is you may be using some of those off Saturdays to do a little work.”

Applicants to the weekend program must take the Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT) and must provide official undergraduate transcripts as part of their applications. They also must provide letters of recommendation. Dean Anna Rominger, J.D., of the School of Business and Economics said the August 2007 cohort requires no fewer than 15 students to proceed; the maximum enrollment is 25.

“John has talked to a lot of people in the community to try and find out what the interest is and what the needs of the community are (regarding a weekend MBA program),” Rominger said. “And we believe that this will satisfy those needs.”

Like any good business professional, Gibson ultimately guided his talk of tuition and significant time commitments toward the bottom line.

“It’s an IU degree,” he said. “IU is known for business. It has been for decades. It’s recognized nationally and internationally.”

John Gibson (left), director of undergraduate and graduate programs at the IU Northwest School of Business and Economics, speaks to potential MBA students about the school’s new Weekend MBA for Professionals program during a July 24 open house.
Ten years later, DSW impact remains high
Next step for Social Work could be undergrad degree as part of CHHS

It’s been 10 years since Indiana University Northwest introduced its Master’s of Social Work (MSW) program to the Northwest Indiana community, and the positive impact the Division of Social Work (DSW) has made on the lives of the region’s residents continues to be felt on many levels.

“This was an endeavor that took a long time to come to the university, and when it happened the community was excited on many levels,” said Assistant Professor of Social Work Denise Travis, Ph.D., who stepped down as program director July 1.

“Those people who wanted to further their education were excited because they didn’t have to go to Indianapolis or Chicago. And social-service agencies were excited because there is a great need for more master’s-prepared social workers in NWI.”

Certainly, the area’s employee base of qualified, master’s-level social workers has expanded due to the IU Northwest program although still more are needed. Service projects and other volunteer efforts by DSW faculty and staff make a meaningful difference in the lives of underserved citizens across the seven-county Northwest Indiana area. And faculty members significant scholarly research continues to draw favorable attention to IU Northwest’s important role in advancing the field of social work and the values held dear by its practitioners.

It’s those qualities that attracted Assistant Professor Manoj Pardasani, Ph.D., to the IU Northwest program three years ago.

“What appealed to me about IU Northwest was the focus on scholarship, community engagement and community service,” he said. “Professors are encouraged not just to do outstanding teaching and research, and but also to become involved in the community around the university.”

Pardasani pointed to a variety of recent projects undertaken by DSW faculty and students just in the past academic year. These have included a survey of elderly services and needs in the region, the preparation of handbooks for senior-care providers, clothing drives, and park clean-up projects, to name only a few.

Pardasani noted that many of these student efforts fell outside of the 960 hours of practicum required of all MSW degree candidates. He said this kind of service learning is essential to the core mission of social work: the promotion of social justice, the empowerment of the oppressed and the betterment of society.

“How do you teach those values to students unless they see the situations and conditions in which these values apply and have meaning?” he asked. “It’s about the micro and the macro. It’s not just about helping this individual or that family; it’s also about improving the environment in which they all live and interact.”

Now, as it celebrates its first decade on IU’s Gary campus, DSW appears poised to bring these life experiences to greater numbers of students through a new undergraduate program that is expected to take shape as part of the new College of Health and Human Services.

“It is part of the plan for the College of Health and Human Services, so we’re very excited about that,” Travis said. “We get dozens of calls every academic year from students asking if we have that program. We also know that there are social-service agencies in the area that have employees who haven’t finished their baccalaureate degrees that could be a feeder into that type of program. The other thing is that those students can matriculate to the MSW program. So it’s a really nice package.”

The MSW program is operating at full student capacity — 55 in each year of the three-year program for a total enrollment of 165 — and with a full complement of faculty. Students are required to do two field practica over the three years, the first one for 320 hours and the second one for 640 hours. Travis estimated that DSW has more than 150 social-service agencies throughout Northwest Indiana and the Chicago area that place IU Northwest students in field internships.

Minority Studies brings planning event to Gary

When members of the Planning and the Black Community Division (PBCD) of the American Planning Association meet in Gary next month for their 27th annual conference, they’ll do a lot more than just discuss national trends in the planning industry, share hard-earned wisdom with colleagues and enjoy catered lunches.

Rather, as guests of the City of Gary, the Gary, East Chicago, Hammond Empowerment Zone and the Indiana University Northwest Department of Minority Studies, professional planners from black communities across the country will apply their knowledge and expertise to the challenge of bringing sustainable economic development to the city’s downtown and historic midtown districts.

“This is a huge benefit, because the city could never afford to bring in the level of expertise that we’ll have at this conference,” said Ben Clement, economic development and marketing administrator for the Empowerment Zone. “It’s tremendous for us.”

As part of the PBCD conference, a Community Development Technical Assistance (TA) Team, made up of experienced member planners who volunteer their expertise during the course of the conference, will meet with Gary officials, stakeholders and the public to discuss the city’s goals and challenges as they relate to its redevelopment ambitions. Team members will then collaborate on a series of specific recommendations for how to achieve those goals. The TA Team will offer a final design presentation on the Broadway/Historic Midtown corridor prior to submitting a more comprehensive analysis to be issued later in the year.

As part of the TA Team’s information-gathering activities, teams member will hold public workshops at the Gary Genesis Center on Aug. 10 from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. and on Aug. 11 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 10, the TA Team will hold a design workshop, also open to the public, that will consider design options for the Broadway Corridor.

Keynote speakers for the PBCD conference include former Gary planning director and founding PBCD member Charles Allen, who will speak at a plenary luncheon on Aug. 9, and former Gary mayor Richard Hatcher, who will speak at the PBCD recognition dinner on Aug. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville. Gary Mayor Rudy Clay will also attend several conference activities, and he is scheduled to speak at the plenary luncheon at IU Northwest.

To land this year’s event, Gary bested such metropolitan communities as Dallas, Orlando, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C. IU Northwest Associate Professor of Minority Studies Earl Jones, Ph.D., a member of the Gary host committee, said IU Northwest’s minority studies department made the conference possible here because it offers a community-development concentration in its Afro-American Studies program.

“One of the requirements to host this conference is that there has to be a major university in the community that offers a community-planning program, and we have that,” Jones explained.
It seems a matter of practical wisdom that diverse groups of people, assuming those people work together well, would have greater success at accomplishing goals than would a single person or a group of people with similar backgrounds or experiences. Indiana University Northwest Associate Professor of Management Stephen Dunphy, Ph.D., has developed a fun and insightful exercise to prove that notion correct.

Taking as his inspiration a variety of existing word puzzles, Dunphy has spun the concept of brainteasers into a challenging series of games that he calls “wuzzle puzzles.” Using images that come mostly from Microsoft Office’s free-use collection of clip art, Dunphy arranges these different pictures, along with some words or groups of words, into displays that represent sort of a visual anagram. Taken individually, the words and pictures mean one thing, but taken as a whole they are meant to represent a familiar phrase or cliché.

“I’ve never seen these kinds of puzzles before,” Dunphy said. “These are picture-puzzles. The thing with a picture-puzzle is that it’s not just an anagram or a word scramble. You’ve got to use the picture to actually solve the phrase. That’s pretty rare. There are a lot of weird puzzles out there these days, but I’ve never seen these anywhere.”

In his business classes, Dunphy uses the puzzles to illustrate the value of teamwork and diversity. He first asks students to do a puzzle by themselves and gauge their scores. Then he assigns teams to work the next puzzle collectively. Usually, he said, the scores on the group exercises are higher than students’ individual results. The most productive stage of the exercise, he said, is the ensuing team discussions about who contributed what to the overall effort.

“On the group puzzle, if you score 12, and you only scored nine on individual puzzle, what is it about the group that allowed you to improve your score?” Dunphy asked. “By bringing these minds together, we see great improvement. So I ask them: What is it about each person? What did that person bring to the group?”

Dunphy emphasized that, while the traditional concept of “diversity” is usually viewed in ethnic terms, his wuzzle-puzzles actually demonstrate the value of other forms of diversity, as well. Students’ familiarity with the various clichés or catchphrases illustrated by his puzzles can depend on multiple factors, including what part of the country they or their parents hail from and even their hobbies or interests.

Dunphy has used his wuzzle-puzzle exercises as the basis for several papers, including “Building Camaraderie Through Wuzzling,” which appeared in the Journal of Business Ethics. He has also made those papers and his puzzles available to other educators and the public for free through his Web site at http://www.iun.edu/~bnwsmd/wuzzle_puzzles. Dunphy said he’s had students from other states send him comments about his puzzles and recommendations for creating new ones.

“We at IU Northwest, that’s part of our mission, to push out that knowledge,” he said. “So that’s why I put those papers up there, so they can download the papers and take my stuff. This is a free-use page that may be copied by all for their personal and professional use.”

Dunphy said he would like to work on some new puzzles, and he’s open to suggestions from the Northwest Indiana community.

“There are probably a lot of different phrases that I should start getting into,” the professor said. “A lot of these come off the Internet. They’re just clichés that have worked their way into the language.

This could go even farther,” he said. “We could start getting animations. I could start doing some interesting interactive graphics.”

Dunphy admitted that he didn’t coin the unusual term “wuzzle,” which he recalls seeing in a newspaper, and his idea for the picture puzzles themselves came from a book he found in a Cleveland library that contained similar brain-twisters that used only words and not images. He took these influences and came up with his notion of wuzzle picture-puzzles.

“Essentially, two heads are better than one, is basically what I’m saying,” Dunphy said. “But I think this is a way to get people, even in a friendship mode, to start communicating. I think we’re getting a little too much of this computer-point-click, and we’re not talking to each other enough and finding out about each other.”
Campus cop moonlights with smooth tunes

From Barry White to The Beatles, Warren Tipton owns the microphone

By day, Officer Warren Tipton of the Indiana University Northwest Police Department carries a badge, a gun and a smile, the latter serving as the perfect advertisement for his naturally ebullient personality. By night, Tipton keeps his smile and his friendly demeanor, but he swaps the badge and the gun for a microphone. And if you think the ladies love a guy in uniform, just imagine how they must feel about a guy in uniform who can sing.

“On the night of the (Northwest Indiana Region) Idol finals, I sang three songs; ‘Let’s Get It On’ by Marvin Gaye; ‘Unchained Melody’ by the Righteous Brothers; and the song I sang that really put me over, ‘Faithful,’ by Journey,” Tipton, who won the first-ever Region Idol contest in 2006, recalled during a recent interview with Northwest News. “When I sang the song, the two female judges were crying. So I kind of figured I’d won.”

So, why has someone with a sound that smooth spent his career keeping the peace instead of making music? Because when Tipton came out of the U.S. Army in 1978, police work offered something the music industry did not: job security. His military background convinced Tipton he could handle the rigors of the academy and the job, so he signed on with the Gary Police Department, which called him up in 1980. He worked there until 2006, when Tipton retired from Gary and joined IU Northwest.

Still, for a guy whose natural vocal talent was apparent from early childhood, the lure of singing stardom was always there. Growing up in Gary, home of the famous Jackson 5, only intensified that dream.

“They were an inspiration to a lot of young musicians at the time,” Tipton said. “Of course, we knew that after we won record deals or trying to become the industry’s next big ‘discovery,’ Tipton said he’s always open to new opportunities.

“Music is pretty strong in my life right now,” he said. “At my age, I’m probably not looking to get a record deal, but I certainly could look at music as a career after law enforcement. The singing is my joy.”

On the IU Northwest campus, Tipton has performed at the faculty-staff Christmas party and other events. He also has sung the National Anthem for the Gary Railcats at U.S. Steel Yard an estimated 20 times, most recently at the July 4 game last month.

“Out of all the songs that I sing, the National Anthem is probably my favorite,” said Tipton, who credited his late father, Governor Tipton, with teaching him to think about the song’s meaning when he sings it. “Some of the National Anthem singers you hear just sing it. Some of them forget the words. A lot of R&B singers try to put more soul into it, and other singers try to put their own spin on it. I try to keep it as basic as possible.

“I don’t just sing it because I can sing it,” he explained. “I sing it with a purpose.”

Tipton’s repertoire is diverse, although he cites the R&B “love music” of the 1960s and ’70s as a particular influence on his style. As someone who studies the mechanics of singing, though, Tipton said his personal tastes, both for listening and performing, range fairly wide. He can channel Tony Bennett for “I Left My Heart In San Francisco,” then bring down the house with Barry White’s “The First, The Last, My Everything” before sliding into a Luther Vandross love tune and wrapping up with something from Maroon 5.

“Someone asked me one time, ‘Do you have your own style?’ and I probably do,” Tipton said. “But I like emulating other singers, because it brings to your mind the music that you like. If somebody likes The Beatles, I can sing Beatles songs all day long. I dated a young lady named Michelle, and, of course, I called her cell phone and left The Beatles’ ‘Michelle’ on her (voice mail). And if you’re wondering, yes, I do know the French part, too. And I know what it means.’

Tipton’s not shy about discussing his vocal talents, but he doesn’t actually take credit for them, either. He acknowledged his mother, who insisted on piano lessons for all eight of her children, and who prompted a young Tipton to perform countless times for family and friends, for exposing him to the processes and mechanics of music. For the rest, he gave credit to God.

“I know I’m talented, but it’s God-given talent,” Tipton said. “It’s not something that I created. It’s something that I was probably born with.”
Talarico hyperostosis article published in JAMA
Professor joined med student in researching anatomical donor’s anomaly

The July issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) features an article from Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology Ernest Talarico, Jr., Ph.D., of the Indiana University School of Medicine-Northwest (IUSM-NW), and IUSM student Andrew Prather, in which the authors recount their experience studying an anatomical donor whose skull exhibited a little-understood abnormality involving rough, malformed regions of bone in the normally smooth cranial interior.

The condition is called hyperostosis frontalis interna (HFI), it’s almost always seen in postmenopausal women, and it’s rare enough that when Talarico first saw the extensive malformations inside the donor’s cranial vault, he had no idea what might have caused them. Once he identified the condition through literature research, Talarico realized that Fern, the anatomical donor who became the subject of his and Prather’s study, could help the researchers explore a genuine medical mystery. Although several theories exist, the exact cause of HFI remains unknown, and it’s possible for patients to develop the disorder and potentially present with symptoms without ever knowing they have it.

But in “Connecting the Dots to Make a Difference,” which runs in JAMA’s “A Piece of My Mind” feature, Talarico and Prather discuss more than just the scientific particulars of what one Indianapolis osteologist called the most extensive case of HFI he had ever seen. The researchers also talk about the process of getting to know Fern as a person not only through her physical condition and medical history but also through positive interaction with her family members. Talarico and Prather, who is now a fourth-year medical student at IUSM in Indianapolis, were the first IUSM researchers to meet with family members of an anatomical donor, and Talarico said the experience enriched his appreciation for the invaluable gift donors like Fern give to future doctors and their patients.

“Working with Fern was just fantastic,” Talarico said in an interview with Northwest News just a few days before the article’s publication. “Not just working with her in the lab, but learning about her from her family. I think Katie, her daughter, put it best: Katie said her mother was into volunteerism, and she recycled everything. This was just another extension of that. She recycled herself.”

Fern’s human remains came to Talarico’s gross anatomy lab in 2004 as part of the IUSM Anatomical Education Program, in which first-year medical students learn human anatomy through the study and dissection of cadavers. When Talarico’s anatomy students began to explore the details of Fern’s brain anatomy, they discovered signs of HFI. At the time, neither the students nor the professor understood what they were seeing.

“In order to learn about the condition, we had to learn about Fern,” Talarico said. “Not much is known in the literature about this condition. We do know it was first discovered about 100 B.C. That was found in a Celtic male at that time. We know that because of archaeological remains. In more recent times, it’s been seen almost exclusively in women, whereas before it was seen almost exclusively in men.”

In Fern’s case, the HFI had caused an extensive amount of what is known as “bone remodeling” inside of her skull. Medical records showed that doctors had identified the condition with a brain scan several years before she died, but that test did not reveal the significant extent of the bone remodeling, Talarico said.

“Usually, the inner part of the skull, what we call the endocranium, is smooth,” he explained. “In hyperostosis, that’s remodeled to what we call ‘spong type,’ and it becomes rough. In Fern’s case, it became extremely rough, almost like the surface of an asteroid with projections projecting back onto her brain. And the thickening of the skull was four to five times what it normally would be in certain places. In her case, there were also nodules created on the inside of the skull, pressing against part of her motor cortex, which we thought might have accounted for some neurological manifestations that we saw.”

In the JAMA article, Talarico and Prather refer to a seizure-like condition, or “spells,” that Fern’s children recalled her having every so often. These events were not life-threatening but would usually leave Fern to recover in bed for several days with no memory of the episode itself. The authors suggest that these episodes may have been a neurological symptom of Fern’s HFI.

Such information from the family greatly aided their study, Talarico said, but the researchers also found value in the stories and recollections of Fern’s life apart from her medical history. In her 87 years of life, Fern raised eight children, enjoyed a career as a nurse, and dedicated herself to caring for the environment and for those less fortunate than she. Her children recalled for Prather and Talarico how their mother had knitted blankets for underprivileged children, worked in a home for unwed mothers and offered assistance and companionship to those who needed them.

For Talarico, who has always insisted that his anatomy students and prosecution volunteers show the utmost respect to anatomical donors in his lab, his conversations with Fern’s family lent added resonance to his view of donors as human beings whose lives continue to benefit others after they have passed on.

Talarico admitted that Fern’s family’s interest in his and Prather’s research on her HFI surprised him at first. One of her relatives had initially opposed the fulfillment of Fern’s donor request, he said, but later had a change of heart. Once the researchers learned the extent of Fern’s HFI, they contacted administrators at the Anatomical Education Program in Indianapolis to obtain the family’s contact information in hopes of acquiring more information for the study. That led to a warm yet surreal meeting between Prather, Talarico and the family.

“They were very interested in the study,” he recalled. “They treated us just like family. They welcomed us into their house. They had a meal all prepared for us, which we certainly didn’t anticipate or expect. They had Fern’s cremains in the house and a little shrine-like area dedicated to her. We sat there with them, had a long lunch, and talked about our findings. We interviewed each of them to get details on their mother. I think they enjoyed it, too, because it gave them a chance to talk about their mother and different experiences they had in growing up with her. As you can tell from the JAMA article, she was a strong-willed woman.”

See JAMA page 9
New RedHawk coach aims for fun, wins
Trgovich set to bring new attitude, new offense to IU Northwest men’s basketball

For a basketball coach who gets around as much as the RedHawks’ Pete Trgovich, the man certainly knows how to stay put.

Trgovich, who joined Indiana University Northwest in May as the RedHawks’ head basketball coach, has coached at six different schools representing five levels of competition, including NCAA Division I at Loyola of Chicago. Yet Trgovich, who as a player led East Chicago Washington to a state championship in 1971, then coached the E.C. Central Cardinals to a Class 4A state title last March, has never left his Munster home. The nomadic lifestyle so common to the college coaching profession just never appealed to him, he said.

“I was never willing to do that, because my children were school age, and I started coaching later in life, not right when I got out of college,” explained Trgovich, who played for two NCAA championship teams under legendary UCLA coach John Wooden.

“It’s just a decision I made. I wasn’t willing to relocate and chase the dream job all over the country. I live in the same house that I have for 25 years, and there are three schools out there where I could still live in my house and coach college basketball.”

One of those was IU Northwest. After deciding not to return to the Cardinals in the coming season, Trgovich, who still teaches at E.C. Central, considered an offer from former RedHawks’ coach Tom Bainbridge to serve as an assistant here. But Bainbridge, who was balancing a number of other commitments at the time, ultimately told Trgovich that he would resign his position if Trgovich would take the reins. After careful consideration and discussions with IU Northwest administrators and with his family — including son Pete Trgovich III, who will be a sophomore at IU Northwest and will play basketball for his father — Trgovich agreed.

“I really prefer to work with the college-age kids,” the coach explained. “In my first coaching job, I volunteered at Purdue Calumet. I didn’t know if I’d like it. I didn’t know if I’d be any good at it. But I just fell in love with the situation that they had over there. I feel that the small-college coaches have the best coaching jobs out there, because you have kids who are there to get an education first, and they’re also there because they love the sport of basketball.”

The attraction of an NAIA Division II program like IU Northwest, Trgovich said, doesn’t come from the promise of championships or national TV audiences or NBA contracts. Rather, it attracts good players who love the sport and want to keep playing quality minutes beyond high school. Trgovich said he expects his players to work hard, but he also expects them to have fun in practice and during the games.

“I have only one option, and that is to make the game as fun as I can,” Trgovich said. “Maybe this isn’t UCLA. But, for those two hours in practice, it will be. I will try to make it that way. I’m going to make sure that everything is a positive experience as far as what they’re doing on the basketball court at practice and during the games.”

Trgovich conceded that IU Northwest faces some hurdles in its recruitment efforts. Without housing, for instance, the university is unable to look beyond the Northwest Indiana region for talent, as Purdue Calumet has done recently. But Trgovich said his style of play should appeal to some of the many fine high school players in the region, and he didn’t rule out the possibility of drawing some homegrown Division I transfers who aren’t happy with their situations at the larger schools.

“I am going to play a style that I would want to play as a player,” Trgovich said. “A coach has so much control over the style they play. He can make it a player’s game, where there are a lot of possessions. That means running the ball up the court and trying to get into early offense, and not using the shot clock. The more possessions that we have, the more guys get a chance to play their game. And the offense I’m going to use is an offense that John Calipari in Memphis introduced me to.”

“It’s a fun game. It’s a players’ game,” Trgovich said of his offense. “Players get to do what they do best on the court. That is how I think I am going to attract some of the local talent who comes back here. Maybe they went away and played Division I, and things didn’t work out. Well, now they’re going to come back here and they’re going to have fun.”

See COACH page 11
The above images are taken from artworks that appear in the 2007 Under Indiana Skies: Newton County exhibit now on display in the IU Northwest Savannah Gallery for Contemporary Art. (Top left) This photograph of Arizona's Grand Canyon was taken by Goodland, Ind. photographer Paula Ryan. (Top right) This piece from Kentland, Ind. oil and watercolor artist Greta Taylor is titled “Blue Granite Holiday.” The Under Indiana Skies exhibit also features watercolor paintings from Brook, Ind. artist Carol Whaley.

HODGES from page 1

Except for the few years she spent as a counselor at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Hodges has been a lifetime Midwesterner. She grew up in Chicago Heights, received her bachelor's degree in secondary education from Illinois State University in 1970 and her master's degree in psychology in 1972 from the same institution, and earned her doctorate in counseling psychology in 1987 at Northwestern.

Hodges came to IU Northwest from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she worked for 13 years in a variety of student-affairs-related positions. Most recently, she served as UIC's community-relations director. Hodges also served, for a time, as the school's associate vice chancellor for student affairs and as the head of multicultural affairs, among other positions. Prior to her work at UIC and UNLV, Hodges worked for a number of years in student affairs at Illinois State.

With an academic background in education and psychology, Hodges' career in student affairs and administrative services might seem like an unexpected professional digression. But her interest in the field grew from experiences Hodges had in student affairs while she was still in college.

"It really started with me as an undergraduate," she recalled. "I was a student-orientation leader and also a residence assistant. I received a fair amount of mentoring from administrators in student affairs. As a result of that, I really just grew to love the area.

Despite her Chicago-area roots, Hodges admitted that she knew little about Gary before interviewing for her new position.

"Even though I've lived that close to Gary, I didn't know Gary," said Hodges, who started at IU Northwest on July 2. "I mean, the most I can say is that I'd been in Merrillville, at the Star Plaza. Prior to coming here for my interview, I'd never been to Gary.

Hodges confirmed that what little she had heard about the city consisted primarily of negative stereotypes, but she paid those no heed when considering the opportunity at IU Northwest. Hodges pointed to the university's unique combination of modest size, urban locale and diverse student base as the basis for her excitement about coming here.

"I think the whole concept of higher education in an urban environment is really exciting one," she said. "You have the issues that are involved in city life, plus you have higher education. When you combine the two, you really have an opportunity to make an impact on the quality of life, both for your students and potentially for the city that you're located in."

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"I think that also speaks to the community's support of the program," Travis said. "Oftentimes, our students are hired by their second placement agency.

If 960 hours of field experience plus three years of evening classes sound like a daunting time investment for students who typically work full-time jobs and have families, well, it is. As director, Travis instituted an information forum that DSW holds four times each year to provide prospective students with information about the program and perhaps some reassurance that its considerable requirements are manageable.

"Sometimes it's hard for prospective students to wrap their heads around how they're going to work, take care of their family and do their practicum," Travis said. "They know they're not going to have a life.

Travis, who does not yet have a replacement in the director's office, said she has enjoyed her time in that position but is eager to return full-time to the classroom.

"It was very fulfilling to see it solidify into a very strong program," she said of DSW. "I enjoyed that a lot.

Pardasani said his excitement about the DSW program, what it has accomplished, and what is yet to come, has only intensified with each passing year. Most satisfying, he said, is the visible difference the program's students and graduates have made in the surrounding communities.

"Ultimately, for me, what's so gratifying about this is that the majority of our graduates are not leaving the region," Pardasani said. "They are staying here and living here and working here to improve the lives of others who live here. We are not losing our best and brightest. They are here doing good work to better the community."

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New Herbert Scholar to study math ed
Katelyn Stanfield is second Portage grad to earn honor at IU Northwest

Katelyn Stanfield is the third Indiana University Northwest student to receive the prestigious designation of Presidential Scholar since that program began in 2005. The 2007 Portage High School graduate is the second student from that school in as many years to attend IU Northwest as a Presidential Scholar, and she is the university’s first female student to receive the honor.

Stanfield, 18, is one of 67 Indiana students who will enroll in the IU system this fall as part of the Adam W. Herbert Presidential Scholar program. Herbert, who concluded his tenure as IU’s president last month, initiated the program, and the IU Board of Trustees voted in May to rename the scholarship for him.

Stanfield said she intends to study secondary mathematics education in the IU Northwest School of Education, so that she can introduce other students to her favorite subject.

“I really love math,” Stanfield said. “I’ve had some really great math teachers through the years. I always knew I wanted to do something involving math, either mathematics education or actuary science. I decided to do math education.”

Stanfield, who graduated 10th in her class of 439, had already enrolled at IU Northwest with an Academic Excellence Scholarship that would have paid her tuition for four years. The Presidential Scholar award came later and took Stanfield by surprise. It will supplement her existing scholarship with additional funds for books and other expenses and will also give her a laptop computer. Also, in Stanfield’s junior or senior year, the presidential scholarship will contribute $1,000 toward a semester abroad.

Portage High School graduate Katelyn Stanfield will attend IU Northwest this fall as the university’s third Presidential Scholar since President Emeritus Adam Herbert began that program in 2005. Stanfield, who graduated 10th in her class of 439, plans to study secondary mathematics education.

Criteria for selection as a Herbert Presidential Scholar include class rank, grade point average, SAT I or ACT test scores, and strength of high school curriculum. Also considered are each student’s record of activities and leadership positions, the record of community service, a personal statement, and a recommendation from a high school teacher, guidance counselor or community member. Indiana residency is required and preference is given to National Merit Scholarship qualifiers.

This year’s Herbert Presidential Scholar freshman class has an average grade point average exceeding 4.0, due to AP and honors classes, and the average SAT composite score was 1348. Nearly every scholar ranked in the top 5 percent of his or her high school class. Minority students comprise one third of the class.

“I really didn’t know that scholarship existed. I was excited to get it,” Stanfield said. “It’s a great scholarship.”

Stan Wigle, Ph.D., dean of the IU Northwest School of Education, was equally excited to hear that a Presidential Scholar would be studying mathematics education at IU Northwest. Wigle noted that Indiana faces a shortage of math and science teachers because students in those disciplines often pursue lucrative jobs in the private sector. But, due to the competitive market for teachers in those fields, Wigle said, math and science education jobs also pay quite well.

“Wow, to have a Presidential Scholar in our program, that makes my day!” he said. “Those are the kinds of quality students who make excellent teachers.”

Stanfield said she knows other students who have enrolled at the IU Northwest School of Education, and that she was aware of the program’s reputation as a challenging one. That was one of many incentives she had to attend IU Northwest.

“It’s a nice campus, it’s close to home, and I can work while I go to school,” Stanfield said. “And the scholarships really helped. They just offered me more than any other school. I’m basically going there for nothing.”

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“Were sitting there, Andrew is interviewing them, and we’re eating sandwiches,” Talarico recalled. “There’s Fern’s remains on the counter over here, and we’re showing them pictures of their mother’s brain and sections of her skull. They were all captivated and were asking questions.”

Even as Prather and Talarico’s study is published for an international audience of doctors and researchers, work on some of Fern’s remains continues in Talarico’s lab. He is hopeful that knowledge gleaned about HFI from his donor will someday help bring greater understanding about the condition.

“We don’t think that it’s something you’re born with,” Talarico explained. “We think it’s something that happens over time. There are a lot of theories about why it happens, but no proof. There are a variety of signs and symptoms that people present with when they have this condition, but there’s no hard, fast evidence that those signs and symptoms are related to the underlying condition. What causes this is unknown.

“This was unique for us,” Talarico said of working with Fern. “Last year, we had two donors who had slight cases of hyperostosis, but nothing nearly as extreme as this.”

Talarico, Prather and Kevin Hardt, another IUSM student who also worked on the HFI case study, have a more scientifically detailed article under consideration by the Journal of Clinical Anatomy.

Talarico said he was greatly appreciative of the opportunity to share the experience of working with Fern and her family with readers of the country’s leading medical journal.

“What can I say? I’m excited,” the professor said. “I didn’t find out they were also running it in their international editions until (the week before it was published). I was practically jumping out of my skin.”

Patrick Bankston, Ph.D., IUSM assistant dean and director, offered congratulations to Talarico and Prather on the JAMA article. He said it was the human element of their story that earned it such a prestigious publisher.

“It’s not the medical anomaly that made it special; it’s the relationship that developed between the faculty member and the student doctor and the donor’s family,” Bankston said. “We have lots of patients, or donors, who come in here, and they all have a cause of death, and they all have different pathologies or transplants or other things that we find. In this case, it’s the follow-up that’s different. They took the time to follow up with the family and learn about the patient and find out who this patient was in life. And in the process, they were able to share some things about this person with the family.

“It’s really a very touching, human story,” he said.
Longtime Physical Plant employee James Harston, 61, dies

The Indiana University Northwest Physical Plant lost a valued longtime employee on July 19 when Hobart, Ind. resident James Harston passed away after suffering an aneurism. Harston, 61, a U.S. Air Force veteran who did a tour of duty in Vietnam, had worked for IU Northwest since 1988.

“He was a nice guy. Everyone liked him,” said Physical Plant Director Otto Jefimenko. “He was always willing to help. If needed someone to come out in the middle of the night for snowplowing, he was the first one out.”

Harsten was known as a hard worker who brought his fix-it skills and general know-how with him wherever he went. His predominant hobby, he liked to say, was work.

Harsten was laid to rest on July 24, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Comella, three children, three step-children, 20 grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

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Attempts to spread word of the ban to students also will include posters, postcard mailings and e-mail notifications with links to an informational Web site at www.iun.edu/~non-smoke. Faculty will be asked to place a notice about the ban on their class syllabi. The policy also will be added to the IU Northwest Student Handbook.

These measures were outlined in a report prepared by the IU Northwest task force, which Bergland appointed to oversee the university’s transition to tobacco-free status. Michelle Searer, director of the Office of Marketing and Communications, chairs that committee. Searer said the committee would meet periodically in the future to evaluate compliance and consider additional measures to achieve it.

“What we’re hoping is that members of the campus community will really get on board with this and positively encourage those who smoke to observe the policy,” Searer said. “We believe one of the benefits of this policy will be to help smokers who want to quit achieve that goal.”

“I’m very happy we’re going smoke-free, because I want to quit,” said Associate Professor of Nursing Linda Delunas, Ph.D. “I know it’s not healthy, and it sets a bad example for students.”

Delunas said she would like to see the university provide cessation assistance to employees as part of its tobacco-free program. “I think that would be the humane thing to do,” she said.

The policy drafted by the task force encourages smokers to seek counseling assistance at the IU Northwest Office of Counseling Services if necessary. Employees may also contact the IU Employee Assistance Program. No other plans for university-provided cessation assistance have been developed at this time.

The new policy does not spell out any particular sanctions for violators, but it does stipulate that the IU Northwest Police Department is authorized to remind smokers of the smoking ban and to “report observations” to the task force.

The policy also states that violations by faculty should be referred to the Office of Academic Affairs, while violations by staff should be referred to Human Resources and violations by students should be referred to the Office of Student Services for “appropriate administrative action.”

Bergland asked students, faculty and staff to view the change as a step forward in the development of a healthy and welcoming campus atmosphere.

“I urge everyone to cooperate with civility and good will in complying with this policy,” he said. “Refraining from tobacco use on campus makes IU Northwest a place where a healthy choice is an easy choice. That ultimately benefits us all.”
And then there was one (version of Oncourse)

By Jodie Reminder
Instructional Technology Specialist
Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

The Fall Semester brings with it a new time in Indiana University’s technology history, as no new courses will be taught in original Oncourse, IU’s homegrown course management system. Instead, all classes will find their home in the Oncourse CL system, which boasts many more advanced features while maintaining the functionality of the original version.

Oncourse CL was born out of the collaborative efforts of IU and several other universities within the Sakai community, a group that aimed to create an open-source course-management system. Sakai is part of a larger movement within the Internet community that allows users an easy, free way to make powerful Web applications. This falls in the same category as popular sites like MySpace, Facebook and Wikipedia, which allow the user to function as Web editor without the need for extensive training.

With changes come many questions. Here are some of the most common questions and their answers:

Why do we have to get rid of old Oncourse? The original Oncourse was built as a small project for a few professors to use, and it soon gained popularity. The design and equipment were not meant to manage as much data, or for as long a duration, as they have. A long-term solution needed to be developed; Oncourse CL is the result.

Why isn’t the new Oncourse exactly like the old one? The Sakai project (on which Oncourse CL is based) is an open-source project. This means that hundreds of computer programmers, who are based at hundreds of different universities, are creating aspects of Sakai and sharing it for free with all the other participants. Once a version is completed, the IT team for IU changes the look and the name of the project. The result is Oncourse CL. Since we are working with all these different universities, not all the designs from the old Oncourse were included in the final project. What’s important is that the same functions in the original program can also be found in Oncourse CL.

Why is the new Oncourse so hard to use? If you have been using original Oncourse, you are likely comfortable with how things are done in that version and you may be frustrated with Oncourse CL. There is a learning curve involved in the switch. However, most instructors report that by having a one-on-one consultation with someone in CETL, or by reviewing the Oncourse Transition guide that is available in Oncourse CL, they are able to easily manage the transition. Once users become acclimated to Oncourse CL, they usually like this new version as well or better than the older version.

Where can I turn when I have questions about Oncourse? Instructors and staff who have questions or would like a one-on-one consultation with Oncourse can contact CETL’s Instructional Technology Specialist, Jodie Reminder, by phone at 981-5663 or by e-mail at jreminde@iun.edu. One-on-one consultations usually last around 45 minutes and often result in a course site that is ready for the first day of class.

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Stanfield admitted that she was tempted to go away to school as some of her friends are doing, but ultimately she felt that the benefits of attending school in Northwest Indiana outweighed the attraction of leaving home.

“It was a tough decision,” she said. “I originally had decided to stay at home, but then some of my friends were going away to school, so I applied to a few schools. But in the end I decided I would stay home for now. I can always go away later on (for graduate school).”

A tennis player and violinist, Stanfield also works part-time in a clerical capacity with a local company. The balance of her summer, she said, will be spent hanging out with friends and preparing for college.

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Something else Trgovich’s players are going to do is study. Academic eligibility has, in times past, posed a concern for the RedHawks’ roster. But the new coach said he plans to address the players’ academic commitment during the recruitment process.

“If a kid’s not serious about coming here and being a serious student, then maybe he should not play basketball,” Trgovich said. “I will check that out. If a kid comes to me, the first thing I want to see is his high school transcript or, if he comes from another college, his college transcript. I want to see where he fits into the academic framework of basketball.”

Given his success as a player and coach, not to mention the stature of his own coach at UCLA, Trgovich knows that expectations follow him like a shadow. But those demands are more than matched by Trgovich’s expectations of himself.

“I do feel the pressure,” he said. “The expectations are there. It has to be like that for us to be successful. There has to be pressure on the coach. Any coach who is in a situation where there’s no pressure — that’s a coach that has no motivation to get better.

“I have expectations for myself. I didn’t come here to lose,” Trgovich added. “A lot of coaches say that winning isn’t important. But inside, all coaches know that winning is important. That’s why we’re doing what we’re doing.”

Trgovich’s immediate goal is for the 2007-2008 RedHawk men’s team to win at least half its games. The coach said he also wants to investigate the possibility of creating a tournament for regional independent schools that could lead to a post-season berth for the winner.

Most importantly, Trgovich said, what he hopes to bring to RedHawk basketball is excitement and enthusiasm, not just for the players but also for the students and fans. He praised the Savannah Center Gymnasium as an ideal venue for a team like the RedHawks and said he’s optimistic that students, faculty and local basketball fans will respond to the spectator-friendly game he plans to put on the floor.

“I’m really excited about this gym,” Trgovich said. “It’s a great facility for this level. If we can get 500 people in this place for a basketball game, the atmosphere is going to be tremendous. We definitely have to make the students aware that coming to a basketball game and watching IU Northwest play can be a lot of fun.”
August Calendar of Events

Thursday, Aug. 9
27th Annual Planning and the Black Community Conference -- IU Northwest will host the first day of this major national planning conference, which continues Aug. 9 - 10 at the Gary Genesis Center. A plenary luncheon will be held on campus Aug. 9 beginning at 11:45 a.m. Tickets are available for this and other public events as part of the conference. Assorted community workshops related to Gary’s economic redevelopment initiatives will be held during the three-day event, and these are open to the public. Go online at https://www.planning.org/commerce/conference/ for more information.

Thursday, Aug. 16
New Student Orientation -- 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Savannah Center. New students will come to campus to meet their peers, obtain advice from current students, learn about faculty expectations, and gather other helpful information prior to the start of classes.

Thursday, Aug. 23
Diversity Awareness Video Series -- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Savannah Center 205. Bring a lunch and join in the experience of learning about a different culture. Each month, the Office of Diversity and Equity hosts a video presentation about a different nationality or ethnic group. There are occasionally presentations by guest speakers, as well, followed by a group discussion.

Monday, Aug. 27
Fall 2007 Semester begins -- Classes for the 2007-2008 academic year begin on the final Monday in August. Aug. 27 also marks the beginning of $40 late registration and the start of the 100-percent refund period for dropped classes.