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# Northwest **NEWS**

August 2005

A monthly newsletter for IU Northwest faculty and staff



## Shared Vision committees gearing up for fall semester

As the beginning of the new school year approaches, the eight Shared Vision Outcome committees will continue their work to implement the goals each has set for their initiative.

During the spring retreat held May 23-25 in Chesterton, several objectives were met, which included: a review of the eight 2005 strategic planning outcomes and progress to date; a review of the remaining outcome activities that need to be completed by year's end; the need for established guidelines for the campus Technology Council and a review of the new Mission statement which was approved by the campus last month. The committee was also updated on the AQIP projects that were initiated during last fall's retreat.

Several outcomes restructured the timelines for their projects so that they could work with various members of the campus community, while others added projects that will enable them to achieve their goals for 2005.

There has been a great deal of time, effort and resources put into the Shared Vision initiative, and the outcome committees are pleased to see the positive returns their work is yielding. All committees are on track to complete their agendas by the end of the year and will be ready to take on new challenges towards accomplishing their goals.

## Mickey named new financial aid director

Dianne Mickey has been named as the new director of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. A native of northwest Indiana, Mickey is looking forward to settling down again in the area. She is also looking forward to improving the services provided by the financial aid department, which struggled to deliver aid on time last fall during the conversion to a new student records system.

"We are working to be more proactive in getting information out to students and in anticipating their needs," Mickey said.

Mickey says she would like to create a more efficient office through better utilization of existing staff members and available technology, such as the department's Web site and OneStart. Mickey has been serving as the Interim Associate Director of Financial Aid since March. During this time she worked very closely with Interim Director Dian Packard.

Joe Pellicciotti, associate vice chancellor for enrollment management, said that his office is very pleased to have Mickey in this position.

"Dianne is a highly experienced financial

aid professional. She has a record of strong leadership and is committed to a student-centered administration. She will be a great addition to Enrollment Services at IU Northwest," Pellicciotti said.

Mickey came to IU Northwest after 10 years with St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer serving as director since 1997. Prior, she was an Education Loan/Technical Support Specialist for Bank One in Merrillville. She received an Associate of Science in Computer Information Systems from Purdue University Calumet, and a Bachelor of Science, cum laude, in Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. Mickey says that when she has spare time, she enjoys spending it with her children and grandchildren, working in the garden, reading and traveling.



Mickey

## Pavey accepts position with The Discovery Alliance



Joe Pellicciotti, associate vice chancellor for enrollment management, and Stanley Wigle, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education, joined Katherine Pavey, Ph.D during a farewell reception in her honor. After three years of service to the students at IU Northwest, Director of the Office of Career Services Katherine Pavey, Ph.D., has accepted the position of executive director of The Discovery Alliance of Porter County. The Discovery Alliance is an organization whose goal is to raise the literacy rates in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties.

## Inside This Issue

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Grants for learning     | 2 |
| Board of Trustees visit | 3 |
| Notes of distinction    | 3 |
| Campus calendar         | 4 |

# Faculty Spotlight:

Bogdan Vajiac, Ph.D.

**B**ogdan Vajiac, Ph.D., assistant professor of mathematics, is a dedicated teacher who strives to make mathematics interesting and accessible to students. He considers teaching to be “an interaction between student and instructor,” and encourages student input as a way of engaging them in the learning process. In his role as the instructor, Vajiac further engages students by sharing his passion for not only the subject matter, but also teaching in general.

Because math is often viewed as a “dry” subject by students, he believes that effective learning requires the instructor to go beyond simply presenting the material. Instructors must also help students connect the material to real-world issues and understand why the material is important and interesting to learn.

He says, “I think that making students ask themselves why is a very important issue. I always try to get students into the habit of thinking about a problem rather than applying an algorithm. They will benefit in all aspects of life from having effective

problem-solving skills.”

Vajiac also incorporates available technologies into his teaching to further promote student learning. In recognition of his efforts to use instructional technology to encourage innovation in teaching and learning, Vajiac recently received a grant and was selected to be an SBC Fellow. Specifically, Vajiac completed a project entitled, “The Implementation of Computer-based Homework Approach Using the WeBWorK Program.” He explained that WeBWorK is “an Internet-based system for generating and delivering homework problems to students; it automatically checks students’ progress and gives instantaneous feedback on the correctness of the solution.” Through the grant he received, he was able to set up the software, create the necessary problem databases for specific IU Northwest courses, train other instructors, and share the program with IU Northwest faculty and interested high schools.

Vajiac is committed to student learning and uses a variety of techniques and resources to reach each and every student.

He views mathematics as a vehicle for promoting students’ analytical and critical thinking skills – skills that will be vitally important to students’ future success no matter what career they pursue.



Bogdan Vajiac



## IU SBC Fellows Grants: A focus on IU’s learning environment

**T**he SBC Fellows program provides support for faculty demonstration projects in the effective integration of information technology for campus and distance education. As faculty at Indiana University explore the growing emphasis on technology-enhanced instruction, the call for participation will be to encourage the sophisticated and thoughtful use of technology to enhance teaching and learning. Specifically, the current round (round 6) of the SBC Fellows Program is intended to encourage faculty to examine and develop innovative methods of teaching and learning that will maximize the power and flexibility of Indiana University’s learning environment.

This learning environment includes the following:

- Oncourse Collaboration and Learning (CL) environment for improved student learning;
- Newly developed learning spaces and wireless technologies to

- expand the learning environment;
- ePortfolio as a means to document and enhance student learning;
- Multi-campus collaboration with colleagues to extend the capability of Indiana University’s learning environment.

Interested faculty can apply for either of the following types of grants:

**Examining Innovation.** Faculty will conduct applied research on instructional strategies using one or more of IU’s learning environments, and will advocate for technology innovation. (Up to \$5,000; deadline Sept. 19, 2005)

**Implementing Innovation.** Faculty will create and implement innovative, multi-disciplinary uses of one or more of IU’s learning environments to enhance student learning. (Up to \$15,000; deadline Jan. 9, 2006)

Faculty on all campuses are invited to submit proposals. More information and proposal submission guidelines can be found on the program’s Web site: <http://sbcf.iu.edu>



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# BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

JUNE 23-24, 2005

INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST



Prominent retired physician and Indiana University Trustee Dr. Clarence Boone, Sr. receives a congratulatory handshake from the artist who sketched his portrait that will hang in the IU Northwest Library corridor.

The Indiana University Board of Trustees held a 2-day retreat at the IU Northwest campus June 23-24. During that time, the Trustees discussed various issues that concern the entire Indiana University system, as well as topics that directly pertain to IU Northwest. Several luncheons and dinners were held that allowed the faculty, staff, administration and students of IU Northwest to meet and mingle with the board.

The retreat ended with a reception hosted by the IU Northwest Alumni Association. More than 120 constituents attended the event. Indiana University Alumni Association President Ken Beckley gave the opening remarks, and Chancellor Bruce Bergland introduced Indiana University President Adam Herbert. President Herbert spoke about the direction that the Board of Trustees has taken the University, and the plans they have made for the future. The reception concluded with the presentation of a portrait of newly appointed trustee Dr. Clarence Boone, Sr. The portrait will be displayed in the IU Northwest Library corridor.

## Notes of Distinction

The annual IUN/UPS Golf Classic was held on Tuesday, June 14 at White Hawk Country Club in Crown Point. This year's event was co-sponsored by UPS, and IU Northwest alumnus **Garry Aloia** was chairman of the planning committee. 108 golfers played 18 holes, raising more than \$26,000. The proceeds will go toward the purchase of new furniture for the Moraine Student Center.

**Anja Matwijkiw, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of philosophy, organized a poetry performance on art at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art on June 12. Seven *Spirits* poets contributed, including the *Spirits* Editor Mary Nolan and Matwijkiw. Additionally, in July Matwijkiw accepted a nomination to serve on the Executive Committee for AMINTAPHIL (American Section of International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy). The appointment is for two years.



Attendees from around the state gather for hors d'oeuvres and conversation in the Savannah Center lobby during the IU Northwest Alumni Association's reception for the Indiana University Board of Trustees June 24th.



Many reception attendees had the opportunity to meet and speak with members of the Board of Trustees. President Adam Herbert ended the evening with the unveiling of Dr. Clarence Boone, Sr.'s portrait.

# August Calendar

## Alumni Family Picnic - "College Day at Wicker Park"

Sunday, Aug. 7

1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Wicker Park Pavilion, Highland

Joint family picnic for alumni and their families from IU Northwest, Ivy Tech and Purdue University Calumet. For more information, please call Tracie Johnson at x6769.

## Thursday Thrill of the Grill

August 4 & 18 (Dates subject to change)

September 1 & 15

11a.m. - 2 p.m.

Library Fountain area

\$5.50 per person. All meals include main entree, sides and drink. Check your e-mail for info and updates.

## Sculpture garden nearly complete



The "prairie" portion of the Shadows and Echoes sculpture garden awaits the arrival of artist Neil Goodman's bronze sculptures, thus creating one of the largest public art projects in northwest Indiana.

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www.iun.edu/~marcom or  
www.iun.edu/~newsnw.

**Summer is here  
and it's County Fair time!**

**Lake County Fair  
August 5-14**

**There's still time to volunteer for  
the Lake County Fair!**

This year, all academic units have been asked to staff a day at the fairs. If you would like to work a shift at the IU Northwest booth, please contact your unit's coordinator, or contact Alisha Throckmartin at ext.4242 or email athrockm@iun.edu. All volunteers will receive a fair pass, free parking and an IUN polo shirt!

### 2005 Fair Coordinators

Social Work - Denise Travis, x5618

Business - Helen Harmon, x6644

Nursing/Dental/Allied Health - Twana Bostick, x6549

Education - Carrie Cate-Clements, x6514

SPEA - Sandra Hall Smith, x6695

COAS - Diane Robinson, x6733

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