For fans of Turner Classic Movies, Hedy Lamarr is probably best known as a leading actress in the early days of Hollywood, famous for glamorous film roles from the 1930s through the 1950s. But if you use a cell phone, you owe its functionality to an invention the Viennese-born actress conceived of during World War II to thwart Nazi military defenses. Her idea of spreading the signal that guides torpedos across several different radio frequencies so that their launch and path could not be detected earned her a patent in 1942. The signal-distributing idea is one of the inventions that makes cell phones possible.

IUPUI's own Consumer Electronics Hall of Fame inventor Lauren Christopher will talk about her engineering career in digital imaging in her Keynote Address at the 15th Annual Women's Leadership Reception on March 27, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., in the Campus Center Theater (lower level). Professor Christopher was named to the 2010 class of the Consumer Electronics Hall of Fame for her role in developing the digital satellite receiver system for DirecTV -- joining the ranks of such historic figures as Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, and Nikola Tesla, as well as contemporary inventors like Steve Jobs and Stephen Wozniak (Apple), Amar Gopal Bose (Bose high-end stereo speakers), and Ray Dolby (Dolby noise-reduction system).

In keeping with this year's National Women's History Month theme, "Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics," we will also present IUPUI's 2013 Women's History Month Leadership Awards for students, staff, and faculty at the ceremony/reception. Please join me in celebrating these exceptional women.

Comments? Write chancllr@iupui.edu.

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