

Senate Speech, October 17, 2003  
Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr.

Good morning! Fall is here, and, perhaps, inside each of us are transcendent stirrings of summer quietude yielding to autumn. Though we may relish autumn with its resplendent color, alas its beauty will soon fade and the dreary days of winter advance. Depending upon our own individual temperament, we either joyously embrace those frigid days or we resolutely succumb to winter's harshness. The 19<sup>th</sup> century, French symbolist poet, Charles Baudelaire, captures vividly his own autumnal emotions in one of his petits poemes en prose, "The Confessions of an Artist." In a contemptuous but timid tone, he alerts the reader that autumn's delicious sensations are so intense and penetrating that they induce pain. Autumn's incomparable beauty encapsulates him as he loses himself in a reverie that isolates him from his surroundings. Confounded and overwhelmed by the enchanting power of beauty, he reaches a transcendent moment. He cries out in despair, and resolutely abandons all will, knowing that before beauty the artist will always be subjugated.

Like the poet, we at IU South Bend are in our own transcendent moment, not in despair but with rising optimism as we anticipate a changing and glorious future for our beloved institution. In the Spring of 2002, I stood before this august body and, on behalf of the faculty, bade farewell to our chancellor. In doing so, I spoke of our collective gratitude to each of the former chancellors that served in unique this celebrated institution, recognizing each for his singular contribution in promoting and establishing IU South Bend as the premier public regional campus in Indiana.

Much has happened since that spring. In many ways there is a quiet renaissance slowly taking root. New leadership has brought stability, integrity, dignity, order and a renewed can-do spirit. Open and honest communication assures that each one of us has a

voice in shaping the future. My metaphor for this change is a rainbow, a rainbow radiant with opportunity that bridges the past and the future. We have heard from Chancellor Reck about the inevitable physical changes for the campus: the bridge over the River St. Joseph, the residence halls, the long anticipated refurbishing of the administration building. However exciting these possibilities are, change has already impacted campus life; the SAC, the Capital Campaign, recent key hires in Public Affairs and University Advancement, the hiring of two extraordinary deans, the consolidation of Student Services, our increased public profile as evidenced last year by the over 100 public speeches by our chancellor and the 153 press releases last year in the daily newspaper.

If we look again at the rainbow as the metaphor for the first two years of Chancellor Reck's leadership, we see hope and a world of undetermined adventures and possibilities.

I was initially scheduled to speak to you on September 19<sup>th</sup>, a date of historical significance for IU South Bend. It was on that date, thirty-nine years ago, in 1964, that Chancellor Lester Wolfson, the first chancellor for IUSB, gave his inaugural address to the faculty senate. His talk, titled "A Hope for the South Bend Campus," outlined three major aspirations: 1) that there be a loud and clear faculty voice; 2) that students organize with verve; 3) that interdisciplinary learning be the harmonious development of student's highest affective powers. To those of who know him, we appreciate his learned and erudite prose. A gentleman and a scholar, he led the campus with a vision that the foundation of a strong university begins with an extraordinarily well-educated and vibrant faculty. As I look out into the audience, I see such a faculty, senior and junior, who are dedicated to excellence in teaching, research and service. The hope that Chancellor Wolfson spoke of 39 years ago occurs everyday in the way we govern and in the way we teach. Today, and in the next few years, our

university is at a crossroads. There is an evolving transition of faculty. Many have retired in recent years and several more will do so in the next three to five years. These faculty have made, and continue to make, singular contributions to IUSB's hallmark of excellence, and can never be replaced. Thanks to the good work of the search committees and deans, I can unequivocally state that the recent hiring of faculty assures that the academic traditions of this university will prevail long into the future. We owe a deep gratitude to the faculty of earlier days, legendary women and men whose names will not be spoken this morning less I forget someone. But I do want to remember respectfully one of our colleagues who recently passed, Don Cline of the faculty of Business and Economics.

By honoring our faculty and the chancellors who preceded us, we build bridges to the future. We anticipate new beginnings and new opportunities that connect us to the rich traditions of academic excellence at our university. Last week I invited several faculty to discuss IU South Bend's participation in the American Democracy Project, a national effort co-sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Carnegie Foundation and the New York Times. The project is designed to emphasize civic engagement as a fundamental responsibility of colleges and universities. This project rests on the simple principle that "civic engagement is critical for the preservation and vitality of American democracy." The intent of the American Democracy Project is to institutionalize civic engagement within campus culture. It is a process that emphasizes curricular transformation and impacts student learning outcomes and assessment that engage students in responsible, caring and thoughtful citizenship. It is interdisciplinary and involves the active integration of student life, community outreach services, student government and other co-curricular entities. I invite those of you who are interested to join me, and colleagues from other IU campuses, at a conference convened by Vice President Charlie Nelms on November 12<sup>th</sup> in

Kokomo to discuss IU's participation. This one-day conference will precede the Enhancing Minority Achievement Conference to be held on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

More than three years ago we embarked on a journey of general education reform. A committee of faculty chaired by Professor Ben Withers has begun the critical implementation stage. Key tasks will include the identification of essential content of common core courses, the selection of first extended learning themes, the development of an assessment plan for general education and how to integrate transfer students with maximum flexibility. The committee's work will be divided into many sub-groups and will include ad hoc committees of faculty. If asked to serve, please respond with an enthusiastic yes. Our targeted goal for full implementation is Fall of 2005. I will name within the next couple of weeks a general education director from among the faculty to facilitate the implementation and to assure that we meet this timetable.

One of the most exciting characteristics of our general education is the annual theme to which will be connected curricular and co-curricular activities. The centerpiece of this year's theme, "Identities in Conflict," is the art exhibit that opened last week of Israeli and Palestinian artists that examines identity. Throughout the year identity and the global issues associated with identity will be examined in a film series, a lecture series, a theatre production, as well as through art and music. Next month, identity and race will be explored in Conversations on Race. I encourage your active involvement in these activities, but more importantly, I encourage you to integrate the theme of identity in your pedagogy. I see connections in science or literature, health care or business, music or public affairs. I am deeply indebted to Professors Becky Torstrick and Ben Withers for their creative energies and courage in developing this project.

In my October 2001 address to the Senate, I began by saying that one of the greatest strengths of IUSB is the extraordinary quality of its faculty. I began similarly this morning. Though I do not wish to vitiate the importance of faculty, I must acknowledge another essential component of a great university, its students. Everything we do in and outside the classroom must have students as the center. To that end, there are two programs on campus that I consider assets to the holistic educational development of our students, the Honors and International programs. Professor Anya Royce Peterson of IU Bloomington, the Honors Colloquium speaker this Fall, wrote passionately in a letter to me the following comments about our students: “I have to say that it was a great pleasure and honor for me to spend these packed two days with all of you. The students were so impressive—smart, inquisitive, honest, open to thinking in different ways, and trusting enough to share their thoughts and passions. As a teacher, I was humbled by their gift of speaking about what matters most to them. It often takes most of a semester to get a class to that point—sometimes it never happens. That is why I was so touched.”

Professor Royce Peterson’s words are a strong affirmation of the teaching and learning in the Honors Program. The Honors Program enriches the overall intellectual ambience of the university. I applaud the faculty and the students. Today there are approximately 150 honors students. I’d like to see that number increase. This year, there were 40 incoming honors students. I’d like to see that number increase. I’d also like to see more participation by our students of color. I encourage increased attendance from faculty, staff and students at the Honors symposia and colloquia. The papers presented by the students are of impeccable quality. The program also needs more visibility and publicity. I will meet shortly with the faculty advisory committee to address these issues and to determine how we might strategically expand and/or redesign our Honors Program.

Another opportunity for student development and growth is our International Programs. You may recall that last spring we divided the division of International Programs into two distinct units: International Programs and International Student Services. We did this for two primary reasons: first, the new SEVIS requirements as a consequence of 9/11 required that we be more diligent in the monitoring of international students. So that we would be better positioned to respond to new governmental regulations, we placed that unit under Student Affairs where it is more strategically linked to other student support services. Second, with this separation, more attention can be devoted to the expansion of International Programs. I am excited about the possibilities for curricular enhancements and study abroad opportunities. Our new general education proposal addresses the need for more multiculturalism and globalization in the curriculum. Relatively few of our students study abroad. Last summer only twenty students studied abroad. The IU Study Abroad Programs provide myriad possibilities for international study and is a rich resource. Here at IU South Bend we have formal exchanges with Germany, Ireland and Guadalajara, and one soon to be formally established in Southern France. Since 1993, IU has had 135 students participate in its summer interdisciplinary program in Mexico, Language, Culture and Society. Every other year about 20 students participate in our Marine Biology Program in Jamaica, and occasionally, Prof. De Bryant takes students to South Africa. We are also fortunate to have on campus 208 international students from 52 countries. Their presence enriches the intellectual and cultural climate on our campus. Ideally, I'd like to have more international students studying at IUSB.

Now is the optimum time for faculty creativity in developing new curricular initiatives in International Programs. With its emphasis on diversity and globalization, the general education core is a natural connection. An international studies minor is being developed for which there are already 20 interested students. The

School of Business and Economics recently instituted an International Business Program.

I am buoyed by these initiatives and encourage you to take full advantage of grants for international study and research. Several faculty members have recently been Fulbright Scholars, Monle Lee, Peter Aghimien, Rebecca Torstrick. The Office of International Programs in Bloomington also offers grants for international travel and research. I will meet soon with the faculty advisory committee to explore other avenues of funding for faculty and to explore best practices in international education.

Before concluding, I'd like to mention just briefly that I anticipate continuing involvement in the work of the Strategic Planning Committee. The draft reports that I have been reading are encouraging and I look forward to final drafts and eventual adoption. I am also encouraged by the fine work of our assessment committee. Academic departments will need to re-do their assessment plans to conform to the new criteria of the Higher Learning Commission. You will be receiving information from the Assessment Committee. I am also encouraged by the continuing collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. Recently, the two offices have been working on two significant funding opportunities: a Lilly grant to enhance partnerships with the Chamber and area businesses and to provide internships for students in an effort to prevent Indiana's brain drain and to keep graduates in the state and a grant from the Lumina Foundation to expand the Making the Academic Connection program to retain more students of color.

I began this morning with allusions to transcendent moments. These are exciting times for us. The future for IUSB is as promising as it has ever been in our history. We are building bridges of excellence. I thank each of you for your dedicated work in teaching, research and service. It is because of you that IU South

Bend is a great university. Enjoy the academic year. Thank you.