

VCAA newsletter



Office of Academic Affairs

Indiana University South Bend



Dear Colleagues,

My stroll across the campus during Welcome Week brought vivid, decades-old, memories of my college days. Then, like now, the campus was bursting at the seams with frenzied activities. Not much has changed, but I was struck that here there are genuine attempts among faculty and staff to connect with students, to make them feel welcome. Strung along the lawn were information booths about student clubs or university services. Many passersby were engrossed in animated conversations, renewing friendships or making new ones. Others, with their wide-eyed, curious glances broadcasted their newness to the campus. Above the cacophony of blaring music, hawkers shouted, promoting the virtues of their student club or group, in anticipation of signing up new devotees. Others were playing games. Added to this cinematic scene were not so subtle inducements of popcorn, chips, candy, soda, and for the hearty, Chic-fil-A. Nothing much has changed about Welcome Week since my early days of college, except one significant difference. As freshmen, we had to wear green beanies to indicate our rookie status. For some, the positive side to this singular identification was that during registration upperclassmen were eager to give advice on which professors to avoid and which classes were the easiest. The down side was that tradition held that freshmen, if asked, were required to carry the upperclassmen's books, albeit begrudgingly.

SEPTEMBER
2009

VCAA News

A newsletter from Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr., Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Indiana University South Bend • Number 58 • past newsletters at <http://www.iusb.edu/~acadaff/news.shtml>

Topics:

Kudos and Opportunities
2009-10 Deans Seminar Series
2009-10 Academic Cabinet

As I glanced over the excited, sometimes bemused faces of the students, I was tempted to teasingly invite them to follow me to the library. I've done this occasionally here and on other campuses where I've worked; and the response is typically the same – blank stares, followed by inquisitive expressions, then laughter. I, too, am amused and the banter between me and the students gives me an opening to discuss with them one of my core beliefs, the centrality of the university library in the development of their intellectual inquiry and pursuit of knowledge. I believe unequivocally that the library is the sacred ground of a university campus. At least that's how I considered the Rockefeller Library, affectionately the Rock, as a graduate student at Brown. There I sought solace in a good book or took refuge from my graduate carrel where the necrotic researching and writing a dissertation dimmed hopes of ever finishing. I felt hapless as a burgeoning scholar, but there cocooned in my sanctuary in the bowels of the Rock, I gained renewed sustenance to persevere.

This idea of the library at the heart of university life, reminds me of another time in a different university where I, as academic vice president, was asked each fall by the university's honors director, a history professor, to speak to his freshman honors students about the sanctity and centrality of the library as a bottomless well of knowledge. I had a simple message to the students; make the library a favorite place to visit and consider the librarians as best friends. Arguably, how well they succeeded depended on how well they learned to use the library services. Undoubtedly, you have heard that Michele Russo, dean of library and media services, has announced her intention to retire at the end of this academic year. I was with Michele when she made the initial announcement to her library staff. There was for a moment a stunned silence trailed by a woeful sigh. Michele has been an exemplary leader and an unapologetic advocate for the library and media services. She and her librarians and staff have added immeasurably to the intellectual development and academic reputation of this campus. She will be sorely missed. There will be opportunities later in the academic year to bid her a fond adieu, but for now we must center our attention on finding a suitable replacement. Gwynn Mettetal has agreed to chair the committee of faculty and staff ([link](#)). Before announcing her intention to retire, Michele reviewed with the staff last year's accomplishments. Impressive though they are ([link](#)), singular among them is the second phase completion of the Hammes Information Commons, the Dorene Dwyer Media Commons and Café. The grand opening is scheduled for October 21st at 4pm. Mark your calendars. In the meanwhile, I invite you to visit our Schurz Library; it's a trove of treasures, particularly the magnificent first phase of the Information Commons. Once you enter, you will declare as did Madame de Sévigné, the prolific eighteenth century epistler, in speaking about her library, "When I step into this library, I cannot understand why I ever step out of it."

Another important search for the campus is the Liberal Arts and Sciences dean's search chaired by Michael Horvath ([link](#)). With its general education core, the college serves as the lynchpin in the educational journey for every student. This broad and in-depth exposure to the study of the arts, sciences, humanities and social sciences is the hallmark of an IU South Bend education, and ultimately our brand.

As always, this year's cadet class of faculty is outstanding. They come with impeccable educational credentials and experiences ranging from research with the World Bank in Washington, D.C. to performing and winning the Tchaikovsky International Competition in Moscow. View our new colleagues at this [link](#).

Fall enrollment has set a new standard for enrolled students, credit hours, minority enrollment, retention, beginning cohort, and transfers. Visit the official census report at <http://www.indiana.edu/~upira/reports/census>. Special thanks to Vice Chancellor Jeff Jones and his staff in student affairs and to all the faculty and academic staff who worked tirelessly throughout the summer and the academic year to assure that we remain a vibrant and dynamic university. To all of you, an academic year full of joy and satisfaction as we commit ourselves to academic excellence and student success!

Sincerely,



Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr.,
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Kudos

Kudos to Rob Ducoffe, P.N. Saksena, Mark Fox and Anurang Pant for their collaboration with Mike Keen in developing a new graduate course in Sustainability and Innovation for Summer II. Such interdisciplinary collaboration advances in concrete ways the mission of the Center for a Sustainable Future. The course was taught by Sam Miller, VP of the JF New Company; a capstone experience included briefs by student teams to a mock Board of Directors on sustainability innovation. By all accounts, the students performed magnificently to challenging and engaging questions.

Congratulations to the Raclin School of the Arts and particularly to the Toradze Piano Studio and Alexander Toradze. A Toradze television program produced by the public television station WNIT will have a special screening on November 19th at the Century Center.

IU South Bend's Academic Center for Excellence website (www.iusb.edu/~sbtutor) was recently awarded Honorable Mention status in the NCLCA/LSCHE Awards for Website Excellence from over two hundred entries. IU South Bend's program will receive a certificate at this year's annual National College Learning Center Association Conference. The webmaster and developer for the page is IU South Bend student, Zachary Torstrick, a double major in computer science and physics who also tutors in the Center.

The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County awarded an Indiana Arts Commission grant for \$2,416 to the Raclin School of the Arts to support the December 5th Christmas Opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors" by Gian Carlo Menotti.

Opportunities

UITS has signed an agreement with Lynda.com for the use of their online self-study training. Lynda.com is a leading provider of online self-study training, with comprehensive coverage of Adobe applications and technologies, open source software, Macintosh applications, and multimedia and web programming. Lynda's video-based elearning format works well for those who are short on time and need self-study options. Faculty, staff and students will get free access to the entire elearning library from August 20 to December 20 of this year. The usage and feedback will determine whether these resources will become a long-term part of IT training options. Check out this resource through the [IUware website](#).

Nominations for Graduate Faculty Membership are being accepted. All tenure-track and tenured faculty members are automatically members of the graduate faculty and do not require a nomination. However, to direct dissertations, graduate faculty must have a further departmental endorsement. Non-tenure track faculty who are involved in graduate education may also be nominated for graduate faculty status, but may not direct dissertations (and should be members to serve on Masters theses committees). Please submit nominations to the University Graduate School (Kirkwood Hall Room 111) by October 10, 2009 (fall deadline) to Yvonne Dwigans (ylivings@indiana.edu; 812-855-8852).

IU South Bend's School of Business and Economics will be presenting its fourth NIBCO IT Management Seminar Series beginning September 10 and continuing through December 9. In addition, the School will also present the seventh annual Entrepreneurship Lecture Series beginning on September 10 with Mark Tarner, president of South Bend Chocolate. Go to the [IU South Bend homepage](#) for more details about these two series.

2009-10 Deans Seminar Series Schedule Announced

As in the past, this year's Deans Seminar Series will be held at noon in the UCET Classroom (NS245). Academic Affairs provides beverages and you are welcome to bring your lunch. This year's schedule includes October 16: Lee Kahan, English; November 20: J.R. Shrader, Philosophy; January 22: Jeremy Linton, Education; February 26: Theo Randall, Sociology; March 26: Anne Brown, Mathematics; April 23: Gabriel Popescu, Political Science. Titles and short summaries of the talks will be posted shortly at the Academic Affairs website.



Academic Cabinet 2009-10

Standing (l to r): Marvin Curtis, Dean of the Raclin School of the Arts; Rob Ducoffe, Dean of the School of Business & Economics; Marilynne Ramsey, Director of the Social Work Program; Michael Horvath, Dean of the School of Education; Michele Russo, Dean of the Schurz Library; Mary Jo Regan-Kubinski, Dean of the College of Health Sciences; Lynn Williams, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Erika Zynda, Contracts & Grants Coordinator; Jackie Neuman, Director of Extended Learning Services; Jerry Hinnefeld, President of the Academic Senate. Front Row (l to r): John McIntosh, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr., Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Nancy Plennert, Manager of Academic Affairs.