Dear Colleagues,

The calendar year draws to a close and what an exciting year it has been. The year began with bitterly cold temperatures and heavy snow, and though we may be deceived in thinking that at year’s close, the unusually mild climate sans snowfall will persist, the seasonal snowflakes will undoubtedly announce its arrival like a heavy layer of down comforters. Lest we forget, we do live in the lake effect region of northern Indiana. I predict that our holiday will be merry and bright, full of winter’s glow.

Added to our merriment, and an aesthetically pleasing indication of the university’s prosperity and growth, are the new landscaped parking lots that add utility and beauty to the campus grounds. It seems as if prosperity flows in abundance for the campus. The long-awaited reconstruction of the old Associates building is slowly being transformed to an elegant facility that will house the School of Education and Dental Hygiene; and for the arts, new media and photography. Slated for occupancy in Spring of 2013, the building will bring added architectural beauty to passersby as they amble along the mall. In the spring, the Raclin School of the Arts celebrated 20 years with a grand showcase of the arts for the community. And although we had healthy enrollments this fall, we did dip slightly from last year’s record fall enrollment, necessitating adjustments in this year’s budget.

Topics:

- Faculty Research - Isaacson
- Teaching Award - Mettetal
- Kudos
Among the numerous campus, community, and outside events and activities of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts are the following (as reported in the dean’s recent regular newsletter for the Arts):

The Overseas Study Advisory Council recently approved a Painting and Sculpture Florence Program to start this summer. Arts faculty Dora Natella and Ron Monsma will be leading students on this glorious adventure and learning experience to Italy.

Jorge Muniz continues his highly productive and acclaimed activities with a preview premiere of his last cantata for tenor, chorus and orchestra, which will be premiered on January 5 in Spain. On Monday, November 28, they performed the second movement in Spain. A link to a new website was created to promote the work that includes a video and part of the release CD-DVD with "the making of." Jorge also received a new commission for a Piano Quintet from the International Piano festival for Fall of 2013.

Dean of the Raclin School of the Arts, Marvin Curtis, received a $4,330 grant from the African American Fund of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County for the 2012 Lift Every Voice...Celebrating the African American Spirit Concert.
Randy Isaacson: How Teaching & Research Impact Service

As an educational psychologist, Professor Randy Isaacson has devoted almost 40 years to studying the teaching-learning process in elementary, secondary, and higher education classrooms. His research on self-regulated learning, metacognition, and the identity of young adults has impacted his teaching, and more recently his service to the retention of freshman entering IU South Bend. In 1991 Randy began a peer mentor program to create teaching opportunities for education students; exceptional student from his Educational Psychology class were trained to lead small discussion groups the following semester. Every semester approximately 25 education students team-teach small discussion groups that have resulted in hundreds of education majors having the opportunity to teach their classmates while being mentored by Dr. Isaacson. For the last five years Randy has collaborated with one of his past peer mentors (Dr. Chris Was, now at Kent State University) making 16 presentations at regional and national conferences and 7 peer reviewed publications on the development of young adult identity, and the impact of metacognition and self-regulation on how college students learn. A recent paper, “Believing You’re Correct vs. Knowing You’re Correct; A Significant Difference?” was recognized as the distinguished paper at the Northern Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association conference.

In 2006 Dr. Isaacson focused his teaching and scholarship expertise on the retention of college freshmen at IU South Bend. He began working with the U100: Threshold Learning Community course and in 2007 made a proposal to the Enrollment Management Advisory Committee to make significant changes to U100. Since the fall of 2007 the majority of sections of U100 have been staffed by IU South Bend advisors and student services professionals who have been involved in professional development directed by Dr. Isaacson. Each section follows a common curriculum developed by Dr. Isaacson with peer mentors actively involved in each section working with their instructors. Every peer mentor is involved in a two week full-time Peer Mentor Leadership Program taught by Dr. Isaacson. In these U100 classes the retention of Standard Conditional Admit students has improved by more than 14%.

Kudos

Award: Gwynn Mettetal

Congratulations to Professor Gwynn Mettetal, recipient of the 2011 IU South Bend Distinguished Teaching Award. Gwynn received the award at the November meeting of the Academic Senate in a presentation by Executive Vice Chancellor Guillaume. Last year Gwynn was recognized with an all-IU distinguished teaching award (Frederic Bachman Lieber Memorial Award) and a Trustees Teaching Award. She was previously recognized for her teaching excellence with two Teaching Recognition Awards (TERA) also. Gwynn was the founding Director of the IU South Bend University Center for Excellence in Teaching (UCET).

IU South Bend Center for a Sustainable Future

Mike Keen has reported that the Campus Garden has been selected as one of the case studies to be featured by the Natural Wildlife Foundation’s Campus Ecology Program. Kudos to Myles Robertson who was the student behind the project and also submitted the case for consideration. You can view it at this link. In addition to this selection, the Center was mentioned in a press release from the Lt. Governor regarding its partnership with Logan Community Resources for an energy grant it received through the Office of Energy Development’s Community Conservation Challenge Grants.

Business Honor Society Chapter Recognized

Beta Gamma Sigma, the national honor society, recently recognized the IU South Bend chapter as a Premier Chapter for the year 2010-11. This distinction indicates that at least 85% of all those who were qualified for membership in Beta Gamma Sigma at both the undergraduate and graduate level accepted the invitation and became lifetime members. Congratulations to the School of Business on the honor and their emphasis on the recognition of scholarship among their students.

Beta Gamma Sigma (as stated at their website) “serving business programs accredited by AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive in a business program accredited by AACSB International.”

Fellowship

Congratulations to Lesley Walker (WLS) who recently received a $2,500 New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Exploration Traveling Fellowship.