Dear Colleagues,

Good health, happiness and prosperity for 2012! I trust that you had a peaceful, restful time with family and friends over the holidays, and that you had time to do something special. With our busy schedules of teaching, research and service, time does not ordinarily allow us to pamper ourselves. I used my free time to read *Groove Interrupted*, a fascinating book about the loss and renewal of music in post-Katrina New Orleans. The author, a music critic from the local newspaper, explores the lives of several New Orleans musicians displaced after the devastating storm that transformed eighty percent of the city into a bayou. From these stories emerge chronicles of courage and resolve, heartwarming accounts of survival staring down defeat. Music defines New Orleans; it’s at the core of what it means to be a New Orleanian. From jazz to rap, from the spirituals to the blues, music from New Orleans has its own distinctive seasoning. N’Awlins, as the locals say in their inimitable accent, is both profane and sacred, a mysterious, seductive city deeply rooted in secular and religious traditions, of which music is an inseparable ingredient.

In a recent visit to New Orleans to deliver a paper at the National Communication Association, Alec Hosterman captured beautifully the city’s charms as he ambled around the French Quarter. Thinking correctly that I might appreciate my hometown through the eyes of his camera, Alec sent me a gallery of photos. With his permission, I am happy to provide links (see bottom of page 3)
to what he observed. Contrary to the blight that Katrina wreaked, these photos show a vibrant city, untouched by the nightmares of just a few short years ago. Indeed, the city has rebounded remarkably, some might say, miraculously. Yet I know from personal knowledge, the city is still convalescing; full recovery is still a prayerful hope. And as I am discovering in the retelling of the musicians’ struggles for survival, the renaissance of New Orleans’ music is the balm that will heal the city. If you are an enthusiast of New Orleans culture, I recommend the HBO series, *Tremé*, a fictionalized, but realistic, accounting of post-Katrina New Orleans. What makes this drama spectacular is the accurate portrayal of how food and music are anthropologically woven in the fabric of the city’s culture, and hence, its rebirth.

At Friday’s All-Campus meeting Chancellor Reck announced that President McRobbie has extended my retirement until the end of AY 2013. I am deeply humbled. And although I had been eagerly anticipating retirement, spending time in southern France, devoting more time to reading and gardening, cooking delicious meals and ballroom dancing with my wife, Melanie, visiting children and friends across the USA, and having more free time for volunteering, I am happy to be here another year with you. At universities, where excellence is a constant, there is always work to be done, and we have still much to do. We will continue the work already underway to ensure a smooth transition of leadership in Academic Affairs. As I mentioned in my last State of Academic Affairs Address to the academic senate, there are many environmental factors altering how we will function as a regional campus of Indiana University. How well we adjust and respond will determine how healthy and prosperous an institution we will be in the future. This is a wonderful institution of higher learning with extraordinary faculty and staff. We have much to boast about, much still to accomplish. Opportunities abound. We are resilient, creative and dynamic, and I am confident that we are up to the task of ensuring a decidedly unique and dynamic future for IU South Bend.

Recently, Marta Makielski published a tribute to Mary Jo Regan-Kubinski in the South Bend Tribune. Beautifully and graciously written, Marta’s essay expresses deep sentiments of loss for our university and tells a compelling story about Mary Jo’s leadership and impact on nursing education [link].

As we begin this second semester, I wish each of you continuing personal and professional successes.

Sincerely,

Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr.,
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Douglas Agbetsiafa (B&E)

On December 29, 2011, an opinion article by Doug Agbetsiafa (pictured at right) appeared in the South Bend Tribune [link] as part of a week-long focus on challenges facing us locally as the new year approached. Doug was one of 5 local leaders who addressed various topics of importance. Doug’s article focused on the local economy and was titled “South Bend’s economic forecast: Cautiously optimistic.” Congratulations, Doug, and thank you for your informed insights into the local economic outlook.

Yvonne Larrier (EDUC) / Marianne Castano Bishop (UCET)

An article co-authored by Yvonne Larrier and Marianne Castano Bishop of IU South Bend along with Sandra Harris of Walden University entitled “Development of the Student Expectations of Online Learning Survey (SEOLS): A Pilot Study” was recently published in the Online Journal of Distance Learning Administrators (a peer-reviewed electronic journal emphasizing work focused on the management of distance education programs. The main website [link] contains a table of contents for the issue in which the article appears and the article can be accessed directly [link]. Kudos, Yvonne and Marianne.

Sue Anderson (NURS)

Sue Anderson received her Ph.D. and the Mary Opal Wolanin Award for Outstanding Dissertation on December 16, 2011 from the University of Arizona College of Nursing. Sue’s dissertation, “Moving Children Toward a Better Life: Hispanic Mothers’ Vision for Leisure Activity,” was noted for her re-conceptualization of established beliefs as well as its contribution to understanding health promotion in Hispanic populations. Congratulations, Sue.

Marvin Curtis & Raclin School of the Arts

Dean Marvin Curtis reported recently that the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts received grant funds from the Elkhart County Community Foundation to support efforts of the School. One grant provided $4,700 to support a summer arts camp – the Sumner Theater Program at the Lerner Theater. This grant will enable the production of Johnny Appleseed and bring Walter Allen Bennett back for A Raisin in the Sun. In addition, a $2,000 grant was received from the Foundation to support a Guest Artist program. Kudos to Dean Curtis and the Raclin School of the Arts for seeking and receiving these funds and for the outstanding efforts that will be enabled by them.

Images of New Orleans

Alec Hosterman wrote to EVCAA Guillaume over the holiday break, relaying that he had “recently presented a paper at the National Communication Association conference which was held (this year) in New Orleans. During my free time I had a chance to get out and take photos, mainly of the French Quarter.” Alec felt that as a New Orleans native Alfred would appreciate the images. This was certainly true and the EVCAA asked if he could share the photo links with others and Alec agreed.

We hope you enjoy perusing the wonderful images of NOLA.

New Orleans After Dark [link]
St. Joseph’s Cemetery No. 1 [link]
Streets of New Orleans [link]
Preservation Hall [link]
People of New Orleans [link]
Kermit Ruffins at Vaughn’s Bar [link]
This and That [link]
Doors and Windows of the French Quarter [link]
Pirate’s Alley [link]
Voodoo [link]
Graffiti [link]
Napoleon House [link]
Café Du Monde [link]

Beignets from Café Du Monde and street musicians (photos courtesy Alec Hosterman)