Dear Colleagues,

I began penning this letter from pre-Mardi Gras New Orleans during a family visit. Needless to say, the weather there was the flip flop of South Bend. The air thick and muggy, unlike the cold, penetrating air we left behind. The bright colors of the flower beds were startlingly opposite of the gray and white of Michiana. Red magnolia blossoms and rosebushes danced along the deep greens of neatly trimmed hedges. This splendid oasis always makes my heart jump in anticipation of the revelry so uniquely New Orleanian: family, food, music, architecture, bayou landscape, all encapsulated in a special brand of living. Billboards that line the streets from the airport to the city invite visitors to let the good times roll or remind them that if they love New Orleans, she’ll love you right back. With each returning visit, I notice more progress as the city slowly heals. What struck me most this time was the rebuilding of neighborhoods in the Tremé and Vieux Carré districts. Gone is the sea of blue tarps spread over rooftops. Gone are the unsightly public housing projects of dull deteriorating bricks. In their place are brightly colored single or duplex housing units built in the fashion of the old Creole cottages, typical of the architectural style prevalent across the city. Potholed streets, commonplace and made worse after the great storm, now give way to smoothly paved boulevards; and there are even bike lanes. And the old historic districts, the French Quarter, the Magazine corridor, the St. Charles and Carrollton areas, Esplanade Avenue and the Bywater neighborhood are flourishing with tourist activity. Healthy
signs indeed, but there is still more work to be done, particularly among the city’s poorest neighborhoods. Angels like Brad Pitt and mission groups from around the country are sequestered in the lower ninth ward where the levees broke, rebuilding homes one by one. In spite of their efforts, there are swaths of block after block of leveled land. Sights like these are vivid and painful reminders that there are still many displaced New Orleanians.

Even though my impending retirement has been pushed back until next year, it has not stopped me from pondering my time here in the last thirteen years. Among many gratifying moments of being the executive vice chancellor is interviewing prospective faculty members. I am always respectful that the hiring choice rests with the deans and the academic departments, but I appreciate the time spent getting to know the extraordinary talent and diverse personalities of those who would like to join us as faculty. A question that I always ask of the candidate is, “You have an opportunity to invite three historical figures to dinner. Whom would you invite, why and what would you want to know from them?” I get fascinating answers. As you might imagine political figures like Lincoln, Roosevelt and Kennedy are common. So are activists like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ghandi, and Malcolm X, as are religious leaders like Pope John Paul II, Mother Theresa, Mohammed, Moses or Jesus. Recently though, I’ve heard new names such as Rumi, the thirteenth century mystic and poet; Paul Dessau, an East German composer, and Voltaire, the eighteenth century philosophe. Interesting names. I was once asked this question during my interview for a Kellogg National Leadership fellowship. Since then, I’ve asked myself repeatedly this very question; and I must confess, that my answer changes each time. Since I enjoy entertaining, perhaps it is an excuse for me to have multiple dinner parties.

This past weekend, after visiting family in New Orleans, I went to Atlanta for the annual reunion of my Kellogg class. These reunions of Class VIII Kellogg “flakes,” as we lovingly call ourselves, is a happy time of renewal, a time of shared reflections of personal and professional triumphs and sorrows, a time to cogitate and meditate on the challenges of leadership in an increasingly complex world, a time to offer support and encouragement. Call it therapy or professional development, for many in the group it is a weekend that is sacrosanct, unimpeded by our professional and personal lives. This group of surgeons, television personalities, business men and women, high school and university educators, government employees, lawyers and social activists serves as a wellspring of sustenance. And here at home, I gain sustenance from the wonderful work of the faculty. When asked, as I often am in my impending retirement, what am I most proud of, without hesitation, I mention the faculty.

Sincerely,

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

Lundquist Award Presentation

The Lundquist Fellow presentation will take place on Thursday, April 5, 2012 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in room DW 1001 of Wiekamp Hall. Elizabeth Bennion, Associate Professor of Political Science, received the 2011 Eldon F. Lundquist Award (the highest campus honor for faculty members) and will present on “Women in American Politics 1776-2012 & Beyond.” At this event the 2012 recipient of the Lundquist Award will be announced and receive the award. A list of past recipients may be found at the Academic Affairs website.

Trustees Teaching Award Deadline

Applications are requested for the Trustees’ Teaching Award (TTA) from tenured and tenure-track faculty, full-time lecturers, and clinical faculty who have taught at Indiana University South Bend for a minimum of two years. These awards are given to those applicants who show evidence of sustained and consistent teaching excellence. The deadline for submitting complete applications to the appropriate College or School dean is February 27, 2012.

In Memoriam

The IU South Bend community recently mourned the passing of a retired faculty member. On January 22nd, Professor Emeritus of English, Lawrence J. Clipper died after a long illness in West Palm Beach, FL. His obituary was published in several newspapers and appeared in the South Bend Tribune on January 29. One of Larry’s long-time colleagues in English, Professor Emeritus of English, Tom Vander Ven wrote a tribute to Larry in which he describes his memories of him. This member of the IU South Bend family will be missed and our heartfelt sympathies are extended to the family.

Above: Larry and Pat Clipper in 2009 (photo courtesy Wes Robbins)
Kudos

Kudos to the staff of the Schurz Library and particularly Vicki Bloom, Nancy Colborn, and Susan Thomas for the report they prepared for the reaccreditation of the IU Social Work Program by the Council on Social Work Education. The report was singled out for its exemplary quality and the fact that it was far better than those prepared for any of the other IU campuses’ libraries.

Executive Vice Chancellor Alfred J. Guilluame, Jr. (pictured at right), was interviewed by the IU South Bend student newspaper the Preface in its January 25, 2012 issue [link]. The interview discusses Alfred’s continuation in his position for an additional year. A video segment of the interview is also posted at the Preface website at the link above.

The work of two IU South Bend faculty was featured in the South Bend Tribune on January 29. Susan Moore (ARTS) and her landscape photography techniques were discussed in the article “Local terrains: Two photographers, two very different viewfinders.” In addition, Professor Emeritus Tuck Langland (ARTS) was interviewed in an article titled “Langland reintroduces color to sculptures” discussing how he adds color to his bronze sculptures. Both articles appeared on pages D1 and D2 of the Sunday paper’s Intermission section.

Congratulations to David Blouin and Gail McGuire of Sociology and Anthropology on the publication of their article “Successful Models of Undergraduate Research in Sociology” that appeared in the professional journal Sociological Imagination (vol. 47, no. 1, pp. 5-19).

Welcome

Krista Bailey (pictured at right) was recently named the new Assistant Director of the Center for a Sustainable Future [link]. Welcome, Krista!

Upcoming Events

The bi-annual Graduate Research Conference will be held on the IU South Bend campus on Tuesday, April 24th in the Grille. This event aims to showcase the talents of graduate students and serves as a venue for peer review and interdisciplinary discussion. All current and past IU South Bend graduate students are welcome to present. The conference is a free event open to the public and includes refreshments. Questions can be sent to gradre@iusb.edu or individuals can contact Michelle Bakerson at 574-520-4391 or mabakerso@iusb.edu.

On Friday, February 10, the annual IU South Bend campus campaign will be kicked off with a special event. From 1:00 to 3:00 pm that day in the University Grille, a roast of EVCAA Alfred J. Guilluame, Jr. (see Kudos above) will be held to honor “The Impact of a Campus Leader.” Bow ties are optional.

eTexts at IU

Vice President Brad Wheeler recently discussed the efforts and negotiations IU is making regarding the use of eTexts for IU courses. As he relayed to university and campus leaders, the IU deals they have negotiated were followed by the Spring 2012 adoption by 127 sections across all IU campuses and over 5,300 students enrolled in several disciplines. He reported that “The IU deals beat ‘best available’ eText pricing 95.8% of the time and on average saved students $24.83 per book for digital.” In addition to better prices, “faculty and students will also have new tools for collaborative study and annotation of course materials.” It is anticipated that eTexts will expand as negotiations continue and more publishers and courses are involved.