Dear Colleagues,

These past few weeks I’ve met many interesting aspiring faculty members. I enjoy listening to their stories, particularly their individual journeys that led them to their field of study. Some discovered early their passion and knew how they wanted to spend their lives; others came upon it by happenstance, usually through an inspiring teacher or as the result of an encouraging mentor. My exchanges with these candidates are more like a conversation between two colleagues than that of an administrator interviewing a potential employee. What I most want to impress upon them is that as IU South Bend faculty, they will belong to an elite group of extraordinary teachers and scholars whose dedication to student learning and to the advancement of knowledge is unparalleled in institutions like ours. Second, I emphasize the collegiality and mutual respect between the faculty and administration. Third, I press upon them the quality of life here in South Bend and in our region, reminding them of the many gifts this community has to offer, particularly in the cultural arts. For a community of this size, there is a resplendent array of cultural and intellectual stimulation from among the civic arts groups and the universities. The finest examples of this reside right here at our own university with the Toradze Studio, the Euclid Quartet, the theatrical and vocal performances of the theater and musical programs, and the splendid plastic and visual arts of our painting and sculpture programs. Nowhere was this more evident than last Saturday with the fourth annual “Lift Every Voice” concert sponsored by the Raclin School of the
Arts. This annual event during Black History Month highlights the contributions of African Americans to the cultural arts. What is unique about this venue is that local performers are showcased as well as prominent national African American musical artists. This year’s program featured William Chapman Nyaho, a pianist originally from Ghana, who introduced the audience to piano pieces composed by Fred Onoverwerosuoke, also of Ghanian birth, but of Nigerian parents. Other performers included a tenor, Cornelius Jackson, and a mezzo soprano, Paulette Curtis, from Notre Dame. Both singers’ repertoire included arias from Puccini and Shubert, as well as spirituals from Francis Hall Johnson and Betty Jackson King. A delightful surprise of the evening was the Moore String Trio, brothers from Berrien Springs, age 9-15, whose rendition of Mozart’s Serenade No.3 brought the audience to a standing rousing applause. The second half of the concert featured several musical pieces from spirituals to gospel to jazz by the city’s own South Bend Symphonic Choir conducted by Dean Marvin Curtis. If you were not there this year, you don’t want to miss next year’s celebration.

In a few days I leave for Toulon, France, where I will teach in our exchange program. I initiated this program a couple of years after my arrival. For several years, we’ve had the pleasure of receiving over the summer months a professor from the Université du Sud-Var. And each spring one of our professors spends several weeks there teaching and lecturing. We’ve also had student exchanges. Since my retirement nears (now put off one more year), my colleagues in World Languages thought I should go this spring. While there, I’ll be teaching a seminar on Southern Louisiana Culture, and delivering two lectures, one on the state of higher education in the United States and the other on post-Katrina New Orleans. Serendipitously, when a colleague in Brussels learned that I would be in France, he invited me to give a lecture at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for the Arts and Sciences on the French literary traditions of the free people of color in nineteenth century Louisiana. I am excited about the days ahead. Like Proust, I feel as if my time in France is a reliving of a former time as I don my imaginable professorial gown, teaching and lecturing. In preparation, I’ve spent late nights, sometimes sleepless ones, reading, writing, and organizing lectures and class discussions while still attending to the endless administrative tasks that never go away like Baudelaire’s weighty albatross. Miraculously, with the deans’ help, Academic Affairs managed to make the necessary budget cuts, and with the able assistance of Johnny McIntosh and Biniam Tesfamariam, our report on salary compression was submitted to central administration. We also managed to update the Campus Directions Committee (CDC) on progress made toward Academic Affairs initiatives in support of the Strategic Plan (link).

During my absence, Academic Affairs will be capably led by Johnny. I will maintain regular e-mail communication with him and Chancellor Reck. I plan to be back in time for Elizabeth Bennion’s Lundquist talk on April 5th, provided there are no delays with my flights. I’m expecting spring-like weather upon my return.

Cheers,

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

Lundquist Award Presentation

As announced last month, the Lundquist Fellow presentation will take place on Thursday, April 5, 2012 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in room DW 1001 of Wieckamp 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 [link].

Congratulations!

In the recent 2012 Indianapolis Matinee Musicale Competition, two students of Alexander Toradze won prizes. Natasha Stojanovska was awarded First Prize for the Mildred Allen Memorial Scholarship and Dmitry Molkov won Second Prize. In addition to the scholarship prize, the winners will have the opportunity for a solo recital in October in Indianapolis.

In Memoriam

Too often lately, we seem to be reporting on the passing of a member of the IU South Bend community. On February 8, a retired faculty member, Professor Emeritus of Speech and Theatre, William M. Gering died. His obituary was published in the South Bend Tribune on February 12 [link]. Bill is remembered by those who are long-time faculty and staff for his tremendous enthusiasm for the annual speech contest and his always upbeat and pleasant mood. He founded the communications department at IU South Bend and was its first full professor. We will miss this member of the IU South Bend family and our deepest sympathies are extended to the family.

Left: Bill Gering at his retirement event, 1989.
Kudos

Kudos to Dean Marvin Curtis and the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts. They received a $5,000 tourism marketing grant from the South Bend/Mishawaka Convention and Visitors Bureau for marketing and promotion of the Mezzo-Soprano Denyce Graves weekend in November.

Congratulations to Staci Lugar Brettin (visiting lecturer in the School of Business & Economics). She recently was named the Athena Award winner by the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County. As noted in the Tribune articles about her award, the Athena Award “is given to an individual who has attained and embodies the highest level of professional excellence in his/her career, has devoted time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community and assists women in realizing their leadership potential.” The Tribune’s coverage included an article in the daily paper [link] as well as in the Tribune Business Weekly [link].

Kudos to the Euclid Quartet on their January 24th concert in Palm Beach, FL and the excellent review that appeared in the Palm Beach ArtsPaper [link]. The quartet was highly praised in the review for their performance including “The Euclids played their hearts out...” and they received “a well-deserved standing ovation. We were, after all, in the presence of great artistry.”

Upcoming Exhibit: Lincoln

The Schurz Library has been selected as one of 200 hosts for the Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War traveling exhibition. This exhibition and tour have been developed by the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, and the American Library Association Public Programs Office, with the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The exhibit will be on the 5th floor of the IU South Bend Schurz Library from March 3 through April 11. As part of the events associated with the exhibition, free public presentations will take place on May 6 at 5:30, with Dr. Robert May speaking on “Beyond Kansas: Lincoln’s Election in 1860, Southern Ambitions for a Tropical Slave Empire, and the Coming of the Civil War,” and on April 2 at 5:30 Dr. Bryon Andreasen will speak on “Abraham Lincoln and Wartime Civil Liberties.” Both presentations will take place on the 5th floor of the Library.

13th Annual Midwest SoTL Conference

As reported by UCET, on Friday, April 20th, IU South Bend will host a flock of faculty from around the greater Midwest for its Thirteenth Annual Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, with this year’s theme, At Home and Abroad: Teaching and Learning Without Borders. The Keynote Speaker for the event will be the eminent Dr. Hilary E. Kahn, the Director of the Center for the Study of Global Change at Indiana University, where she is involved in the deeper internationalization of IU and encourages innovative research and interdisciplinary scholarship in the field of Global Studies. She is also the Director of the Ph.D. Minor in Global Studies, the Voices and Visions: Muslims and Islam from a Global Perspective Project, and the Framing the Global Project, as well as faculty in Anthropology. For a more complete bio of Dr. Kahn, please click here. Dr. Kahn’s wealth of expertise and dynamic cognizance will take center stage at 9 am in Wiekamp 1001 for her keynote address, “Transcending Boundaries Through Global Learning: Teaching Students to Reach In and Out.” An additional three featured presentations, six panel presentations, and three poster sessions are scheduled to follow, a number of which include our very own IU South Bend faculty. Registration for the SoTL Conference is now open, with reduced fees for all those who register before March 31st.