Dear Colleagues,

After five invigorating weeks teaching in Southern France at the Université du Sud Toulon-Var, I’m slowly re-settling into my administrative role. The daily thrills of being back in the classroom were emotionally satisfying. To be with students once again, learning as they learned, was indeed gratifying. Few professions can match the intellectually stimulating engagement of student and professor. My French students, who are more accustomed to listening passively to lectures, were initially taken aback by my attempts to engage them in participatory learning. Over the five-week span, they became increasingly more comfortable with engaged classroom discussion. My course on Southern Louisiana cultures was well-received. So that they could fully appreciate the South, we began with an examination of slavery and the associated political and economic conditions that led to the Civil War. We then followed race relations from the imposition of Jim Crow through the Civil Rights Movement. Intrigued by this historical context, my students were particularly interested in discussing the current climate of racial relations in the United States. I found them conversant about early U.S. history, though there were gaps in their understanding of the relevance and relatedness of historical events. To their credit, they quickly saw parallels with the development of our democracy with the historical maturation of the French Republic. Not surprisingly, their knowledge of modern America is based on consumption of popular culture. American movies and music are very much part of their identity as young adults. Yet, their...
intellectual curiosity made teaching all the more joyful. Like our students, many of them were first generation university students; several came from immigrant families and spoke openly of their families’ strong desire to integrate, while adhering to maternal language and customs. Because each felt profoundly French, they resonated with the struggles of Cajun and Creole cultures to preserve their unique cultural heritages in the dominant American culture.

Besides teaching, I presented three lectures. At the invitation of a friend, who is spending a year as a fellow of the Royal Academies for Science and Arts in Brussels, I lectured to a group of twenty-five fellows on the literature of the free people of color in nineteenth-century Louisiana. I also did a presentation on the state of American higher education to graduate students and faculty at the Université du Sud Toulon-Var and gave one more lecture on “La Culture de la Nouvelle Orléans en péril après Katrina.” With the teaching and the lectures, those five weeks were indeed intense. In spite of busy and, occasionally, hectic days, Melanie and I did find time to do some limited exploring of the Provence countryside.

Back to the States only a few days, I find that there are many things about living in Provence that still pull at my heart. I already miss my students. I can still place each of them in their seats. They presented me with a gift of poetry by Jacques Prévert. I miss the morning walk to the neighborhood boulangerie in search of croissants, baguettes or lemon pastries. I miss the light and refreshing rosé wine of Provence, the delicious fish dishes, the green salads, the cheeses, and all the appetizers. I miss the uphill walks from the bus stop to our apartment. I miss the soft, late afternoon light of the beautiful Provence villages, the quiet interiors of medieval churches, and the clear blue of the Mediterranean skies. I miss the animated dinner conversations with friends. But most of all, I miss the pace of life.

Now that I’m back, I am quickly in the midst of a flurry of activities associated with the Blueprint for Student Success. John McIntosh, Elizabeth Dunn and I are off to Indy for the annual Indiana Commission for Higher Education Conference. This year’s theme is “Defining Success: Learning Outcomes Matter.” Last week John, Karen Clark, Elaine Roth, and Mike Darnel attended an ICHE “Indiana’s Core to College” conference in Indy regarding state student readiness for college activities. And later this week, Linda Chen will be attending a statewide meeting on Statewide General Education Transfer Core. And for next fall, please mark the dates, September 28-29 for the IU Faculty Leadership Institute on “enhancing student learning by embedding high impact practices in the undergraduate curriculum. I’ll be working with the deans in identifying a team of faculty to participate in this regional campus collaboration. If you are interested, please let me know. More details to follow.

Now that these warmer days have trumpeted the arrival of spring, final exams and graduation quickly advance. If you have not already done so, please order your commencement regalia through the alumni office. Let’s celebrate in grand numbers the achievements of our students.

All the best,

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

Left: Dr. Guillaume lecturing at the Royal Academies of Science and Arts in Brussels. Above: Dr. Guillaume and his students at the Université du Sud Toulon-Var.
The Euclid Quartet originally formed in 1998 at Kent State University in Ohio. The original foursome chose its name after Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, the home of the magnificent Cleveland Orchestra. Two of its founding members still play in the ensemble today: first violinist Jameson [“Jamie”] Cooper and second violinist Jacob Murphy. Violist Luis Vargas joined the quartet in 2001, and cellist Si-Yan Darren Li joined in 2009. The fact that the Euclid’s current members have British, American, Venezuelan, and Chinese heritage is purely coincidental, yet their diversity is an asset to what they do as artists and educators. No matter the language of any audience, the music they create is universal. No matter where they play, too, the name IU South Bend is always printed in their biography. The relationship between IU South Bend and the Euclid Quartet, as they reveal in this interview, is special.

When asked why they chose to join IU South Bend in 2007, Jamie, Jacob, and Luis (members at the time) recalled that they found a long tradition in South Bend for the support of chamber music. “The Fischoff originated here. We feel valued here. The IU South Bend administration is a great team, very supportive and respectful of what it takes to be a world-class ensemble,” Jamie Cooper said. They also mentioned no rush hour traffic, an easy-access airport, respected rehearsal time, and the chance to work with students with a broad range of talent and interests.

As professors, all four members of the quartet maintain teaching loads, teaching an average of 10 private students each semester between them. They also direct the chamber music program, as well as a performance lab and master class program for all music majors. First violinist Cooper also conducts the IU South Bend Philharmonic Orchestra. Gathered in their studio in Northside Hall, there is a comfortable air of respect and camaraderie among the musicians. The life of any professional string quartet is intensively collaborative. Their ultimate goal is always to present the finest possible performance to their audiences, whether playing at an elementary school or at Carnegie Hall. They know when to work hard, and when they need a break.

To prepare for performances, the Euclid Quartet rehearses approximately 15 to 20 hours per week. They perform an annual concert series at IU South Bend with four or five concerts each year, one that usually includes a special guest artist. They perform frequently in the community as well, such as the ArtsEverywhere summer concert series in Potawatomi Park. They coach for the Fischoff Chamber Music Competition and lead music education programs in Mishawaka schools. They have launched and completed numerous special projects, such as their American Masterpieces project that was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

When asked how they decide what music to play, Jamie said, “We program very collaboratively. We have sort of a ‘wish list’ of repertoire that each of us would like to do. We discuss and decide together.” One example is Schubert’s final G Major String Quartet, a long and fiendishly difficult work. “We’re crossing it off the list this year,” Jamie revealed. Another item on their wish list that they have crossed off was to record all six of Bela Bartok’s string quartets, considered masterpieces of early 20th century repertoire. Last spring, Artek Records released the first of two recordings covering the entire cycle, with quartets 2, 4, and 6. Music critic Blair Sanderson wrote, “The Euclid Quartet has demonstrated that it is pure gold in these spectacular performances.” The second volume, featuring quartets 1, 3, and 5, was recorded in fall, 2011, and is planned for a summer release.

When they are not teaching at IU South Bend, the Euclid Quartet is usually on the road, leading the demanding life of an internationally prominent string quartet. They have performed on every continent in the world, at some of the world’s finest concert halls and festivals. From January to February this year, the Euclid Quartet completed a grueling month of activity, including engagements in Alabama, Florida, Michigan, Ohio, and Missouri.

On January 22, the quartet began their winter tour in Enterprise, Alabama, with a concert that was held in a local Catholic church. Jamie explained, “We were the classical act for their county arts alliance concert series. They present all sorts of pop, bluegrass, jazz, and one classical group each year, so it was a real honor to be the one. It wasn’t your typical classical music audience, but they were very enthusiastic.” The group flew into Atlanta, rented a car and drove to Enterprise. As they crossed the border into Alabama, “Imagine our surprise when we spotted our first highway billboard! We had to stop and take a picture with it,” Jacob Murphy said. The next morning following the concert, the quartet visited a local middle school for a brief educational presentation, and then headed back to Atlanta to catch a flight to West Palm Beach, Florida. (continued on page 4)
The Euclid performed at the historic Flagler Mansion Museum in Palm Beach on January 24. “We played in this grand salon of the Flagler mansion. It was very authentic to the style of historical chamber music,” Jamie said. The sold-out concert was followed by a reception with champagne and hors d’oeuvres, always a nice perk for the artists. A few days later, music critic Rex Hearn of the Palm Beach Arts Paper wrote, “This foursome reminded me not just of the Emerson but the Tokyo String Quartet, and it might be that they deserve to rank in that august company…. We were, after all, in the presence of great artistry.” His review also published where the Euclid Quartet resides: Indiana University South Bend.

The quartet flew back home January 25 for an intense week of “catching up.” Jamie Cooper is preparing the IU South Bend Philharmonic for spring performances of Beethoven’s famous 5th, Sibelius’ The Bard and Liszt’s sweeping first Piano Concerto. One of his violin students is preparing for her master’s recital, so he is spending extra time with her. The other members of the quartet reconnected with their own students; attended interviews and auditions as members of two search committees for two new music faculty positions; and worked with the entire music faculty to prepare for the planned NASM accreditation visit. Cooper also met with Dean Marvin Curtis, Anne McGraw from University Advancement, and architects for a presentation to a major donor for the planned Recital Hall renovation. An acoustically suitable Recital Hall in which to perform, teach, and record on campus has been an urgent need since their appointment in 2007.

One week later, on February 1, the quartet was back on the road – literally just up the road – to Kalamazoo, Michigan. They gave a performance, master class, and school presentation as guests of Western Michigan University.

On February 4-5, the group flew to Columbus, Ohio, where they gave a performance at an art museum. Due to a major convention in the city, they found themselves faced with two hotel rooms featuring only two king-size beds. “We spend enough time together, and we draw the line at sleeping in a pink bedroom of a nine-year-old girl,” Jacob said. (The girl slept somewhere else.)

After a few days back home in South Bend, the Euclid Quartet headed for St. Louis by car, on February 9. They were invited guests of the Webster University Community Music School. All four of the guys were impressed by the outstanding program they found there, one so strong they felt it could be a model program for other cities in the nation, including South Bend. Jacob Murphy explained, “They are doing the right things for the right reasons, and getting great results. One of the benefits of being on the road is that we get to see what others are doing in the arts and bring back the best ideas for our community.”

While in St. Louis, the Euclid participated in a “Chamber Music Blitz,” two days of intense coaching and teaching, and they rehearsed for concerts featuring two world premiere quintets – one with piano, and one with clarinet. Luis described the visit as a “fun but edge-of-your-seat experience.”

The Euclid Quartet, as it always does, returned again to their resident home at IU South Bend and began rehearsing for their upcoming campus concert with an all-new program on April 29, featuring guest violinist Gregory Fulkerson. While the Euclid Quartet feels special to be a part of IU South Bend, perhaps now more people on campus will feel special for having them here.

13th Annual Midwest SoTL Conference
On Friday, April 20th, IU South Bend will host the 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. Dr. Kahn will give her keynote address at 9 am in Wiekamp 1001 entitled “Transcending Boundaries Through Global Learning: Teaching Students to Reach In and Out.” Events will continue throughout the day.
Kudos and Events

Two IU South Bend faculty members have been selected as All-IU award recipients. On Friday, April 20 at the Celebration of Distinguished Teaching dinner in honor of Founders Day, Yi Cheng (MATH) will receive the Frederic Bachman Lieber Memorial Award for teaching excellence and Mike Keen (SOC) will be a recipient of the W. George Pinnell Award for exceptional service contributions. These individuals join those IU South Bend faculty who have been recognized by Indiana University for their teaching and other contributions. A complete list of past IU South Bend recipients of all-university awards may be found at [link].

The 2012 recipient of the Eldon F. Lundquist Award, the highest IU South Bend faculty award, is Randy Isaacson (EDUC). Dr. Isaacson was announced as the Lundquist Fellow recipient on April 5 at the annual Lundquist Fellow Address event. Following the announcement, Dr. Elizabeth Bennion (POLS) gave her address entitled “Women in American Politics 1776-2012 & Beyond.” Congratulations to both Randy and Elizabeth.

Dr. Jorge Muniz reports that one of his students in composition Henry Stewart (BA in Music) has advanced to the final of the Villiers Quartet (www.villiersquartet.com). He was rated the highest of all six finalists (all with doctoral or master’s degrees). His piece will be premiered in London on April 29 and the audience will select the winner among the three finalists. The winner will receive 500 pounds and a professional studio recording, as well as future performances by the Villiers Quartet. The concert will also be streamed online. Congratulations, Henry and Jorge, and good luck, Henry.

Kudos to Samantha Joyce on the publication of her new book, Brazilian Telenovelas and the Myth of Racial Democracy by Lexington Books.

Teaching With Technology Fair
On April 26, Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Third Annual Teaching with Technology Fair will be held at Fireside A and B by The Grille. Morning sessions at Fireside A will feature Faculty Showcase with individuals from several departments. This year, presentations will be given by Jane Cera (Fine Arts), Jorge Muniz (Music), Jim Hasse (Office of Disability Support Services), Raman Adaikkalavan (Computer Science), Susan Moore (Photography) and Tracey Trottier (Political Science). At the same time, at Fireside B, several tech tools available for request this year will be available for a closer look during Time to Play. Afternoon sessions feature Tech Tool Pods, an informal gathering where faculty who have used a particular tech tool (e.g., iPad, SoftChalk) answer inquiries and allow attendees to have a close-up look at their applications of the tool. The Tech Fair is sponsored by Distance Learning and the University Center for Excellence in Teaching, in collaboration with Instructional Media Services. For the schedule of events, go to [link].

Governor’s Arts Awards
On April 26, IU South Bend and the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts will host the 2011 Indiana Governor’s Arts Awards dinner and ceremony. Among the six recipients of the prestigious awards will be Martin Endowed Professor of Piano Alexander Toradze (ARTS). [link]

Distance Learning Opportunities
Course development. This spring, Distance Learning added six more courses to the list of those funded since Fall 2007. To date, 75 courses (6 hybrid/blended and 69 fully online courses) have been developed by our faculty across all our schools and colleges. Faculty receive stipends for development of fully online courses as well as hybrid/blended courses. In addition, academic departments receive funds when courses are approved for development as well as when courses are offered. A listing of funded faculty and their courses appears at [link]. For more information about stipends, go to [link].

SEED Grants. Aside from funding online course development, Distance Learning also funds the SEED (Software and Equipment for Engagement and Discovery) Grants. The Third Annual SEED Call for Proposals is the only campus-wide technology grant that allows faculty to receive technology tools such as iPads, tablet PCs, wireless headsets, clickers, remote presenters, and software programs (e.g., Camtasia screen capture and SoftChalk learning object authoring program). After providing justification for requests that total no more than $1,000 per individual, the 65 faculty members who received tech tools the past two years have either written reports showcasing their use of the tools and what they have learned or have presented at the tech fair. For more information and to find the application form, visit [link]. Submission deadline is May 7, Monday, at 5 p.m.