Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to another exciting academic year! Although last year was ostensibly my retirement year, I am pleased to be with you another year, penning as usual my monthly newsletter. Not surprisingly, since the announcement of my retirement in the local press, I have been asked by community members about my adjustment to retired life. Whether I am at my gym in Granger, in a downtown restaurant or ambling about, many of those whose paths I cross naturally assume I am already retired. I relish the awkward smile or the bemused facial expression when they learn that I am still working. Even I chuckle to myself, now that I am still getting up in the wee hours of the morning, dragging myself first to the gym for exercise, and then making that all so familiar trek to the university, when I could have escaped to southern France. There I can easily picture myself, just another unfamiliar ex-patriot, ensconced in the local culture, with a baguette, cheese and a chilled bottle of rosé. Those illusory images quickly fade the moment I enter the office. For after all, in Mark Twain-like humor, the rumors of my retirement have been greatly exaggerated.

Alas! I’ll put aside such dreamy images for the moment. Work within Academic Affairs is never-ending. Fortunately for me, my work here at IU South Bend is wonderfully gratifying. First and foremost, my colleagues on the Academic Cabinet, the deans and academic directors, are expert at what they do. They dedicate heart and soul to our university’s academic mission and work...
tirelessly toward ensuring that IU South Bend is among the finest regional public universities in the Midwest. Our goals for this year include continuing work on retention initiatives. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Business and Economics are participating in a Blueprint project, “Complete College America.” Each has received funding to develop degree mapping processes that ensure college completion. Similarly, with a focus toward accelerating time to degree, a cabinet task force is considering a four-year graduation plan modeled after the graduation pledge developed by Indiana State University. Time to degree also requires us to possibly re-think the course scheduling grid to maximize the use of classrooms throughout the week, including Fridays. Another task force will facilitate the campus’ transition from IU Retain to IU FLAGS, the all-IU electronic advising management tool. Additionally, Linda Chen is working with the deans and all academic advisors toward the campus’ adoption and use of the AAR (Academic Advising Report). Other academic tasks for the year include review of faculty reassigned time and stipends with an aim to achieve equity and fairness across the colleges and schools. We’ll also be looking at establishing standardization in adjunct faculty rates. And last, but certainly not least, our work with Noel-Levitz on enhancement of graduate education continues. A key task for the campus will be the determination of how integral graduate education is to the campus’ academic mission. In doing so, we must think carefully whether our graduate programs are meeting the educational needs of our region. Concomitantly, we need to determine if a different mix of graduate programs would better suit our community. To that end, I’ve asked the School of Education to consider downsizing and/or re-packaging their curricula and to rethink the delivery of graduate programs. Changes in public expectations about accessibility and delivery modes of graduate education, coupled with demands by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and changes within state standards, propel us in this direction. And finally, there is the ever important Higher Learning Commission work in preparation for our campus’ reaccreditation in 2017. More on that in a future newsletter.

Recently, IU has produced a major report on IU Online that seeks to maximize IU’s efforts in online education [link]. Although discussions are in the nascent stages, we can expect to see more inter-campus collaboration among IU’s campuses, particularly a more concerted effort among the regional campuses. To achieve the latter, a consortium is envisaged with formulae for shared revenue among campuses. Details are yet to be formulated. For several years our own campus has shown steady increases both in the number of courses and enrollment growth. To maximize growth and potential for accelerated time to degree, I formed a task force last year led by Gwynn Mettetal with the charge to consider separating distance learning from the University Center for Excellence in Teaching (UCET). Following in large measure the committee’s recommendations, I established the Center for Online Education headed by Marianne Castano Bishop. Joining her will be Amy Pawlawsky as distance education and technology specialist and a faculty program associate for distance education to be determined through an on-campus search this fall. At the same time, I’ll be working with Tammy Fong-Morgan, director of UCET, in re-focusing and seeking new opportunities for UCET. And although the units are now separate, there will be continuous and seamless collaborations that will bring broader service to our faculty.

At least I won’t be idle this year. Frolicking along the Mediterranean will have to wait!

Like me, the chancellor also ends her administrative appointment this year. A search committee is already underway for a suitable successor[link]. Meanwhile, we have this year to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our chancellor, Una Mae Reck. We’ll have numerous occasions throughout the year to celebrate her and to reflect on the impact she has made. It is fitting then, that I christen this academic year, the Year of Celebration. The unkempt and raffish look that once pockmarked certain areas of the campus has been replaced with neat, aesthetically pleasing renovations. Wherever you turn on campus, there is either renovated space or a new structure that adds to the campus’ physical charm. Who among us will miss the tattered, stale-smelling carpet of the second floor administration building? And thanks to Chancellor Reck’s persistence, the perennially promised facilities for education, the long anticipated residence halls and bridge are now reality. This community and campus have benefitted immeasurably by the chancellor’s indomitable spirit and unwavering tenacity in re-shaping the campus. And before the year ends, we’ll witness the beginnings of several other projects that will add functionality and beauty to the campus. Less visible, but strongly felt, is the reorganized and strengthened administrative infrastructure that solidifies the campus’ emergence as a viable twenty-first century university. Arguably, this may be the most significant accomplishment of her leadership as it lays a firm foundation for the campus’ future growth and prosperity. So when you see Chancellor Reck on campus, give her a smile and a hearty thank you.

All the best to you and a Happy New Academic Year!!

Sincerely,

Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr.,
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
DeBrule Recognized with Award

Daniel DeBrule (PSY) has been selected to receive the 2012 Early Career Psychologist Award from the Indiana Psychological Association (IPA). This annual award “honors those who have made a significant contribution to IPA, Psychology, and/or the mental health of those living in Indiana.” The award will be given at the annual fall conference of IPA in Indianapolis on October 26. Congratulations, Daniel!

FACET – Annual Event Upcoming

Robin Morgan, University Director of FACET (Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching), recently announced that the annual Lilly House event held by FACET has been renamed the Under the Scholar’s Tree event and will be held this year on October 12 at Amish Acres at the Inn at Amish Acres in Nappanee. The all-day event will now be rotated annually to locations across the state to permit and encourage IU faculty on all campuses to attend. The annual event explores a topic that is of side interest to faculty who are members of FACET as well as the entire IU faculty. As described by Robin, “The theme for this year’s Under the Scholar’s Tree will be Incivility in the Classroom: Emotional Bottlenecks to Learning. Dr. Joan Middendorf (Co-director of Freshman Learning Project, Associate Director of Campus Instructional Consulting, Bloomington) will be there to facilitate discussions. Based on discussion during the event, an outline for a panel discussion or workshop to be presented at the Annual FACET Retreat in May 2013 will be developed.” All faculty are eligible to participate but the number of attendees is limited. Interested faculty should register to reserve their space as soon as possible. The registration site is at this link. In addition, if you wish to stay in Nappanee at the Inn at Amish Acres a reservation will need to be made.

Kudos

Kudos

Alison Stankrauff will conduct a session at the Women’s and Gender Historians of the Midwest (WGHOM) and the Great Lakes History Conference in Grand Rapids, MI in October. In collaboration with colleagues Cathy Borshuk, Christina Gerken, and April Lidinsky from the Women’s Studies department, they will be presenting “Past, Present, Future Successes – Partnership in a Women’s and Gender Studies Program,” highlighting the Dr. Gloria Kauffman collection in the Schurz Library Archives.

Mike Keen has reported that both of the first two graduates with minors in Sustainability Studies have accepted positions; their minors were instrumental in their hiring. Myles Robertson has taken a position at the University of Notre Dame’s Office of Sustainability and Melanie Peters was accepted to an AmeriCorps VISTA position in Indianapolis working with the Indy Hunger Network. Congratulations to these two graduates! The Center for a Sustainable Future was also featured in an IU Newsroom policy briefing blog [link].

A featured article regarding one of Ilan Levine’s experiments appeared in Symmetry Magazine [link].

Marvin Curtis, Dean of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts, received a $2,000 grant from the Indiana Humanities Council to support the project, “Carole Boston-Weatherford: African American Heritage in Children’s Literature.” In conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the death of Harriet Tubman, the program will be presented in March, 2013.

IU South Bend was featured in the new Inside IU publication, including the School of Business and Economics’ Entrepreneurship Lecture Series [link] and the IU South Bend Student Government President, Hannah Dill [link].

The IU South Bend Dental Clinic was featured in a recent WSBT-TV news story. The video of the feature is also online [link].

Deans’ Seminar

The Deans’ Seminar Series schedule for 2012-13 has been posted. Please visit the [link] to see the full schedule. The first seminar will be on October 19.
WEAVEonline
The assessment committee is pleased to introduce an exciting development in academic assessment. WEAVEonline is a web-based assessment reporting system that is being used IU system-wide. It was originally developed at Virginia Commonwealth University to address accreditation needs, and continues to be developed by experienced higher education professionals. In the coming year, the assessment committee will be sharing more about this powerful software which will simplify and streamline assessment reporting. WEAVEonline allows for timely feedback, and eliminates the need for the current cumbersome and labor-intensive reporting system. It neatly incorporates all of the steps in the assessment feedback loop, and ensures that all student learning outcomes are being measured and evaluated. These features also thoroughly address accreditation requirements. The program easily generates several types of accreditation related reports, lessening the burden of that process as well. Michelle Bakerson, Chair of the assessment committee and Assistant Professor of Educational Research, is overseeing the implementation of WEAVE for our campus. She will be organizing faculty trainings to be held several times during the coming academic year, allowing for a quick transition to the new system.

Assessment Institute
The Assessment Institute is one of the premier assessment-themed conferences, conveniently held each year in Indianapolis. The dates for this fall are October 28 to 30. This year, sessions will be offered on tracks relating to Capstone Experiences, Civic Engagement, ePortfolios, Faculty Development, First-Year Experience and Student Development. Several of the biggest names in assessment are part of the keynote panel, including Thomas Angelo from Australia, and IU’s own Trudy Banta. The Assessment Committee is able to offer a limited number of sponsorships to cover the cost of registration and travel to this conference. The conference always fills quickly, so please contact rculbert@iusb.edu if you are interested in attending. For more information on the conference, visit the website at: [link ]

Assessment Grants
Student learning is the goal of education, and effective assessment can help to ensure that it is taking place. To support the assessment of learning, the assessment committee is currently taking applications for assessment grants. These grants, for up to $3000, can be used for a number of assessment related projects – in the classroom, or at the departmental or school level. Please contact rculbert@iusb.edu with any questions. Grant application forms are available at: [link ].

(our thanks to Rhonda Culbertson for these entries)