Dear Colleagues,

The academic year begins on a high note with many related activities associated with the American Democracy Project. This year’s theme, Media and Democracy, centers forthrightly on our nation’s role in a democratic society. One of the fundamental underpinnings of a free society is a free press. We will spend this academic year examining this assumption and others. Can we truly have liberty without free expression? Are the media always fair and balanced? What is the role of the media in shaping public policy? In informing public opinion? What are the most effective media in transforming society? How do they convey messages of information or promote targeted propaganda? What are the founding principles of our own democracy? Are they being effectively exercised in national and global affairs? Should democracy be exported? Why? How?

I am also delighted to report that that Elizabeth Bennion will serve as director of the American Democracy Project. She, Eileen Bender and Ken Smith attended an AIP international conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in early August, where they presented information to a national audience about our activities this academic year. By all accounts it was an invaluable learning experience. You’ve already received news from Ken through the Faculty Digest about the weblog, another exciting opportunity for the entire campus to explore and reflect upon the tangible and intangible issues of the current state of American democracy. And Julie Elliot has kept us informed about One Book, One Campus. If you have not yet read Chris Hedges’ War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning, I encourage you to do so. For me, the book raised interesting questions and jogged my own thinking about war, its history and relevance to the human condition. Throughout the year, there will be small group sessions, Table Talks, classroom discussions and seminars dedicated to wholesome and lively debate about our theme, about the upcoming elections, about democracy and the role of the media.

To encourage student reading and to stimulate informed thinking about media, democracy, the importance and relevance of war, several faculty colleagues will be using the New York Times in their courses. This summer we were fortunate to have 100 copies of the paper available to the campus at no charge. For the fall semester, Academic Affairs will purchase 100 copies to be used for classroom instruction. I will also be working with Student Affairs to seek broader input from students in making democracy an integral and systems part of the academic and student affairs culture at Indiana University South Bend.

Thanks to many faculty and staff, we are off to a good start on the American Democracy Project. I am particularly grateful to Professors Bennion and Smith for their creative ideas.

IRB Update - All of the protocols that were suspended last October have been either re-approved or closed and IU South Bend’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) is entering a transitional period. Through the first three months all applications (exempt, expeditious, full) will be reviewed by the full IUSB IRB in conjunction with the chair of the Bloomington Human Subjects Committee (Peter Finn). Please take the time to review the transition procedures.

I am pleased to announce that we have hired Salina Shrofel as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Programs and Sponsored Research. We are looking forward to Salina joining us on August 24th and adding her expertise to the Academic Affairs staff.

The University Center for Excellence in Teaching (UCET) is hosting a full teaching seminar on Friday September 10 in the Student Activity Center, Room 223. The featured speaker is Dr. Linda Wilson who is the Director of the Office of Teaching Effectiveness and Assessment at Cleveland State University. “Focusing at Its Best,” Linda Wilson will lead two sessions on classroom civility. The morning session (8:30-11:30 a.m.) is entitled “Defining Instructor and Right and the afternoon session (1:00-4:00 p.m.) is “Creating an Instructor Person that Commands Respect.” There is no charge for this event and faculty may register for one or both sessions. If you are interested in these sessions, please RSVP to UCET at 4894 or murphy@iusb.edu by September 3, 2004.

The restructuring of Continuing Education and Off-Campus Programs into a single new unit and search for a new director is an exciting venture for which the interest and leadership will be provided by Jane Pomeroy for Continuing Education and by Gale Wood-Ward for Off-Campus Programs. Until a new director arrives, I will be working with the staff of this important division. We are happy to report that Suzanne Miller will be teaching full time during the 2004-05 academic year; Becky Rankin will be arriving to the university staff in the Administrative and Fiscal Affairs office, Melissa Pace has joined the staff in Financial Aid and Elizabeth Staples has been hired in the School of Education.

The American Democracy Project of Indiana University South Bend has launched a new web publication dedicated to discussions of active citizenship, the quality of democracy, and the 2004 election. The website will feature writing by IUSB faculty and other members of the IUSB community. The website will offer several different components, including columns, feature articles, and web resources. The first live facet of the website will be the weblog, which was launched recently at http://eeg.iusb.edu/index.php?/juest with more features to be added later.

One Book, One Campus - Please join us in taking part in Indiana University South Bend’s One Book, One Campus. The One Book, One Campus committee is working to bring the campus together in discussion about the book, War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning, by Chris Hedges. Hedges’ story of his life as a war correspondent and what he has learned about war’s impact. A web site, http://www.iusb.edu/onebook, contains everything you need to know, a student-created readers’ guide, and more. For more information about this project, please contact Julie Elliott at jelliott@iusb.edu or 520-4410.

Kudos:

Kudos to our marathon man in Salzburg, maestro Alexander Toradze and the students of the Piano Studio. The July 21, 2004, International Herald Tribune features Lexo and spotlights the Toradze School of International Music. Peter Finn. Please take the time to review the transition procedures.

Best wishes,

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