Dear Colleagues,

As I drive to work in the morning, my radio is tuned to NPR, 88.1. The news is always fascinating and serves as my connections to the world. Occasionally, I listen to a classical or jazz CD. This morning instead of listening to the drone of bipartisan ramblings in Washington, I slipped a new jazz CD in the socket. Lost in the jaunty piano playing and hearty bass of Duke Ellington and Charlie Mingus, my head began to bob rhythmically in sync with my dancing fingers on the steering wheel. Such is the magic of jazz, or any sweet music that transports the soul to a different place. I imagined I was in a smoky tavern – swaying to the beat of seductive jazz. As I drove, a marquee of jazz greats filtered through my head – Miles, Coltrane, Monk, Bird (Charlie Parker), Dizzy, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Roy Haynes, Oscar Peterson, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Bud Powell, Ornette Coleman, Earl Hines, Lionel Hampton, Roy Eldridge, Fats Waller, Art Tatum, the inimitable Satchmo, and many others. Jazz is engrained in the fabric of life in my native New Orleans. I remember an old New Orleans jazz banjo player saying, “We jazzmen, we night people,” and with a naughty twinkle in his eyes, he blurted, “We come alive at night.” Jazz is as much American as apple pie. Birthed in Storyville, the bordello section of New Orleans, jazz is black America’s gift to the world.

VCAA News

A newsletter from Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr., Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Indiana University South Bend • Number 53 • past newsletters at http://www.iusb.edu/~acadaff/news.shtml

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And now it’s February, Black History Month—a uniquely American way to celebrate the contributions of black culture to the American way of living. But February is even more; this February 12th we celebrate the bicentennial birth of Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin. It is also the centennial founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Two hundred years after the birth of the Great Emancipator and one hundred years after black and white citizens, among them W. E. B. DuBois and Arthur B. Springarn, banded together to solve the “Negro problem,” Barack Obama sits in the White House. Though there are many issues facing America involving race, class and gender, the promises of the Constitution have come full circle. And I’d like to believe that the founders of our democracy would be well-pleased with what they set in motion. Such are the discussions of the learning community of faculty and staff who are reading James A. Anderson’s book, Driving Change Through Diversity and Globalization. In two meetings our group has had a lively discussion about these issues within the academy and in the broader society. As the group admits, conversation, even among trusted colleagues, can be difficult and, at times, uncomfortable. Nevertheless, we recognize the urgency within the academy, and within our communities, to speak candidly about race, gender, and class if acceptance and inclusion of underrepresented groups are value-added components of our lives. At the heart of IU South Bend’s mission statement is a firm commitment to a diverse student body that includes underrepresented and international students. There is still time to establish another reading group; I have several books remaining. If you are so inclined, please contact Laura in my office.

Much has been mentioned in the press lately about how our new president’s reading has shaped him. He’s received notoriety for his reading of Doris Kearns Goodwin’s A Team of Rivals or Fareed Zacharia’s The Post-American World. Darwin, too, was a prolific reader; his literary output was prodigious; for a period of time he published a book annually. I must confess I’m not succeeding in my reading of The Origin of Species, this year’s One Book, One Campus selection. I hope that the students and faculty reading Darwin this year are faring better than I. The One Book, One Campus project was developed in part to encourage lifelong reading among our students, and is a cornerstone of IU South Bend’s general education. As for me, I will not abandon Darwin; I’m determined to learn from him. And speaking of forever learning, in the Fall I attended a UCET seminar by Julie Elliott whose research centers on adult literacy and the increase in reading nationwide among adults. As an educator and a lover of books, this is indeed good news.

In my November talk to the faculty, I mentioned learning communities as a way to achieve greater excellence for our university, and made a plea to establish these communities around a central theme or through linked courses. Randy Isaacson, who has achieved greater retention through U100 courses, presented an ambitious plan to me and to Vice Chancellor Jones to establish several linked courses in the Fall between U100 and courses in English, math, library and a beginning education orientation course. The idea is to have cohorts of students in pairings of courses working with student mentors and a faculty team. His plan will become part of the second year funding of Degrees of Excellence, the IU retention initiative. Of the probationary students taking U100 in the Fall, 79.7% were retained into the Spring semester versus 66.4% of those who did not enroll in a U100 course. Randy and his team of faculty and student mentors are optimistic that the linked courses will yield even higher retention rates. In addition to the U100 learning communities, I invite faculty to consider developing a themed learning community. I’d love to hear from you.

Financial assistance is another way we can help our students persist and succeed. I’d like to call your attention to a new scholarship service, the IU Foundation Online Scholarship Application. The online scholarship application is available to admitted and enrolled IU students through OneStart. By completing the online application a student will be considered for most of the nearly 200 scholarships which are directly administered by the IU Foundation. A listing of the scholarships can be found at http://iufoundation.iu.edu/students/scholarships.aspx. This listing includes all of the scholarships which can be applied for using the online application as well as a listing of IUF administered scholarships which require additional steps. Please make your students aware of this great resource.

Although winter lingers, consider it as one of the blessings of Indiana, four full seasons. Spring lurks in the distance.

Sincerely,

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

Congratulations to Mike Keen, who passed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) exam recently, making him an LEED-AP (accredited professional).

Congratulations to the School of Business and its students on their performance on the ETS exams. The 23 IU South Bend undergraduate students who took the business field test placed among the top 5% of the 564 participating institutions. Similarly, the 13 MBA students who took the exam placed among the top 10% of the 199 MBA programs nationwide who participated.

Our thanks is extended to faculty members in the following campus departments and units who completed their annual reports using the Online Faculty Annual Report system: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Criminal Justice, General Studies, Physics and Astronomy, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology, Nursing, Dental Education, Radiography. The experience and input of these colleagues will help to improve the report before it is adopted campus- and even system-wide.

Congratulations to the new College of Health Sciences. Following its administrative reorganization, the new name for the unit received approval from the Board of Trustees at its December meeting.

Congratulations also to Jorge Muniz who received a 2009 IU New Frontiers in the Arts & Humanities Program grant for $49,442 to support a project Requiem for the Innocent. The program is funded by the Lilly Endowment and administered by the IU Office of the Vice Provost for Research.

Gail McGuire just received funding from the City of Elkhart to complete her project “Residents’ Experiences in, and Perceptions of, their Neighborhood: A Survey of Elkhart’s Roosevelt Neighborhood.” She is working with a number of undergraduate students to complete this project.

Marvin Curtis also received some funding from the Community of Foundation of St. Joseph County to support the “Lift Every Voice...Celebrating the African American Spirit Concert” on February 21st. http://events.iu.edu/webevent.cgi?cmd=showevent;token=guest.02781b9c4b0b9c94c8d5e6287f29ffe1;eventID=428601

E-Portfolio Workshop

On Friday afternoon April 10th, the Assessment Committee will host a workshop on e-portfolios, and ways they can be used in individual classes and by academic programs. Susan Kahn and Lynn Ward, two IUPUI faculty members who have been instrumental in their e-Portfolio initiative, will discuss current e-portfolio tools, and improvements being made to further integrate e-portfolio technology into OnCourse. Examples from current courses and models for incorporating e-portfolios into a program will be shared. Join us and explore this important movement that supports student engagement in learning, curriculum development and authentic assessment of student achievement of key learning outcomes.

Froysland: Dean’s Seminar

The next Deans’ Seminar of the year will be held, Friday **February 27th** at noon in the UCET Classroom. Hayley Froysland, Assistant Professor of History, will make a presentation about her research entitled “Racial ‘Regeneration’ and the Quest to Progress: Public Health, Physicians, and the Eugenics Debate in Colombia, 1880-1936” in which, as she describes, “I will analyze the discourse on race, disease and degeneration expressed by prominent medical doctors and intellectuals in Colombia, some of whom became associated with an incipient eugenics movement beginning in the 1910s.” As always, drinks will be available and please feel free to bring your lunch. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Undergrad Research Conference

The Undergraduate Research Council will sponsor an Undergraduate Research Symposium to be held April 20-23 on the IU South Bend campus to spotlight and recognize research, scholarly and creative works by undergraduates. It is hoped this inaugural event will become an annual, week-long, campus-wide celebration of undergraduate research. Plan to attend and discover the outstanding and substantial research our undergraduates are conducting and in which they are taking part.

Upcoming Dean’s Seminar Dates
March 27, 2009 - Julio Hernando
April 17, 2009 - Rolf Schimmrigk

Award/Grant Opportunities:

The deadline for the last round of Faculty Research and Curriculum Development grants is February 27th. You can find the guidelines for proposals along with a list of R&D committee members here: http://www.iusb.edu/~sbres/randd/RDComm.html.

The assessment committee is accepting applications for assessment grants. These grants, for up to $3000, can be used for a variety of projects related to the assessment of student learning. More information and application guidelines are available at: http://www.iusb.edu/~sbassess/grants/granhome.shtml.

Publications

Please remember to send a full citation for each of your 2008 publications to Erika Zynda by email (ezynda@iusb.edu). This will ensure their inclusion in the 2008 Publication Listing. You should also send a hard copy of each publication to Erika through campus mail to be included in the Publication Reception on April 3rd.