Dear Colleagues,

Stories, we all love stories. Naturally, during this holiday season stories were shared among family and friends. Some no doubt were new, others revisited, and maybe embellished. If your family is like mine, the stories, particularly those from our youth, have added details that become part of family lore. Thinking about stories, I used my holiday break to catch up on some reading. Seated in my favorite chair near the fireplace, away from the family chatter, I discovered a wonderful story from the master of all storytellers, Samuel Clemens, affectionately known as Mark Twain. The story, titled “Southern Sports,” resonated with my Southern sensibilities. Growing up, I was unaware of any sport peculiar to Southern living. This particular story, written in Twain’s inimitable style, offered salacious details about cock fighting, mule racing, and steamboat racing with side-bar sarcasm of the press’ obsession with the parade of female fashion at such events. But what intrigued me most in this story was its auspicious beginning; Twain’s observations began with a probing analysis of how the War Between the States figures in the conversation among Northern and Southern gentlemen. Among the former group, the war caused little disruption in their daily lives, and hence, conversation about it was occasional and lighthearted. But in the South, where everyone was deeply affected by the war, war seemingly peppered every conversation. There the barometer of events was either pre- or post-war.

Topics:

Kudos
January Dean’s Seminar - Linton
Award Recipients
Symphonic Choir in DC
I imagine that each of us measures the passing of time by some significant event. In my lifetime, those events include the assassinations of the 1960s (the Kennedys, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, the Birmingham Bombings, the Civil Rights Workers in Mississippi) and the Vietnam War; and the more current tragedies of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. Not surprisingly, there are significant markers for our campus as well. Within the last eight years we can speak proudly of our campus’ massive facelift in the parlance of pre- and post-Chancellor Reck. And when thinking of the university’s progression in academic excellence, we tend to refer to the pre- and post-Chancellor Wolfson era. Now that Lynn Williams is officially retired, the faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences may converse similarly about the college’s achievements during his tenure.

Chances are the faculty in each of our colleges will remember significant events under the tutelage of their dean. Naturally, the faculty in the Raclin School of the Arts, as well as the entire campus, will remember in the months and years ahead Dean Curtis and the South Bend Symphonic Choir caroling at the White House in mid-December. Unfortunately, they did not meet President and Mrs. Obama, but they were visited by a very special guest, Mrs. Evan Bayh. Kudos to Dean Curtis and to the IU South Bend students who performed with the choir (see the photo on page 4). I invite you to hear the choir in performance with the South Bend Symphony on January 18th at our campus auditorium in celebration of Martin Luther King Day. This concert is one of several events planned throughout the semester leading to the grand opening of the Natatorium on May 23rd.

Just before the start of the holidays I began my reading of the PTR dossiers. As always, I receive enormous satisfaction in learning more intimately the extraordinary contributions of our faculty in teaching, scholarship and service. Particularly gratifying are the personal reflections on teaching and research. These thoughtful essays affirm the special purposes of our profession – the individual care of each student’s intellectual curiosity and each faculty member’s contribution to the expansion of knowledge in his/her discipline. What strikes me most is the eloquence in which the faculty express their devotion to student learning and the very cogent and precise manner in which they describe their research.

Now that the New Year is here, let’s remain optimistic that our nation’s economy is on the rebound. In the short term, tough budget decisions face us. The significance of budget cuts for Academic Affairs has not yet been fully determined. I will work closely with the chancellor, the Chancellor’s Cabinet, the Academic Cabinet and the Senate leadership in making the necessary reductions and sacrifices. Whatever we do, I can assure you that the entire leadership of the university holds steadfast to limiting the impact on academic excellence. I’m confident that with frank conversation and honest intentions we will emerge a stronger institution academically.

Good news for the New Year is the successful conclusion of the dean searches. Joining our scholarly community in July are Elizabeth Dunn from Bemidji State University in Minnesota as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Vicki Bloom from the University of California, Riverside as Dean of Library and Media Services. They come with impeccable credentials and strong capacity for visionary leadership; they will be excellent partners on the Academic Cabinet. I am indebted to Dean Michael Horvath and Professor Gwynn Mettetal for their excellent leadership of the search committees. I thank them and each of the committee members for their diligent and arduous work.

I wish each of you a year filled with personal happiness and professional growth and success.

Sincerely,

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

It’s that time of year when the Vice Chancellor has the responsibility and pleasure to read and evaluate the carefully prepared faculty dossiers for promotion and tenure. These documents always demonstrate the exceptional quality and the tremendous amount of effort by the outstanding faculty at IU South Bend.
Kudos

Kudos to two faculty members who were selected for IU South Bend teaching awards. At the November Academic Senate meeting Vice Chancellor Guillaume presented the awards to Isabel O’Connor (History) for the 2009 IU South Bend Distinguished Teaching Award and Al Vitale (English) for the 2009 IU South Bend Distinguished Part-Time Teaching Award. Congratulations to these outstanding faculty members!

Congratulations to Jeremy Linton who recently received a $9,000 grant from Wells Fargo to support a pilot program at the South Bend Community School Corporation regarding high school retention rates.

Congratulations to the School of Education. It received approval of the MAT in Special Education degree by the Indiana Department of Education.

Upcoming Travel Policy Notice

Once the policy is finalized, travelers (employee and non-employee) will have 60 days from the return date of their trip in which to submit travel reimbursement claims. After the 60 days, the account will be automatically cancelled and the traveler will not be able to seek reimbursement for travel expenses for that trip. [link]

11th Midwest SoTL Conference

Call for Proposals: for the 11th Midwest Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (April 9, 2010). “Good Practice in Action.” Proposals for 30-minute presentations, 20-minute panel presentations, 10-minute works-in-progress roundtable presentations, poster boards, and organized sessions are welcome. For details go to http://www.iusb.edu/~ucet/sotl.shtml.

Upcoming Dean’s Seminar Dates

Feb 26, 2010 - Theo Randall (Anthropology)
Mar 26, 2010 - Anne Brown (Mathematics)
Apr 23, 2010 - Gabriel Popescu (Geography)

Linton: Dean’s Seminar

Mark your calendars. The third Deans’ Seminar of the year will be held, Friday, January 22nd at noon in the UCET Classroom. Jeremy Linton, Assistant Professor of Counseling and Human Services in the School of Education, will make a presentation about his research entitled "Problem Gambling : The New-Old Hidden Epidemic in the United States" (abstract will be posted soon at the Academic Affairs website). As always, drinks will be available and please feel free to bring your lunch. I look forward to seeing you all there.

NSF Grant Policy Announcement

New NSF Requirement: Indiana University has registered with the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) for access to its website for Responsible Conduct of Research Tutorial for the research community. These modules will satisfy the new NSF requirement for grants submitted after 4 January 2010. The CITI website will provide the content and testing for the standardized portion of the IU program; Principal Investigators and other senior investigators will provide the discipline-specific part of this two-part program. To register, please visit http://researchadmin.iu.edu/REEP/reep_citi.html and follow the instructions. Once you have created an account, select the modules appropriate for your discipline and research activities. If you have questions about this new requirement contact Erika Zynda (ezynda@iusb.edu).

More Kudos

Our appreciation to Doug McMillen, who is serving for the Spring 2010 semester as Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences following the retirement of Lynn Williams.

Congratulations to the School of the Arts and especially Alicia Purcell, Jameson Cooper, Jennifer Fry, Inseung Park and Tim Hanson, on the extremely successful productions of the Christmas opera Amahl and the Night Visitors. The play was attended by over 1,900 in its 5 performances, two on campus, and one each at The Center for the Homeless, Navarre Intermediate School, and Brown Intermediate School.

Congratulations to the 6th semester nursing students who helped in the move of the St. Joseph Regional Medical Center and all its patients from the downtown South Bend facility to the new hospital building in Mishawaka on December 14th. These students served our community and represented IU South Bend well.

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IU South Bend in IU Home Pages

IU South Bend received attention in the most recent issue (online and in print) of IU Home Pages, with three articles featuring our faculty and campus activities. The campus One Book-One Campus presentation by Alex Kotlowitz was mentioned in an article “Books that bind” and photos of the campus theme chairs Nancy Botkin and Steve Gerencser as well as of VCAA Guillaume and Kotlowitz were included. In addition, recently published work by Kelcey Parker and Elaine Roth were noted in “For sale by owner” and “Mommy dearest,” respectively (the latter in the print version only). Finally, the joint Anthropology major at IU South Bend-IU Northwest was discussed at length in “Symbiosis.”

Choir at the White House

The Symphonic Choir of South Bend, the resident ensemble of The Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts, gave a 90-minute performance at The White House on December 21st on the State Floor of the residence. The concert took place in the front entrance of the White House in the Grand Foyer. Marvin Curtis is the choir’s conductor. The performance of the choir was highlighted by Ken Baierl in a release by IU South Bend (link). Congratulations!

IU South Bend Legacy Award 2010

Congratulations to Neovi Karakatsanis, Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science, who was recently announced as the 2010 recipient of the IU South Bend Legacy Award. The award is given annually by the IU South Bend Alumni Association to recognize full-time faculty members “who have made a significant impact on the lives of their students in the classroom and through mentoring, advising, or other activities.” Nominations are made by current and former students as well as faculty peers and staff.

The award was announced at the January 8th All-Campus Meeting and in addition to the plaque Neovi received, the winner can also designate into which Alumni Scholarship Program a $500 scholarship will be awarded in her or his name for the coming year. This is the third year for the award, with former recipients being Randy Isaacson and Tom Miller.