Dear Colleagues,

During the last few weeks, I was pre-occupied with the Promotion and Tenure dossiers and had no time for the February newsletter; hence, this combined issue with March. As you know, I had twenty-five dossiers to consider, and although I enjoy immensely getting to know my colleagues more intimately, the time spent reading, reflecting, and then writing a detailed recommendation precludes involvement in other necessary activities. So if I was not as available to you, or you did not see me around campus, picture me hunkered behind a mountain of folders, lost in time and space, in an exhilarated state, thinking what treasures lay before me of faculty teaching, research and service. It was indeed a labor of love. I now know more about drug addiction, railroads, landscape photography, 18th century motherhood in France, economic theory, quantum mechanical methods, transgender studies, attention-deficit/hyperactivity, the emergent influence of medical professions in transforming public health policy in Columbia and the applications of statistics in bio-informatics. This encyclopedic overview of knowledge, and the essential questions it engenders, makes my job the best in the academic community. What good fortune to be the chief academic officer at IU South Bend.

But my time in February was not solely occupied in the pursuit of knowledge; it involved as well its dissemination. I finished a book review on catastrophe in Francophone literature for the
Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr., Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Sincerely,

Our annual employee campaign is underway. I trust that you will give back in donation to IU South Bend to honor the excellent education that their patients will have in them and of their responsibility to treat during their pinning ceremony. I always remind them of the sacred trust ascribed to the extraordinary quality of the faculty, to the motivated students, and to unique partnerships we share with our clinical sites.

As routine preparation for their careers of service, our nursing students respond regularly to community need. As a New Orleans native, I was particularly moved when our nursing faculty and students traveled to New Orleans and Biloxi to provide critical health care in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. And when the terrible catastrophic tornadoes struck just east of us, our nursing students were critical health care providers. Throughout our community, student-nurses are lending helping hands in clinics and health fairs.

Additionally, the School of Nursing is considering a B.S. in health sciences as an alternative path for those interested in health-related fields. I’ve asked the dean to also map out a strategy in partnership with our area hospitals that would double the number of nursing graduates, with special attention to our accelerated nursing program. Regional and national statistics sound the alarm that there is a critical dearth of healthcare professionals. In many ways, IU South Bend is a responsive partner with our community. Estimates indicate that 75% of our nursing graduates remain in the community. There is a direct correlation then to the high quality of health care in our community with the highly educated and skilled nurses that IU South Bend provides. The irrefutable evidence that measures the quality of our nursing graduates is the pass rate for licensure examinations ranging from 90% to 100% in recent years. Successes like these are easily ascribed to the extraordinary quality of the faculty, to the motivated students, and to unique partnerships we share with our clinical sites.

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Following still the theme of community engagement, I’d like to spotlight interesting facts about our newest college/school, the College of Health Sciences, initiated with trustee approval in July 2009. The university’s health programs enjoy an intimate and vigorous partnership with our area hospitals and other healthcare providers. The health professions are a growth industry in an economy that is nearly stagnant or, if you will, moving at a snail’s pace. At IU South Bend the number of students interested in pursuing nursing as a career far exceeds the university’s ability to deliver courses and the available clinical sites in the community. Obviously, very qualified students are being forced to consider other options. A few manage to retain lingering hopes and, with luck, will be able to pursue their dreams; unfortunately, far too many others languish in a succession of courses with little chance of being accepted into the program. This is not acceptable. To correct the situation, the School of Nursing is considering a B.S. in health sciences as an alternative path for those interested in health-related fields. I’ve asked the dean to also map out a strategy in partnership with our area hospitals that would double the number of nursing graduates, with special attention to our accelerated nursing program. Regional and national statistics sound the alarm that there is a critical dearth of healthcare professionals. In many ways, IU South Bend is a responsive partner with our community. Estimates indicate that 75% of our nursing graduates remain in the community. There is a direct correlation then to the high quality of health care in our community with the highly educated and skilled nurses that IU South Bend provides. The irrefutable evidence that measures the quality of our nursing graduates is the pass rate for licensure examinations ranging from 90% to 100% in recent years. Successes like these are easily ascribed to the extraordinary quality of the faculty, to the motivated students, and to unique partnerships we share with our clinical sites.

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Additional programs within the College of Health Sciences include degrees in medical imaging and dental hygiene. It is commonplace to sit in a dentist’s chair and be serviced by an IU South Bend graduate. The same holds true if receiving radiographic services. All of the programs in the Health Sciences build upon the strong foundations in the arts and sciences. The health sciences students graduate well-equipped in the skills of their chosen profession and with a solid understanding of their sacred responsibility to those entrusted to their care. Each semester I have the privilege of saying a few words to our nursing graduates during their pinning ceremony. I always remind them of the sacred trust that their patients will have in them and of their responsibility to treat each with dignity and respect. And in parting comments, I ask that they give back in donation to IU South Bend to honor the excellent education they received and to assure that others will too.

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is on campus March 3-4 to review nursing for reaccreditation.

Our annual employee campaign is underway. I trust that you will give as you are able.

Sincerely,

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

VCAA Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr. was a 2010 recipient of the “The Dream is Now” Drum Major Community Service Award on January 18. This annual award, presented at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Recognition Breakfast and recognizes “individuals who unselfishly give their time and resources to help improve quality of life in St. Joseph County.” Calling to mind Dr. King’s famous speech of February 1968, the award, like the speech recognizes “the importance of community service and love for all humanity” (quotes from the letter to Dr. Guillaume from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation of Saint Joseph County and the South Bend Heritage Foundation notifying him that he had been selected to receive the award). Retired IU South Bend faculty member Richmond Calvin, Professor Emeritus of Education, was also the recipient of a Drum Major Award and was recognized at the same event. A South Bend Tribune article and an IU Home Pages article noted the awards.

End-of-Course Evaluation Workshop

Student course evaluations are an ubiquitous part of academic culture, but research suggests that they don’t always provide useful information for improving teaching and curricula. Can course evaluations be re-imagined so that they provide valuable information for assessing student outcomes?

On the afternoon of Friday April 2nd, UCET and the Assessment Committee are sponsoring a workshop to address questions about course evaluations and how they can be used most effectively. Howard Mzumara, Director of the Testing Center at IUPUI, along with a team of colleagues, will be leading the workshop. They have presented their findings at a number of conferences, and led workshops at several academic institutions.

Those with questions or who would like to attend, please contact rculbert@iusb.edu.

More Kudos

Mike Keen, Director of the Center for a Sustainable Future was interviewed about the center’s activities and it was featured on January 17 at 9:00 am on WNIT Public TV Channel 34, on the program Outdoor Elements.

The Euclid Quartet performed at the Indiana Music Educators Association Conference at the opening session and in a concert session in late January in Indianapolis.

The outreach program of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts received the Outstanding Program Award at the 2010 Indiana Parks and Recreation Association Awards Luncheon. The outreach program called “The Community Connection” works with The Martin Luther King Jr. Center and the Charles Martin Center in an afterschool program of music and art. The program was funded by the Arts Foundation Board and The African American Fund of Arts Everywhere and a grant from Sam’s Club.

Charles Hatley (Political Science Club President) and Angela Johnson (American Democracy Project Intern) were selected to participate in “A Capital Experience: Indiana State Government and You” through a competitive application process in which nine pairs of students were selected from across the state. The three-day workshop will take place in Indianapolis February 10-13.

Undergraduate music students Jeremy Ong (BME, Euphonium) and Jordan Cavitt (BM, Bassoon) from the Raclin School of the Arts have been selected to perform with the prestigious College Band Directors National Association Intercollegiate Band 2010 at the district convention at Illinois State University February 25-27. The CBDNA only holds 80 seats for nominated students from 5-6 states represented in this district convention. This is the first time in many years that two of our students will represent the IU South Bend Wind Ensemble at this convention.

Christine Pochert Ringle, a long-time associate faculty member in Business & Economics as well as Social Work, was recognized on February 11 by the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce with the Athena Award, recognizing an individual who has attained the highest level of professional excellence in their career and devoted time and energy to improve the quality of life of others.

Jeff Jones, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, was recently recognized with the Presidential Award by the Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce (for dedication and commitment to Economic Development and Community Improvement).
It was just announced at the IU News Room website that two IU South Bend faculty members will be among 16 IU faculty who will be recognized this year with Distinguished Teaching Awards. Beth Kern, Professor of Accounting in the School of Business and Economics will receive the Herman Frederic Lieber Memorial Award and Ann Grens, Associate Professor of Molecular and Developmental Biology in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences will be recognized with the President’s Award. Formal presentation of the awards will take place at the annual Celebration of Distinguished Teaching dinner at IU Bloomington on April 16th.

These outstanding faculty join previous award recipients on all the IU campuses as well as those from IU South Bend. The photograph above of P. N. Saksena, Business and Economics, at last year’s ceremony when he received the President’s Award appears currently as the banner for the Celebration webpage. More coverage will appear in the May edition of the VCAA News.

IU South Bend
Faculty Honors

Grants Awarded
Jerry Hinnefeld, Physics, has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for $444,857 for his project entitled “MRI-R2: Development of a Detection System for the Recoil Mass Separator St. George.” This is a two-year award for the construction of a time-of-flight mass spectrometer. This award is funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Micheline Nilsen, Arts, received a New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities grant for $19,998 for a project titled “Symposium Proposal for Documenting History, Documenting Progress. Exhibition of 19th Century Architecture Photographs.”

A proposal to the National Science Foundation’s Academic Research Infrastructure Program submitted by Andrew Schnabel and Deborah Marr, Biological Sciences, to renovate research, laboratory and classroom spaces in Northside Hall has been recommended for funding. Final word on funding and the level of funding are still pending.

Travel Grants Received
Lesley Walker, World Language Studies, and Robert Meyer-Lee, English, both received New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Exploration Travel Fellowships in the amount of $2,500.

IU South Bend Highlighted
Gretchen Anderson, Doug McMillen, and Jim Yokum were interviewed for a story in Chemical & Engineering News, a weekly magazine published by the American Chemical Society.

Ilan Levine’s work with PICASSO on Dark Matter was recently selected by the National Science Foundation’s division of Nuclear & Particle Astrophysics in budget arguments regarding NSF’s long-term goals.

Construction is in full swing on the second floor of the Administration Building. This area, home to many administration office areas, including Academic Affairs and the Office of the Chancellor, is expected to be complete by March, at which time those currently working in the Education and Arts Building will return to new spaces and the E&A Building will itself begin to be completely remodeled. Pictured at left in late January are Academic Affairs Manager, Nancy Plennert as well as Vice Chancellors Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr. and Bill O’Donnell.