Dear Colleagues,

These last few days have trumpeted the long awaited season of bright colors and perfumed scents. Spring is here, at least temporarily. Let’s hope this tease of warmer temperatures endures, steadfast in its resistance to any late seasonal frost. Like you, I welcome the return of early evening walks, much like those experienced by the nineteenth century French poet, Arthur Rimbaud, on the damp wet grasses, feeling the wind blow gently over my head (“Sensation”).

The academic year is quickly marching to its end. Before long, we will don our academic regalia and celebrate with our students the culmination of their intellectual journeys at IU South Bend. As they gleefully parade across the stage, we will retain fond, even nostalgic, memories of the lives that have been forever altered, theirs and ours, by the learning that we have pursued together. Jim Collins in his book, Good to Great, posits that greatness is a conscious choice and requires discipline. As I continue to reflect on my years here as vice chancellor for academic affairs, I become more resolute in my knowledge that the seeds for great achievement by our students are planted daily in the classrooms, labs, studios, and faculty offices. Over the years, we have nurtured their intellectual formation, listened to their dreams, guided them appropriately, encouraged them when they faltered, helped them see the possibilities, believed in their
potential, pushed them to heights beyond their expectation, and believed firmly that they could learn and achieve. The grand finale is May 11th. Let’s share their special moment with them. If you have not ordered your cap and gown, please do so immediately at the bookstore.

Undeniably, IU South Bend is an oasis of intellectual inquiry and debate. For three consecutive nights last week, artists and scholars engaged our university and external communities in provocative thought and dialogue. The Tuesday night spring event of the Library Speakers Series, featured Ken Jones, president of Wightman Petrie, a local engineering and environmental services firm. Jones addressed challenges our rural communities face in providing essential services to residences and businesses. He focused on the communities of Wyatt (here in St. Joseph County), and Macy (just south of Rochester) where the lack of appropriate water and sewage systems affected health, environment, and property values — and how his company found creative and affordable solutions. Margarete Myers Feinstein spoke on Wednesday evening to a group of students and community friends about her research on Polish displaced persons during the aftermath of the Holocaust.

The lecture as well as the follow-up questions gave vivid testimony to the power of resolve among displaced persons for survival, laden with an intense desire to reconnect to a Jewish identity. For the audience, history became not simply a detached subject of study but a personal insight into the trauma of being a displaced person. Understanding this troubling past of our collective history became a guidepost upon which to build the future of a shared global humanity. The following evening’s event with the iconoclastic Nikki Giovanni at the Century Center set the stage for the grand opening next month of the Natatorium/Civil Rights Heritage Center. The Civil Rights Movement and the Women’s Movement of the ’50s and ’70s gave voice to her provocative poetry. Direct and unapologetic in her views, Ms. Giovanni’s poetry demands that the reader/listener think deeply about the shortcomings of our democratic principles. Her lecture did not disappoint.

And just last evening, Ken Smith presented a superb lecture as the 2009-10 Lundquist Scholar on literacy, democracy, blogging and Twitter. The active engagement of the audience with the speaker illustrated the prominence of these twenty-first century forms of communication, with its unique language, in understanding and appreciating the world that unfolds.

In further engagement with our community, IU South Bend is partnering with the South Bend Public Library in One Book, One Michiana from April 11-May 9, 2010. The featured book is Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize novel, To Kill a Mockingbird. There are a number of events throughout the area associated with the reading of the novel including a presentation by Lee’s biographer, Charles J. Shields, on April 20th at 7pm in DW 1101. For a full list of scheduled activities visit: www.libraryforlife.org/onebook/.

Best wishes for a splendid spring.

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

Alexander Toradze, performed as a soloist in March in New York City with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The performance was reviewed in the New York Times (link) and was attended by a number of IU South Bend students and faculty members, including Marvin Curtis, Dean of the Ernestine Raclin School of the Arts. The review includes a highly complimentary and interestingly graphic description of Toradze’s performance. A similarly and even more praise-filled review appeared in the London Telegraph (link). Toradze also received rave reviews for his recent performances with the Seattle Symphony (link; see also link). (photo courtesy New York Times)

Alumni Award

Alma Powell, IU South Bend alumni, will receive an IU Distinguished Alumni Service Award at a ceremony in Bloomington in June. The award recognizes Alma’s service to the local community.

Dean’s Seminars

The final Dean’s Seminar of the academic year will be presented at noon in the UCET Classroom on April 23rd by Gabriel Popescu, Asst Professor of Geography. He will speak about his work regarding national borders and the effects of practices such as security checks on those individuals crossing borders and the data being collected by border agencies in his talk entitled “The Globalization of Borders and Social Life: Biopolitics, Networks and Remote Control” (abstract). As always, drinks will be available and please feel free to bring your lunch. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

IU South Bend In the News/Media

As part of its continuing series on “The Elkhart Project,” MSNBC recently featured a story about young people from Elkhart who are “Finding Their Way After High School,” including some IU South Bend students from Elkhart. See the story at this link.

Kevin Ladd’s research and work on prayer have been featured in the October 2009 issue of the widely-distributed European magazine Psychologies as well as the upcoming June or July issue of Ladies Home Journal here in the USA.

In a story about male nurses on WSBT-TV on March 16 (link), the IU South Bend Nursing Program and one of its students were noted. The student and program director Marta Makielski were both interviewed/quoted in the story and the accompanying web posting. Part of the footage in the story was taken on campus. The number of men in our program exceeds the national average.

The upcoming Tough Stuff Recycling Fest sponsored by the IU South Bend Center for a Sustainable Future was highlighted in a South Bend Tribune Business Weekly cover story on March 29. The project collects discarded electronics and other hard to dispose of items out of landfills. The event will be held on April 9 and 10. (link)

We MOVED!

Remodeling of the second floor of the Administration Building is completed and Academic Affairs moved from the temporary office space in the Education and Arts Building to our new suite (Administration Building Room 246). There are still boxes to be emptied but we are settling in to very nice spaces. Come visit and see how it turned out.

IU South Bend Faculty Honors

Five IU South Bend faculty were recently selected for membership in the 2010 class of FACET (Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching), the all-IU faculty group recognizing and dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning. A total of 21 faculty from all campuses of IU will be inducted at the Annual FACET Retreat at French Lick, IN on May 21. The IU South Bend faculty who will be inducted are Grant Black, B&E; Nancy Colburn, Library; Andrea Rusnock, Arts; J.R. (Warren) Shradar, Philosophy/CLAS; and Bruce Spitzer, Education.

On March 26th, two receptions were held on campus to recognize faculty members’ efforts. A reception for faculty who published during 2009 (link), where publications were on display, was followed by the annual Associate Faculty Reception honoring associate faculty who have reached significant milestones in their IU South Bend service (i.e., 5, 10, 15, 20 years, etc.). Recognized at this year’s event was John F. Koellner, Chemistry, who has served for 40 years as an associate faculty member. The complete list of honorees may be found at this link.

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