Dear Colleagues,

In just a few days we will bid farewell to another graduating class. We will share vicariously in their well-earned achievements as we watch them march elatedly across the stage. For many of these students, they will be the first college graduates in their families. Perhaps we will recall our first classroom experience with them and the impressions they made. Over the years, we’ve watched them grow more disciplined in their studies, more curious about how the application of that knowledge impacts the world around them. We’ve supported them as they questioned their learning; we’ve encouraged them to consider the implications of what they’ve learned, particularly its relatedness to their own hopes and aspirations. If they’ve listened carefully and reflected discriminately, we know that they are well-prepared to embark on the uncertain journey ahead besieged by the unrest of competing nations, the global impact of environmental irresponsibility, the precarious and teetering world economies, the competition for nuclear power and world dominance, and the increased incivility and intolerance coloring discourse and interaction.

As each receives his or her diploma, we can take great pride in the education we provided for them at IU South Bend. Each had opportunities to explore individual interests and expand talent through participation in the myriad student clubs and activities. They learned the meaning of...
democracy through the American Democracy Project; explored the power of individual courage through the Civil Rights Heritage Center; understood the empowerment of diversity through student clubs such as the Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Bisexual Alliance, the International Students Association, the Pan-Hellenic Club and other groups that celebrate the differences of a shared humanity; understood how leadership and teamwork produce goal-oriented results through student government; learned the power of expansive reading through the One Book, One Campus readings. We know, too, that some gained immeasurable advantages through a thorough grounding in our signature general education curriculum, through the Honors Program, or active engagement with faculty as undergraduate researchers. Others gained tangible benefits of poise and self-assurance through active participation in sports or in theatrical or musical performance and the debate team. What each graduate shares is that they entrusted us to shape their intellectual development, to help them understand the critical issues of their world, and to provide them with the appropriate tools to question and to seek responsible solutions. But this night is theirs to enjoy with family and friends; the next day promises a trove of adventures as they begin life’s journey. Godspeed to them with gratitude to their instructors who paved the way!

I am delighted to report two new administrative appointments beginning in the fall, Linda Chen as assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and Randy Colborn as associate dean in the Raclin School of the Arts. Linda was chosen among three outstanding faculty candidates. The other two candidates were Isabel O’Connor in history and Joe Chaney in English; we extend our gratitude to these two highly qualified individuals for applying. Linda, whose academic discipline is political science, brings a wealth of experience in administrative leadership as department and program chair and has served the campus in numerous special assignments and committees. She has been particularly active in graduate program development, advising, and was an inaugural member of the general education committee. She honed her leadership skills as a participant several years ago in the Bryn Mawr Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education. Recognized as an excellent teacher, she is a member of FACET and received a Teaching Excellence Recognition Award and is a former recipient of the all-university IU Wilbert Hites Mentoring Award. Like Linda, Randy has served and chaired numerous university and school committees. As a faculty member he has been a lynchpin in the Raclin School of the Arts’ theatre program. An exemplary faculty member with a strong interest in student success, Randy offers the dean solid experience in curriculum development, assessment, course scheduling and program review. He will be instrumental in assisting the school as it prepares for its initial accreditation. Please welcome these two faculty members in their new roles.

After years of thoughtful planning by faculty, staff, students and community members, the Engman Natatorium in the West Washington neighborhood will be dedicated on May 23rd. A formerly segregated facility, the Natatorium will be home to the university’s Civil Rights Heritage Center and will be an important outreach to the external community and a living symbol of reconciliation and hope. Kevin Lamarr James, director of the Civil Rights Heritage Center and the Natatorium, promises an exciting array of public and academic programming in the year ahead. Details about the grand opening are forthcoming. Recently, a highly successfully New Orleans crawfish boil sponsored by three churches, St. Augustine’s Catholic Church, The Episcopal Cathedral of St. James and First United Methodist Church, raised financial support for the Natatorium. The evening of crawfish, gumbo, jambalaya, corn, potatoes and boudin and alligator sausages was such a grand success that there is heightened anticipation for a repeat event next year.

In closing, I’d like to thank each of you for your dedicated service to our students and to the extraordinary work that you do through your research and teaching. Your dedicated work assures unparalleled academic excellence and prominence for our university. Best wishes for a grand summer of fun and exotic travels. The next VCAA News will appear in August.

Sincerely,

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

Retiring Faculty:

A reception will be held on May 10, 2010 in the Alumni Room from 4:00 to 5:30 pm to honor those faculty retiring this year. They are:

• David Barton, Professor of Music
• Eileen Bender, Professor of English
• Jennifer Klein, Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene
• Brenda Knowles, Professor of Business Law
• Fred Naffziger, Professor of Business Law
• Michele Russo, Dean of Library and Media Services

Linda Chen, Professor of Political Science, will assume the position of Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in August 2010

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Kudos

Kudos to Bill Feighery, his committee and all the undergraduates for a remarkably successful Undergraduate Research Conference. Special recognition goes out to the members of the organizing subcommittee: Julie Elliott, Lee Kahan, Andrea Rusnock, and Yilei Qian. (picture left)

Kudos to Rebecca Brittenham and Randy Isaacson for their thoughtful leadership in working with a committee of faculty and staff in the early designs of a First-Year Experience for Fall 2011.

Kudos to all the faculty and staff working diligently with the Noel-Levitz consulting group on retention and advising.

Kudos to Mike Keen and his committee on sustainability for the largest community technology recycling day held last month and for the environmental conversations during Earth Day. (picture below)

IU South Bend Faculty Honors

IU South Bend faculty were recently recognized for their teaching excellence by their selection to receive a Trustee Teaching Award for 2010. A total of 16 IU South Bend faculty received this recognition this year. The IU South Bend faculty are:

Nancy Colburn, Library
Steven Gerencser, Political Science
Alec Hosterman, Arts
Jake Mattax, English
Yilei Qian, Biological Sciences
Denise Skarbek, Education
Mihaela Vaijac, Mathematical Sciences
LuAnn Woodrick, Nursing

Hayley Fraysland, History
Yoshiko Green, World Language Studies
Betsy Luca, Sociology & Anthropology
Kwadwo Okrah, Education
J.R. (Warren) Shrader, Philosophy
Cynthia Sofhauser, Nursing
Katharine Wolford, English
Lisa Zwicker, History

Tough Stuff Recycling Fest at IU South Bend, April 14 (Photo courtesy Kathy Borlik)

Students attend a poster session at the Undergraduate Research Conference held at IU South Bend, April 16 (Photo courtesy Rebecca Torstrick)