Dear Colleagues,

The advent of the new academic year is suddenly upon us. Those longingly anticipated weeks of summer that loomed ahead in May have quickly dissipated. The traditional summer ritual of academic life devoted to research, curricular preparations, travel and respite was hopefully beneficial to all. For me, the summer provided welcomed time for recovery from surgery. During that period of relative calm and reflection, I selfishly pampered myself, reading voraciously, becoming re-acquainted with fictional and historical characters. I imagined worlds far beyond the confines of my favorite couch. The time afforded me ample opportunity to reflect peacefully on life’s mysteries and its gifts. Appreciation of family, colleagues and community occupied my thoughts. I was and continue to be blessed by the seemingly constant flow of well-wishes in the form of cards, gifts and visits. The gifts I treasured most were books, classic and contemporary. I was particularly gratified to receive a beautiful edition of War and Peace. Having read heretofore only excerpts in my undergraduate World Literature class, I made a vow that I would finish Tolstoy’s epochal and monumental tome within a year. Particularly engrossing was the more contemporary novel, The Help, a disquietly realistic portrayal of black domestic workers in the Deep South during the 1960s. As a feature of VCAA News, I welcome, and will publish, comments from you, faculty and staff, about your summer reading.

Well, we know that Henry Scott has certainly been busy this summer; his reading is of a different sort, studying rock formations as he pedals across the USA! (link)
The year opens with attention to the new strategic plan and to President McRobbie’s charge to all IU campuses to develop new academic directions. I look forward to working with the deans in maximizing the operational plans already developed and in setting priorities within Academic Affairs that advance the institutional interests embedded in the plan. And to ensure that IU South Bend plays a pivotal role in realizing President McRobbie’s universal aspirations for Indiana University, the deans and I will engage the faculty in determining our campus contributions to the president’s charge of academic directions that enhance IU’s core mission of teaching, research and service. Our response may well be in the innovative approaches that buttress our existing strengths. Certainly, our university’s already established commitments to teaching excellence and undergraduate research are excellent foci as well as newer initiatives with the Civil Rights Heritage Center/Natatorium and the Center for a Sustainable Future. The ensuing discussions are slated to coalesce into a university-wide conference in spring of 2010. The conference offers a unique opportunity to highlight IU South Bend’s singularity among regional campuses and to demonstrate the creative ways through which our campus fulfills IU’s statewide mission. As I noted in my ten-year retrospective address to the faculty last fall, great universities are nimble, generating new knowledge as they experiment with fresh ideas and novel concepts. Their faculty seek and discover, perpetually renewing themselves in the generation of new ideas, while at the same time engaging the broader world community, always questioning, always envisioning and willing to take risks. A year later, I remain convinced that IU South Bend is that kind of institution.

The Strategic Plan is a catalyst for us to hone our thinking about our university’s future. It’s imperative that we ask ourselves what we envision as the university’s future within the next five years and beyond. What excites me most about our university’s future is its involvement with our community as an economic partner and as a cultural oasis for the arts and humanities. As important as workforce development is for our region, our professional schools and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have an essential role in producing the informed citizenry necessary to the principles of a democratic republic. Our Strategic Plan, concomitant with its operational objectives, is our opportunity to seize the momentum of the last several years in our campus’ development and imagine a university unparalleled in its regional mission. Unique opportunities exist within the ever increasing bond between Academic and Student Affairs. The on-going outreach to faculty in advising and retention initiatives to be rolled out in the fall is a direct outcome of our partnership with Noel-Levitz. Throughout the year, anticipate continuing conversations about student-centered services and learning.

Distance education will play a key role in our future as we reframe our curricular offerings to adapt to alternative learning styles and increased student options. I expect the university to become increasingly diverse, expanding its outreach to communities across the region and state. How well we respond to using new technologies as methods to enhance educational opportunity will determine how well we fulfill our role in meeting the state’s mandate of ever broadening access to higher education.

For the second summer in a row IU South Bend’s Center for a Sustainable Future partnered with Notre Dame in the Summer Science and Education Development Series (SEEDS) and welcomed students from Grace Community Center. While on campus, the students participated actively in science experiments led by Deb Marr designed to increase their knowledge about the environment. Kudos to Deb and to Mike Keen. Learn more from recent press coverage (link).

As in previous years, there will be many opportunities for faculty, staff and students to engage in thoughtful conversation about this year’s One Book, One Campus selection, The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx that accompanies our annual theme, “The Meaning of Work.” While we do not live in a communist society as described by Marx, twenty-first century international relations are shaped by his ideas. This year’s co-chairs are Paul Mishler and David Vollrath. More information about the thematic year is located at this link.

At the All-Campus meeting on August 27th, the 2010 leadership team within Academic Affairs will be introduced and includes several new faces, Elizabeth Dunn, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Vicki Bloom, Dean of the Library and Media Services; Linda Chen, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science; and Tim Ryan, Director of Extended Learning Services. Additional appointments within Academic Affairs include Marianne Castano Bishop who adds to her responsibilities as UCET Instructional Strategies Consultant, the title of Program Coordinator for Distance Learning; and Lee Streby, Grants Writer. Lee has additional duties within Public Affairs and University Advancement working with Vice Chancellor Ilene Sheffer. [see pictures on page 4]

Best wishes for grand success throughout the year!!! Remember to send comments about your summer reading.

Sincerely,

Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr., Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Natatorium Grand Opening

The Engman Natatorium, a place of racial discrimination in South Bend’s history, was opened on May 23 as the new home for the IU South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center at the Natatorium (pictures from the ceremonies left and below). The Activities of the CRHC in this facility will work to build tolerance and understanding in the local community and beyond. Its peace garden, in the location of the former pool, provides a memorial as well as a symbol of hope for the future.

More information about the Natatorium, its historic past, and a video, Divided Waters: Healing a Community’s Past, may be found at this link.

Pictures and coverage of the Grand Opening may be found at the IU South Bend website at the following two links (link | link).

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Kudos

Kudos to Jay Vander Venn (Sociology & Anthropology) for the coverage of the “urban dig” (link) by his archeology field school students in the area near Coveleski Regional Stadium in downtown South Bend.

Kudos to three IU South Bend faculty members who have been appointed to leadership roles in the all-IU FACET (Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching; link). These faculty are: Deborah Marr (Biological Sciences), co-liaison for IU South Bend; Roesanne Cordell (Library), IU South Bend representative to the FACET Steering Committee; Neovi Karakatsanis (Political Science) IU South Bend representative to the FACET Steering Committee.

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Grants & Awards

IU South Bend’s Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts was awarded a $150,000 matching grant from the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County to support the renovation of Northside Hall’s Recital Hall and Upstage Theatre. (link)

Three IU South Bend faculty members are the recipients of 2010 New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Exploration Traveling Fellowships in the amount of $2,500. These faculty are: Chu He (English), Neovi Karakatsanis (Political Science), and Lyle Zynda (Philosophy).

Elaine Roth (English) has received a prestigious and competitive Fulbright Award. The award will support her to teach North American Literature and Culture Studies at the Universidad de Madrid in Spain.

Susan Moore (Arts) received a $2,000 Individual Artist Grant from the Indiana Arts Commission to support her new photography project that documents suburban landscapes.

Rolf Schimmrigk and Monika Lynker were awarded a two-year grant from NSF for $124,799 for their work on RUI: Modular Black Hole Entropy.

Anne Brown, working with Amanda Seveney at the Riverbend Community Math Center, received a grant of $6,000 from the Mathematical Association of America for their project entitled “Founding a Math Center at Young Middle School.”
New Faces in Academic Affairs

We welcome the new members of the Academic Affairs team:

Top Row (left to right): Linda Chen, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Elizabeth Dunn, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Vicki Bloom, Dean of the Library and Media Services.

Bottom Row (left to right): Lee Streby, Grants Writer; Tim Ryan, Director of Extended Learning Services; Marianne Castano Bishop, Coordinator of Distance Learning.

Announcements

The deadlines for the competition for the 2010-11 ACLS Fellowships are in early fall. In the past year, the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) awarded in excess of $15 million to 380 scholars in the USA and working abroad in the humanities and related social sciences. Contact the Office of Research Administration (sbres@iusb.edu) if you are interested in applying. Profiles of recent Fellows as well as proposal abstracts are available online.

The IU Phone Directory has essentially switched to online availability. As relayed by Beverly Church of OIT, “This year IU South Bend received only 50 of the all campus IU Faculty/Staff Directories. Please join in the university’s sustainability efforts by switching from the printed version to online at: http://phonebook.iu.edu.”

The Chancellor asked for proposals for one-time unmet campus needs projects. Recommendations have been made and the Chancellor will be announcing the funded projects soon, but we wish to thank those who submitted proposals and particularly the Budget Committee members who reviewed and made recommendations regarding funding priorities to the Chancellor. Our campus and its programs and students will be well served by the variety of worthwhile projects these funds will support. We will provide a link to the funded projects in our next issue of VCAA News.

Faculty need to be aware of the new Travel Reimbursement Deadline Policy which becomes effective 9/1/10. Travelers (employee and non-employee) will have 60 days from the return date of their trip in which to submit travel reimbursement claims. Reimbursements submitted after this 60 day period will be considered taxable income. After 120 days from the return date of the trip, there will be no reimbursement. Indiana University Foundation Funds may not be used for the reimbursement after this time period either.

Assessment Grant Opportunities:

The Assessment Committee accepts applications for assessment grants throughout the year. These grants, for up to $3,000, can be used for projects related to the assessment of student learning. Information and guidelines available at: www.iusb.edu/~sbassess/grants/granhome.shtml

Kudos

Congratulations to Professor Emerita Eileen Bender. She was recognized by Governor Mitch Daniels for her outstanding service and character with a Distinguished Hoosier Award.