Dear Colleagues,

As I strolled along the mall during Welcome Week, I noticed on the faces I encountered excitement and enthusiasm, perhaps even bewilderment on some. No matter the expressiveness, I seemed to be enveloped in a sheath of energy that brought nostalgic memories of my own college days returning to campus after a long humid and hot Louisiana summer. And although IU South Bend is considerably more north, the heat along the mall was equally overbearing.

Yet fond memories of college days linger. But lately, I’ve been preoccupied with recent news from my native land. On the heels of the BP oil spill comes now the fifth anniversary of the natural and manmade catastrophe, Katrina. The barrage of media images depicting human suffering and physical devastation gnaw painfully. Five years have not obliterated my fears about the loss of rich bayou and urban cultures so peculiar to Southern Louisiana. Unquestionably, Katrina altered permanently the lives of those whose roots trace several generations of Cajun and Creole culture. Many among my own immediate and extended family have yet to return. I recall my own sense of hopelessness at the time, captured in two essays written in the aftermath of those dark days, and now re-published on the American Democracy Project blog by Ken Smith (link). That despair of five years ago yields tenuous hope that the Crescent City is now on the mend. The media images eagerly seek to portray, though artificially, a vibrant frolicking city. That is the New Orleans of tourism; but those of us who grew up there
understand that this city at the bend of the Mighty Mississippi is a uniquely American city shaped by the cultures of Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. Professor Emeritus Roger Hamburg, an aficionado of zydeco music, sums it up succinctly, “San Diego has wonderful weather, but New Orleans is a treasure.”

Other anniversaries of note are the tenth anniversary of the Civil Rights Heritage Center and the fiftieth year since the publication of Harper Lee’s enduring novel To Kill A Mockingbird. As to the former, I was privileged to attend a commemorative dinner this past summer where the first Freedom Summer students reflected on their experiences of traveling through the South visiting the historical sites of the Civil Rights Movement. Their stories of meeting ordinary citizens who exhibited extraordinary courage in defiance of Jim Crow were moving testimony of their own personal transformations. Perhaps the most important lesson they learned was that the civil rights struggles was not localized simply in the South but that similar patterns of discrimination existed in their own northern communities. They responded by collecting local histories of Civil Rights pioneers in the Michiana area. The audio repository now resides with the IU South Bend Engman Natatorium, dedicated in mid-May.

As part of One Book, One Michiana, in partnership with the South Bend Public Library, IU South Bend hosted a lecture by Charles J. Shields, author of Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee. Mr. Shields presented an intimate introduction of Ms. Lee and a vivid re-calling of the Southern norms and local situations that gave birth to the novel. This engagement with our community was initiated by librarian Julie Elliott.

In my August newsletter, I invited the faculty and staff to send me comments about their summer reading. Anne Brown in mathematical sciences responded, “Sounds like you did some interesting reading this summer, as I did. I enjoyed reading A Rebel Life (a biography of Molly Ivins), Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand (a novel with a new perspective on immigrant issues in the UK), and now I’m re-reading To Kill a Mockingbird. I was also fortunate to be able to travel to London, Paris, Bruges and Amsterdam with my daughter during the first two weeks of July.” I welcome other comments about summer reading and/or travel.

And although the campus just read a couple of years ago, Charles Darwin’s The Origin of Species, for One Book, One Campus, Mr. Darwin is visiting us once again as part of “Reacting to the Past.” This time he is the guest of our new dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Elizabeth Dunn who has used this pedagogical game in interactive learning. In her words, “Reacting to the Past consists of a series of highly developed role playing games which empower students to take charge of their own education by allowing them to submerge themselves into critical historical moments in a transdisciplinary setting... Focused on some past event or decision of significance, the games assign character roles to each student, require an unusual amount of both speaking and writing, and demand above all else that students engage in an important historical text in order to play successfully.” In early October, I’ll be joining the CLAS chairs in role playing during their retreat in a game developed by Elizabeth Dunn, Charles Darwin, the Copley Medal, and the Rise of Naturalism. And since Jeff Jones has already demonstrated his prodigious acting skills in last spring’s West Side Story, he will be participating as well. In my October newsletter, I’ll reflect on the experience.

Best wishes for a productive semester,

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

---

In Memoriam (based on the Vice Chancellor’s August 10 Posting at the Campus Bulletin Board)

Eileen Bender

With sadness and a deep sense of loss, the campus bids farewell to our beloved colleague, Professor Emerita Eileen Bender who passed away earlier this month. Hours before her death I had the privilege of presenting to her the Distinguished Hoosier Award from Governor Mitch Daniels for her extraordinary contributions in education, distinguished public service and for exemplary citizenship. In her inimitable way, she radiated strength and grace as I read the proclamation. She served our campus well as Professor of English with teaching specialties in Young Adult and Children’s Literature, 19th, 20th and 21st century American Literature, Native American Literature and Women’s Studies. She was instrumental in the development of the Women’s Studies Program. One of her biggest contributions to IU South Bend was her extraordinary leadership across campus, particularly as co-chair of the last Higher Learning Commission re-accreditation self-study. Eileen’s leadership extended university-wide including being the founder and first director of FACET. She also played a pivotal role in the advising of Indiana University presidents, working particularly as a confidante to former IU president Thomas Ehrlich. Eileen had a deep love for this campus, for our faculty, students and staff. Her impact on IU South Bend’s future is deeply embedded and will be felt for many years. She will be deeply missed.

A South Bend Tribune editorial about Eileen may be found at this [link](link).

---

Professor Emerita Eileen Bender
Assessment Activities

The assessment committee is able to sponsor a limited number of faculty members at the Assessment Institute, one of the most respected conferences on academic assessment. It is held each fall in Indianapolis, this year from October 24 to 26. It is the nation’s oldest and largest event focused exclusively on Outcomes Assessment in Higher Education and is designed to provide opportunities for:

- individuals and campus teams new to outcomes assessment to acquire foundation knowledge about the field,
- individuals who have worked as leaders in outcomes assessment to extend their knowledge and skills,
- those interested in outcomes assessment at any level to establish networks that serve as sources of support and expertise beyond the dates of the Institute.

For more information, the conference website is: [http://planning.iupui.edu/conferences/national/nationalconf.html](http://planning.iupui.edu/conferences/national/nationalconf.html)

This conference always fills quickly. If you are interested in attending, or have any questions, please contact rculbert@iusb.edu.

The annual report of the IU South Bend Assessment Committee may be viewed at this [link](#).

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](http://www.iusb.edu/~sbassess/grants/granhome.shtml)

Men in Kilts

Vote for Vice Chancellor Guillaume and support a great cause! The Vice Chancellor is taking part in an event to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Michiana. A donation of $50 provides one night lodging for a family in the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Memorial Children’s Hospital. Visit [meninkilts.org](http://meninkilts.org) for more information and to donate/vote. Alfred has promised that if he “wins” (gets the most votes) he will wear a kilt to an Academic Senate meeting!!!!!!