Dear Colleagues,

This past weekend I was a student once again, participating in the Reacting class at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ Chairs’ retreat. And what an experience it was! My colleagues and I reenacted proceedings of the Royal Society as we deliberated Darwin’s merit for the Copley Medal, the most prestigious prize given to an accomplished scientist, intellectual and gentleman in Victorian England. Several weeks before the retreat, I was given my assignment as a junior philosopher, friend of John Stuart Mill, whose friendship I am proud of and inclined to boast about. Since I am a motivated student, I took my assignment seriously and sought to learn as much as I could about John Stuart Mill and the promulgation of his ideas, including research about Darwin’s evolutionary thesis detailed in his *Origin of Species*. I was already familiar with Darwin from my formative education in high school and college, but had never read, in its entirety, Darwin’s groundbreaking book. Two years ago, when *The Origin of Species* was selected for our One Book, One Campus reading, I vowed to read every word. I failed miserably. So given a second chance, I began my reading in earnest, only to fail yet again. I must confess, there are many beautifully crafted words and sentences, of which I marvel, that flow into ideas, but I could not muster sufficient energy to complete the book. Perhaps my colleagues in the sciences can entertain forgiveness.
Though I did not complete Darwin, I did the best I could to know him. But then just a week before the retreat, I panicked. The procrastinator that I am had not done enough homework. In the two nights remaining, I crammed, reading and taking notes. Hmm! I remember when I did this as an undergraduate, I retained little. And as expected, what scarce information I had gained quickly evaporated by the time the first session of the Royal Academy began with the sound of General, Sir Edward Sabine’s gavel, so aptly enacted by Lesley Walker. And so the deliberations began. I marveled at the alacrity and skill of my colleagues as they debated, men of integrity, each taking a position and defending in character their informed opinions about Darwin’s scientific method, arguing whether he reached his conclusions through inductive reasoning or hypothetical-speculation. And added to the intrigue of it all laid the subtext of religious validity argued by the liberal and conservative clerics expertly executed by Jerry Hinnefeld and Lyle Zynda. What was most amazing was how each of my colleagues, the astronomer, the anthropologist, the paleontologist and others, stepped into their roles, embattled vociferously in their opinions and values, while adhering to the highest decorum expected of English gentlemen.

The weekend was immensely gratifying as the camaraderie that naturally accompanies frivolity and good conversation, spontaneously nurtured our attachments to characters of the past. For the last several weeks, I’ve been working with Elizabeth Dunn, Rebecca Brittenham, Randy Isaacson, Johnny McIntosh and Jeff Jones in shaping a first-year experience here at IU South Bend. Though we envision students having two or three different programmatic choices, I strongly support Reacting to the Past as a viable option and an exciting way to learn. You’ll read more about first-year experiences in a future newsletter.

You’ve often heard me make reference to the purposeful role of a public university, one engaged with its community. We have many sterling examples throughout our university. A prime exemplar of that engagement occurred with the recent world premiere of Jorge Muñiz’s haunting orchestral and choral composition, Requiem for the Innocent, magnanimously interpreted by the South Bend Symphony. At the end of the seventh movement’s crescendo, the practically full symphonic hall, bereft with emotion, stood in appreciation with thunderous applause. Congratulations to Jorge for this gift to our community. There is no doubt that his beautiful composition that calls us all to empathy and understanding as a united people will be performed in concert halls throughout the world. What a grand testimony of the creative spirit! Congratulations, too, to the Raclin School of the Arts for enriching our lives.

Next Friday, October 15th, at 3:30pm I invite you to join Chancellor Reck, the Bender family and me in the University Grille for a memorial celebrating the astonishing life of a dear colleague and friend of IU South Bend, Professor Emeritus Eileen Bender. Her impact on the excellence of this university is legendary and will be felt for decades. Come and share your stories.

I also invite you to attend on that Friday as well, the Academic Senate Meeting, where I will be delivering my Annual State of Academic Affairs Address. Last year, I gave a ten-year retrospective; this year I will be reflecting on the integration of our Strategic Plan with IU’s Blueprint for Regional Campuses. And naturally, I will celebrate the distinctive character of our university and its manifestations of a great public university through the achievements of our colleges and schools.

Sincerely,

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

Student Accolades
Melissa Lentine (photo at right), a senior psychology major, has experienced several accomplishments recently. Melissa is a member of the Professor Dé Bryant’s Social Action Project as well as Associate Professor Kevin Ladd’s Social Psychology of Religion Lab. First, over the summer she was appointed to serve on the Executive Committee’s Task Force on Student Involvement for Division 36 (Psychology of Religion) of the American Psychological Association. Second, she worked for Division 36 to help coordinate their hospitality suite at the APA annual conference in San Diego in August. This level of activity with the flagship organization of psychology is atypical for undergraduate students. Third, she has just been accepted to be part of “an intensive leadership training hosted at the White House in partnership with the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in Washington, DC” (this quote and more information may be found at this link). Congratulations to this outstanding student and the faculty in Psychology.

Congratulations and Thanks
Congratulations to Debbie Knabe (photo at right) who will begin a new position in International Programs after several years working in the Office of Academic Affairs. We thank her for her hard and dedicated work to Academic Affairs and wish her the best in International Programs.

Top right: Melissa Lentine; Bottom right: Debbie Knabe.
Ryan Award

The annual John W. Ryan award, recognizing one or two faculty members, is IU’s highest honor for faculty who have made distinguished international contributions to the university. For application guidelines, please see this link.

Nominations for the John W. Ryan Award should be submitted to Patrick O’Meara, Vice President for International Affairs (Bryan Hall 104, IUB), by November 19, 2010. Nominations by individuals, chairs, deans and senior administrators will be accepted. Please send a C.V. and no fewer than three and no more than eight letters of support. These letters should document as thoroughly as possible the nominee’s qualifications taking into account the criteria in the guidelines. The internal and external letters of reference should provide information on how the candidate contributes to the international mission and stature of Indiana University. They should document the candidate’s impact on international research, teaching, and service as well as the overall internationalization of the university. Nominations from previous years can be reactivated by sending a note or a new letter of nomination.

Funding and Other Opportunities

The Vice President for International Affairs has announced a Faculty Exchange Program that offers a great opportunity to work on research, collaborate with and meet exceptional faculty in one of 14 faculty exchange universities (e.g., Costa Rica, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, China, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Thailand). This program is a good opportunity for faculty with international interests who can only afford to be away for about a month during a summer or sabbatical, etc. Follow this link for more information. The deadline for applications is November 18.

Kudos

The world premiere of Assistant Professor of Music Jorge Muñiz’s (photo at left) composition Requiem for the Innocent was presented on Saturday, October 2 by the South Bend Symphony Orchestra. The event received attention in Spain and a wonderful review in the South Bend Tribune. [La Voz de Asturias; SB Trib1, SB Trib2 review]

Rebecca Torstrick (photo at left) has been named one of three Assistant Vice Presidents for University Regional Affairs [link]. Among Becky’s responsibilities will be such activities as Early Warning Systems, CollegeGo! Week, intercampus academic programs, tracking systems for academic affairs, and various aspects of the Blueprint for Student Attainment Initiative.

Two IU South Bend faculty members have received August 2010 New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Exploration Traveling Fellowships. Lisa Zwicker received $1,250 and Anne Magnan-Park was awarded $2,500.

Dora Natella was the recipient of the Bronze Medal/The Green-Wood Cemetery Award at the National Sculpture Society’s 77th Annual Exhibition, held in Brookgreen Gardens, Pawleys Island, SC. The award was given for her piece, Portrait of Angel (photo at left).

Memorial Service

A memorial service for Professor Emerita Eileen Bender, who passed away on October 2 by the South Bend Symphony Orchestra. The event received attention in Spain and a wonderful review in the South Bend Tribune. [La Voz de Asturias; SB Trib1, SB Trib2 review]