Office of Academic Affairs

Dear Colleagues,

If you haven’t begun the annual ritual of clearing winter’s residue of dried leaves, fallen twigs, and other sundry natural and man-made materials from your garden beds, spring’s arrival is a gentle nudge to rouse you from procrastination into full throttle yard work. After a long harsh winter, the welcomed warmer weather promises renewed energy and heightened interest in exploring the outdoors. Chirping birds, flowering trees and the panorama of colorful gardens announce nature’s cyclical rebirth. It’s a magical time of year that also marks the approaching end of the scholastic year. For students, research papers are due as final exams loom. Buried under mounds of papers and exams, professors calculate final grades and think excitedly about summer travel and research. For professor and student alike, summer’s respite is a time to re-connect with self and others, to re-evaluate priorities and goals and to prepare for the next scholastic year.

I learned recently in reading Pops, an engrossing biography of jazz great, Louis Armstrong, that Woody Allen listed Satchmo’s rendition of “Potato Head Blues” as one of life’s pleasures “worth living.” Other things Allen considers “worth living” include Marlon Brando, Groucho Marx, Willie Mays, Frank Sinatra, Swedish movies, the slow movement of the Jupiter Symphony, Gustave Flaubert’s L’Education sentimentale and Paul Cézanne’s apples and pears. Naturally, I immediately began to think of what might be included in my “worth living” list. Included
would be Mozart’s Clarinet Quintet, the tango, Flaubert’s Madame Bovary, Charles Baudelaire’s Les Fleurs du Mal, Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man, single malt scotch, Meryl Streep, Oscar Peterson, Southern France, Moroccan cuisine, Ella Fitzgerald, the big band sounds of Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, Elgar’s Cello Concerto, particularly as interpreted by Jacqueline du Pré, quiet meditations, and Georgia O’Keefe’s Southwest tableaux. This list is by no means exhaustive; I imagine I could dream up dozens of lists equally attractive. What would be on your list? I’d appreciate knowing. As my retirement approaches within the next year, I can even imagine an IU South Bend “worth living” list. Shhh! I dare not reveal it until then.

Kudos to Michael Horvath who will be leaving IU South Bend this summer to become provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of West Georgia. During his tenure as dean of the School of Education, he brought renewed energy and broad aspiration in his vision of excellence. His leadership has been unparalleled in leading the school to a successful NCATE accreditation; in the recruitment of outstanding faculty dedicated to student success and with promising potential in research; in the strategic usages of technology as a pedagogical tool; and in redefining the undergraduate curricula to meet state and national criteria. Under his tutelage several new degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate level were instituted; he developed strong alliances with the Liberal Arts and Sciences disciplines and reached across divisional lines to establish partnerships with Student Affairs. Perhaps his greatest strength and his enduring legacy will be the ties he established with the school corporations, the business and civic communities and the non-profit sectors, like United Way, in addressing the critical educational and social issues attached to retention, attrition and poor academic performance. Soon after his promotion was made public, several prominent citizens from the public and private sector mentioned to me that his departure would be a loss for our community. No doubt, Dean Horvath will thrive in his new post. This native Hoosier leaves the heartland of corn for the land of Georgia peaches. We wish him well.

The One Book, One Campus selection for next year is Fareed Zakaria’s The Post-American World. Only one hundred twenty-two campus votes were cast during the two-week voting period. The votes cast are disappointing. Each year extraordinary efforts are made to get broad participation. The One Book, One Campus supports the annual campus theme. Next year’s theme is “At Home and Abroad”: Global Awareness, Learning, and Experience. I hate to think that this wonderful idea has run its course. If you have suggestions that would increase voter participation, please pass them on to Linda Chen and Julie Elliott. I am grateful for their leadership and efforts in this year’s campaign.

If you have not yet visited the fifth floor of the Schurz library to see Ashley Gilbertson’s photo exhibit, “Bedrooms of the Fallen,” I encourage you to do so. These photos of bedrooms of service members who died in Iraq and Afghanistan are moving testimonies to these soldiers’ courage and the sacrifices made by their families. Thanks to Jonathan Nashel for extending an invitation to Mr. Gilbertson who spoke on Wednesday evening with stirring emotion and heartfelt compassion about the purpose of his work.

Remember, graduation day is May 10th. I hope to see you there in support of our students.

Sincerely,

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

Crawfish Boil

It is still not too late. Plan to attend on April 29 the second annual Crawfish Boil to benefit the Natatorium/Civil Rights Heritage Center and two other local charities, St. Margaret’s House and The Upper Room. Tickets are still available from VCAA Guillaume and Kevin James. Support great causes and enjoy a wonderful feast.

Congratulations and Thanks

Congratulations to Laura Fox (photo at right) who will begin a new position in the Chancellor’s Office after several years working in the Office of Academic Affairs as Executive Secretary to the Vice Chancellor. We thank her for her hard and dedicated work to Academic Affairs and wish her the best in the Chancellor’s Office.
**Spotlight on Faculty Research**

**Gail McGuire**

Dr. Gail McGuire’s (left) past and present scholarship seeks to understand the informal mechanisms that contribute to gender and race inequality in the workplace. Most recently, she and William Bielby (University of Illinois-Chicago) examined survey data from a large financial services corporation to understand how gender influences the type of help that workers receive from their informal networks. This research, which they presented at the American Sociological Association’s Annual Meeting last summer, was featured in a variety of news agencies across the world (e.g., India, Canada, Spain, and Brazil) in large part because of McGuire’s interview with CNN. She was also successful in securing a grant, with David Blouin, for $14,500 from the Elkhart Community Development Office to conduct a survey of neighborhood cohesion and support. Most of the grant funds were used to hire nine student researchers who administered the survey in the Roosevelt neighborhood in Elkhart. Drawing upon their experience with this community project, Drs. Blouin and McGuire presented “Undergraduate Research: Successful Models for Involving Students in the Design, Collection, and Presentation of Original Research” at the 2010 North Central Sociological Association’s Meeting and submitted a paper for publication. Dr. McGuire is Associate Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

**Bhavik Pathak**

Dr. Bhavik Pathak (right), Assistant Professor of Decision Sciences in the School of Business and Economics, is interested in investigating the impact of information technology (IT) supported applications on firms as well as customers. In his recently published paper, “Empirical Analysis of the Impact of Recommender Systems on Sales” in the *Journal of Management Information Systems*, Dr. Pathak analyzed how IT applications (e.g., online recommender systems) affect sales. This is one of the first few papers that analyze the complex relationships between product characteristics, recommender systems, and sales. Dr. Pathak’s other major recent work includes analysis of the role of online comparison shopping agents in reducing consumer search costs (*Journal of Electronic Commerce Research*, 2010). He is also examining how firms may redesign their strategies when IT-led applications such as online marketplaces (e.g., eBay.com) may adversely affect them. He presented a paper on this topic in the prestigious INFORMS conference in 2010. IT applications have become an integral part of the way firms conduct their business and Dr. Pathak plans to continue his research in online retailing where IT applications connect firms and consumers.

Our thanks to Lee Streby for the text of the research profiles that appear here.
Faculty Receive All-IU Awards

Congratulations to the IU South Bend recipients of All-IU Awards. The formal award ceremony will take place on April 8 at a dinner in Bloomington as part of Founder’s Day events. The honorees are: Gwendolyn Mettetal (Education/Psychology), Herman Bachman Lieber Memorial Award for teaching excellence; Gail McGuire (Sociology), Sylvia E. Bowman Award for teaching excellence; and April Lidinsky (Women’s Studies), W. George Pinnell Award for Outstanding Service. Online stories about the recipients may be found at this [link]. These outstanding IU South Bend faculty members join the substantial list of campus faculty who have been recognized for their excellence in teaching and service by the university. A list of past IU South Bend faculty who have been honored may be found at this [link].

Faculty Honors: FACET

Two IU South Bend faculty were recently selected for membership in the 2011 class of FACET (Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching), the all-IU faculty group recognizing and dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning. Faculty selected from all campuses of IU will be inducted at the Annual FACET Retreat in downtown Indianapolis on May 20. The IU South Bend faculty who will be inducted are Jorge Muñiz (Music) and James VanderVeen (Sociology & Anthropology).

Kudos

Congratulations to two faculty members who received New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Exploration Traveling Fellowships from IU. In February, Robert Meyer-Lee (English) received $2,500 and Lisa Zwicker (History) $1,886 to support their research efforts.

Congratulations to Fred M. Hirst (Mathematical Sciences) and Peter C. McCasland (Chemistry & Biochemistry) who have received the honor of Merit Status designation as associate faculty members. They join past associate faculty who have been so honored. Fred and Peter were recognized at the annual Associate Faculty Recognition Event on March 31.

David Blouin (Sociology & Anthropology) was recently interviewed for an article that appeared in the New York Times on March 14 on human-pet interactions and relationships. A PDF of the article may be found [here].

To keep abreast of the many and varied activities, events, and efforts of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts, be sure to visit the Aspire news webpage.

As was announced in the March meeting of the Academic Senate, the new director of the Honors Program will be Jonathan Nashel (History). We look forward to Jonathan’s energy, enthusiasm, and leadership to provide the academic challenge and opportunities sought by our outstanding students. We thank Frank Fujita (Psychology) for his service the last few years as director of the Honors Program.

Associate Faculty Recognition

Congratulations to all the associate faculty members who were honored for their service (recognizing those who have reached 5-year milestones of service, from 5 to 40 years this year; those who were present are pictured at left) at the annual Associate Faculty Recognition Reception on March 31. A complete list of the honorees is posted at this [link]. Prior to the event a reception honoring faculty who published in the past year (2010) was also held. A list of faculty publications may be found at this [link].