greetings

I have completed my first semester as chancellor at Indiana University South Bend and am happy to report on some of the highlights in this edition of *Footnotes*. Even the polar vortex could not dampen the spirits of this California native. I have met so many wonderful people and learned so much about this campus and community. Since my arrival I have talked at every opportunity about the urgency to increase student retention and graduation rates at IU South Bend. I believe we are making progress. I am also proud of the other accomplishments of the campus that you will read about. Enjoy.

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Upcoming Events

**February 22**
Lift Every Voice: Celebrating the African American Spirit
7:30 p.m., Campus Auditorium

**March 1**
Michiana Monologues
7 p.m., Campus Auditorium

**March 12**
Career and Internship Fair
1 – 4 p.m., Student Activities Center

**April 10-13**
Fine Arts Weekend

**BFA Student Exhibition**
March 31-April 13
Noon to 5 p.m., Art Gallery, Education and Arts Building

*Kiss Me Kate*
8 p.m. April 10-12 & 2 p.m. April 13, Campus Auditorium

Music Faculty Recital
4 p.m. April 12, Lecture Hall
Education and Arts Building
(ticket information call 520-4203)

**May 13**
Commencement
6 p.m., Joyce Center
University of Notre Dame

**Spring Enrollment Report**

Official enrollment figures for the spring semester show that student headcount is 7,226, which is 2.92 percent behind last year. Students are taking 67,639 credit hours, which is 3.12 percent behind last spring. Although the numbers are down from last year, there is good news. There is a significant increase in the retention of students from first semester to second semester which is a critical metric for the campus. Through an intensive effort to contact students and help them with financial aid and registration, we were able to increase retention to the spring semester by 4.5 percent. Retaining more students in their first year will lead to keeping more through graduation.

**Retention Efforts**

Several programs to increase retention and graduation rates are in place for the spring semester. Some first-year students in the Judd Leighton School of Business and Economics are now enrolled in linked courses with a study hour in-between, creating a learning cohort, a proven strategy to increase student success. In an innovative program, our mathematics faculty scheduled a “stretch semester” this spring, giving students additional time to pass their math courses. For next fall the campus will implement a first year experience program which has proven successful to help beginning students get the support and build the relationships they need to be successful. Advising for students will also be improved through a plan that focuses on providing coaches for students as they navigate their paths to graduation. We are also awarding Titan Scholarships for a multiple year period so that students who maintain their high performance can depend on university support through graduation.

(over)
Enrollment of International Students Increase

The number of international students enrolled reached 200 this semester which is by far the highest for any of the regional campuses. Many factors are associated with this increase including increased online marketing and overseas recruitment efforts; new articulation agreements; new scholarship initiatives; and increased efforts in following up with students in various stages of the enrollment cycle. Overseas recruitment efforts have also been expanded to include Scandinavia, Turkey, and Brazil - all of which were strategically chosen as promising international student markets. I also recently met with the president of International University of Grand-Bassam in Ivory Coast on how to strengthen our relationship. Nearly 25 students from Ivory Coast attend IU South Bend.

$1 Million Gift from Vera Dwyer Trust

I am thrilled to announce that the Vera Z. Dwyer Charitable Trust has made a gift of $1 million to IU South Bend to fund scholarships for undergraduate students in the College of Health Sciences. Half of the annual income from the gift will be awarded to full-time students enrolled in the School of Nursing with the second half going to full-time students in any program within the College of Health Sciences which includes Dental Hygiene and Radiography. Vera Dwyer was a philanthropist who lived in Michigan City, Ind. Her husband, James Dwyer, was a successful inventor and entrepreneur who owned Dwyer Instruments, Inc., a leading manufacturer in the controls and instrumentation industry worldwide. Mrs. Dwyer recognized the critical importance of higher education for Indiana students and had a special appreciation for students who wanted to improve the lives of others through careers in health care. The Vera Z. Dwyer Charitable Trust is managed by Indiana Trust & Investment Management Company of Mishawaka.

Civil Rights Heritage Center Receives Freedom Award

The IU South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center and its Engman Natatorium Project received the 2014 Freedom Award at the 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Indiana Statehouse Celebration. The award was presented by Indiana Gov. Mike Pence and the Martin Luther King Jr. Indiana Holiday Commission. The award is given to an individual or project whose major societal influence includes breaking down barriers that have divided us in the past and/or building ongoing relationships that foster respect, understanding, and harmony in our schools and communities.

Droege Receives Highest Honor at IU

Anthony Droege, professor emeritus of art at IU South Bend, recently received the President’s Medal for Excellence from IU President Michael McRobbie. The award is the highest honor an IU president can bestow. It recognizes distinction in public service, service to IU, and extraordinary merit and achievement in the arts, humanities, sciences, education and industry. Droege retired in 2008 after 37 years on IU South Bend’s faculty. Primarily known for his large oil paintings, Droege also works in watercolor, landscape and still life.