Greetings,

September has been a historic month at IU South Bend. Student housing has been approved, the pedestrian bridge has been completed, and the campus is alive with the largest beginning class in our history.

I’m pleased to give you all the good news in this fall newsletter.

Student Housing Approved

After years of planning and research, student housing will soon be a reality. In a historic decision, the Indiana University Board of Trustees approved Phase 1 of student housing at IU South Bend.

The first phase of construction will have approximately 400 beds. The units will be built on 26.5 acres on the south side of the St. Joseph River. The land is connected to the main campus by the recently completed pedestrian bridge.

Like the Schurz Library and the Student Activities Center, housing will transform the campus.

Why does IU South Bend need student housing? There are many reasons, such as to provide students with a complete collegiate experience, to promote the social, communal and leadership skills of students, to improve retention and to further accommodate the growing number of international students on campus.

Furthermore, there is also a growing number of full-time, degree seeking undergraduate students who already comprise 62 percent of the student body.

Housing creates a campus spirit that will draw commuter students into the collegiate experience, provide a housing option to students across Indiana who are interested in IU South Bend’s small student-to-faculty ratio and area of excellence (faculty/student collaborative research, diversity enhancement programs, fine, cultural and performing arts, as well as nursing and health professions) as identified in the Mission Differentiation Project.

The $20.3 million housing project will feature a mix of one-bedroom, two-bedroom and four-bedroom apartment-style units. The furnished apartments will include full baths, full kitchens with stoves, microwaves, refrigerators, and dishwashers.

Parking for more than 300 cars will be provided.

Construction is expected to begin in March 2007 with completion in June 2008 and open for the fall semester.

Funding for the project comes from $18.6 million in bonds and campus funds.

Fall Enrollment Figures

Fall 2006 enrollment figures show steady growth in several important areas:

Enrollment increased in all under-represented student categories – with 21.7 percent increase in Hispanic enrollment and a nearly 4
percent increase in African American students. Total minority enrollment is 12 percent. In real numbers, there are 505 African American students and 269 Hispanic students.

IU South Bend had its largest combined new student population of new transfers and first time freshmen (1,566), a 2 percent increase from last year. The entering class is the largest on campus and this follows after a record breaking spring commencement of 1,236 graduates.

The traditional-aged (18-24) undergraduate student body makes up roughly 64 percent of those seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree.

The total enrollment and credit hours have remained consistent with 7,420 students taking 69,981 credit hours.

**Hoosier Presidential Scholars**

Two IU South Bend incoming freshmen accepted offers to attend as Hoosier Presidential Scholars. This is the second year for the scholarship program.

Lesley Holderman and Paul Schmucker joined the campus this fall. Lesley is a graduate of LaVille High School and Paul is from Northwood High School.

The program was initiated last year by IU President Adam Herbert to place more of Indiana’s top high school students at IU campuses. There are 60 Hoosier Presidential Scholars in the university-wide program.

In addition to Lesley and Paul, Colin Flora was a recipient last year. Colin is a political science major from South Bend.

The students receive renewable scholarships ranging from $6,000 to $12,000 a year for four years, plus a laptop computer.

Some of the criterion for selection includes class rank, grade point average, SAT or ACT test scores and strength of high school curriculum.

Paul is an accounting major and Lesley is an English secondary education major.

**New Women’s Basketball Coach**

Steve Bruce has joined the campus as the first full time women’s basketball coach. He replaces Mary Wisniewski, who coached the Lady Titans for 13 years. Bruce is the third head coach in the program’s history and he joins Micah Shrewsberry, who was named the men’s basketball coach in July 2005.

Bruce comes to IU South Bend from Valparaiso University, where he was an associate coach for the women’s team from 2003-06. Bruce was the assistant coach from 1999-2003 at Valparaiso.

Bruce, who is originally from Washington, D.C., played football at Ohio Wesleyan University and was captain his senior year. He graduated from OWU in 1981 with a bachelor’s of arts degree in physical education. In 1984, he earned a master’s degree from Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky.

**Funds for Bike and Walking Paths**

IU South Bend recently received $780,000 in federal funding toward the construction of bike and pedestrian paths along the southern bank of the St. Joseph River and through the former Playland Park.

The federal funding was approved by the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG). The university is required to match 20 percent of the funding or $195,000, which brings the entire project to nearly $1 million.

The project will be administered by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) through the LaPorte District Office. It will take about 2 1/2 years to complete the .44 miles of walkways.

The project has been approved as part of an ongoing air quality improvement plan through the construction of additional bike and pedestrian paths. The design also is consistent with the city of South Bend’s plans to improve the community’s quality of life by developing the riverfront.

As you can see, exciting things are happening at IU South Bend. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions as IU South Bend continues its mission as the only public, bachelor’s and master’s degree granting institution of higher education in Michiana.

Sincerely,

Una Mae Reck
Chancellor, Indiana University South Bend