Greetings,
This has been an exciting spring at IU South Bend. We just celebrated our 41st commencement, construction of student housing will begin shortly, the Elkhart Center is preparing to open in the fall, and the Indiana General Assembly approved funding for renovation of the Associates Building on campus. I’m pleased to give you an update on these activities and others.

Commencement Honors Herbert and Previous Classes
Commencement is always a special event but this year it was exceptional. Commencement ceremonies on May 8 marked the 41st anniversary of IU South Bend granting degrees. A member of the class of 1967 was invited to join this year’s graduates to commemorate the occasion.

Another highlight was IU President Adam Herbert giving the charge to the class in his last commencement appearance here as the leader of IU. Herbert is retiring in June. Degrees were conferred to 1,046 students. Graduate degrees were given to 256 students, 613 received baccalaureate degrees, and 179 associate degrees were granted.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to John Voorde. Voorde, who is the South Bend City Clerk, received his bachelor’s degree from IU South Bend in 1968.

Construction of Student Housing to Begin
Final approval has been given for student housing at IU South Bend and IU Southeast by the State Budget Office, clearing the way for construction. In April, the IU board of trustees approved architect’s plans for the complex at IU South Bend.

Plans include eight, two-story apartment buildings that will house 400 students, and a community building, which will have laundry facilities, computer kiosks, an exercise room, study rooms, mailboxes and a small kitchen. Students will have their choice of one-, two- and four-bedroom apartment units.

The housing will be constructed on 26.5 acres of property linked to the main campus by the pedestrian bridge over the St. Joseph River. The property will include parking, recreational fields, walking and bicycle trails. Construction will begin as soon as bids are approved. Housing will be available to students for the fall 2008 semester.

Elkhart Center Prepares for Opening
Final touches are being put on the IU South Bend Elkhart Center as it prepares to open its doors to students for the fall semester. The 25,000 square-foot facility in downtown Elkhart contains 13 classrooms, a computer lab, a science lab, offices, a student lounge, and a bookstore. The $4 million facility is funded by private donations raised by a group
of dedicated Elkhart business leaders. Classes begin August 27 and enrollment is underway. If you are interested in taking classes at the new Elkhart Center call (800) 321-7834.

**Associates Building Renovation Project Approved**

The 2007-09 biennium budget passed by the Indiana General Assembly includes $27 million for renovation of the Associates Building on Esther Street into the Education and Arts Building. The classroom building will house the School of Education, some fine arts programs from the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts and the dental programs from the School of Nursing and Health Professions.

Many people, including students, faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders have worked hard over the last four years to promote the project in the state legislature.

**CTS Experiential Learning Center**

CTS Corporation, through its foundation, has donated $475,000 to IU South Bend for the creation of a unique learning program for students in the School of Business and Economics.

The funding will create the CTS Center for Experiential Education, designed to actively engage students in authentic learning experiences that will complement their traditional education. The CTS Center will begin in the fall 2007 semester.

The program includes providing scholarships; an annual student competition focusing on applications of knowledge and skills; research projects; funding faculty development of courses and experiential learning exercises; (i.e., internships and service learning) developing business roundtables; the creation of a resource library of experiential learning materials; and, more. Thank you to CTS Corporation for their generous support of IU South Bend.

**Faculty Grants and Recognition**

**Kevin Ladd**, assistant professor of psychology, has received a $735,000 grant from the John Templeton Foundation to support a three-year research project on prayer. Ladd and his research assistants will examine what is spirituality to individuals, how people pray, and how others are perceived when in prayer.

**Jim Wolfer**, associate professor of computer science, recently was recognized by the International Conference on Engineering and Computer Education for “extraordinary achievements and contributions.” He also has been invited to serve as a member of a delegation of computer science and engineering professionals to South Africa.

**Jorge Muñiz**, assistant professor of music, has been commissioned by the Corpus Christi Catholic Church in New York City to compose a new choral for the church’s 100th anniversary. He also received a commission to write his Fourth String Quartet to premiere at the New Music Festival in Salamanca, Spain.

The **Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts** has been recognized for its extraordinary sculpture program from the National Sculpture Society.

**Michael Lasater**, professor of communications arts, received the Distinguished Research Lecture for 2006. He has been a member of the faculty of IU South Bend since 1993 and he was named a full professor in 2004. He holds degrees in music from the Oberlin Conservatory and the Juilliard School and spent more than a decade working as a professional musician. Lasater received his doctorate in mass communications from Syracuse University. He has created a number of widely distributed documentaries on music and literature.

And the Michiana Chronicles radio program on WVPE won the Regional 2007 Edward R. Murrow Award for Writing from the Radio and Television News Directors Association. IU South Bend faculty **Louise Collins, April Lidinsky, Joe Chaney, Jeff Nixa, Jonathan Nashel, and Ken Smith** are regular contributors to the program. Congratulations to all!

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 learning in Michiana.

**Sincerely,**

Una Mae Reck

*Chancellor, Indiana University South Bend*