



IUPUI
Website

Chancellor's
Website

Contact the
Chancellor

Messages from the
Chancellor

GREETINGS FROM IUPUI

July 2015

Reflection on a Dozen

On a warm Indianapolis day in July 2015—cloudy sky, but bright; rain, but gentle—I sit with memories of a dozen years.

Being asked to reflect in this space on the 12 years Sandra and I shared with our campus and city community brought a smile to my face. The best writing assignment is one that has so much material. Here goes!

While I knew IUPUI's reputation before interviewing for the chancellorship, the most intense first reflection was my initial interview. The 30-person committee was daunting in size and composition. They were probing but welcoming—and the memory of that day at the O'Hare Hilton jumps to the present as those men and women have been wise counselors to this day. My thanks to you.

A few weeks after the interview, Sandra and I came to Indy on a secret visit—Sandra's first—as the possibility of the position grew. Over P.F. Chang's lettuce wraps we took in the downtown and the campus, concluding that it could work for us if the offer came. Ironically, as you read this, we are moving to an apartment one block away from P.F. Chang's.



Construction of the Campus Center over the past 12 years helped transform IUPUI student life and campus climate.

From those first images in 2003, the visual stream of memories took off for 12

years—flashing faces of thousands and thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, and visitors from the U.S. and abroad. In rapid succession, I could see events in Indianapolis and across the world race by as I thought about what to write.

For starters, accepting the very first Presidential Award for Community Service with Professors Bob Bringle and Julie Hatcher stands out vividly as the symbol of IUPUI's commitment to community service. To be selected as the first research campus to receive the first Presidential Award was an amazing honor. Yet IUPUI took the award as the challenge to keep getting better—so it is not surprising that every year since, the campus has been recognized on the honor roll or as a finalist nationally for community service.

Clearly, I can see the faces of our amazingly talented students appear—deeply engaged students such as former IU Trustee Janice Farlow, an M.D. student and May Ph.D. recipient, Graduate Professional Student Government President Anthony Greco, an IUPUI graduate and current law student, and Undergraduate Student Government President Niki DaSilva. The more than 1,000 students selected as part of the annual Top 100 keep reappearing—partly because they are so involved in IUPUI. Those students succeed largely as a result of exemplary levels of staff support—from admissions through commencement, from residence halls to the IUPUI Honors College—caring, committed, competent staff make so much happen.

From my first ride to Bloomington with IUPUI police officer Bill Abston, through every day at my office where Jo McIntyre has been my chief assistant for all 12 years, to knowing that this newsletter depends on a number of talented professionals to get it from my head to your eyes—staff are everywhere, day and night, making IUPUI successful.

And then there is our superb faculty. Tens of thousands of students enjoy success as a result of the incredible IUPUI faculty, ranging from those who may truly be the most famous in their field to those who may be just beginning their academic career. Faculty who teach all those evening classes as well as supervise students all across Indiana have so many different roles. My reflections on faculty are many.

An indelible frame in that 12-year reflection is getting to know the famous Larry Einhorn and meeting his famous first testicular cancer survivor, John Cleland, and learning that Larry is devoted to working to mitigate the debilitating side effects of chemotherapy. Then there was listening to the “last lecturers” who illustrate the deepest commitment and dramatic achievements—just check out the lectures by Einterz, Shipps, Barron McBride, Lemons, Yurtseven, Stocum, and Suess Kennedy (<http://academicaffairs.iupui.edu/AOEvents/Events/Last-Lecture>).



Sharing smiles and optimism — which included ambitious “doubling goals” — during the installation ceremony in December 2003.

My image of productive scholars is vivid and personal. If you have met Sandra Petronio, in the community or at our home because she is my wife, you have only seen a partial image of her. The image I see every day is that of productive faculty member—writing articles, chapters and books; writing and presenting lectures; developing new curricula for Communication Studies; teaching in the Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics; doing professional service for journals, universities, liberal arts. And she is always reminding me of the work our faculty colleagues are doing day and night, often unseen, while advancing not only their own work but that of students and colleagues.

Of course there are dozens of new buildings in those reflections—the beautiful glass on the east side of the Science and Engineering Lab Building, the astonishing atrium and sweep of the Campus Center roof, the bustling student life in the Riverwalk Apartments, the convenience and style of the Gateway Garage (yes garages can have style!), the view of the canal from the Health Information and Translational Sciences (HITS) building, and so many more buildings that provide places of learning and living to the campus.

And there is fun—the image of canoes splashing down the canal reflects what became the genesis of a new tradition at IUPUI: the Regatta! Hundreds of canoeists, thousands of spectators, food, families, and a Jaguar tradition provide a reflection of the rapport between campus and the city.



Enjoying exciting Jaguars basketball in 2004 — the year following the first IUPUI trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Reflecting on our outstanding student athletes conjures an image of Jaguars succeeding on the playing fields, in the classrooms, in the community and beyond. Some of these spirited and diverse students earning GPAs of 3.99 and 4.0 invest their heart, body, and mind in competitive sports and academic pursuits. I can still visualize the excitement sparked by Jaguar diver Chen Ni winning the NCAA championship; the incredible turnaround in women's basketball under coach Austin Parkinson; the opening games of Jaguar men's basketball at the Indiana Farmers Coliseum at the state fairgrounds under new coach Jason Gardner, and hundreds of tremendous efforts by our student-athletes who equate athletic success with academic prowess!

The reflections don't end, because the ripple effect from the work of students, faculty, staff, and community creates lasting images every day. What is crystal clear in my memory is the fact that IUPUI is devoted to becoming better and committed to making an impact. Thank you to all for your role in our campus delivering on that promise.

Charles R Bantz

CHANCELLOR CHARLES R. BANTZ

Send your comments to chancellor@iupui.edu.

Office of the Chancellor
University Hall – Suite 5010
301 University Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46202