

From the Desk of the Chancellor

We mourn the deaths from pancreatic cancer of two brave and generous men. Myles Brand and Mel Simon passed away last Wednesday.

Myles Brand has made a fundamental difference to intercollegiate athletics and to Indiana University. We met when I interviewed to be chancellor in his last weeks as president of Indiana University. From our arrival, Myles and Peg embraced and advised Sandra and me. In working with Myles as a member of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and the NCAA Executive Committee, I saw him forge an organization committed to student success as the core of intercollegiate athletics.

In the business community, Mel Simon was best known for being head of the nation's foremost mall development enterprise, but those of us in the university community know him best for his generosity to the educational enterprise. Philanthropy is a hallmark of the Simon family, from the Simon Youth Foundation, a national program for at-risk youth, to the IU Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center that bears his name here in Indianapolis. Upon meeting Mel, I learned he had a twinkling smile that accompanied his generous spirit.



Chancellor Charles R. Bantz

As these two cancer deaths made the headlines, so too did the deaths of Mary Travers of Peter, Paul, and Mary (from leukemia) and actor Patrick Swayze (also from pancreatic cancer). The convergence of these events reminds us that, while much has been done, much still needs to be done to understand and treat cancer.

To contribute to efforts at the IU Simon Cancer Center to achieve a better understanding of cancer, friends, family, and colleagues have decided to honor the university's former president with the establishment of the Myles Brand Chair in Cancer Research. It will serve as a lasting honor to an extraordinary leader. For information on contributing to the fund, see <http://medgifts.iu.edu/mylesbrand/>.