Each school year brings an opportunity for regeneration of the spirit. Anticipation inspires seasoned faculty and staff, returning and transferring students, those in graduate or doctoral programs as well as those stepping on campus for the first time. As home to one of the premier urban research campuses in the nation, possibilities abound at IUPUI for employees and more than 30,000 students coming from near and afar.

This fall we celebrate several significant “firsts.” IUPUI is proud to welcome the first class in the Health Communication Ph.D. program. We also welcome a new doctorate degree in Occupational Therapy at the IU School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Additionally, the School of Science and School of Medicine have forged a first-time collaboration with Eli Lilly Foundation for the Lilly Graduate Research Advanced Degrees program.

Change is the only constant given our commitment to improving. If you are a newcomer, or haven’t been on campus recently, it becomes immediately apparent several major projects have either been completed, are nearing completion or have been announced since 2013. To help navigate your course, I want to share a few of the completed projects as well as those in progress or planned as part of IUPUI capital improvements.

One of the most prominent projects is University Hall—the five-story building next to the Lecture Hall and Education/Social Work Building on the corner of New York Street and University Boulevard. This will be home to our newest school—the IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy—as well as create space to expand one of our oldest
schools, the IU School of Social Work. Expected to be open in June 2015, the $22.9 million University Hall, will also house offices of the IU Alumni Association, IU Foundation and IUPUI administrative offices, which will vacate the Lansing Street “temporary double-wide” of the past 40 years!

**The Neurosciences Research Building was completed this spring.** Located at 16th St. and Senate Ave., attached to Goodman Hall (the IU Health neurosciences clinical building) and across from IU Health Methodist Hospital, the building provides IU School of Medicine scientists with state-of-the-art facilities in which to conduct a broad range of collaborative neuroscience research. The building was awarded the LEED Gold Certification in August 2014 for achieving standards of energy-conscious and environmentally-sustainable design and construction. A first-time milestone for the IU team was the use of Building Information Modeling, a 3D modeling process for design, construction and overall project coordination.

**Renovation was completed in May at the Rotary Building**—a historic structure that’s been part of the IU School of Medicine since 1931. Last Friday, there was a dedication ceremony. Located at the north end of Ball Gardens between the Simon Family Tower of Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health and Eskenazi Health, the 40,000 square foot structure houses the IU-Kenya Partnership, the Division of Gastroenterology/Hepatology, the Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and offices of the Department of Surgery.
More campus changes are in the works. Earlier this month, the IU Board of Trustees approved a request to proceed with the design and construction of a new 700-bed residence hall on campus. Campus housing is currently at capacity with more than 500 students waitlisted, compared to just over 200 before University Tower opened last year. If all goes according to plans, the new residence will be completed in time for the 2016-2017 school year.

As the fall season for IUPUI Jaguars athletics begins, we look forward to exciting men’s and women’s soccer games at the newly-renovated Michael A. Carroll Stadium recently upgraded by the arrival of the Indy 11 professional soccer team who call the stadium their home. A major change in the athletic program will be the shift of Jags men's basketball home games to their new home at the Indianapolis Fairgrounds Coliseum!

A major collaboration over the summer resulted in plans for an overhaul of the 32-year-old IU Natatorium. An in-depth analysis of work will begin immediately. Improvements include a new roof, heating and cooling system, pool filtration, lighting, skylights, and other mechanical repairs. Most renovations will be complete prior to Indianapolis hosting the U.S. Olympic Diving Team Trials in May 2016. The Lilly Endowment, which was a major partner in building the Natatorium, as well as the Sports Corporation, the Capital Improvement Board and the city of Indianapolis are all partners in the
renovation that will maintain the Natatorium as the biggest and fastest indoor swimming facility in the nation.

Renovation on the IUPUI Natatorium will begin immediately.

Expect by sometime next spring or early summer to see **roadwork** as the city of Indianapolis begins its contribution to the IU Natatorium upgrade by converting both New York and Michigan Streets into two-way streets from West St. through campus and across the bridges into Haughville. This long-sought change will make the campus easier to navigate (you will be able to return home the way you came), safer for both pedestrian and bicycle traffic and more attractive with decorative signage, public art, grass medians, trees and rain gardens.

**We hope that all faculty, staff, students and the entire IUPUI community enjoy fulfilling personal growth, enlightenment and expansion of opportunities throughout the year!**