A celebration to remember

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by Charles R. Bantz

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“One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.” -- Carl Jung

My thanks and those of my wife, Sandra Petronio, for the wonderful celebration held last Saturday evening that reflected on the 12 years we have served IUPUI. Through music and words, friends and family offered remembrances of the past and wishes for the future.

The evening was personal and intimate -- even in a crowd that filled the Scottish Rite Cathedral ballroom. It was an evening replete with music -- including piano solos from childhood friend John Hasse (curator of American music at the Smithsonian Institution), the marvelous Carl Hines Band and a clever, talented vocal ensemble called the Torts, who, with the exception of one, were all lawyers.

Sandra's and my hearts were warmed by the presence of family members and dear friends who traveled from faraway places, along with the IUPUI family -- both internally and extended. I appreciated very much IU President Michael A. McRobbie presenting the Sagamore of the Wabash on behalf of Gov. Mike Pence.

Tributes were eloquent, original and, in several cases, hilarious, but always generous and touching. The warmth of the evening conveyed a feeling of a room where there were no strangers -- even though many met for the first time.

Sandra and I are grateful to all whose creativity, diligence and tireless energy went into planning the gala and executing those plans. The outcome was impeccable.

There’s only one word to capture the essence … unforgettable. Sandra and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts -- not just for your kindness but for your partnership over the past 12 years and your shared passion for the heart of IUPUI: our students, faculty and staff.

APLU to stage annual meeting in Indianapolis in November

During recent meetings of the Urban Serving Universities Coalition of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities in Cleveland, Ohio, it was an honor to receive the USU Distinguished Service Award. For a decade I have been involved in Urban Serving Universities, serving on the Board of Directors and for the past two years chairing the board.

Urban Serving Universities supports urban campuses like IUPUI that are committed to having greater impact on their communities through education, research, and engagement. We collaborated on proactive strategies and practices addressing issues such as student success, diversifying the health professions, improving our communities, and economic development.

USU is aligned with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and together we make the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Annual Meeting, the premier event for public university leaders to meet and exchange ideas among colleagues from across the country and all of North America to learn about the latest challenges and opportunities facing public universities, and to develop new ideas and initiatives to further strengthen our work.

I’m excited that the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Annual Meeting is being held in Indianapolis Nov. 14 and 15. My colleagues will not only learn about current ideas, issues and opportunities in universities, but also experience the vibrancy we call Indianapolis.