

CHANCELLOR REMARKS FOR ALL-CAMPUS MEETING

Friday, January 5, 2007

Good morning and Happy New Year.

Thank you all for being here this morning as we begin a new semester.

As my remarks will indicate, I expect us to have a very busy and eventful semester.

So, I hope everyone had a good and restful holiday break.

I had a very busy holiday.

The most joyous part was the birth of my second granddaughter on December 14.

Jasmin Adia Alexandra Hasselkuss weighed 8 pounds and 3 ounces and was over 19 inches long.

Mother, father, first granddaughter Zoe and Jasmin are doing well.

I also want to let you know that my husband Hank had major surgery due to bladder cancer in Indianapolis on Tuesday.

The surgery went well and hopefully he will be coming home soon.

I spent this week with him and will be returning to help him with his recovery.

We both appreciate your thoughts and kindness during this difficult time.

Let's start my campus update with a look at preliminary spring semester enrollment figures.

After 9 weeks of registration Spring 2007 enrollment stands at **5,379** students which is 1.47 percent behind the same period last year.

Credit hours stand at **52,848** credit hours which is 1.49 percent behind last year at this time.

You have heard me say this before but it is important to know that we are all responsible for enrollment at IU South Bend.

Enrollment determines budget and we need stable or increasing enrollment to be able to fund the programs and projects we want for this campus.

Please continue to do everything you can to get students enrolled and to keep them coming back so they graduate.

I want to remind you that retention is the number one priority on campus.

IU South Bend is experiencing a downward trend in retention in beginning students and in full-time beginning students.

For example, the 2005 beginning cohort had an overall retention rate of only 59.9 percent, down from 63.4 percent in 2001.

The Enrollment Management Committee established a task force to look at this issue and presented its recommendations to the Academic Senate in November.

The committee continues to look at retention and is focused on finding creative solutions to correct the downward trend.

I will keep you informed on progress in this critical area.

The beautiful pedestrian bridge was dedicated on November 30.

You may have seen news coverage of the event.

More than 100 people attended and it stopped raining just long enough to complete the ceremony and for everyone to take a walk across the bridge.

State Representative Jackie Walorski, South Bend Mayor Steve Leucke and representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and IU took part in the dedication.

It was a wonderful event.

You can't talk about the bridge without also talking about student housing.

As you know, student housing for IU South Bend was approved by the IU Board of Trustees in September.

In December it was also approved by the Commission for Higher Education and the four legislators on the State Budget Committee.

The four signatures mean that the project has been reviewed by the State Budget Committee and recommended to the Budget Director and Governor for approval.

However, we do not have authorization to proceed with the project until the minutes are formally adopted by the executive branch.

In addition, the state budget director must approve the financing package.

We hope that occurs shortly so construction can begin this spring.

The student housing committee has been meeting with architects and different campus groups to finalize details of the construction.

Construction of the IU South Bend Elkhart Center is progressing well.

I encourage you to look at the latest photographs of the construction on the IU South Bend home page under popular links.

Then you will get an idea of how far along the construction has come.

As you know, the Elkhart Center is almost completely funded by private donations.

The fundraising has not stopped and at last report 4 million dollars has been raised by a dedicated group of Elkhart civic leaders.

Their original goal was 2-point-5 million dollars.

The Elkhart Center is on schedule to open for the fall semester.

The new session of the state legislature opens on Monday at the Statehouse.

This session is very important because a budget bill for the biennium will be passed that will include funding for higher education and capital projects.

Of course, I will be talking with legislators about the Associates Building.

The 27 million dollar project would renovate the red, brick building into the Education and Arts Building.

The project is number five on IU's list of seven capital appropriation requests.

IU will also be lobbying for its Life Sciences Initiative which is a separate 80 million dollar request.

Most of that money would be used to recruit top scientists to IU who will provide the breakthroughs and discoveries needed to help fuel job growth in Indiana.

IU South Bend students, faculty and administrators will be participating once again in IU's Statehouse visit scheduled for February 20th.

The Alumni Association, along with the Student Government Association will be recruiting people on campus to 'get on the bus' for Indianapolis.

IU South Bend has always had a large group go to the Statehouse and I'm sure we will again this year.

A committee of South Bend civic and business leaders continues to work on a fundraising campaign for the Administration Building.

At this time, one-point-three million dollars has been committed towards the goal of 2-point five million.

An architectural firm has been hired to prepare comprehensive plans for the refurbishing.

Construction on the first floor will begin this summer.

Speaking of construction, renovations are also being planned at the South Bend Natatorium so it can eventually serve as the home for the Civil Rights Heritage Center.

Architect's drawings are being finalized and funding is being secured for construction to begin.

The project is a partnership between IU South Bend, the City of South Bend and the South Bend Heritage Foundation.

The IU South Bend United Way Campaign was once again successful.

The goal was 28-thousand dollars and 28-thousand 221 dollars were raised.

I want to thank Dean Rob Ducoffe for his leadership on this year's campaign.

And thank you to all who contributed.

In the month of May, IU South Bend will once again be the center of the classical music world.

The Toradze Piano Institute will convene on campus under the direction of Maestro and Professor Alexander Toradze.

Performances on campus are scheduled for May 9, 10 and 11.

The Institute will conclude with a performance on May 12 with the South Bend Symphony Orchestra at the Morris Performing Arts Center.

I encourage all of you to try to attend one of these wonderful performances.

In closing, I want to remind you of our campus parameters of engagement – communication, teamwork, integrity, civility and commitment.

They have served us well.

IU South Bend will continue to operate under those guidelines to identify debate and resolve issues on campus.

Thank you for your time and attention this morning.

I'd be happy to answer any questions.

- Other people with announcements?
- Thank you