

# “Indiana University: An Era of Progress”

IUAA DC Chapter Reception  
Honoring Bruce Cole with President’s Medal

Remarks for Michael A. McRobbie

President

Indiana University

Australian Embassy

1601 Massachusetts Ave., NW

Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

(Program begins at 6:15)

## 1. WELCOME AND THANKS TO RICHARDSON

Thank you very much, Ambassador Richardson. It is my great pleasure to introduce my wife Laurie. We are both delighted and honored to be here this evening at the Australian Embassy.

It is our pleasure to introduce special guests Bruce Cole, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and his wife Doreen.

On behalf of Indiana University, please accept our gratitude for your hospitality along with this token of our heartfelt appreciation. [McROBBIE HANDS RICHARDSON GIFT]

And let me add our welcome to all of you here at one of Indiana University’s most active alumni chapters.

I understand that just last month, you had an evening of Australian Wine Tasting scheduled (May 15<sup>th</sup>), and this coming weekend, you will be holding your D.C. Chapter Charity Golf Scramble. Thank you for all that you do for Indiana University.

## 2. OUTREACH

As you may know, my first year as president has been quite busy. Laurie and I have attended hundreds of events around Indiana, across the nation, and around the world on behalf of Indiana University.

We have met thousands of IU alumni who have shared their stories and their aspirations for their alma mater. We share your dreams for this great university. Let there be no doubt that IU is moving ahead rapidly!

Our over 500,000 alumni will help ensure that. You will help ensure that.

At its heart, all of our efforts are focused with laser-like intensity on achieving excellence—excellence in education and research, our two fundamental missions. This is the foundation upon which we are helping to build the future of Indiana University.

## 3. ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

Part of that foundation includes ensuring that the doors to educational opportunity remain wide open. Just last week, we announced that the “Matching the Promise” campaign has raised \$239 million for scholarships and fellowships.

Together, with state and federal aid, these funds mean that the neediest **in-state** students are attending IU Bloomington nearly free. There are 1,000 **in-state** freshmen at IU Bloomington with family incomes under \$50,000 who pay an average of just \$341

annually for tuition, room, and board. The average out-of-pocket cost for other eligible **in-state** students with family incomes of \$50,000 to \$100,000 has been reduced by 40 percent.

This fall, I also announced the newest initiative designed to help IU students succeed. Degrees of Excellence is a multi-million dollar university-wide effort to increase graduation rates. Under this plan, each campus will set aside 1% per year of their administrative budgets for degree or program completion programs or financial aid.

IU's recent 21 place jump to 34<sup>th</sup> overall in Kiplinger's list of 100 Best Values in Public Colleges recognizes our efforts to enhance educational opportunity and reward student achievement.

#### **4. FACULTY EXCELLENCE AND LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

Over the years the intellectual community at Indiana University has grown to include or be associated with 6 Nobel Prize winners, 7 Pulitzer Prize winners, and 5 MacArthur Fellows. We also boast at least 120 winners of the Guggenheim Fellowship, and our distinguished faculty includes more than 30 active and emeritus members of the major national academies. No doubt, you remember the excellent professors who inspired you during your own studies.

Our outstanding scholars are the driving force behind a thriving research center that strengthens Indiana's robust life and health sciences economy. The Indiana Life Sciences Initiative, for which we received initial funding during the last session of the General Assembly, is harnessing the intellectual capital of our best researchers toward powering Indiana's bio-economy and improving the quality of life for all Hoosiers.

I am pleased to say that Purdue University is a major part of this plan. Competition should end on the basketball court or football field. Indiana is too small a state to

dissipate our resources in competition. Just a few weeks ago, the National Institutes of Health awarded a five-year, \$25 million grant to the IU School of Medicine—the largest grant we have ever received from the NIH—to fund activities at the newly established Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute.

Led jointly by IU and Purdue, CTSI will speed the movement of research discoveries into clinical trials, commercial products, and, ultimately, into health care practices that improve and save lives.

## 5. CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVES

The energy of such progress is also reflected in the remarkable construction that is now taking place across the university. At its May meeting, the IU Board of Trustees approved six major new construction projects for the Bloomington campus, along with a site plan for a seventh project—a record for a single trustee meeting. That raises the number of projects currently underway and planned to thirteen, worth an estimated \$340 million at IU Bloomington alone. That brings our total constructions efforts to \$1 billion, including Indianapolis.

That includes the new Multidisciplinary Science Building III, which will join the award-winning Simon Hall, dedicated last fall, and MSBII, which is currently under construction. The IU School of Medicine and its partner facilities are adding nearly one-and-a-half million square feet of research and teaching space.

That includes the first phase of the IU Simon Cancer Center, funded in part by an extraordinarily generous \$50 million gift from the Simon family and Fairbanks Hall, the new Clarian Education and Resource Center, funded in part by a generous gift from the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation. Just last October, we broke ground on the new Medical Education and Research Building on the Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne campus.

Plans are currently underway to construct the South Bend Cancer Research Center, a joint venture between IU and Notre Dame. This \$20 million building project is a major milestone for cancer research in the state. Each of these projects reinforces Indiana University's strength in the life and health sciences.

Another project under development is part of a 10-year plan for upgrading all student housing at IU Bloomington, all 11,000+ rooms. The first phase is the Ashton Housing Project, with a \$80 million budget and which will include 20,000 square feet of classroom and program space as well as 837 new 1-, 2-, and 4-bedroom housing units.

## 6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We also recently received Trustee approval for a new Indiana University business incubator in Bloomington at 10<sup>th</sup> and the Bypass. This facility will join IU's business incubator in Indianapolis to enhance Indiana University's role in stimulating the Indiana economy and connecting faculty expertise with regional economic needs.

Leading this effort is our Office of Engagement, which consolidates the university's vast engagement resources through IU's newest economic development initiative, "Innovate Indiana." This initiative coordinates economic development efforts in communities across the state. It will help transform IU innovations into new products, services, and treatments and will help connect the business community to Indiana University. Partnership and collaboration are central to our engagement efforts across the state and to the intellectual growth of our students.

## 7. THE INTERNATIONAL IMPERATIVE

As we look toward a future of greater partnership and collaboration, we cannot help but recognize the increasingly global nature of our economy. With an international export market of over \$26 billion, the state of Indiana ranks 12th in the nation.<sup>1</sup>

Indiana ranks in the top 10 for the number of international students studying in the state, and those students bring nearly \$350 million into the Indiana economy. Of the state's over 14,000 international students, fully a third are studying at Indiana University. These students bring diverse perspectives that broaden and deepen the educational experience at IU. They also demonstrate the growing importance of global literacy for students around the world.

In this increasingly competitive global economy, it is vital that IU students expand their international experience. A great Hoosier Congressman Lee Hamilton and New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, Vice Chair and chair of the 9-11 Commission, respectively, asserted that "Ignorance of the world is a national liability."<sup>2</sup> This is a matter of practical necessity. Already, 20 percent of students at IU Bloomington have studied abroad by the time they graduate, and we are actively seeking expanded support for study abroad opportunities.

In order to guide these efforts, our Office for the Vice President of International Affairs developed an International Strategic Plan, which was approved by the Trustees at their December meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> United States. Dept. of Commerce. International Trade Administration. "Indiana: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investments." Feb. 2008. < [http://www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/state\\_reports/indiana.html](http://www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/state_reports/indiana.html)>

<sup>2</sup> This reference can be found in a number of sources. For instance, Kean, Tom, and Lee Hamilton. "Our Ignorance of the World Is a National Liability." *The Record Online Edition* 24 June 2008 <[www.northjersey.com](http://www.northjersey.com)>; and Kean, Tom, and Lee Hamilton. "Send More U.S. Students Abroad." *Christian Science Monitor* 12 June 2008: 9 <[www.lexisnexis.com](http://www.lexisnexis.com)> IU Libraries.

## 8. ARTS AND HUMANITIES

At the same time as we are looking towards global horizons, we are also strengthening our infrastructure right here at home. The construction priorities I mentioned just a few moments ago include three projects specifically designed to enhance Indiana University's glorious traditions in the arts and humanities.

The first grows out of an extraordinarily generous \$44 million gift from the Lilly Endowment that will fund a much-needed practice facility for our great Jacobs School of Music. In addition, plans are underway for a \$15 million renovation of the University Theatre into a state of the art cinema facility and theater rehearsal space.

Plans are also underway for the construction of an International Studies Building that will bring together our excellent programs in world languages and cultures and provide them with new, specially-designed instructional facilities. This will involve an investment of over \$40 million by the university.

All told, this totals over \$100 million of new buildings, facilities, programs, and other resources. This is perhaps the largest single investment in the arts and humanities at IU Bloomington for over 50 years.

## 8. HONORING BRUCE COLE

That kind of investment in the arts and humanities is vital to their preservation, and perhaps nobody in this room knows this better than our honored guest, Bruce Cole, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

It is convincing testimony to the strength of Indiana University's academic programs and faculty that Bruce Cole, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts at Indiana University, was nominated in 2001 by the President of the United States to serve as the

eighth chairman of the endowment. He was unanimously confirmed by the Senate for a first term in 2001 and for a second term in 2005.

### 8.1 COLE'S HISTORY IN ART HISTORY

I understand that he traces his love for the arts to childhood trips to the Cleveland Art Museum with his Aunt Gertrude. But it was as a freshman in college that he found his calling when he first saw the painting "The Meeting of Saint Anthony and Saint Paul" in a textbook. He described the moment as "an epiphany" that led him to dedicate himself to the study of the Italian Renaissance.<sup>3</sup>

Since that moment, Bruce has achieved great distinction both within his field of art history and in the broader arts community. According to Douglas Lewis, curator of sculpture and decorative arts at the National Gallery, "Cole has become one of the household names in art history."<sup>4</sup>

### 8.2 COLE'S CAREER AND HONORS

He started his career at the University of Rochester and joined the IU faculty in 1973, achieving the highest rank of Distinguished Professor of Fine Arts during his nearly three decade tenure. He is the author of over a dozen books on Renaissance art and related subjects and the recipient of numerous awards, including nine honorary degrees.

He has held fellowships and grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the American Philosophical Society, among others.

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<sup>3</sup> Trescott, Jacqueline. "The Scholar's Call to Arms – Bruce Cole Sees the Humanities as Key to Building a Homeland Defense." *Washington Post* 6 March 2002. News Bank Access World News. Indiana University Libraries. <<http://infoweb.newsbank.com>>. Retrieved on 10 June 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Trescott.



He is a corresponding member of the *Accademia Senese degli Intronati*, the oldest learned society in Europe, and he founded the Association for Art History. However, he may be proudest of his induction as a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2006, since he shares this honor with President Wells, who received it not once but six times.

### 8.3 COLE AT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

These awards and honors reflect the measure of dedication that Bruce brings to every endeavor. Since beginning his tenure with the endowment, Bruce has spearheaded such efforts as the Digital Humanities Initiative and the *We the People* Program. Programs such as these highlight the crucial role history plays in strengthening democracy and offer a vision of the future with enhanced opportunities created by technological advances. Bruce has dedicated himself to what he calls “the challenge of restoring America’s memory.”<sup>5</sup>

As he explained in a recent senate subcommittee hearing, “Americans are bound by ideas and ideals that every citizen must know for our republic to survive. That survival is not preordained; the habits and principles of our democracy must be learned anew and passed down to each generation.”<sup>6</sup>

The strength of our democracy depends upon the strength of our education. Bruce has been building upon those strengths as an educator and as a public servant, serving Indiana University generously with his time and energy and serving our nation with his passionate dedication to preserving and enhancing our democracy and our culture.

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<sup>5</sup> Cole, Bruce. “Humanities Must Strive to Reverse American Amnesia.” *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (VA) 18 September 2004. NewsBank Access World News. Indiana University Libraries. <<http://infoweb.newsbank.com>> Retrieved on 10 June 2008.

<sup>6</sup> Cole, Bruce. “Prepared Statement of Chairman Bruce Cole Before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, U.S. House of Representatives.” *National Endowment of the Humanities* 11 March 2008. <<http://www.neh.gov/whoweare/speeches/03112008.html>> Retrieved on 10 June 2008.

#### 8.4 PRESENTING THE PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

In recognition of the depth of Bruce's dedication to public service it is my great pleasure to present him with the highest honor an Indiana University president can bestow.

Bruce, would you please join me at the podium? The President's Medal for Excellence is a reproduction in fine silver of the symbolic jewel of office worn by Indiana University's president at ceremonial occasions. Three precious stones within the jewel represent the university's cultivation of reading, writing, and arithmetic, as well as the arts, sciences, and humanities.

Criteria for recipients of this honor include distinction in public service, service to Indiana University, achievement in a profession, and/or extraordinary merit and achievement in the arts, humanities, sciences, education, and industry.

The President's Medal for Excellence is accompanied by a scroll that reads: Indiana University gratefully recognizes the exemplary contributions of the honorable Bruce M. Cole, Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Chair [of the] National Endowment of the Humanities, by bestowing upon him the President's Medal in recognition of sustained excellence in service, achievement, and leadership. Given this 17th day of June, 2008, in Washington, D.C. Would you all join me in congratulating Bruce Cole?