Remarks
William Blomquist
Dean of Liberal Arts
September 23, 2011

Good evening, all.

It is a real joy to see you all here tonight and to share this dinner with you. In this room tonight are many current and former students, current and retired faculty and staff, and other close friends of the School of Liberal Arts and of IUPUI. We’re honored and delighted to have you with us.

I would like to make special mention of a few of tonight’s attendees.

The School of Liberal Arts has had eight deans so far, and most of you know that our first dean was Dr. Joseph T. Taylor. Joe’s wife Hertha and daughter Judy are here with us tonight. Please join me in greeting them.

Also with us tonight is IUPUI’s third Chancellor, also former dean of the IU School of Law-Indianapolis, and former interim president of Indiana University Gerald Bepko. Jerry, it’s wonderful to have you with us this evening.

Former IUPUI Vice Chancellor for External Affairs, former Executive Director of the Center on Philanthropy, and current President of the Indiana University Foundation Gene Tempel is here. Gene, thank you.

Former Executive Vice Chancellor of IUPUI, Professor Emeritus of English, Philanthropic Studies, and Public and Environmental Affairs, and former dean of the School of Liberal Arts, Bill Plater, is here tonight and I’m pleased to say will provide some remarks in a little while.

Former dean and current Professor of Sociology Bob White is also here.

A few moments ago at the Open House in Cavanaugh, I thanked some of the people who made this afternoon’s and this evening’s events possible through their dedication, talent, memories, volunteer work, and financial support. I’m happy to reiterate those thanks and acknowledgements here.

The architect of this event is our wonderful Assistant Dean Gail Plater, who along with the staff in her office has been planning this event for months and bringing it to fruition this month, this
week, and even today. Her partners in the Development and External Affairs office are Gen Shaker, Leslie Kidwell, Lauralee Stel and Melissa Adelman.

Mike Scott, our Director of Facilities and Technical Services, has put in many hours and much talent into helping us get the building ready for today, as have Tracy Smith and the building services personnel from IUPUI Campus Facility Services.

Our colleagues in the dean’s office, Merle Illg and Candice Smith, have helped out with many of the preparations as well.

Thanks also to the members of the 40th Anniversary Planning Committee:
Stefan Davis
Dan Henkel
Ann Kratz
Lewis Jones
Miriam Langsam
Jan Shipps and
Rosalie Vermette

Members of the School’s Alumni Board, and members of our Liberal Arts Student Ambassadors, who assisted today greeting guests and guiding guests through the building.

Members of Liz Kryder-Reid’s Museum Studies class for their work on conceptualizing both the exhibit and the web site that will go along with it.

Special thanks also to Linda Hill, from the Registrar’s office, and Greg Mobley, from Archives, who has provided invaluable historic guidance and materials for the exhibit.

Genny Stotler Wagner, a graduate student in Museum Studies, who did the final design and production of the exhibit and assisted in mounting it for our enjoyment.

George Brown and Suzanne Vick from the campus’ office of Communication and Marketing for their assistance developing the logo for the 40th Anniversary.

And we are grateful to the IU Alumni Association, particularly Stefan Davis, Executive Director of the IUPUI Alumni Association, and the IU Foundation, particularly Foundation President Gene Tempel and Vice President Dee Metaj for their financial support of today’s event.

Cavanaugh Hall is not an ordinary building—it’s the focal point of a story and the home of a community.

The story is that of IUPUI, one of the most innovative ideas in American higher education and a campus that has moved in the span of one generation to the forefront of public universities in the U.S.—urban public universities in particular. The story of IUPUI has Cavanaugh Hall at its
center, since in the beginning and for several years it contained nearly all of the academic programming, administration, and support services of the young campus.

Cavanaugh is the home of a community, as well. Many faculty and staff—retired or currently active—had their offices and taught their classes in Cavanaugh Hall, whether they were in the Purdue School of Science, the Herron School of Art and Design, Business, Engineering, Journalism, and so on. For our longest-serving faculty and staff colleagues as well as for those who have retired from their university work and a few of those who can’t be here tonight because they have left us, Cavanaugh was where they worked. And through their work, they built a university. Not every generation of faculty and staff can say that, but as we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the creation of IUPUI in 1969, and as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Cavanaugh Hall this year, we pay tribute to IUPUI’s founding generation—a collection of teacher-scholars and staff professionals who quite literally built a university in their lifetimes.

And for alumni throughout IUPUI, Cavanaugh Hall was where most of them attended classes, stood in line for registration and financial aid, bought their books, sprawled across lounge furniture of questionable condition and ate food of questionable origin. Nearly all—and perhaps all—of IUPUI’s thousands of alumni through Indiana and the world, have spent time in Cavanaugh Hall.

Within Cavanaugh and within IUPUI another distinct community emerged—the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts. Even though so many schools at IUPUI shared Cavanaugh Hall at one time or another, over the years Cavanaugh Hall and the School of Liberal Arts have become practically synonymous.

At this point, to reflect upon the school and the campus in which he has played such an influential leadership role, I am happy to invite to the lectern our colleague, former dean and professor emeritus Bill Plater...

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Today, Indiana University’s one and only School of Liberal Arts continues to promote the enduring value of the liberal arts as the core of university education, and to adapt and innovate liberal arts teaching, research, and civic engagement to our changing local, national, and global contexts. Cavanaugh’s 40th year is also the School’s 40th anniversary, and as we commemorate this building we also celebrate our School. A look back at the developments of the last 40 years convinces all of us that the trajectory of the next 40 and beyond will be remarkable indeed.

Thank you for your attention, your presence, your support, and your role in all that has transpired here and all that lies ahead.