Myles Brand to Assume IU Presidency

The Fall 1993 announcement by Indiana University’s President Thomas Ehrlich of his plans to retire launched a nationwide search which has culminated in the selection of Myles Brand, president of the University of Oregon. Brand will become Indiana University’s 16th chief executive and will assume office on August 1. Brand, who received a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Rochester in 1967, has been President of the University of Oregon since 1989. Before that, he was Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at The Ohio State University, and prior to that, served as coordinating Dean for the College or Arts and Sciences at the University of Arizona. The photo shows Myles Brand (left) at an April 15 reception held in his honor, being welcomed by Patrick O’Meara, Dean of International Programs (photo courtesy of Mark Simons, IU Instructional Support Services).

Yusef Komunyakaa Awarded Pulitzer Prize for Poetry

On April 12, IU-Bloomington English professor Yusef Komunyakaa was awarded the 1994 Pulitzer Prize in poetry for his book of poems, Neon Vernacular (1993). The Pulitzer was the second major award Komunyakaa received for the book during the month of April, having been presented with the second annual Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award at The Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, California on April 5.

Komunyakaa, who joined the IU-Bloomington English department faculty in 1987, also serves as adjunct associate professor of Afro-American Studies. Komunyakaa’s work has been widely recognized. He has twice been a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Creating Fellowships, and has received awards from The Village Voice, Kenyon Review, San Francisco Poetry Center, the Thomas Forcade Award from the University of Massachusetts, and two First Place Poetry Awards from the Rocky Mountain Writers’ Forum.

Komunyakaa, who teaches advanced poetry writing at IU-Bloomington, has eight published books of poetry, among these Magic City, I Apologize for the Eyes in my Head, Toys in a Field, Copacetic, and Dedications and Other Dark Horses. Neon Vernacular is a compilation of some of his previous work. He is currently working on a new book, Pleasure Dome, which focuses on ancient African history.

New Spanish Club Established at IU-Southeast

Marguerite Lliteras, assistant professor of Spanish and coordinator of the IU-Southeast Spanish program, has recently assisted her students in establishing a Spanish Club on the New Albany campus. Lliteras joined the IU-Southeast faculty last fall, after previously teaching at the University of Louisville. A lawyer in Spain before she moved to the U.S., Lliteras earned a doctorate in Spanish at IU-Bloomington, where she taught as an associate instructor for seven years, receiving the 1989 Lieber Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Lliteras is enthusiastic about IU-Southeast’s new Spanish Club providing a stimulating environment for expanding language study beyond the classroom by introducing students to the influence and diversity of the Hispanic cultures of Spain, Portugal, Latin America, and the United States. “The purpose of the Spanish Club is to promote, explore, and enjoy Hispanic cultures,” states Lliteras. “The Hispanic world is very broad and has and will have more and more influence in this country.” With the implementation of NAFTA, Lliteras observes, “people in the southern Indiana and Kentucky areas will be coming in greater contact with Hispanic culture. Knowledge of Spanish will become a necessity.” The Spanish Club will provide a stimulating context for language study and for expanding students’ appreciation of cultural diversity.