

WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS



Observing COVID-19 safety and health protocols, IUP welcomed more than 1,500 new students for **Welcome Week**, expanding the traditional Welcome Weekend to allow for a more rigorous schedule of academic programs and informational events, as well as a time for socialization to prepare students for success at IUP.

CRIMSON SCHOLARS CIRCLE



A total of 72 students committed to the new **Crimson Scholars Circle** program, an initiative to reduce the retention and persistence gap of Black and Brown students. These Crimson Scholars arrived at IUP a week before Welcome Week for an early immersion experience, which will be followed by a year-long program combining intensive support, learning, mentoring, and guidance. An anonymous donor gifted IUP \$250,000 for the initiative, which includes a \$1,000 scholarship for all Crimson Scholars Circle students and their 14 student mentors, contingent on their continued participation in program.

COVID-19 CAN'T STOP IUP RESEARCHERS



Despite COVID-19 restrictions, IUP students and faculty were active in research and study throughout the summer months. From July 1 through August 15, 11 IUP students and two Anthropology Department faculty **excavated the site of a WWII plane crash in Germany**. Funded by the Department of Defense, the project is part of a continuing US effort to account for missing military personnel from the nation's past conflicts.

A total of 24 undergraduate students participated in the 10-week summer research program, **U-SOAR (Undergraduate Summer Opportunities for Applying Research)**. In its seventh year, the program is open to students in all majors, and pairs student researcher with faculty mentors.

IUP entered the eleventh year of a contract with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County to continue **water and air testing at Beaver Run Reservoir** around Marcellus shale drilling sites. IUP has received more than \$980,000 since 2011 to conduct this work.

IUP's Department of Geoscience received a \$397,000 National Science Foundation grant to work with eight other State System geoscience departments to create a **system-wide geoscience learning ecosystem**, which will actively link professionals working in the field with students.

SUCCESS IN SECURING GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS

The Administration and Leadership Studies Research and Training Center's Dr. Robert Orth has **secured a grant of more than \$877,000** to support research and evaluation projects for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency programs.

For the first time, IUP has received a \$50,000 planning grant **designed to expand educator diversity**, from the McElhattan Foundation. The project, Diversity in Education through Expanding Partnerships (Project DEEP), is a collaboration between IUP, Community College of Allegheny County, and a Pittsburgh parent group.

Kyle Kubicko (hotel, restaurant, tourism, and event management), a senior from Natrona Heights, is the first student from IUP to receive the **prestigious Statler Foundation's Scholarship of Excellence**. Each scholarship is worth up to \$25,000 for the academic year to be used for tuition, fees, and books.



Points of Pride

WRITE ON!

IUP President Michael Driscoll and Rebecca (Becky) Young Driscoll have made a \$50,000 gift to support the **Kathleen Jones White Writing Center** and to honor Distinguished University Professor Bennett Rafoth, center director emeritus. The funds will be used to establish the Dr. Bennett Rafoth Endowment, which will provide support to the director and to the mission of the Jones White Writing Center, which annually provides writing tutorials and one-on-one help to more than 4,000 students of all majors and levels.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT US



IUP continues to be selected for competitive and prestigious national rankings and recognitions, most recently:

- Princeton Review's *Best Colleges* guidebook for 2022 (our 21st year for inclusion)
- *Washington Monthly's* "Best Colleges" ranking and "Best Bang for the Buck" (northeast) listing
- *Best Value Colleges* ranks the MBA program in the Eberly College of Business as No. 1 in Pennsylvania.
- *Military Times* ranks IUP as a "Best for Vets" university, and in the top 16 in the mid-Atlantic region.
- IUP's criminology program is ranked sixth in the nation by Study.com.
- IUP is ranked as a top 10 online university in Pennsylvania and top 20 online university in the nation by EDsmart.
- IUP's master's program in literacy is ranked seventh in the nation by Best Value Schools.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

The Department of Safety Sciences is collaborating with Concurrent Technologies Corporation of Johnstown to **conduct and analyze research on COVID-19 readiness** and response of mid-size Pennsylvania companies.

IUP will be hosting community business leaders for the September 30 **Chamber After Hours** at the IUP Steamshop Makerspace, an interdisciplinary makerspace located in Robertshaw.



More than 30 first- and second-year students from The Eberly College of Business participated in the first **"IUP New Students Downtown Indiana Day"** held on August 28. The program was developed by the Eberly College's Student Navigator Leaders.

IUP's Center for Multicultural Student Leadership and Engagement sponsored a **summer diversity research presentation series**, featuring graduate students and faculty; MSCLE also coordinated a program on the **Blairsville Underground Railroad Project**.

Faculty and students continue work with Indiana Borough officials on a **community wastewater surveillance system** that includes data collection, modeling, forecasting, and public health interpretations.

As part of the U-SOAR program, geology major Gavin Vashie, from Seward, worked with Roland Francis '84, Indiana Borough's pretreatment coordinator/assistant wastewater superintendent, **to analyze the amount of microplastics in the community's wastewater**. The goal of the project is to monitor the microplastics under a year's time from varying seasons, along with the arrival of students coming back to campus after limited on-campus students for the 2020-2021 academic year due to COVID-19 precautions.

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