

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

In our case several PhDs but only one doctor who can take out your tonsils AND teach you how to edit video. Dr. Ramy Shaaban is an ear, nose and throat physician from Egypt who is at IUP completing his Ph.D. in Communications Media and Instructional Technology. As a teaching associate and temporary faculty member Shaaban has taught animation, digital video editing, and games production. In the spring of 2020, Shaaban will be teaching the department's first course on virtual reality (VR).

With funds from a grant awarded by IUP's Academic Computing Policy Advisory Committee, Shaaban purchased the Oculus Rift and Insta360 camera and enough stations for students to get hands-on experience with this new technology. Students will use Adobe After Effects and Premiere to edit the 360° and 180° VR videos they shoot. The 360° videos are a 2D experience while the 180° videos are 3D and allow users to physically interact with the video. Students will produce immersive promotional videos that include graphs, maps, words, and other promotional elements for both the 360° and 180° spaces. The students will also be introduced to Unity 3D and be able to create a virtual environment where they can interact with objects.

Virtual Reality (VR) is computer-generated immersive video, usually 360° or 180°, which makes users feel like they are actually in the video they are watching. According to a recent marketwatch.com report, VR is predicted to be a \$33 billion industry in just two years.

Shaaban explains his class will offer students the opportunity to explore a new field. "The market is very interested in creating virtual and augmented reality. Every media company has started implementing VR. This is the future and we need to get our feet wet before it really starts growing."

Shaaban's unusual combination of a medical degree and high-end technology skills has made him a valuable asset to the Communications Media Department. Department chairperson, Dr. B. Gail Wilson has called on Shaaban for many department projects. "He used the VR technology to help us create our 360° video and recently has worked on developing an app to connect viewers to our sports production. Anytime I have asked for help, he has stepped up." The photo above shows the IUP Communications Media "tiny planet" created with the 360° camera and Shaaban is shown at left navigating the virtual world he is creating for the Communications Media Department.



THE LINK

LIGHTS, CAMERAS AND LOTS OF ACTION

Down in the basement of Davis Hall, past the TV studio, around the corner, and back a narrow hallway, (if you follow the trail of bread crumbs) you'll find our new photography space. Five rooms, once a dark room for IUP's university photographer, are outfitted with new lights, printers, and an on-screen editing station.

With major support from the College of Education and Communications, the photography program now utilizes two nearly identical studios, one in B5 Davis and one in G8 Stouffer. Some of the new tools students can use include Pro Foto lighting equipment, with lighting modifiers that allow users to change the shape and direction of the light. Capture One editing software includes the capability to attach a camera to a computer monitor so students can edit photos as they shoot. In the editing bay, a new Wacom monitor includes a retouching tablet with a pen tool to fine-tune photos directly on the screen. This new space is augmented by a 35-seat Mac computer lab in G7 Stouffer

Photography instructor, Rachel Fox is thrilled with the possibilities for expanding the photography program with this new studio. "We now have two shooting spaces. Students will have more opportunities to get in the studio and shoot. I hope to create more studio photography courses."

With 25 students in Advanced Photography providing adequate studio time for students can be a challenge as Communications Media student Gabrielle Bonnar (shown at right editing photos on the Wacom monitor) pointed out. "When there was only one studio it was difficult to reserve time to work on assignments."



Fox shared how the new studio will also act as a gallery to showcase students' work and a space for students to converse about photography. "I'm also hoping it becomes a hub for photography students, a place where people can mingle and talk about their photographs and ideas. I think it's going to be a great addition to our program."

The new space in Davis Hall was first used for the Spring 2019 Photo Show, judged by retired photography professor Dr. Ron Juliette. Scholarship prizes were awarded for the Dean's Prize, Chair's Prize, Juror's Prize, and Professor's Prize.

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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CAMPUS LIFE

Quality of Life Rating	84
Fire Safety Rating	97
Green Rating	60*
Type of school	Public
Environment	Village

STUDENTS

Total undergrad enrollment	8,910
% male/female	42/58
% from out of state	5
% frosh live on campus	81
% ugrads live on campus	30
# of fraternities (% ugrad men join)	18 (10)
# of sororities (% ugrad women join)	15 (9)
% African American	12
% Asian	1
% Caucasian	73
% Hispanic	5
% Native American	<1
% Pacific Islander	<1
% Two or more races	5
% Race and/or ethnicity unknown	1
% international	4
# of countries represented	30

STUDENTS SAY “. . .”

Academics

Indiana University of Pennsylvania maintains a simple way of doing things—provide students with an “inexpensive” education replete with “respected” programs. And the university has certainly delivered on those promises. Indeed, from the “good business school” to the “great writing program,” undergrads have their pick of some truly stellar academic departments. Special praise is reserved for IUP’s “fantastic” communications media program in which students have access to “a full-fledged commercial radio station (WIUP-FM), television studio (IUP-TV), two photography studios, a print studio, a full audio lab, a full motion capture/video game lab, and a huge center dedicated for media production and research (CMPR).” Beyond amazing facilities, undergrads at IUP have the privilege of learning from “great,” “knowledgeable” professors. Most instructors here work to ensure that “discussion[s are] a big part of [the classroom]...experience.” Moreover, it’s clearly evident that they’re “passionate about what they do.” As a journalism and public relations major explains, “My professors really care about their subjects and take the time to thoroughly explain concepts and ideas to students.” And a thrilled nursing major sums it up: “[Professors] feel like family and express that they genuinely care about the students outside of just the classroom situation. They see [us] as more than just students and aim to help us get the most out of IUP resources and time.”

When *The Princeton Review* published the “The Best 385 Colleges” for 2019, IUP was on the list... as usual. We are particularly proud of comments from students about our program. We are excited to share the profile with our alumni and some photos of what makes our program “fantastic.”



IUP-TV Sports Football Production



Stouffer G-7 Mac Lab



WIUP-FM

THE LINK

CLASS OF 2019 MOVES ON...

The first graduates from our new Master of Science in Strategic Communication walked across the stage in May 2019. Each student completed a summer experience, either an internship or thesis to complete their degree. Pictured here from left: Teigan Schrecengost interned in video production with the Pittsburgh Pirates; Adam Lenze interned with IUP's Division of Marketing and Communications, and Fiona Kalu Lenze interned in the public relations department of Lifesteps, Inc. Donald Winzer wrote his thesis entitled "Are you kidding me? Comparing student perceptions and recall of comedy and hard news" and Sarah Everett completed her thesis "Twitterverse and Gender: Examining Perceptions of Gender in Political Tweets." These students are off pursuing a variety of interests: Don has recently worked on a Netflix production. Sarah is a student in our Ph.D. in Communications Media and Instructional Technology program. Teigan continued working for the Pirates through the baseball season. Fiona and Adam, who met and married as students in this program, recently started their work as teachers in China.



THE LINK

ALUMNI PROFILE: Maribeth Monti (1980)



How does an IUP Communications Media graduate end up working for a government agency in Washington D.C. that deals exclusively with civil aviation? Maribeth Monti did it by creating her own path. Originally obtaining her undergraduate degree at Edinboro University, Maribeth graduated with a degree in education and a specialization in early childhood education. Maribeth came to IUP to pursue a Master of Education degree in the Communications Media Department and Community Psychology.

For the last 15 years, Maribeth has worked for the Federal Aviation Administration, a government agency that regulates all aspects of civil aviation in the nation. At the FAA, Maribeth works in the office of Acquisitions and Business Services where she oversees the needs of the traveling public by confirming acquisitions such as scheduling and budgeting.

Maribeth credits her time at IUP for contributing to her success. “When people talk to me about where my success lays, I always talk about experiences at IUP. People there were willing to listen to me and help build programs that guided me to my career. It’s the open environment that I really valued and still treasure.” She constantly applies what she learned at IUP to her everyday life.

The most significant takeaway from her time at IUP was the importance of finding her voice. “Finding your voice and being able to speak up and not being afraid to think outside the box. The most incredible thing about it was how welcoming the university was to new ideas.” Maribeth would tell students who have desire to do something different, think outside the box and communicate with professors.

While a student at IUP, Maribeth was active in a project to bring radio reading services to visually impaired listeners. She is pictured here in 1980 with other IUP students and IUP faculty including retired Communications Media professor, Dr. Ron Juliette.



WIN AWARDS —Students winning state awards for IUP are from left to right, Dr. Ronald A. Juliette, department chairman; Mike Karsher, Maribeth Monti, Onnolee Blinkiewicz, Leon Salvayon, and Dr. Norman W. Sargent, communications professor.

THE LINK

ALUMNI PROFILE: Tom Jagger (1990)

Collaborating with companies like Adobe, UPS, and Microsoft, Tom Jagger has had his fair share of big-name projects. Working in the heart of San Francisco, Jagger is the Vice President of Content Production at Viewstream, a digital marketing agency.

As Vice President, Tom works with customers to develop a story about their products. He then directs the video shoots and usually helps in the post production phase. He gets to travel all over the world to help companies share their story. Using a documentary shooting style, Tom and his crew show how customers use the product being profiled.



Tom graduated from the IUP Communications Media Department with a specialty in electronic media. While at IUP, he was heavily involved in WIUP-FM where he was the music director and hosted an alternative music show. Tom joined IUP-TV his junior year and credits that experience for helping him get an internship. “When it came time for my internship, I threw away the list of locations that everyone got to track down an internship and found my own internship at a small production house where I was doing literally everything -- camera, script writing, editing, effects.”

Tom offers this advice to current students; “Try things out. See what you like to do. When I went to school, I was playing in punk rock bands and just loved music, so I defaulted to radio. As I learned more and more, and actually did the things I was planning on doing for my life's work, I discovered that video was the field I wanted to explore. So, play around with what's possible, have fun, but when it comes down to the wire, take the road less traveled by. It's a harder path to forge, but that's where the opportunities are.”

In his free time, Tom plays in two bands with fellow IUP alum, Ben Buja, *The Crimson Ghostbusters* and *The Whoosie What's It's*. The bands play small clubs and bars around the San Francisco Bay area but have also traveled to England, Germany, and Cuba. Tom and his wife, Amy Popovich, both Greensburg, PA natives, live in San Francisco.

THE LINK

ALUMNI PROFILE: Jim Duzyk (1997)



Jim Duzyk is the Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations at Robert Morris University where he is responsible for the administration of the sports information office, overseeing the promotion and publicity of RMU's 16 Division I athletic programs. Before going to RMU, Jim worked in media relations for two professional sports teams, the Toledo Mud Hens and the Carolina Mudcats.

During his time at IUP, Jim was a staff writer for The Penn, covering IUP sports later becoming assistant sports editor his junior year. During his senior year, Jim was senior sports editor and completed a practicum in the IUP Sports Information Office. After completing his bachelor's degree at IUP, Jim went on to get an MBA in Sport Management at RMU.

Thinking back on his education, Jim recalls important classes with his academic advisor, Dr. Richard Lamberski. "I feel fortunate having had a class taught by Dr. Lamberski as a freshman as well as having him as an advisor. In addition to understanding about the 'bubble' we college students lived in at the time, his guidance helped bring out the best in us as students. His advice to get involved in areas outside of our studies was crucial in my development to help build a career in the field. It's advice I pass on to students today no matter what field they are interested in."

Some of Jim's most memorable IUP moments are the ones he made with his friends. "From my freshman year all the way through graduation, those friendships have lasted through marriages, kids, job changes, and moves to other areas of the country. Playing hacky sack in the Oak Grove, late nights studying at the coffee house and weekends making memories that we all look back on and cherish. That's as much a part of college as the classes we took and the degree we earned."

Jim and his wife, Laura, live in the South Hills of Pittsburgh with their two daughters, Keely and McKenna. Jim and his daughters are pictured right visiting the Field of Dreams.



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SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

Your donation to the Foundation for IUP can be designated specifically to benefit one of our organizations or scholarships. So often, we hear from former students about how their involvement in our student productions and organizations helped to launch their careers. A contribution to IUP-TV or WIUP-FM helps fund equipment purchases, support promotion events, and student activities. A donation to the Communications Media Department's general fund helps us hire student workers, provide scholarships for students, host student, and alumni networking events, and support other departmental activities.

SUPPORT IUP COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA STUDENTS

When you make a gift in support of our department, you invest in the world's next generation of leaders. Scholarships and program support create the best possible student experience.

[Support Our Students](#)

This link can be found on our main departmental web page, [Department of Communications Media](#). From the link above, you will find a list of our accounts where you can donate to one or more of our funds.

Selected Designations

Name	Amount	Percentage
Communications Media Department, General	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> %
IUP-TV	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> %
WIUP-FM RADIO	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> %
Center for Media Production and Research	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> %
W. Darryl Green Memorial Scholarship	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> %
Communications Media Journal and Conference	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> %
Communications Media Doctoral Scholarship and Research	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> %
Total:	\$0.00	0%

THE LINK

ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?

If you haven't connected with #iupcommmedia on social media, you really don't know what you're missing. We try to post something every day when classes are in session. Tuesdays are our Student Leader Spotlight, Thursdays are #tbt Throwback Thursdays, when we dig through our archives for a look at some vintage equipment and hair styles. On Friday we do our #FridayFeaturedAlumni post. We post photos of our new facilities updates, information about faculty accomplishments, and examples of student work. We hope you will follow, like, comment, and share our posts.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/iupcommmedia>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/iupcommmedia/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IUPCommMedia>



The Link is produced by the Department of Communications Media with help from student photographers and writers, Hayley Woodside and Olivia Accardi and our administrative assistant, Mrs. Tammy Lucas.

***The Department of Communications Media is housed in
IUP's College of Education and Communications***



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