

## Celebrating Student, Alumni, and Faculty Success

A total of 1,446 students are eligible to celebrate the completion of their studies on May 5 and 6 during the university's three **commencement** ceremonies. Of the 1,021 undergraduates, 49 achieved a perfect 4.0 grade-point average and 605 qualified for Latin honors with a GPA of 3.2 or higher. A total of 175 graduates donated \$5,282 for the Senior Class Gift.



Bonnie Harbison Anderson '80 will receive an **honorary doctor of science degree** at the May 6 morning commencement ceremony and will deliver remarks at both undergraduate ceremonies. Anderson, a 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, is a businesswoman, leader in transformative and strategic global healthcare, consultant, and volunteer with a career spanning more than 40 years in regulated diagnostics and life science markets. She is the co-founder and chief executive officer of Veracyte, a molecular diagnostics company that helps with early cancer diagnosis and the reduction of expensive and unnecessary procedures.



Renallan Neckles (environmental engineering, Cook Honors College) has been selected for a **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship**. Neckles, who will graduate May 6 with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, will be continuing his studies through the Fellowship at Rice University in Texas, where he has been admitted into the Master of Science Environmental Engineering program.

Maddison Hendricks '21 (Cook Honors College, music education, Spanish education) has been selected for a **Fulbright English Teaching Award** to Spain. Hendricks began the application process while a student at IUP.

Steven Jackson (political science) is the first IUP faculty member selected for a nine-month residential fellowship at the **Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars** in Washington, D.C. He is also the first faculty member chosen for this fellowship from a university in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

Henry Wong Doe (music) presented the **world premiere of *Perspectives*** at IUP in April. He received an arts grant from Creative New Zealand for the project, which includes solo piano works by six New Zealand composers that reflects each composer's life and experience over the last two years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IUP's **Celebration Weekend** honored outstanding alumni with volunteer awards and the Distinguished Alumni Award. Volunteer honorees included Maura King '23, Aspiring Alumni Award; Charles McGreevy, '71, Regional Impact Award; Jerry Clark '69, Advancement Support Award; and Mary Megna, '84, Affinity Services Award.



**Distinguished Alumni Award** recipients were Christina Bennike '88, executive director, Conflict Recovery International; Patrick Cambier '82, partner, Interventional Cardiology Consultants; Rich Caruso '83, consultant; Tonya Anthony Hsiung '00, M '03, president, IUP Alumni Board of Directors, award for service; Mary Moore Morgan '91, recently retired assistant vice president for alumni and friends, award for service; Brandie Smith '94, director, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute; Brig. Gen. Robin Swan '78, Pentagon senior executive (retired); Lt. Col. Daniel Tovan '91, '92, commander, West Point Band.



Shagufta Haque (economics honors, finance, Cook Honors College) has been approved to serve as a **student trustee** on the IUP Council of Trustees by the State System's Board of Governors. She is the current vice president of Student Government Association and is a student worker in the Office of International Education.

IUP women's tennis earned its third consecutive **PSAC Championship** with a 4-1 win against Slippery Rock on April 23 at Bloomsburg. Karolin Kirchttag repeated as the PSAC Champion Scholar for the second straight season, while the women's tennis program earned the No. 2 seed and hosting honors for the NCAA DII Atlantic Regional.

IUP women's swimmer Paige Mikesell was awarded the prestigious College Sports Communications **Academic All-America®** Team Member of the Year for Division II. Mikesell and Rachel Johnson were each named to the PSAC Winter Top 10, which factors in academic and athletic performance. IUP was the only school in the conference with two selections on the PSAC Winter Top 10, bringing the total number of honorees to 67.

IUP women's lacrosse continues its strong season, clinching a playoff berth in the upcoming PSAC tournament while earning a regional ranking with the regular season winding down. Baseball and softball continue battling for a playoff spot in the conference tournament while men's golf takes part in the NCAA Atlantic/East Super Regional on May 11-13 at Oron Valley Golf Club in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

IUP's Men's Rugby team secured a second national championship at the 2023 Collegiate Rugby National Championships on April 30. The women's rugby team also qualified for national competition, ending the season as the ninth ranked women's D2 program in the country.

## Alumni Generosity – School of Osteopathic Medicine Moving Forward

Rich Caruso, a 1983 accounting graduate of IUP and 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, is donating \$1 million to IUP to advance IUP's establishment of a school of osteopathic medicine. Caruso, originally from Kane and now living in Meadow Lands, made the announcement during his recognition as a 2023 IUP Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

## Supporting Research

A total of 159 IUP students and 31 high school students were part of the 18th annual Scholars Forum, held during the university's annual **Research Appreciation Week**. Jenna Bluedorn (communications media) won the Three-Minute Thesis competition with her research project, "Growing Brand Engagement through Gen Z TikTok humor."



Dean Emerita Deanne Snavely and Lindsay Matolyak '12 (chemistry) were the speakers for the annual **STEM Women's Summit**, part of Research Appreciation Week. Selena Blough (biology), received the **Patricia Hilliard Robertson Memorial Scholarship** during the Summit. The late Hilliard Robertson '85 was a physician, an astronaut, and an IUP Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

## Continued Collaboration To Address Rural Health Challenges

Stephanie Taylor-Davis (food and nutrition), who recently completed the American College of Lifestyle Medicine **Certified Lifestyle Medicine Professional training**, is providing this training to the inaugural cohort of medical residents at Indiana Regional Medical Center. IUP dietetics students and IRMC dietitians are part of the project.



Indiana Borough and IUP's Departments of Biology and Mathematical and Computer Sciences are collaborating on a **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention project** to evaluate a new device designed to provide simple, "point of use" analysis for wastewater evaluation, especially for rural communities. This initiative builds on IUP and Indiana Borough's ongoing community wastewater surveillance project, which includes data collection, modeling, forecasting, and public health interpretations. IUP began working with the surveillance program in spring 2021.

IUP and Indiana Regional Medical Center will complete Season One of the **"Rural Health Pulse" podcast** in August. The 10-episode podcast launched in celebration of National Rural Health Day on November 17, 2022. The podcasts include professionals from IRMC and IUP and are recorded by students in the Department of Communications Media under the direction of communications faculty member Mark Piwinsky and produced by director of strategic partnerships Christina Koren. Jim Kinneer, IRMC chief human resources officer, serves as host for the shows.

## HAWKS HELPING HAWKS TO SOAR

The 2023 Hawks Helping Hawks campaign and IUP Giving Day raised a combined \$119,665 to **support student scholarships and experiences**. This year's IUP Giving Day exceeded its goal, raising more than \$44,630 from 126 donors during a 24-hour period.

## Supporting Innovation



IUP's STEAMSHOP (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) began its **Future Makers Forum** program with Pittsburgh-based maker Nina Barbuto on April 25. These events are designed to showcase makers, especially makers from underrepresented populations. The forum, designed to continue with additional artists, engineers, designers and other changemakers, provides an opportunity for these makers to talk about their journey. STEAMSHOP is a campuswide initiative intended to transform learning at IUP by empowering students from all backgrounds and preparations to actively engage with an interdisciplinary digital fabrication lab (makerspace).

IUP STEAMSHOP will host a **summer camp** for children in June. Coordinated by Dr. Frederick Adkins (Mathematical and Computer Sciences) and presented by IUP faculty, the camp offers the opportunity to use IUP STEAMSHOP to design and build a robotic cart, hands-on activities with drones, and time to experiment with collection of safety and ergonomic data. The camp is financed through funding IUP received in fall 2022 through the Southwestern Pennsylvania New Economy Collaborative-Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant.



## CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Hundreds of students and members of the IUP Community participated in the Haven Project’s **Take Back the Night**, its annual event to raise awareness of sexual assault and to show support for survivors.

Hundreds of students offered service to 12 community nonprofit agencies and organizations through IUP’s **Into the Streets** service event on April 22 and joined community members in the annual Indiana Borough clean-up day on April 23.

IUP students in a communications media class raised \$1,000 with an ice bucket challenge to raise money and awareness for research into amyotrophic lateralsclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease)



In honor of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), the Holocaust Remembrance Committee at IUP hosted Holocaust survivor Solange Lebovitz. The presentation focused on her story and the importance of standing up to antisemitism.