

# CRIMSON CHRONICLE

Fall 2014

## Major Technology Improvements at Monroeville!

Effective August 21, 2014, IUP's internet connectivity to the Monroeville Graduate and Professional Center was increased from 10mb/sec to 1,000mb/sec (or to '1 gig'). Special thanks to **Bill Balint** and to IT Services for facilitating this improvement!

The enhancement helps with daily faculty, staff and student efficiency by providing improved internet speed, and it enables the most efficient use of new videoconferencing equipment, which was installed in September 2014. The new equipment provides the opportunity for programs to grow and to provide unique learning experiences by offering courses simultaneously at multiple locations: Dixon Center, Northpointe, Indiana and Monroeville.

**Dr. Michael Kornis**, Department of Employment and Labor Relations, is the first to use the new technology at Monroeville and comments,

"I'm very pleased with the videoconferencing system at the Monroeville Professional Center. We use it to videoconference to locations like our classroom on the main campus, Northpointe, the Dixon Center in Harrisburg, as well as individual students who can connect to the classroom from anywhere. These videoconferencing capabilities are enabling us to grow our program and reach students we otherwise could not teach in a classroom setting."

For more information about the IUP Monroeville Graduate and Professional Center, contact Paula Stossel at [pstoss@iup.edu](mailto:pstoss@iup.edu).



*Paula Stossel  
Assistant Dean for Administration*

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE  
STUDIES AND RESEARCH

[www.iup.edu/graduatestudies](http://www.iup.edu/graduatestudies)



## Also in the Issue:

- Enrollment is Life
- Curriculum Development
- New Member of the Team
- Proposed Policy for the Preparation and Training of Students Working with Human and/or Animal Subjects
- Student Accomplishments

## Important Dates:

- Graduation application deadline for anticipated December 2014 graduates is Dec. 1.
- RTAF submission deadline for Master's students anticipating a May 2015 graduation and doctoral students anticipating an August 2015 graduation is Dec. 15.

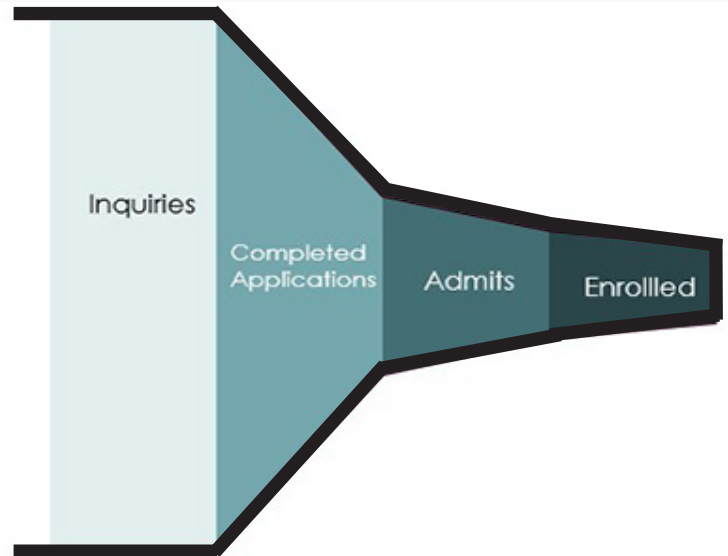
# Graduate Studies and Research Program Spotlight

## “Enrollment is Life”

Provost Moerland often repeats this phrase to describe how important enrollment is to IUP. IUP’s fall graduate enrollment was 2,239 students, which is 18 less than last year. Below is the University-wide funnel for graduate enrollment this fall:

### Fall 2014 All Graduate Programs

STAGE	NUMBER
Inquiries	4449
Completed Applications	1478
Admits	900
Enrolled	633



Inquiries to completed applications: **33.2%**  
Completed applications to admits: **60.9%**  
Admits to enrolled: **70.3%**

As you can see, thousands of potential graduate students inquired about our programs. Over 2,900 prospective graduate students inquired but didn't apply. So, what is the problem? Several possibilities come to mind.

**PROGRAM DELIVERY:** The delivery method of the program may not match the needs of the prospective student. For example, suppose the normal student in the program is in his or her early 30s. The 30-ish prospective student likely already has a job and has had to support her- or himself from age 21 on. Are we asking this person to give up their job, come here for two years, and then attempt to return to the workforce? That can be tough in today's times. This is particularly true of two year, face-to-face masters programs.

**“ME, TOO”:** The tuition of IUP’s graduate programs is, in most cases, the same as that of 13 other programs in PASSHE so we cannot compete based on price. If the curriculum looks the same as most other programs, then we cannot compete based on program uniqueness. So, why would a student come to our program over the others? Each program should be able to enunciate a single compelling reason why a student should choose one of our programs over all of the others. Often, it is a **‘value proposition’**, which means it is a combination of quality and affordability plus a delivery that suits the needs of the prospective student. This is the single most important sentence that we can email, write, or speak to a prospective student and we need to say it as often as possible.

**GA and Scholarships?:** Prospective students are not offered an assistantship or scholarship before they apply. Graduate Coordinators and faculty want to see their applications, first. It is likely that funding does not factor into the first stage of the funnel (inquiry to applicant).

# Graduate Studies and Research Program Spotlight

## Know Your Competitors!

What programs are stealing the best students from yours? If you haven't looked at this in the past two years, the results might surprise you. Try this!



1. Go to [www.gradschools.com](http://www.gradschools.com).
2. Select a subject (e.g. Nursing & Medicine).
3. Select a specialty (e.g. Nursing & Specializations).
4. Click on "Search Now".
5. If you used the above example, you would see that there are 1,273 masters programs in Nursing in the US.
6. Click on Masters programs.
7. Under "Select a State", check the box for Pennsylvania.
8. If you did everything right, you should see 369 Masters of Nursing programs that are offered in Pennsylvania.

The value of doing this for your program is that this will help you see how many competitors there really are for your prospective students. Once you know that, the next step would be to mentally compare your program with the ones you think are your program's chief competitors. You can compare costs, quality, value, uniqueness of curriculum and method of delivery. This will help you understand how prospective students will compare your program against the others and how you can increase the quality or quantity of applicants to your program.

*Tim Mack, Dean  
School of Graduate Studies and Research*

# Graduate Studies and Research Program Announcements

## Less is More for Curriculum and Graduate Teaching Eligibility

### Curriculum Development



Most members of the IUP community have been given the opportunity to hear from the chairs of the Summer Curriculum Action Team (SCAT), Drs. Mark Staszkievicz and David LaPorte, regarding the proposed changes to the curricular process. One of the primary purposes of the proposed revisions is to encourage and enable curricular innovation as a means of attracting, recruiting, and retaining students. If approved by Senate, these changes will create a substantially streamlined process for developing new courses and program tracks as well as modifying existing courses and programs. The process for proposing new programs is dictated by PASSHE. Consequently, new program development will remain essentially the same.

In the meantime, the UWGC continues to be “open for business”, and I am happy to consult with you regarding how to move your curriculum through the current process. In addition, departments that are considering new programs are welcome and encouraged to contact me for assistance developing the required Letter of Intent that begins the process. As always, faculty members can access the current work log for the UWGC here: <http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=86455>

### Graduate Eligibility

Although the criteria for graduate teaching eligibility remains unchanged, a more user-friendly process has been created for faculty who seek to establish or renew graduate teaching eligibility. A streamlined application form, developed with input from the Council of Graduate Coordinators and the University Wide Graduate Committee, is available now and can be accessed here: <http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=13429>. Questions regarding how to complete the form should be addressed to [srobert@iup.edu](mailto:srobert@iup.edu). PLEASE DISCONTINUE USE OF THE OLD FORM.

Faculty and administration can always check the status of their eligibility here:

<http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=13443>

*Shari Robertson  
Dean's Associate  
School of Graduate Studies and Research*

## Research Highlights

### Coming Soon: A Proposed Policy for the Preparation and Training of Students Working with Human and/or Animal Subjects

This fall the University Senate Research Committee will be bringing forward for adoption a **“Policy for the Preparation and Training of Students Working with Human and/or Animal Subjects.”**

Some undergraduate and graduate students at IUP have recently collected data on human subjects or animals without permission from the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and these data, via federal regulation, were unallowable. As a result, we have had several instances where undergraduate data, masters thesis data, and even doctoral dissertation data were disallowed from use. Such results were quite traumatic for the students! This proposed policy would rectify this by ensuring that all students would pass free, online training before engaging in human subjects or animal research. Although not named in the proposed policy, IUP will continue to use subscription-based online training modules produced by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI).



You can learn more about IUP’s CITI offerings by visiting our Online Research Ethics Training webpage: <http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=93408>

### Questions?

**Who created and who has reviewed this proposed policy?** This proposed policy was drafted by the SGSR working in close concert with the IRB and IACUC chairs. It has been reviewed for comment by the following groups: IRB, IACUC, President’s Cabinet, Council of Deans, Council of A-Deans, Academic Affairs Council (including representatives from the Council of Chairs), graduate program coordinators, the Student Government Association (undergraduates), and Graduate Student Assembly (graduate students).

**To whom would the proposed policy apply?** If approved by Senate, the policy would apply to all IUP students who engage, or plan to engage, in systematic interaction with human and/or animal subject studies that require approval by the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) or by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). This proposed policy would also apply to non-IUP students who wish to use IUP as a study site for projects for which IRB or IACUC approval must also be obtained.

**How can I determine if my research project requires IRB or IACUC oversight?** The best way to confirm if your planned research project requires IRB or IACUC approval is to discuss your project with your research adviser and consult with the IRB (human subjects research) or IACUC (animal subjects research) chairs. You can also consult the helpful resources on the IRB webpage: <http://www.iup.edu/irb/default.aspx> or the IACUC webpage: <http://www.iup.edu/iacuc/default.aspx>

# Research Highlights

## Questions? Continued...

### **Where can I access the training? How do I register? How do I know which courses to complete?**

You can access the training by clicking the "Log on to CITI" link on the Online Research Ethics Training webpage: <http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=93408>. On this page you can also view a list of all the CITI courses IUP offers, view a PowerPoint with directions on how to register for training, and review instructions for obtaining copies of your training completion certificate(s).

#### \* Question 1

### Human Subjects Research

Please choose one learner group below based on your role and the type of human subjects activities you will conduct. You will be enrolled in the Basic Course for that group.

Choose one answer

- Biomedical Researchers:** Choose this group to satisfy CITI training requirements for Investigators and staff involved primarily in Biomedical research with human subjects.
- Social, Behavioral, and Educational Researchers:** Choose this group to satisfy CITI training requirements for Investigators and staff involved primarily in Social, Behavioral, and/or Education research with human subjects.
- Researchers working with data or laboratory specimens- ONLY:** Choose this group to satisfy CITI training requirements for Investigators and staff who have no direct contact with human subjects in their research.
- No human research subjects course needed at this time.**

**I already completed CITI training at IUP, do I need to re-take the training?** If you completed the appropriate human subjects training for your planned human subjects research, you do not need to retake the training unless required by your research adviser or graduate program to do so. Similarly, if you completed the appropriate animal subjects training for your planned animal subjects research, you do not need to retake the training unless required by your research adviser or graduate program to do so.

**I completed CITI training at another institution, do I need to re-take the training?** If you completed CITI training at another institution, you will need to work with the Assistant Dean for Research to determine which, if any, additional CITI modules you will need to complete.

*Hilliary Creely  
Assistant Dean for Research*

## Research Highlights

### Welcome!

The Graduate Admissions Office is proud to announce the newest member of our team – **Julie Williams**. She has been hired to fill one of our temporary support staff positions. Her responsibilities include application processing, updating Banner records, and answering any questions from students, faculty or staff relating to applications, programs or general inquiries.



Julie Williams

*Eric Litzinger*  
*Director of Graduate Admissions*

To view our Graduate Student  
Accomplishments, **CLICK HERE!**