



Hawks Flying High

After spending much of the regular season ranked No. 1 in the country, the IUP men's basketball team claimed its fourth consecutive PSAC tournament championship by beating Mercyhurst on March 5. The Crimson Hawks then earned the top seed in the Atlantic Regional tournament, where their season ended in the championship game in front of more than 3,500 fans at the Kovalchick Complex.

Three members of the IUP swimming and diving teams—Rachel Johnson, Paige Mikesell, and Athanasios Diamantidis—earned individual all-America honors at the NCAA Division II Championships in Indianapolis, capping another sparkling season in the pool. One women's relay team, consisting of Jordan Crupie, Johnson, Mikesell, and Amber Baldani, also earned all-America honors with a 10th-place finish in the 400 medley relay.

In a combination academic-athletic honor, Rachel Johnson won the Elite 90 award for swimming and diving. Johnson, who has a perfect 4.0 GPA as a hospitality management major, won the award as a recognition of the student-athlete who has reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in his or her sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among his or her peers.

The IUP men's Division I club ice hockey team won the College Hockey Mid-America championship and advanced to the American Collegiate Hockey Association national tournament.

Addressing Critical Workforce Needs

IUP will receive \$1.19 million from the National Science Foundation through the Noyce Scholarships and Stipends program to help address the critical need for effective Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics teachers in Pennsylvania's high schools. Holly Travis (biology) is the principal investigator for the multi-year project, which includes collaboration with 12 area school districts and two community colleges.

IUP's Punxsutawney campus will launch a Healthcare Pathways dual enrollment pilot program starting in fall 2023, designed to provide affordable opportunities in the healthcare field while helping to address the need for more healthcare workers. This new two-year program is designed to prepare high school students for increased career and educational options including employment as a trained and credentialed emergency medical technician.

IUP Partnership with Indiana Borough Continuing to Address Community Health

IUP and Indiana Borough will add to its community health collaboration as a result of a grant to Indiana Borough for the purchase of a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine, used to determine concentrations of COVID-19 in wastewater. The machine will be housed in IUP's Department of Biology, with students supervised by N. Bharathan (biology) and Yongtao Cao (mathematical and computer sciences) analyzing the samples. This initiative is part of a national pilot program organized by the Water Environment Federation, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control, to determine the efficacy of these smaller PCR machines in rural communities.

Enriching Perspectives Through Unique Programs, Opportunities

Sekou Berthé, the Ambassador of Mali to the United States, was a recent guest of IUP's Pan-African Studies program, addressing "West and Central Africa at the Crossroads of Global Security Challenges."

IUP's Big Ideas program, coordinated by Distinguished University Professor Lynn Botelho (history), hosted author and academic Dr. Roosevelt Montás. He presented "Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation." IUP's Big Ideas: Transformative Culture and the Professions is supported by the Teagle Foundation.



IUP's Theater-By-The-Grove began its association with Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company with a production of founding artistic director Mark Clayton Southers' "Nine Days in the Sun." The play explores a world where dark skin is the desired tone, so the racial balance is shifted and the social order in America is turned upside down. The show's cast was a blending of nine IUP student-actors with five Pittsburgh actors affiliated with the PPTCO and was co-directed by Jamaica Johnson from PPTCO and IUP's Michael Schwartz (theater).



Sheetz, Inc. President/CEO Travis Sheetz and Executive Vice President of People & Culture Stephanie Doliveira presented "People and Culture: A Panel Discussion," moderated by Sheetz Inc. public relations manager Nick Ruffner '06. The discussion was sponsored by the IUP Office of Strategic Partnerships and the Division of University Advancement. Sheetz, Inc., is the 2013 recipient of the IUP Center for Family Business Distinguished Family Business award.

Accolades, Accreditations, and Honors

The Eberly College of Business Master of Business Administration on-campus program has been selected as one of the top programs in the nation by The *Princeton Review*. The rankings were included in the publication's "Best Business Schools 2023" and follow the program's ranking in the "Best Business Schools for 2021 and 2022."

IUP earned accounting accreditation for the Department of Accounting and Information Systems in the Eberly College of Business, the only public university in Pennsylvania, and one of only five colleges and universities in the commonwealth to achieve this recognition. The Eberly College of Business has held AACSB accreditation since 2001, an honor held by fewer than six percent of colleges and universities all over the world with business degree programs.

Undergraduate programs in the Media Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry, Physics, and Engineering, have received continued approval from the American Chemical Society.

IUP's online master of science degree in nursing has been named to The *Princeton Review's* 2023 Top Online Nursing Programs; this recognition follows the program's recognition by *U.S. News & World Report* for its 2022 "Best Online Program."

IUP was chosen by the International Research and Exchange Board to host two faculty and research administrators from two African universities to learn about IUP's research structure and expertise.

President Michael Driscoll was named to *City & State's* "Higher Education Power 100" for 2023, "as a leader and changemaker in all aspects of Pennsylvania higher education," and as one of the "most influential members of Pennsylvania's higher education community."



Director of Strategic Partnerships Christina Koren has been selected for the 2023 *Pennsylvania Business Central's* "Top 100" listing of business leaders.