

## Pandemic Pivot Praise

IUP was selected for the **Top COVID Pivot** award from the Pittsburgh Technology Council during its 2020 Tech 50 Awards on November 12. The award is given in recognition of local companies' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. IUP was also the sole higher education finalist in the Non-Profit-Education-Community category.

## Maintaining Connections



Thousands of alumni and friends participated in IUP's **Virtual Family Weekend** and **Homecoming** celebrations. The "Homecoming in a Box" project (IUP memorabilia designed for celebration of virtual Homecoming), raised almost \$3,000 to benefit the Student Assistance Fund and Food Pantry and Help Center.

IUP honored **more than 1,800 May and August graduates** in six college-based virtual ceremonies in September, featuring individual photos submitted by the graduates. More than 640 December and January graduates will be celebrated in virtual college-based ceremonies on December 12.

The show did go on throughout IUP's fall semester: **music, dance and theatre productions** continued to be offered via livestream, including the Theater-by-the-Grove's production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing* and Dance Theater's *Phantasmagoria of Edgar Allan Poe*.



## On The COVID-19 Front Lines

Narayanaswamy Bharathan (biology) continues to partner with Indiana Regional Medical Center to provide **local COVID-19 testing**. Since May 1, his lab has finished more than 12,400 tests and trained three lab technicians on the equipment IUP is loaning to IRMC. He has been selected

for a pilot program with an international company that has allowed faster testing with no impact on testing efficacy.

IUP faculty and staff continue to be part of Indiana Borough's **wastewater analysis project** that shows the presence of the coronavirus and charts its decline or increase.

IUP is an active participant in the **Indiana County COVID-19 Task Force**, which brings community leaders together to share information and resources in the fight against the pandemic in Indiana County.

## Supporting Students Through The Pandemic

More than 800 members of the IUP family – employees, alumni, friends and students – have donated almost \$380,000 to the **Student Assistance Fund** (formerly the Emergency Response Fund), designed to help defray costs experienced by students associated with technology, unexpected travel, and other unanticipated expenses related to the pandemic, providing support to 433 students.

IUP's fourth annual **Giving Tuesday** event raised more than \$46,000 for the Student Assistance Fund. Since launching an IUP Giving Tuesday initiative in 2017, students, employees, alumni, and friends have donated more than \$82,000 to assist students.



Sharon Massey and Sean Derry (art and design) organized **Common Goods**, a pop-up store featuring laser-cut paper packages of items designed by students. The project raised \$1,555 for IUP's Student Assistance Fund. This event is part of the pair's Sculpture Support System, which provides a more in-depth professional experience for highly motivated students through social practice projects that engage community members in a range of art making processes.

## Focusing On The Future



IUP celebrated groundbreaking for **John J. and Char Kopchick Hall**, IUP's \$90 million science facility, with an in-person and livestreamed event on September 23.

In October, IUP announced plans for **IUP NextGen**, a restructuring of the university's six academic colleges and academic programs, part of an ongoing plan designed to create a stronger, more student-centered university.



IUP and Westmoreland County Community College have a new **dual-enrollment agreement**, designed to streamline the process for students who earn an associate degree at Westmoreland to complete a bachelor's degree program at IUP. The agreement offers Westmoreland students access to IUP housing, dining, and other resources.

## Maintaining Our Commitment To Diversity And Inclusion

Three IUP anthropologists—Abigail Adams, Ben Ford, and Andrea Palmiotto—presented a panel discussion, ***Is Race Real?*** moderated by Social Equity Director Elise Glenn.

The **President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion** sponsored presenter Justin Brown 'M 13 for interactive workshops on diversity for students and faculty.



Social Equity Director Elise Glenn presented **Choosing Anti-Racism** as part of the Center for Multicultural Student Leadership and Engagement's Lunch & Learn series. The presentation focused on how everyone can choose to be anti-racist and bring about real change.

IUP's Difficult Dialogues Working Group led virtual and in-person workshops during the first week of classes titled ***Stopping the Moment: Responding to Upsetting Remarks.***

Veronica Watson (English), convener of the Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative, has secured funding from The **400 Years of African American History National Commission** to offer two high-impact programs to students throughout the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education: *1 Fear for My Life* and *Let Me Read You Your Rights.*

## Student Opportunities

IUP secured more than \$630,000 from the **Department of Defense** for scholarships for nine IUP students who are enrolled in concentrated studies in the cybersecurity field. Students who are selected for the scholarships are guaranteed a civilian position with a Department of Defense agency for the number of years that they receive this funding.

## Alumni Giving Back

Dolores Spinelli Gigliotti, '70, and her husband, Vincent Gigliotti, donated **\$2.4 million** to the Gregory Spinelli Memorial Criminology Fund, the George L. Spinelli Memorial Scholarship and to establish the George L. Spinelli Enhancement Fund for the Department of Counseling.

The Punxsutawney Area College Trust has continued its long-time support with a pledge of a **\$200,000** donation for the expansion of facilities in downtown Punxsutawney for the Academy of Culinary Arts.

William Lafranchi, who retired from IUP after 33 years of leadership of the IUP Libraries, has gifted **\$135,000** to IUP for library support and for student scholarships.

Eugene O'Sullivan, a 1971 accounting graduate, and his wife, Sandra, have donated **\$100,000** to IUP to establish a scholarship to benefit students in IUP's Eberly College of Business and Information Technology.

Dan Simoni, '94, and Michelle Costanza Simoni, '95, donated **\$31,000** for scholarships for students in the Eberly College of Business and Information Technology.

John Laudeman '71 and his wife, Dorothy, gifted **\$25,000** to establish a scholarship for students who qualify for the IUP's Sutton Scholarship program, with preference for students studying in IUP's Eberly College of Business and Information Technology.

## Alumni on the Global Stage



**Nate – A One Man Show** by Young Alumni Award winner Natalie Palamides '12 (Theatre and Communications Media, Cook Honors College) premiered globally on Netflix on Dec. 1. The show is executive produced by Amy Poehler and Kim Lessing of Paper Kite Productions.

## External Recognition

IUP is ranked as one of the top universities in the nation in the *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College 2021 Rankings*. IUP is ranked highly for engagement, which includes a measurement of student engagement, student recommendations, student interaction and breadth of opportunities for involvement.

IUP's on-campus Master of Business Administration has been selected for *The Princeton Review's* listing of **Best Business Schools for 2021: On-Campus MBA Programs**.



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