

Points of Pride

May 2024



A Season of Celebration Student, Alumni, and Faculty Success



A total of 1,566 students are eligible to celebrate the completion of their studies on May 10 and 11 during the university's **three commencement ceremonies**. Of the 1,100 undergraduates, 48 achieved a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, and 692 qualified for Latin honors with a GPA of 3.2 or higher.



Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro will receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree at the afternoon undergraduate ceremony, where he will deliver remarks; **Ellen Sylves Ruddock '66** will receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree at the ceremonies and will deliver remarks at the graduate ceremony and the morning undergraduate ceremony. Ruddock, who has been honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award and the President's Medal of Distinction, is a respected community advocate and entrepreneur who continues to blaze trails for leadership opportunities for women.



John "Jack" Frank '58, will be honored with the **President's Medal of Distinction** on May 10. A 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, Frank spent 25 years at IUP as IUP's veterans counselor, helping young men and women make the transition from military service to university life. He was also the dean of men and director of the IUP Counseling Center and was named professor emeritus upon his retirement from IUP.



Lorraine Guth (counseling) has been selected as IUP's 2024-2025 Distinguished University Professor. The Distinguished University Professor is a faculty member who exemplifies excellence in all areas of teaching, research and scholarly activities, and service, and recipients hold that title for life. Guth has been recognized nationally for her leadership in the profession and for her work internationally to advance the counseling field.



Distinguished University Professor Ben Ford (anthropology) has been selected for a **Fulbright award to study in Portugal** during the spring 2025 semester. He will focus on improving the understanding of human interactions with coastal landscapes.

Andrea Palmiotto (anthropology) was recently awarded a post-PhD research grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation to **explore social prescriptions and communal learning in the production of ancient bone tools** on the South Carolina coast between 3,000 and 6,000 years ago.



Abigail Hancox, a senior political science major with a minor in homeland security in the Cook Honors College, who serves on the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors and as president of IUP's Student Government Association, has been selected for a competitive **James A. Finnegan Foundation Fellowship**. The Finnegan Foundation Fellowship provides the opportunity for selected students to be placed in summer internships in executive branch positions in Harrisburg for eight to 10 weeks and be part of a series of meetings with key public officials. She will serve with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

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Six outstanding members of the IUP community were honored on April 13 with the **Distinguished Alumni Award**, the highest award given by the IUP Alumni Association to university alumni. Recipients for 2024 are Susan Burig, a graphic designer and film producer; The Honorable Daniel Clifford, Administrative Judge of the Family Division of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas; Bergitta E. Controneo, chief operating officer of the American College of Physicians; Jim Haslett, award-winning professional football player and coach; Dr. David Holben, professor of nutrition and Gillespie Distinguished Scholar at the University of Mississippi; and Carolyn Violi, the resident musical director and accompanist for the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

In addition to the Distinguished Alumni Awards, three alumni and a graduating student were honored for outstanding volunteerism through the **Award of Excellence in Volunteer Leadership** program: Ruth Riesenman '64, for Advancement Support; Omega Gamble '08, for Affinity Services; Milady Lagunas, of Nottingham, Aspiring Alumni (May graduate); and Tracy Settle '80, for Regional Impact.



IUP celebrated the **connections and career successes of graphic design alumni** at the first, to-be-annual, "Slenkfest" April 11 to 13. The event is named after IUP's first graphic design professor, Robert Slenker. Public events included a presentation by Susan Burig '88, Marvel Cinematic Universe graphic designer and 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient; an exhibition in IUP's University Museum by 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award winner John Ritter '88 titled "Energy and Color, Thirty Years of Illustration by John Ritter," and an open house for IUP Graphic Design and Illustration Alumni.



Pennsylvania Auditor General Timothy L. DeFoor joined IUP President Michael Driscoll, State Senator Joe Pittman, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Directors Vice Chair Sam Smith, and Tammy Manko, director of IUP's Career and Professional Development Center, to recognize IUP graduate Austin Pastal, the first IUP student to graduate from the Department of the Auditor General's Intern to Hire Career Pathway and be hired full-time by the department.

Innovation and Community Partnerships

IUP's STEAMSHOP and key partners from Johnstown, Indiana, and Armstrong counties hosted an open house to showcase the innovative **entrepreneurial makerspace ecosystem** at Northpointe, funded by the Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) grant, (EDA/RIDC/ARM Institute). These makerspaces aim to address specific regional needs while sharing resources to maximize impact on western Pennsylvania's workforce and economic landscape.

IUP students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members celebrated innovation and student and faculty research and creative work during IUP's **2024 Research Appreciation Week**. In addition to the annual Women in STEM Summit, Scholars Forum, and Three-Minute Thesis competition, new events included an Artificial Intelligence Summit and an Innovation Panel with regional business leaders and entrepreneurs. The 19th annual Scholars Forum featured 168 IUP undergraduate and graduate students and 37 high school students, including 17 original artworks.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024, signed into law by President Biden on March 9, includes **\$150,000 in federal funding for IUP's proposed college of osteopathic medicine**. The provision was sponsored by Congressman Guy Reschenthaler and Senator John Fetterman. IUP's Council of Trustees endorsed the exploration of a possible development of a college of osteopathic medicine in December 2022.

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Remaining Focused on Student Success



More than 1,200 students, employees, and community members contributed to the update of **IUP's Indiana Campus Long-Range Facilities Master Plan**.

The plan's goals and themes include a focus on IUP's academic future; reducing the campus footprint; creating a new campus "front door" and community connections; better movement around campus; student success and well-being, including a one-stop precinct for student success; a new green space; and creating a prominent and interconnected physical space for the health sciences academic cluster, including the proposed college of osteopathic medicine.

IUP continued its **"Big Ideas" program** with Consuela G. Metger, a nationally recognized and award-winning expert in the field of book conservation. IUP has received more than \$200,000 from the Teagle Foundation-National Endowment for the Humanities for the program, designed to integrate and embed the liberal arts into student career preparation.

Three IUP music faculty – Joe Baunoch, Craig Denison, and Zach Cheever – joined 60 students to serve as **the invited choir for international superstar Andrea Bocelli** for his April 4 concert in Pittsburgh.

More than 260 students, faculty, and staff celebrated and embraced IUP's many cultural identities and intersectionality at the **2024 Unity Ball Global Met Gala** on April 11. The event was coordinated by the DEI Alliance student organization and Social Equity and Title IX Office.

IUP's **hotel front desk simulation lab now bears the name of the Statler Foundation**, which provided \$125,000 for its construction. This donation is in addition to the Statler Foundation's selection of four IUP student recipients of the prestigious Statler Foundation's Scholarship of Excellence; three have received a full \$25,000 scholarship, and one has received a partial \$12,000 scholarship, to be used for tuition, fees, and books.

Effective fall 2024, IUP will **reduce the overall cost of enrollment for dual-enrolled students**, resulting in savings ranging from \$104.50 (for a one-credit course) to \$3,344 in savings for students who take 32 credits in four semesters. This new pricing structure continues the 75 percent discount of the undergraduate per-credit tuition rate for dual-enrolled students; under this new pricing structure, the per-credit cost (tuition and fees) for dual-enrolled students is \$100 per credit. IUP has 105 dual-enrolled students at IUP in spring semester classes, the highest number in history.

Student-Athlete Excellence

IUP Dance Team earned the judges' award for "most entertaining" performance during its first intercollegiate dance match outside of Pennsylvania, the Precision Intercollegiate Dance Competition, held in Manassas, Virginia, in March.

IUP football standouts Drew DiNunzio-Biss and Quinn Zinobile were named to the 2024 National Football Foundation **Hampshire Honor Society**. This initiative has honored 18,389 student-athletes since its inception.



Can't Leaf It Out...

IUP's newly formed **Lettuce Eating Club** hosted its second "Lettuce Off" in April. Copeland Whitfield, a senior biology major from Punxsutawney, earned the title of "Head Lettuce" by finishing his head of iceberg lettuce in 2 minutes and 45 seconds. Twenty competitors munched it out during the competition, with 30 spectators cheering them on. The remaining uneaten lettuce was donated to the Indiana Community Garden for mulch material.