

Points of Pride

September 2024



CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Kalani Palmer (Professional Studies in Education), director of IUP's Child Care Access Means Parents in School program, secured \$149,998 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to continue **IUP's work to support undergraduate parenting students** through the 2024-2025 academic year. Since 2017, IUP's program has supported 50 parenting students; 30 have graduated and 16 are currently enrolled in classes.

IUP received a \$217,997 grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services to provide **financial support to students who commit to serving as nurse educators**. The Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program provides loan forgiveness (up to 85 percent of loans borrowed through the program) for students in the master's and doctoral nursing programs who commit to serving as a nursing educator at any accredited school of nursing or as a clinical educator at an accredited health facility for four years. This is IUP's second consecutive year to successfully secure the grant funding.

The Office of International Education and Associate Vice President for International Education and Global Engagement and Executive Director of the American Language Institute Michele Petrucci and International Student Scholar Services and the American Language Institute Director Emma Archer have been recognized by the Institute of International Education with **certificates of appreciation from the IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund Alliance**.

This fall, IUP will launch "**Developing Future Special Educators**," directed by William Schleicher (Department of Communication Disorders, Special Education, and Disabilities). Schleicher secured \$20,000 for the program from the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network. The initiative is designed to engage current high school students and IUP undergraduates who have not yet selected a major to learn about and work with students with disabilities as a means to inspire the next generation of special educators.

Auditor General Timothy L. DeFoor recognized IUP graduate as the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General's newest auditor 1 from the Department's **Intern-to-Hire program**.

IUP's Community and Representation pilot program, a mentorship program designed for IUP teacher-candidate students from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds, was **highlighted as a "promising practice" in the statewide "Solutions Playbook,"** published recently by Teach Plus Pennsylvania and the National Center on Education and the Economy. The program was funded by an IUP strategic plan mini-grant awarded by the Office of the President and the Council of Chairs.

IUP has been named to the **Princeton Review Best 390 Colleges 2025** and 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**.

PROPOSED COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

In June, the Foundation for IUP announced a **\$20 million commitment** to support IUP's proposed college of osteopathic medicine.

Recognizing "the good that it will do and the lives it will save," 1973 graduates **Tim and Debra Phillips Cejka** gifted **\$2 million** to IUP's proposed college of osteopathic medicine. Tim Cejka is a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and has served on the IUP Council of Trustees since 2018.

Congressman Guy Reschenthaler included IUP's proposed college of osteopathic medicine project among his FY25 requested community projects for \$2 million, and **Senator John Fetterman** included the project on his Congressionally Directed Spending priorities list for the FY25 Community Project Funding (CPF) process.

In June, IUP and Punxsutawney Area Hospital signed a **clinical training affiliation agreement** for students in IUP's proposed college of osteopathic medicine. This was the first clinical training affiliation agreement between IUP and a hospital or medical center.



Following a national search, Dr. Ryan Smith, a doctor of osteopathic medicine with a PhD in education and health science education leadership, was selected as the **founding associate dean of clinical affairs** for the proposed college of osteopathic medicine. He began work at IUP on July 8.



Dr. Luke H. Mortensen, a nationally known leader in osteopathic medical education with more than three decades of experience, has been selected as the **founding associate dean of preclinical affairs** for the proposed college of osteopathic medicine. He began work at IUP on Aug. 1.

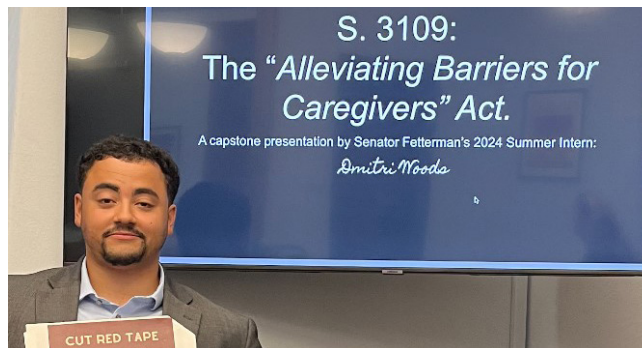
CRIMSON HAWKS TAKE FLIGHT

Josiah Townsend (biology) led nine biology majors for a study focused on the **conservation and management of the critically endangered *Utila iguana* in Honduras** in June. This study abroad course included a parallel vet-tech training workshop for Honduran biologists and practitioners.

For the fourth year, Andrea Palmiotto and William Chadwick (Anthropology, Geospatial, and Earth Sciences) led a **field study with IUP students near Frankfurt, Germany**, at the site of a crash of a World War II B-17 airplane.

AnnaPearl Diamond (communications media major, Asian studies minor) was the **first IUP student to participate in the in-person experience at the University of Miyazaki, Japan**. IUP received \$1 million from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology for a five-year collaboration that extends the current eight-week virtual English language instruction and an in-person experience at IUP for University of Miyazaki students; the funding also provides a new opportunity for IUP students to complete an eight-week virtual Japanese language instruction and a two-week in-person experience in Japan.

Shanya Coshey (Asian studies and anthropology double major) has been selected for a **Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship** and Dilan Dybus (Asian studies) has been selected for a **Freeman Asia Award**. The scholarships will fund the students' year-long study at Kansai Gaidai University in Hirakata, Japan. Coshey is IUP's 22nd Gilman scholarship recipient and Dybus is IUP's 11th Freeman-ASIA scholarship recipient.



Dmitri Woods (political science, social studies education) completed a **summer-long internship in Washington, D.C. with Senator John Fetterman**. Woods' capstone project focused on promoting Senate Bill 3109, the Alleviating Barriers for Caregivers Act.

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A total of 35 students completed original research through the 2024 **Undergraduate Summer Opportunities for Applying Research**. Students were mentored by faculty advisors and completed weekly programs and workshops about research success.

Silas Gesser (Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism, and Event Management) has been selected for the prestigious **Statler Foundation's Scholarship of Excellence**. He is IUP's fifth Statler Foundation scholarship recipient.

NEW LEADERSHIP

Following a national search, Jennifer DeAngelo, who has more than 15 years of fundraising and advancement experience, has been selected to serve as **vice president for university advancement**. She began work at IUP in June.

FACULTY AND STAFF STARS



Academy of Culinary Arts Chef Instructor Erin Reed is the American Culinary Federation (ACF) **2024 Pastry Chef of the Year**, the Federation's highest honor. The ACF is the largest professional chef organization in North America.

Associate Vice President for International Education and Global Engagement and Executive Director of the American Language Institute Michele Petrucci has been **honored for excellence by the Pennsylvania Council for International Education** with the David Portlock Award for Outstanding International Educator.

John Benhart (Geography, Geology, Environment, and Planning), director of IUP's Geospatial Intelligence Certificate Programs and Unmanned Aircraft Systems Certificate Programs, was an **invited panelist for the second annual Aerium Summit** and for **the 33rd annual Showcase for Commerce**. In June, Benhart presented a **workshop for 15 high school teachers** from area high schools on uncrewed aircraft (drones) on how teachers can integrate drone education into the curriculum.



Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine Founding Dean Miko Rose was **elected as a fellow of the American College of Neuropsychiatrists** by The Fellows of the American College of Neuropsychiatrists (ACN)/American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists (ACONP). Less than 150 physicians nationwide hold the "Fellows" designation.

Distinguished University Professor Alido Merlo (criminology and criminal justice) is the 2024 recipient of the **Bruce Smith Sr. Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Science (ACJS)**.

Director of Student Leadership Donovan Daniel, a two-time IUP graduate, was selected to present through the **TEDx program**. Daniel's talk, "Shear Connections: Making Moments Matter," speaks to the physical adverse effects of loneliness and lack of community.

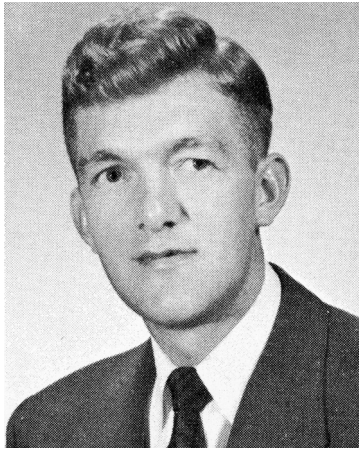
For the ninth year, IUP was chosen as a host for the **Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program for International Teachers**, welcoming 21 educators from 14 countries who will complete professional development coursework at IUP and be guest teachers in the Indiana Area School District and in the Pittsburgh Public School system. Overall, IUP has received more than \$2 million for the initiative, which is directed by Associate Vice President for International Education and Global Engagement and Executive Director of the American Language Institute Michele Petrucci.

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ALUMNI GIVING BACK



Charles Baltzer '53 business, originally from Johnstown, donated \$1 million to establish the **Charles and Margaret Baltzer Memorial Scholarship** for undergraduate students pursuing an education degree or certificate, with preference for students that are active-duty military personnel, veterans, or the children of active-duty military personnel or veterans.

In May, IUP honored the late **Sam and Elaine Light and the Light family** with the naming of the Sam and Elaine Light Library and Learning Center in the new Academy of Culinary Arts building planned for downtown Punxsutawney.

Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Retired Rear Admiral CJ Jaynes, '79, '82M, gifted funds to IUP to establish the **Rear Admiral CJ Jaynes Scholarship for Veterans in STEM**.

A \$75,000 donation from United Commercial Travelers Council 598 has established the **United Commercial Travelers Council 598-Donald B. Townsend Memorial Scholarship** for students pursuing a major, minor, or certificate in special education or early childhood-special education.

Distinguished Alumni Award recipient C. Edward Keller, of Beaumont, Texas, '74, has been honored by the **Beaumont Foundation of America with an additional \$60,000 gift for a scholarship at IUP** named in Keller's honor. Six students received the scholarship during the 2023-24 academic year.

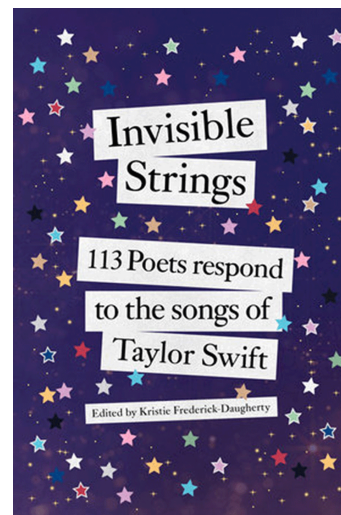
Dr. Michele Norwood, of Indiana, founder and the first director of IUP's University College, donated \$30,000 to establish the **Michele Norwood Professional Development for Student Success Initiatives** fund.

This fund provides financial support to enhance the IUP Student Success Infrastructure at IUP, by supporting professional development for those individuals working on student success initiatives, including the IUP Navigators.

Dr. Vito '72, 'M75, 'D88 and Donna DonGiovanni '74, 'M79 have established the **Eleanora Dellafiora and Sandra E. Dellafiora Memorial Scholarship** for undergraduate music majors at IUP.

Thomas '72 and Virginia Schott of DuBois, gifted IUP \$25,000 to establish the **Thomas and Virginia Schott Social Studies Scholarship** at IUP.

"DEAR READER" (AND TAYLOR SWIFT FANS)



Doctoral candidate Kristie Frederick Daugherty's "flash" on the night of the 2024 Grammy Awards has resulted in 113 contemporary and nationally acclaimed poets – including six Pulitzer Prize writers – coming together for an **anthology of poems based on songs by musician Taylor Swift**, on sale now on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and at independent bookstores. Frederick Daugherty, currently of Evansville, Ind., and a professor at the University of Evansville, recently published *Invisible Strings: 113 Poets Respond to the Songs of Taylor Swift*, an anthology of poems by "the best of the best."