

Observing COVID-19 safety and health protocols, IUP will stage four in-person commencement ceremonies for May and August graduates.

A total of 398 students will receive graduate degrees; three separate ceremonies will honor the 1,322 students who will receive bachelor's and associates degrees. Fifty-three students completed their undergraduate studies with perfect 4.0 grade-point averages.

STUDENT STARS



Susan Adams



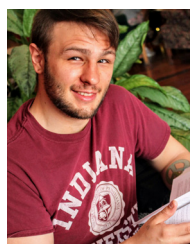
Zane Billy



Sarah Grandinette



Maura King



Vincent Thompson



Marissa Willson

Susan Adams, a junior geology major, has been selected for a **Goldwater Scholarship**. She is IUP's 12th Goldwater Scholarship recipient. Her research focus is the tectonics of Taiwan.

Zane Billy, a finance and management information systems double major, won a **Fulbright Canada-Mitacs Globalink Internship**. He is the first IUP student selected for this internship award, and brings to 17 the number of student Fulbright winners.

Sarah Grandinette, a junior biology and biochemistry double major, is IUP's 2021 **Kopchick Summer Fellowship** recipient. She will spend 10 weeks in the summer engaged in research at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. The Fellowship is funded by Dr. John Kopchick, '72, M'75'. Grandinette is IUP's fourth Kopchick Fellow.

Maura King, an early childhood-special education major with a minor in middle-level mathematics, has been approved to serve as a **student trustee** on the IUP Council of Trustees by the Pennsylvania State System Board of

Governors. She will take office upon the May graduation of current student trustee Abigaille Vertil.

Vincent Thompson, a student in the applied mathematics master's program who earned bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics in December 2020 and won a Goldwater Scholarship in 2020, has been selected for the **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship** program. He is one of only 28 students in the nation selected for the funding for his intended field of study.

Anthropology major Marissa Willson has been selected for a **Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience (PULSE) Fellowship** for the 2021-22 academic year. PULSE connects new graduates to Pittsburgh nonprofits for a year of service and leadership.

More than 150 students presented original research and creative projects during IUP's Scholars Forum, part of IUP's **Research Appreciation Week**. The week's events included the IUP STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Women's Summit, featuring seven IUP alumni (four of them Distinguished Alumni Award winners) and IUP students.

Paige Mikesell, a junior health and physical education major, became IUP's **first national champion swimmer** since 2012 when she took first place in the 200-yard freestyle at the NCAA Division II championships in Birmingham, Alabama. Her winning time of 1 minute, 38.36 seconds was nearly four seconds faster than her personal best.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONVERSATION

In conjunction with **International Women's Day**, the Office of International Education presented a panel discussion to celebrate achievements of women worldwide. The program featured four women who are connected to IUP as either students, partners, or participants of IUP's international educators' program with the US Department of State.

IUP's Office of Social Equity and Title IX, along with the Center for Multicultural Student Leadership and Engagement, hosted "**A Student-Led Discussion on the Chauvin Trial**" the evening of the announcement of the verdict in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. Discussion leaders were students from Students Against Racism, the IUP chapter of the NAACP, the Student Government Association, faculty from the Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative, and Debra Evans Smith '81, from the Black Experience Alumni Committee.



Points of Pride

GIVING BACK

A total of 654 donors contributed almost \$100,000 during the university's annual **Giving Day**. Funds support 14 areas, including \$17,000 earmarked for the Student Assistance Fund, which helps students facing financial hardships due to the pandemic. As of May 1, more than \$500,000 has been donated to the Student Assistance Fund.



CREATING AN OASIS

In May, Sean Derry and Sharon Massey (art and design) and students in Massey's 3D Design course staged "Traffic Island Oasis," a **public art installation project** on Oakland Avenue, across from the Oak Grove. It is a part of the work of the locally based artist collective Sculpture Support System. All of the artwork was made from post-consumer cardboard.

A LEADER IN CYBERSECURITY

Waleed Farag (mathematical and computer science) secured a sixth consecutive year of funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Security Agency for a **GenCyber cybersecurity camp** for middle and high school students and teachers. IUP is one of only 10 schools in the nation selected for funding for the program. This year's funding totals \$123,967. Overall, IUP has received more than \$530,000 for this programming.

FIGHTING COVID-19

IUP, Indiana Regional Medical Center, and Takara Bio USA, Inc., are collaborating to bring better and faster **COVID-19 testing** to rural communities around the world. Narayanaswamy Bharathan (biology) tested Takara's new detection at IRMC. From May 2020 to May 1 of this year, Bharathan has tested more than 20,500 COVID-19 samples.

Faculty and students are working with Indiana Borough officials to develop a **community wastewater surveillance system** that includes data collection, modeling, forecasting, and public health interpretations.

A co-authored paper by Yongtao Cao (mathematical and computer sciences) and Roland Francis (Indiana Borough), "On Forecasting the Community-wide COVID-19 Cases from the Concentration of SARS-CoV-2 in Wastewater," has been accepted for publication by the journal *Science of the Total Environment*.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

IUP's Criminal Justice Training Center was awarded **national accreditation** by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. in the Public Safety Training Academy Accreditation program. IUP's center is the only municipal police training center in Pennsylvania to achieve this designation. More than 5,000 police officers have been trained at the center since 1975.

Marissa McClure Sweeny (art and design) is the 2021 recipient of the Preservice Chapter Sponsor **Award of Excellence** from the National Art Education Association.

RANKINGS AND ACCOLADES

The Department of Marketing has been ranked as one of the **top programs** in the nation by Study.com.

The Executive Master of Business Administration degree has been ranked as one of the top **25 EMBA programs** in the nation by Great Business Schools. IUP's is one of only two programs in Pennsylvania in the listing.

IUP has been selected as a **Military Friendly Spouse School** designation by Victory Media.

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