



IUP Parent Newsletter

Fall 2018

Message from an IUP Parent

For many parents, me included, the thought of my kids going off to college seemed like it was so far in the distant future. Then I blinked once, and my oldest went off to college. I blinked a second time, and my youngest is in her sophomore year of college at IUP. How did that happen?

Last year, as we packed the car to bring our daughter to IUP for her freshman year, I felt such pride. She was going to my alma mater, after all, and she was over-the-top excited for this new chapter in her life. While she was so enthusiastic to start on this adventure, I also talked to her about respect for her roommate, going to class, studying hard, getting to know her professors, becoming a part of the campus community, and doing something good every day. And then I realized that, nobody was here to give me advice about how to enter into this new life that her dad and I were about to experience, one of parents of two college students! I hope that I can help a little with some things I've learned along the way.

It's OK if your child changes majors! Students average changing majors two times during their college careers. This is the time when students should be exploring and learning what they want and don't want to do for a career. IUP has amazing faculty advisors and, starting this fall, the University College that can help students think through these decisions, help them get on the best path to success, and even career counselors who can talk with students about career choices.

Students are adjusting to a new place, new people, a new schedule, and to having their own independence. Once they learn all that IUP has to offer, it starts to feel like a home away from home, you'll get those phone calls and texts asking to come home much less often—and, as was my case—you'll have to ask when they want to come home for a visit! This is a great thing.

The process of becoming independent is starting and they learn that there is much to do right here on the IUP campus—so many activities, groups, and adventures to be had for just about any interest. Plan for visits, for your child to come home and for you to visit campus, such as on Family Weekend, but do realize that their full engagement with campus life is a growth opportunity as well.

Give your child the gift of becoming more financially literate. College is a great opportunity for your child to learn about money management; everything from budgeting and saving to potentially having a job on campus to help offset some of the costs of college. While you may

think the freshman year in college is enough to handle without the responsibilities of a job, keep in mind that most students only work 8 to 10 hours per week. This is a great way to become engaged with the campus and even start building that resume.

Finally, pat yourself on the back. It's a great achievement to have a child enter college. Be confident in the life lessons you've already provided and enjoy watching your children grow into the great people they're destined to become.

Sincerely,

Patti McCarthy, D.Ed.,
Vice President for Enrollment Management and a proud parent of two IUP students

Welcome Weekend: Off to a Good Start



On Saturday, August 25, students were welcomed to campus with a program in Fisher Auditorium followed by a picnic in the Oak Grove for students to get to know their peers-along with the university faculty and staff.

University College

Parent and Family Weekend

September 22-23

IUP wants to get to know the parents and families of its students. To connect with them and to support academic success, IUP will host Parent and Family Weekend September 22 and 23 for a weekend filled with food, fun, and various events across campus. Some of these activities include The Three Stooges! "Live on Stage," a basket giveaway and library tours. The excitement will continue with Family Fun Day and a tailgate before the football game. All families are welcome to join in the fun and connect with the IUP community.



Homecoming

October 5-7



Indiana University of Pennsylvania welcomed 200 freshman this fall into the first class of the University College. This one-of-a-kind college creates a small-campus feel with collaboration between professors, advisors and peer mentors. New resources are provided to help first-year students establish a strong academic start and guide them toward success. Beginning in the fall 2019 semester, prospective and current students will be offered more specialized options that have replaced the traditional undecided major coursework. These students will have access to help in deciding a major with the Major and Career Exploration Center, advising sessions, peer mentoring, student-support specialists, academic support and an exploratory course.

University Professor: Jeffery Larkin

Jeffery Larkin, a faculty member in the Department of Biology has been selected the 2018–19 Distinguished University Professor based on his demonstrated excellence in teaching, scholarship and service since he came to IUP in 2005. Larkin has a robust history of receiving grants. His more than 60 external grant awards have



The annual Homecoming celebration from Friday, October 5 to Sunday, October 7, 2018, is expected to draw thousands “home” to Indiana for alumni events and reunion. The parade is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, and the football game will kick off at 2:00 p.m. The Alumni Association will sponsor our largest alumni event, the Alumni and Friends Crimson Huddle. Come and bring as many guests with you as you want! We are proud of IUP, and we know you are, too. This event is open to all alumni and their guests, as well as anyone who is a friend of IUP. You can [register online for the Crimson Huddle](#) or pay at the door.

IUP Recognized by Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Ranking

IUP is ranked as one of the top universities in the nation in the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College 2019 Rankings. IUP ranked in the top 20 percent for engagement, which includes measurement of student engagement, student recommendations, student interaction, and breadth of

secured more than \$6 million for research focused on the habitat and ecology of threatened wildlife species, specifically declining populations of ecologically sensitive songbirds.

“I am honored to receive this award,” Larkin said. “My success at IUP is driven by my passion for conservation and educating students, professionals, and the public about the importance of conservation. There is no doubt that my success is fueled by the support and enthusiasm of so many individuals. I am particularly grateful to the many dedicated undergraduate and graduate students with whom I have been fortunate to mentor during my time at IUP...they are my inspiration.”

Larkin and his student co-authors have produced more than 50 publications that provide important insights into the effects of humans and their infrastructure on the sustainability of these endangered species.

Student Research Opportunities

Inside the walls of Weyandt Hall, Arie Van Wieren, a sophomore biochemistry major, spent his summer working in the Research Experience of the Summer Scholars (RESS) program with Sudipta Majumdar, a faculty member in IUP's Department of Chemistry.



Van Wieren studied possible ways to improve antibiotics, specifically the protein that has a huge impact on antibiotic production. Van Wieren gained valuable research experience through this program that he otherwise may not have attained until medical school.

“It's been a great opportunity,” Van Wieren said

opportunities for involvement. IUP's international students, student diversity, faculty diversity, and student inclusion also led to a high ranking in the environment category.

IUP has been included in the Princeton Review's "Best Colleges" guidebook for almost two decades, has been ranked as a "socially responsible school" by Washington Monthly, and has been ranked highly by publications, including Military Times, as a "Best for Vets" university.

Resources for Parents

- [IUP Parents](#)
- [The Transition to College Life](#)
- [Financial Aid Info for Parents](#)
- [Campus Safety](#)
- [A Guide for Parents: Emotional Health & Your College Student](#) (PDF download)

during his time in the RESS program. “It will help me a lot because I’m getting hands-on experience with things I might not get until later. I’ve met a lot of people from other labs, and I’ve learned a lot.”

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