

EDUCOMM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

EXTREME GENEROSITY WILL IMPACT COLLEGE...

If you would like to contribute content to the newsletter, email us at:
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William and Judy Scheeren, two members of the College of Education and Communications Advancement Council have committed a \$1.4-million gift to support several initiatives within the college.

The gift's main focus will be the Literacy Center in Davis Hall. The Center supports both the Indiana community, and IUP students. The Literacy Center assists students in the community with reading and writing skills through instruction and assessment.

Graduate students in the reading specialist program provide the instruction to these children under the guidance of IUP faculty members. The center will be named in the Scheerens' honor.



...STARTING WITH THE LITERACY CENTER AND LABYRINTH CENTER

The Scheerens' gift also supports the college's Labyrinth Center. It has been established to support IUP students with autism as they attend college and experience the environment, and to provide scholarships.

"Literacy is the keystone of an educated citizen and of our society. Effective literacy skills equate to higher levels of education, better employment opportunities, and a better future for all of us. Those skills are best acquired at a young age," IUP President Michael Driscoll said. "The Scheerens' gift in support of the Literacy Center in our College of Education and Communications reflects their strong belief in the power of education and IUP's ability to prepare future teachers and serve our community. We are grateful for their trust and humbled by their generosity."

Bill Scheeren, a 1968 graduate of IUP, is well known by the students and teachers of Westmoreland County. He was the chairman of the Hempfield Area School District's library department. Judy Scheeren has been a technology professor at Westmoreland County Community College for many years.



HAPPENINGS IN THE COLLEGE



THE NEW COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER

The College of Education and Communications wants to keep in contact, and update its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and families on past and current events of the year, in addition to highlight the accomplished students and faculty of the college.

Our new initiative to accomplish this goal is a yearly Spring Newsletter. Check back next spring to see what you may have missed.

CONFECTIONS FOR A CAUSE

The Department of Communication Disorders, Special Education, and Disability Services was thrilled to raise a record \$1,610 for the Sandy Rollman Ovarian Cancer Foundation through its Confections for a Cause event.

This annual event, now in its seventh year, brings together faculty, staff, student organizations, and community members to raise funds through the sale of baked goods and raffles of handmade items. The College wishes to acknowledge the efforts of everyone who assisted in making this year's event such a success; especially organizers Vickie Johnson, Celia Barber, and Shari Robertson. Insomnia Cookies, numerous student organizations and many individuals within the IUP and Indiana communities also supported the event with donations of delicious baked goods.

The Sandy Rollman Ovarian Cancer Foundation seeks to raise awareness of the disease, find an early detection test for ovarian cancer, and find improved treatments for the disease.



SHARING A LOVE OF LEARNING

The College of Education and Communications faculty and staff recently contributed to a school supplies drive for students in Malawi.

Malawi, a landlocked country in southeastern Africa, is ranked the poorest country in the world based on the GDP per capita.

The collection efforts were inspired by Dr. Lorraine Guth's work in Malawian schools, where she learned that school supplies were extremely difficult to obtain. Even the most basic items, such as pencils and paper, can be hard to come by.



HAPPENINGS IN THE COLLEGE

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

You can now get updates on events, faculty, students and more via the College of Education and Communications Facebook and twitter accounts.

The accounts were launched this fall, and we hope to grow our followers to include students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Click the Facebook and Twitter icons to like and follow our pages.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Nicole Shirley Bukosky '08, M'12 SAHE Graduate advances her career with IUP. She is the new assistant director of Alumni and Constituent Relations.

She will be responsible for creating new programs and strengthening existing programs, such as IUP Ambassadors here, at IUP.

As an undergraduate student, Bukosky herself was a member of the IUP Ambassadors and served as vice president for administration in 2006 and as president in 2007.

After earning her master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education, she worked at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown as an academic and career counselor, supporting the Academic Success Center and programs for the Real World Career Services.

YOU WILL BE MISSED

Dr. Kurt Dudt taught at IUP for twenty nine years and served as the Chair of the Communications Media Department for twenty five years. He also chaired the Foundations of Education Department for seven years. He was founding editor of the Journal of Communications Media Studies.

When Dr. Dudt retired in 2011, he was asked what departmental accomplishments he considered highlights of his time at IUP, and he noted the creation of the AECT Master's program, the introduction of the CMIT Ph.D. program in 2008, and the current complement of department faculty.

Dr. Dudt passed away Wednesday, October 18, 2017, and his time at IUP in the College of Education and Educational Technology will long be remembered.



HAPPENINGS IN THE COLLEGE



TV AND RADIO STATION GET AN UPGRADE

As part of a five year update plan, IUP's TV and Radio stations received equipment upgrades this year.

New technologies include green screen technology, cameras, computers, TV set pieces, and computer programs to expand the capabilities of the programs.

IMAGINE UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES GIVING CHALLENGE

On April 12th, 2018, IUP held the 18 hour Imagine Unlimited Possibilities Giving Challenge. The Challenge was kicked off Wednesday Night with a Celebration of Philanthropy, where the largest gift in IUP history was announced. John and Char Kopchick are donating \$23 million to IUP.

In addition to these generous gifts, Terry Serafini '61 pledged \$50,000 to various donations throughout the day. Challenges included a race to 100. The college to reach 100 donors would have \$150 added to each donation.

There were also multiple social media challenges throughout the day. Lucky winners had \$500 dollars donated to the fund of their choice.

The day raised \$202,225 by 1,126 donors.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Joshua Hayes', a student in the Counseling program, titled his presentation "Group Therapy for Veterans with PTSD." He took part in the 13th annual IUP Graduate Scholars Forum at the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex on April 4th.

"Every day, an average of 20 veterans commit suicide," Hayes said. "This bothers me because they risk their lives to protect us. So, it's necessary to find ... therapy to help them."

Hayes' work focused on creating a four-step process to help soldiers who are struggling with the many symptoms of PTSD, which include emotional distress, night terrors, and insomnia.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



THREE IUP PROFESSORS ARE CREATING CURRICULUM TO BE USED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSES AT A UNIVERSITY IN SURINAME, SOUTH AMERICA. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT JOANN MIGYANKA, BECKY KNICKELBEIN, PRESIDENT DRISCOLL, DEAN LARA LUETKEHANS

Professors Becky Knickelbein, Joann Migyanka, and Kaylee Wynkoop developed the curriculum for the classes, which are designed to help teachers already working in the field to gain an understanding of how to help students with special needs.

Suriname, the smallest country in South America—it's roughly the size of Wisconsin—is mostly rural, with 80 percent of its land covered by rainforest. In terms of gross national product, it's the second poorest nation in South America, with the average worker there making a little less than \$8,000 (USD) in 2016.

A strong educational system is also lacking in Suriname, the IUP educators said. Teachers there are qualified to work with children, but they lack the educational background to help with special education.

"If we can improve the education of those children then that's the best thing we could do," Migyanka said.

"There was only one road going out to these villages where the schools are, and then you have to travel by boat to get to them," Migyanka said.

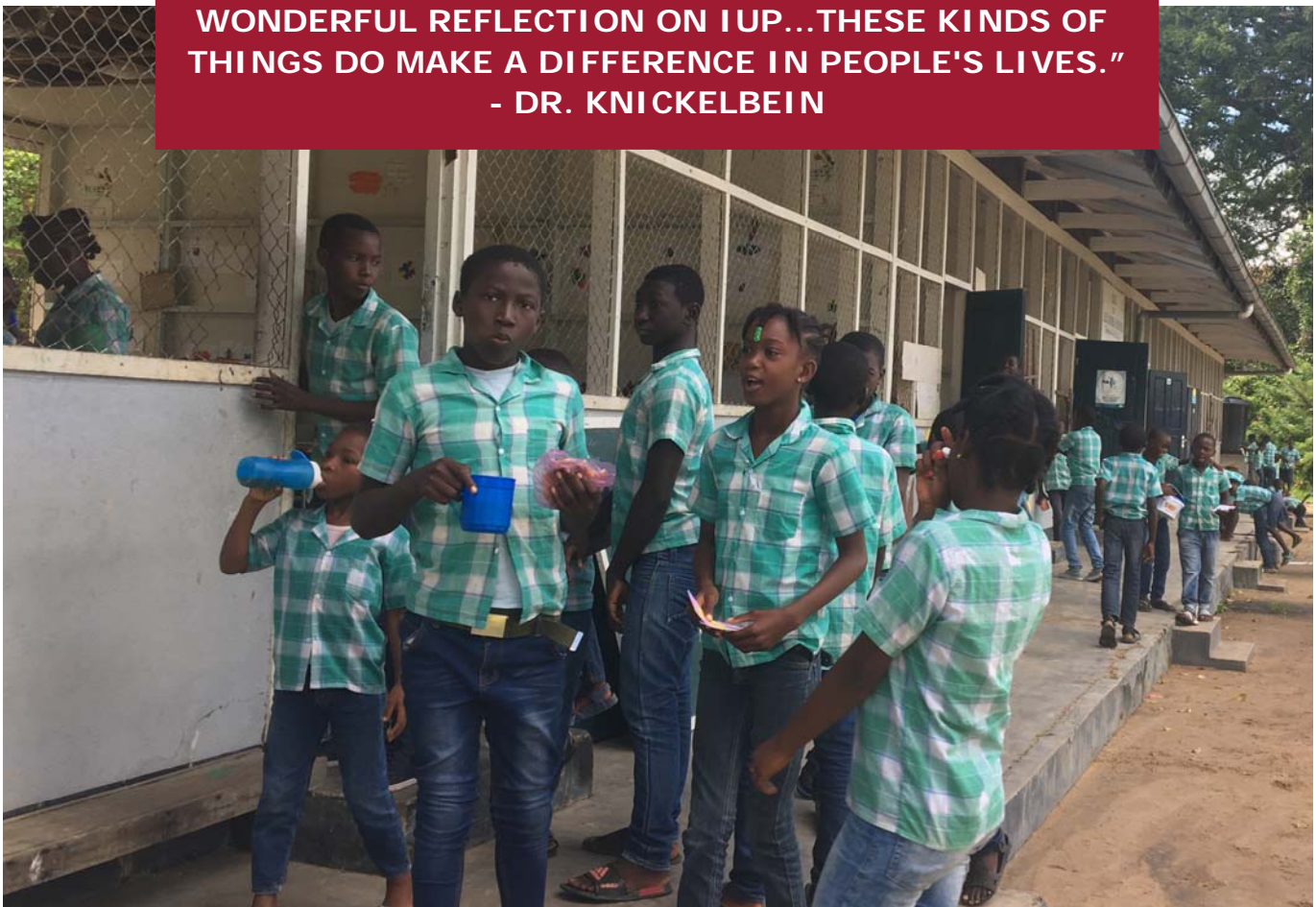
"They have no special education programming," Knickelbein explained. "The kids were sorted in the schools, but there was no method for teaching the ones who have special needs. So it's good that we're helping with that problem."

Back here at IUP, the trio continues to write curriculum to be sent to Suriname. "We would do anything to see these kids get the help they need," Migyanka said. "It's something that could be really life-changing for these kids."

There is still a lot of work to be done, but the IUP faculty members are hoping the project could be used in other parts of the world, which would further the mission of strengthening IUP's value around the globe, one of the goals in the University's Strategic Plan.

"There are a lot of places this could work," Migyanka said. "If we can show that this model has been successful, then we'd welcome the opportunity to try it elsewhere."

**"TO DO SOMETHING UNIQUE LIKE THIS IS A
WONDERFUL REFLECTION ON IUP...THESE KINDS OF
THINGS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES."
- DR. KNICKELBEIN**



Spring 2018

Issue 1



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

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