

Providing the Tools for Transformation

IUP celebrated the **\$4.6 million renovation of Whitmyre Hall, home to the Cook Honors College**, and the 20th anniversary of the first graduating class of the college, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring remarks from Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Dave Reed '00, a member of that first graduating class. The Cook Honors College welcomed its largest freshman class in its history – 138 students — in fall 2019.



In October, IUP dedicated the **Larry F. Sobotka Science Discovery and Outdoor Learning Center**. This 7,150-square-foot outdoor classroom is funded by a gift from Sobotka, a 1963 education graduate, is used by community members and students of all ages, and is a tool for education students to develop strategies to teach environmental education.

IUP's Holocaust Remembrance Committee coordinated a day of programming in the community and on campus with Holocaust survivors and scholars, including a special training event for cadets in IUP's Criminal Justice Training Center.

IUP's Department of Anthropology has launched a Cultural Competencies Certificate to help prepare students for life and professional practice in culturally diverse settings.

Extending IUP's commitment to **creating opportunities for diversity and inclusion**, Shijuan (Laurel) Liu, of the Department of Foreign Languages, created a year-long bilingual forum for students, faculty, and the Indiana community.

Alumni Kareem Jordan ('99, M'01, D'05) was the keynote presenter for the **Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice's "No Place for Hate" seminar**, a response to a September racist social media post. More than 300 students attended the program, which was followed by a workshop on difficult dialogs, led by Gwen Torges and David Chambers (Political Science).

Athletics and the Department of Food and Nutrition

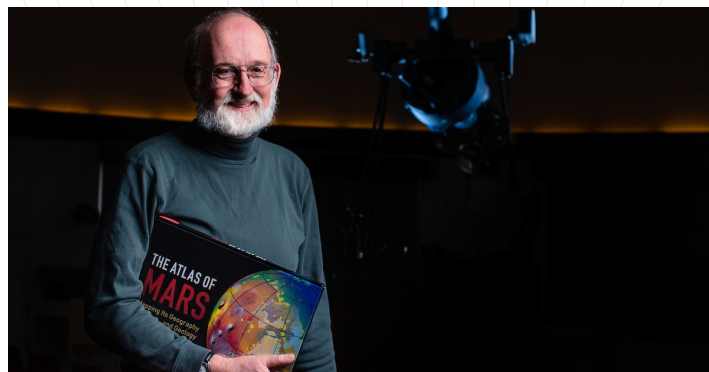
has created a fueling station for student athletes. Sports Performance Nutrition Services, staffed by undergraduate and graduate nutrition students, provides nutrition education and counseling to student athletes, showcasing the connection between athletics and academics.



Following three years of work, the **IUP Food Pantry and Help Center** opened in September, under the direction of the Division of Student Affairs. Student volunteers from the Each One, Reach One program in the Frederick Douglass Institute provide staffing for the center.

Environmental Water Resources Institute, a branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers, has a new chapter at IUP. Students in the Environmental Engineering program have been active in establishing the university's chapter. Veronica Watson (English) received \$155,454 to support the work of the Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative. The two-year award was made by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, with additional support coming from IUP. This marks the ninth year of continuous funding from PASSHE.

A Culture of Academic Rigor



Ken Coles (Geoscience) is a co-author of *The Atlas of Mars: Mapping its Geography and Geology*. The atlas is the result of eight years of work and updates NASA's 1979 atlas of the planet.

Pearl Berman (Psychology) was honored with an award by the International Society on Violence Abuse and Trauma for her work on elder abuse. She recently assumed the presidency of the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence.

Rachel DeSoto-Jackson (Theatre, Dance, and Performance) is serving as co-president of the Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed international arts organization.

Distinguished University Professor Ben Rafoth (English) delivered the keynote address at an international conference hosted by the Universidad Jesuita de Guadalajara on writing centers and programs and on academic writing and orality in native and foreign languages. Doctoral graduate Rebecca Day Babcock ('05) presented a plenary address and doctoral student Abigail Villagran Mora also presented at the conference.

Andrea Palmiotto (Anthropology) worked with forensic anthropologists with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to guest edit a special issue of the journal *Forensic Anthropology* on recent efforts to identify unknown service members from World War II.

Chief Information Officer Bill Balint has been selected to join The Pittsburgh CIO Executive Summit Governing Board. The Board includes IT executives at many of the region's marquee entities, such as United States Steel, Highmark, Consol Energy, PNC Bank, and Carnegie Mellon University.

David Wachob (Kinesiology, Health, and Sport Science) established an agreement with the Ramey School in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, to allow IUP teacher candidates to complete their experience there.

Distinguished University Professor Kryz Kaniasty (Psychology) reviewed recent empirical findings of conflicting, dynamic social processes that emerge after natural disasters. His paper, "Social Support, Interpersonal, and Community Dynamics Following Disasters Caused by Natural Hazards," is published in a special issue on socio-ecological psychology by Current Opinion in Psychology.

Sue Rieg (College of Education and Communications) has been selected as a 2020 clinical practice fellow by the Association of Teacher Education.

John Wesley Lowery (Student Affairs in Higher Education) was named a "Pillar of the Profession" for 2020 by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Tricia Shelton (Professional Studies in Education) was selected by the *Pittsburgh Courier* for its Class of 2019 Women of Excellence Award and by the Pittsburgh Emerging Arts' Leaders Art of Inclusion Award.

Distinguished University Professor Lynn Botelho (History, Women's and Gender Studies) was an invited panel participant for BNY Mellon's annual leadership conference, "Be the Change: Lead, Cultivate and Empower an Inclusive Workplace."

Kelly-Watson Huffner (doctoral student, nursing) will serve as manager for a four-year, \$2.7-million advanced nursing education workforce grant to help fight the opioid epidemic.

Ken Masaki (junior, music education) was selected by a statewide vote of the membership as president-elect of the Pennsylvania Collegiate Music Educators Association.

Distinguished University Professor Maureen McHugh (Psychology) is the co-author of "Making Space for Everybody: Ending Sizeism in Psychotherapy and Training," published in *Women & Therapy*. Articles by IUP graduates Ashley Kasardo and Melissa Muelman also were chosen for publication in the journal.

Alexander Fefolt (Cook Honors College, junior history pre-law and political science) was confirmed in October to serve as a student trustee on the Pennsylvania State System Board of Governors.

Randall Koziel (senior, chemistry) won the Best Presentation Award at the 2019 PASSHE STEM Conference.

A team of six undergraduate students and two faculty members from the **Department of Biology** conducted a study of Lyme disease risk in the Pittsburgh regional parks and co-authored an article based on their research, published in the *Journal of Medical Entomology*.

Transitions

Dr. Debra Fitzsimons, an administration and finance leader with more than two decades of experience, will join the IUP community in December as vice president for administration and finance.

IUP's Council of Trustees recognized two longtime administrators who are leaving the university: **Susanna Sink**, the interim vice president for Administration and Finance, who is retiring after 35 years of service; and **Robin Gorman**, the executive assistant to the president for government and community relations, who will take office as an Indiana County commissioner in January 2020, after 20 years of service to IUP.