Faculty members Lorraine Guth and Brittany Pollard, along with doctoral students Breanne Georgiana and Heather Uphold (counseling) made presentations at the Association for Specialists in Group Work National Conference in Dorado, Puerto Rico and provided service to communities impacted by Hurricane Maria and the recent earthquakes. During the conference, Guth received the ASGW Presidential Award in recognition of outstanding service to the organization.

BA Harrington (art) is the inaugural recipient of the Craft Research Fund Fellowship by the Center for Craft, a national nonprofit organization. Harrington will receive a $20,000 grant to support her research project, Suite Américaine, a body of work that references historical American furniture designed and built specifically for use by women.

David Hanauer (English) received a $1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for the continuing development of measurement tools and educational models for course-based research experiences in the sciences.

IUP is the recipient of a $100,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to prevent and reduce the use of opioids by college students and to create naloxone training opportunities for post-secondary institutions. Erick Lauber (journalism and public relations) director of community health and leadership with IUP’s Mid-Atlantic Research and Training Institute for Community and Behavioral Health, authored IUP’s grant proposal. Ann Sesti, director of IUP’s Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs program, is the grant co-author.

For the third year, IUP was selected for a $30,000 grant through Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf’s “It’s On Us PA” initiative to combat campus sexual assault through a Community Bystander Intervention program. The grant funded a program by Kyle Richard, award-winning sexual violence prevention, positive manhood activist and Biden Award winner, who presented on bystander intervention to more than 700 students, faculty, staff, and community members. The program was co-sponsored by the Haven Project, Green Dot, and Title IX Office.

IUP’s Nursing and Allied Health Professions Department has received another 10-year accreditation for its baccalaureate and master’s degree programs in nursing through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

IUP’s master’s program in food and nutrition has been ranked as one of the top graduate programs in the nation by Intelligent.com, an independent national higher education planning company. IUP is the only Pennsylvania university selected for the ranking.

Two faculty members in the Department of Kinesiology, Health, and Sport Science were honored by Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. David Wachob won the University Physical Education Teacher of the Year for his work with English as a Second Language students, his public-school research in active classrooms, and commitments to the profession; and David Lorenzi won the Elmer B. Cottrell Award, the highest award given by the association.

Tim Chung (chemistry) is one of only 18 researchers in the United States and one of only 120 scientists in the world selected for a 2020 Thieme Chemistry Journals Award, which honors “up and coming, promising young individuals” in the field of chemistry.

IUP’s Department of Counseling is the recipient of the 2019 Pennsylvania Counseling Association Outstanding Counselor Education Program Award.

GIVING BACK AND SAYING THANK YOU

Tim and Debra Phillips Cejka ’73 have provided $350,000 in funding to promote IUP’s ongoing diversity and inclusion initiatives.
Students, faculty, and staff participated in the daylong 2020 “Thank a Donor Day” in February. More than 8,226 donors made gifts to IUP in 2019, including more than $10,000 raised during the third annual Giving Tuesday effort in December 2019.

IUP’s Academy of Culinary Arts is the recipient of a $50,000 planned gift from Linda and David Deabenderfer for scholarships for students at the Academy and two gifts for the new planned Academy of Culinary Arts facility: a gift of $100,000 from the Hardy Family Trust/Nemacolin Woodlands Resort in honor of IUP culinary graduate Kristin Butterworth, and a gift from the Frank and Sharon Roberts Family.

Blane Dessy ’73, made a $100,000 gift to IUP to establish the Dessy-Roffman Myth Collaborative, named for Dessy and Rosaly DeMaios Roffman, professor emerita of English.

Brothers Gerald “Jeep” Quinn Jr. ’91 and Brian Quinn ’96 and their spouses, Jennifer Thomas Quinn ’94 and Rebecca Ruffner Quinn ’95, have gifted $150,000 to establish the Jerry Quinn Sr. Family Scholarship for students from Greater Latrobe High School or from Westmoreland County.

STANDOUT STUDENTS
Jaycelyn Fleming and Kevin Smith (kinesiology, health, and sport science) were honored by the Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education Recreation, and Dance for achievements in academics, service, and potential.

Noah Garrett (chemistry) won a summer research experience internship through the US Department of Energy’s Office of Science. He will work at the Pacific Northwest National Lab in Richland, Washington, under the guidance of Department of Energy laboratory staff scientists and engineers.

Joe Gallo (Asian studies) is the first IUP recipient of the US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship. Gallo is also a past recipient of the Freeman-Asia and Gilman awards.

Joshua Nixon (communications media) will spend his summer interning in Washington, DC as part of the Washington Center’s Veterans Employment Trajectory Initiative. He is one of only 20 students selected from a national pool of applicants and is the first IUP student accepted into this program.

A COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY
In February, North Dining introduced two hydroponic (no soil) gardens growing a variety of herbs and leafy greens. This initiative includes an opportunity for a sustainability intern. The plants will be featured at the Chef’s Table meals.

ALUMNI SUCCESS
Zachary Smith ’13 (business management/entrepreneurship) graduate has been selected by Forbes Magazine for its 2019 “30 Under 30 In Energy” list.

Ed Yasick Jr. ’91 (music education) was selected as the 2019 High School Choral Teacher of the Year by the North Carolina Music Educators Association High School Choral Section.

Sharif El-Mekki ’92 (criminology) was the subject of a feature by the Philadelphia public broadcasting station about his Center for Black Educator Development.