

# INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA POINTS OF PRIDE



IUP



## WELCOMING A NEW YEAR

More than 3,100 new first-time and transfer students joined the IUP community at the start of the fall 2015 semester by participating in a number of **Welcome Weekend** events, including Freshman Convocation. Speakers for the standing-room-only event included Michael Driscoll, president; Krys Kaniasty, Distinguished University Professor for 2014-15; and students Sarah Harrington and Gene Mills. Maureen McHugh, 2015-16 Distinguished University Professor, served as master of ceremonies. A cookout in the Oak Grove followed the event. Even with construction, move-in went smoothly, and students and families were impressed by a well-maintained and beautiful campus.

Members of the IUP community gathered for the “**Opening of the Academic Year**” event, featuring remarks by President Driscoll; Michael Hood, College of Fine Arts dean, who stood in for Provost Timothy Moerland; Mark Staszkiwicz, Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties president; David Piper, University Senate chair; Cynthia Spielman, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees president; and Erika Fenstermacher, student-trustee nominee. President Driscoll’s address focused on working together to address the challenges of the day, achieve the shared vision for IUP, and become a model for other universities to emulate.

## HOW FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS SPENT THEIR SUMMERS...ACTIVE IN RESEARCH

The newest Geoscience Department faculty member, Jonathan Warnock, spent the summer **unearthing and imaging dinosaur bones** from Utah’s Jurassic “Death Pit,” where a “puzzling” deposit of dinosaur fossils has been found. His work was featured in the July issue of *Smithsonian* magazine.

Two biology undergraduates and biology professor Tom Simmons participated in the Allegheny County Health Department’s **Raccoon Oral Rabies Vaccination hand-baiting program** in August. The IUP biology team distributed 3,000 baits in the municipalities of Cheswick, Harmar Township, and Springdale. The program is part of a larger management program to reduce raccoon rabies in western Pennsylvania and prevent it from spreading further westward.

Tom Simmons also worked with two undergraduates and a graduate student and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to investigate the **abundance and seasonality of blacklegged ticks** (deer ticks) in mid-western Pennsylvania. The team found that this population of blacklegged ticks is now comparable to that of southeastern New York, where the tick and Lyme disease are highly endemic.

IUP archaeology students, led by Anthropology Department faculty member William Chadwick, used ground-penetrating radar to **survey a road-construction site** in Schuylkill County where human bones were unearthed. Scientists believe the remains are from a mass grave of victims of the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918.

Five IUP students attended the Become What They See and Connect to in Cyber Security workshop in Las Vegas in June. The goal of the workshop was to build the pipeline from community colleges and strengthen the participation of **women and minorities in cybersecurity**. About 50 students from 14 different universities and community colleges across the country were in attendance. These undecided majors were exposed to a wide range of practical aspects of cybersecurity through hands-on activities. Travel expenses for all students and facilitators were funded by

a grant from the National Science Foundation to support women and minorities in cybersecurity.

Piano faculty member Henry Wong Doe performed three **solo recitals in South Africa** in July and a solo recital in Singapore in August at the city-state's premier performing arts venue and home of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

Psychology professor Pearl Berman served as **editor of the National Partnership to End Personal Violence's September/October newsletter** and wrote the introductory article. Six IUP graduate students also wrote articles for the issue, which focuses on domestic homicide across the lifespan.

Two environmental biology majors, under the direction of faculty members Jeff Larkin and Mike Tyree, are evaluating **reforestation efforts at the Flight 93 National Memorial** in Shanksville. The project is funded through a \$5,000 grant from the National Park Foundation. A total of 70,000 trees were planted at the site. In addition to this project, Larkin and a team of IUP students have been among the thousands of volunteers who planted trees at the memorial each April since 2011 during the Plant a Tree at Flight 93 program.

IUP is one of nine schools of nursing chosen to participate in a **national research study about cardiopulmonary resuscitation training**. Conducted in collaboration with the Air Force Research Laboratory's 711th Human Performance Wing, this study aims to shift the one-size-fits-all approach to CPR training to competency-based, individualized training and practice. The site coordinator for IUP is faculty member Julia Greenawalt. Up to 200 CPR-certified IUP students are being sought to participate in the study.

Thirty undergraduate and graduate students were selected to take part in the second annual **Research Experience for Summer Scholars** program. Students represented disciplines including biology, chemistry, geoscience, mathematics, psychology, and physics. In addition to working on individual research projects, students participated in professional development activities focusing on résumé writing, the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates program, and the essentials of presentations and posters. Nationally known regenerative medicine scientist Alan Russell was the keynote speaker for the final session.

Biology graduate student Fabiola Rodriguez, a native of Honduras, spent the last year **studying Honduras's Agalta Valley** under the direction of biology professor Jeff Larkin. Rodriguez, who started at IUP this fall, will work with Larkin to develop a socioeconomic evaluation of the valley and an evaluation of the area as a habitat for the diminishing Honduran emerald hummingbird.

John Bradshaw, a faculty member in the Physics Department, secured a contract with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County to **monitor air quality around a natural gas compressor station** near Beaver Run

Reservoir. IUP will receive \$24,366 for one year of testing and monitoring at the Mamont compressor station. The university is in year five of a project to monitor water quality in and around the reservoir near Marcellus shale gas wells.

Hospitality Management faculty member Yasong (Alex) Wang received the **Conference Best Paper Award** at the annual conference of the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education. His award-winning article was "Examination of Barriers Affecting the Adoption of Innovation in Rural Small and Medium-Sized Tourism Enterprises."

Six IUP faculty members from Criminology and from Computer Science presented **security-related talks to high school students** from school districts surrounding IUP's Northpointe campus. The three full-day camps, held in June, provided hands-on activities and addressed state-of-the-art security threats and how to deploy effective measures to counter them.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

IUP held its annual **September 11 memorial ceremony** to reflect on and mark the anniversary of the 2001 attacks on the United States. The program included performances by IUP's Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band and remarks by student-trustee nominee Erika Fenstermacher, a psychology major from Butler; President Michael Driscoll; and trustee Glenn Cannon, a 1971 IUP graduate and national expert on emergency management and homeland security. Later that day, the IUP Lifting and Fitness Club sponsored a remembrance workout in the Oak Grove with more than 75 participants. IUP is proud to display a relic from the World Trade Center as part of its September 11 memorial.

