

# INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA POINTS OF PRIDE



IUP



**CELEBRATING A NEW YEAR**—The IUP community ushered in a new school year with the annual **Opening of the Academic Year: 2014-15**, featuring remarks by Michael Driscoll, president; Timothy Moerland, provost; Mark Staszkiwicz, president of the IUP chapter of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties; David LaPorte, University Senate chair; Jessica Halchak, president of the IUP chapter of the State College and University Professional Association; and Aaron Douthit, IUP Council of Trustees student member. The university expects **2,823 new students for the fall semester**—up more than 80 from fall 2013—with a projected total enrollment for fall of more than 14,300.

**BON APPETIT!**—In August, President Driscoll and Dave Vandenberg, regional vice president for higher education at Aramark, **cut the ribbon for the Crimson Café**, phase I of the \$37-million dining master plan, IUP Dining Innovations. This \$6.5-million, 400-seat retail dining facility includes a Starbucks, Crimson Bistro, Burger Studio, and Fireplace Brick Oven Pizza, plus a selection of grab-and-go items.

**BRINGING FRESHMEN TOGETHER**—Fisher Auditorium was **standing room only for the annual freshman convocation ceremony**. Speakers included President Driscoll; Victor Garcia, 2013-14 Distinguished University Professor; and student trustee Aaron Douthit. Krzysztof Kaniasty, 2014-15 Distinguished University Professor, served as master of ceremonies. The event was followed by a cookout in the Oak Grove.

**WELCOMING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY**—More than **300 new IUP international students**, the largest cohort ever, took part in orientation offered by the Office of International Education in August. More than 900 students representing more than 70 countries are expected to join the IUP community over the course of the academic year. During the 2014 spring semester, international students offered more than 1,700 hours of volunteer service.

**ENCOURAGING LEADERS**—Sixty-eight students from the Philadelphia area came to campus in July for a **two-day orientation program called “A Time to Lead.”** This first-time initiative was funded through the Office of the President and organized by the Division of Enrollment Management and Communications. President Driscoll accepted a challenge made by John Wetzel, Pennsylvania’s secretary of corrections, for colleges and universities to take the initiative in creating new opportunities for African American students to help them meet their educational goals and become leaders.

**ADDING UP TO SUCCESS**—The Division of Academic Affairs, in conjunction with the Departments of Mathematics and Developmental Studies, has adopted a **customized learning experience for developmental math** with the Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS) adaptive computer software. Classroom support and trained undergraduate peer tutors will complement the use of ALEKS. Developmental math courses present a challenge for many students, both at IUP and nationally, and ALEKS has a proven track record of facilitating significant improvement in math outcomes.



**SUPPORTING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS**—In response to the program's early success, the **Foundation for IUP has provided funding for a third and fourth cohort of the Sutton Scholars program**, for students entering IUP in fall 2015 and 2016. The foundation initially showed its support with funding for the first two cohorts of Sutton Scholars. In total, the foundation has allocated more than \$3 million for the Sutton Scholars program. Retention rates of Sutton Scholars have been outstanding—90 percent from fall 2013 to fall 2014, compared to an IUP average of about 75 percent.

**RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY SERVICE**—The Foundation for IUP recognized the volunteer spirit of two students with the **Community Volunteer Service Award**. The award was established in 1998 in celebration of the foundation's 30th anniversary. The 2014-15 recipients are Brandy Rummel, a child development and family relations major from Shelocta who volunteers with the Indiana County Department of Human Services, and Shannon Kovalchick, a psychology and sociology major from Butler in the Robert E. Cook Honors College who volunteers with the Alice Paul House.

**NO BREAK FOR THESE SCIENTISTS**—Nineteen students, 11 of them women, took part in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics' inaugural **Research Experience for Summer Scholars Program**. The program emphasized collaboration and discussion, matching students with professors who helped with their specific research interests. As part of the program, the IUP Writing Center also provided students with a workshop to strengthen relevant writing skills. The program ended with a poster session highlighting the students' research projects, which included the study of circadian rhythms in human behavior, the first SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity, and Sustainability) Club seed swap, the identification of genetic markers for kidney disease, and an analysis of tobacco cessation initiatives.

**TESTING THE WATER**—IUP will move into year four of testing water from the Beaver Run Reservoir as a result of a **\$75,000 contract with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County**. With this most recent contract, IUP has received a total of \$305,000 since 2011 to test and monitor the reservoir's water quality. Through the project, students in IUP's Geography and Regional Planning Department collect samples from the reservoir, and Chemistry Department students test the samples and compile the data. The site was selected because of Marcellus shale drilling nearby.



**HONORING THE ARTS**—Two IUP-affiliated members of the Pennsylvania arts community will be among those honored at the **2014 Governor's Awards for the Arts**, hosted at IUP on September 28. Award recipients, announced by Pennsylvania First Lady Susan Corbett in July, include Robert Qualters, a Pittsburgh artist who taught at IUP in the late 1970s, and Myron Hay Tomb, of Indiana, a 1969 IUP graduate and former Foundation for IUP board member. Others to be honored are Johnstown arts patron Mark Pasquerilla, the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, and Jennifer Higdon, a composer from Philadelphia.

**LIVING IN THE PAST**—Anthropology professor Sarah Neusius has received a **\$184,080 research award from the Archaeology Program of the National Science Foundation**. Funds will be used for a two-year project, "The Development of Integrated Faunal Databases in tDAR (the Digital Archaeological Record)," investigating the various uses of fish, freshwater mussels, and waterfowl among people living in the forested regions of interior eastern North America from 10,000 to 3,000 years ago.