

# Indiana University of Pennsylvania Points of Pride

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



The fourth annual **Research Experience for Summer Scholars program** included 43 students from a variety of majors, the largest cohort to date. The program allows undergraduate students to be paired with faculty mentors who guide them through their projects. The students presented their work at a poster session at the end of the summer term. Dianne Rothstein, an IUP alumna and vice president of research at Prime Synthesis, Inc., delivered the keynote speech at the poster presentation.

Two Cook Honors College students were selected for a **two-week trip to Belize sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education**. Kylie Smith, a sociology and English major, and Adam Wasser, a biology major, visited Belize from May 29 to June 12 and learned about culture, economy, history, and politics. A total of 24 students from PASSHE schools made the trip, which is offered annually to honors students.

In June, **Indiana County rolled out the Welcome Mat** to family members of incoming students. The Welcome Mat project brought families at IUP for new-student orientation to downtown Indiana's IRLM Park for a welcome reception with community members. The Welcome Mat project is an initiative of the Indiana Area Collaborative Team (I-ACT), in partnership with IUP, Downtown Indiana, Indiana County Tourist Bureau and the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce.



Hundreds of professionals and students attended IUP's **Mid-Atlantic Research and Training Institute for Community Behavioral Health (MARTI-CBH) summer institute**, "Promoting Recovery and Wellness: For Individuals, Families and Communities." The conference featured a number of nationally known experts on addiction, including Dr. Robert Ackerman, IUP faculty emeritus. During the next three years, MARTI will take a three-pronged approach to addressing the opioid and suicide crises by obtaining research grants, community outreach and professional development and training. This year's summer conference kicked off the professional and training efforts.

Taylor Edwards (Department of Nursing and Allied Health Professions) and a 2016 graduate of the PhD in Nursing program, won third place in the poster presentation competition at the **International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning conference**.

Accounting major Katelyn Cramer's team won the **Grant Thornton national intern competition**. She was paired with two other Pittsburgh Grant Thornton interns. The teams were given the task of developing ideas on how to create new business opportunities with an existing key client. The interns worked on this project throughout their two-month internship. Her team won the first round, competing against teams from Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Detroit. In the second round, it beat teams from Chicago, Houston, and Minneapolis.

Students, alumni, and faculty from the Department of Nursing and Allied Health Professions presented research at the **28th International Nursing Research Congress** in Dublin, Ireland, in July. Presenters included Distinguished University Professor Teresa Shellenbarger and fellow faculty member Julia Greenawalt, graduate student Maria Mackey, and PhD alumna Paulette Dorney.

Theater major and Cook Honors College student Miranda Secula founded **Small Town Stars Theatre Company** in her hometown of Westminster, Maryland, and she also directed a production of *Heathers: The Musical* at the Carroll Arts Center, also in Westminster.

Logan Hullinger, a journalism and public relations major, completed a summer internship at the **Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents' Association** in Harrisburg. He is the first IUP student chosen for this competitive, paid internship, from which his work was published in the *Allentown Morning Call*, *Capitolwire.com*, *LNP Media Group*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *PennLive/Harrisburg* and *Harrisburg Patriot-News*. He covered the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Distinguished University Professor Dr. Krys Kaniasty (psychology) delivered the keynote address at a **national psychological conference** at the University of Opole, Poland: "On How Politically Driven Bitterness and Bliss Influence Psychological Well-Being." The address featured results of his studies conducted in Poland and the United States. An encore presentation of this research was held at the Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

Reza Parchizadeh, a student in the English Literature and Criticism doctoral program, **joined a panel to speak to Congress** this summer about Iranian-US relations. His presentation was covered by Al Arabiya English/Journal of Egypt.

Students in the Department of Anthropology opened the **Adventure Learning Trail**, a historical geocache trail, in downtown Indiana. The ALT follows the existing WalkWorks route. As participants geocache important historic sites in downtown Indiana, they learn about Indiana's history and listen to the voices of longtime residents, or "memory-keepers," recalling their experiences growing up in Indiana.



The Department of Biology hosted 21 students and two faculty members from RUIA College in Mumbai, India in May and June. Sponsored by the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the four-week **Biotechnology Exploration Program** was led by N. Bharathan (biology). A team of 12 faculty members provided fully integrated lecture laboratory activities, and the RUIA students completed field/laboratory proficiencies and presented their findings in the form of research posters. The group also visited the Chan Soon-Shiong Institute of Molecular Medicine at Windber, ITSI-Biosciences, a drug-discovery biotechnology facility, and Center for Nanotechnology Education and Utilization at Penn State. RUIA students enriched their experience in the US with trips to Niagara Falls and Washington, D.C. organized by the Office of International Education, a co-facilitator of the program.

Geography and Regional Planning faculty members Sudeshna Ghosh and Brian Okey led a **study abroad trip to India** in June. The trip included seven students, and the group traveled to Kolkata, Darjeeling in the foothills of the Himalyan Mountains, and to Kharagpur, where the group continued work with colleagues from the Indian Institute of Technology's Architecture and Regional Planning Department. The group focused on studying the effects of climate change on tea production and local wetlands.

Music education major Ryan Gross presented his research at the **International Trumpet Guild** in Hershey in June. His study on meanings of music in musicians with cancer diagnosis was also presented as a poster at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association annual conference.

Chemistry major Carlyn Brecht completed the 12-week **Maryland Sea Grant Research Experience for Undergraduates** during the summer. She worked at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory conducting methane research in Chesapeake Bay. The program allows students the opportunity to network with the scientific community and attend workshops to prepare for a career in the sciences.

Some 200 members of the university and community attended the **"Securing Our Region: A Cyber Security Seminar"** in June. It was sponsored by the Office of Extended Studies, InfraGard Pittsburgh, and S&T Bank. James Kitchen, assistant United States attorney for the western district of Pennsylvania, was keynote speaker for the program, which also featured a number of IUP experts.

After the success of the 2016 **GenCyber Summer program**, an additional session was added this year, welcoming teachers and students in middle and high school for two week-long camps, focusing on cybersecurity and safe online behaviors. Students learned about drones and received their own one to take home after the camp. The program is co-directed by Dr. Waleed Farag (computer science) and Dr. Mac Fiddner (political science) and is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and National Security Agency.

Distinguished University Professor Maureen McHugh (psychology), co-presented research on fat shaming and sizeism at a symposium presented at the 125th annual convention of the **American Psychological Association** in Washington, D.C. The symposium was part of an ongoing effort among educators to call attention to weight bias in general and especially among healthcare professionals and psychologists.

