

INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA POINTS OF PRIDE



WELCOME BACK!

More than 2,500 students, faculty and staff attended the **2016 Convocation**, held for the first time at the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex. Featured speakers included President Michael Driscoll, Provost Timothy Moerland and Melvin Jenkins (Developmental Studies). Distinguished University Professor David Downing (English) served as emcee for the event, which also included deans from each of the colleges answering specific questions about their colleges.

IUP marked the **15th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks** on the United States by offering a place for quiet reflection, music by IUP students and faculty, and a special display in the IUP Libraries. IUP is proud to host relics from the World Trade Center as part of its 9-11 memorial.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

IUP begins the fall semester with a **Center for Multicultural Student Leadership and Engagement (MCSLE)**, directed by Theo Turner. The Center includes reorganization of several units within the Student Affairs division, but is an initiative designed to help the entire community gain an appreciation for diversity. The Center will be located in a \$2.7 million renovated space on the first floor of Elkin Hall. Two presentations about the design of the Center were held in August and September and attended by students, faculty and staff. Information and invitations for feedback will continue throughout the academic year. The Center will take occupancy in Elkin in January 2018.

The Campus Climate Survey, conducted by the Office of Social Equity, will be shared with the university community starting in September. This information will be used to shape upcoming programs and initiatives.

IUP will host the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's Ninth **Summit on Inclusive Excellence and International Education**, on November 2-4. The statewide conference theme is "Rising to the Challenge: Making



Inclusion Matter." Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, will serve as the conference keynote speaker. Some 350 to 400 conference attendees are expected.

Students, faculty and staff joined the Racial Justice Coalition during its daily **Stand Against Racism** during the first week of classes.

IUP's Labyrinth Center, offering students with Autism Spectrum Diagnosis (ASD) coursework and coaching to help them realize their potential, including employment after graduation, has implemented a peer-mentoring program this fall. This one-credit course will teach students how to effectively mentor students with autism and put this teaching into practice.

AWARDS AND HONORS

In July, IUP received **reaffirmation of accreditation** from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19104 (267-284-5000). The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Institutions are evaluated based on 14 standards of accreditation and a three-year, universitywide self-review. In making the reaffirmation announcement, IUP was commended by the evaluators on the quality of the IUP self-study process. President Driscoll noted that "the three-year endeavor has truly been universitywide, engaging hundreds of faculty members, staff, students, and university leadership to develop an authentic, accurate, and insightful self-assessment of our great university." IUP was first accredited in 1941; since that time, the university has received consecutive reaffirmations of accreditation.

IUP's Center for Media Production and Research (CMPR) was honored with **two 2016 Telly Awards**; one for Student Video Production of a TV Program, and one for Online Video Sports Production. A broadcast of the Crimson Hawks' men's basketball game, played on February 17 against Pitt Johnstown, was recognized for both awards.

Indiana attorney Jonathan Mack, a member and vice chair of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Council of Trustees, audit committee chair, and executive committee member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors, has been selected as one of the **top 100 trial lawyers in Pennsylvania** by the National Trial Lawyers Association.

May graduate Kylie Chiu, an Asian Studies and International Business major and French minor from Greensburg, was inducted into the **National Collegiate Chinese Honors Society**, which recognizes graduating seniors nationwide for their achievements in Chinese study.

Economics major Hannah Mercer, from Duncansville, has been chosen by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) for the 2016 Academic **All-District Division II Softball Team**. This honor ranks her among the top student-athletes in the nation, and it reflects her combined accomplishments athletically and academically.



Tracey Cekada (Safety Sciences) was selected for the national **Dr. William E. Tarrants Outstanding Safety Educator Award** by the American Society of Safety Engineers. The national award recognizes exceptional educators who show the highest level of achievement in safety, health and environmental education teaching, scholarship, and professional service, as part of ASSE. She is the second

IUP faculty member to win the award; Lon Ferguson, chair of the department, was the first recipient of the award, in 2002.

Sharon Massey (Art) was the only American chosen to exhibit in the **25th Legnica International Jewellery Competition: CITY**, in Legnica, Poland. Only 44 artists were represented in the exhibition, which featured artists from 33 countries.

IUP has been included in *Forbes'* 2016 **"America's Top Colleges: The 600+ Schools Well Worth the Investment,"** and in *MONEY Magazine's* **"Best Colleges 2016-2017,"** and as a **"Best National University"** in *U.S. News & World Report*.

IUP's master's program in nutrition has been ranked **10th in the nation**, by Healthcare Administrative Degree Programs, as "Most Affordable Online Master's in Nutritional Science Degree Programs."



IUP's Department of Geography and Regional Planning was recognized for excellence by **Smart Growth Partnership** of Westmoreland County. In addition, two IUP graduates from the master's degree program in geography and regional planning, Evan Tobin and Dana Keith, were recognized as **Jack Robertshaw Smart Growth Fellow award** recipients, awarded to students who excel in their community development work within any Westmoreland County community.

IUP is one of four universities in Pennsylvania, and one of 67 in the nation, selected for a national program designed to offer federal Pell Grants to incarcerated students. **The Second Chance Pell Pilot Program** allows eligible and qualified incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants to pursue postsecondary education. IUP will work with students currently housed in state correctional institutions in Indiana (Pine Grove), starting in the spring 2017 semester, and at Houtzdale, in fall 2017. The program is designed for individuals who are likely to be released within five years of enrolling in coursework.

Faculty members and students will move into year six of **testing water from the Beaver Run Reservoir**, as a result of an \$85,000 contract with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County. With this most recent contract, IUP has received a total of \$390,000 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 students in the Chemistry Department test the samples and compile the data. Leading the project are IUP faculty members Brian Okey, Geography and Regional Planning; and Nathan McElroy, Chemistry. The partnership began in June 2011.

ONE-STOP SERVICE FOR OUR VETERANS AND FAMILIES

The name of the Military Resource Center and Veteran Affairs Benefits Office was changed to the **Military and Veterans Resource Center (MVRC)**, reflecting the move of the Veterans Affairs Benefits Office to the MRC earlier this year. Since its opening in April 2014, the MVRC has helped more than 450 students with more than 4,200 request for services. The Center, located in Pratt Hall, provides assistance to veterans, active duty military, reservists, guardsman, and military dependents.