

# Indiana University of Pennsylvania Points of Pride



## A POSITION OF STRENGTH



Alumni Bill Madia and Audrey DeLaquil Madia recently **committed \$1 million** to support initiatives associated with IUP's College of Natural Science and Mathematics.

January 26 was "a great day at IUP," in the words of President Michael Driscoll, when the university opened its **Center for Multicultural Student Leadership and Engagement**. Located on the first floor of Elkin Hall, the facility was created to offer one location on campus where students can access services to address multiple aspects of culture, identity, and diversity.

**Winter session 2018 enrollment** saw more students taking more credits than in previous winter sessions. A total of 2,418 students enrolled in winter session 2018, compared to 2,179 students enrolled in winter 2017 courses. Students enrolled in winter 2018 took 7,597.50 credits (142 courses, 159 sections) compared to 6,967.50 credits (139 courses, 157 sections) in winter 2017.

IUP's **Master of Science in Strategic Communication** was approved by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Board of Governors in January. The program will begin in June. This 36-credit program is designed to serve current and aspiring communication professionals.



William and Judy Scheeren, alumni and members of the College of Education and Communications Advancement Council, have **committed \$1.4 million** to support several initiatives in the college including the Literacy Center (which will be named in the Scheeren's honor) and the Labyrinth Center.

Alumni Terry Serafini has made a second **\$1 million gift to IUP** to fund scholarships for high-achieving business honors students, enabling the university to provide summer mathematics learning opportunities for high school students and establish a visiting mathematician program, which will bring to IUP a high-profile math expert to lecture and interact with students. His gift also provides a matching gift incentive to inspire current students to take responsibility for their own environment and invest in a new campus park, the Grant Street Park Project.



The IUP **men's and women's basketball** teams had highly successful seasons. The women made history by advancing to the Final Four, the first time in the program's history, after winning the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference West Division title and the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional championship. The men also claimed the PSAC West crown, its seventh in the past eight seasons.

IUP has a fully executed agreement with the **Philadelphia School District**, the largest school district in the state, which will enable placement of student teachers in that district.

A group of IUP faculty, staff and students participated in the **Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's Advocacy Days**, including Student Government Association president and Board of Governors member Brian Swatt and faculty member Michele Papakie (Journalism and Public Relations), who spoke during a rally at the event.





A total of 597 members of the IUP community participated in the annual **Philanthropy Day** celebration of donor generosity. Some 40 students volunteered throughout the event, which included writing thank you notes for donors and solicitation for gifts, which resulted in 46 gifts. A focus for the day was the Grant Street Park Project.

During fall 2017, the **Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex** hosted the busiest event season in its history. From October through December, the KCAC hosted 85 events, with an estimated 30,000 guests visiting the facility. In the six years the building has been open, it has hosted 553 arena events and 2,526 conventions. The facility is poised to welcome its one-millionth visitor this spring. In January, the KCAC was named one of the top Division II collegiate arenas in the nation by an NCAA fan survey.

The **IUP Counseling Center** has been reaccredited by the International Association of Counseling Services, the accreditation association for university and college counseling services.

IUP hosted the 50th annual **Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival** in January, which included more than 1,000 participants from an eight-state region.

The **doctoral program in Clinical Psychology** was ranked second in the nation by Best Counseling Degrees. This is the third year that IUP's program has been ranked as one of the top five programs in the nation.

IUP's **Master of Arts in Criminology online** program has been ranked as a top online graduate criminal justice program by *U.S. News & World Report* for the fourth year in a row.

During the spring 2018 semester, IUP offered its first engineering course in the **Environmental Engineering** major: Introduction to Environmental Engineering.

IUP is ranked as one of the **Best Four-Year Online Colleges in Pennsylvania** by Affordable Colleges Online.

IUP's **Nursing program** has been recognized as one of the Best in Pennsylvania by RegisteredNursing.org.

## Diversity and Inclusion

Rachel DeSoto-Jackson (Theater and Dance) facilitated a Forum Theater **social justice event** at Theater-by-the-Grove. This event was presented by the Diversity Student Council and SPATE Ensemble with co-sponsorship by the Department of Theater and Dance, Alpha Psi Omega, and Gamma Sigma Sigma. Jackson also co-facilitated a workshop, "Rehearsing Racial Justice: Using Theatre of the Oppressed as a Tool for Enacting Change in Our Daily Lives" at the 20th annual Summit Against Racism in Pittsburgh. This workshop will be featured again at the Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed conference, being hosted by IUP June 7 to 10.

Rachelle Bouchat (Mathematics) was invited to serve as a panelist on the **Mathematics Association of America Panel** "Out in Mathematics: Professional Issues Facing LGBTQ Mathematicians," at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego.

Abigail Adams, Anthropology assistant professor, assisted Masco Corporation in launching its 2018 **diversity and inclusion campaign**. Adams' work is an example of corporate anthropology, a form of Applied Anthropology.

In celebration of February's **Black History Month**, the Center for Multicultural Student Leadership and Engagement gathered important pieces of African American history. The exhibition showcased album covers, wooden sculptures, photographs, posters, and coins. The center of the display focuses on books written by African American authors that help make up "The New York Public Library's Books of the Century."



More than 75 students, faculty, and staff attended the **Wikipedia Art+Feminism Edit-a-thon** event. Matt Vetter (English) won a grant from the Wikimedia Foundation to support the project, which encourages participants to think critically about the encyclopedia's systemic gender biases and to engage in direct editing to improve Wikipedia content on and of interest to women and LGBTQ+ identities across different disciplinary lenses.

Following 10 presentations to university groups, including an open forum for the community, the **Diversity and Inclusion Commission** presented its draft action plan to the IUP Council of Trustees in March.