

## STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**AWARD-WINNING PLAN**—A team of IUP students that designed a web-based application to help people dealing with drug and alcohol abuse won the \$10,000 first-place prize in the fourth annual Student Business Plan Competition sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. "My New Leaf" is an app designed specifically for 14- to 24-year-olds, an age group that typically shies away from traditional treatment for addiction. It relies on evidence-based research from professionals in the addiction field and utilizes a "gamified" design and rewards-based approach to engage users. The eight-member team from IUP, led by senior Ryan Brannon, of Saltsburg, will use the \$10,000 award to help further develop its business plan.

**THIS IS EXPERIENCE**—Two IUP students participated in the Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) in spring 2015. Tiffany Fox, a criminology/pre-law major from Irwin, worked for the Office of Rural Pennsylvania, and Julia McBride, a political science major and theater minor from McKeesport, worked for the Pennsylvania Department of State. IUP's Jonathan (J. B.) Smith is resident faculty director for the program.

**ON CAPITOL HILL**—Five students from IUP joined students from all 14 State System universities for the annual "State System Day on the Hill." Students met with legislators to talk about their college experiences and how important the education they are receiving is to them, their families, and the future of the commonwealth. The students were accompanied by IUP's Michael Driscoll, president; Robin Gorman, executive assistant to the president for Government and Community Relations; and Kevin Foster, Center for Student Life assistant director. The students were Erika Fenstermacher, student trustee nominee, a junior from Butler majoring in psychology with a concentration in gerontology and a minor in sociology; Vincent Lopez, incoming president of the Student Government Association, an English and political science/pre-law major from Arlington County, Virginia; Marissa Olean, the SGA's outgoing president, a criminology major from Arnold with a minor in political science/pre-law; Elijah Rosenthal, outgoing SGA vice president, a political science and English major from Waterford; and Tyron Snead, incoming SGA vice president, a political science/pre-law major from Westampton, New Jersey.



**IUP**



**EXPLORING THE OCEAN FLOOR**—Michael Barber, a geology major from Indiana, was accepted to participate in an oceanography research program aboard the *Okeanos Explorer*, the nation's only federally operated vessel dedicated to ocean exploration. He will board the research vessel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, this month, then begin seismic mapping of unknown seafloor regions for the next five weeks, traveling throughout the Caribbean Sea, passing through the Panama Canal to the Pacific Ocean, and eventually arriving in Honolulu in early July. In October 2014, Barber and fellow geology majors Sierra Davis, of Indiana, and Jules Dill, of Ebensburg, accompanied Geoscience Department chair Steve Hovan on the *R/V Knorr* to collect sediment cores and geophysical data related to deep ocean current circulation.

**NATIONAL HONOR**—IUP's student chapter of the National Art Education Association was recognized as Outstanding Student Chapter, a national distinction, for 2015. This is the third time the group has won the award.

**GREAT INVESTMENT**—Eberly College of Business and Information Technology's Student Managed Investment Portfolio team won a first-place award at ENGAGE 2015, one of the largest student investment conferences in the world. More than 1,500 students from throughout North



America and Europe participated in the annual competition, which includes breakout sessions and career panels. IUP's team started in November 2005 with an initial investment from the Foundation for IUP of \$200,000. Today, the Student Managed Investment Portfolio stands at approximately \$750,000 of the foundation's portfolio of more than \$70 million. The team works closely with the Foundation for IUP staff and meets quarterly with the foundation's Investment Committee and other foundation fund managers for a review of SMIP performance.

**CHINESE PROFICIENCY**—Robert E. Cook Honors College freshman Linus Morales won second place in the national “Chinese Bridge” speech contest for college students held in Boston in April. He competed at the intermediate level of the proficiency competition, which involved presenting a speech, taking questions from jurors, and performing a traditional Chinese song. He will study at Sichuan University this summer for two weeks.

**HUNGER AWARENESS**—The departments of Sociology and Food and Nutrition hosted Hunger Awareness Week in April. Events included a poverty simulation, a seedling and seed giveaway to low-income community residents, and Food and Nutrition's annual “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” food drive to benefit the Indiana County Community Action Program. The drive, in its 21st year, collected 382 pounds of food and \$1,057 in monetary donations.

#### PRESENTING SCHOLARLY WORK

- More than 200 undergraduates and 50 graduate students participated in the **university's scholars forums**, held in conjunction with the university's Research Appreciation Week in April. The undergraduate forum, in its 10th year, and graduate forum, in its fifth year, offer students a chance to participate at a professional conference, to have their presentations judged by faculty and staff members, and to discuss their academic work.
- Biology faculty members Christina Ruby and Dan Widzowski and their students Natalie Verbanes, Catherine Zisk, Colleen Trostle, and Abbey Hawkins presented the results of their research at the 44th annual **Society for Neuroscience meeting** in Washington, DC. This is the first time IUP was represented at the event, considered the world's premier venue for neuroscience.
- Anthropology major Elizabeth Bauer presented her work with the Appalachian Teaching Project at the **Society for the Anthropology of North America 2015 conference** in April. Faculty member Amanda Poole joined Bauer in a panel presentation on mentoring undergraduates in anthropology research on social justice and inequality.
- Geology major Matthew Magill won second place for his poster presentation, “Kinematic Indicators of Shear and the Role of Volcanic Pressurization at the Heart Mountain Detachment,” at the **Pittsburgh Geological Society's Student Night** in April.



- Applied archaeology graduate students Hannah Charlton, Angela Goreczny, and Amanda Rasmussen presented papers at the **Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology meeting** in April. Charlton and Goreczny received the Kinsey Award for their work, and their papers will be published in the association's professional journal. Goreczny also received the Hatch Award from the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council.

**OUR CHAMPIONS**—For only the second time in school history, the men's basketball team made it to the national championship game, losing in the finals to top-ranked Florida Southern University. More than 200 Crimson Hawks fans traveled to Evansville, Indiana, in March to cheer on the team, and hundreds celebrated the team's success at a reception at home. The women's team also had an excellent season, marking its ninth NCAA tournament appearance. This was the first time in IUP history that both the men's and women's basketball teams won more than 25 games in a season. Spring sports have also had their share of feats, headlined by baseball's Ryan Uhl and his Division II-leading 29 home runs, which is also a new school record. Women's tennis advanced to its fifth straight PSAC championship match and to the NCAA championships for the sixth consecutive season. The softball team won two games on the final day of the regular season to clinch a spot in the PSAC tournament, and women's lacrosse made its fourth straight postseason appearance. Men's golf will compete in the NCAA regionals for the 19th consecutive year.

