

# BLUE & GOLD

## SSME Celebrates 10th Anniversary

More than 270 regional students experience the fun and excitement of Science & Math



PittGreensburg

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Students Recognize the Value of GEM
- Full-Tuition Scholarships
- Community Service
- PGAA Events & Activities
- 2018 Commencement
- SSME - Summer Science and Math Experience
- Pitt-Greensburg Athletics
- Upcoming Events

# PittGreensburg CAMPUS STORE

Your 1st Pitt Stop

NEW! **ALUMNI CORNER**

[www.greensburgcampusstore.com](http://www.greensburgcampusstore.com)

Coming Fall 2018



- Exclusive Alumni Merchandise + Discounts
- Check out the July 2018 issue of E-Connection for your Alumni Promo Code

**Store Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday)**

**112 Chambers Hall - 724-836-9928**

The Pitt-Greensburg Campus Store is owned and operated by the  
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

# Table of Contents

Summer 2018

- 2 President's Message
- 3 The Power of One Person: GEM
- 4 Full-Tuition Scholarships awarded
- 5 Day of Giving
- 6 Jeffersonian Dinner
- 7 The Power of One Community
- 8 PGAA Events & Activities
- 9 PGAA Alumni Spotlight
- 10 2018 Commencement
- 12 SSME celebrates 10 years
- 14 Pawprints
- 17 Bookshelf  
Estrada Mentoring and Leadership Award
- 18 Pitt-Greensburg Athletics
- 19 Class Notes
- 20 Upcoming Events
- 21 The Power of One on campus



# Message from the President

Summer is always a time of endings and beginnings for us. We gave a fond farewell to our 236 graduates in the class of 2018, an extraordinary group of talented young men and women who excelled in their classes and generously put their time and considerable skills in service to our larger community. This year also marked the retirement of five faculty whose cumulative service to the campus totaled 124 years!

Now we are anticipating the arrival of our new students. Our second class of nursing students is coming in August and is already exceeding our ambitious goals. We have added a Healthcare Management minor to our curriculum and are encouraging nursing students to pursue this opportunity which should put them on a path to become leaders in their profession. We welcomed ROTC back on campus and, as part of the Pitt Three Rivers Battalion, we are receiving students from Seton Hill and St. Vincent to complete their ROTC obligations on our campus.

Meanwhile, all of higher education continues to be challenged by decreasing numbers of high school graduates and shrinking public support in terms of both funding for programs and belief in their value. This is our greatest challenge: to do more in our programs with less outside support and to restore the faith of our local community in the value of higher education for the individual student and for the community as a whole. Twelve years ago, the 2006 Commission on the Future of Higher Education (aka the Spellings Commission) had concluded that “we have seen ample evidence that access to postsecondary education is increasingly vital to an individual’s economic security.”<sup>1</sup> The most recent analysis from Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce confirmed that a high school education alone will not equip graduates for the jobs that support a middle-class standard of living. Indeed, 80 percent of such jobs **today** require some postsecondary education and this proportion will keep rising.<sup>2</sup>

Goldin and Katz’s monumental study of the relationship between education and economic growth demonstrated clearly that America’s economic growth and the reduction in inequality that occurred during the 20th century was largely attributable to immense investments in education for all and that the subsequent slowdown in education at various levels “is robbing Americans of the ability to grow strong together.”<sup>3</sup>

We who understand and have benefited from higher education must be eloquent in its defense: investment in higher education is crucial for the well-being of the region and the nation now and in the future.

Hail to Pitt!



Sharon P. Smith, PhD  
President



## University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

*Blue & Gold is published by the Office of  
University Relations and Institutional Advancement.*

150 Finoli Drive, Lynch Hall 203  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-836-7497

pgnews@pitt.edu

www.greensburg.pitt.edu

### Advisory Board

Summer 2018

Laura Wagner Aftosmis	Anthony M. Perricelli
Gary A. Amelio, Esq.	Terri Glenn Petrick
Charles W. Anderson	Robert J. Rogalski, Esq.
Melissa Blystone	Stephen M. Ryan Jr.
Barbara J. Christner, Esq.	Jack D. Smith, MD
Dale J. Cordial, PT	Michael J. Stewart, Esq.
Hon. John J. Driscoll	Tamas S. Tanto
H. Phipps Hoffstot III	A. David Tilstone (Chair)
Michael D. Jones, Esq.	Ernest E. Vallozzi
Michael T. Lordi, Esq.	Daniel J. Wukich
Paul G. Nickoloff	Thomas M. Yarabinetz

#### *Emeritus*

Jack H. Millstein Jr.	Louis A. Steiner
Clarence “Bud” B. Smail	Louis T. Steiner

#### *Ex-Officio*

Matthew Blair	Kevin Kara
Katrina B. Brown, PhD	James Smith
Anne M. Czerwinski, PhD	

#### *President’s Cabinet*

Sharon P. Smith, PhD  
*President*

Joseph P. Blechash  
*Director, Facilities and Security*

Ronna S. Collard  
*Director, Finance and Risk Management*

Scott L. Coulson  
*Director, Computing and Telecommunications*

Rick A. Fogle  
*Dean of Student Services*

Jacqueline M. Horrall, PhD  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Susan M. Isola  
*Director, Media Relations*

Mary Anne Koleny  
*Director, Human Resources and Title IX Liaison*

Jodi B. Kraisinger  
*Director, University Relations and  
Institutional Advancement*

Dean E. Nelson, PhD  
*Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Editor: Susan M. Isola

Graphic Design: Laura Edgerly Designs

Photo credits: University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg  
The *Blue & Gold* is published for alumni and friends of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Questions and comments should be directed to the Office of University Relations and Institutional Advancement.

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.

<sup>1</sup>Cited in Anthony P. Carnevale, Artem Gulish, and Jeff Strohl, “Educational Adequacy in the Twenty-First Century,” The Century Foundation, May 2, 2018.

<sup>2</sup>Carnevale, Gulish, and Strohl.

<sup>3</sup>Claudia Goldin and Lawrence F. Katz, *The Race Between Education and Technology* (2008), p. 323.

## Students recognize the value of GEM



Front (from left): Annie Lauffer, Amanda Girdwood, Amanda Sepp, Sara McConnell, Breann DeMoss  
Back: Marissa Shaffer, Emily Frye, Brandin Adams, Kate Andrews, Miranda Calabria

Now in its third year, Greensburg Experience More, or GEM, provides students with a co-curricular experience that complements and enhances their classroom learning. Participating students engage in structured professional and personal skill development across five core components: leadership development, service, career development, cultural awareness and appreciation, and Pitt-Greensburg pride and traditions.

“The interesting thing about GEM is that while the requirements are the same for each person, the way that the students achieve them is unique to that individual,” said Al Thiel, director of Student Activities. It is just one illustration of “the Power of One Person” component of our brand promise, Pitt to the Power of One.

Thiel, along with Beth Tiedemann (Academic Advising & Registrar), and Troy Ross (Housing and Residence Life), initiated the idea for the program. Their goal was to provide a structured approach to helping students build the skills they need to succeed on campus and after graduation. Dorothy Zilic (Career Services) and Brian Root (Housing and Residence Life) also serve on the program’s steering committee.

This year’s GEM class included students majoring in Communication, Criminal Justice, Secondary Education, English Literature, History, Management, Psychology, and Mathematics. Their accomplishments are many, so here are a few highlights.

**Kate Andrews** built her GEM portfolio around her experiences as a Community Assistant, Presidential Ambassador, and working with Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. “I found that I was passionate about people and creating diverse environments and programs,” she said. “I wanted to create a community in which all participants feel welcome and included.”

“GEM pushed me to do more,” said **Miranda Calabria**, who built on her experience as a work study for the Office of Student Services and an executive board member for the Student Activities Board.

**Breann Demoss** brought people together as teams via Habitat for Humanity, the Advanced Leaders program, internships, and Into the Streets. “I learned how to work with different viewpoints and backgrounds, and to see the big picture in both event planning and my role in the Pitt-Greensburg Community.”

Habitat for Humanity’s Alternative Spring Break trip and an internship in Prague, Czech Republic, were **Emily Frye’s** most notable experiences. Senior of the Year and a student-athlete, Emily, also served as an NCAA representative and helped to restart the Student Athlete Advisory Council.

“Gem pushed me beyond my comfort zones,” said **Amanda Girdwood**, president of the Student Activities Board and Village Senate. “The Alternative Spring Break Trip was one of my most memorable experiences and gave me the opportunity to give back to the community.”

“GEM forced me to get involved and learn behind-the-scenes processes that I will use for the rest of my life,” said **Annie Lauffer**, a transfer student. Part of the Student Activities Board and Outdoor Adventure & Community Service (OACS) living community, she became a teaching assistant to fulfill the Career Development component.

**Sara McConnell** thought GEM would be a natural fit. The Pride & Traditions component gave her a greater understanding of the amount of work needed to make a community successful, and she worked to build a stronger community at Pitt-Greensburg.

**Amanda Sepp’s** GEM experience helped her see the significance in the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA) conferences where she participated in valuable networking opportunities. “I also learned how to present to and engage an audience,” she noted. The Service component helped her to understand that her students need to come first.

“GEM inspired me to make a commitment to lifelong service,” said **Marissa Shaffer**. President of the campus Habitat for Humanity Chapter, she made four Alternative Spring Break trips and spent three years as a member/officer of Outdoor Adventure & Community Service (OACS). She credits the Pride & Traditions component with increasing her love of Pitt-Greensburg.

For each of these students, GEM has been part of their Pitt to the Power of One experience, showing them the Power of One Person.



### Past GEM Inductees Since 2016, 26 students have completed the requirements to earn this achievement.

#### 2016

Kierstin Brown  
LaRonn Brown  
Bryan Edwards  
Cassandra Foradori  
Samantha Lipp  
David Postlethwait  
Noel Saraceno

#### 2017

Brandin Adams  
Jessica Jaszcar  
Amanda Jayasinghe  
Tyler Lookabaugh  
Tori Phillips  
Rob Pokora  
Alexandria Polish  
Tara Ritenour  
Kaitlyn Schmidt

# Full-Tuition Scholarships making dreams come true

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg is making dreams come true via its full-tuition scholarship competition. Now in its third year, the program offers three full-tuition scholarships to qualified freshmen students matriculating in the fall. The award covers the cost of in-state tuition for up to four years if the student meets the renewal criteria of 3.5 GPA each academic year. This prestigious scholarship has a value of more than \$50,000.

Students applying for the scholarship must have achieved a cumulative high school GPA of 3.8 or higher, scored a minimum of 1250 on the SAT or 26 on the ACT, must be a US Citizen, and must be admitted as a full-time freshman student as a direct applicant. Full details about the application process and qualifications are available here: <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/fulltuitionscholarship>.

“We are proud to offer these prestigious awards to talented and motivated students,” said Heather Kabala, director of Admissions. “These full-tuition scholarships are evidence of Pitt-Greensburg’s commitment to cultivating leaders and providing opportunities for students to obtain a world-renowned Pitt education without the burden of student loans.”

This year, the scholarships were awarded to Lillianna Duff, Hunter Fishell, and McKenzie A. Huntebrinker. Each recipient is among the top students in his or her class who are motivated to succeed.



**Lillianna Duff** plans to major in Applied Mathematics and minor in Secondary Education when she arrives at Pitt-Greensburg this fall. A soon-to-be graduate from East Allegheny High School, Duff exhibits a passion for math and the drive to conquer it—even working through the remainder of an Algebra II textbook on her own during the summer. Teaching comes

easily to Duff as she often helps her peers with their math. Her understanding of the concepts allows her to present them in a way that her peers understand, too.

A High Honor Roll Student and member of the National Honors Society, Duff is a tutor and chaperone at St. John’s After School Program. She also participated in “Jeans for Teens” and was one of the volunteers to paint the interior of Queen of Angels Catholic School. She is a member of the STEM Club, the Emerging Leaders program, and the high school orchestra. The daughter of Marcia and Justin Duff, she resides in Wilmerding, PA.



**McKenzie A. Huntebrinker** will graduate from Oak Harbor High School. A Biological Science major, she plans to participate in Pitt-Greensburg’s Pre-Physical Therapy/Pre-Occupational Therapy programs. She is the daughter of Andrea and Michael Huntebrinker of Oak Harbor, OH. A nine-day trip with her Spanish class to Costa Rica taught Huntebrinker cultural sensitivity

and to have an open mind when learning about customs that were different than her own. She came home with new-found confidence in her Spanish language skills and greater independence that she will incorporate into her life here on campus.

A competitive soccer player who plays on both club and varsity teams, Huntebrinker earned Scholar-Athlete honors, the Team Support award, and Most Offensive Player of the Year. A Student of the Month, she regularly earns the Straight As award and was a 2014 Lion’s Club award winner. She also is a member of the Art Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Science Club, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.



**Hunter Fishell** will tell you that his most profound educational experience occurred while working at Burgatory, not in a classroom. It was there that he learned that sometimes you have to step out of your assigned role, take the initiative to learn new skills, and make your own success.

His teachers describe him as mature, disciplined, determined, and able to learn from his mistakes, as well as having a strong work ethic. A member of the National Honors Society, he volunteers with the Helping Homebound Heroes group to assist local post-9-11 veterans. He volunteers with Cornerstone Ministries where he participated in their Car Care Clinic, repairing cars for underprivileged families, and with the Worship Team. A four-year letterwinner in cross country and three-year letterwinner in track and field, Fishell received the Best New Runner Award (2014), Unsung Hero Award (2015, 2017), and the Coaches Award for cross country (2016). Fishell is the son of Michelle and Joseph Fishell of Murrysville, PA.



Dr. Sharon P. Smith (center) chats with two of the scholarship candidates during the Saturday morning interview process.



**Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing**  
**Friday, Oct. 12 - Westmoreland Country Club**  
*Meet and support Pitt-Greensburg while playing on a championship golf course.*

**Event Schedule**

- 8am - Registration & Skills Contests
- 9am - Shotgun Tee-Off (four-player scramble)
- 11 am - Cocktails (cash bar)
- 2pm - Luncheon Buffet, Awards Ceremony, and Raffle Announcements

**Event Features**

- 18 holes with cart
- Continental breakfast
- Refreshments on the course
- Skills contests
- Luncheon buffet
- Foursome photo
- Giveaways, raffles, & team prizes

Sponsorship opportunities available, too!

**Early Bird Pricing (until 9/13): \$135 per golfer; \$540 per foursome.**

Register on-line at <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweek/golf-outing>  
 For more information, contact Sheila Kudrick at 724-836-7039 or PGGiving@pitt.edu.

# Pitt Day of Giving a huge success—thanks to you!

Pitt Day of Giving was a rousing success for Pitt-Greensburg—thanks to each of you who participated on February 28. **Your support helped our campus to finish in the Number 2 position** on the University-wide Giving Leaderboard (<http://bit.ly/PittDayOfGivingLeaderboard2018>), **giving us an additional \$20,000** that has been applied to the Technology for the Future Challenge. **The campus raised more than \$1.9 million dollars through the event.** Pitt-Greensburg's success was fueled by an active social media push that was marshalled by our social media administrator in the office of University Relations and Institutional Advancement (URIA), with assistance from social media administrators in Admissions, Student Services, and Millstein Library.



*All makes and models of vehicles welcome! Bring the family to see the variety of vehicles on display.*

**Saturday, October 20 at Pitt-Greensburg**

- Dash plaques (limited quantity available)
- Event includes music, giveaways, 50/50 drawing, food, festival, & more
- Fan Favorite trophies

Registration: 11:30 a.m. in Smith Hall Parking Lot  
 \$5 entry fee; Spectators are free

Sponsorship opportunities available, too!

Register on-line at <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweek>  
 For more information contact Sheila Kudrick at 724-826-7039 or PGGiving@pitt.edu.



**October 10-21 Millstein Library**

- All artists are invited to participate
- Three prize winners based on fan favorite voting
- Artists Reception set for October 19 at 6 p.m.

Registration:  
 \$5 (+ \$1 processing fee) per entry/piece.

Sponsorship opportunities available, too!

Details & registration available at <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/art-show>

## Technology for the Future Challenge Update

After two years, Pitt-Greensburg's Technology for the Future Challenge has raised \$82,775!

**Our goal is to reach \$100,000 by September 30, so your gift to the Challenge is as important as ever.**

**Each dollar raised is matched one-to-one by money available through the Strengthening Institutions Program grant that we were awarded in 2016.**

\$50,000	\$82,775 raised to date through donations	<b>2-YEAR GOAL:</b> \$100,000
<p>It's a \$1 to \$1 match!</p>	<p><b>TECHNOLOGY for the FUTURE CHALLENGE</b></p> <p>Thank you to the donors who have contributed to our Challenge.</p> <p><b>Can we count on you to help us raise \$17,225 by September 30 to reach our goal of \$100,000?</b></p>	<p><b>The Power of One Donor</b></p> <p>The Power of One says that YOU can make a difference, YOUR voice, YOUR participation, YOUR donation matters.</p>
<p><b>Every gift counts. Every gift is multiplied. To make your gift, visit <a href="http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/tech-challenge">www.greensburg.pitt.edu/tech-challenge</a>.</b></p>		

# Jeffersonian Dinner

## Introducing New People to Pitt-Greensburg



Clockwise from left: John M. Felice '67 (A&S); Sharon P. Smith, PhD; Robert Whipkey, MD, '77 (A&S), '81 (MED); Tracy Courtney '89 (EDUC); William Pamerleau, PhD; David Lucas, MD; Maureen Cutrell, RN, BSN; Olivia Long, PhD; Michael Stewart, Esq., '77 (LAW); and Barbara Barnhart '91, '10 (EDU).



From left: Sharon P. Smith, PhD; and David Lucas, MD.



Michael Stewart, Esq., '77 (LAW); Olivia Long, PhD; and Robert Whipkey, MD, '77 (A&S), '81 (MED).

Health, education, legal, and corporate professionals contributed their expertise and personal sentiments to the thought-provoking conversation—To Swab or Not to Swab: The Potential Impact of Genetic Testing—at Pitt-Greensburg's Jeffersonian Dinner on March 1. While sitting around a table of delectable food, the discussion covered the psychological, legal, economic, and ethical issues of health and ancestral genetic testing. Special thanks to Pitt-Greensburg faculty Olivia Long, PhD, assistant professor, Biochemistry; Barbara Barnhart, instructor, Biology; Brooke McClendon, PhD, visiting instructor of Biological Science; and Jennifer Paul, instructor, Biology for crafting the question for this vibrant conversation. The topic developed from brainstorming sessions of how Pitt-Greensburg is building the next generation of researchers and teaching the students to think critically. Plans are underway to continue this conversation in a community forum this fall, along with two more dinners on topics that will engage community members in deep conversations and share the relevant work taking place on campus.



From left: William Rued, PhD; Sharon P. Smith, PhD; and Barbara Barnhart '91, '10 (EDU) participate in a dress rehearsal for the dinner.





# The Power of One Community

## Blackburn Center's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

With more than 140 students, faculty, and staff in attendance, Pitt-Greensburg had the largest team at this year's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event, held annually by the Blackburn Center to help raise awareness about gender-based violence. The event challenges men to "put yourself in her shoes" by walking a mile in high heels.



## Habitat for Humanity

Pitt-Greensburg's chapter of Habitat for Humanity raised more than \$4,000 to finance their trip to Mississippi where they helped to finish a new home for a veteran who was living in what looked like a toolshed. In addition to their work on the structure, the group also presented a check for \$2,000 to the Mississippi affiliate, who will use the money to continue their work.

## The Community Arts and Reintegration Project

The Community Arts and Reintegration Project (CARP) held its first "paint day" for the mural to be displayed in Mt. Pleasant. Dr. Timothy Holler (from left) and mural designer Bernie Wilke, discuss the progress on one of the panels with Criminal Justice majors Jonathan Lerch and Shelby Talarico. Approximately 12 students joined members of the community and five juveniles from Westmoreland juvenile probation in working on the project.



## Meals on Wheels

Kathleen Price (left) and Jonathan Lerch clown for the camera while preparing meals for shut-ins at Tri-City Meals on Wheels. They were just two of the many Pitt-Greensburg students who went out into the community to perform volunteer service during the campus' annual Spring Into the Streets event.



**PittGreensburg**  
PITT TO THE POWER OF ONE



# Upcoming Events

## Pitt-Greensburg at PNC Park



The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) will host Pitt-Greensburg at PNC Park on Saturday, June 16. Tickets for the 4:05 p.m. game between the Pirates and the Cincinnati Reds are \$35 and include the tailgate, game admission, Hawaiian

shirt (available to the first 20,000 fans), and stadium promotions (based on availability). Location and time of the tailgate event will be announced closer to the date. Purchase your tickets on-line at <http://bit.ly/PGAAPirates>.

## PGAA Award nominations due July 9



Nominations for the PGAA Alumni Awards are due Monday, July 9. If you know someone whose accomplishments make them the perfect candidate for the Alumnus of Distinction award, Young Alumni Leadership award, or Volunteer Excellence award, please nominate them using the on-line forms at <http://bit.ly/PGAAAwardNominations>. Criteria for each award also is available through this link.

## Alumni volunteers make an impact



PGAA members are a welcomed addition to all events held here on campus. They play a particularly important role at Admissions events and during significant activities like Move-in Day. Check the information below to find out how you can volunteer here on campus.

The Pitt-Greensburg Office of Admissions will host a **Summer Block Party** on Saturday, July 28. This fun event allows prospective students and their families to tour the campus, hear an admissions presentation, and meet the Pitt-Greensburg community. As alumni, you are an important part of our community. When you volunteer at this event, you are able to share your experiences as a Pitt-Greensburg student, answer questions, and have fun at this picnic-style event. Visit <http://bit.ly/AdmissionsEventVolunteer> to volunteer at this important activity or contact Julia Sefcheck at 724-826-7946 or [PGAA@pitt.edu](mailto:PGAA@pitt.edu) for more information.

Check the Alumni webpage (<http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni>) for information about our annual **Pitt Sendoff** that brings together alumni and incoming Pitt students. Details will be available at a later date for this event that typically occurs in August.

**Move-In Day** is an exciting day for incoming freshmen—don't you remember that feeling of expectancy and new beginnings? Mark your calendar for Thursday, August 23, and volunteer to be part of the campus community welcoming our newest students. Register at <http://bit.ly/MoveInDayVolunteer> and plan to spend the

day with us as you greet students and their families and distribute water bottles. In addition to reliving the feelings of starting the academic year, you will receive a special t-shirt to wear while volunteering.



Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 26, and plan to attend the newest PGAA event: the **Welcome Back Fall Alumni Mixer**.

This event will coincide with the Big Bang and brings you back to campus to renew friendships, make new ones, enjoy delicious food, and watch the Big Bang fireworks go off behind Millstein Library. Specific details will become available during the summer so check

the Alumni webpage (<http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni>) and be sure to register for this new event.

## Snapshots from past PGAA activities



Twenty-nine alumni and friends of Pitt-Greensburg assisted our students in developing their interview skills during the annual **Mock Interview Night** held in February. The event provides students with the opportunity to practice networking skills as well as one-on-one, group, and telephone/Skype interviews. For students, this activity is a confidence booster and helps them to know what to expect in a typical interview.



Members of the Student Alumni Association (SAA) were invited to participate in "**Lunch with a Bobcat**." Laura Wagner Aftomis '91 and husband Charles Aftomis '92 hosted lunch for the six participating students at the Boulevard restaurant. The group then spent the afternoon at Painting with a Twist, creating their own take-home masterpieces. Many thanks to Laura and Charles who have been hosting this event since its inception in 2016. Please contact [Julia Sefcheck at PGAA@pitt.edu](mailto:Julia.Sefcheck@PGAA@pitt.edu) if you are interested in discussing an idea for a "Dinner with a Bobcat" activity.



The Student Alumni Association (SAA) held its annual "**Paws and Say Thanks**" to alumni activity this past March. This is an opportunity for students to stop outside of Wagner Dining Hall and write a postcard message to thank alumni for their continued support of Pitt-Greensburg.

# Melissa Blystone '94: Continuing the Family Legacy

Melissa (Greubel) Blystone '94 continues a family legacy—whether it's running the family business or caring for her five children, family is a constant. Although she graduated from Pitt-Greensburg in the mid-90s with a BS in Management, her family's story starts more than 130 years ago in Derry, PA.

In 1884, her great-great-grandfather Joseph A. Greubel was a pioneer in Westmoreland County as the first person to commercially manufacture ice cream. He even had a contract with Idlewild Park for three gallons of ice cream every Sunday during the summer. Using ice and salt for refrigeration, he would deliver the ice cream by horse and buggy. Melissa's grandfather Joseph Fleming Greubel learned to make ice cream from him.

In 1938, her grandfather opened the first Valley Dairy Restaurant. The original "Ice Cream Joe," her grandfather continued making ice cream. The ice cream was so popular that the family purchased a larger facility in 1946. As the business grew, the family formed Fairview Dairy, Inc. Her father, Joseph E. Greubel, followed in his father's footsteps, inheriting the role of "Ice Cream Joe" and serving as president and CEO of the business. In 2009, the corporation's Board of Directors elected Melissa to the position of president/CEO.

Melissa's chapter starts when she was a small child. She was brought up in the family business, and at a very early age, she showed interest in it. Her grandfather was her mentor, and he took every opportunity to encourage her. Being a frugal man, he mostly gave her financial lessons.

As a teenager, Melissa began waiting tables at one of the family's restaurants. It wasn't always easy being part of the family. "Being the daughter of the president/CEO was not a cushy spot to be in. I had to prove that I could do the job and was not there to take up space and collect a paycheck," she explains.

When it came time to go to college, Melissa chose Pitt-Greensburg because it was close to their business, and she planned to work through her college years. She commuted to Pitt-Greensburg and spent most of her time in class or at work.

Through her family, she had a special ties to the campus—the late Dr. Guy Rossetti and the late James Shanahan, CPA. At the time, Dr. Rossetti was dean of the Administration and a "very close friend of her father's." She would often stop and chit chat with him when on campus. She knew Shanahan through the family business, took his Accounting and Auditing classes, and worked at his office during tax season.

Though work and classes kept her busy, Melissa has fond memories of the Fall Festivals held on campus at that time. The event was special to her family. It was a fun outing away from home, often with her best friend. These Festivals are where, she believes, that she fell in love with Pitt-Greensburg.



Melissa (Greubel) Blystone '94

After graduation, Melissa became a manager at one of the restaurants. Although there were female managers in the restaurants, there were none at the upper management level. Again, she was faced with the challenge of having to prove herself.

"I had to prove that I had as much know-how as the men in the leadership roles. By pitching in and tackling every job, by being dependable and consistent, and by not backing up from any situation, I was able to do this," she says.

She next became director of Operations where she oversaw the management of 11 restaurants and two district managers. Then, she moved into the president/CEO role when her father transitioned into retirement.

As president/CEO, she has already made differences in the 80-year-old family business. "I think I made my mark on the business when I took our restaurants, gave them a new look, and

focused on a younger guest profile," she notes.

She also has hired people with the same dedication to and enthusiasm for Valley Dairy Restaurants that she has. Other changes include closing the ice cream plant and outsourcing the manufacturing. She also closed under-performing units and added new successful ones.

"Stepping into a family business has its own set of challenges and you have to work with your strengths and hire for your weaknesses," she explains.

Melissa also is continuing in her family's service to the University. Her father served as president of the Westmoreland County Pitt Alumni Association and a longtime member of the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board. In 2017, Melissa returned to the campus as member of the Advisory Board.

The story will not end with Melissa. Her two sons currently work in the business. After graduating from college, the older son intends to work full-time in the business. Her other son, a high school student, is also showing interest. She's excited to see where the future will take them.

"I transformed the restaurants into full-service modern restaurants with a comfy atmosphere. When it's their turn, they may need to start all over," she says.

When she's not overseeing the family business, she's with her husband, Corey, spending time with family and attending their children's activities.

From a child being encouraged by her grandfather to CEO/president, Melissa just sees herself as "a person doing a job that I love."

*By Julia Sefcheck '99  
An unabridged version of this article is available at [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/alumni-spotlight](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/alumni-spotlight).*

# 2018 COMMENCEMENT



- ✓ **236 students receive degrees**
- ✓ **Franklin Wilson, PhD, receives President's Medal for Distinguished Service**
- ✓ **One hundred seventy-four of the 236 eligible students participated in Pitt-Greensburg's 30th Commencement on Saturday, April 28, in Chambers Hall Gymnasium. The ceremony's live stream is archived at [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/graduation/live](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/graduation/live).**



Pitt alumni who processed in the 2018 Pitt-Greensburg Commencement Ceremony:

Row 1 (from left): Domenic Petrarca CGS '72; Gail Tucker A&S '84; Sana Chowdhry A&S '17; Troy Ross '99; Barbara Smith '94; and Katie Byers '17.

Row 2: John T. Davies III, ENG '81; Larry Helkowski '74; Ray Markiewicz '80; Nicholas Keller '01; Joshua Titus, PhD, PHARM '13; Ahmed Badran '01; Michael Krzanowski '11; Jennifer Keller-Lott UPJ '98; Justin Cannalley '17; Joseph Ferrante '17; and Brian Root '04.



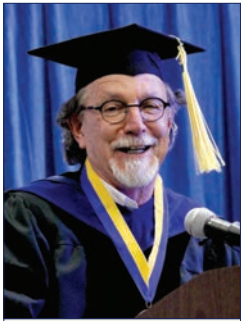
PGAA President James Smith '75 recognized Maggie Kelly '18 (right) as this year's graduate with the most Pitt degrees (4) in her family.



Row 1 (from left): Dr. Anne Czerwinski, Dr. Jacqueline Horrall, Dr. Franklin D. Wilson, A. David Tilstone, Jack Ford, Dr. Sharon P. Smith, Tomas Tanto ENG '67, Danielle McLay '18, and Sharon Turchick.

Row 2: Jim Smith '75, Stephen Ryan, and Dr. Jack Smith A&S '69, MED '73.



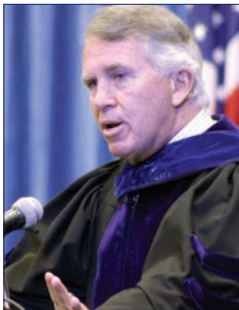


Dr. Franklin D. Wilson

Franklin D. Wilson, PhD, assistant professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice received the **President's Medal for Distinguished Service**. Wilson also serves as director of the Academic

Village and is completing his third term as president of the Senate of the University of Pittsburgh. He also has served five terms as president of Pitt-Greensburg's Faculty Senate, helping to facilitate the campus' progress. In his 20 years at Pitt-Greensburg, Wilson has been a tireless advocate for students and a passionate supporter of the interests and rights of faculty and staff. He is recognized for his visionary work with the Academic Village, both at its inception and to reconceive it for a changing world. He also is noted for his interdisciplinary teaching that set high standards for collaboration and pedagogical experimentation. His career is highlighted by an ability to bring parties with differing perspectives together for a common purpose and for his enduring impact on the entire university that has been marked by decisive leadership and transformational change.

Jack Ford, award-winning journalist, lawyer, and novelist, was the **Commencement speaker**. The winner of two Emmy Awards and a George Foster Peabody Award, Ford is currently a host of Metro Focus on PBS (WNET-NY) and most recently a CBS News correspondent for 60 Minutes Sports. He also is the co-founder and chief anchor of the digital network American Ed TV and is a consultant for the NCAA. His work in television journalism earned four National Cable Television Awards, an MCCJ National Headliner Award, and the March of Dimes FDR Award. In addition to his work as a journalist, Ford is a documentary producer, prominent trial attorney, author, and professor.



Jack Ford

Danielle McLay '18, a Management-Accounting major, was the **student speaker representative**.

As part of Pitt-Greensburg's **Legacy Diploma Co-Presentations**, 17 students

received their diplomas from members of their families who also hold degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. Pitt-Greensburg is the only campus in the Pitt system to offer this opportunity to graduates. It was initiated by Dr. Sharon P. Smith, president of Pitt-Greensburg, and is a visual illustration that Pitt-Greensburg graduates join a large "family" of graduates from the many schools and campuses that comprise the University of Pittsburgh.



Danielle McLay '18



PGAA Board Secretary Barbara Smith '94 presents the PGAA Outstanding Faculty Award to Dr. Matthew Luderer, associate professor of Chemistry.

At the Pre-Commencement breakfast, the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) announced that Matthew Luderer, PhD, associate professor of Chemistry, was recipient of its **Outstanding Faculty Award**. He teaches

General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry & Laboratory, Chemistry Senior Research, and Techniques of Organic Research. Students nominating Dr. Luderer for this award consistently mentioned his willingness to help students conquer the course materials by taking them through the concepts step-by-step. His engaging teaching style makes learning fun, and he makes even the most complicated topics easy to understand while further developing the analytical skills of his students.



Marissa Shaffer '18 (left) was the recipient of the PGAA Student Community Service Award.

The **PGAA Student Community Service Award** was presented to Chemistry major Marissa Shaffer '18 in recognition of her strong commitment to serving the campus and the community. A Community

Assistant (CA), she received the Programmer of the Year award and the CA of the Year award for her efforts in building community. She also is active in Habitat for Humanity (HFH) and logged more than 150 service hours over the past four years serving those less fortunate, while also helping to plan and lead HFH trips for her fellow students. This past year, she served as the chapter's president and continued her commitment to local build projects and volunteering at the HFH ReStore on Saturday afternoons. Over the past four years, she has regularly volunteered at more than 10 service projects.



# Summer Science and Math Experience...

Our gratitude to the foundations and corporate donors who have made this program possible. Without their support, these students would not have had this life-changing experience. A special thank you to the McFeely Rogers Foundation who has provided a decade of consistent support, as well as to The Eberly Foundation and The Grable Foundation who have also been faithful to our vision.

Thank you, as well, to the Greater Latrobe Partners in Education, The Greensburg Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County at The Pittsburgh Foundation, Atlas Foundation and Chevron Foundation at the Community Foundation of Fayette County, Bridgestone/Firestone Charitable Trust Fund, Waste Management, and McCutcheon Enterprises.

A special note of gratitude and acknowledgement to the Pitt-Greensburg faculty, staff, and student-counselors who are the heart and soul of SSME. Dr. Z would be so proud of you.

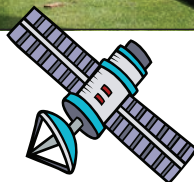
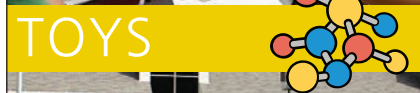


## The result of one vision, the vision of Dr. Z.

Dr. Thad Zaleskiewicz—known to his friends and students as Dr. Z—made it his life mission to share the excitement of science and math with everyone that he met. A Physics professor at Pitt-Greensburg, he constantly looked for innovative ways to inspire in others a love of science and math. As an *emeritus* professor, he maintained his commitment to Pitt-Greensburg in a variety of ways. One of the most visible ways this was through the Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME) that he founded in 2009.

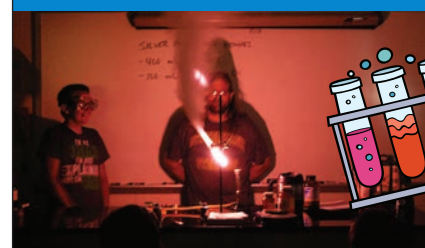
His vision and legacy: to help students who are going into the ninth grade to experience the wonder and excitement of the science and math fields. After Dr. Z's death in 2012, Jodi Kraisinger, director of University Relations and Institutional Advancement, was asked to manage the program.

Over the past 10 years, SSME has grown from its first year of 11 students representing one school district and one county to 48 students representing seven school districts and four counties (Allegheny, Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland). (The sidebar on page 13 shows the schools that have participated and when.)



## Survey Says . . .

A survey sent to the first five cohorts shows that 87 percent of the participants (who responded to the surveys) were interested in pursuing a career in STEM. Of those respondents, 87 percent also believed that participation in the SSME program influenced their current educational and career aspirations in a positive way.



HEALTHY EATING

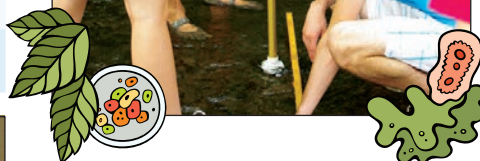


# .....10 years by the numbers

## SSME PARTICIPATION BY THE NUMBERS

Years running	10
Students participated	271
Faculty participated	26
Counselors participated	15
School Districts participated	11
Counties represented	4
Generous funders	9
Cans of shaving cream used in games	15
Water balloons filled and thrown	7,000
"Goodies" distributed	9,485
Student-hours spent in science-related activities	11,517.5

## STREAM ANALYSIS



## TITRATIONS



## MATH BRIDGES

### In their own words, here are some of the comments that these participants shared with us:

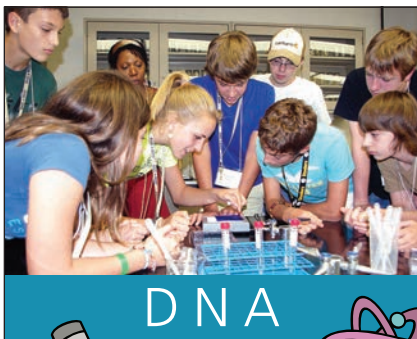
"SSME was one of the most fun and engaging learning experiences I've ever had. Thank you for inviting me to attend."

"It was a great camp. I was fascinated with what I learned, and it really helped me choose to have a major in the math and science field."

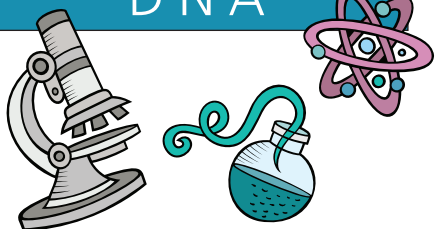
"It was truly a great and memorable experience. I learned a lot and had a blast! It really influenced my decision to major in Engineering."

"I wanted to be a genetic engineer before attending SSME, but SSME made me want to do it even more!"

"It was a wonderful experience that deepened my love of science. It also reassured me that I could matriculate successfully. Thank you for the program."



## DNA



### Regional middle schools that have participated in SSME

- Albert Gallatin
- Brentwood
- Connellsville
- Derry
- Greensburg Central Catholic
- Greensburg Salem
- Greater Latrobe
- Hempfield
- Turkeyfoot
- Upper St. Clair
- Uniontown

### Faculty:

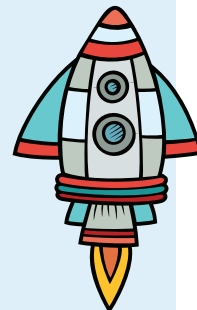
- Justin Antoszewski
- Dr. Vickilyn Barnot
- Matthew Blair
- Dr. Katrina Brown
- Dr. Todd Brown
- Bado DeFranco
- John Float
- Laura Giovannelli
- Molly Grace
- Shelley (Franklin) Hall
- Katie Klinger
- Dr. Olivia Long
- Dr. Matthew Luderer
- Dr. Christine McCreary
- Chef Richard McMahon
- Dr. Walter Orange
- Mike Pacelli
- Dr. Kristina Pazehoski
- Mr. Chuck Perry
- Dr. Chloe Rowland
- Dr. Tim Savisky
- Dr. Mark Stauffer
- Joseph Szurek
- John Vallano
- Dr. Thad Zaleskiewicz

### Student-Counselors:

- Steven Anderson '15
- Travis Ankrom '14, EDU '16
- Pamela Feliciani '16
- Shelly Franklin Hall '14
- Jaymee Humbert '17
- Megan Hughes '13
- Katie Klinger '14
- Michael Krzanowski '11
- Ryan Kunkle '12
- Shannon Lieu '16
- Phillip Mihm '17
- Megan Morrison '12, EDU '16
- Jesse Reilly '13
- John Ritenour '11
- Katelyn Sadler '11
- Zachary Simms '16

### Workshops offered:

- Acidity & Titrations
- Field trip to St. Vincent College's Angelo J. Taiani Planetarium
- Chemistry Demonstration
- Computer Project
- Computer Scavenger Hunt
- Evening of Astronomy
- Field trip to the Penn State Breazeale Nuclear Reactor
- Mathematical Bridges
- Morning/Afternoon of DNA
- Morning/Afternoon of Math
- Physics
- Secrets of Science Toys
- Science of Movies
- Stream Ecosystem Analysis
- Science of Healthy Snacking
- Science Scavenger Hunt



# Pawprints

## Pitt-Greensburg offers free summer housing to students

For the first time in its history, Pitt-Greensburg offered free on-campus housing (University Court apartments) to its students enrolled for the summer session. Expanded financial aid was also available to these students. To be eligible for the free summer housing, students must have completed one semester as a full-time student within the previous academic year (fall or spring term), and be enrolled in a minimum of six credits at Pitt-Greensburg, either in class, online, or as an internship. If a student falls below six credits or fails to achieve six credits, they will be billed up to the full amount for the term.

## Six new minors approved

Six new minors were approved and added to the curriculum at Pitt-Greensburg. They include: Applied Research, Behavior Analysis, Biology, Criminal Justice, Film Studies, and Healthcare Management. This brings the total number of minors offered at Pitt-Greensburg to 24.

## Pitt-Greensburg science students selected as Pittcon 2018 aides

Eight Pitt-Greensburg students were selected to serve as Student Aides at Pittcon 2018: Brandin Adams, Darius Eicher, Nick Frankos, Rebekah Frendy, Amanda Henderson, Corinne Kirk, Tim Legenzoff, and Kaity Watson. Pittcon is the world's leading annual conference and exposition on laboratory science that attracts attendees from industry, academia, and government from more than 90 countries worldwide.

## Science majors shine at regional convention



Twenty-three Pitt-Greensburg science majors participated in the Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society's Northeast District 3 Regional

Convention at SUNY Fredonia, NY. Seventeen students gave either oral or poster presentations of their capstone research. Olivia Long, PhD, assistant professor of Biochemistry, is the group's advisor.

The students brought home two first place awards, a second place award, and an honorable mention. For their first place wins, the students received \$750 travel awards to present their capstone research at the national conference to be held in June at Monterey Bay, CA. This will be the third national biannual conference Pitt-Greensburg students have attended using their travel award prizes.

Placing first were Marina Shenouda for her oral presentation, "Rescue the Retina: The Effects of Tyrosine 262 and Tryptophan 281 on Chromophore Binding Specifically in Blue and Green Cone Opsin," and Amanda Henderson, Raecann Tsui, and Patapon Tongdee for their poster presentation on their capstone research, "Forget Alzheimer's! A Study Investigating the Effects of Antioxidants on Neurodegeneration as modeled in *C. elegans*."

Tim Legenzoff placed second for his oral presentation on investigating molecular crowdings impact on enzyme kinetics, which was taken from his work as a Green Scholar with Chloe Rowland, PhD, assistant professor of Biochemistry. Timmy Race, Lexi Valko, and Erika Arrington won honorable mention for their group's poster presentation investigating a drug addiction model in *C. elegans*.

Pitt-Greensburg's chapter also brought home several awards. In addition to receiving the conference spirit award, the group placed second for the chapter history award (scrapbook), second in most delegates in attendance, losing to the host school, and second for the outstanding chapter award.

## Beshero-Bondar awarded research fellowship



Elisa Beshero-Bondar, PhD, associate professor of English, was one of 10 applicants to be awarded an Eileen Curran Fellowship from the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals (RSVP). She will use the award to help fund travel to various archives in the United States and England to locate and digitize Mary Russell Mitford's letters concerning her work with periodicals in the 1820s and 1830s.

The award is from a set of grants founded by pioneer researcher Eileen Curran to support research into any and all aspects of the magazine and newspaper press of 19th-century Britain and its empire. It was noted that "the large number of very strong proposals this year reflects the dynamism of this rapidly expanding field of study."

## Digital Mitford Coding School now supported by University Library System

The Digital Mitford Coding School, directed by Dr. Elisa Beshero-Bondar (English), was held May 21-25 at Pitt-Greensburg. The coding school is now supported by Pitt's University Library System (ULS), and ULS staff assisted with instruction on new topics such as data cleaning when working with materials retrieved by Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and other sources. Information is available at <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/digital-humanities/center-digital-text>.

## Pitt-Greensburg SPSEA takes first in Apex competition



The Pitt-Greensburg chapter of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA) took first place in the Apex competition that was part of the state-wide conference in April. The competition has students

competing to create the best on-line portfolio of activities that showcases the four pillars that SPSEA rests on. The win is significant in that our Education students were competing against schools whose Education programs are as large as the entire Pitt-Greensburg campus.

Melissa Marks, EdD, associate professor of Education, received the Pennsylvania SPSEA Advisor of the Year award at the conference.

## Teacher Leadership Institute held at Pitt-Greensburg



The Southwest Region of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA) held its Teacher Leadership Institute at Pitt-Greensburg in March.

This one-day conference focused on teachers as leaders within their classroom, their community, and the PSEA. William H. Kerr Jr., EdD, superintendent of Schools for the Norwin School District, and Ms. Mairi Cooper, orchestra teacher at Fox Chapel High School and the 2015 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year, were the keynote speakers. In addition to the keynote presentations, three breakout sessions with three additional choices for each were held throughout the day. Education majors from the Southwest Region of SPSEA, as well as SPSEA members from nearby regions were the primary audience for this event. High school juniors and seniors interested in Education were also invited. Jeanne Burth, EdD, associate professor of Education at Pitt-Greensburg and co-advisor to the campus' SPSEA chapter, led a session on how to teach in impoverished schools. She called upon her experience as principal of a high-poverty school to help the participants understand the challenges in leading students living and learning in low-economic situations. Melissa Marks, PhD, associate professor of Education, director of the Secondary Education



# Pawprints *continued*

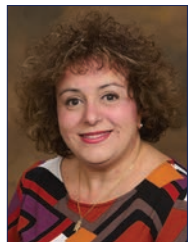
Program, and co-advisor to Pitt-Greensburg's SPSEA chapter, commended the Pitt-Greensburg students who served on the planning committee: Andrew McDonald, chair of the event and vice president of the Southwest Region SPSEA, Lindsey Wittkopp, Kendra Moxon, Rowan Alexander, Carly Franks, and Ashley Brantley.

## Early Childhood Education Student Affiliate Dinner held



Pitt-Greensburg, in partnership with Trying Together (formerly Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC)), hosted the eighth annual Early Childhood Education Student Affiliate Dinner in April. Approximately 200 people attended the event, which provided the opportunity for professional development and networking to Education majors attending regional colleges and universities as well as to educators from the southwestern Pennsylvania region. Creative entrepreneur George M. Davison was the keynote speaker and NASA Flight Director Ed Van Cise was featured in a videotaped message. Education alumni staffed activity tables with STEM activities as examples of what can be done for children of various ages. Vickilyn Barnot, PhD, assistant professor of Education and director of the Early Childhood/Elementary Education Program, Wendy Hardy, EdD, associate professor of Early Childhood Education, and Britani Malik Early Childhood Education major chaired the event. The student affiliate dinner is supported in part by the Lulu A. Pool Health and Education Trust, held by First Commonwealth Bank; the Rotary Club of Greensburg, The Madeline Nichols Memorial Fund grant; Trying Together (formerly known as Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC)); the Pitt-Greensburg Chapter of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA); The Pitt-Greensburg Student Government Association (SGA); The Math Learning Center; and Lakeshore.

## Orsatti chosen for Cuba for Educators Study Tour



Silvina Orsatti, EdD, instructor of Spanish, will participate in the Cuba for Educators Study Tour in June. The program is offered through the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Latin American Studies program and will allow Orsatti to spend 10 days living and studying in Cuba. While there, she will be capturing video, researching original recipes, and interviewing Cubans in order to create virtual reality tours that incorporate 360-degree images/videos to share with her students in her various Spanish classes. Her topics range from the clothing and food to music and dance. She also will look at the reasons why Cubans fled their country and the consequences of emigration to the Cuban society to share in her new class "Latinos in the United States."

She plans to develop a virtual reality tour with 360-degree images/videos and interviews so that students can better experience the culture of Cuba.

## Professors make appearances in PBS programming



Lori Jakiela, professor of English and Creative Writing, and her husband, Dave Newman '93, '96 (A&S), were among the writers featured in a Rick Sebak documentary, *People Who've Written Books Around Here*, about Pittsburgh writers. The program aired April 26 on Pittsburgh's PBS Channel WQED-TV. The promo ad for the show is here: <http://bit.ly/PittsburghWriters>. Jakiela also was one of the writers looking for votes in Pittsburgh Magazine's "Best of the Burgh" competition. Voting took place through April 20. Winners will be announced in July.



Sayre Greenfield, PhD, professor of English, and his wife Linda Troost, PhD, have a cameo appearance in the official trailer promoting PBS's *Great American Read* series. Visit <http://bit.ly/Greenfield-GrtAmerRead> and you can catch them at the 00:43 mark where they share their favorite novel, *Pride & Prejudice* (Jane Austin). The series premiered May 22 and introduced a list of America's 100 best-loved novels while exploring the way these novels affect, reflect, and connect us all.

## Confer, Panaro, and Frye to be part of University video on women and leadership



Sheila Confer, EdD, assistant director of the Academic Village, Alice Panaro, police officer, and Emily Frye '18 were nominated and selected to represent Pitt-Greensburg in the University of Pittsburgh's *Spotlight on Women Leaders* program. The program

was recently created by the Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Concerns (PACWC) to celebrate, share, and inspire women's leadership across the University. The goal of the *Spotlight* program is to recognize and honor women students, faculty, and staff who inspire others as role models and leaders. Confer and Frye will share their perspectives on leadership in short videos and/or other programming.

Frye's video may be viewed here: <http://provost.pitt.edu/initiatives/spotlight-women-leaders/students> or by scanning this QR code.



## Grant Activity

Grants awarded since January 2018 include:

- The Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME) 2018 received awards from The Greater Latrobe Partners in Education Foundation and McFeely-Rogers Foundation, The Eberly Foundation, and The Grable Foundation.
- The Pitt-Greensburg Education department received a grant from the Lulu A. Pool Health and Education Trust, held by First Commonwealth Bank, and a Madeline Nichols Memorial Fund grant from the Rotary Club of Greensburg in support of the Eighth Annual Education Affiliates Dinner. Additional support for this event, which provides the opportunity for professional development and networking to Education majors attending regional colleges and universities as well as to educators from the southwestern Pennsylvania region included Trying Together (formerly known as Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC)); The Pitt-Greensburg Chapter of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA); The Pitt-Greensburg Student Government Association (SGA); The Math Learning Center; and Lakeshore.
- Three Pitt-Greensburg students received support through the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship Program for Women in Global Leadership for study abroad expenses.
- History instructor William Campbell, PhD, was awarded a Neil Ker Memorial Fund Grant in Manuscript Studies by the British Academy to study the Medieval Statutes of St David's Cathedral during the summer of 2018.
- The Greensburg Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County (affiliated with the Pittsburgh Foundation) is providing a grant in support of the expansion and renovation of the science facilities on the Pitt-Greensburg campus. Additional support to date includes The Elliot Group and private donors.

# Pawprints continued from 15

## Pitt to the Power of One builds presence on campus



House. Flip back to the inside back cover to see the artwork in place.

This past year, the Pitt-Greensburg campus community noticed the addition of “Pitt to the Power of One” and other related messaging displayed in campus buildings. The artwork greets visitors at the entrances of Chambers Hall, the Faculty Office Building, Millstein Library, Smith Hall, and Wagner Dining Hall. It can also be seen in Academic Advising, Cassell Hall Powers Hall, and Rossetti

## Retiring professors contribute more than a century of service



### Vickilyn Barnot, PhD

Vickilyn Barnot, PhD, assistant professor of Education, is a co-founder of Pitt-Greensburg’s Early Childhood Education and Secondary Education majors. Since 2010, she has served as the Director of the Early Childhood/Elementary Education Program. Throughout her 29-year career here, she has taught numerous courses in teacher education and general health science. She coordinated multiple field experience programs for Education students and served as chapter advisor of Pi Lambda Theta, the national education honor society. She

also served as an educational consultant to the Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME). She will retire as an *emeritus* professor.

Among the awards Dr. Barnot has received are the Distinguished Teaching Award at Pitt Greensburg (2015), the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service (2010), the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association Outstanding Faculty Award (2008), the “Outstanding Leadership Award,” (2006; Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization), the “Outstanding Community Service Award” (2005; Greensburg Salem School District), and the President’s Award for Faculty Excellence at Pitt-Greensburg (1998). Dr. Barnot is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine and an associate member of the Contemporary Physics Education Project.

### Christine McCreary, PhD

Christine McCreary, PhD, assistant professor of Chemistry and Natural Science, began teaching at Pitt-Greensburg in 2000. She contributed to the development of two majors in Chemistry and was active with the Natural Sciences and New Technologies Academic Village Committee. In addition to teaching a variety of Chemistry and Natural Sciences courses and labs, she developed and presented the “Secrets of Science Toys and Gadgets” workshop as part of the Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME) (2009-2014). One of her overarching goals has been to make science learning fun and to show the connections between science and everyday objects and materials, which she accomplished through a variety of workshops for children and educators.

Dr. McCreary is the recipient of the J. Kevin Scanlon Award for Dedication in Enhancing Science Education (2006; Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh), the Distinguished Service Award (2005; Pitt-Greensburg), and multiple Disability Awareness Awards for Faculty (Pitt-Greensburg). An honorary member of Phi Eta Sigma, she is a member of Kappa Delta Phi (International Education Honor Society), Beta Gamma Sigma (National Business Honor Society), and Iota Sigma Pi (National Women in Chemistry Honor Society).



### Margaret Rechter, PhD

Margaret Rechter, PhD, associate professor of Management, brought an understated yet steady commitment to her role here at Pitt-Greensburg. Since her arrival to campus in 1987, she has contributed to the campus’ success and development on a variety of committees too numerous to name and served as vice president (2004-2005) of the Pitt-Greensburg Faculty Senate. One of six founding directors of the Behavioral Science Academic Village (1999-2001), she was its primary director in 2001. Her service to

the University Pittsburgh includes being appointed by the Provost to the Middle States Accreditation Committee (1993) and the University Board of Trustees Institutional Review Project’s External Review Board (1995-1996). She also represented Pitt-Greensburg at Pitt’s Faculty Assembly and Senate Council (1989-1996, 2000-2008) as well as serving on other University committees. She will retire as an *emeritus* professor.

Her interaction with students extended beyond the classroom to include serving as a van driver during Freshman Orientation (2002), assisting students during Move-In Day (2001-2007) at the Academic Village, and representing the Management and Accounting majors at Admissions and SOAR events.



### William Rued, PhD

The title of the 2015 Cobetto Lecture, “Toward an Ethics of Love and Hope: Five Transformative Ideas,” is an apt summary of William A. Rued’s 29-years of service to Pitt-Greensburg. Rued, an associate professor of Philosophy who earned his doctorate from Princeton University, served as the Humanities Division Chair from 2008 through 2015. He received the Pitt-Greensburg’s Distinguished Teaching Award (2018) as well as the President’s Citation for Distinguished Service (2003) and President’s Certificate of Appreciation for Service

(2007). He will retire as an *emeritus* professor.

Dr. Rued has taught Introduction to Philosophical Problems, Philosophy of Psychology, Theory of Knowledge, Philosophy of Religion, Feminist Philosophy, and Moral Philosophy and the Law. His current interests center in philosophy of mind, philosophical theology, and fundamental questions concerning values and the meaning of life. Having produced many papers on the concept of freedom and its larger implications, he is at work on a book exploring the interconnections among freedom, personhood, meaning, community, and hope.

### Marge Ulery, MS

Since 2001, Marge Ulery has served as an instructor of Computer Science at Pitt-Greensburg. Her connection to the campus started in 1984 when she served as assistant to the director of Computing Services and Information Systems and programmer/analyst. Her extensive background as an instructor and trainer for Westmoreland County Community College, the Business and Industry Center, and Cambria County Area Community College, gave her a broad range of experience that she shared with students in the classroom. A University of Pittsburgh alumna, she holds a master’s of science degree in Telecommunications, a collaborative program of the departments of Information Science, Computer Science, and Electrical Engineering with the Katz Graduate School of Business.

# Bookshelf

## New book, paper presentations, and election to Episcopos Society highlight Campbells' activities

William Campbell, PhD, part-time instructor of History, was elected to the Council of the Episcopos Society in May 2017. He celebrated the release of his new book, *The Landscape of Pastoral Care in Thirteenth-Century England* (Cambridge University Press) with a Faculty Book Talk at Hillman Library in Oakland (February) and a Book Launch at Pitt Greensburg (March). With the support of Amber McAlister, PhD, assistant professor of History of Art & Architecture, Chris Bartley, instructor of Music, and Tim Savisky, PhD, assistant professor of Biology, Campbell presented the experiential learning event, "The Medieval Mass: A Historical Reconstruction," on campus in November 2017. He presented a similar program at Middle Georgia State University at the end of February.

Campbell presented two papers relating to his research at the Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy at Emory University in March and the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in May. He also will present his work at the Biennial Symposium of the International Medieval Sermon Studies Society, at the University of Bristol, England in July. The Medieval Academy of America awarded him a travel grant for the conference in England.



## Fioravanti co-authors articles on SBIRT project with undergraduate and graduate nursing students

Dr. Marie Fioravanti (Nursing) co-authored two articles based on her work educating undergraduate and graduate nursing students about the alarmingly high rate of substance-use disorders (SUD) within the United States and using the Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) evidence-based screening tool. "Creative Learning through the Use of Simulation to Teach Nursing Students SBIRT for Alcohol and Other Drug Use in a Culturally Competent Manner" included a cultural aspect to SBIRT and using simulation. It was published in the *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*. "Interprofessional education for teaching Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment for substance use" dealt with using standardized patients and students with pre-scripted scenarios. It was published in the *Journal of Interprofessional Education & Practice* (Vol. 10).

Fioravanti explained that the SBIRT evidence-based screening tool is being implemented in the curriculum for Interprofessional Groups of students, including anesthesia students and undergraduate nursing students. Participants report gaining skills in substance-use screening and are more comfortable using SBIRT techniques. Future efforts will be focused on refining the training process by expanding the scope of the simulation scenarios and thus, the opportunity for effective interventions. This research is a result of several HRSA grants.

## Orsatti's dissertation to be published in technology education journal

Dr. Silvina Orsatti's (Spanish Language) study and dissertation, "Gamifying the Spanish curriculum to promote motivation and willing communication in the college-level classroom," was published in the *PAECT-Technology Education Research Journal* (Volume 1, Issue 1). She did a paper presentation on this topic at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and led a research roundtable on the topic at the Northeast conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL). She also did a #techlab presentation on FlipGrid, an app that she uses in class for students to easily record presentations and discussions in Spanish.

Orsatti's proposal for the new course, "Latinos in the US," was accepted for inclusion in the curriculum at Pitt-Greensburg. The course explores the transformation of the American society, culture, and values as a consequence of the massive arrival of various ethnic groups from Latin America. In addition to classroom activities and work, students will have the opportunity to serve as volunteers for the Latin American Cultural Union (LACU) in Pittsburgh during Hispanic Heritage Month.

## Phillips' articles accepted for publication

Russell E. Phillips III, associate professor of Psychology, recently had two manuscripts accepted for publication. With Dr. Michael Kitchens, Phillips coauthored "The curvilinear relationship between beliefs about God and self-concept clarity," which will appear in the peer-reviewed academic journal *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*. Phillips also had accepted for publication an article entitled "Confirming the factor structure of a mentorship measure for college students," with coauthors Megan Docherty and Rebecca Gullan. This piece will appear in the peer-reviewed academic *Journal of College Student Development*. Both articles involve data collected at Pitt-Greensburg.

## Panagis receives first Estrada Mentoring & Leadership Award

Biology major George Panagis is the first recipient of the Nancy Florez-Estrada Mentoring and Leadership Award. He created the program, "Love Your Heart with Food and Art," to educate the campus community on heart health. Members of the campus community stopped by the Hempfield Room to hear tips on how to maintain their heart health, snack on healthy snacks, and create a tile mosaic. Panagis worked closely with Laura Giovannelli, MEd, instructor of Biochemistry, to plan the program. Studio Arts instructor Barry Shields assisted Panagis in developing a creative art project for attendees, and Chartwells labeled their lunch menu with heart-healthy facts.

The Nancy Florez-Estrada Mentoring and Leadership Award was established through the support of alumni, family, and friends who believe in continuing her life's mission of education. For 32 years, Dr. Estrada shaped and developed her students by encouraging them to take leadership roles. Her legacy as a revered campus mentor and leader who was fiercely dedicated to her students continues on through the award.

Contributions may still be made to this award by calling 724-836-7497 to donate using a credit card.

Questions about this fund or how to set up a similar fund may be directed to Jodi Kraisinger, director of University Relations and Institutional Advancement, at 724-836-9942 or [gifs2pg@pitt.edu](mailto:gifs2pg@pitt.edu).



# Athletics

## Bobcats set new school records for winter sports

### AMCC Academic All-Conference Team



Women's Tennis Team

Fifty-six Pitt-Greensburg student-athletes were named to the AMCC Academic All-Conference Team. Student-athletes earning this honor must post a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher through the Fall 2017 semester. Twenty-eight of those students earned Peak Performers honors for compiling GPAs of 3.5 or higher during the 2017-

2018 academic year. A full listing of these students is available here: <http://bit.ly/AMCCAcademic>.

Eleven students were inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma National Collegiate Student-Athlete Honor Society: Breanna Burgunder, Emily Frye, Tyler Holland, Amanda Jepsen, Maggie Kelly, Joe Mancini, Kasey McIntosh, Kelsey Oddis, Amanda Ross, Jeremy Simms, and Glen Wolfarth.

The women's basketball team and women's tennis team earned AMCC Team Peak Performers designation. Each team posted the highest cumulative team GPA in their respective sport through the close of the Fall 2017 semester. Women's basketball posted a cumulative team GPA of 3.538 and women's tennis posted a cumulative team GPA of 3.483. This is the first time in school history that Pitt-Greensburg earned this status in two different sports.

### Mancini and Seigfried lead Bobcat basketball effort; set new school records



Cam Seigfried



Joe Mancini

The 2017-2018 men's basketball season was highlighted by consistent performances from Joe Mancini '18 and freshman Cam Seigfried. Each earned recognition in the school record books.

Mancini's all-time career school records include three-point field goals attempted (3rd with 463), three-pointers made (4th with 160); games played (6th with 101), and three-point field goal percentage (8th with .346). His individual season records include three-point field goals made (2nd with 71), three-point field goals attempted (2nd with 185 and 6th with 154), and three-point field goal percentage (9th with .384).

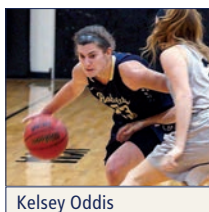
Seigfried earned his spot in the individual season record books with his free-throw percentage (7th with .833).

The two led the Bobcats in several statistical categories for the season, as well. Mancini led the team in three-point field goals (0.384% and 3 per game). He was second on the team in scoring, (10.6 points per game) and tied for second with David Knox in assists (2.0 per game). Seigfried led the team in scoring (13.7 ppg), free throws (.833%), and assists (2.4 per game).

He was second in rebounds (5.6 per game). Seigfried and Mancini tied for first in steals, each averaging 1.0 per game.

Pitt-Greensburg men's basketball team compiled a 7-17 overall record and a 5-13 conference record this past season, with strong wins against Penn State-Fayette, Mount Aloysius College, D'Youville College, Ohio State Lima, and Pitt-Bradford. This was the first year for Head Coach Brody Jackson, who was assisted by Harry Bowser and Craig Hallman.

### Oddis breaks school record for three-pointers



Kelsey Oddis

Kelsey Oddis '18 used her senior year to finalize her claim on 17 Pitt-Greensburg individual career school records and 11 individual season records. Statistically, for the season, Oddis led the team in scoring (19.4 ppg), field goals (7.5 per game), three-point field goals (1.8 per game), free throws (2.6 per game), and rebounds (11.4 per game). She broke the school record for three-pointers made in a game, with seven against D'Youville.

The career school records that Oddis now holds include: defensive rebound average (3rd with 5.5), rebounds (4th with 667), rebounding average (4th with 7.4), defensive rebounds (4th with 497), free throw percentage (4th with .761), field goals attempted (4th with 1,175), scoring average (5th with 13.4), field goals made (6th with 456), points scored (7th with 1,203), three-point field goals made (7th with 84), three-point field goals attempted (7th with 291), three-point field goal percentage (9th with .289), free throws made (9th with 207), offensive rebound average (9th with 1.9), free throws attempted (10th with 272), offensive rebounds (10th with 170), and minutes played (10th with 2,584).

Oddis also holds 11 individual season records: field goals attempted (1st with 517 and 5th with 368), scoring average (1st with 19.4), points (2nd with 486), field goals made (2nd with 187), defensive rebound average (2nd with 9.2), minutes average (2nd with 37.3), defensive rebounds (3rd with 231), minutes played (3rd with 932), rebounds (4th with 284), and rebounding average (4th with 11.4).



Nadege Durand



Sabre Turner

Freshman Nadege Durand led the team in steals (2.3 per game). She was second in scoring (10.0 ppg), field goals (4.0 per game), and rebounds (9.4 per game) while finishing third in free throws (2.0 per game). Team mate Sabre Turner, also a freshman, finished second in free throws (2.4 per game).

The women's basketball team, under the direction of first-year Head Coach Haley Schaeztle, posted a 7-18 overall/7-11 conference score for the 2017-2018 season. Their wins came against Penn State-Altoona, Franciscan University, La Roche College, D'Youville College, and Penn State-Behrend.



### Student-athletes featured in Pitt-Greensburg's "It's On Us" video

Emily Frye '18, working with John Prellwitz, PhD, associate professor of Communication, produced a version of the "It's On Us" video featuring Pitt-Greensburg student-athletes. The video seeks to empower others to take a stand against sexual assault. "It's On Us" is a national initiative that launched in 2014 to end sexual assault.

The video was released via social media in April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness month. Its release also coincided with the Blackburn Center's April Walk A Mile in Her Shoes event where 140 members of the Pitt-Greensburg community joined others to raise awareness of gender violence and how to end it. The video can be seen here: <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/shs/education/its-on-us/> or by scanning this QR code.

Frye, a Management major who graduated *summa cum laude*, also played women's tennis here over the past four years. A campus leader, she was the first student from a regional campus to be selected to participate in the Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement at the University of Pittsburgh. She was one of 50 students selected out of 300 applications received for the program that aims to produce a cadre of experienced, ethical leaders equipped to address critical issues throughout the world.





# Class Notes



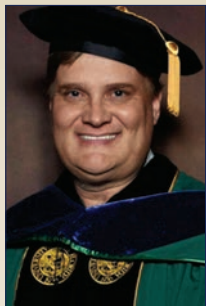
**Share your news!** Update your information and tell us what is happening. Visit [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/update-my-information](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/update-my-information) to tell us your news.

Between issues of *Blue & Gold*, stay up to date with your classmates by visiting the Class Notes section of our website at [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/class-notes](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/class-notes).



**David Yurkovich '86**, (fourth from the left in the photo) a founder of Devil's Party Press (DPP), shared that DPP took home two awards in the Delaware Press Association's 41st annual Communications

Contest Awards Banquet, this spring. *Halloween Party 2017*, the publisher's debut release from October 2017, took third place in the "Short Stories—Collection" category, while *Solstice*, DPP's sophomore title from December 2017, captured second place in this same category. Yurkovich is DPP's managing editor.



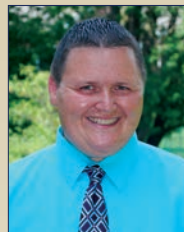
**James Taylor '91** earned his PhD in Leadership, Counseling, Adult Career, and Higher Education from the University of South Florida. His dissertation topic was on Entrepreneurship Education. A faculty member at the University of South Florida Center for Entrepreneurship and president of Oakford Park Capital, he earned an MBA from Duquesne University.



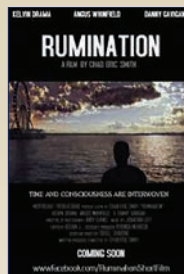
**Sean O'Donnell '02** and former Pitt-Greensburg student and Pitt alumnus Fred Betzner are the musical group Truth in Advertising. They announced the release of a new EP, *Another Wanderlust Melon*, comprised of five songs that are a ridiculous commentary on modern culture, government, and gardening.



**Tera Yingling '03** married Joseph Gera of Latrobe, PA, December 30, 2017. After earning her degree at Pitt-Greensburg, she worked as a pharmaceutical project manager at a contract testing laboratory until 2006. In 2008, she earned a master's of science degree from St. Francis University to become a physician assistant. Since then she has worked as a family practice physician assistant at the New Paris Rural Health Clinic in Bedford County.



**Brian Root '04** is serving as president of the Pennsylvania College Personnel Association (PCPA). PCPA is the state chapter of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA), the leading comprehensive student affairs association for higher education professionals who work in student affairs. His term began June 1, 2017.



**Chad Eric Smith '08**, the PGAA 2017 Young Alumni Leadership Award recipient, received the 2018 Rosebud Award for Best DMV (DC, Maryland, Virginia) Film for his short sci-fi drama *Rumination* at the Rosebud Film Festival, which was open to entrants worldwide. The Rosebud Film Festival works to recognize and honor the innovative, unusual, experimental, and deeply personal in regional film and video making.



**JP Hilzendeger '12** and wife Julie are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Karen Marie, on June 15, 2017. JP and his wife are loving every minute of their time with their sweet little girl. Thankfully, their son Michael (2) is slowly learning to be gentler with his baby sister. They are having a blast as a family of four—learning a lot and growing together.

**Alexis Hackman '13** married Tyrel Korth on July 8, 2017.

**Samantha Ennis Fitzhenry '14** is proud to announce the birth of her son Nicholas Daniel Fitzhenry, who was born January 10, 2018. Samantha says he's a "future Bobcat in the making."

**Natalee Forsythe Bright '15** was married on August 5, 2017. She and her husband had their pictures taken at Pitt-Greensburg.

**Share your news!** Update your information and tell us what is happening. Visit [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/update-my-information](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/update-my-information) to tell us your news.

---

Between issues of *Blue & Gold*, stay up to date with your classmates by visiting the Class Notes section of our website at [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/class-notes](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/class-notes).

---



## Upcoming Events

### July 4

Campus closed in observance of **Independence Day**

### July 28

- Prospective students and their families are invited to the **Admissions Block Party** where they can enjoy an Admissions presentation, campus tour, and a picnic with the Pitt-Greensburg community. Register by calling 724-836-9880

### August 23

- **Move-in Day:** Pitt-Greensburg Alumni are invited to volunteer at this event that welcomes new first-year students and their families to the campus

### September 3

- Campus closed in observance of **Labor Day**

### September 29

- **Junior Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Walk** at Pitt-Greensburg

### October 10

- Pitt-Greensburg **Founders Day**

### October 10-20

- **Blue & Gold Week: Homecoming 2018**

### October 10-21

- **The Art Show at Pitt-Greensburg** (Millstein Library)

### October 12

- **Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing** (Westmoreland Country Club) Benefits the Technology for the Future Fund, Athletics, and the PGAA

### October 15

- **Fall Break** for students

### October 19

- **Art Show at Pitt-Greensburg Reception & Fan Favorite Awards** (Millstein Library)
- **Campus Bonfire**

### October 20

- **Pitt Make a Difference Day:** community service at various locations

### October 20 (all on campus)

- **Hospitality Welcome Tent** (register for prize drawings)
- **The Pancake Man**
- **Blue & Gold Festival**
- **Welcome Back Alumni Picnic with Photo Booth**
- **Alumni Reunions for participants in Women's Basketball and Student Activities Board or those who were Communication majors**
- **Pitt-Greensburg Car Cruise**
- **NCAA Div. III Volleyball game**
- **Mini-Golf Course**
- **Art Show at Pitt-Greensburg**
- **Stained-Glass Tour/Campus Tours**
- **Alumni Celebration Dinner**
- **Casino Night**
- **Homecoming Dance**



**PITT TO THE POWER OF ONE is showing up all over campus!**  
1. Powers Hall 2. Academic Advising 3. FOB 4. Chambers Hall 5. Cassell Hall 6. Wagner Dining Hall





# University of Pittsburgh Greensburg

Lynch Hall 203 • 150 Finoli Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601-5898

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 419  
GREENSBURG, PA

Stay up-to-date with what is happening at Pitt-Greensburg, reconnect with friends, and share your news!



## Blue & Gold Week

HOME COMING 2018  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH GREENSBURG

## October 10-20

Details at:  
[www.greensburg.pitt.edu/BlueAndGoldWeek](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/BlueAndGoldWeek)



Oct. 10-21



Oct. 12



Oct. 19



Oct. 20



Oct. 20



Oct. 20



Oct. 20



Oct. 20



Oct. 20



Oct. 20



Oct. 20



Oct. 20