# Blue & Gold



Last summer, Stephanie Costabile listened as friends told stories about their recent study abroad experiences. As an American Studies major whose coursework is designed to allow her to study all aspects of American culture, she could not easily see how a study abroad experience would work for her.

"The more I thought about it, I realized that in order to learn about our country, I needed to step outside of it and learn about it from another country's perspective," said Costabile, who just returned from Amman, Jordan. Her multi-disciplinary major pulls from history, political science, and literature.

When a friend recommended the International Studies Abroad (ISA) program because of its service component, Costabile, who is passionate about women's rights, knew it was a perfect fit because the program in Amman focused on training women and children in life skills.

Costabile left for Amman on May 31 and spent the next 10 weeks learning and living in this small country that is bordered by Syria, Iraq, Israel, and Saudi Arabia.

For the first half of her summer, she attended the University of Jordan, taking classes in Arabic 101 and US Foreign Policy in the Middle East. Five weeks later, after a weeklong break, she

participated in the service learning project with the Princess Taghrid Institute (PTI), a development and training center for women.

"Service learning is similar to volunteering but goes a step further," explained Costabile, "I took what I learned in the classroom and applied it to my work where I learned about the issues Jordan faces."

Jordan is challenged by its large number of orphans and low adoption rate that is complicated by an influx of refugees and poverty. It is a situation that can be especially hard on young women who, when they reach a certain age, are released from orphanages but cannot transition into the society and are often shamed. PTI, which serves women ages 18 to 25, was developed to help these women with training and skills to ease the transition into the community.

Younger children are now being assimilated into the Institute, and Costabile was responsible for supervising a new summer camp for children aged eight through 14. Two days out of the week she taught an English class. Fifteen to 20 children participated in the program that featured classes in music, cooking, tailoring (to make bracelets and keychains), a recycling class that fashioned handicrafts from recycled goods, and an English class.

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# A Lessage from the President

Pitt-Greensburg is at a tipping point in its development. Our identity has been both large and small: part of a large distinguished research university but with a character that is one of a small, liberal arts college. In this time of dramatic change in higher education, colleges cannot continue "business as usual" but must anticipate the future for the region in which they are located. Pitt-Greensburg is now mid-way through a five-year strategic plan to meet both goals by establishing a new kind of liberal arts education, one designed for the 21st century.

It is an education that considers the impact of digitalization on thinking and learning, offers signature programs, and integrates interdisciplinary and experiential elements.

Our campus is located at the economic crossroads for southwest Pennsylvania. Just to the west is Pittsburgh, a symbol of economic transformation and re-birth for the "rust belt" while to the east and south are closed factories and nearly empty mill towns fueling rising levels of poverty rates. In our own Westmoreland County, 27 percent of the population is at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty line (which is defined as the level necessary to meet basic needs). Pitt-Greensburg can play a key role in helping the economic progress in the western part of the state to advance eastward by developing signature academic programs at the intersection of student interest and emerging occupational opportunities, and thus equip students to fill jobs so that the students and the jobs remain in the region.

Not surprisingly, these opportunities are centered in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) areas. Interest in STEM majors has been rising dramatically at the Pitt-Greensburg campus. The proportion of natural science graduates has risen from nine percent in 2007 to 45 percent in 2016. Natural science credit hours comprise 30 percent of all campus student credit hours. At present, 48 percent of Pitt-Greensburg incoming freshman intend to major in the Natural Sciences.

Emerging opportunities in the natural sciences, in general, and the health-related fields, in particular, thus become a central focus of the signature programs we are developing. In the last eight years, programs were added in behavioral analysis, chemistry, and biochemistry, as well as experiential programs in the analysis of population health data.

Pitt-Greensburg is building on these established programs by developing several new programs that will enable us to further meet these needs. Those programs are currently in the review and approval stages. It is our expectation that when our summer magazine releases in 2017, we will be sharing the specifics of those new programs with you.

Hail to Pitt!

Sharon P. Smith, PhD

Sharon P. Smith

President

# University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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

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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.

# **Pawprints: News of note from Pitt-Greensburg**

# Pitt-Greensburg recognized as a "College of Distinction"







Pitt-Greensburg received national recognition as a "College of Distinction" for its innovative application of high impact educational practices. In addition to being a 2016-2017 selection, Pitt-Greensburg was also recognized in the categories of Public College of Distinction and Pennsylvania College of Distinction.

To earn this recognition, colleges and universities must demonstrate results across the Four Distinctions: Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes. High school counselors and educators make nominations, and each school is evaluated on key indicators including student engagement, student

empowerment, and curricular innovation. Colleges that have distinguished themselves in each of the Four Distinctions and that have demonstrated dedication to enriching student outcomes through innovative learning opportunities are then invited to join Colleges of Distinction.

The annual process to select the nation's Colleges of Distinction also includes a review of each institution's freshman experience, as well as its general education program, strategic plan, and alumni success and satisfaction measures.

To view Pitt-Greensburg's profile visit: http://bit.ly/PGCollegeOfDistinction.

# Troy Ross receives Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence

Whether he is frying tater tots at the campus' Moonlight Breakfast that kicks off finals week, wrangling volunteers at the annual Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Walk, or enhancing Pitt-Greensburg's Housing and



Dr. Sharon P. Smith, Troy Ross, and Chancellor Patrick Gallagher

Residence Life policies to strengthen the students' community experience, Troy Ross puts the emphasis on people and service.

Ross, the director of Housing and Residence Life at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, received one of 10 Chancellor's Staff Awards. Ross' award is in the area of Community Impact. Each awardee received a \$2,500 cash prize and was honored at a dinner held in June. Honorees' names also were inscribed on plaques displayed in the William Pitt Union.

"Troy understands the importance of fostering in students a lifelong commitment to service and of empowering them to develop creative ways to make their campus and their larger community better places through their activities," said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. "In this way, he has helped transform the students' lives and through those students his vision will have an impact on countless communities."

Highly visible is Ross' commitment to community service and customer service. Partnering with Brian Root, assistant director of Housing and Residence Life, Ross has co-sponsored the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Walk on campus for the past 14 years.

He also helped to initiate and expand the annual Jeannette Head Start Holiday Party, which has been held on campus for the past 16 years.

Ross, a 1999 graduate of Pitt-Greensburg, advanced from night residence hall coordinator to resident director and then from assistant director to director of Housing and Residence Life. Through it all has been an emphasis on quality customer service and building community.

Visit http://bit.ly/Ross-ChancellorsAward to read more.

# First regional campus student participates in prestigious leadership academy



Each Hesselbein Global Academy participant received a medal as part of the graduation ceremony. Emily Frye (standing left) and her group posed with Frances Hesselbein (seated) after receiving their medals.

Emily Frye, a Pitt-Greensburg Management major and community assistant, was one of 10

University of Pittsburgh students joining a group of 50 student leaders from across the world selected to participate in the Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement at the University of Pittsburgh. More than 300 applications are received for this competitive program that aims to produce a cadre of experienced, ethical leaders equipped to address critical issues throughout the world. Frye is believed to be the first student from a regional campus to be selected for this experience that ran from July 23 through July 26.

# Administration unit reorganized; new administrators named

In lieu of hiring a new vice president for Administrative Services, the Pitt-Greensburg's Administration unit was reorganized this past summer. Dr. Sharon P. Smith, president of the campus, believes that this reorganization will assist the University in maximizing its resources while providing advancement opportunities for some staff. All report directly to the President, serve on the President's Cabinet, and are *ex-officio* members of the Advisory Board.

#### The following changes are now in effect:



Joseph P. Bleehash was promoted to Director of Facilities & Security. In addition to overseeing the physical campus facilities and maintenance function, he now oversees Campus Police & Security. Daniel Lynch, chief of Campus Police, reports to Bleehash as a result of this change.

 $Continued\ on\ page\ 4$ 

# **Pawprints: News of note from Pitt-Greensburg**

Continued from page 3



Ronna S. Colland was promoted to Director of Financial & Business Services. In this role, she will manage the budgeting and finance functions of the campus, as well as overseeing the Business Services Office and the Campus Store. Colland will also serve as the Risk Officer for the campus.



**Scott L. Coulson** will continue in his role as Director of Computing & Telecommunication but will report directly to the President.



After an extensive search, **Jacqueline M. Horrall, PhD**, was named vice president for Academic Affairs. An associate professor of Economics, she most recently served as assistant vice president for Academic Affairs.



Mary Anne Koleny, director of Human Resources & Title IX Liaison, will oversee Conferencing Services, and Stacy Netzel, its director, will report to Koleny.



**Dean G.Nelson, PhD**, an associate professor of Statistics, was named assistant vice president for Academic Affairs. He previously served in this position from 2006 to 2011. He will continue as chair of the Natural Sciences Division until the election of a new chair in December.

#### **Director of Advising & Registrar named**

Elizabeth "Beth" Tiedemann was named director of Advising and registrar. Tiedemann most recently served as the campus' director of Career Services since 2000. Tiedemann reports to the assistant vice president for Academic Affairs.



#### Nichole Johnson wins Phi Eta Sigma Scholarship

Nichole Johnson, a senior double majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology, is the recipient of a \$6,000 scholarship from Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. She received one of 67 Founders Fund scholarships and



awards totaling \$295,000 distributed nationwide to outstanding members of the organization. Phi Eta Sigma is the nation's oldest and largest honor society for first-year students.

# Campus activities make an impact in the community

This past year, Pitt-Greensburg collaborated with more than 85 businesses, universities, and community organizations to offer more than 100 programs and raise more than \$366,000 with or for community groups. Nearly 300 members of the campus community participated in 91 projects during the spring and fall Into the Streets activities.

#### Silvina Orsatti receives 2016 Teaching and Learning of Culture Research Grant

Silvina Orsatti, an instructor of Spanish at Pitt-Greensburg and a third-year student working on her doctorate of Education in language, literacy, and culture, was awarded the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 2016 Teaching and Learning of Culture Research Grant. The grant will help support Orsatti's research for her doctoral dissertation.



# Pitt-Greensburg continues to make a digital impression

Pitt-Greensburg's new Center for the Digital Text's mission is to support faculty and students in learning new computational methods that assist their research and teaching. The Center began fulfilling that mission in June by establishing Pitt-Greensburg's membership in the Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI) and sponsoring four faculty, Christopher Bartley, instructor of Music, Elisa Beshero-Bondar, PhD, associate professor of English, Sayre Greenfield, PhD, professor of English, and Pilar Herr, PhD, assistant professor of History, to take DHSI classes at a week-long residence at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. The faculty took courses in text encoding, digital audiology, and in developing digital humanities programs at liberal arts colleges.

Pitt-Greensburg faculty and students presented their digital projects at the Keystone Digital Humanities Conference held in June at the University of Pittsburgh's Hillman Library. Four students, three of them 2016 graduates, presented their digital projects in long papers alongside faculty and graduate students on panels there. Faculty members Stacey Triplette, PhD, assistant professor of Spanish and French, and Beshero-Bondar copresented their digital project, "Amadis in Translation, using digital methods to track and study alterations made in translating the 16th-century romance Amadis de Gaul into other languages" (http://amadis.newtfire.org). Sophomore Brooke Stewart co-presented with Nicole Lottig '16 their digital project on representing variant editions of Emily Dickinson's poems (http:// dickinson16.newtfire.org), and Rebecca Parker '16 and Rob Spadafore '16 co-presented their digital project on Nell Nelson and her 1880s' newspaper expose on conditions for working women in Chicago factories (http://nelson.newtfire.org).

Beshero-Bondar, assisted by Stewart, Parker, Lottig, and Spadafore, led the Digital Mitford Coding School at Pitt-Greensburg, which brought 28 scholarly editors, faculty, and graduate students from across the US and Canada to stay in the Academic Village for three days in June to learn coding methods to produce digital editions and archives. The Coding School project, established in 2015, is attached to the mission of the Digital Mitford project (http://digitalmitford.org), both to build a digital archive of Mary Russell Mitford's writings and to share methods in text encoding with all interested in learning from us.



# Pitt-Greensburg wins Campus Challenge Food Drive

The Pitt-Greensburg community donated 1,180 pounds of non-perishable food items during this spring's Campus

Challenge Food Drive—a friendly competition between the four local colleges in the area. A total of 2,665 pounds of food was donated to the Westmoreland County Food Bank through the event. Since the event's start in 2009, Pitt-Greensburg has contributed 8,239 pounds of food.





Kevin M. DiVecchio '03

#### ROTC Commissioning marks end of an era

Kara Barclay '16, a Biological Science major, has the distinction of being the last ROTC Cadet to commission out of the Pitt-Greensburg ROTC program. Barclay was commissioned on April 29 as a 2LT in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Medical Services branch. She will participate in three months of specialized training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in January 2017. Following completion of her training, she



will serve as a Medical Services Officer in the PA Army National Guard's C Co 128th Medical Company in Pittsburgh.

The Three Rivers Battalion of Army ROTC will continue to have a presence on the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland campus, but offices and classes are no longer housed/held at Pitt-Greensburg.

# Endowed scholarships: making a difference in students' lives

Biology major, athlete, coach, teacher, friend, brother, son. These are the many roles that describe Kevin M. DiVecchio '03, who grew up in North Huntingdon and returned there after graduating from Pitt-Greensburg. Full of fun, he loved to joke and play but was serious about his commitment to helping others. That concern for others came through his interaction with students as a resident assistant and tutor here on campus.

While at Pitt-Greensburg, Kevin remained active in his community, coaching the fifth-sixth grade football team at St. Agnes, his home parish. In 2004, after earning his bachelor's degree, he went on to earn a teaching certificate from St. Vincent College and became a substitute teacher in biology at Norwin, his high school *alma mater*. Kevin also served as an assistant coach of the Norwin High School ninth-grade football team. In the evenings he worked part-time at a doctor's office to learn how to better serve children with learning disabilities.

Kevin's sudden and untimely death at the age of 24 in a tragic car accident in October 2005 ended a promising career as a high school biology teacher and football coach. It ended his ability to personally make a positive impact in the lives of others.

The establishment of the Kevin M. DiVecchio Memorial Scholarship by his family and friends allows Kevin's memory to live on and continues his legacy of always being there to lend a helping hand to others in need. The scholarship was established to recognize his great love of family and friends as well as his talent and passion for leadership and service. The first award was made in 2010. Since then a total of six first-year students have received the scholarship in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1,500.

Kevin's family, who initiated the scholarship, were able to designate the criteria used in selecting the scholarship recipient. Because of Kevin's involvement in his hometown community and high school, preference is given to Norwin High School graduates who are accepted to Pitt-Greensburg with a 3.0 grade point average and similar academic and athletic interests as his.

Among those who have received the Kevin M. DiVecchio Memorial Scholarship is Jordan Fessler '16.

Fessler, a 2012 Norwin High School graduate, started her academic career at Pitt-Greensburg as a Biology major. That year, she also landed the female production of *Eleanor: An American Love Story* (by Jonathan Bolt, Thomas Tierney, and Jordan Foster), which was performed at The Palace Theatre as part of the campus' 50th anniversary celebration.

That experience transformed Fessler's aspirations. Because of the close faculty-student relationships that are characteristic of the Pitt-

lead as Eleanor Roosevelt in Pitt-Greensburg's 2013 spring musical

close faculty-student relationships that are characteristic of the Pitt-Greensburg experience, Fessler was able to talk about her passions and strengths with trusted faculty who helped her to see a different future for herself. Fessler went on to be a double major in Communication and Visual and Performing Arts. She graduated in April and is now working as an advertising account executive with Renda Broadcasting Corporation's Pittsburgh station WISH-FM 99.7.

"Because I started out as a Biology major, I can see how my experience paralleled Kevin's educational path," said Jordan. "I remember the cost of books and lab fees that first year."

"What is so cool (about receiving the scholarship) is that because he was from North Huntingdon, it connected me to my community. It helped me to realize that not only am I going to college for myself, but I can have an impact on my community, too. I can contribute my knowledge in one way or another. The scholarship helped me, and it keeps me rooted to where I grew up and Kevin grew up."

Scholarships help to reduce the financial burden on students and their families, and the Kevin M. DiVecchio Memorial Scholarship is an example of one of our endowed scholarships.

This past year, Pitt-Greensburg offered \$6.3 million in scholarships to students, with 49 percent of our incoming freshman receiving scholarships funded by Pitt-Greensburg. Even though \$6.3 million seems like a large number, only 27 percent of all our students received scholarships funded by Pitt-Greensburg in 2015-2016.

Eighty percent of Pitt-Greensburg's full-time students receive some form of Financial Aid (including loans), and we know that many of our students are working, either on campus or in the community, to help pay for their college expenses.

Endowed scholarships do two things. First, they provide a source of renewable funds that can be offered to students meeting specific criteria in order to help them to pay for their college expenses. Second, endowed scholarships allow donors to create a lasting legacy that provides ongoing assistance to the members of our campus community who need it most—our students.

If you would like to discuss how you can create an endowed scholarship at Pitt-Greensburg, please contact Jodi Kraisinger, director of University Relations and Institutional Advancement, at 724-836-9942 or kraising@pitt.edu.





# **Upcoming Alumni** Events at a Glance

Details: www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/events

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2nd Blue & Gold Weekend	
Oct. 7, 2016	Pitt Homecoming: Welcome Back Reception (Cathedral of Learning)
Oct. 29, 2016	Admissions Discovery Day (Alumni volunteers needed)
Dec. 2, 2016	PGAA Holiday Wine Tasting (7 p.m.)
Jan. 19, 2017	PGAA Board Meeting (7 p.m.)
Feb. 7, 2017	Mock Interview Night (6-9 p.m.)

#### **PGAA Holiday Wine Tasting Reception**

Friday, December 2nd | 7 p.m. | Millstein Library



Celebrate the warmth and fellowship of the holiday season at the PGAA Holiday Wine Tasting reception. Enjoy the company of friends, a great selection of hot hors d'oeuvres, and a sampling of a variety of wines at this popular event.

Pre-registration is highly recommended. Visit the Alumni Events page for details on registration costs and early bird deadlines: www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/events.

#### Resume Contest Reviewers Needed

- The Office of Alumni Affairs and Career Services are looking for alumni to offer their time and talents by giving current students valuable and constructive feedback regarding their resumes.
- This opportunity is open to all alumni—far or near.
- · Packets to be mailed October 24 and to be returned by November 11 for determination of the winners.

Register at http://bit.ly/ResumeContestJudge.

#### **Mock Interview Night**

February 7, 2017 | 6-9 p.m. | Chambers Hall



#### Mark your calendar and plan to volunteer!

Sponsored by the offices of Alumni Affairs and Career Services, this annual event assists our students in preparing for job interviews.

Alumni volunteers are asked to pre-register for this event by contacting the Alumni Coordinator at PGAA@pitt.edu.

Mark your calendar, make your reservations, and plan to spend the weekend with us!



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH GREENSBURG

#### September 30 - October 2, 2016

#### Highlights of the events that are planned:

#### September 26

Open Mic Night (The Village Coffeehouse)

#### September 27

NCAA Division III Men's & Women's Soccer vs. Franciscan University of Steubenville (Ridilla Field)

#### September 28

Bleed Blue & Gold Blood Drive (on campus)

#### September 30

Annual Golf Outing<sup>\$</sup> (Totteridge)

UV Splash—A Pitt-Greensburg Night Color Run\$ (on campus)

Accounting Alumni Reunion (Village Hall)

Pancake Man (Chambers Lawn)

Car Cruise (Smith Hall Parking Lot)

Welcome Back Picnic (Alumni Pavilion)

Blue & Gold Festival (Chambers Lawn)

Mini-Golf Course (Chambers Lawn)

Horse-Drawn Campus Rides (Smith Hall Parking Lot)

Pitt Football Game Watch (Hempfield Room at Wagner Dining Hall)

Campus Tours (Chambers Clock)

Stained-Glass Tour with artist Terry Bengel '80

Baseball Alumni Game (Ridilla Field)

Softball Alumni Game (Softball Field)

Alumni Celebration Dinner\$ (Hempfield Room)

Casino Night (Chambers Gym)

Homecoming Dance (Chambers Gym)

\$ = additional charge and registration required

#### For the full schedule of events visit:

www.greensburg.pitt.edu/about/BlueAndGoldWeekend

CAMPUS STORE FRI 9/30 - 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. SAT 10/1 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Special Store Hours:

#### Special Hours • Discounts 15% off

Pitt and Pitt-Greensburg Spirit Gear Friday and Saturday only (excludes clearance items)

Register to win a \$25 gift certificate to the Pitt-Greensburg Campus Store during your visit.

Drawing will be at 3 p.m. on October 1.

Winner need not be present.

## Alumni Spotlight: Zachary M. Weisner '13



Zach Weisner '13

Zachary M. Weisner '13, otherwise known as Zach or "Scrat," is pursuing his dream of becoming a doctor after majoring in Biological Sciences and Chemistry with a minor in Psychology here at Pitt-Greensburg.

He also is a Class Agent for the 2013 graduating class.

Weisner believes staying involved with the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) allows him to remain connected to Pitt-Greensburg. "I want to help future generations

of students coming through Pitt-Greensburg recognize their potential," he explained.

Drawn to Pitt-Greensburg by the small class sizes, he felt it allowed for better discussion and therefore better understanding. "As a scientist, it's incredibly important to have a strong understanding for detailed and complex topics," Weisner said. "My professors were always willing to help."

Recalling how friendly everyone was, he said those who had the greatest influence on him were Barbara Barnhart, instructor in Biology and his Academic advisor; Olivia Long, PhD, assistant professor of Biochemistry and his Biology Research advisor; Mark Stauffer, PhD, associate professor of Chemistry and his Chemistry Research advisor; Diane Cheek, instructor in Biology and advisor of Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society, for which Weisner served as president for two years; and Dorothy Zilic, now director of Career Services.

"While there were many other faculty members who played a key role in my development as a student and as a person, these professors went above and beyond to help me succeed," Weisner said.

As a junior, he had the opportunity to work at the Pittsburgh campus with Cecelia Lo, PhD, a developmental biologist who has been mapping the genes responsible for congenital heart defects.

"During my time with her, I analyzed genetic material and conducted studies on mutant mice to better understand heart disorders," Weisner said.

As a freshman, sophomore, and junior, Weisner served as a resident assistant. He especially enjoyed building community. "One of the biggest programs I planned was a Halloween party in Apollo. Leading up to the party, I had my residents help decorate the hall. We covered the walls in garbage bags, made bloody handprints, and put up red Christmas lights. This was a great opportunity to get to know everyone and have a really good time."

After Pitt-Greensburg, Weisner worked as a paramedic in Monroeville for a year. "It's a true honor to serve and represent my community, and I'm very proud of that." He then went on to earn a master's degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Georgetown University. During that time, he pursued a research project at the National Institutes of Health where he developed a 3D, high-resolution protocol to study pentalogy of Cantrell, specifically cases in which the heart is positioned outside of the chest.

Currently, he is in the process of applying to medical school. "My hope is to pursue a career as a physician with the US Navy and travel the world," Weisner said, adding that he loves to cook and travel, and recently returned from a trip to Ireland.

As a Class Agent, Weisner hopes to keep the Class of 2013 connected and to help all members of the Pitt-Greensburg alumni network. He understands the importance of having a strong support system. "I have a very large family. There are about 70 of us—aunts, uncles, and cousins on my mom's side," he said. "My friends and family have always supported me in my endeavors, and I am forever grateful for that."

-- written by Sheila Kudrick

#### Make a difference as a Pitt-Greensburg Class Agent!

Class Agents . . .

- Lead by example: they are active with the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) and make a gift in support of Pitt-Greensburg programs and projects.
- Reach out to classmates: they encourage the submission of updates and share news from campus.

A current list is available at http://bit.ly/ClassAgents. For more information, contact the Alumni Relations Office: pgaa@pitt.edu or 724-836-7496.

# Pitt to Establish Regional College Campus at Greensburg



Celebrating the rich academic and cultural history of Pitt-Greensburg and building toward the future.

On October 10, 1962, University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Edward Litchfield announced the creation of a Pitt campus in downtown Greensburg, Pennsylvania – citing Pitt's commitment "to meet the educational needs of our society."

More than 50 years later,
Pitt-Greensburg continues to fulfill this commitment.

Join our campus community in building toward the next chapter in our school's story on Founders' Day – 10.10.16.

Watch for details!

## Study Abroad changes students and the world

continued from cover

"My biggest challenge with the summer camp was the language barrier," explained Costabile. "I knew that would be an issue, since I had no Arabic classes prior to the one class that I took at the University of Jordan. I was lucky to have other students, who were 16 and 17 years old, in the summer camp who knew both Arabic and English and would translate for me."

She remembers struggling in the beginning because the students did not take her seriously due to her limited vocabulary.

"It was hard to get them called to order or to calm them down," she noted.

Throughout her trip, she was required to journal about her experiences and prepare weekly reflective essays. She dealt with the frustration by writing about it in her journal, but instead of just focusing on the frustration, she would look for something positive to balance it.

"The children are incredible," she said. "They go through so much and remain positive, with smiles on their faces. They teach you so much through their behavior."

Costabile met refugees from Syria, she met an Iraqi woman whose family was killed by ISIS, and she met two sisters whose mother left them seven years ago to work in the Gaza Strip and whose father, living in Jordan, didn't want them.

"I see their faces. They are with me every day of my life," she said, noting that she can no longer just click out of a news story on her laptop. "I will do my best to educate others about this. I think it's really important to increase the conversation, which helps to decrease fear. Apart from being grateful [for what she has], I realize the privilege I have as a white English speaker. It [the trip] really opened my eyes. Many

people think I'm a hero for traveling to the Middle East, but I'm not. The people that I met there are my heroes."

Costabile plans to take more classes to increase her Arabic language skills, and she wants to go back to Amman after she graduates from Pitt-Greensburg in April 2017.

Kierstin Brown '16 brings a different perspective to her work as a substitute teacher with several Westmoreland County school districts. She spent eight weeks in Prague, Czech Republic, followed by eight weeks in New Zealand the following academic year.



Stephanie with one of her students

In 2015, she spent May, June, and July in the Czech Republic after being awarded a Vira I. Heinz Scholarship. There, she took classes in Psychology, which complemented her minor, and a Czech language course, as well as volunteering in a Czech-English nursery called Indigo Kids.

"I learned a little bit of Czech and taught the children English," she said. "One little four-year old was fluent in both languages and helped me tremendously. Dora was my little translator."

As part of the Vira I. Heinz (VIH) Program for Women in Global Leadership, Brown participated in a leadership development program, international experience, and worked with her fellow VIH scholarship recipients to develop a community engagement experience that allowed them to share their experiences and perspectives with the campus.

"My international travel gave me a global perspective and made me more independent," she said. "It also made me realize that we need to work together as the whole world to combat global issues. We can't put ourselves in a box and only think of our own culture."

In February 2016, Brown, then an Early Childhood Education major, traveled with two other Pitt-Greensburg students to New Zealand where they completed the second portion of their student teaching.

"I was in a Year 2 classroom, which is equivalent to a US first-grade classroom," she explained.

While Brown was swept away by the breathtaking beauty of the country, its sweet, welcoming people, and its environmental emphasis, she also noticed a difference in how the two countries handle the management of their classrooms.

"There are fewer rewards and consequences in New Zealand," she noted. "New Zealand students are very self-managed. There is more emphasis on the internal accomplishment aspect."

She further explained that New Zealand educators pay more attention to individualized instruction, tailoring



Students make the most of their study abroad experiences by traveling to other cities and sites. Here, Kierstin shows the view of Prague from the Prague Castle.

the lessons to each individual student—no matter how difficult that is for the teacher. She also noted that her "first-grade" class was reading at a 9-10-year-old level rather than the typical 6-7-year-old level because the system emphasizes the foundational skills early in the education process.

The experience took Brown out of her comfort zone, taking her into a classroom where the teaching styles were different. She knows that she can apply what she learned and use it in her US classroom.



Stephanie (back right) with students and other staff members at the PTI

# Safety is the number one priority

Study Abroad opportunities have been part of the Pitt-Greensburg educational experience but, within recent years, a commitment was made to increase the opportunities available to our students. This is part of our promise to help our students to develop the skills they need to adapt to a rapidly changing global society.

Brad Miner, Pitt-Greensburg's Study Abroad coordinator, plays an important role in helping students to research and choose their international experience. Since his arrival in July 2014, Pitt-Greensburg has seen a 340 percent increase in the number of students participating in study abroad programs, making Pitt-Greensburg the leading regional campus in the Pitt system for student participation in these programs.

Working with his counter-parts at the University of Pittsburgh, Miner assists students in the application process, as well as preparing for their time out of the United States. He also works closely with Pitt-Greensburg faculty to develop new study abroad opportunities for our students.

Safety is the number one priority of Pitt's Study Abroad Office. Student safety is emphasized by working with trusted partners and providers, keeping strict standards for housing, performing yearly site visits and program audits, training faculty and staff in best practices abroad, keeping abreast of world news and political situations, monitoring all US Department of State advisories, alerts, and warnings, and maintaining a 24-hour-a-day, 365-days-a-year Study Abroad Emergency Hotline.

## Robert E. Eberly, Jr., to discuss Soldiers' Civil War Diaries at 2016 St. Clair Lecture



Robert E. Eberly, Jr

Uniontown native Robert E. Eberly, Jr., author of Bouquets from the *Cannon's Mouth: Soldiering with the Eighth Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserves* (2005, White Mane Publishing Company), will present the 2016 St. Clair Lecture on Thursday, October 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ferguson Theater. His talk will focus on the nearly 10 years of research he undertook to write his book that tells the story of five young soldiers from Fayette County during the *Civil War* 

The St. Clair Lecture, presented by Pitt-Greensburg and the Westmoreland County Historical Society, provides Westmoreland County residents, students, and visitors an opportunity to attend a presentation by a world-class scholar who focuses on an individual, period, or place important to the history of the region and the nation. This event is free and open to the public. Please call 724-836-7980 to ensure a seat.

Bouquets from the Cannon's Mouth: Soldiering with the Eighth Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserves is recognized for tying together first-hand accounts of the Civil War with a well-researched narrative. It is told primarily through the letters and jottings of five volunteers from the Keystone state and incorporates two rare prison diaries.

A lawyer who earned a *juris doctorate* degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and his undergraduate degree in economics with a minor in history from Cornell University, Eberly began a second career as an historian following his retirement from the US Navy General Counsel's Office.

Now living in Hilton Head Island, SC, a place he facetiously refers to as "a Yankee bastion in the heartland of the Confederacy," Eberly has been active in battlefield preservation, having served on the board of the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg. He also founded The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table and served as its first president. He is a lecturer with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at The University of South Carolina, Beaufort.

Eberly currently serves as the president of The Eberly Foundation, which is known for its support of higher education through its scholarship programs and endowments at 27 colleges and universities in the region. According to the foundation's website, "Literally thousands of deserving students from the southwestern Pennsylvania region have been enabled to further their education beyond high school thanks to scholarships provided by the Eberly Foundation. Many of those students represent the first generation in their families to have had an opportunity to attend college."

The recipient of the Outstanding Fellow of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus, award, Eberly also was awarded the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal when he retired from the General Counsel's Office in 1996.

# Joan Chambers Concert Series highlights Pitt-Greensburg Music Season



Pablo Amorós

Spanish pianist Pablo Amorós and the Heinz Chapel Choir anchor the 2016-2017 season of Music at Pitt-Greensburg. All performances are held begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center. Music at Pitt-Greensburg performances are free and open to the public.

October 12 – Pablo Amorós first performed at Pitt-Greensburg in 2014. His temperamental, elegant, and charismatic personality translates to the keyboard where his ability to capture the subtlety of tone color makes him an outstanding interpreter of the romantic repertoire. Known for his ability to connect the classics and contemporary works, his piano repertoire ranges from Bach and Mozart, through Brahms, Schumann, and Rachmaninov, to Spanish contemporary music. A renowned international pianist, Amorós has performed in Spain, England, France, Italy, and the United States.



Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and Chamber Singers

**November 30 & December 2** – The Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and Chamber Singers will perform selections from *Messiah* at their Fall Concert. Plans are still in development, and details will be available at http://bit.ly/16Chorale.

**April 6 & April 7** – The Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and Chamber Singers will perform their Spring Concert. Visit http://bit.ly/16Chorale for details on the program and the location.

**April 21** – The Heinz Chapel Choir will perform their stirring harmonies *a cappella* in the intimate surroundings of the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

Details about this year's Broadway Battles Breast Cancer performance in October, as well as the voice and piano recital featuring Pitt-Greensburg students, are forthcoming.

The Joan Chambers Concert Series is named in honor of Joan Chambers, late wife of President *Emeritus* George F. Chambers. She was an ardent supporter and representative of Pitt-Greensburg in the community for many years. The Children's Literature Collection in Millstein Library, another of her passions, was developed and named in her honor.

Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/musicseries to see a full schedule of events for the year.

# **Winter Sports**

#### Men's Basketball

The Pitt-Greensburg men's basketball team earned their first-ever berth in the NCAA Division III Tournament, finishing the season with a 19-10 overall record, including a 13-5 mark in the AMCC. Head Coach Sean Strickland's team put together an historic run in the 2016 AMCC Tournament, capping the stretch with a thrilling 76-74 win at top-seeded Hilbert College to capture the



conference title. For their efforts, seniors Jerell Figueroa and Rocco Contristano were named to the AMCC All-Tournament Team for the Bobcats.

Earning AMCC First-Team All-Conference recognition was Contristano, who concluded his career as the school's second all-time leading scorer with 1,538 career points. Figueroa earned AMCC Second-Team All-Conference honors while seniors Mike Connelly and Marcus Thomas were named Third-Team All-Conference.

#### Women's Basketball

The Bobcats made their fifth-consecutive appearance in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Tournament, finishing the 2015-16 campaign with a 10-16 overall record. For its efforts, the team earned the number six seed in the AMCC Tournament.



Head Coach Erin Eaton's squad was led by senior Emily Nelson and sophomore Kelsey

Oddis, who both earned AMCC Second-Team All-Conference honors. Nelson concluded her stellar career with 1,091 career points to rank eighth all-time in school history while also setting a new school-record for career three-point field goals with 172. Oddis set career-highs with 12.1 points per game and 7.8 rebounds per game to lead the team, establishing herself as one of the top players in the AMCC for the upcoming season.

# Register to attend our FREE FAFSA Completion Workshops

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Attendees will sit down at a computer and be guided through the steps to completion by a member of the Pitt-Greensburg Office of Financial Aid staff.

Registration is required.
Call 724-836-9881 or visit
www.greensburg.pitt.edu/fafsa

3 sessions. Each 4 p.m. to 7 p.m 11/9/16 1/10/17 3/8/17

137 McKenna Hall, 150 Finoli Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601

# **Spring Sports**

#### Baseball

The Bobcats made their fifth-straight trip to the AMCC Baseball Championships this spring, ending their season 22-19 overall and 13-3 in the conference, their best conference record to date.

Senior catcher Anthony Bozzuto became the first Bobcat since 2007 to earn D3Baseball.com's All-Region Mideast



Second Team honors. He is the school's career leader in runners caught stealing (45), pick-offs (15), and put-outs (796) after 140 starts. Bozzuto also earned AMCC First Team All-Conference honors for the second-straight year.

Named to the AMCC Second-Team All-Conference were senior Matt Moyer, junior Ryan Dodson, and freshmen Chris Common and Cam Smith, while seniors Matt Germanoski, Adam Dodson, and Brandon Rowland were named to the Third Team. Common also was named AMCC Newcomer of the Year.

Scott Adams, who served as assistant coach for the past four seasons, will assume the head coaching duties for the 2017 season. A Belle Vernon, PA, native, he coached in the local school district from 2007 through 2011. In 2012, he served as head coach of the Greensburg Central Catholic High School baseball team before moving to the collegiate coaching level in 2013. Adams completed his collegiate studies at California University of Pennsylvania, graduating with a BS in Sport Management.

#### Softball

Pitt-Greensburg finished the 2017 softball season with a 10-8 conference record (13-27 overall). The team, under the direction of Head Coach Chuck Myers, finished fifth in the AMCC and secured a spot in the conference tournament despite injuries that plagued the team throughout the season.



Senior Morgan Russo, freshman Kellie
Hutchinson, and sophomore Katlyn Keenan earned AMCC Second-Team
All-Conference honors, with senior Kara Barclay earning Third-Team honors.

#### Men's Tennis

The Men's Tennis team finished the season 3-3 in the AMCC (6-5 overall), losing the AMCC Championship to Franciscan University of Steubenville. This was the team's fourth-straight appearance in the conference tournament under the direction of Head Coach Maria Jovino '13



Sophomore Izaak Fulmer-Moffat and juniors
Zachary Pivirotto and Doug Smeltzer earned AMCC Second-Team

All-Conference recognition for their performances this year.

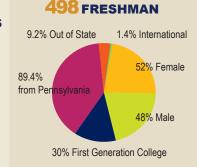
### This Year's Freshman Class – The Class of 2020

We welcome this year's class, the Class of 2020, who would have mostly been born in 1998.

These students are among the most technically literate generations alive since computers, the Internet, cell phones, and texting have always been a part of their lives. Texting and social networking form a large part of how they communicate with each other.

In 1998, Nintendo released its Pokémon Gameboy in red and blue, Java script was created, Google was founded, and Apple unveiled the iMac. Oh, and books were still mostly read on paper, not downloaded to a digital device.







#### **Class Notes**

**Troy Ross '99** and his wife shared that their daughter, Charlie Rae Ross, was born June 14, 2016.



Sarah Fitzpatrick Menzler '10 and her husband, Bob, announce the birth of their "beautiful daughter, Teagan Elizabeth." Born October 15, 2015, at 8:39 a.m., she weighed 8.2 lbs. and was 21.5 inches long.



Charlie Rae Ros

Teagan Elizabeth Menzler

# Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company 2016-2017 Season:

#### **Thoughts and Dreams of Love**

"Thoughts and Dreams of Love" describes the Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company's 2016-2017 season. It is inspired by this passage from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act I, Scene 1, where Hermia reads:

If then true lovers have been ever cross'd, It stands as an edict in destiny: Then let us teach our trial patience, Because it is a customary cross, As due to love as thoughts and dreams and sighs, Wishes and tears, poor fancy's followers.

In November, the Theatre Company will present an Evening of One Acts, consisting of three short plays. The evening begins with *The Precious Damsels Ridiculed* by Moliere, which portrays fashionable ladies—or so they would be seen—trying to show off how cultured they are to anyone who will listen and flatter them, including the pretentious servants of the suitors they rejected.

Following Moliere is When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet by Charles George. This short play features several of Shakespeare's heroines (Portia from Merchant of Venice, Desdemona from Othello, Cleopatra from Antony and Cleopatra, Ophelia from Hamlet, and Katherine from Taming of the Shrew) who have come to visit Juliet in order to give her advice about love—because, as everyone knows, they are such experts and did so well with the men in their plays.

Finally, the Company presents the world premiere of a new play, entitled *15 Frogs and Counting*, written and directed by Kaitlyn Schmidt, senior Visual and Performing



Arts major. Schmidt wrote the play in her Playwriting class, polished it in Directing class, and now is presenting it as her senior capstone project. The play depicts Lauren, a college student, who continually finds that the frogs she kisses are not going to turn into princes.



Kaitlyn Schmidt

The Evening of One Acts will be performed in Ferguson Theater from November 17 through November 19 at 7:30 p.m. A matinee performance will be held November 20 at 2 p.m. in Ferguson Theatre.

Tickets, available at the door only, are \$10 regular and \$5 seniors/ with Pitt ID. For more information, contact Stephen A. Schrum, PhD director of Theatre and associate professor of Theatre, at 724-836-7483 or sas114@pitt.edu.

Continued from back cover

## **Upcoming Events**

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

#### October 17

Fall Break for students (no classes); University offices remain open.

#### October 29

Pitt-Greensburg's **Discovery Day** provides an in-depth look at the campus, including admission, financial aid, housing, and residence life. Meet with a professor of your choice, tour the campus, and have lunch in the dining hall. A \$45 application fee waiver is offered to students who register and attend. Register online at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/admissions/visit-campus or call 724-836-9880.

#### November 9

Pitt-Greensburg will offer a **free FAFSA Completion Workshop** from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in McKenna Hall 137. Registration may be completed by calling 724-836-9881 or visiting www.greensburg.pitt.edu/fafsa.

#### November 17-20

The Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company will present an **Evening of One Acts**, consisting of three short plays: Moliere's *The Three Precious Damsels Ridiculed*; Charles George's *When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet*; and the world premiere of *15 Frogs and Counting*, a play written and directed by senior Visual and Performing Arts major Kaitlyn Schmidt. Curtain time at Ferguson Theater is 7:30 p.m. for the November 17-19 performances and 2 p.m. for the November 20 performances. Tickets, available at the door, are \$10 (regular) and \$5 (students/seniors/Pitt ID).

#### November 23-27

**Thanksgiving Recess for students.** University offices are closed November 24-27.

#### November 30 & December 1

Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and Chamber Singers Fall Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Check www.greensburg.pitt.edu for details about locations of these concerts as they have the practice of holding one concert on campus and the other at a community venue.

#### December 2

The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association will host its annual **Holiday Wine Tasting Reception** at 7 p.m. in Millstein Library. Pre-register and pay at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/events for this popular event.

#### January 20, 2017

Pitt-Greensburg will offer a **free FAFSA Completion Workshop** from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in McKenna Hall 137. Registration may be completed by calling 724-836-9881 or visiting www.greensburg.pitt.edu/fafsa.

#### **December 18**

Winter Recess begins for students. University offices will be closed December 23, 2016, through January 2, 2017.

#### January 3, 2017

University offices open for the 2017 Spring Term.

#### January 4, 2017

The 2017 Spring Term begins: first day of classes for students.

#### March 5-12, 2017

**Spring Break for students.** University offices are open March 6-9 but will be closed March 10.

New events are added each week! Check the Event section at www.greensburg.pitt.edu for details.

A complete schedule of athletic events is available at **www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics.** 

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















### **Upcoming Events**

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

#### September 24

Register and attend the **Admissions Open House** to receive a \$45 application fee waiver to Pitt-Greensburg. Program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and includes information about admissions, financial aid, housing, and student life. Register online at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/admissions/visit-campus or call 724-836-9880.

#### September 30

Pitt-Greensburg **Golf Outing at Totteridge Golf Course**. Tee-off is at 9 a.m. for the shotgun start. Prizes for the top three foursomes, as well as plenty of raffle prizes and contests make this an exciting event for golfers. Register at www.greensburg. pitt.edu/golf-outing. Monies raised benefit the President's Scholarship Fund, the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association, and Pitt-Greensburg Athletics. (Part of Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2016)

#### September 30

UV Splash — A Pitt-Greensburg Night Color Run will begin at 7:30 p.m. on campus. We invite the community to join us in this new glow-in-the-dark color run that includes an after party for participants. Register before September 16 for \$40 (individuals) and \$20 (students). Family and student discounts are available. See details at www.PittNightColorRun.com. (Part of Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2016)

#### October 1

A variety of activities will take place on campus between 10:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. as part of **Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2016.** Visit http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/about/blue-and-gold-weekend for details.

- 10:30 a.m. Hospitality Tent opens (Chambers Lawn); Accounting Alumni Reunion
- 11 a.m. Car Cruise opens in Smith Hall Parking lot.
- Noon Welcome Back Picnic (Alumni Pavilion); Blue & Gold Festival and Mini-Golf (Chambers Lawn); Horse-Drawn Wagonette Rides (Smith Hall Parking Lot)
- 3 p.m. Campus Tours (Campus Clock) and Stained-Glass Tours with the artist Terry Bengel '80
- 5:30 p.m. Alumni Celebration Dinner (Hempfield Rom)
- 8 p.m. Casino Night (Chambers Gym)
- 10 p.m. Homecoming Dance (Chambers Gym)

#### October 10

Don't let 10/10 pass without helping us to celebrate **Founders' Day** at Pitt-Greensburg. Celebrate our rich academic and cultural history while looking to the future. Visit www.greensburg.pitt. edu/founders-day to learn more about our history and how you can help to shape our future.

#### October 12

The Joan Chambers Concert Series presents internationally renowned **pianist Pablo Amorós** at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

#### October 13

The Pitt-Greensburg **Graduate and Professional School Fair** will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Chambers Hall Gymnasium. More than 35 schools and programs are expected to participate in this event. Details are available at www. greensburg.pitt.edu/gradfair.

#### October 13

**The 2016 St. Clair Lecture will feature Robert E. Eberly, Jr.**, a Fayette County native and author of *Bouquets from the Cannon's Mouth: Soldiering with the Eighth Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserves.* The event is set for 7:30 p.m. in Ferguson Theater. Call 724-836-7980 to ensure a seat.

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#### **Discover** Yourself... **Discover** Your World



The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and the Westmoreland County Historical Society present the 17th annual

# St. Clair Lecture



#### ROBERT E. EBERLY, JR., JD

Author of Bouquets from the Cannon's Mouth: Soldiering with the Eighth Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserves (2005)

Founder and 1st president of the Lowcountry Civil War Roundtable

Former Board member of the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg

Fayette County Native and President of the Eberly Foundation

#### BOUQUETS FROM THE CANNON'S MOUTH:

Soldiering with the Eighth Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserves

Thursday, October 13 • 7:30 p.m. • Ferguson Theater

Open to the public without charge. Please call to ensure a seat: 724-836-7980.

PittGreensburg
www.greensburg.pitt.edu

Westmoreland County Historical Society

www.westmorelandhistory.org