



Winter 2020 Newsletter

Reunion/Recognition Game Wrap Up

On Saturday, November 30, 2019, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg's Men's Basketball Alumni Club (MBAC) in conjunction with the Athletics Department, the Office of Alumni Relations, and the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) held a reunion for former players, basketball staff, and their families.

Reunion festivities began with a reception in the Fireside Lounge prior to the game between Pitt-Greensburg and Penn State Behrend. The standing room-only gathering saw the reuniting of old friends, former players, and their families, the beginning of new friendships, and a camaraderie that touched all in attendance. One observer noted that this was the largest crowd that he had ever seen in the Fireside Lounge, and another observer was personally touched by the affection displayed by former players for each other. Guests received a warm welcome from Robert G. Gregerson, PhD, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Athletic Director Jeromy Yetter, and former Pitt-Greensburg head coach Matt Furjanic.

Reunion activities continued during half-time. Thirty-five former players were individually introduced to the overflow crowd, and each player was greeted at half-court by Gregerson and Yetter. Special recognition was given to the '98-'99/'99-'00 team, who celebrated the 20th anniversary of their back-to-back AMCC championship seasons, the '04-'05 team, who marked the 15th anniversary of their regular season AMCC championship, and the '69-'70 team, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of basketball at Pitt-Greensburg. The half-time recognition concluded with a group photo featuring all of the returning players and the current team, who added to the day by pulling out a thrilling, last second, 71-69 victory.

Reunion festivities concluded with a dinner reception at local restaurant The Boulevard. The friendships, conversations, and camaraderie that began earlier in the day continued into the evening capping off a truly unforgettable reunion.



Front L to R: Nate Burt, Jake Kitner, Nick Kotecki, Kendall Jordan, Torian Jenkins, Cam Seigfreid, Tom Arbuckle, Jojo France, Shane Duncan, Mason Eddinger, Matt Johnson, Brady Kingston, Isaiiah Zeise, David Runco

Middle L to R: David Winfrey, Dom Domasky, Bill McGrew, Clint Roche, Dave Washburn, Jeff Karacia, Matt Furjanic, Brian Curenton, Harry Bowser, Alan Hudock, Dan Swalga, Mike Noppe, Fred Charles, Regis Tyber, Rich Hardway, Rob Domenick, Bernie Cobetto, Craig Hallman

Back L to R: Jeromy Yetter, Joe Mancini, Jim Murphy, Jerry Fedele, Clint Mullen, Kevin Conlon, Myron Jones, Phil Grenda, Jonathan Germock, Scott Winfrey, Jason Trout, George Gajdos, Tom Jollie, Cody Spaid, Rick Leahew, Rich Hudock, Carlyle Carter, Dr. Robert Gregerson

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. ROBERT GREGERSON



On July 1, 2019, Pitt-Greensburg welcomed its fifth president to campus. The MBAC recently sat down with Robert G. Gregerson, PhD, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, for an interview. Early indications point to the fact that the right man was chosen for the job. In his early months on the job, the words circulating around campus to describe him are enthusiastic, approachable, down-to-earth, driven, and goal oriented.

Gregerson grew up in the state of Indiana. Growing up, he was an athlete, and he found that through athletics he gained qualities that have been critical to his development.

"I learned to work together to achieve a common goal; I learned to develop camaraderie with those I work with, which in turn created a better more productive work environment," he explains.

A professor for 25 years, he has worked and lived in states across the country. During that time, he developed a belief he brings to this campus.

"I want to do everything I can to make students successful. I become a proud papa at graduation when I see the growth in my students," he adds.

He is happy to be here. He sees the campus' foundation as strong with the building blocks of an excellent staff and a connected and committed alumni. He knows there will be challenges, but he also knows that competition makes one stronger. The commitment and dedication of those around him motivates him to be better. Perhaps his biggest and best motivator is his lovely wife Sarah. She is a charming, supportive first lady who can warm your heart with her smile and compassion for all around her.

If you are still not sure about our new president, stop on campus and ask anyone about him, he is well known already. If you can't find him, try the closest home athletic event. He is a fan and gives his support to all the student athletes no matter the sport. He has attended every home basketball this season and at his side is his wife Sarah, and they carry with them a full load of team spirit.

FORMER PITT-GREENSBURG COACH RETURNS FOR REUNION EVENT

Reunion guests were treated to remarks by former Pitt-Greensburg head coach Matt Furjanic and Pitt-Greensburg Athletic Director Jeromy Yetter. Coach Furjanic recognized the accomplishments of the '69-'70 basketball for beginning the athletic tradition at Pitt-Greensburg fifty years ago. He further recognized the accomplishments of those teams which re-established and continued the basketball tradition during the 1990s, including the championship teams which he coached during 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 seasons. Furjanic concluded his comments by noting that all of the basketball teams have created a "Pitt-Greensburg Basketball Family" which now supports the current team. He also acknowledged the accomplishments of former player, current coach, and MBAC co-founder Harry "OG" Bowser, who has been a program leader since 1969.

Yetter acknowledged Furjanic's words and thanked the former players, their families and their guests for supporting a "one of a kind alumni reunion event." Yetter gave a special thanks to the MBAC, Bowser, the Pitt-Greensburg staff, and the Pitt-Greensburg basketball family for their tireless efforts in making the reunion game and festivities a success.



PITT-GREENSBURG MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2019-2020

Played:

Nov 12	@Washington & Jefferson College	Lost 74 - 67
Nov 16	@St. Vincent College	Won 87-69
Nov 23	Bethany	Won 81-60
Nov 26	Franciscan	Won 85 -68
Nov 30	Penn State Behrend	Won 71 - 69
Dec 4	@Penn State Altoona	Won 81 - 74
Dec 7	D'Youville College	Won 91 - 73
Dec 14	@ Hilbert	Won 82 - 62
Dec 21	@ LaRoche	Lost 89 -63
Dec 31	Chatham University	Won 90 - 72
Jan 4	Pitt-Bradford	Won 76 - 62
Jan 7	Penn College	Won 103 - 80
Jan 11	@Medaille College	Won 89 - 70
Jan 15	Mount Aloysius	Won 85 - 61
Jan 18	@Alfred State College	Won 79 - 68
Jan 20	@D'Youville	Lost 98 - 82
Jan 22	@ Franciscan	Won 84-79

Record as of 1/22/2020: 14-3, 10-2

Upcoming Games:

Jan 25	Hilbert College	1 PM
Jan 29	@Penn State Behrend	6 PM
Feb 1	@University of Pittsburgh @ Bradford	2 PM
Feb 5	Penn State Altoona	6 PM
Feb 8	Medaille College	2 PM
Feb 12	@ Mount Aloysius College	6 PM
Feb 15	Alfred State College	1 PM
Feb 19	LaRoche	6 PM

COACH'S CORNER



We have had a great start to the year, and I'm very proud of the work that we have put in. We are near the halfway point of our season and are 10-2. On any given night, we have different guys stepping up and making plays. They play unselfishly and

hard; two things any coach would want. On January 7, we set a new school record for 20 three-pointers against Penn College.

All of our success can be traced to the hard work of our guys. No one understands how much time these guys put in to be great. We have a team full of gym rats. I love the way they work out before practice and get shots up after. The shooting gun that was purchased a couple years ago has a lot of wear and tear, which is a good thing.

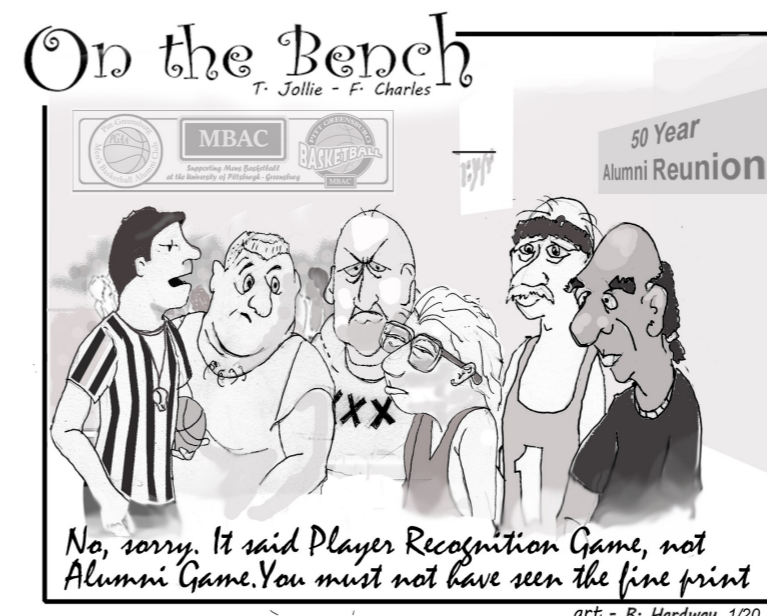
Thank you for all of the support, whether you are coming to games or following along from afar. This has been a long process, and we are trying to enjoy every single second of it.

— Brody Jackson

GOLD RUSH GIVEAWAY

ADDS SPIRIT TO GAME

On December 7, 2019, the MBAC sponsored its first Fan Appreciation Day when it handed out Gold Rush t-shirts to any and all students with a valid student ID. Shirts were given to students until all shirts had been distributed. Nearly 100 shirts were given away at the game. Watch for those gold shirts in the stands when you attend a game, and look for other giveaways in the future.



art - R. Hardway 1/20

2019-2020 BOBCAT PROFILES: MEET THE NEW PLAYERS



Shane Duncan, at 6'3" and 195 lbs., is a freshman forward. He comes to Pitt-Greensburg from Pottstown High School in Pottstown, PA. While there, he played for coach Scott Paladino, won a scholar-athlete award, played in the district playoffs, and graduated with a 3.8 GPA. He has chosen to pursue engineering as his future career.

Shane likes to make splash plays, is a good shooter, but most importantly, plays aggressive defense. Throwing crisp passes and always watching for the open man are also good attributes. Always looking for the steal, he plays smart ball and is a very good addition to the team.

The MBAC looks forward to seeing his success on the court and in the classroom.

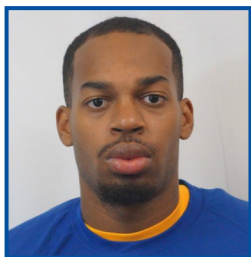


Torian Jenkins, at 6'2" and 170 lbs., is a sophomore guard. A native of Illinois' Chicago Heights, he attended North Naperville High School and played Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) ball for Coach Duncan Ward. Being on the all-tournament team was a thrill, and he fondly recalls dunking the ball when his team won at the nationals.

He rebounds well and can score. Featured on the program at the Pitt-Bradford game, he played very good that day putting the ball in the hoop off a missed shot. He was up there. Torian loves the game and wants to be on a championship team. His goals are to play at the next level and to help people. He is a down-to-earth young man, and he

knows he has to work hard to feed his family. Majoring in sociology, Torian will do what it takes to be successful.

The MBAC wishes him success as he works towards his goals.



Kendall Jordan, at 6'1" and 190 lbs., is a sophomore guard. He played for Coach Duncan Ward's Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team and attended Homewood-Flossmoor High School in Flossmoor, IL. Graduating with a 3.0 GPA, he was on the honor roll for three years.

Kendall is a fine recruit who loves to dunk. He will go to the hoop and wants to be a better floor general. You can count on him, and most importantly, he takes pride in playing defense. He was featured in the program for the Pitt-Bradford game, which the

team won. A psychology major, he is a serious student with a lot of focus. He also enjoys playing the drums and the family atmosphere at Pitt-Greensburg.

The MBAC looks forward to watching him go to the hoop.

MATT JOHNSON '21 WINS AMCC PLAYER OF THE WEEK FOR DEC. 2-8



Naming Matt Johnson '21 the AMCC Player of the Week shows the early season success of the men's basketball team has not gone unnoticed by those around the conference. During the week's two wins, Matt averaged 23 points, 4.5 rebounds, and shot 7 of 9 from the free throw line. His reaction to hearing the news was typical Matt.

"I came up....no, God came through for us," he says about it.

Hard work has paid dividends for him this season, and he is an example of what this year's Bobcats are like.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW: MYRON JONES '98

Pitt-Greensburg basketball experienced a major change when the university established the four-year athletic programs in 1995.

Myron Jones, one of the four-year program's first recruits, played high school basketball for Greensburg Salem. During his two years at Westminster College, he helped its basketball team win their conference championship. After a chance meeting with Pitt-Greensburg's new coach, Matt Furjanic, he transferred to Pitt-Greensburg to continue his studies and play basketball. Helpful in building the program's foundation, he still holds individual career statistics for the school.



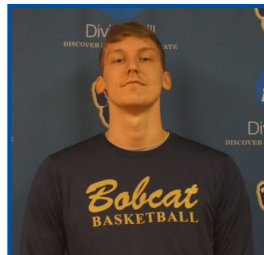
Currently, Myron works in technology and is pastor of his church in Washington, PA, where he and wife Amethyst reside. He maintains an active relationship with his Pitt-Greensburg teammates and friends.

IN MEMORIAM: JON COBETTO 1979 - 2019

The MBAC and the Pitt-Greensburg basketball family extend their sincere condolences on the passing of Jon Cobetto to the entire Cobetto Family, including his father Bernie Cobetto, MBAC Secretary, his mother Kate, and his grandfather, Dr. Bernard Cobetto, founder of Pitt-Greensburg's Cobetto Lecture Series. Gifts were made in the name of Jon Cobetto to benefit Pitt-Greensburg, **thereby continuing a long Cobetto family tradition of supporting the University. The MBAC wishes to acknowledge and thank those who have contributed donations to the school in his name, and those who plan to contribute in the future.**

THE VIEW FROM UP HERE: THE HALFWAY MARK OF THE '19-'20 SEASON

The buzzer rang out, and the applause from the crowd followed. As we jogged off the court, I turned and looked at the scoreboard one final time, I was still in disbelief. It read 103-80 in bright neon red numbers in our favor. It was the first time in my four years that we had eclipsed the century mark. We hit 20 three-pointers which was good enough for a new school record, and we had just picked up our tenth win of the year. Currently, we are 10-2 overall and 7-0 at home. It has taken a long time and a ton of hard work, but we finally seem to be moving forward.



The season certainly didn't start out as smoothly as it is going now. We opened on the road in Washington, PA against the W&J Presidents, who we played in last season's opening game. Instead of the home win and early season momentum of last year, we were met with a disappointing loss. The doubts immediately began to set in. Coach Jackson reminded us of our potential. He said this loss was just a bump in the road, and he couldn't have been more right. We won the next seven games including several 20-point successes and a victory over defending AMCC champions Penn State Behrend. The turnaround has been headed by several players. Matt Johnson ('21), Cam Seigfreid ('21), and Jojo France ('22) are our leading scorers and have emerged as leaders on and off the court. Brady Kingston ('20), Cody Spaid ('21), and Isaiah Zeise ('20) provide senior experience and leadership and fill out the stat sheets in more ways than just scoring. The emergence of Torian Jenkins ('23) has made an impact. The sophomore transfer has established himself in the lineup and does a little bit of everything. From top to bottom, we have a team filled with guys that push each other every day to exceed our limits.

At the end of the day, despite how high our spirits are, the season is only half finished. We haven't won anything yet. However, I can't help but sit back and smile when I think of how far our team and my class (2020) has come. I've seen people come and go, bad losses, and a 1-24 season. Our dedication to this team and to each other has never changed. After four years and a lot of growing up, we finally look like we'll be playing for something a little more important than beating our previous record. Where will this season end up? I'm not sure, but wherever we end up, we'll be getting there together.

— #55 Nathaniel Burt '20

REUNION RECOGNITION GAME MEMORIES



REUNION RECOGNITION GAME MEMORIES



To view more photos from this event, please visit the
 Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association Official Facebook Page photo albums at
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/PittGreensburgAlumni/photos/>

THE MBAC OFFICERS THANK ALL ITS MEMBERS, ALUMNI, STAFF, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS WHO ATTENDED AND SUPPORTED THE REUNION RECOGNITION GAME!

SPECIAL THANKS TO

- ATHLETIC DIRECTOR JEREMY YETTER FOR HIS GUIDANCE, ASSISTANCE, AND SUPPORT
- COACH BRODY JACKSON & THE 2019-2020 MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR THEIR COOPERATION
- PITT-GREENSBURG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (PGAA) FOR ITS SUPPORT, HELP, AND VOLUNTEERS
- PITT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (PAA) FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE ALUMNI GIFT