This past February, the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees approved a resolution naming a new building, currently under construction at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, in honor of Frank A. Cassell, third president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

The Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, donor of the largest gift in the history of the Greensburg campus that is being used in part to fund the construction of the Sustainable Office and Classroom (SOC) Building, suggested that the building be named the “Frank A. Cassell Hall.”

“We are pleased to be able to recognize the contributions of both Dr. Cassell and the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation in this manner,” said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of the Greensburg campus. “During the 10 years the campus was under Frank’s leadership, enrollment grew, buildings were renovated or newly built, classrooms were modernized, and the Academic Village was developed. By honoring the suggestion of the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, the Pitt-Greensburg community hopes to demonstrate its appreciation for the Foundation’s steadfast and ongoing support; the joint commitment of the Foundation and the University of Pittsburgh to embrace future programs for students while preserving the beauty of the Greensburg campus and the larger Laurel Highlands community; and the valuable contributions Frank A. Cassell made to both.”

Cassell served as president of the Greensburg campus from June 1997 until his retirement in June 2007. He shared the same interests as Katherine Mabis McKenna, founder of the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, relating to civic, cultural, and educational issues.

He built strong ties between the Greensburg Campus and the community and founded Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County and Westmoreland Heritage.

The Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation has supported a wide range of important initiatives at the Greensburg campus, including building McKenna Hall; upgrading and improving technology resources in Smith Hall and in residence halls across the Greensburg campus; and helping to address economic growth and revitalization through the Smart Growth Partnership. Linda McKenna Boxx, chairman of the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, is a past recipient of the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service from the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg for her distinguished service to the campus.

Previously referred to as the Sustainable Office and Classroom (SOC) Building, “The Frank A. Cassell Hall” will be completed this summer. A silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) designation for this building is anticipated and would be the first such LEED certification on campus. A ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony is planned for September 2012.

Other major funding received for the construction of this building came from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the Timken Foundation. Federal funds were also provided through the support of Congressman Tim Murphy.
This spring, representatives of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education visited our campus for its Self-Study Report, which includes a campus visit by a team of peers and interviews with our students, faculty, and staff.

Their visit was of utmost importance in that the Commission is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association that defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations, and resources. In the words of the commission, “Middle States accreditation is an expression of confidence in an institution’s mission and goals, its performance, and its resources.”

The topic of Pitt’s self-study was “Using a University-wide Culture of Assessment for Continuous Improvement.” The team of peers makes its recommendations to the Commission based on its review of the comprehensive self-study (which included input from all campuses of the University of Pittsburgh) and the meetings during its site visits (to the Bradford, Greensburg, and Oakland campuses).

Although the final recommendation awaits the review and decision of the Middle States Commission, the initial feedback from the visit team was highly favorable. During their time in Greensburg, they had a full schedule, meeting first with top administrators, then with faculty, then with students, then with administrators and staff, and finally with administrators.

They were enormously impressed with our students, faculty, staff, and leadership. They praised the writing programs. They commented on the high morale and positive leadership. They were especially impressed with the fact that the students identified themselves as Pitt-Greensburg students and were proud of and pleased with their connection to this campus. The team’s strong positive impressions were most happily summarized in the hope expressed by one of the team members that his grandchildren would attend Pitt-Greensburg.

For the Pitt system as a whole, John Sexton, the chair of the team, made some strong observations. He noted that the “greatest challenge is external” and comes from the “alarming rate of decline in Commonwealth support.” He reminded the team and the Pitt leadership that “excellence once lost is difficult to regain,” that “excellence is fragile,” and that “great cities need great universities.”

You are part of what makes Pitt-Greensburg the quality institution of higher education that it is. You also play a part in how Pitt-Greensburg will meet the challenges facing it.

Hail to Pitt!

Sharon P. Smith, PhD
President
William “Bill” L. McIntosh ’03 graduated with a bachelor’s of science degree in information science and a minor in psychology. After graduation, he started his own company Synergy Media Group, located in Pittsburgh.

The thing that drew me to Pitt-Greensburg was . . . I was recruited to play soccer by a number of Division III universities, but none so strongly as Pitt-Greensburg Coach (Ted) Wawrzyniak. When I visited campus for the first time, I felt very comfortable in the small campus environment and knew quickly that Pitt-Greensburg was in my top-tier of preferred universities.

My favorite thing as a student was . . . I’ve never met as many people that I still call close friends as I did at Pitt-Greensburg. The friendships that were formed there are still my strongest relationships to this day. I often wish we were all still living in the Village so that we could just open our front doors and be seconds away from having a great time with the best group of friends. Oh, and the soccer team going 20-1 my senior year is quite a spectacular memory as well.

The faculty members who had the greatest influence on me were . . . When I look back at my education, there are a couple of moments with professors that greatly influenced my life. The first was Dr. Dan Milberg, PhD. The first day of his Psychology class he showed up in a suit, was extremely strict, and it was clear he would accept no nonsense in his lectures. The second class, Dr. Milberg showed up in a flannel shirt and overalls, covered in dust and debris from a construction project, and detailed how our first impression of him was actually very different from his true personality of being laid back, humorous, and one of the most unorthodox professors I ever had. Lesson learned.

Another moment that greatly affected my interests in life was Dr. Thad “Ted” Zaleskiewicz’s discussion of quarks and quantum mechanics. In my high school AP physics class we were taught that electrons, protons, and neutrons were the smallest, non-divisible particles in existence. When Dr. Z spoke of quarks, elementary particles that actually make up electrons and neutrons, I came to the realization that much of my high school science education was incorrect, and I immediately became interested in the fundamental make-up of the universe. To this day, you will find me reading books on quantum mechanics, particle physics, and cosmology.

After Pitt-Greensburg, I went on to . . . a few jobs prior to starting my own business, Synergy Media Group, where we design and install audiovisual systems for universities and corporations. Synergy has secured a number of high-profile clients such as UPMC, Westinghouse, and Carnegie Mellon University, but ironically, we can’t seem to add the University of Pittsburgh to the client list. Prior to starting Synergy, I pursued an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University’s Tepper School of Business. Finally, I married my wife Aimee and have a beautiful, two-year old daughter named Riley and another little girl on the way who is due in August.

My reason for becoming active with the alumni association is . . . If you receive something of value from an individual or organization, I feel it’s important to become involved, even in the smallest of ways, to help ensure that others receive an equal or greater value in the future. Pitt-Greensburg provided me with an environment where I was able to explore who I was and who I wanted to be, both academically and socially. I see great value in that.

In my spare time, I like to . . . Spend time with my family, play soccer and golf, grow Synergy Media Group, and hang out with a number of my Pitt-Greensburg friends who are still in the area.

My family/friends are . . . my happiness. When you have friends and family to share your experiences with, life is just more fun!

Tell us something we didn’t ask . . . To all future undergrads: While it’s important to use your four years to advance academically, I feel it’s equally important to use those years to discover who you are. Never again in your life will you have so much time with so little responsibility. Make new friends, go to parties, attend humanities events, break a few rules, ponder the existence of God, debate politics, and enlighten yourself.

Upcoming PGAA Event
Join us for National Pitt Networking Day

Join fellow Pitt Alumni for National Pitt Networking Day on Thursday, May 31!
The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) will sponsor a special networking event at Sharky’s Café (Route 30 East, Latrobe, PA) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This event is free (cash bar), but participants must register by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 30, on-line at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/networkingday or by calling 724-836-7496.

National Pitt Networking Day is held annually to bring alumni from every campus together in locations across the United States to build professional relationships, facilitate career conversations, and socialize with fellow alumni.
The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg held its annual Commencement Saturday, April 28, at 11 a.m. in Chambers Hall Gymnasium. One hundred and ninety-one students, out of the 299 students eligible to graduate, participated in the ceremony.

Eighteen of these students participated in the Legacy Diploma presentation and 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 and their families. 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.

Lauren A. Mannella ’12, a psychology major from Harrison City, PA, was the student speaker and class valedictorian. Jack D. Smith, MD, A&S ’69, MED ’73, an orthopedic surgeon from Greensburg and president of the Pitt Alumni Association, was this year’s Commencement speaker. Smith also is a member of the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board. His talk, entitled “Lessons I Learned from my iPod,” included:

- From the iPod itself: Embrace the new while remembering what came before;
- From types of music he has been exposed to by his surgical staff: Tolerance of others, their tastes and their traditions;
- From the types of music he has on his iPod: The more diverse your life and experiences are, the richer your life will be;
- From using his iPod during exercise: Honor your body and never take your health for granted;
- From Kenny Chesney’s song, “Don’t Blink”: Be purposeful with your time and what you spend it on;
- From Katie Perry’s song “Fireworks”: Each of us is unique—find your talents and use them;
- From Bobby McPherson’s song “Don’t Worry, Be Happy”: Look at each day as a gift; look for the best in people and situations;
- From Celine Dion’s “Power of the Dream”: Turn your dreams into goals that bring fulfillment.

He closed his speech, quoting the Rod Stewart song, “May you be forever young.”

Two awards were made during the ceremony. Lillian Beeson, PhD, retired professor of communication, received the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service and Robert “Rob” W. Oliver ’97, of White Oak, was awarded the 2012 PGAA Alumnus of Distinction award (see Blue & Gold Spring 2012).

Beeson was recognized for her more than 35 years of service to Pitt-Greensburg during which she contributed to the creation of the communication major and was founding director of the Humanities Academic Village.

“You are an academic leader in the finest sense,” noted Dr. Sharon P. Smith as she presented the award. “...Hundreds of Pitt-Greensburg graduates credit you with a lasting role in their personal and professional growth: you taught them the skills they needed—for communicative skills are vital in every career—and instilled in each a strong work ethic. You fostered confidence in these students and in their abilities. The best leaders are those who instill confidence in others. Your influence at Pitt-Greensburg will extend for generations, as young faculty members who have been privileged to be mentored by you cite a similarly enduring impact on their lives.”

This year marks the 225th anniversary of the founding of the University of Pittsburgh in Oakland. Pitt-Greensburg was established in 1963 after six area school districts requested the Greensburg campus be established and will celebrate its 50th anniversary during the 2012-2013 academic year.
The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) presented four awards during the Commencement activities.

1: Robert W. Oliver ’97 (left) received the PGAA Alumnus of Distinction Award from Frank Spoto, Jr., ’99, president of the PGAA.

2: Frank Spoto, Jr. (left) ’99, president of the PGAA, and Dr. Sharon P. Smith (right), president of Pitt-Greensburg, present the PGAA Volunteer Excellence Award to Robert Merda ’85.

3: Frank Spoto, Jr., ’99, president of the PGAA, and Dr. Sharon P. Smith (right), president of Pitt-Greensburg, present the PGAA Community Service Award to Scott Szypulski.

4: Frank Spoto, Jr. (left) ’99, president of the PGAA, and Dr. Sharon P. Smith (right), president of Pitt-Greensburg, present the PGAA Outstanding Faculty Award to Dr. Gary Hart.

Jack Smith, MD, A&S ’69, MED ’73, an orthopedic surgeon from Greensburg and president of the Pitt Alumni Association, was this year's Commencement speaker.

Eighteen students participated in the Legacy Diploma presentations, including Austin Davis (left) and his sister Lacey Marie Davis ’08 (center), pictured here with Dr. Sharon P. Smith.
Psychology Lab named in honor of Dr. Diane Marsh

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg dedicated its two-year-old Psychology Laboratory in honor of Diane T. Marsh, PhD, professor emerita of psychology, during a ceremony held in Millstein Library.

The Psychology Suite is named in honor of Marsh because of her many contributions and accomplishments. Marsh served as professor of psychology at Pitt-Greensburg from 1977 through 2011. Throughout her 33-year long career, she made significant contributions to the curriculum and served as an inspiration for students, faculty, and staff. Her influence reached past the campus, though. This year, she has been named a 2012 MHA Innovations Award Winner by Mental Health America of Westmoreland County.

Please see http://tinyurl.com/diane-marsh for the full story.

Plan to have your wedding at Pitt-Greensburg

If you, or a family member, are planning a wedding, we invite you to consider holding your ceremony in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center here at Pitt-Greensburg. This beautiful facility accommodates 172 guests and is available only to those who have a direct affiliation with the University. Individuals with a direct affiliation include current students, faculty, staff, and alumni of any Pitt campus, Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board members, and the immediate family members (parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, and siblings) of any of these individuals. Make your reservation by contacting the Alumni Coordinator at 724-836-7496 or upgalum@pitt.edu. Visit http://tinyurl.com/campana-chapel for photos.

Campus Obituary Notices:

Thad P. Zaleskiewicz, PhD

Thad P. Zaleskiewicz, PhD, emeritus professor of physics at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, died April 23. He was 73.

Known to his friends as “Ted” and his students as “Dr. Z,” he was constantly looking for innovative ways to inspire in others a love of science and math. Building teams of like-minded scientists and educators throughout his nearly 50-year career, he successfully brought to fruition projects that made science more accessible to both students and their instructors.

Dr. Zaleskiewicz founded the Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME), a six-day program that brings middle school students to the campus for an inquiry-based, hands-on experience in STEM-based activities.

The recipient of a 2011 Carnegie Science Award in the category of University/Post-Secondary Educator, Dr. Zaleskiewicz served 12 years as the elected president of the Contemporary Physics Education Project (CPEP). He also was the recipient of the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award, Pitt-Greensburg’s President’s Medal for Distinguished Service, and was elected a “Fellow of the American Physical Society.”

Prior to receiving emeritus status in 2006, he taught Physics for Students of Science and Engineering (I, II, and III), Modern Physics, Introduction to Physics Laboratory, Science and Pseudo-Science, and Natural Science (I and II).

He earned a BS in Physics from Union College (Schenectady, NY) in 1961, an MA in Physics from Dartmouth College in 1963, an MAT in Physics/Education from Brown University in 1966, and a PhD in Physics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1974.

Preceded in death by his wife, Joan C. (Carpenter) Zaleskiewicz, he is survived by two daughters, Catherine Boccabella and her husband Michael, of North Huntingdon, and M. Susan Scott, and her husband John, of Tyrone; twin sons, Erik J. Zaleskiewicz and his wife Mary, of Westminster, MD, and Mark S. Zaleskiewicz and his wife, Karen, of May Landing, NJ; and five grandchildren, Katherine, Sara, Ryan, Spenser, and Madisen.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Natural Sciences Scholarship Fund at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

Jared P. Stern

Jared Paul Stern, a former member of the Pitt-Greensburg Campus Police, died April 25. He was 35 years old.

A retired police officer, he also worked for the Mount Pleasant Borough Police, as an EMT for Mutual Aide in Greensburg, and was employed at Bechtel Bettis Nuclear Power Plant (West Mifflin).

A 1995 graduate of Hempfield Area High School, Stern attended St. Vincent College and the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, where he graduated in 1999 with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. He also attended the Police Academy at Westmoreland County Community College.

In addition to his parents, Steve and Gloria Grega Stern, of Irwin, he is survived by his wife, Amy S. Gilbert Stern; his son, Carter Robert Stern; a sister, Edra Stern, of Stamford, CT.; in-laws, Bonnie and Grant Gilbert, of Greensburg; sisters-in-law, Stacy Graf and fiancé, Robert Levine, and Tammy Zerbini and husband, Alan, all of Greensburg; a brother-in-law, David Gilbert and fiancée, Brenda Davis, of Latrobe; and several nieces and nephews.
Pitt kicks off 225th anniversary celebration

The University of Pittsburgh, at the Board of Trustees Meeting on February 24, formally kicked off the 225th Anniversary of its founding in 1787. The “225 Years of Building Better Lives” celebration, which runs through Homecoming in October, includes a 225th anniversary web site (www.225.pitt.edu), accessible from the Pitt-Greensburg home page (www.greensburg.pitt.edu). The site features 225 of the most notable events and accomplishments in Pitt’s history, a stream of new stories and celebration highlights throughout the year, and a repository for upcoming anniversary activities. It also includes a timeline, downloadable historical photos, and a feature that allows alumni and friends to share personal memories of their Pitt experiences. Additionally, the web site serves as a calendar for the “225 acts of caring,” a list of community volunteer and outreach activities. Please take some time to visit the web site and see all the great accomplishments of the University as well as upcoming events. Hail to Pitt! ▲

Be one of the 50 Faces of Pitt-Greensburg

Would you like to be one of the 50 Faces of Pitt-Greensburg? In preparation for the 50th anniversary of the founding of Pitt-Greensburg, the Office of University Relations and Institutional Advancement wants to know why Pitt-Greensburg is special to you.

Contact us at gifts2pg@pitt.edu or 724-836-9942 to tell us what you think is special about Pitt-Greensburg. We’ll then make arrangements for you to visit campus so you can have your photo taken and, in your own handwriting, express your sentiment for use in our campaign.

The 50 Faces of Pitt-Greensburg will be displayed on the campus web site and in other venues after the 50th anniversary kicks off in October. ▲

Summer Events
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Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

June 23
Pitt-Greensburg welcomes prospective students and their families to campus during its Admissions Summer Open House that features an admissions presentation and a walking tour of campus. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. and runs through noon. Participating students receive a $45 application fee waiver to Pitt-Greensburg. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/discovery or call 724-836-9880.

July 12-13 & July 26-27
Summer Orientation and Academic Registration (SOAR) for incoming students who have paid their $100 deposit.

July 21
Pitt-Greensburg welcomes prospective students and their families to campus during its Admissions Summer Open House that features an admissions presentation and a walking tour of campus. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. and runs through noon. Participating students receive a $45 application fee waiver to Pitt-Greensburg. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/discovery or call 724-836-9880.

July 24 & 26
The Center for Professional Growth at Pitt-Greensburg, in collaboration with Westmoreland Case Management and Supports, Inc., will present Mental Health First Aid Certification, an interactive 12-hour certification course. Presented at 770 East Pittsburgh Street (Greensburg), the course provides 12 CPE credits. Registration is $55 per person or $35 per peer or family member and may be done at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/about/cpg.

August 5-10
Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME) for area middle school students.

August 21 & 28
The Center for Professional Growth at Pitt-Greensburg, in collaboration with Westmoreland Case Management and Supports, Inc., will present Mental Health First Aid Certification, an interactive 12-hour certification course. Presented at 770 East Pittsburgh Street (Greensburg), the course provides 12 CPE credits. Registration is $55 per person or $35 per peer or family member and may be done at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/about/cpg. ▲

Check the Event section of www.greensburg.pitt.edu for more events. A complete schedule of athletic events is available at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics.


Go to http://www.youtube.com/pittgreenburgvideos, and check out what’s happening on the Pitt-Greensburg YouTube Channel, too!
Summer Events

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

May 31
National Pitt Networking Day; Join fellow Pitt Alumni at Sharkey’s Cafe (Latrobe) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Register by calling 724-836-7496 by May 30.

June 2
The Center for Professional Growth at Pitt-Greensburg, in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, presents “Dermatology” as part of the 2011-2012 Pharmacology Update Series. Presented by teleconference, the session runs from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Millstein Library (Room 250) and nurses earn three CNE contact hours. Registration is $60 per session and may be done at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/about/cpg.

June 12-13
The Center for Professional Growth at Pitt-Greensburg, in collaboration with Westmoreland Case Management and Supports, Inc., will present Mental Health First Aid Certification, an interactive 12-hour certification course. Presented at 770 East Pittsburgh Street (Greensburg), the course provides 12 CPE credits. Registration is $55 per person or $35 per peer or family member and may be done at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/about/cpg.

June 14-15 & June 28-29
Summer Orientation and Academic Registration (SOAR) for incoming students who have paid their $100 deposit.

June 18
Quest 2012: Discovery 101, a day camp designed for students who are still exploring careers. Schedule includes a variety of personality and career discovery activities, an etiquette lunch, and a panel of professionals speaking about a wide range of careers. Registration fee is $25, but scholarships are available. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest.

June 19
Quest 2012: Animals, Plants, & Minerals, a day camp designed for high school students. Registration fee is $25, but scholarships are available. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest.

June 20
Quest 2012: Business—Start-up to Corporate, a day camp designed for high school students. Registration fee is $25, but scholarships are available. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest.

June 21
Quest 2012: 21st Century Technology, a day camp designed for high school students. Registration fee is $25, but scholarships are available. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest.

June 22
Quest 2012: Human Health & Development, a day camp designed for high school students. Registration fee is $25, but scholarships are available. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest.

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