

Blue & Gold

Microscopy and Digital Imaging Lab Established on Campus

When Olivia Long, PhD, looks out at the students in her classroom, she knows exactly how many of them feel. You see, she herself was a first generation college student from a rural region of Pennsylvania. She admits that when she started college, she didn't know what a "PhD" was.

"Even today, my parents don't understand what I do," the assistant professor of biochemistry notes. "They just tell people that I work in biology."

Long knows how much work and growth are required to go from being a freshman to a senior, and then to get a job or be accepted into graduate school. That is also why she believes it is important for students to experience as much as possible as undergraduates in order to better prepare themselves for graduate school and jobs. "My very first capstone student here at Pitt-Greensburg went on to Georgetown University in the same field that I did. You can't get a bigger compliment than when someone chooses to do what you do. Four or five of my capstone students have gone on to earn their masters degrees and one is currently pursuing his PhD at Carnegie Mellon University," she explains.

Continued on page 9

Right above

Dr. Olivia Long (standing) watches as sophomore Syed Raza (foreground) and freshman Jenna Schultz examine a slide using the new equipment in the Microscopy and Digital Imaging Lab.

Right below

Robert E. Eberly Jr. (right), president of the Eberly Foundation, visited campus this past fall. Dr. Olivia Long (standing) discusses the benefits students will experience because of the Microscopy and Digital Imaging Lab. Also pictured are (clockwise from left) Dr. Sharon P. Smith, president; Courtney DeCarlucci, manager of Foundation and Corporate Relations; and Dr. J. Wesley Jamison, faculty.



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Pitt
Greensburg

Message

from the President

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg continues to pursue ambitious goals that move us forward in creating the liberal arts college for the 21st century. All of this is being accomplished within a challenged budget environment that requires agile thinking and responses. Key to attaining our goals is achieving and maintaining a stable enrollment at our target level of 1,750 full-time equivalent students.

We are accomplishing this through our energized enrollment plan that identifies a greater number of students looking for the type of educational experience that Pitt-Greensburg offers, as well as through the development of new programs we know students are seeking. We look forward to sharing those details with you once these programs have been fully approved.

The development of new programs also leads us to evaluate our facilities. With an increasing number of our students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), our current facilities are taxed in regard to space and scheduling. Collaborating with the University of Pittsburgh, we have undertaken an analysis of our current facilities to determine the extent and cost of the renovation and construction required to update Smith Hall to present-day standards. The next steps will be to identify funding sources and secure funding to move forward.

Receiving the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) Title III grant award (page 3) is one of our first steps toward securing funding for these projects. It includes a dollar-to-dollar match over the next five years, resulting in a \$500,000 endowment for ongoing technology upgrades. I invite you to make your annual pledge as part of the Technology for the Future Challenge, enabling us to secure that dollar-to-dollar match.

Your support of these advancements, both now, and in the future will help to insure that future students will continue to receive the personalized, quality education that you received.

Hail to Pitt!

Sharon P. Smith, PhD
President



University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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

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

pgnews@pitt.edu www.greensburg.pitt.edu

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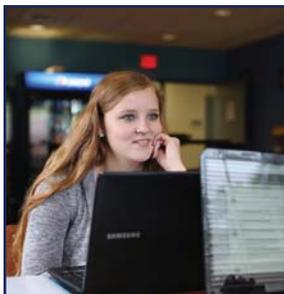
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Editor: Susan M. Isola
Graphic Design: Laura Edgerly Designs
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The Blue & Gold is published for alumni and friends of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Questions and comments should be directed to the Office of University Relations and Institutional Advancement.

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

Pitt-Greensburg Receives \$2M Title III Grant



The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg will receive \$2,037,865 over the next five years through a Title III Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This is the largest single federal grant awarded in the history of this regional campus.

Title III SIP grants are intended to help eligible institutions of higher education (IHEs) become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the institution's academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability.

"Pitt-Greensburg is at a tipping point in its development," said Sharon P. Smith, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. "We are midway through a five-year strategic plan to establish a new kind of liberal arts education designed for the 21st century. This grant, and the programs it will enable us to develop, will accelerate our progress in achieving these goals."

The Title III grant will allow Pitt-Greensburg to expand and modify its program offerings, improve facilities, increase academic support services, and increase the use of data and analysis in making business-related decisions.

The specific projects supported by the grant include:

- Develop new programs in biochemistry, nursing, health science, and healthcare management to serve the changing interests of the students and the needs of the community;
- Promote experiential learning opportunities including internships and study abroad;
- Support the faculty learning community on teaching with technology and provide support for faculty-digital and other curricular projects;
- Expand tutoring opportunities and remedial opportunities for academically at-risk students;
- Create classrooms for collaborative learning and upgrade classroom technology;
- Enhance institutional research capacity including an analysis of financial aid practices.



Pitt-Greensburg's project will include a substantial nonfederal fiscal commitment estimated at \$950,000—or 32 percent of the total program costs—over the five-year grant period, as well as continuing institutional support post-grant. The grant also funds an endowment for the long-term

of technology infrastructure, and requires a dollar-for-dollar match using non-federal funds.

"The programs and improvements that will result from this funding will support our enrollment efforts, improve our retention efforts, and improve our graduation rates, three important success markers for colleges and universities," said J. Wesley Jamison, associate professor of Information Science, who will direct the SIP project.

TECHNOLOGY for the FUTURE CHALLENGE



We are excited to announce a dollar-to-dollar match for our Technology for the Future Challenge, part of the Title III Strengthening Institutions grant.

Your gift will help us meet the ever-changing technology needs here at our campus. Every gift counts. Every gift is multiplied.

The Power of One Donor

The Power of One says that
YOU can make a difference,
YOUR voice, YOUR participation,
YOUR donation matters.

	Donor Contributions		US Dept. of Education Matching Funds
Year 1	\$ 50,000	+	\$ 50,000
Year 2	\$ 50,000	+	\$ 50,000
Year 3	\$ 50,000	+	\$ 50,000
Year 4	\$ 50,000	+	\$ 50,000
Year 5	\$ 50,000	+	\$ 50,000
	\$250,000	+	\$250,000

= \$500,000 Endowment for Technology

Please use the remittance envelope included in your issue of Blue & Gold to make your gift toward the Technology for the Future Challenge. To make your gift online, please visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/tech-challenge.

Pawprints: News of note from Pitt-Greensburg

Pitt-Greensburg designated a Military Friendly School for sixth-straight year

For the sixth consecutive year, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg has been designated a “Military Friendly® School” by Victory Media, the premier media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life. First published in 2009, Military Friendly® Schools is the most comprehensive, powerful resource for veterans today. The list is provided to service members and their families, helping them to select the best college, university, or trade school to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career.



Pitt-Greensburg and Seton Hill University establish articulation agreement for Education students

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and Seton Hill University established a partnership that will allow undergraduate students majoring in Education at Pitt-Greensburg to seamlessly enter



the Seton Hill University Master of Arts in Special Education program upon their baccalaureate graduation. Students were able to begin applying to the program immediately for matriculation in fall 2016. Pitt-Greensburg Education majors who are juniors and seniors and meet the established criteria will have the opportunity to cross-register for up to two Seton Hill graduate-level courses as an undergraduate, as Seton Hill undergraduate students already do. These courses will not replace any undergraduate courses but will provide an opportunity for students to complete six of the 30 graduate credits prior to graduating from their undergraduate program.

Education Department receives new approvals from PA Department of Education



Dr. Vickilyn Barnot (standing) listens as a student explains her concept.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) awarded initial program approval to the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg to offer the Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) Endorsement Program as an option for students earning their four-year degree in Early

Confer receives Iris M. Young Award for Political Engagement

The University of Pittsburgh announced that Sheila Confer, MA, is the staff winner of the 2016 Iris Marion Young Award for Political Engagement. The award recognizes individuals for their dedication to social activism in Southwestern Pennsylvania.



The Iris Marion Young Award for Political Engagement honors those who work to promote justice in the University, at the local or national level, or across the globe. Like the philosopher and social theorist Iris Young, in whose memory the award is created, the Young Award recognizes that social activism takes many forms. Justice can be pursued in a variety of ways and places—in the classroom and workplace, in organizations, through specific projects, in academic scholarship, in politics and volunteer work.

Confer’s work on campus and in the community earned her this recognition. As assistant director of the Academic Village, she schedules programming for students and the campus community. Her goal is to seek presenters who are not only diverse but are doing things other than talking about diversity. This year, her application for funding through the Pitt Year of Diversity program was awarded, allowing her to bring in a diverse range of people who are covering topics such as sexual education, marijuana history and policy, and using comedy to advance social justice issues and middle America’s reaction to Muslim comedians.

She also serves as co-coordinator of the Allies Network and coordinator of the Student Success and Retention Program, along with being a part-time instructor in First-Year Studies and Theater Arts.

In the community, Confer serves on the board of directors for the Blackburn Center, Westmoreland County’s only anti-violence agency. Recently elected vice president of that board, she was instrumental in developing training for Blackburn’s new Men as Allies (MAA) Initiative based on the campus’ allies training for LGBTQA allies. Additionally, she initiated a collaboration between the Blackburn Center and the Pitt-Greensburg Center for Applied Research (CFAR) to survey incoming students and assess their attitudes about sexual assault, domestic violence, and gender roles. This information will then be used to inform the campus’ next steps in addressing these issues.

Childhood Education. This program approval places Pitt-Greensburg in a group of select institutions who offer this, as only 10 colleges or universities in the state offer PDE-approved STEM Endorsement Certificates as part of their teacher-education programs.

The Pitt-Greensburg Education Department also is proud to announce that it received approval for a Gifted Education Endorsement (PK-12) option for its preservice educators. With this approval, Pitt-Greensburg becomes one of only five colleges and universities in the state to offer a PDE-approved Gifted Education Endorsement program.

Pitt-Greensburg is the only university in southwestern Pennsylvania to offer the STEM Endorsement Program and the Gifted Education Endorsement (PK-12 option).

President's Distinguished Service Awards for Staff announced

Valerie Kubenko, administrative secretary, and Stacy Netzel, director of Conferencing, were the recipients of this year's President's Distinguished Service Awards for Staff. The awards were presented by Dr. Sharon P. Smith, president of Pitt-Greensburg, at the annual holiday luncheon in December 2016.

Kubenko, who works with the faculty in the Natural Sciences Division, was applauded as a role model for team work. Using details from the nomination submitted, Smith described Kubenko as, "kind, compassionate, and generous . . . endlessly patient . . . incredibly considerate and impressively anticipating the needs of everyone she work with . . . whose gentle tactfulness fosters productive collaboration . . . an empathetic and optimistic problem solver who brings light to circumstances." Smith also commended Kubenko for her ability to work with a variety of personalities both in her division and outside of it, exhibiting a gracious, diplomatic, and patient manner. Also recognized for her 10 years of service to the campus at the luncheon, Kubenko started her career at Pitt-Greensburg in 2006 as an Administrative Secretary to faculty in the Divisions of Humanities and the Behavioral Sciences. She is an active member of the Pitt-Greensburg Staff Association.

Smith described Netzel as "a vivid illustration of Pitt to the Power of One: an individual with an entrepreneurial spirit who actively seeks out change rather than waiting to adapt to it in order



Valerie Kubenko (left) and Dr. Sharon P. Smith



Stacy Netzel (left) and Dr. Sharon P. Smith

to advance the whole organization." Smith noted that Netzel, who holds an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh Katz School of Business, has an eye for detail at all levels, a deep respect and professionalism in dealing with all constituents, and an agility in handling all issues with calm and efficiency that keeps clients coming back year after year. An example of Netzel's abilities included the successful orchestration of the logistics for the meeting of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees held at Pitt-Greensburg in October 2015. Then, she demonstrated her collaborative and creative skills in developing and negotiating an alternative plan for hosting more than 800 people at the annual Taste of Westmoreland event held in March when the venue was changed due to a damaged fire sprinkler flooding the campus gymnasium in February 2016.

Jakiela wins Saroyan Prize for memoir



Lori Jakiela, professor of English, received Stanford University's 2016 William Saroyan International Prize for Writing for her memoir, *Belief Is Its Own Kind Of Truth, Maybe* (Atticus Books). The Saroyan Prize honors authors who pull from personal and real-world experiences in their literature. Such a writing technique characterized the award-winning work of the late literary legend Saroyan, for whom the prize is named. The Stanford University

Libraries administers the prize every two years. The award includes a \$5,000 honorarium and travel to the award ceremonies at Stanford University. An excerpt from the book is also a finalist for *Proximity Magazine's* national nonfiction prize, with the winner to be announced later this month.

Pitt Year of Diversity

Funding brings diverse programming to campus

Pitt-Greensburg was the recipient of \$5000 in matching funds from the University of Pittsburgh's Year of Diversity program. The money is being used to bring a variety of speakers and performers to the campus throughout the academic year as part of the Academic Village's "Diverse Voices" programming.

In September, Jean Franzblau presented "The Real Sex Ed" program, which is designed to help students navigate sexual choices, safe sex, consent, communication skills, and sexual diversity.

That was followed by "Smoke Screen: Under the Influence of Marijuana Politics and Power" presented by Moe Spencer in October. Spencer is an attorney who specializes in marijuana law. He talked about the history of marijuana growth and use in the United States and why it became illegal. He also discussed the drug's classification as a Schedule I substance and its far-reaching economic and racial consequences.

African American comedian Maggie Mae continued the discussion with her witty commentary about race and other social justice issues during her stand-up comedy performance in February. A panel discussion focusing on the use of comedy to advance social justice issues followed her performance.



Step Afrika!

"Diverse Voices" will close with the screening of "The Muslims are Coming" on April 5. This documentary follows a group of Muslim-American comedians as they perform in small towns across the

United States and meet the local people. A question-and-answer session with the filmmakers will follow the screening.

Also receiving partial funding through the Pitt Year of Diversity program was the January performance of Step Afrika!, the first professional company in the world dedicated to the tradition of stepping. The company blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, African traditional dance, and influences from a variety of other dance and art forms. Performances integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation. The performance was sponsored by the Pitt-Greensburg Student Activities Board, the Academic Village, and the Student Government Association.

Pawprints continues on on page 7

Alumnus of Distinction

The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) presented three awards during the Alumni Celebration Dinner, an annual highlight of Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2016. The PGAA awarded its Alumnus of Distinction award to Judge John E. Blahovec, its Volunteer Excellence Award to Harry P. Bowser '72, and its Young Alumni Leadership Award to Katelyn E. Sadler '11.



PGAA President James Smith '75 presented the PGAA Alumnus of Distinction award to Judge John E. Blahovec '73, LAW '76 (left).

Alumnus of Distinction

Judge John E. Blahovec attended Pitt-Greensburg for two years and then transferred to the University of Pittsburgh where he graduated *magna cum laude* in 1973 with a BA in Political Science. He then earned his *juris doctorate* from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1976.

“Judge Blahovec is illustrative of so many Pitt-Greensburg alumni,” said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of the campus. “They bring a strong work ethic to everything they do, they look for ways to make their communities better, and they are typically described as the people you go to when you want to get something done. Judge Blahovec’s more than two decades of service to Westmoreland County have earned him the respect and loyalty of his peers and the electorate and are evidence of his positive contributions to the region.”

In 1985, Blahovec was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County. He served 10 years in Family Court and the remainder of his career in Criminal Court, being retained by the electorate for two additional 10-year terms in 1995 and 2005. In January 2013, he retired and began serving as a Senior Judge, which means he may be called upon, as needed, to serve on the Westmoreland County Bench.

He is recognized by his peers as a confidant and counselor who softened many a situation with his wit and humor that can be both self-deprecating and sharp. He was known to defuse difficult courtroom situations with his wit. Adjectives used to describe him are fair, impartial, and unbiased—qualities that served him well on the bench.

Blahovec is a member of the Westmoreland Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges. He is president of the Mutual Aid Ambulance Service board of directors and a 20-year member of the Southwest Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Blahovec and his wife Mary Louise (Grabowski) are members of St. Benedict Parish, in Marguerite. They have two daughters, Rebecca and Rachel, and one granddaughter, Haley.



Harry Bowser '72 (center) was awarded the PGAA Volunteer Excellence Award. Here, he is pictured with PGAA President James Smith '75 and Pitt-Greensburg President Sharon P. Smith, PhD.

Volunteer Excellence

Harry P. Bowser '72 graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in secondary education and history after attending the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg from 1968 through 1970. After serving with the Pennsylvania National Guard, he was hired by the Southmoreland School District where he taught social studies to grades seven through 12 for 35 years and served as head of the Social Studies Department. Bowser also was active in Southmoreland athletics, serving in a variety of coaching positions.

A member of Pitt-Greensburg’s inaugural basketball team, Bowser continues to remain involved with the team today. He first served as an assistant men’s basketball coach under John Hunter (1972-1973), and then as a volunteer assistant men’s basketball coach with Matt Furjanic (1998-1999), Karl Radday (1999-2001), and as a volunteer and paid assistant men’s basketball coach with Marcus Kahn (2001-2003).

In 2013, he joined Pitt-Greensburg Head Coach Sean Strickland’s staff as a volunteer assistant men’s basketball coach and character coach through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Today, he continues as a volunteer character coach and holds “character sessions” where he provides instruction to the team on developing positive attitudes. These sessions also provide team members with an outlet to share their goals, frustrations, and friendship in a way that has a positive effect on both the team and the individuals.

Bowser also serves on the board of the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA). He assisted other members of the Pitt-Greensburg’s inaugural basketball team in developing the Men’s Basketball Alumni Club (MBAC).

“Harry’s determination to connect his former teammates with the current student athletes has helped us to create a model for developing other alumni communities within the PGAA,” said Sheila Kudrick, Pitt-Greensburg Alumni coordinator. “His enthusiasm and ability to bring people together stand out as distinguishing qualities in his success. We look forward to building on the foundation that he has helped us to put in place.”

Bowser and his wife, Karon, have two sons, Adam '03 and Ryan. A resident of Alverton, PA, Bowser notes that he enjoys spending time with his granddaughters Alexis and Mikayla, and traveling.



Katelyn Sadler '11 (left) is the first recipient of the PGAA Young Alumni Leadership Award. Campus President Sharon P. Smith, PhD, congratulates Sadler after the award presentation.

Young Alumni Leadership

Hempfield Township native Katelyn E. Sadler '11 graduated *summa cum laude* and Senior of the Year from Pitt-Greensburg with a BS in biological science and a minor in chemistry. Under the supervision of Kristina Pazehoski, PhD, then a member the Pitt-Greensburg faculty, Sadler studied biochemical properties of proteins involved in circadian rhythms. She also discovered a passion for undergraduate teaching as a teaching assistant for molecular genetics lab and a tutor for the Learning Resource Center. These interests led her to pursue a PhD in biological sciences at Duquesne University.

“Kate graduated from Pitt-Greensburg with a long list of accomplishments, so we knew she was destined for success,” said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. “We are extremely proud of everything that she has accomplished during the past five years and are thrilled that she began her lifelong journey of discovery through research here at our campus. We know that she is only at the beginning of the contributions she will be making as a member of the science community. Kate is the first recipient of the PGAA Young Alumni Leadership Award, and we couldn't be more proud for her to represent the young alumni in this capacity.”

Now in her sixth year of graduate school, she is engaged in research, teaching, and service. Working with Benedict Kolber, PhD, assistant professor of biological sciences, Sadler is investigating the role of the brain in bladder pain processing. Her work has been published in six peer-reviewed journal articles and presented at local, national, and international meetings. She won best presentation at the American Pain Society meeting in addition to numerous other travel and poster presentation awards. Most notably, Sadler was the first graduate student at Duquesne to receive the Ruth L. Kirchstein National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health. The award has provided \$40,000 annually to fund her research for the past three years. She also received the Bayer School for Natural and Environmental Sciences Award for Graduate Research Excellence and The American Pain Society Young Investigator Travel Award.

Sadler earned the Basic and Advanced Certificates of University Teaching offered through Duquesne's Center for Teaching Excellence. A mentor to eight undergraduate students in the Kolber Lab, she serves as president and faculty meeting representative for the Graduate Student Organization of the Biological Sciences.

After defending her doctoral dissertation this fall, Sadler will start a post-doctoral fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin studying sickle cell pain in the laboratory of Cheryl Stucky, PhD, professor of cell biology, neurobiology, and anatomy and director of the neuroscience doctoral program.

PAWPRINTS Continued from page 5



Pitt Day In Harrisburg set

Mark your calendar for March 21, and plan to participate in the annual Pitt Day in Harrisburg.

Alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of Pitt are invited to join us for an opportunity to influence Pennsylvania lawmakers and tell your University of Pittsburgh story. This free opportunity includes transportation, continental breakfast on the bus, and lunch at the Capitol, a career chat, and Legislative reception.

Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/pittday for details and how to register.



SOPA Hoops Saturday: a winning example of Pitt-Greensburg service to the community

Over the past six years, Pitt-Greensburg's SOPA Hoops Saturday has raised more than \$6,000 for Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) of Westmoreland County. The event is organized by the campus chapter of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA) and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). Approximately 14 Special Olympics athletes participated in the exhibition basketball game played during the half-time of the men's basketball game against rival Pitt-Bradford. According to one of the coaches, this event is one of the favorites of his athletes! All proceeds from the game, including ticket sales, 50/50 raffle, Lottery Tree, raffle baskets, and concession benefited the organization. Prior to the Saturday event, SOPA athletes visited Pitt-Greensburg for a practice session with Pitt-Greensburg athletes and SPSEA volunteers.

#H2PG

Alumni News Briefs

PGAA Board seeking new directors

Join the PGAA Board of Directors, the official representative group of Pitt-Greensburg alumni!

Members serve in an advisory capacity to the Office of Alumni Relations and lead the alumni Professional Development, Recruitment, and Events Committees. The Board of Directors serves a critical role by providing strategic direction, resources, and professional expertise to help carry out the PGAA mission.

You are invited to nominate candidates—self nominations are encouraged—to serve one term of three years, beginning July 1, with the option of being elected to serve a second term. Responsibilities and duties can be found on the website. **Nominations will be accepted through March 31, at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/board-directors.** Online election to be held in April.



SAA Dinner with a Bobcat: Dinner, Bowling, and a Caricaturist!



With a mix of activity, conversation, and food—the Student Alumni Association (SAA) members were treated to a night out hosted by generous Pitt-Greensburg alumni Charles '90 and Laura (Wagner) '91 Aftosmis. Thank you, Charles and Laura, for the fun, connections made, and special caricature memento!

Would you like to receive information about the PGAA and its activities throughout the year? **Then update your email address at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/update-my-information and begin to receive the monthly alumni e-newsletter, PGAA e-Connections.**

Call for Alumni Award nominations

The PGAA is proud to recognize Pitt-Greensburg alumni for their professional accomplishments, their service to their communities, and their commitment to the University. **Nominations for the Alumnus of Distinction, Volunteer Excellence, and the Young Alumni Leadership awards are being accepted now through July 5, at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni-awards.** The award criteria, guidelines, and nomination forms are available online.



Alumni invited to meet with prospective students



Alumni volunteers play a vital role in the admissions process. Alumni, who are willing to share their experiences with prospective students, help to recruit the next class of bright and high-achieving Pitt-Greensburg students.

We're looking for alumni to have table-top discussions about their Pitt-Greensburg experience with prospective students and their families over lunch on the following dates: March 18, March 25, April 8, and April 22. **Register for any or all events online at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/events.**



Upcoming Alumni Events at a Glance

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

March 18, 2017	Undecided Admit Day (Alumni volunteers needed)
March 21, 2017	Pitt Day in Harrisburg
March 25, 2017	Admitted Student Day (Alumni volunteers needed)
April 8, 2017	Admissions Discovery Day (Alumni volunteers needed)
April 22, 2017	Admitted Student Day (Alumni volunteers needed)
April 23, 2017	Senior Sendoff (6 p.m.)
April 28, 2017	New Alumni Reception (4:30 p.m.)
April 28, 2017	Family Appreciation Dinner (7 p.m.)
April 29, 2017	Alumni Leadership Meeting (8 a.m.)
April 29, 2017	Commencement Breakfast (9:30 a.m.)
April 29, 2017	Commencement (11 a.m.)
June 2017	PGAA Board Retreat • Pitt Networking Day • Pirates Tailgate (PNC Park)

Alumni

you are invited to participate in Commencement activities



Sunday, April 23

Senior Sendoff

(6 p.m./TBD) Celebrate off-campus by meeting the graduating seniors for hors d'oeuvres and drinks prior to their final finals week.

Friday, April 28

PGAA New Alumni Reception

(4:30 p.m./Alumni Pavilion; Bobcat Station if inclement weather) Meet and congratulate the graduates prior to rehearsal.

Family Appreciation Dinner

(7 p.m./Wagner Dining Hall) Volunteer as a table host to the graduates and their families in celebration of this momentous occasion.



Saturday, April 29

PGAA Leadership Meeting

(8 a.m./Lynch Hall 102) Meet with PGAA Board members who will share details on alumni projects and announce PGAA award winners, followed by a campus update from President Sharon P. Smith.

Commencement Breakfast

(9:30 a.m./Wagner Dining Hall) Gather with President Smith, faculty, staff, students, Advisory Board members, and alumni prior to robing for the ceremony.

Commencement Ceremony

(11 a.m./Ridilla Field; Chambers Gymnasium, if inclement weather)

If you're a parent, spouse, child, brother, sister, or grandparent of a Pitt-Greensburg graduate and Pitt alumnus (of any campus), you are invited to participate in the Legacy Diploma Presentations. Pitt alumni escort their graduates onto the stage, present them with their diploma covers, and have a photo taken together during the ceremony.



Process with this year's graduates!

Led by 2017 Alumni Marshall, Harry Bowser '72, alumni will take their seats in a designated area and enjoy the commencement ceremony, then form a queue to receive new alumni. Reception open to everyone following ceremony. Regalia must be worn to process and is available upon request.

All events are complimentary but online registration is required (visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/events). Deadline for registering for Commencement Breakfast and Ceremony is March 31.

Microscopy and Digital Imaging Lab Established on Campus

Continued from page 1



Sophomore Sterling Sin examines a slide using the new equipment in the Microscopy and Digital Imaging Lab established in Smith Hall.

Long fondly remembers Zach Weisner '13, that recent graduate of Georgetown University and now a Research Fellow with the National Institute of Health, who was a student during Long's first year at Pitt-Greensburg. "He was doing research and wanted to use digital imaging as part of his project," she says. At that time, Pitt-Greensburg had one set-up with those technical capabilities, making it difficult for Weisner to schedule use of the equipment. Long reached out to other professors and campuses and found a way for him to complete his project, but the situation stayed with her.

"That inspired us to pursue the idea of establishing a microscopy and digital imaging lab here on campus."

This past fall, renovations were completed by the Pitt-Greensburg Facilities and Computer and Telecommunications staff that created a dedicated space in Smith Hall to establish a microscopy and digital imaging lab (MDIL). A grant from the Eberly Foundation, along with additional funding from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and Pitt-Greensburg, brought this technology to campus. The MDIL features six student work stations along with one instructor station. Each station contains a stationary microscope capable of showing a bright field, phase contrast, dark field, and three-color fluorescence microscopy that is attached to a camera and computer with imaging software. The MDIL will be used with a variety of classes and labs.

"Not many undergraduate institutions offer these capabilities, so this really brings us up to the current technology," notes Long. "Incorporating the use of the MDIL into our students' experiences provides a valuable skill for them to take with them into the workplace or graduate school."

The MDIL is part of Pitt-Greensburg's ongoing efforts to maintain and improve campus facilities and technology in order to give students the best experiences possible. It is part of the campus' long-term strategic goals to create the liberal arts college for the 21st century that provides students with the digital expertise they will need in their chosen fields of study and careers.

Fall Sports Wrap-up

Men's and Women's Cross Country

Junior Kelsey Oddis (Lower Burrell, PA) and sophomore Daniel Spanner (Bethel Park, PA) finished in the top 15 and earned All-AMCC honors after their performances at the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) Championships. Both teams are under the direction of Dee Waters. The men's team finished in third place and the women's team finished in seventh place.

Earlier in the season, both Oddis and Spanner saw their season-best times at the Hood College Open, with Oddis setting a new school record of 25:09 in the women's 6K race and Spanner finishing the 8K event in 28:51. Oddis won her first college-career race early in the season at the Westmoreland County Community College Invitational.



Women's Tennis

Senior Sydney Geary (Somerset, PA) and junior Amanda Jepsen (Greensburg, PA) earned All-AMCC Second Team honors at #1 doubles. The duo posted a 6-4 overall record. The two also played in the Bobcats' top singles positions and posted a combined 11-8 record.

The team, coached by Maria Iovino '12, finished the season 4-5 overall and 3-4 in conference play, earning the number five seed in the AMCC Tournament.



Volleyball

Senior Lauren Tassone (Venetia, PA) was named to the Third Team All-AMCC for helping to guide Pitt-Greensburg to its most victories since 2008 and its first playoff berth since 2009. Tassone led the Bobcats in kills (194), kills per set (1.98), hitting percentage (.196), and was second in total attacks (598).

The Bobcats, coached by Klynn Smith '10, dropped a five-set battle to La Roche in the first round of the AMCC Tournament.



Golf

For the second-straight year, sophomore Javon Trout (Greensburg, PA) has earned AMCC Men's Golfer of the Year honors. Trout, who was named the 2015 AMCC Newcomer of the Year, led the conference with a 75.9 scoring average and claimed a top-five finish in seven of eight events this season. The team, coached by Tony Berich, finished fifth out of nine teams at the AMCC Championship Tournament.

Men's Soccer

Senior Austin Lonzo (Greensburg, PA) led the team in scoring with five goals for 10 points. Senior Jake Lauderbaugh (Aliquippa, PA) scored three goals and one assist for seven points, and senior Sean Baxendell (Venetia, PA) recorded two goals and one assist for five points this season. Sophomore Eric Trexler (Martinsburg, PA) led the team in assists with two, along with one goal, for four points.

The Pitt-Greensburg's Men's Soccer team, coached by Dan Keefe, finished the season 1-8 in the AMCC and 1-16 overall. The team's lone win came against Conference opponent Hilbert College late in the season.



Women's Soccer

Under the direction of Chuck Wigle, the Pitt-Greensburg Women's Soccer team finished the season 10-8-2 overall and 7-1-1 in the AMCC, earning the number two seed in the AMCC Tournament for only the second time in school history. The team won the program's first-ever semifinal game to move onto the championship game only to lose 2-0 to Pitt-Bradford.

Sophomore Bri Burgunder (Moon Township, PA) capped her season by being named to the 2016 National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Great Lakes Region Third Team and the First Team All-AMCC. She led the team and ranked fifth in the conference with 13 goals and 34 points. She also recorded eight assists.

Sophomore Kayleen Schwegler (Aliquippa, PA), the 2015 AMCC Newcomer of the Year, earned All-AMCC First Team Honors for her 10 goals, nine assists, and 29 points scored. Freshman Jessica Moore (West Newton, PA) earned AMCC Newcomer of the Year honors and was joined on the All-AMCC Second Team by freshman Tori Conroy (Perkasie, PA) who anchored a defensive unit that posted four shutouts and allowed just four goals over the final seven games leading up to the championship. Junior Camille Hickman (Pittsburgh, PA) earned Third Team All-AMCC honors for her six goals and two assists.



Class Notes

Bill Viola Jr. '99 was recognized by *Pittsburgh Magazine* as one of Pittsburgh's "40 Under 40," a group of outstanding people who are changing the City of Pittsburgh for the better. The list, which was published in November 2016, is considered to be the premier honor for young professionals in Western Pennsylvania. Viola is a leader in the martial arts industry and the author of *Godfathers of MMA*.



Jenn and Bill Viola Jr. '99

Carrie Smith Wittig '06 married Corey Wittig on June 25, 2016, at the Union Project in Pittsburgh, PA. She is employed as a Middle School Language Arts Teacher at Falk Laboratory School, a progressive K-8 school administered by the University of Pittsburgh.

Samantha Zecchini '10 and her husband, Anthony, announce the birth of their son Luca Mario Zecchini on June 22, 2016.



Luca Mario Zecchini

Brianna Braden '14, with Joshua Karadeema, announced the birth of their son Eric Michael on December 27, 2016. Eric weighed 7 lbs., 7 oz., and was 20.25" long.



Eric Michael Karadeema

Emily Johnston '15 is an event specialist and the assistant to the director of Events and Conferencing at the Youngwood campus of Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC).

Share your news! Go to <http://bit.ly/PGAA-AlumniUpdate> to update your information and tell us about the great things that are happening in your life.

Music at Pitt-Greensburg offers spring concerts

This spring, Music at Pitt-Greensburg will present several performances in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center during the month of April.

The month opens with the Pitt-Greensburg Chorale & Chamber Singers performing their annual Spring Concert under the direction of Christopher Bartley on April 6 and April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

On April 19 at 7:30 p.m., students participating in the voice or piano studies taught by Zach Rohlwing will perform their recital. The students develop their skills through one-on-one, individualized weekly lessons over the course of the semester, as well as in studio classes where they share their progress with fellow studio members.



The Heinz Chapel Choir will perform on April 21 at 8 p.m. as part of the Joan Chambers Concert Series. This internationally recognized a capella choir consists of talented students from the University of Pittsburgh. They are under the direction of Dr. Susan Rice, senior lecturer in Music at Pitt.

The Friday Evening Music Club's concert on April 28 at 7:30 p.m. will close the 2016-2017 season.

Pitt-Greensburg Pitt spring theatre production: *Shakespeare in Hollywood*

The Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company will present Ken Ludwig's *Shakespeare in Hollywood* as its 2017 spring production. The show will run from March 30 through April 2 in Ferguson Theater. Curtain time through April 1 is 7:30 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee performance set for April 2. Tickets, available at the door, are \$10 (regular) and \$5 (students, seniors, and Pitt ID).

This year, the company's theme of Thoughts and Dreams of Love evolved from William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, upon which *Shakespeare in Hollywood* is based. The production is under the direction of Stephen Schrum, PhD, associate professor of Theater Arts.

Among those Pitt-Greensburg students performing in this production are Matthew Burch (Oberon), Samantha McGuigan (Puck), Brandon Farneth (Max Reinhardt), Brandon Levine (Jack Warner), Lauren McGuigan (Wilma Hays), Becca Beaumont (Olivia Darnell/Hermia), Kaitlyn Schmidt (Lydia Lansing/Helena), and Steph Jenkins (Louella Parsons).

In 1934, famous German director Max Reinhardt came to the US to stage his production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Hollywood Bowl, and then pursued the idea of turning the play into a movie. In this play, as Reinhardt attempts to inflict his overactive imagination on Hollywood bean-counting producers, the real Oberon and Puck appear, finding themselves far from their native Athenian Woods. The two quickly "go Hollywood," and initiate many farcical antics and mismatched pairings that result from the nectar of that familiar flower from Shakespeare's play. Oh, what chaos and hilarity arises from the mixture of fools, Shakespeare, and movie stars!

The original play was commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company, had its world premiere in 2003 at Arena Stage, and won the Helen Hays award for Best New Play of the Year. Ludwig, who has had six shows on Broadway, is probably best known for *Lend Me A Tenor* and *Crazy for You*, which was performed for five years on Broadway and the West End, winning the Tony Award for best musical.

In one of its reviews, the play is described by *The Baltimore Sun* as both "poignant and funny, literary and farcical, sophisticated and silly, political and fanciful, high-brow and low-brow . . . a delight!"

Continued from back cover

Spring Events

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

April 23

Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association's Senior Sendoff will be held at 6 p.m. Watch for details about where it will be held and how you can participate.

April 29

Pitt-Greensburg will hold its annual **Commencement** on Ridilla Field (inclement weather: Chambers Gymnasium) at 11 a.m. Alumni planning to participate should email pgaa@pitt.edu to register. Tickets are required for this event and are distributed to the graduates.

May 5

Picture book author Suzanne Bloom and YA author Jay Asher headline the **2017 Pitt-Greensburg Children's Literature Conference**. Visit www.library.piee.edu/annual-childrens-literature-conference for details and to register.

May 10

Transfer Decision Day offers an accelerated application process where applications are reviewed that day. After paying the tuition deposit, admitted students schedule their courses for the upcoming semester. A \$45 application fee waiver to Pitt-Greensburg is offered to students who attend and bring all official transcripts and test scores needed for the application review. Call 724-836-9880 to register.

May 17

Register for the **Admissions Evening Information Session** to meet with an admissions counselor and tour the campus with a current student. The program begins at 5 p.m. and lasts approximately two hours. Call 724-836-9880 to register.

May 29

Campus is closed in observance of the **Memorial Day** holiday.

June

Watch for details about **Pitt Networking Day** and the **Pirates Tailgate** (PNC Park).

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!



Spring Events

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

March 5-12

No classes will be held during **Spring Recess** but offices and buildings remain open through March 9. Campus will be closed March 10 for Spring Holiday.

March 8

Register for the **free FAFSA Completion sessions** offered by the Office of Financial Aid between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. in McKenna 137. Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/fafsa to register and find out what materials are needed for the completion process.

March 18

Pitt-Greensburg is planning its first-ever **Relay for Life** event from noon until 8 p.m. in Chambers Hall Gymnasium. Watch for details on how you might participate!

March 21

Watch for more details about this year's **Pitt Day in Harrisburg** and how you can influence our state lawmakers through your story. Visit <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/pittdayharrisburg>.

March 30-April 2

The **Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company** will present Ken Ludwig's *Shakespeare in Hollywood* in Ferguson Theater. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. except for the April 2 matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets, available at the door, are \$10 (regular) and \$5 (students, seniors, Pitt ID).

April 5

The **Career and Internship Fair** will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Chambers Hall Gymnasium. Remember to bring your resume and check www.greensburg.pitt.edu/career-services/fair for details as they are posted.

Pitt-Greensburg will screen *The Muslims are Coming*, a documentary about a group of Muslim comedians performing nationally and their interactions with people. A Q&A with the filmmakers will occur after the movie. Join us at 7 p.m. in Ferguson Theater.

April 6 & 7

The **Pitt-Greensburg Chorale & Chamber Singers** will present their annual spring concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

April 8

Register and attend the **Admissions Discovery Day** for an in-depth look at Pitt-Greensburg. Meet with a professor, learn about financial aid options, and tour the campus. A \$45 application fee waiver to Pitt-Greensburg is offered to students who have not yet applied. Call 724-836-9880 to register.

April 10

Pitt-Greensburg's **Written/Spoken Series** features authors and poets who read and discuss their work in an intimate setting. The next event will be held at 7 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

April 19

The **voice and piano students of Zach Rohlwing** will present a recital at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

April 21

Pitt-Greensburg will host **Humanities Day** for local high school students. Participating students can compete in the areas of foreign languages, music, art, theatre, film, writing, and literature. Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/humanitiesday for details.

April 21

The **Joan Chambers Concert Series** presents the Heinz Chapel Choir, who will perform at 8 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

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150 Finoli Drive
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From the Archives

Were you a member of the Engineer's Club in the spring of 1969?



Then you may remember meeting at Lynch Hall. We'd love to hear from you about your memories of the Engineer's Club. Help us to identify who is in this photo, too!

Share your photos and memories with us at <http://greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/share-your-pitt-greensburg-memory>.