

# Blue & Gold

## Katz Immersion MBA to be offered at Pitt-Greensburg

Pitt-Greensburg partners with Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business to present new MBA program in Westmoreland County

Working professionals now have another option to choose from when deciding to pursue an MBA, thanks to collaboration between the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and the University of Pittsburgh's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. The Katz Immersion MBA (KIMBA) is a unique blend of the high caliber Katz MBA and the convenience of the beautiful Pitt-Greensburg campus, located in easily accessible Westmoreland County.

KIMBA will assemble students from diverse experiences and provide an intensive MBA education by immersing them in course work for three days a month over a two-year period. Admission requirements, total credits, and the curriculum design are consistent with the existing Katz School part-time MBA program.

"The Katz Immersion MBA program was designed with the working professional in mind," Dr. Sharon Smith, president of Pitt-Greensburg, noted. "The staff and faculty of the KIMBA program understand the difficult juggling act that comes with attending a master's program while working full-time and finding time for a life at home. The environment will be intensive, professional, team-driven, and flexible."

Classes will be offered at Pitt-Greensburg one weekend per month, Friday through Sunday. Students will be enrolled in a six-term, cohort-based program and be required to complete 52.5 credits to earn the MBA degree. To be admitted to the program, students are required to have completed at least three years of post-undergraduate work experience.

This high-caliber, rigorous program will provide the opportunity for experience-based learning, exposure to entrepreneurship, an understanding of the principles of supply chain management and value chain management, and a global business perspective. Included in the curriculum is a 10- to 12-day trip to various businesses in a selected region of the world (Eastern Europe, Latin America, or Asia)

specifically for individual or team research during visits with selected organizations and/or companies, talks with management, and exploration of business practices.

**Hour-long information sessions will be held at Pitt-Greensburg on July 15 (8 a.m.), July 16 (6 p.m.), July 18 (10 a.m.), and July 20 (12:30 p.m.).** For additional information, visit [www.business.pitt.edu/immersion.html](http://www.business.pitt.edu/immersion.html). Call 724-836-9893 or email [upgKIMBA@pitt.edu](mailto:upgKIMBA@pitt.edu) for an information packet. ▲



## Pitt-Greensburg administrator and professor left indelible mark on campus

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg is saddened by the loss of Dr. Carl Poke, *emeritus* professor of political science, who died February 23.



The first appointment made by President Albert Smith in 1963, Dr. Poke served as the assistant to the president for academic affairs and is credited with establishing the academic mission for Pitt-Greensburg. In 1972, he initiated the first four-year degree program in management for the campus under the auspices of the College of General Studies, and, in 1989, he was named academic dean when Pitt-Greensburg achieved degree-granting status. Dr. Poke returned to teaching as a professor of political science in 1991 and was awarded the 2004 President's Medal for Distinguished Service. He officially retired from Pitt-Greensburg in 2005.

A memorial service was held April 2 in the Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

*Contributions in memory of Dr. Carl Poke may be made to the Carl A. and Florence R. Poke Endowment Fund for student travel or the Carl F. Poke Endowment Fund for Millstein Library at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. For more information, please call 724-836-9942 or send an email to [kraising@pitt.edu](mailto:kraising@pitt.edu). ▲*



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# Message from the President

Today's careers emphasize the knowledge, skills, and reputation of the individual: success is linked to a person's own set of skills. The individual has the responsibility to acquire those skills in the first place and to keep them up to date. This suggests a society dedicated to the idea of continuous learning and ready to reinvent itself to keep pace with change.

The Katz Immersion MBA (KIMBA) program has the potential to be a major component in assisting individuals in acquiring the skills they need to be competitive in today's changing job market. It was designed to fit the demands of today's lifestyle—a juggling act for most of us. Instead of requiring a three- to four-year commitment and class attendance two or three times a week, KIMBA will allow participants to finish a degree in two years by attending classes one weekend a month. We are proud to be able to bring the distinguished Joseph M. Katz Business School experience to the Pitt-Greensburg campus.

This new graduate program marks a milestone in the 45-year history of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg—a milestone we hope will be the first of many as we explore new and innovative ways to bring quality educational opportunities to Westmoreland County and beyond.

We continually look for ways to fulfill our mission to enrich people's lives and enhance the communities in which they live. Our summer programs for middle school science teachers, middle school students, and high school students are part of this effort. By providing these programs, we are able to share the resources of our world class university and augment the overall educational experience of our region. (See the Summer Events listed on page 8.)

One of the greatest resources we have is our students, and we extend our congratulations to the Class of 2009 as they transition from their university experience to the work place. We believe their Pitt-Greensburg education has prepared them to face the challenges of the future, equipped with skills they will need to embrace the opportunities that await them. (Highlights from Commencement can found on pages 4 and 5.)

We also express our congratulations to Vanessa Reynolds, Dr. Larry Whatule, and our athletic teams. All three have achieved significant milestones in their careers this past spring.

Vanessa, a sophomore finance major, received a \$5,000 international travel study award from the Vira I. Heinz Endowment of Pittsburgh. She will spend six weeks studying at "Pitt in London" this summer.

Dr. Whatule, now Associate Professor *Emeritus* of Communication, begins his retirement with plans to study Italian, travel, and play the bodhran. We are grateful for his contributions to the Communications department and the University during these past 41 years.

The women's basketball team posted the most successful season in campus history, winning the AMCC regular season championship—for the first time in school history—and an invitation to the NCAA Division III women's basketball championship tournament. Our spring sports teams also broke new ground in the AMCC playoffs. The baseball team advanced to the final four and the softball team advanced to the second round of their respective playoffs. ▲



Sharon P. Smith, Ph.D.  
*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  
upgmedia@pitt.edu

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

## Building Relationships: State Representative Mike Reese

*This is the first in a series of articles highlighting local governmental officials and their connection to the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.*



His greatest concern is spending in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, an issue that was central to his campaign platform.

“If increased spending continues while taxes continue to increase and the state becomes less friendly for job creators, we, as a state, are greatly reducing opportunities for our future generations,” Rep. Reese explained. “I want my children to have

Pennsylvania State Representative Mike Reese began his first term in office in January 2009. He represents the 59<sup>th</sup> District, which is made up of parts of Westmoreland and Fayette counties. A member of the Commerce, Education, and Gaming Oversight committees, he also is the Republican Secretary of the Commerce committee.

Prior to his election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Rep. Reese served as Assistant Director of Finance for Westmoreland County. Some of our alumni might remember Rep. Reese as the admissions counselor who helped them through the application process during the time he worked in the Admissions Office here.

Rep. Reese remains connected to Pitt-Greensburg through his aunt, Mary Lynn

Yothers (Class of 1980) who is President-Elect of the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association, and Rachel Moreland, a legislative assistant on his staff and wife of Dr. Brian Moreland (Class of 1998). Rep. Reese understands the importance of an education, especially in the current economy.

“Without my bachelor’s degree in education and my MBA, I certainly wouldn’t have had the professional opportunities and experience that I have had,” he said. “My education allows me to understand issues that come before the House, specifically the financial consequences. I believe my education also makes me an asset to the committees on which I serve.”

He advises others to get involved. “It is important to be active in your local community. Find a candidate that you support and help with his or her campaign.”

opportunities to lead successful lives in Pennsylvania.”

Introducing his first piece of legislation, House Bill 992, with Rep. Tim Krieger is his most memorable moment thus far as an elected official. Still assigned to committee for consideration, this bill would require all state agencies that receive stimulus funds to report to the General Assembly how they intend to use the funds and the impact of the funds before the funds are distributed by the legislature. ▲

*Pictured above: Representative Mike Reese (right) visited the Pitt-Greensburg campus in April where he met with students Sergey Blyakhbor (Class of 2009), Kristi Cummins (Class of 2009), and Cory Stinedurf (Class of 2013).*

## Pitt Day in Harrisburg

Pitt students from Oakland, Greensburg, and Bradford campuses participated in “Pitt Day in Harrisburg” on March 17. Members and staff of both the House and Senate attended, as did others from the different state departments, including the Governor’s office. More than 250 legislative visits were made, marking a significant increase over last year’s 100 visits.

For more than 15 years, members of the Alumni Legislative Network (ALN) have annually traveled to Harrisburg to meet with elected officials and to be the voice of Pitt. “Pitt Day in Harrisburg” has given members of the General Assembly an opportunity to talk with alumni, faculty, and students about their work and to gain a first-hand perspective of the challenges and changes facing public higher education. ▲

*Pictured at right: Pitt-Greensburg students (from left) Sean Cercone (Class of 2012), Cory Stinedurf (Class of 2013), Sergey Blyakhbor (Class of 2009), Austin Davis (Class of 2015), and Amanda Zacur (Class of 2011) had the opportunity to meet with Senator Kim Ward (center) during Pitt Day in Harrisburg.*



# Commencement 2009

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg held its 21<sup>st</sup> Commencement on Saturday, April 25, at Ridilla Field for 176 of the 280 students graduating this year.

Mr. Michael D. Jones, chief operating officer of PBS (Public Broadcasting System), gave the Commencement address.

**Dr. Thad Zaleskiewicz, professor *emeritus*, received the President's Award for Distinguished Service.**

A leader in math and science education, he has educated Pitt-Greensburg students in physics for 45 years. In collaboration with other Pitt-Greensburg faculty, he has helped to design a science education program that promises to be a model of PK-12 teacher preparation and to inspire today's youth to pursue careers in science. This award is the highest honor at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

**The Alumni of Distinction Award was given to Justin Merriman '00.** A Greensburg native, he earned a degree in English writing and has worked as a photojournalist since 1999 covering stories across the United States and world. Mr. Merriman's photography has been recognized and honored with local and national awards. He continues his work in photojournalism, striving to make images that reveal humanity and document the world around him.

**Dr. Melissa J. Marks, associate professor of education, received the PGAA Outstanding Faculty Award** for her excellence in the classroom and her devotion to the development of students and programs at Pitt-Greensburg. Dr. Marks is currently working on a proposal for the development of an education major at the University. Dr. Marks co-created the "Early College Experience" pilot program with the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit and local schools for college-bound high school students with disabilities.

**Ashley Smith, a junior psychology major, was the recipient of the 2009 PGAA Community Service Award.** Watch for photos and an article about her volunteer activities in the Fall issue of the *Blue and Gold*.

**Photo A:** Michael D. Jones, chief operating officer of PBS and the 2009 Commencement speaker.

**Photo B:** Dr. Sharon Smith (left) and Dr. Thad Zaleskiewicz.

**Photo C:** Justin Merriman (Class of 2000) (left) and Dr. Brian Moreland (Class of 1998), PGAA president.

**Photo D:** Dr. Melissa J. Marks and Dr. Brian Moreland (Class of 1998), PGAA president.

**Photo E:** Joyce Dramel (Class of 1997) (left), Marshal for Alumni Leaders, and Dr. Brian Moreland (Class of 1998), PGAA president.

**Photo F:** Graduates prepare to approach the stage during the presentation of diplomas.

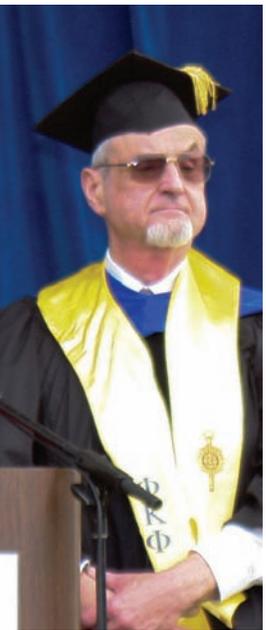
**Photo G:** The Parents Dinner, held Friday evening after Commencement practice, allows students to say thank you to their parents.

**Photo H:** Dr. Beverly A. Gaddy, Grand Marshal, leads the procession onto the field.

**Photo I:** Graduates process past Lynch Hall.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERT CIFONE PHOTOGRAPHY





# “I often marveled at how much we were able to accomplish...”



## Dr. Whatule making plans for retirement

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg has named Larry Whatule, PhD, Associate Professor *Emeritus* of Communication in recognition of his 41 years of service to the University. He celebrated with a trip to England and Belgium with his wife and daughter and is making plans to study Italian and learn to play the bodhran, a Celtic drum. “I have enjoyed the environment at Pitt-Greensburg, having had the opportunity to work closely with many people over the years,” said Dr. Whatule, recipient of the 2001 PGAA Outstanding Faculty Award and 2001 Pitt-Greensburg Distinguished Teaching Award. “I often marveled at how much we were able to accomplish, usually with scarce resources, but I think those accomplishments are a testament to the resourcefulness of both the faculty and staff.”

## Legacy Diploma Presentations

A highlight of the April 25 Commencement Ceremony were the 18 PGAA Legacy Presentations by parents to their graduating sons or daughters. As Pitt Alumni, these parents were able to escort their children onto the stage and present their diplomas to them. Contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 724-836-7496 or upgalum@pitt.edu if you're an alumnus who would like to present a diploma to your son, daughter, or parent when he or she graduates in Spring 2010.

*Leslie Long (center) poses with her mother, Cynthia Long (Class of 1984) and Dr. Sharon P. Smith (right), President of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. This photo was taken during the 2009 Commencement Ceremony when Ms. Long presented her daughter, Leslie, with her diploma.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT CIFONE PHOTOGRAPHY



## Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing 2009

Mark your calendar for September 25 and plan to join us at the Greensburg Country Club for our annual golf outing to benefit Alumni, Athletics, and the President's Scholarship. The day begins with a shot gun start at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. with a delicious grilled lunch, prizes, and awards. Cost for an individual golfer is \$150 and a foursome is \$600. Use the registration form enclosed with this newsletter or visit [www.upg.pitt.edu](http://www.upg.pitt.edu) for more information.

Our thanks to the companies who have already committed to be sponsors for this year's outing:

- **Front Nine:** Elliott Company
- **Putting Green:** Wal-Mart
- **Tee Sponsors:** T.A. Nelson Bus Lines, Inc.; Stewart, McCardle, Sorice, Whalen, Farrell, Finoli, & Cavanaugh, LLC

## Planning a wedding?

If you, or a family member, are planning a wedding, why not consider getting married in the new Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center located on the Pitt-Greensburg campus? This beautiful facility was built in memory of Mary Lou Campana and is only available to those people who have a direct affiliation with the University. We are now accepting reservations for ceremonies. Visit <http://www.upg.pitt.edu/Alumni/weddings.aspx> for wedding photos and information.



## Lady Bobcats win Conference and finish 22-2



Lindsay Littler cuts down the "net" after the Conference Championship game.

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg women's basketball team had the most successful season in school history. The Lady Bobcats finished the regular season with a 22-2 record and won the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate

Conference regular season championship for the first time in school history. Pitt-Greensburg entered the 2009 AMCC tournament as the number one seed and host of the AMCC final four.

In the first round, the Lady Bobcats knocked out three-time defending conference champion Medaille College by a score of 61-49, earning them a berth in the championship game with rival La Roche College. After leading by just three points at the half, Pitt-Greensburg went on to defeat La Roche by 21 points, 67-46, to earn their second AMCC tournament title and their third



entry into the Division III NCAA Tournament.

The Lady Bobcats traveled to Hope College in Holland, MI, as huge underdogs for their first round matchup against Baldwin-Wallace College out of Cleveland. Pitt-Greensburg played

Baldwin-Wallace tough and even held a 22-21 lead after one half. The Lady Bobcats continued to battle hard in the second half but came up short and eventually fell 52-44 to Baldwin-Wallace.

Pitt-Greensburg finished the year with a 24-3 record, and three members of the squad were named to all-conference teams. Kelsey Wilcox was the 2009 AMCC player of the year and a first team all-conference selection. Senior Nicole Reiser was also a first team selection, and Amanda Sheaffer was honorable mention. ▲

## Buncher Family Foundation awards \$10,000 grant to "Green Scholar" program

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg has received a \$10,000 grant from the Buncher Family Foundation to support the "Green Scholar" program, slated to begin in fall 2009. Through this new program, the University will select the best and brightest students in each of three academic divisions to work collaboratively with faculty doing research.

"We are grateful to the Buncher Family Foundation for their support of this program," said Dr. Sharon P. Smith, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. "This program will allow our best students to advance in their understanding of their majors while earning good stipends as research assistants working with faculty members on specific scholarly projects."

At the end of each academic year, sophomore students in each academic division who meet specific criteria will be offered the position of "Green Scholar." They will remain in the program during their junior and seniors years, as long as they maintain their grades and faculty recommendation.

Opportunities to support the "Green Scholar" program continue to be available. Contact Linda Morlacci, manager of Foundation Relations, at 724-836-9892 or [llm33@pitt.edu](mailto:llm33@pitt.edu) for more information.

## Quest 2009 receives community support

Four regional organizations and two individuals are partnering with the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg through their sponsorship of this year's Quest 2009: Finding Your Future:

- Career Horizons of the Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette;
- Excelsa Health;
- IQ, Inc.;
- The Thorne Group;
- Eileen & Kevin Van Fleet.

June 30, 2009 – July 31, 2009

### Quest 2009: Finding Your Future Summer Camp

High school students will have the opportunity to explore career options during one-day seminars at Pitt-Greensburg. Exploration 101 will be offered June 30 and July 7 for undecided students. Pathways to Professions are one-day themed seminars designed for the student with an interest in a particular area (Web Design/IT—July 27; Engineering—July 28; Business Management & Marketing—July 29; Forensics/Criminal Justice—July 30; Health Care—July 31). Registration is \$25 per day and scholarships are available.

Call 724-838-8040 or visit [www.upg.pitt.edu/Quest2009](http://www.upg.pitt.edu/Quest2009) for more information.

# Summer Events

**June 29, 2009 – July 3, 2009**

## ■ Summer Science and Math Experience:

Pitt-Greensburg welcomes students from the Greater Latrobe Junior High School who will participate in hands-on science and math activities designed to explore careers in astronomy, biology, physics, and chemistry. This week-long, residential program will include a trip to a research nuclear reactor and is taught by faculty from our world-class university. (Registration for this program is closed.)

## ■ Summer Orientation and Academic

**Registration (SOAR):** First-year, full-time students will be on campus for SOAR June 25- 26, July 9-10, and July 23-24.

■ **Katz Immersion MBA:** Join us in Lynch 102 for information sessions on the new Katz Immersion MBA program. Call 724-836-9893 to register for the date and time you plan to attend.

- July 15 at 8 a.m.
- July 16 at 6 p.m.
- July 18 at 10 a.m.
- July 20 at 12:30 p.m.

**July 20, 2009 – July 22, 2009**

## ■ The Sun, the Solar System, and the Science

**Grade 8 Assessment Anchors:** Pitt-Greensburg will offer a three-day, hands-on workshop for middle school science teachers to prepare them for the 2009 International Year of Astronomy and the Grade 8 Science Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). This workshop is being offered as part of Pitt-Greensburg's Institute for Continued Learning and will feature inquiry-based, hands-on activities designed to stimulate student interest in topics concerning the Sun and the Solar System. For more information, visit [www.upg.pitt.edu](http://www.upg.pitt.edu).

■ **Summer Previews:** Pitt-Greensburg invites soon-to-be seniors and their families to campus for our Summer Preview Program! Call 724-836-9880 to register for the July 18 and August 15 sessions.

**August 2009**

■ **Watch for the launch of our new Web site!**

**August 27, 2009**

■ **Students Move In**

**August 28, 2009**

■ **First Year Student Convocation**

**August 30, 2009**

■ **Welcome Back/"Big Bang"**

**August 31, 2009**

■ **Classes Start**



## University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Lynch Hall 209  
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## Discover Yourself... Discover Your World

### Class notes ...

**Megan Walsh (Class of 2007)** recently was named one of "Pittsburgh's 50 Finest" by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. "Pittsburgh's 50 Finest" honors Pittsburgh's most eligible men and women for their charitable activity and success in their careers. Walsh and the other members of the Class of 2009 will be raising funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation culminating with a party at the Omni William Penn Hotel on August 20. Walsh serves as treasurer of the Pittsburgh Young Professionals board of directors and works as a financial services associate at Prudential Financial ([www.prudential.com/us/megan.e.walsh](http://www.prudential.com/us/megan.e.walsh)). While attending Pitt-Greensburg, she served two terms as Student Senate President.



**Brian Root (Class of 2004)**, a Resident Director at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, was recently elected to serve a two-year term as the Communications Commission Chair of the Pennsylvania College Personnel Association (PCPA). In his new position, he will sit on the association's executive board and oversee and recommend appropriate action affecting overall policy of PCPA publications such as the e-newsletter, web site, and alternate recruitment publicity. PCPA is one of Pennsylvania's primary professional associations in the student development/student affairs profession.

**Kevin Conlon (Class of 2005)** is a studio production researcher for the ESPN television network in Bristol, CT. He began working for the network in August 2007 and currently works as a researcher for ESPN's new SportsCenter segment that airs each weekday from noon to 3 p.m. He says, "It's great to work at and get paid for doing something that any sports fan like myself would also consider to be a hobby. This is a dream job."

**Brian Skatell**, a former Pitt-Greensburg student, was a participant in the Golf Channel's "Big Break." For more information, visit [www.thegolfchannel.com](http://www.thegolfchannel.com) and follow the links for "TV Shows" and "Big Break Prince Edward Island."

**New job, new house, moving, other good news to share?**  
Contact Pitt-Greensburg Office of Alumni Affairs at 724-836-7496 or [upgalum@pitt.edu](mailto:upgalum@pitt.edu).