First Annual Blue & Gold Weekend Planned

Alumni, students, parents, and friends are invited to the first annual Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2011 scheduled Friday, September 30, through Sunday, October 1.

A variety of activities are planned that will appeal to alumni, students, and families. Highlighting the list are the Annual Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing and the inaugural Blue & Gold 5K Run/Walk presented by UPMC Health Plan. Both events are designed to allow alumni and friends of Pitt-Greensburg to enjoy their favorite pastimes while supporting the University and its programs. Registration details may be found on pages 4 and 5 or at www.greensburg.pitt.edu.

Other activities planned for the weekend include a trip to the Cathedral of Learning’s Nationality Rooms, Welcome Back Receptions sponsored by various groups on campus, an Alumni Reception and Dinner, and the Blue & Gold Festival. Live entertainment, a bonfire, and an outdoor movie will also be featured.

“Many of our alumni have such strong memories of their time here at Pitt-Greensburg,” said Jodi Kraisinger, director of University Relations and Institutional Advancement. “We hope that our alumni will take this opportunity to return to campus to see the changes, visit with friends, and re-establish relationships with faculty and staff.”

When asked, alumni are quick to share their favorite things about Pitt-Greensburg and their memories.

For Jessica Dick ’09, it was that everyone cared about the students. She notes, “Both faculty and staff really took an interest in me and wanted to help me to succeed both in and out of the classroom.”

Robert Merda ’85 credits Pitt-Greensburg with giving him the ability to succeed in life. Today, his daughter Mallory is a student here, and they plan to participate in the Legacy Diploma Presentation when she graduates. “Because I went to Pitt-Greensburg, I enjoyed a great education and start to my career,” says Merda.

David Ranf ’97 notes that his fondest memory of Pitt-Greensburg is meeting his wife here. He notes that each faculty member who taught him made his or her mark in one or more ways.
If there is one thing that is constant in our world, it is change. Here at Pitt-Greensburg we continue to initiate changes that we believe will provide a better learning experience for our students and continue to enhance our strong liberal arts academic programs and facilities.

One of the most visible changes happening on campus this year is the construction of the Sustainable Office and Classroom (SOC) Building. We invite you to watch this construction from our web site www.greensburg.pitt.edu (just click on the box labeled “Building Construction Live Video”). Watch for more details about the building and its features in future issues of Blue & Gold.

Other renovation projects occurred over the summer and include HVAC renovations in Chambers Hall and Smith Hall, as well as new carpeting in areas of the Faculty Office Building (FOB), Powers Hall, Millstein Library, and Robertshaw Hall.

The Campus Beautification Community Circle has been busy, too. This spring and summer, they initiated projects that have enhanced the aesthetics of our campus as well as providing outdoor seating areas that build community among students, faculty, and staff. Students living in Westmoreland Hall are now greeted at the entrance of their residence hall with a small courtyard that features several tables and chairs and other seating areas. Smith Hall Lounge, frequented by our students who commute, also received a minor facelift this summer when new couches and chairs replaced the much-used furniture there.

I look forward to welcoming you back to see these changes and improvements for yourself when you return for Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2011. A full schedule of activities is planned for alumni and students--much of it family-friendly, too. Please be sure to check the schedule of events in this issue of Blue & Gold, as well as at our web site, and make plans now to attend.

Hail to Pitt!

Sharon P. Smith, PhD
President
Alumni Profile: Megan Byers ’03

At Pitt-Greensburg, I studied . . . English Writing and Education.

The thing that drew me to Pitt-Greensburg was . . . the size of the campus. I was definitely not suited for the size of the Oakland campus . . . When applying to schools, I only applied to Pitt-Greensburg. In retrospect, I suppose I didn’t exactly grasp the fact that a college had the ability to deny an application; I was fairly trusting that I would be accepted!

My first impression of Pitt-Greensburg was . . . “I love this place!” It was the perfect transition for me into college life, especially in terms of class size. I think a few of the other initial highlights that impressed me were the fact that I didn’t have to share a bathroom with an entire floor of girls, and the Dining Hall (which is even more amazing now).

My favorite memories from being a student are . . . the school-sponsored trips. I traveled to Boston with the Student Activities Board for a conference. I also went to Cleveland and New York City with trips through the campus. They were the perfect chance to get away and were budget-friendly. Specifically during the Cleveland trip, we were eating at a restaurant when a waitress came to our table and asked if we were going to the Cleveland Cavalier’s game (we weren’t). A season ticket holder had left his tickets at the bar and they gave them to us for free. The seats were only four rows from the court. These trips definitely provided great memories!

The faculty member(s) who had the greatest influence on me were . . . (here comes a list!) Lori Jakiela helped to initially open me up to writing during my first semester. I actually started at Pitt-Greensburg as a business major because I had been turned off to English writing/literature toward the end of high school. Lori allowed me to see the freedom in writing—a freedom that a student just does not get to have in high school. Stephen Murabouto was my greatest influence for short stories/creative writing. Richard Blevins/Judith Vollmer were my influences for poetry. Perhaps I should have summed this up by saying, “The Pitt-Greensburg English Department greatly influenced me.”

After Pitt-Greensburg, I . . . originally decided to take a short break from school before returning for the Master’s of Arts in Teaching. After graduation, the reality of adult life began making it difficult to get back to that Master’s program. I began working at Starbucks Coffee as a Barista about six months after college graduation. I grew with the company and was at the Store Manager position when I left Starbucks in 2010. Starbucks allowed me to enjoy great opportunities including a trip to New Orleans to help rebuild homes after Hurricane Katrina.

I am currently . . . in Customer Service and Sales with the Kurt J. Lesker Company. We specialize in Vacuum Sciences (not vacuum cleaners!). Vacuum Technology is commonly used for research at the University and Government levels. It is also used as production in industries such as automotive and solar energy. When I was enrolled in my many English classes, I would have never guessed I would be using the Periodic Table on a daily basis! It is an extremely interesting field and each day I never know what will come across my desk.

Would you, or an alum you know, be interested in sharing your story? The PGAA wants to hear from you! Email upgalum@pitt.edu and tell us why you or someone you know would like to be interviewed, and you, he, or she could be our next Alumni Spotlight.

Call for Nominations: PGAA Alumnus of Distinction

Nominations are now being accepted for the PGAA Alumnus of Distinction. To make a nomination, visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Alumni and click on the link for the Alumnus of Distinction Nomination Form. Deadline for submitting nominations is September 9.

This award acknowledges excellence among alumni at Pitt-Greensburg. All candidates must have graduated from or completed courses at Pitt-Greensburg.

Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of their:

• outstanding level of professional achievement;
• service to the community;
• service to the University of Pittsburgh;
• special recognition or honors;
• other special efforts or success.

The recipient will be asked to attend as many PGAA events as possible from October through April. He/she must be able to attend Commencement activities on April 28, 2012. He/she will be required to attend the breakfast prior to Commencement. While not required to speak at the Commencement ceremony, the award winner will be recognized during the remarks of the PGAA president.
Blue & Gold Weekend
Alumni Events

Annual Golf Outing
Friday, September 30
Greensburg Country Club
8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
“Best Ball” Scramble

Golf with Steelers greats:
Robin Cole and Louis Lipps!
Free round of golf at
Greensburg Country Club
Hole-in-One prize
at each par 3 hole
$125 per golfer/$500 per foursome
100 percent of net proceeds benefit the
President’s Scholarship Fund, PGAA,
and Athletics

UPMC Health Plan
presents the
Blue & Gold 5K
Run/Walk
Saturday, October 1
at Pitt-Greensburg
6:30 a.m. registration\8 a.m. Start

Awards & Prizes
Plus: 1-mile Fun Run &
Children’s 100-meter sprint!
Adults: $20*
Children (10 and under): $10*
*Add $5 after 9/9.
100 percent of net proceeds
benefit the PGAA and Sigma Tau Delta

Reunion Breakfasts
Celebrating Class Years:
9:30 a.m to 10:30 a.m. in Wagner Dining Hall
Catch up with friends while enjoying a
delicious brunch with special seating

Not a member of one of these classes?
Join us for brunch from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
in Wagner Dining Hall
$6 per person

Welcome Back Alumni Reception & Dinner
Meet and visit with fellow alumni
at a special reception and dinner hosted by the
Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association

Reception at 5:30 p.m.
followed by dinner
at 6 p.m. in the
Hempfield Room
Pre-registration required
$25 per person

Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend
to register for all of these events!
Friday, September 30

8:30 a.m.  Pitt-Greensburg Annual Golf Outing (Greensburg Country Club; $$; Registration at 7:30 a.m.)
10 a.m.  Trip to Nationality Rooms (Round trip from Greensburg to Oakland)
4:30 p.m.  Welcome Back Receptions (Various locations on campus)
6:30 p.m.  Luau with Tuika’s Polynesian Island Magic (Chambers Lawn)
8:30 p.m.  Campus Bonfire with campfire food & entertainment (Volleyball Courts)
9 p.m.  Outdoor Movie “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides”
(Chambers Lawn/Rain Location: Chambers Gymnasium)

Saturday, October 1

8 a.m.  UPMC Health Plan presents the Blue & Gold 5K Race
(Smith Hall Parking Lot; $$; Registration at 6:30 a.m.)
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  Pancake Paradise Breakfast for students, alumni, & Admissions visitors (Chambers Lawn)
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  Brunch (Wagner Dining Hall; $$ for anyone without a meal plan)
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  Blue & Gold Hospitality Tent (Chambers Lawn)
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  Campus Bookstore Open (Chambers Hall)
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  Complimentary Photos with Bruiser (Chambers Hall Flag Poles)
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  Ronnie Andrews Fitness Center Open (Chambers Hall)
(Wagner Dining Hall; $$)
10 a.m.  Admissions Open House Event (Ferguson Theater)
11 a.m.  Memorial Service for deceased members of the Pitt-Greensburg community
(Mary Lou Campana Chapel & Lecture Center)
11:15 a.m. - 4 p.m.  Blue & Gold Festival (Chambers Lawn)
Noon - 1 p.m.  JD Eicher & the Goodnights Band (Chambers Lawn)
1 p.m.  Announcement of the Homecoming Court (Chambers Lawn)
1 p.m.  Men’s Soccer Game v. Penn State-Behrend (Ridilla Field)
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.  PittPALS Tours (Depart at 1 p.m., 1:30 p.m., & 2 p.m. from Alumni Pavilion)
3 p.m.  Women’s Soccer Game v. Penn State-Behrend (Ridilla Field)
5:30 p.m.  Alumni Reception followed by Alumni Dinner (Hempfield Room; $$)
8 p.m.  Student Blue & Gold Homecoming Ball (Blue Moon Barn; $$)

Sunday, October 2

11 a.m.  Closing Service (Mary Lou Campana Chapel & Lecture Center)
11:30 a.m.  Tailgate Brunch (Wagner Dining Hall; $$ for anyone without a meal plan)
1 p.m.  Steelers @ Houston Game Watch (Wagner Dining Hall)

Bruiser says: “Register Today!”
Check www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend for the most up-to-date schedule and details.
Various organizations are planning Welcome Back Receptions to open the Blue & Gold Weekend festivities Friday, September 30. Be sure to stop by the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association’s Welcome Back Reception at 4:30 p.m. in Lynch Hall.

Other groups planning receptions include: Village Alumni, Sigma Tau Delta and English Department Alumni, Resident Assistant Alumni, Performing Arts Society Alumni, and SPSEA.

Interested in organizing a reception for your group? Email upgalum@pitt.edu. Watch for details about locations of these receptions and others at: www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend.

The non-denominational Memorial Service to remember the deceased members of the Pitt-Greensburg community is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 1, in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center as part of the Blue & Gold Weekend.

Members of the Pitt-Greensburg community include alumni, donors, faculty, friends, staff, and students. Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend/memorial to submit the names of deceased members of the Pitt-Greensburg community.

The Joan Chambers Concert Series will open at 7:30 p.m. on November 11 with a performance by alto Emily Marvosh and pianist Matt Klumpp. This free, public event will be held in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

Marvosh is active in opera and oratorio in the Boston area. As a soloist, she has performed with Opera Boston, Boston Lyric Opera, the Back Bay Chorale, Handel and Haydn Society, Lacademie, the Providence Singers, Longwood Opera, and the Intermezzo Chamber Opera.

Klumpp grew up in Trappe, PA, where he studied piano with John Charles. Klumpp has performed with the Westmoreland Symphony, the Friday Evening Music Club, and the Theatre Factory. He serves as the president of the Pennsylvania Music Teachers’ Association in Westmoreland County and maintains teaching studios in Harrison City and Greensburg. He currently serves as organist and music director for Grace United Church in Jeannette.

The spring performance will feature the Heinz Chapel Choir in Ferguson Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Other performances in the series are being confirmed at this writing.

Pitt-Greensburg alumni are invited to participate in Homecoming activities at the University of Pittsburgh in Oakland scheduled for October 14 through October 16. A variety of activities will round out the weekend that includes Pitt vs. Utah at Heinz Field. Details are available at www.alumni.pitt.edu/homecoming.

The annual Pitt-Greensburg Telefund provides an easy and convenient way for alumni to invest in the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. This year, the Telefund is scheduled for September 18 through September 25. Alumni will be called weekdays between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. and on weekends between the hours of 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A contribution to Pitt-Greensburg extends the strong liberal arts academic experience to the next generation of students. It allows Pitt-Greensburg to continue to offer small classes and state-of-the-art facilities, as well as other benefits to students and alumni.
Support Pitt-Greensburg with your contribution during the Westmoreland Day of Giving

- Tuesday, October 4, 2011
- 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.

During this 24-hour period, all online donations from $25 up to $10,000 made to the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg will receive a pro-rated portion of the Community Foundation Match pool.

www.westmorelandgives.org

Funds raised will benefit the President’s Scholarship Fund.

Sports Law Expert to discuss NFL & NBA Lockouts

Mark Conrad, JD, will present “The NFL and NBA Lockouts of 2011: The Battles, the Strategies, and the Role of the Courts” at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, at the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center. This event is free and open to the public.


He notes, “In 2011, NFL and NBA fans have been fascinated, frustrated, and angered at the labor-management disputes that have transpired. The recently settled four-month NFL dispute and the current NBA lockout involve wealthy owners and (mostly) wealthy players in a struggle for the billions in revenues produced through their joint efforts. Because of their considerable resources, both sides have utilized a cadre of expensive legal talent to attain—or try to attain, in the case of the NBA—a settlement that is beneficial to each respective side.”

Fall Events continued from page 8

October 12
Westmoreland Heritage’s 2011 St. Clair Lecture will feature Dr. David Nasaw, professor of history at City University of New York, discussing the life of Andrew Carnegie. This free, public event begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Ferguson Theater (Smith Hall). Register by calling 724-836-7497.

October 26
Filmmaker Ellen Weissbrod will discuss her film “A Woman Like That” at 7 p.m. in the Ferguson Theater (Smith Hall). The film merges her own coming of middle-age story with her pursuit of the truths behind the legends of 17th century female painter Artemisia Gentileschi’s dramatic art and life. This event is free and open to the public.

November 11
Joan Chambers Concert Series presents Emily Marvosh, alto, and Matt Klumpp, pianist, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center. This event is free and open to the public.

November 17-19
The Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company presents “Hippolytus By Euripides” at 7:30 p.m. in the Ferguson Theater (Smith Hall). A talk-back/discussion with the actors and production staff will follow each performance.

November 20
The Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company presents a special matinee performance of “Hippolytus By Euripides” at 2 p.m. in the Ferguson Theater (Smith Hall). A talk-back/discussion with the actors and production staff will follow the performance.

November 23-27
Pitt-Greensburg is closed for Thanksgiving Recess.

Save the Date: January 12, 2012
Watch for details about the next Winter Gala. Plan to attend this event that has been a multiple “Tantalizing Twelve” selection by the Tribune Review’s “Out & About” column. Proceeds from this event benefit the President’s Scholarship Fund—making it possible for many Pitt-Greensburg students to attend college.

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


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

September 15
The La Cultura Lecture Series kicks off with "Exploring the 'F' Word: What is Feminism?" at 7 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center. Focusing on the theme "Feminism in a Global Context," this event will feature a brief history of feminism and a panel of likely, unlikely, and non-feminists from the Pitt-Greensburg community.

September 19
PA State Representative Mike Reese will talk to Pitt-Greensburg students and the public about education issues and other topics at 5 p.m. in Village Hall 118. Sponsored by the Pitt-Greensburg Student Pennsylvania State Education Association, this event is free and open to the public.

September 27
The Westmoreland Bar Association, in association with Pitt-Greensburg, presents Kenneth Gormley, dean of the Duquesne Law School, and author of "The Death of American Virtue." Gormley will provide an apolitical in-depth look at the Kenneth Starr/Bill Clinton story in this talk that begins at 7 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel & Lecture Center. Free and open to the public.

September 30, October 1 & 2

September 30
Pitt-Greensburg Annual Golf Outing at the Greensburg Country Club. Registration fee ($125 for individual golfers) includes an additional free round of golf at the Country Club. Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Steelers alumni Louis Lipps and Robin Cole will be in attendance!

October 1
The Blue & Gold 5K race will open with registration at 7 a.m. and a race at 9 a.m. Register by September 15 or $20 (adults) and $10 (children). The event will feature a 5K run, 5K walk, one-mile Fun Run, and Children’s 100-meter sprint. Proceeds benefit the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association and Pitt-Greensburg’s Alpha Alpha Delta Chapter of the international English honor society Sigma Tau Delta.

October 5
Mark Conrad, JD, associate professor of Law and Ethics at Fordham University’s School of Business Administration and adjunct professor of law at New York Law School, will present "The NFL and NBA Lockouts of 2011: The Battles, the Strategies, and the Role of the Courts" at 7:30 p.m. in Pitt-Greensburg’s Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

October 6
Eighth Annual Graduate & Professional School Fair will be held in Chambers Hall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thirty-five schools and programs are expected to attend this free, public event. Additional information available at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/gradfair.

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Class Notes . . .

Erin Cerutti ’06 writes, “I just completed the Pastoral Ministry Program at Seton Hill University. I graduated in May with 15 others selected by the Diocese of Greensburg to study together for the last three years.”

Adam Matcho ’06 and Kelly Scarff ’08 placed first and second, respectively, in the 2011 Nerve Cowboy/Liquid Paper Press Chapbook Contest, a national, highly competitive contest out of Austin, TX. Matcho’s chapbook, “6 Dollars an Hour: Confessions of a Gemini Writer,” and Scarff’s chapbook, “I Fall in Love with Strangers,” will both be published in September. The authors will be featured readers in this fall’s Written/Spoken Series at Pitt-Greensburg.

Laura (Sisko) Galmoff ’10 reports that she was married in August 2010. Since then, she has also been promoted twice at Justifacts, advancing from Verification Specialist to Assistant Account Manager.

Pamela Gay ’90 announces the opening of her new business service, Pamela Gay, MBA, which offers virtual bookkeeping and marketing services to businesses, no matter where they are located.

Dara LaRue ’05, Ashley Eisenman ’05, BJ Bertges ’05, Diane Ontko ’05 and other fellow Pitt-Greensburg alumni organized a get-together for Pitt-Greensburg alumni. Although they were particularly looking for former Robertshaw Hall residents, the event was open to all Pitt-Greensburg alumni. The group met Saturday, July 23, at Miracle Lanes in Monroeville and bowled from midnight to 2:30 a.m.

Aaron Weitzman ’10 is the assistant editor for Floor Covering Weekly, a small publication owned by Hearst Business Media. He writes, “I moved from my hometown of Durham, New Hampshire, to Long Island, New York, to start my first real job after I graduated. We publish twice a month . . . and I help to post and manage content on our website, layout the magazine, proof read and edit all of the pages, and I cover the hardwood section of the magazine.”

Discover Yourself . . . Discover Your World

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED