

Blue & Gold

Pitt-Greensburg science faculty receive awards



Matthew Luderer, PhD, an associate professor of Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, is one of five Pitt faculty members to receive the 2011 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. Pitt-Greensburg is the only regional campus in the Pitt system to have a faculty member represented.

The award, presented annually by University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, includes a \$2,000 cash prize, a grant of \$3,000 for the support of the professor's teaching activities, and recognition at the University of Pittsburgh's annual Honors Convocation.

"We are pleased to have Dr. Luderer join the ranks of our professors who have received this prestigious award throughout the years," said Dr. Sharon P. Smith, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. "Pitt-Greensburg is proud to note that 13.5 percent of our full-time faculty have received the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest percentage of any University of Pittsburgh campus."

It is especially significant that a member of Pitt-Greensburg's natural sciences faculty is a recipient of this prestigious award during this time when the United States is experiencing a decline in the number of people pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Luderer, who has taught at Pitt-Greensburg since 2004, was selected to receive the award because of his "many contributions to the Biology and Chemistry curricula of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg," the Chancellor wrote in his notification letter. Specifically, Nordenberg cited Luderer's development of an organic chemistry laboratory manual, which was published by McGraw Hill in 2007.

Visit <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/news-events> to read more about Dr. Luderer's credentials. ▲



Thad "Dr. Z" Zaleskiewicz, PhD, is the winner of the University/Post-Secondary Educator category of the 15th annual Carnegie Science Awards. The awards are made annually to recognize and promote outstanding science and technology achievements in western Pennsylvania. Awardees were honored during a formal

celebration at Carnegie Music Hall.

Zaleskiewicz, *emeritus* professor of Physics at Pitt-Greensburg, continues to look for innovative ways to inspire in others a love of science and math. Building teams of like-minded scientists and educators throughout his 46-year career, he has successfully brought to fruition projects that make science more accessible to both students and their instructors.

While actively involved in teaching undergraduates, he developed a team-taught integrated science course to make science meaningful to the non-science major and received the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in recognition of his work.

Dr. Zaleskiewicz remains productive as a consultant in matters involving physics education. For 12 years, he served as the elected president of the Contemporary Physics Education Project (CPEP). CPEP is dedicated to bringing the excitement of contemporary physics into the introductory (high school and college) classroom. In recognition of his service to CPEP, he was elected a FELLOW of the American Physical Society in 2006.

In 2009, he was the recipient of Pitt-Greensburg's President's Medal for Distinguished Service—the highest level of recognition which can be bestowed on a member of the campus community. To read more about Dr. Zaleskiewicz's credentials, visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/news-events. ▲



GREENSBURG

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Message from the President

Twenty-six straight weeks with precipitation forced our Commencement indoors this spring, but the weather didn't put a damper on the many accomplishments of our graduates. I am especially delighted to share with you the story of our Commencement student speaker, Deidre Stuffer.



Deidre told the audience that her intention upon arriving at Pitt-Greensburg was to "get in, get out, get it done." Through her journey here, she discovered skills and talents she never knew she had as well as a new-found passion. Contributing to this transformation was her experience as a Green Scholar. The Green Scholar program allowed Deidre to perform graduate-level research in partnership with Dr. Sayre Greenfield, professor of English, which in turn allowed her to apply to and be accepted at several of the most prestigious US schools for PhD programs in English literature.

Like many of our students, Deidre worked the equivalent of a full-time job while attending Pitt-Greensburg as a full-time student. She worked approximately 30 hours a week at her local Walmart in addition to the 10 to 15 hours a week that she worked on Dr. Greenfield's research project.

This is a reality for many students as they look for ways to cover the gap between the cost of their education, shrinking financial aid, and reductions to state appropriations for education. The announcement this past March by Governor Tom Corbett of hefty proposed appropriation cuts to publicly assisted universities will further exacerbate the situation for students and their families.

I continue to speak with our state senators and representatives and encourage students and their families as well as our alumni, faculty, and staff to write letters to their state legislators, voicing their concerns should these appropriation cuts be approved. For additional information about the effect of the state budget appropriation cuts, please visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu.

In light of these proposed budget appropriation cuts, the annual Pitt Day in Harrisburg this past April took on even greater significance. I joined more than 45 members of the Pitt-Greensburg community and numerous others from the University of Pittsburgh system in sharing with state legislators how the cuts would affect our students and their families.

Sharon P. Smith

Sharon P. Smith, PhD
President

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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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.

Alumni Spotlight: Jason Downey '07

Jason Downey '07 has lived in Japan for the past four years. Only a portion of his interview is provided here. To read the full account, please visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/about/publications/ealum and click on the "March 2011" issue. Downey also participated in a Skype interview with the campus after the March 11 earthquake struck Japan. A *Tribune Review* article further details his experience: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_729812.html.



My first introduction to Pitt-Greensburg was . . . via the letter Pitt (Oakland) sent to me telling me that I would not be joining them in Pittsburgh in the fall. I was afforded a consolation prize, though: I could attend any of their fine branch campuses. I ended up choosing Greensburg because it was both far from home and close to Pittsburgh.

I did transfer to Oakland after a few years, but . . . I was back at Pitt-Greensburg by the spring semester of that term. Oakland offers a lot, but there's something to be said for a close-knit college. Universities can be pretty big institutions; it's easy just to put your head down, do your work, get your diploma, and get out. But at Pitt-Greensburg I was having lunch or dinner with my professors several times a week . . . or I was inviting experts in various fields to campus every couple of months to give speeches and hold discussions. These aren't things you can so easily do in the big city. I originally chose to attend Pitt-Greensburg because I was a dreamy-eyed kid who wanted to live in Oakland and go to class in the Cathedral of Learning—but I chose to graduate from Pitt-Greensburg because, for me, it was the stronger institution. It was helping me grow into a productive member of society, whereas it felt like Oakland was just giving me classes.

During my undergraduate career, I did a lot of . . . everything. I was named Senior of the Year for 2007, and it certainly wasn't because of academic performance. I was an RA for four years, worked in the kitchen in Chartwells and the coffeehouse, played a small part in getting the coffeehouse and radio station started, was president or

marketing director of a bunch of clubs at various times, including Sigma Tau Delta and Amnesty International . . . I'm a big comics reader, and I went a bit evangelical my senior year and ordered a bunch of graphic novels for Millstein Library, which everyone can and probably should read as soon and as often as possible.

I earned a degree in . . . English writing, I say I earned a degree in English writing, but I studied a bunch of stuff. In my Freshmen Seminar class, Parris Carter, then director of Campus Activities and Village Programs, recommended that we as college students take advantage of our time and not focus solely on our degree, but to learn a bit of everything. He said we could become Renaissance [People], and I really liked that. So, I studied fiction and poetry, but I also took classes in history, anthropology, theology, linguistics, Italian, etc., and in my free time I read up on a bunch of other stuff—nerdy stuff. . . . I like books and videos on physics and mathematics, and I wish I could understand the details of the topics a bit more deeply.

I currently live in . . . Japan, about a 30-minute train ride north of downtown Tokyo. I teach English at an elementary school. In August it'll have been four years since I arrived. The last year and a half I've finally gotten on the language-learning ball and learned the 2,136 kanji that all Japanese kids have to know by the time they graduate high school. For the last six months I've been hitting the books to learn grammar and vocabulary.

The greatest lesson I learned as an undergrad is . . . that time and opportunity are yours for the making, not the taking.

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. ▲

Pitt Day in Harrisburg

More than 45 members of the Pitt-Greensburg community participated in the annual Pitt Day in Harrisburg held April 5. For more than 15 years, "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. Members of the Alumni Legislative Network (ALN) have annually traveled to Harrisburg in order to meet with elected officials and to be the voice of Pitt. This year, the PGAA sponsored a luncheon reception in Harrisburg to allow alumni in the area to visit with the Pitt-Greensburg group. ▲

TOP: Members of the Pitt-Greensburg group pose for a photo with Rep. Mike Reese (center). **BOTTOM:** Ray Markiewicz '80 (left), Brandi Darr '01, Joyce Bucchi '09, Dr. Sharon P. Smith, Jack Smith, MD, and Mary Lynn Yothers '80, DC, discuss current issues with a member of Sen. Kim Ward's staff.



COMMENCEMENT 2011

From left:
Dr. Lillian Beeson,
Dr. Mary Lynn Yothers '80,
David Tilstone,
Dr. J. Wesley Jamison,
Hon. Judge John Driscoll,
Dr. Frank Wilson,
Jerry J. Fedele '75,
Deidre Stuffer '11,
Dr. Sharon P. Smith,
Dr. Christopher Bartley,
General Jack Keane.



More than 200 students graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg during its Commencement held Saturday, April 30, in Chambers Hall Gymnasium.

Advisory Board members, faculty, staff, alumni, invited guests, families, and friends attended the event. General Jack Keane, a retired four-star general with 37 years of public service who continues to serve in an advisory capacity for US national security, was this year's Commencement speaker.

Two awards were presented during the pre-Commencement breakfast. Psychology professor Diane Marsh, PhD, received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service, and Greensburg native Jerry J. Fedele '75, of Boca Raton, FL, was awarded the PGAA Alumnus of Distinction Award. (Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu to read more about these individuals and their awards.)

Deidre Stuffer, of Delmont, gave the student address as the 2011 Class Representative. She and Susan Swanger, of New Kensington, were the class co-Valedictorians.

Stuffer, an English literature major, will attend the University of Wisconsin, one of the top schools in the country from which to earn a PhD in English Literature.

Stuffer earned her place in the Wisconsin program through the research she performed as one of Pitt-Greensburg's first Green Scholars. The Green Scholar program is designed to provide opportunities for Pitt-Greensburg's best students to acquire research experience by working with faculty on scholarly projects. Faculty members submit proposals nominating students for Green Scholarships. Selection to the program reflects not only the student's academic accomplishments, but the confidence shown in the student by the faculty member making the nomination.

Sayre Greenfield, PhD, professor of English, selected Stuffer to assist him in his research project on Shakespearean quotation through the exploration of digital databases. "The project was a training and proving ground for her graduate work," noted Greenfield.

Also contributing to Stuffer's success was the publication last year of her essay, "Edna Pontellier's Strip Tease of Essentiality: An Examination of the Metaphorical Role of Clothing in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*," in the *Sigma Tau Delta Review*, the international English honor society's journal of critical writing. Stuffer's article was one of 12 essays selected for publication in the *Sigma Tau Delta Review* and 48 pieces selected for the *Sigma Tau Delta Triangle* (creative writing journal) out of 1,000 entries.

As part of Pitt-Greensburg's annual Legacy Diploma Presentation, 24 graduates received their diplomas from members of their families who also hold a degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Pitt-Greensburg is the only campus in the Pitt system to offer this opportunity to graduates and their families. It was initiated by Dr. Sharon P. Smith, president of Pitt-Greensburg, and is an illustration that Pitt-Greensburg graduates join a large "family" of graduates from the many schools and campuses that comprise the University of Pittsburgh.



Dr. Sharon P. Smith (left) presents the President's Medal for Distinguished Service to Psychology professor Diane Marsh, PhD.

PGAAwards



General Jack Keane, retired four-star general and national security advisor, was this year's Commencement Speaker.



Jerry J. Fedele '75 (left) accepts the PGAA Alumnus of Distinction Award from Dr. Mary Lynn Yothers '80, PGAA president.



Twenty-four students participated in the Legacy Diploma Presentations, including Katie DePalma (left) who received her diploma from her mother Mary Jo DePalma '82 (center), and Dr. Sharon Smith.



The PGAA Volunteer Excellence Award was posthumously awarded to Jason P. Gongaware '97. Accepting the award were his sons (front, from left) Joseph Elliott Gongaware and William Campbell Gongaware and wife Sheri Campbell Gongaware (back left). Dr. Mary Lynn Yothers '80, PGAA president, presented the award.



Dr. Elisa Beshero-Bondar accepts the PGAA Outstanding Faculty Award from Dr. Mary Lynn Yothers '80, PGAA president.

Additional photos from Commencement may be viewed at <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/news-events/pitt-greensburg-graduates-more-200-students>.

High school students invited to Quest 2011

Quest 2011: Finding Your Future, a series of day camps that allows high school students to explore career options, learn about their interests and abilities, and find out about a variety of related college majors, is accepting registrations through June 3.



Five day camps are scheduled. Students may attend one day camp or several. Cost is \$25 for each day camp the student attends. Information about the camps, scholarships, and registration is available at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest. Registration is required.

This year's schedule includes Discovery 101 (June 21), Sports-Related Careers (June 27), Environmental & Green Careers (June 28), Communication Arts (June 29), and Healthcare & Rehabilitation (June 30).

Discovery 101 is designed for the student who is still exploring. Students will participate in hands-on activities, skills and interests assessments and will hear from a panel of professionals speaking about a wide range of careers.

Students who participated in past Discovery 101 day camps noted that they especially enjoyed the activities and the speakers. One participant wrote, "It helped me to better understand all of the careers out there, some I didn't even know existed. Before coming here, I had my heart set on a certain career, but this widened my horizons and helped me to realize there are many more careers."

The Pathways to Professions day camps are designed for the student with an interest in a particular career area. Students will participate in hands-on activities that provide a sampling of key skills and knowledge required to do the job, as well as opportunities to interact with professionals representing a number of different occupations within the field.

Students who participated in past Pathways to Professions day camps expressed how the demonstrations and speakers helped them to better understand what they needed to do to prepare for a particular career. "I really liked how it was hands-on, and we got to see how activities relate to careers," noted one participant. Another wrote, "It helped me become more prepared for college and what career path I was headed for." ▲

Sadler '11 wins annual resume contest

Katelyn Sadler '11 and Michael Wimberly '11 placed first and second, respectively, in the fourth annual Pitt-Greensburg Student Resume Contest sponsored by the offices of Alumni Affairs and Career Services.

Six judges reviewed the 36 resumes submitted by current Pitt-Greensburg students. Participating as judges were:

- **Dave Campbell '03** (communication major);
- **Karen (Karelitz) Fay '09**, IT support analyst for Education Management Corporation (management information systems major);
- **Melissa Marrion '05**, Youth and Family director at the Rose E. Schneider Family YMCA;
- **Dana C. Romano '96**, associate director of MBA Career Services for Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business (management major);
- **Lyttleton A. Shurland '02**, Engineering Division Task Manager for ALON, Inc., a provider of services to the Department of Homeland Security (psychology and administration of justice major);
- **Jason Wagner '01**, of the Education Management Corporation (communication major).

The goal of the contest is to raise awareness among students about the importance of a resume as a communication tool; to recognize student achievement and generate outstanding resumes that can be shared with other students in the future; to provide feedback from professionals with a variety of backgrounds; engage alumni through a format that accommodates alumni who may not be able to easily return to campus. ▲

Parent Appreciation Dinner



Approximately 120 people attended the annual Parent Appreciation Dinner held the Friday evening before Graduation. Chartwells catered the event that featured Mediterranean grilled chicken breast, seafood pasta sauté, char-grilled sirloin steak, a variety of vegetables and salads, and a dessert bar featuring canolli and crème brûlée.

Class Notes . . .

William Rudolph '76 writes that, after 32 years as a senior agent for the Greensburg area with the Nationwide Insurance Company, he has retired. Involved in the community, he served as president of the Greensburg Rotary Club, the Mental Health Association of Westmoreland County, the United Way of Westmoreland County, as well as secretary of the Greensburg Salvation Army's Advisory Board, and director of the Greensburg Fire Department Museum. He continues to serve on several of these boards and volunteers with several organizations, including the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department, where he is a Life Member serving with Engine Co. #1.

Chris Kelly '96 finished a two-year teaching contract as a visiting instructor of Supply Chain Management and has been hired as a buyer for Hologic Corporation in Indianapolis IN. In this new position, he now oversees about \$15 million dollars in annual spending requirements.

Kristina Scholl '03 shares, "I am married with a three-year-old son, Alec."

Samantha D'Uva '04 happily reports, "My husband, Anthony D'Uva '04, and I welcomed our first baby, Sofia Marie, on September 2, 2010.

Melissa McKowen '07 welcomed her third daughter, Hannah Jean, into her family on February 8. Hannah weighed eight pounds, seven ounces and was 21 inches long. ▲

Additional funding received

Summer Science and Math Experience expands to five schools



Students examine the different species from Slate Run Creek during SSME 2010.

The Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME) continues to receive funding that will allow a total of five school districts to participate in this week-long residency program for middle school students.

Most recently, The Grable Foundation awarded a \$7,500 grant to the program to fund the attendance of nine students from the Derry Area School District, and the Chevron Community

Fund (held at the Community Foundation of Fayette County) awarded a \$5,000 grant to fund the attendance of middle school students from Fayette County. The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County also awarded SSME \$5,000 for this year's program.

Earlier this year, the McFeely-Rogers Foundation provided a \$10,000 grant to fund the attendance of 12 students from Greater Latrobe School District, and the Eberly Foundation provided a \$5,000 grant to enable six students from the Connellsville School District to participate.

SSME 2011 is designed to help students to experience the wonder of science using inquiry-based, hands-on learning techniques. Participants learn that careers in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields can be fun, exciting, and rewarding. In addition to participating in workshops presented by Pitt-Greensburg faculty, the students also go on a field trip to the nuclear reactor at Penn State University. Dr. Thad "Ted" Zaleskiewicz, PhD and *emeritus* professor of Physics, directs the program. ▲

Summer Events

continued from page 8

June 30

Quest 2011: Healthcare & Rehabilitation Careers, a day camp designed for high school students. Fee is \$25, but scholarships are available. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest.

July 8 & 9

Summer Orientation and Academic Registration (SOAR), for incoming students who have paid their \$100 deposit.

July 10-15

Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME) for students from Connellsville East and West middle schools.

July 16

Visit the Pitt-Greensburg campus during the **Summer Open House** and meet faculty from all academic departments, staff from admissions, financial aid, housing, campus life, and other areas. An application fee waiver is offered to any prospective student who attends this program. Call 724-836-9880 to register.

July 22 & 23

Summer Orientation and Academic Registration (SOAR), for incoming students who have paid their \$100 deposit.

July 31-August 5

Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME) for Derry Area middle school students.

August 4

New Student Information Fair, an orientation for transfer students, will be held in Smith Hall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

September 30, October 1 & 2

Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2011. Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/BlueandGoldWeekend for details.

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! Sponsorships are available. Contact Cletus McConville, development coordinator, at 724-836-7039 for information.

October 1

The Blue & Gold 5K race will open with registration at 7 a.m. and start at 9 a.m. Register by September 9 for \$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. ▲

Summer Events

June 4

The Center for Professional Growth at Pitt-Greensburg offers Pitt School of Nursing's Pharmacology Update Series on Alzheimer's Disease. Cost, details, and registration at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/about/cpg.

June 10 & 11

Summer Orientation and Academic Registration (SOAR), for incoming students who have paid their \$100 deposit.

June 15

The Admissions Office will offer a Transfer Student Evening at 5 p.m. for students from the Community College of Allegheny County and Westmoreland County Community College. Call 724-836-9880 to register.

June 18

Visit Pitt-Greensburg during the Summer Open House and meet faculty from all academic departments, staff from admissions, financial aid, housing, campus life, and other areas. An application fee waiver is offered to any prospective student who attends this program. Call 724-836-9880 to register.

June 21

Quest 2011: Discovery 101, a day camp designed for students who are still exploring careers. Fee is \$25, but scholarships are available. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest.

June 24 & 25

Summer Orientation and Academic Registration (SOAR), for incoming students who have paid their \$100 deposit.

June 26-July 1

Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME) for middle school students from Greater Latrobe and Greensburg-Salem school districts.

June 27

Quest 2011: Sports-Related Careers, a day camp designed for high school students. Fee is \$25, but scholarships are available. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest.

June 28

Quest 2011: Environmental & Green Careers, a day camp designed for high school students. Fee is \$25, but scholarships are available. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest.

June 29

Quest 2011: Communication Arts Careers, a day camp designed for high school students. Fee is \$25, but scholarships are available. Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Quest.

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Greensburg

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SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 1, OCTOBER 2

Blue & Gold Weekend
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Join us for . . .

- ♦ The annual Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing;
- ♦ A newly announced 5K race;
- ♦ Activities for alumni, students, & families!

www.greensburg.pitt.edu/BlueandGoldWeekend

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