

# Blue & Gold

*Frank A. Cassell Hall*

## Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Marks Building's Grand Opening



Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were (from left): Robert Smith, interim director of Computing Services; Dr. Franklin Wilson, Faculty Senate president; Scott Szyplski, Student Government Association president; Zan McKenna Rich, Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, Inc., board member; Linda McKenna Boxx, Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, Inc., chairman; Beth Cassell; Dr. Frank A. Cassell; Dr. Sharon P. Smith, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg; Congressman Tim Murphy; A. David Tilstone, Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board Chairman; Carl Rossman, vice president for Administration; J. Wesley Jamison, vice president for Academic Affairs; Rob Leibow, Facilities Management for the University of Pittsburgh; and Kent Suhrbier, principal at FortyEighty Architecture.

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Frank A. Cassell Hall, the campus' new sustainable office and classroom building, on Wednesday, September 5, at 11 a.m. Members of the Greensburg community were invited to join in celebrating this new facility that is named in honor of Frank A. Cassell, PhD, third president of the Greensburg regional campus.

Cassell Hall is a two-story, 16,500 square-foot building that was designed to realize 30 percent annual energy savings and reduce water usage by 50 percent. A Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) designation for this building is anticipated and would be the first such LEED certification on campus. The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) review is expected to be completed in fall 2012.

Cassell Hall houses the following facilities:

- A state-of-the-art computer lab for 80 students with day-lit

views to campus and Slate Run Creek;

- A student lounge;
- A computer classroom;
- A video-conferencing classroom for distance learning;
- Faculty offices;
- Staff offices;
- Space for computer support, including workshops and storage, as well as a student-computer-service center;
- Workspace and storage for media and instructional technological services;
- Instructional technology training classroom.

Other features include a server room, conference room, and lunch room. Student lounge areas are placed along the computer lab and in the stair lobby/lounge.

*Turn to page 4 for additional photos from the ribbon-cutting ceremony. ▲*

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University of Pittsburgh  
Greensburg

# Message from the President

If you visited Pitt-Greensburg during this past year, you may have experienced a road closure or two while we made a few upgrades to our campus. I think if you surveyed our campus community, the majority would agree that the inconvenience was minor and well worth it.



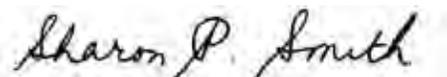
First and foremost is the completion of Frank A. Cassell Hall, our campus' first sustainable office and classroom building. This showpiece provides much needed faculty office space, as well as a state-of-the-art computer center and two digital classrooms. I invite you to attend the Open House that Dr. Cassell and I will host on Saturday, October 13, during Blue & Gold Weekend, so that you can see for yourself beauty and functionality of this building.

Participants in our second annual Pitt-Greensburg 5K Run/Fun Walk, also to be held October 13 during Blue & Gold Weekend, will notice that the race route is now more than 95 percent paved and a new pedestrian bridge has been constructed over Slate Run at Tosatto Drive.

Another significant change this fall is the absence of eight long-time staff members. This spring, the University of Pittsburgh offered a Voluntary Early Retirement Plan for Classified Staff (VERP) that was intended to reduce costs through downsizing—one of the key initiatives underway at all campuses in response to the cutbacks in state support. I thank those eight members of our campus community who retired as of June 30 for their dedication and cumulative service of more than 150 years to this campus. I also thank the members of our staff who have accepted new and different responsibilities as we move forward in the face of budgetary obstacles.

I invite you to visit our campus during this next year, and join us in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of Pitt-Greensburg. We will kick off the anniversary year in October, so be sure to join us for Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2012 on October 12 and October 13. (See page 5 for details.)

Hail to Pitt!



Sharon P. Smith, PhD  
President

## University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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Photo credits: University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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: Gerald "Gerry" L. Peterson '80

Gerald "Gerry" L. Peterson graduated in 1980 with a major in Psychology and a minor in Economics. He resides in Westmoreland County with his wife Karen and their three children, Alexander, Matthew, and Kaitlyn.



Karen and Gerald Peterson

**The thing that drew me to Pitt-Greensburg was . . .** the location and campus environment. Attending Pitt-Greensburg as a commuter enabled me to get a solid education and gain valuable work experience and training at United Parcel Service (UPS) in New Stanton where I worked evenings part-time as a line supervisor and as a human resources representative. I also attended a number of classes in Oakland as a commuter.

**My favorite thing as a student/fondest memory was . . .** meeting Karen Miklos who became my wife. We met on campus in an Anthropology class. She still describes me as the geeky guy who actually paid attention and answered questions in class. Karen graduated from the Oakland campus with a BS degree in Medical Technology. We were married in 1984.

**The faculty member(s) who had the greatest influence on me were . . .** Dr. Diane Marsh who helped me understand how psychology had application to a career as a leader in business. Gaining insight into human behavior is a key foundation skill. Dr. Ruben Slesinger, Economics professor in Oakland, was the second faculty member to influence me. Dr. Slesinger helped me understand and appreciate economics.

**After Pitt-Greensburg, I went on to . . .** attend California University of Pennsylvania to earn an MBA and Carnegie Mellon University, graduating with Highest Distinction from the Heinz School with a Master's degree in Labor Relations. I have worked in various Human Resources and Operations leadership roles with Mine Safety Appliances Company, Kennametal, and General Electric Aircraft Engines.

In 2006, we returned to Westmoreland County. I experienced a stroke in 2007. During my recovery and rehabilitation, I founded Tartan

Group, LLC, a national executive search and human resource consulting firm. I also help organizations with strategic issues around human capital and leadership development.

The stroke experience gave me a bit of perspective. I am a "Type A" hard charging personality. God sent me a message to slow down . . . I would have preferred an e-mail. I have learned to appreciate the many experiences life provides. I have been very fortunate and have had a significant recovery. This experience has put me on the path to become an entrepreneur.

**My reason for becoming active with the PGAA is . . .** to provide mentoring support to students. During my career I greatly benefited from advice and counsel from senior leaders. The PGAA provides support to current students to have access to mentors. After graduation, students often do not get such support. Participating in events such as Speed Interviewing provides students with insights that they might not get otherwise. In addition to the alumni group, I support a number of community programs including True Life After Stroke, Boy Scouts of America, and Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc.

**My family/friends . . .** are celebrating with me as I become an adjunct faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University. I was invited to develop and teach a graduate Labor Relations class in the Spring 2013 semester. I had the opportunity to teach a number of internal leadership programs at General Electric as a certified Crotonville instructor.

**Finally, my advice to students is . . .** to volunteer in the community. You will be surprised at the difference you can make and how much you will learn. As a volunteer you will often gain work experiences that translate well to a prospective employer. ▲

Support Pitt-Greensburg with your contribution to the



Watch for our fall Bobcat Fund appeal in mid-October when we will feature 50 Changes Over 50 Years in honor of our 50th anniversary.

When you receive your letter, please support Pitt-Greensburg with a gift to the Bobcat Fund.

This year we will celebrate our past and invest in the future of our students and campus.

## 50 Years of Memories!

*Celebrate 50 years with us by sharing your Pitt-Greensburg memory.*

**Whether you're a student, alumnus, faculty member, staff member, or friend . . . we'd like to hear your Pitt-Greensburg story.**

Share your story at:

<http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/memory>

# Frank A. Cassell Hall



## Cassell Hall 411:

- ◆ the design of the building specifically incorporates aspects of the other buildings on campus including the historic Lynch Hall
- ◆ two green roofs feed a rainwater harvesting cistern
- ◆ the cistern provides non-potable grey water for the building's toilets and drip irrigation system that is expected to reduce water usage by more than 50 percent
- ◆ landscaping around the building is an extension of the natural site, which is part of demonstrative rain gardens and storm water bioswales for on-site storm water management
- ◆ video-conferencing classroom for distance learning
- ◆ a minimum of 25 percent recycled materials and 25 percent local and regional materials were used in the building's construction

A full description of Cassell Hall's features may be found at <http://tinyurl.com/Cassell-Hall>. ▲

Counter-clockwise from top right: Dr. Frank Cassell applauds the Pitt-Greensburg community for bringing the Cassell Hall project to fruition. Dr. Sharon P. Smith emphasizes Cassell Hall's role in Pitt-Greensburg's quest to become a Liberal Arts College for the 21st Century. The Cassell Family (from left) are Dr. Frank A. Cassell, Beth Cassell, David Cassell, Grace Grande-Cassell, Bill Gray, and Donna Weber (seated). Dr. and Mrs. George Austin congratulate Dr. Cassell at the luncheon following the ceremony.

# Blue & Gold Weekend

H O M E C O M I N G 2 0 1 2



## Friday, October 12

### Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing at the Greensburg Country Club

8 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Registration, private reception, and continental breakfast with celebrity guest
8 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Pre-outing skill contests (putting, chipping, and driving)
8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	General Registration; Continental Breakfast
9:45 a.m.	Instructions
10 a.m.	Shotgun Start
2 p.m.	"Hot Off the Grill" lunch buffet; Closing program; auctions, contest drawings, and awards

## Saturday October 13

Pitt-Greensburg campus

8 a.m.	5k Race/ Fun Walk (Smith Hall Patio)
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Hospitality Tent (Face Painting, Raffle Wheel, Balloon Animals, Raffle Baskets)
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Pictures with Bruiser intermittently. (Bobcat Statue)
10 a.m.	SGA Clock Rededication Ceremony (near Chambers Hall), featuring the classes of 2012 & 1995
11a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Car Cruise (Smith Hall Parking Lot)
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Lynch Hall History (Lynch Hall)
noon - 2 p.m.	Welcome Back Alumni Reception (Smith Hall Lounge) including RAs, Sigma Tau Delta, Class Agents, SGA, SPSEA, Performing Arts Society, Village Alumni, and others!
noon - 3 p.m.	Frank A. Cassell Hall Open House (adjacent to Powers Hall) hosted by Dr. Frank A. Cassell and Dr. Sharon P. Smith
1 p.m.	50th Anniversary Celebration (Chambers Lawn) Join us for cake and refreshments
2:30 p.m.	Pitt Greensburg Trivia (Alumni Pavilion); Test your knowledge of all things Pitt-Greensburg and win a prize!
5:30 p.m.	Alumni Cocktail Reception (Fireside Lounge)
6:00p.m.	Alumni Dinner (Hempfield Room)



**Register today at**

**[www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend)**

## Partner with Pitt-Greensburg as an Event Sponsor

The 50th Anniversary Celebration of Pitt-Greensburg will feature four special fundraising events. Each of these events provides a great opportunity to showcase your support of Pitt-Greensburg to the local community and business leaders, alumni, parents of students, as well as faculty, and staff, while supporting student scholarships and activities. In light of our current economy and recent state and federal cuts, your investment in Pitt-Greensburg through event sponsorship is needed now more than ever. Additionally, sponsorships are a unique way to network with potential customers and market your business while receiving the benefit of a tax-deductible contribution. Participation as a sponsor of any one or more of these events during our 50th Anniversary celebration raises your company's profile.

The following events are still available to sponsor:

- ♦ *Eleanor – An American Love Story*, April 4 and 5, 2013, at The Palace Theatre, Greensburg
- ♦ Blue and Gold Gala, Saturday, May 4, 2013, at Pitt-Greensburg

Please contact Cletus McConville, development coordinator, for information on Pitt-Greensburg event sponsorships at 724-836-7039 or [pggiving@pitt.edu](mailto:pggiving@pitt.edu). ▲

**Support Pitt-Greensburg**  
with your contribution during the  
**Westmoreland Day of Giving**

+ **Wednesday, October 3, 2012**  
+ **12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.**

During this 24-hour period, all on-line donations from \$25 up to \$10,000 made to the **University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg** at [www.westmorelandgives.org](http://www.westmorelandgives.org) will receive a pro-rated portion of the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County's Match Pool.

To make your gift, go to  
[www.westmorelandgives.org](http://www.westmorelandgives.org)

*Funds raised will benefit the President's Scholarship Fund.*

## Graduate & Professional School Fair Planned

Thinking about going back to school? Then don't miss the opportunity to meet with representatives from graduate level programs throughout the region at Pitt-Greensburg's ninth annual Graduate and Professional School Fair on Thursday, October 4 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Chambers Hall.

More than 35 programs and schools are expected to be represented. A wide variety of fields of study will be represented, including law, business, information science, health-related programs (such as PT, OT, and PA), teacher certification, and various areas in the liberal arts. Whether you are interested in a particular program or just want to check out the options, this is a great chance to do some preliminary research and planning.

A list of participating programs is available at [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/gradfair](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/gradfair).

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Participants will receive a complimentary copy of the 2012 Graduate School Guide. ▲

### St. Clair Lecture

## Dr. Frank Cassell to Speak



The 2012 St. Clair Lecture, scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ferguson Theater, will feature **Dr. Frank A. Cassell**, retired president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. A colonial historian, Dr. Cassell will present "Remembering the Battle of Bushy Run: Decisive Victory or Minor Skirmish" and will explore the

significance of this battle as it marks its 250th anniversary in 2013. Sponsored by Westmoreland Heritage, Westmoreland Historical Society, and Pitt-Greensburg, the St. Clair Lecture is free and open to the public. Please call 724-836-9911 to reserve seats. ▲

### Music at Pitt-Greensburg

## Westmoreland Symphony latest addition to line-up

The Westmoreland Symphony Chamber Music Series is the latest addition to the musical presentations held annually at Pitt-Greensburg. Three performances are set, with the first, on October 19, to feature the Curtis Piano Trio. Tickets are \$10 (general) and \$5 (students) for this event in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center. The other two performances will feature the Academy Chamber Ensemble on February 23, 2013, and the Freya String Quartet on May 11, 2013.

Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra Executive Director Morrie Brand, a regular member of Pitt-Greensburg's audience and an active performer with the Friday Evening Music Club, proposed this new concert series to feature great chamber ensembles of and in connection to the Symphony. Pitt-Greensburg is pleased to add this new series to its line-up.

Cellist Antonio Lysy and pianist Patricia Hoy open the Joan Chambers Concert Series at 7:30 p.m. on October 9 in Campana. The Blue Mile Jazz will perform February 8, 2013, and the Heinz Chapel Choir will perform with the Pitt-Greensburg Chorale on April 13, 2013, in Ferguson Theater. The Joan Chambers Concert Series is free and open to the public.

The Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and Chamber Singers will perform November 2, 2012, and March 1, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. in Campana. Their concerts are free and open to the public. ▲

# Class Notes . . .

**Robert Armstrong '87** writes, "I have decided to follow my heart and chase my dream of being a professional photographer. The word 'work' never comes to mind when I am on a shoot with a client." He specializes in on-location family, children, maternity, pets, automotive, senior, engagement, and wedding photography.

**Hope Showers-Gerbie '93** writes to say that she and her husband **Lou Gerbie '93** met at Pitt-Greensburg, and now their son Owen is a freshman at Pitt-Greensburg this fall.

**Markelle Harden '98** recently changed careers and ventured into the world of Internet marketing with Ephricon Web Marketing in Fort Mill, SC.

**Andrew Arelt '99** is a recruiter with Farmers Insurance Group who identifies candidates for the company's Agency Development opportunity in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

**Jason Wagner '01** accepted the position of assistant director of Student Services for The Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University.

**Jessica (Kaleina) Pigza '03** and husband Nathan welcomed their second child, Brandon David, on July 17, 2011. Brandon weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 inches long. Brandon joins big sister Sophia Elizabeth who was born March 30, 2009.

**Dave Campbell '04** was promoted to outside sales representative for the Sherwin-Williams Company. He resides in West Chester, PA.

**Samantha Skerchock '07** was recently awarded Drexel University's prestigious Capstone Experience Award for her graduate research titled, "A Study Abroad Peer Cultural Program's Affect on Cultural Immersion," as well as award recognition for graduating with a 4.0 GPA. Samantha, who earned her Master's of Science in Higher Education from Drexel University in June, joins the University as their newest assistant director of Admissions.

**Michael Moore '08**, of Bridgewater, PA, is an insurance agent with Liberty Mutual Insurance in Wexford, PA.

**Daniel Baugh '09** is using his Bachelor's of Science degree in MIS as a performance analyst for American Eagle Outfitters' e-commerce web site. He resides in Pittsburgh, PA.

**Jen Paul '11** is an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg as a biology lab instructor. She is studying full-time at Chatham University in Shadyside, where she is working on her Master's of Science in Biology. Jen will graduate from the program in December 2012.

**Amanda Lavan '12** is employed by Novum Pharmaceutical Research Services as a clinical research specialist in Pittsburgh.

Share your news! Go to <http://tinyurl.com/Class-Note> to update your information and tell us about the great things that are happening in your life. ▲

## Be one of the 50 Faces of Pitt-Greensburg

Would you like to be one of the 50 Faces of Pitt-Greensburg?

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

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

# Fall Events

*continued from page 8*

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

## October 13

The Pitt-Greensburg 5K Run/Fun Walk will open with registration at 6:30 a.m. and start at 8 a.m. Register by September 25 for \$20 (adults) and \$10 (children 7-12). The event will feature a 5K run, 5K Fun Walk, 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. Complete details and registration information available at [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend).

## October 16 & October 17

Become one of the **50 Faces of Pitt-Greensburg** by stopping by the entrance to Wagner Dining Hall (Chambers Hall) to have a photo taken and to explain what Pitt-Greensburg means to you.

## October 19

The Westmoreland Symphony Chamber Music Series presents the Curtis Piano Trio at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center. Tickets, available at the door, are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

## November 2

The Pitt-Greensburg Chorale & Chamber Singers will perform their fall concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center. This event is free and open to the public.

## November 15-18

The Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company will present "Arsenic and Old Lace" by Joseph Kesselring. Tickets, available only at the door, are \$10 (\$5 for seniors, students, and Pitt ID holders) for the November 15-17 performances at 7:30 p.m. and the November 18 performance at 2 p.m. in Ferguson Theater.

## November 21-25

No classes but offices are open November 21 as Pitt-Greensburg begins the **Thanksgiving Recess**. The campus is closed November 22-25.

## December 7

Mark your calendar and watch for details about this year's PGAA Holiday Wine Tasting event. ▲

Check the Event section at [www.greensburg.pitt.edu](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu) for more events.

A complete schedule of athletic events is available at [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics).



Pitt-Greensburg



Alumni

Get the most current information about what's happening at Pitt-Greensburg. From your Facebook account, "Like" the Official Pitt-Greensburg Page (<http://www.Facebook.com/pittgreensburgofficialpage>) and the Official Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Page (<http://www.facebook.com/PittGreensburgAlumni>).



YouTube

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

# Fall Events

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

## October 3

Support Pitt-Greensburg with a contribution during the 3rd annual Westmoreland Day of Giving. Make a donation between 12 a.m. and 11:59:59 at [www.westmorelandgives.org](http://www.westmorelandgives.org) and all on-line donations from \$25 up to \$10,000 made to the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg will receive a pro-rated portion of the The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County Match Pool. Funds raised from this event will benefit the President's Scholarship Fund.

## October 4

The Pitt-Greensburg Graduate and Professional School Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Chambers Hall Gymnasium. This event is free and open to the public.

## October 8

Fall break for students. Pitt-Greensburg offices remain open.

## October 9

The Joan Chambers Concert Series presents cellist Antonio Lysy and pianist Patricia Hoy at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center. This event is free and open to the public.

## October 10

The 2012 St. Clair Lecture will feature Frank A. Cassell, retired president of Pitt-Greensburg who will speak at 7:30 p.m. in Ferguson Theater. A Colonial Historian, Dr. Cassell will present "Remember the Battle of Bushy Run: Decisive Victory or Minor Skirmish," a lecture on the significance of the 1763 Battle of Bushy Run.

## October 12-13

Visit [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend) for details and the most up-to-date schedule information about Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2012.

## October 12-13

Celebrate Homecoming at the University of Pittsburgh (Oakland). Visit [www.alumni.pitt.edu](http://www.alumni.pitt.edu) for details.

## October 12

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 10 a.m. Sponsorships are available. Proceeds benefit the President's Scholarship Fund, Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association, and Athletics. Call 724-836-7039 for information or visit [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/golfouting](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/golfouting).



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Greensburg

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## Discover Yourself . . . Discover Your World

Would you like to stay involved  
with Pitt-Greensburg?

Then mark your calendar and plan  
to participate in these upcoming events!

October 10 -- St. Clair Lecture,  
featuring Dr. Frank A. Cassell

October 12-13 -- Blue & Gold Weekend

October 16-17 -- 50 Faces of Pitt-Greensburg

October 27 -- Discovery Day\*



November 14 -- Speed Interviewing\*

December 7 -- Holiday Wine Tasting

\* Alumni volunteers are needed

Visit [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/events](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/events)  
for details or contact the Alumni Coordinator at  
[upgalum@pitt.edu](mailto:upgalum@pitt.edu) or 724-836-7496  
to find out how you can get involved.

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