Spring Events

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

**March 21**
Admissions Discovery Day provides an in-depth look at Pitt-Greensburg, including admissions, financial aid, housing, and residence life. The program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A $45 application fee waiver is offered to students who have not yet applied. Register by calling 724-836-9880.

**March 26-29**
The Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company will present Chemical Imbalance: A Moth and Hyde Play (by Lauren Wilson). A broadfarce based on the classic Robert Louis Stevenson tale, it explores the duality of human nature and the inner conflict between good and evil—all with a roaring sense of humor. The March 26-28 performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and the March 29 performance begins at 2 p.m. All performances are in Ferguson Theater. Tickets, available at the door, are $10 (regular) and $5 (students, seniors, Pitt ID).

**April 8**
Pitt-Greensburg will offer Evening Information Sessions that include a campus tour led by a current student. The program begins at 5 p.m. Transfer students may schedule individual appointments every 30 minutes from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. To register, call 724-836-9880.

**April 10**
The Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and Chamber Singers will perform their Spring Concert, “Pop Stars,” at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

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**April 15**
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**April 18**
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Discover Yourself . . . Discover Your World

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**University of Pittsburgh Greensburg**
Lynch Hall 203
150 Finoli Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601-5898

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**Teresa Glenn Petrick named PGAA Alumna of Distinction**

The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) named Teresa “Terri” Glenn Petrick ’79 the 2014 PGAA Alumna of Distinction. The award, which was presented during the alumni reception and dinner as part of Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2014, acknowledges excellence among Pitt-Greensburg alumni.

Senior vice president for AAA East Central (Pittsburgh, PA), Petrick is responsible for member service and operational aspects of the not-for-profit automobile club operating in 81 sites in five states. She leads corporate functions, including human resources, information technology, and facilities, and she serves as chief integration officer leading the merger activities of AAA East Central into Auto Club Enterprises of Southern California.

Petrick graduated from Pitt-Greensburg as a University Scholar and magna cum laude with a bachelor’s of science degree in Business Administration. She completed her high school education at McKeesport Senior High School a year early and started college when she was 16 years old.

“Alumni are the ultimate ‘product’ of a college or university,” said Sharon P. Smith, Dr. Sharon P. Smith and Teresa Glenn Petrick ’79

Petrick graduated from Pitt-Greensburg as a University Scholar and magna cum laude with a bachelor’s of science degree in Business Administration. She completed her high school education at McKeesport Senior High School a year early and started college when she was 16 years old.

“Alumni are the ultimate ‘product’ of a college or university,” said Sharon P. Smith, Ph.D., president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. “Academic institutions, like other organizations, have ‘brands’ that make them distinctive and their alumni are characterized by that brand. Terri exemplifies the Pitt-Greensburg alumni brand. Her success is a combination of her own drive and expertise combined with the education and mentoring that she received through Pitt-Greensburg. When I see Terri, I know that she personifies all the best that Pitt-Greensburg offers its students.”

In her acceptance speech for the PGAA award, Petrick noted that the average person makes over a million choices in his or her lifetime, saying, “Most choices are insignificant, mundane, or even made in a relatively passive way . . . but a few very few are life defining . . . I once read that the hardest choices in life aren’t between what’s right and what’s wrong, but between what’s right and what’s best. Without a doubt and unequivocally, Pitt-Greensburg was what was best for me.”

She closed her speech with this observation: “I got that first class education, I found a mentor in Dr. Guy Rossetti who was a Spanish professor who helped me carve a pathway to graduate school and ultimately my career in health care. I made some lifelong friends . . . And I ultimately learned that even though we all make millions of choices over the course of time, in the end our choices make us. I am grateful that I chose Pitt-Greensburg and that choice made me.”

After completing her degree at Pitt-Greensburg, Petrick went on to earn a master’s degree in public management with a concentration in Health Care Management from Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Urban & Public Affairs. She graduated with highest distinction from the program.

Petrick is a high impact business leader with 30 years of successful and diverse management experience who has demonstrated achievement in enhancing performance, profitability, and service growth. Her expertise lies in leading change, especially in the areas of planning, operations, outcomes management, leadership development, and system integration. Recognized as an inspirational leader, a collaborative team player, and a consistent top performer, she is skilled at communication, innovative thinking, leveraging corporate culture, and developing employees.

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Greensburg
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Carl A. Roseman  Vice President for Administrative Affairs  Photo credit: University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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

Message from the President

Congratulations to Terri Patrick ’79 who was named the PGAA Alumna of Distinction. She exemplifies the Pitt-Greensburg brand like so many of our alumni do. The mentoring and education our graduates receive during their time here forms a foundation for the success they realize through their own expertise and drive.

It is easy for alumni to become involved—and stay involved—at Pitt-Greensburg. The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) is active and growing. Nominations are currently being accepted for the PGAA Board of Directors. Serving on the PGAA Board allows you to share your ideas and in just one way you can make a difference here. Other ways are to join us for Pitt Day in Harrisburg on March 4, and to watch for details about National Pitt Networking Day.

Be sure to plan to attend our many events planned for this spring semester. Whether it is an internationally recognized speaker or our own theater and music groups—there are plenty of opportunities to return to campus for quality programs that are free or reasonably priced.

Our Center For Applied Research (CFAR) marked its first anniversary last semester. The work they do continues to be impressive and, it is the inter-disciplinary approach that it incorporates that makes it unique. Faculty from a variety of disciplines are working side by side with students who are gaining hands-on experience and being paid for their efforts. Their work benefits Pitt-Greensburg and the greater Greensburg community.

On a more serious note, we marked the passing of several members of our campus community: William Roach, Robert Davis, and Nancy Flórez-Estrada. Roach and Davis were emeritus Advisory Board members who died in December 2014 and Dr. Flórez-Estrada, emeritus associate professor of Spanish, died in January. Each one, in their own way, used their individual skills and talents to contribute to the growth and success of Pitt-Greensburg. Please watch for their obituaries when they are published in the summer magazine issue of Blue & Gold.

Aaron Slafka ’08 also left his mark on our campus. Inspirational by his example, Aaron will be remembered for never giving up and for encouraging those around him to move past their limitations. Desiring to keep his memory alive and to help others, his friends approached Pitt-Greensburg about establishing a scholarship in Aaron’s name. We couldn’t think of a better way to commemorate his example and his contributions to our campus.

Hail to Pitt!

Sharon P. Smith, PhD
President

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Class Notes

Edward Crit ’89 is the technology manager at City Charter High School in Pittsburgh.

Jennifer (Komlicen) Lape ’97 OTD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor of Occupational Therapy at Chatham University in Pittsburgh.

Michael Greco ’88 and Lynne (Marmo-Farina) Greco ’89 are the parents of a baby boy who celebrated his first birthday in October 2014.

The Television, Internet, and Video Association of Washington, DC (TIVA-DC) awarded Chad Smith ’88 a Peer Gold award in the Acting On Camera-Fiction, Male category, for his portrayal of a vampire who seeks psychiatric treatment for a phobia that impacts his way of life in the film “Dark Therapy.” The film, which is also Smith’s directorial debut, won the Bronze Award in the Independent Short category.

Elaine (Galinski) Fisher ’09 and her husband Daniel Fisher ’07 purchased their first home. Elaine changed jobs in the fall and is a club support specialist with Anytime Fitness.

John “JP” Hilzendeger ’12 and his wife, Julie, were married in June 2014. They live in Muncy, and JP writes that they are “having a blast in their first home.” JP is employed by McKesson Corporation.

Gayle Temple ’12 writes that since graduating with her MBA from Duquesne University, she has relocated to Pittsburgh and is working for Management Science Associates. Her daily duties are a mix of information management, supply chain, and marketing with well-known consumer-packaged goods partners.

In June 2014, Scott Szypulski ’14 was hired as a financial assistant in the department of Critical Care Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Share your news! Go to http://bit.ly/Classnote to update your information and tell us about the great things that are happening in your life.

Stay up-to-date with what is happening at Pitt-Greensburg, reconnect with friends, and share your news! #H2PG

Spring Events

continued from page 12

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

April 25
Pitt-Greensburg will hold its annual Commencement on Radilla Field (indoor weather. Chambers Gymnasium) at 11 a.m. Alumni planning to participate should register by sending email pgs@pitt.edu. Tickets are required for this event and are distributed to the graduates.

May 1
Pitt-Greensburg will host its 19th annual Children’s Literature Conference from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition to the featured speakers, participants can choose from among 15 other sessions specifically for writers, educators, and librarians. Early registration is $70 by March 31. After the deadline, registration is $80. Full-time students may register for free. Register online at www.library.pitt.edu/UPG-childrens-literature-conference.

May 6
Students interested in transferring to Pitt-Greensburg can participate in an accelerated application process on Transfer Decision Day. Admitted students, after paying the tuition deposit, can schedule their courses for the upcoming semester. A $45 application fee waiver to Pitt-Greensburg is offered to students who attend and bring all official transcripts and test scores necessary for the application review. This program is for transfer students only. Register by calling 724-836-9880.

June 13
Pitt-Greensburg’s Saturday Open House is a large group event that welcomes prospective student and their families to campus. The day consists of an admissions presentation and a walking tour of campus. The program runs from 9:45 a.m. to noon. A $45 fee waives to Pitt-Greensburg is offered to students who have not yet applied. To register, call 724-836-9880.

New events are added each week! Check the Event section at www.greensburg.pitt.edu for more details.

A complete schedule of athletic events is available at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics.

JARS | GIVE NOW

Click the “GIVE NOW” link to make a difference today.

www.greensburg.pitt.edu
Jakiela wins 2015 City of Asylum/Pittsburgh Prize

Lori Jakiela, poet, memoirist, and associate professor of English, is the recipient of the 2015 City of Asylum/Pittsburgh Prize. Jakiela was chosen from a pool of writer-applicants, residents of Western Pennsylvania aged 30 and over, who have published at least one full-length book of poetry, fiction, or non-fiction. The 2015 City of Asylum/Pittsburgh prize consists of a month-long, all-expenses-paid writing residency in Brussels, Belgium. Applications were judged by Chuck Kinder, author of Lori Jakiela’s application, “said Kinder. “While I found many pleasures in quite a few of the entries, I kept returning with delight and excitement to the writing sample in Lori Jakiela’s application,” said Kinder.

The Prize is part of City of Asylum’s Bridges initiative, which will create a number of international writer residencies for Western Pennsylvania writers. This residency is a collaboration with the Belgian literary organization, Het beschrijven, and is hosted at the Musee Paris literary center in Brussels.

Music at Pitt-Greensburg plans April concerts

Music at Pitt-Greensburg will close the spring semester with a focus on local talent and groups. The performances are free and open to the public. They begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

The Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and Chamber Singers will offer two performances of their spring concert on April 9 and April 10. Entitled “Pop Stars, Rachstars,” the concert will present a selection of popular music past and present. Students participating in Pitt-Greensburg’s Voice and Piano Study will perform in a recital on April 15. The students are under the direction of Zach Rohlwing, instructor and accompanist. The Voice and Piano Study allows students to start or continue their vocal or piano studies through intensive, one-on-one, individualized lessons as well as studio classes. The class strives to turn musically inclined students into competent and able musicians who possess the ability and confidence to be active artists in their community.

Joan Chambers Concert Series

The Joan Chambers Concert Series will present the University of Pittsburgh’s popular Heinz Chapel Choir on April 18. This is the group’s first concert season under the direction of new conductor, Susan Rice.

The Joan Chambers Concert Series is named in honor of Joan Chambers, late wife of President Emeritus George E. Chambers. She was an ardent supporter and representative of Pitt-Greensburg in the community for many years. The Children’s Literature Collection in Millstein Library, another of her passions, was developed and named in her honor.

Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/musicseries for additional details.

Alumni Spotlight:
Ronna Colland ’87 comes full circle

What started out as a desire to stay close to home while studying accounting has come full circle for Ronna (Sarsfield) Colland ’87. A work-study student in the Business Office at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Colland completed a BS in management, then returned to campus 10 years later as its director of Business Affairs. She recalls declaring in her interview that it was her “dream job” and, upon being hired, said it was like “coming home.”

A commuter student, Colland was active with the Student Government Association (SGA). She made many friends, including other work-study students as well as business management and accounting students in her study groups. Colland notes that she enjoyed all her classes but remembers Associate Professor Bob Pratt’s involvement with students, including the business honor society; and Jim DeFonzo, PhD, an assistant professor, for his willingness to explain and guide students in their accounting study. Colland also reminisces about the honor she felt to be invited to Pitt’s 200th anniversary celebration at the Greensburg Country Club in 1987 because of her involvement as a student. But her favorite memory: the beach party in the McKenna Hall Student Union.

“It was the middle of winter... they cleared out the furniture, SGA put sand in McKenna Hall, and we had a beach party. That was a lot of fun!” Colland adds, “I’m not sure how they got that past administration.”

Bruisers Quest 2015: Roaming for Alumni

A solitary yet adaptable creature, Bruiser the Bobcat is on a quest in 2015 to reach the home ranges of all Pitt-Greensburg alumni. Bruiser is roaming cyberspace to unite alumni in their natural habitat. Download Bruiser’s image at http://bit.ly/Bruiser-BQ15 and include him in a photo with you in your territory or while on the proud. Post the picture to the PGAA Facebook page at Facebook.com/PittGreensburgAlumni, or submit via the online form at http://bit.ly/BruiserPhotoSubmission.

Deadly delay—Bruiser has a lot of ground to cover. Pitt-Greensburg graduates are in each of the 50 states, plus US territories, and various countries. Alumni submitting photos with Bruiser through March 31 will be entered into a drawing for a basketball autographed by Pitt Coaches Jamie Dixon and Suzie McConnell-Serio. Remember to use #BQ15

Pitt Day in Harrisburg

Wednesday, March 4

Mark your calendar, plan to attend, and make a difference! Chartered bus leaves at 7:15 a.m. from Pitt-Greensburg and returns at 7 p.m. Meet with regional legislators to share your story.

Includes continental breakfast, lunch (provided by Pitt), dessert reception, and an opportunity for snack at Sideling Hill rest area.

Deadline to register: February 27.

Register online at http://bit.ly/PittDayRegistration

Pitt-Greensburg University Relations and Institutional Advancement in partnership with Pitt Alumni Association, Pitt Alumni Association, Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association, and the Office of Community and Governmental Relations
Pitt-Greensburg earns spot on Money Magazine list

Money Magazine released a new college ranking system that used three weighted categories—educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes—to make its picks. Its ultimate goal was to identify colleges and universities that “turn out graduates with the most manageable debt.”

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg was one of 665 colleges out of the nation’s approximately 1,500 colleges to make the cut and one of 70 Pennsylvania colleges on the list. The University of Pittsburgh (Oakland) and Pitt-Bradford also made the list.

The three categories used by Money Magazine consisted of 17 factors that analyzed, among others, the average total debt students have at graduation and the amount parents typically borrow from the federal parent PLUS loan program, along with whether alumni from each institution typically earn enough once they are in the workforce to comfortably handle their loan payments.

Money

Pitt-Greensburg

are you sharing the great news about Pitt-Greensburg on social media? Be sure to use the hashtag #H2PG to tag your posts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

PGAA Board of Directors Election

Alumni who are graduates of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg or have attended at least three semesters of classes at the Greensburg campus are eligible to vote or to serve as a director or officer.

Nominations will be accepted through March 31. Board Responsibility and Nomination Forms are available online at http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/board-directors.

The PGAA Board Election runs April 3 through 17. The ballot will be available online at http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/board-directors. For more information, visit the website or call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 724-836-7498.

Honor Roll of Donors published

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg thanks its donors for their generous support during the past fiscal year (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014). The annual Honor Roll of Donors is now available online at our website at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/honor-roll-donors. Contributions from alumni and friends are paramount in Pitt-Greensburg’s ability to support the funding needs of the University. Our number one priority is scholarships, followed by enriching the academic experience, enhancing the student experience, and building a beautiful campus.

Again, our deepest thanks for helping Pitt-Greensburg to continue its mission of building a liberal arts college for the 21st century.

Pitt-Greensburg collects 8,300+ pieces of clothing

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg collected more than 8,300 pieces of clothing as its contribution to the University of Pittsburgh’s Give a Read Campaign. Students and Office of Student Services staff loaded two vans with the bags containing the donated clothing that were then delivered to Oakland.

The campaign kicked off in late November 2014 with the collection period running through the end of January. The announcement of the total pieces of clothing collected is expected to be made at the end of February—and official notification of whether the University of Pittsburgh set a Guinness World Record for most clothing collected for the intent of donation or recycling. Pitt’s overall goal is 150,000 pieces of clothing.

Pitt-Greensburg was one of four regional campuses in the Pitt system participating in the clothing drive. It expresses a hearty thank you to the campus community and members of the greater Greensburg community for donating clothing and helping Pitt-Greensburg to make a stellar showing in this activity.

Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company

Chemical Imbalance: A Jekyll and Hyde Play

The Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company will present Chemical Imbalance: A Jekyll and Hyde Play (written by Lauren Wilson) as its spring production. The performances are March 26 through March 28 at 7:30 p.m. and March 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets, available at the door, are $10 (regular) and $5 (students, seniors, Pitt ID).

A dinner and theatre option is offered for the Saturday, March 28, performance. Theatre-goers will enjoy dinner, catered by Chartwells in the Hempfield Room (Chambers Hall), and receive preferred-seating tickets for the show. Cost is $25 for both the dinner and the show. Registration is required, and may be completed by contacting Emily Stark at esl114@pitt.edu or 724-366-9896.

The play, set in the steam-driven society of Victorian England, takes a farcical look at the Robert Louis Stevenson story Jekyll and Hyde. Professor Jekyll is investigating finds him—as usual—investigating the split between good and evil in the human psyche. Of course, things get out of hand when he decides being evil might be more fun and recreational. Soon he realizes he needs to put a stopper on the bottle before his evil murderous side can’t be contained. The Steampunk theme is a creative element added by Stephen Schrum, PhD, associate professor of Theatre and director of the spring production.

“It is an excellent visual touchstone that works well in shows of that era,” explained Schrum, who has been involving himself in the Theatre and director of the spring production.

For more information, visit the website or call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 724-836-7498.

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Fall Sports Athletes earn AMCC honors

Cross Country

The Pitt-Greensburg men’s and women’s cross country teams competed in seven meets, including the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) Championships at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Joyce Brobeck, who started the Bobcat program in 2002, ended a 13-year career at Pitt-Greensburg with her retirement at the close of the 2014 season. The men’s team finished sixth among the 10 conference teams on the 6K course, with junior Garrett Urban finishing ninth overall with a time of 27:55. Urban earned All-AMCC First Team honors for the season. The women’s cross country team finished eighth out of the 10 teams at the Conference Championships. Freshman Marie Miller came in 19th overall in the 6K race with a time of 26:58.

Golf

The Bobcat golf team finished in sixth place at the 2014 AMCC Championship with a team score of 690 over the two-day tournament. Zach Berktorser finished his junior season with rounds of 85 and 82 (167 combined) at the championship, tying for 17th overall. Junior Marty Sholtis finished three strokes behind Berktorser with an 86 and an 84 (170 combined score). The team competed in six events over the course of their season, finishing as high as second out of six teams at the DuBois Collegiate Classic hosted by Mount Aloysius College in October. They are coached by Anthony Berlich.

Men’s Soccer

Pitt-Greensburg’s men’s soccer team posted their best season in 10 years, finishing 12-7-1 and qualifying as the number three seed in the AMCC Tournament. The team defeated D’Youville College in the first round before dropping its semi-final match to Duquesne University with a record of 8-5-1 at the championship, Bobcat program in 2002, ending a 13-year career at Pitt-Greensburg with her retirement at the close of the 2014 season. The team defeated D’Youville College in the first round before dropping its semi-final match to Duquesne University with a record of 8-5-1 at the championship.

Women’s Soccer

Junior forward and team co-captain Courtney Carroll earned All-AMCC Third Team honors. She led the Bobcats in goals and points, ranking her among the AMCC’s best. Carroll also earned a place in the Pitt-Greensburg record books, taking the number one spot for career penalty kicks and moving into fourth place for women’s soccer all-time scoring with 58 career points.

The Bobcats finished the season 7-10-1 overall and 3-5-1 in conference play under the direction of Head Coach Chuck Wigele, Assistant Coaches Chris Fabian, Holly Shipley, and Jenna Biddle, and Goalkeeper Coach Ryan Mates. The team narrowly missed earning a spot in the AMCC Tournament when they lost the tie-breaker match to Juniata, 3-1.

Women’s Tennis

Junior Shyla Landman was selected the AMCC Player of the Year in women’s tennis, with the honors. She left the season 9-0 at the number one singles position and helped the Bobcats earn the number three seed in the AMCC tournament. The team finished as a semi-finalist, losing to second-seed Penn State-Behrend, 5-4.

Earning All-AMCC First Team honors in singles and Second Team honors in doubles were senior Caryla Ray and sophomore Sydney Geary. Amanda Jepsen, a freshman, was named to the Second Team in both singles and doubles, while Emily Frye, also a freshman, was named to the Second Team in doubles.

The women’s tennis team finished the season 7-7 overall and 6-2 in conference play under the direction of Maria Iovino, junior forward and team co-captain Courtney Carroll earned All-AMCC Third Team honors. She led the Bobcats in goals and points, ranking her among the AMCC’s best. Carroll also earned a place in the Pitt-Greensburg record books, taking the number one spot for career penalty kicks and moving into fourth place for women’s soccer all-time scoring with 58 career points.

Volleyball

The Pitt-Greensburg women’s volleyball team finished the fall season 3-2-5 overall and 0-9 in the AMCC. The team posted wins against Manhattanville College at Allegheny, Chatham University, and Waynesburg University. Leroy Simms and Kylenn Smith serve as head coach and assistant coach, respectively.

Sophomore Lauren Tassone led the team in attacks and finished second in serves and third in digs. Amanda Ross, a freshman, was first on the team in blocks and second in attacks. Sophomore Renee Ault led the team in serves while finishing second in blocks.

Petrick named Alumna of Distinction

Prior to being named a senior vice president with AAA East Central, Petrick’s past experience was primarily in health care. From 2010 through 2013, she served as president of UPMC Health Plans in Pittsburgh, PA where she was responsible for the operations of a $1.5 billion hospital, a hospital-affiliated surgery center, and multiple outpatient primary care centers of which three are associated with one of the nation’s premier family medicine teaching programs. She was responsible for developing a revised Magnet initiative that includes the development of Centers of Excellence, the replication for Magnet Status. Her ability to build interpersonal relationships with key health care leaders led to the development of clinical linkages with 15 non-UPMC community-based hospitals in Western Pennsylvania.

Petrick serves as a member of the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board and the La Roche College Board of Trustees. In the community, she served as a member of the Kearns Spirituality Center/Sisters of Divine Providence Advisory Board. She is a past chair and volunteer for the Diversity Council for UPMC. A volunteer and past board member with the Cranberry Alliance and the National Allegheny County Chamber of Commerce, she served as co-chair for the American Diabetes Association Step-Out Walk.

Petrick and her husband, David, reside in North Huntingdon, PA. They have five children and seven grandchildren.

Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/news/pps/petrick to read more about Petrick’s accomplishments.
Scholar-Athletes recognized for achievements

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg honored and recognized 88 student-athletes during its 2015 Scholar-Athlete Awards ceremony held in February. The awards presentation recognizes students for their outstanding academic achievement. Students must have earned a 3.0 or higher GPA during the previous semester in order to be recognized.

Alumni who participated in athletics at Pitt-Greensburg were invited back to campus to join in celebrating the current student-athletes’ accomplishments.

BASEBALL
Nicholas Anderson* FR Communication
Anthony Bozutto* FR Mgt.-Accounting
John Buekle* SR Psychology
Jacob Byskielski JR Management
Brett Dady* SO Biological Sciences
Adam Dodson* JR Mgt.-Accounting
William Elliott* JR Communication
Zachary Fedor* JR Information Science
Matthew Germanoski* JR Mgt. Info. Systems
Ian Hart* JR Mgt.-Accounting
Brandon Hoener* JR Management
Michael Malecki JR Communication
Matthew Meyer* SR Management
Michael Palcic* JR Management
Jared Poteate* JR Management
Dylan Pounds* SO Mgt.-Accounting
Travis Sanner* JR Communication

BASKETBALL (MEN’S)
Nicholas Anderson* FR Communication
Michael Connelly JR Management
Ireland Fitzsimms JR Management
Brian Heisler* SR Mgt. Info. Systems
Joseph Mancini* JR Pre-Medical
Jarrett Shannon SO Management
Marcus Thomas SO Psychology
K. Doug Wilson JR Management

BASKETBALL (WOMEN’S)
Caitly Baer SO Mgt.-Accounting
Lynsy Baer SO Applied Mathematics
Casey Hamilton* SO Mgt.-Accounting
Megan Hans SR Communication
Lindsey McFarland* SR Early Childhood Ed.
Emily Meyerman FR Pre-Education
Kelsey Odda* FR Psychology
Sylbia Stuart* FR Communication

CROSS COUNTRY (MEN’S)
Tyler Lookabaugh* SO Psychology
Robert Pobinka JR Criminal Justice
Garrett Urban* JR Biological Sciences
Glen Wolferath* JR Information Science

CROSS COUNTRY (WOMEN’S)
Christine Hartner* SR Information Ed.
Laura Kunarsky* SO Early Childhood Ed.
Marie Maher* FR Pre-Medical

GOLF
Zachary Berlinski* JR Mgt. Info. Systems
Brian Heisler* SR Mgt. Info. Systems
Marissa Sholtis* FR Management
Luc Tiley* FR Pre-Engineering

SOCCER (MEN’S)
Santo DeFrancesco SR Management
Alexander Guir SO Pre-Education
Brian Koerber* SR Management
Alex Leonard SR Management
Craig Macdonald SR Natural Sciences
Jeremy Nienace* SR Natural Sciences
Massimo Pauline* SR Social Sciences
Teresa Smith* JR Applied Mathematics
Jerome Williams* JR Applied Mathematics

SOCCER (WOMEN’S)
Maddison Bernard* FR Biological Sciences
Courtney Carroll* JR Biological Sciences
Alyssa Chaylor SR Chemistry
Alexandra Dimitro SR Chemistry
Shannon Edwards SO Pre-Hlth & Rehab. Sciences
Carrile Hickman* FR Pre-Science
Harley Hubert* SO Management
Jenna Morgan* SR Biological Sciences
Carl Welsh* JR Biological Sciences

SOFTBALL
Kara Barch* SO Biological Sciences
Casey Hamilton* SR Applied Mathematics
Courtney Hrubosky* JR Biological Sciences
Jenner Humber* SO Pre-Education

VOLLEYBALL
Rebecca Ault SO Management
Wendi Barna* JR Biological Sciences
Julie Barden* JR Management
Brooke Bosh* SR Criminal Justice
Elizabeth Geod* SO Chemistry
Paige Minick SO Chemistry
Amanda Ross FR Mgt.-Accounting
Amanda Shemanski* SO Pre-Pharmacy
Lauren Tassone* SO Chemistry

American Slafka Memorial Scholarship established

Ten years ago, Pitt-Greensburg student Aaron Slafka experienced a life-changing diagnosis of a benign brain tumor after being in a car accident. The surgeries following the diagnosis triggered epilepsy that ultimately contributed to his unexpected death in April 2014.

Aaron Slafka, who graduated in 2008, is remembered for his determination, warmth, upbeat personality, and—ultimately—the inspirational way that he lived his life.

A member of the Pitt-Greensburg cross country team throughout his diagnosis and illness, Slafka showed up for every practice and every meet. When he could not get clearance to run, his coach, Joyce Brobeck, sought to get him clearance to ride a bicycle during the team practices.

He took on the role of leader and motivator, following along behind the runners shouting out encouragement.

Brobeck, who retired at the end of the fall 2014 season, said her strongest memory is of the Westminster Invitational when he ran every mile in the book “by telling Slafka to dress and warm-up because he was going to run in his first and only college meet. At the time, Slafka was having problems with one of his legs, causing him to fall while running.

Brobeck notes that each time he fell, he would get back up and keep running. She remembers Slafka running ahead of each marker to make sure Slafka was making it through the course. At the last rule marker, she sprinted ahead to the finish line and asked the invitational officials if they could keep the timing equipment in place for Slafka to finish. Twenty minutes after the other runners had completed the course, Slafka crossed the finish line with all of the competing college teams cheering him on.

Slafka, a McKeesport native, graduated from Pitt-Greensburg with a degree in political science. President of the Pitt-Greensburg Student Government Association (SGA) and captain of the cross country team, he loved politics but never got to realize his other dream of living and working in Washington, DC. He did get to meet and host Hillary Clinton when she held a rally at Pitt-Greensburg in 2007 as part of her presidential campaign.

Slafka is remembered as an inspiration to all who met him. In 2007, ESPN profiled the student-athlete in a segment of “NCAA on Campus.”

"Aaron cared so much about Pitt-Greensburg and was strongly committed to the school in so many ways,” says Paul Adams, PhD, associate professor of Political Science and chair of the Behavioral Sciences Division. “Whether it was student government, cross country, or an enlightening discussion in class, Aaron was always engaged—even when his illnesses were making it hard for him to do so.

Recently, friends of Slafka approached Pitt-Greensburg about recognizing his memory in a scholarship. The scholarship would be awarded to a junior or senior student majoring or minoring in political science who has demonstrated service to the University and demonstrates perseverance and the ability to overcome adversity.

“After Aaron’s death, his mother, told me how much she loved Pitt and that he wanted whether we had forgotten about him,” says Adams.

Adams continued, “The award will go to a student who not only reflects the kind of leadership and engagement that Aaron possessed but who also has overcome adversity, challenges, and travails that make that accomplishment so much more meaningful. It is a way of saying thanks and recognizing the special student-scholar leaders who play incredibly important and irreplaceable roles at this university.”

Contributions are now being accepted for the Aaron Slafka Memorial Scholarship Award. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please check a made out to the University of Pitt-Greensburg and indicate that you are contributing to the Aaron Slafka Memorial Scholarship Award. To donate using a credit card, please call 724-836-7497.

You CAN make a difference

Scholarships are an essential component in recruiting and retaining top quality students. The vast majority of Pitt-Greensburg students receive some type of financial aid, making scholarship revenue our single greatest need. Endowments provide financial support for scholarships, fellowships, faculty chairs, instruction, University programs, facilities, and services.

Scholarships and endowments are created with an initial investment and can be added to over time, by anyone. These funds are named in perpetuity and not only provide student and University support, but also provide the donor an opportunity to interact with the students and faculty members that benefit from their generosity.

For more information about establishing a scholarship or endowment, please contact Jodi Kraisinger, director of University Relations and Institutional Advancement, at 724-836-9942 or gifts2pg@pitt.edu.