University of Pittsburgh
Greensburg
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150 Finol Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601-5988

Pitt Board of Trustees meet at Pitt-Greensburg

Discover Yourself . . . Discover Your World

March 22, 2016

In partnership with the Office of Community and Governmental Relations
Tell your Pitt story and influence our state lawmakers.
This free opportunity includes transportation, continental breakfast, and lunch.
Register at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/pittdayharrisburg

Pitt-Greensburg Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Trip

Since 2005, Pitt-Greensburg students have participated in Habitat for Humanity’s Alternative Spring Break. This year, they will travel to Birmingham, AL, to build a home for a family in need.
Support our students’ efforts by contributing to their campaign to raise $3,000 to cover their expenses.

The last day to donate online is February 23.
Visit https://engage.pitt.edu/upghfh to donate!

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Discover your world. Experience your life.

Discover Yourself . . . Discover Your World
Hail to Pitt!

what they have learned through their many conversations with alumni, here, we recently invited Elliance, a digital marketing firm, to our campus to enrich the affordable, quality education that students receive among these schools and proud to be able to offer a supportive learning environment. This is something that usually does not happen as part of the Trustee experience. I am proud to say that our students shone. It also was an opportunity to showcase what we do well and an opportunity to talk about what we would like to achieve in the future.

Soon after that visit, Pitt-Greensburg received notification that it was named a Money Magazine Best College Value for the second consecutive year. This ranking is valuable because it means that we are providing a quality education at an affordable cost. Our graduates are leaving the campus with a lower amount of debt than other college graduates, and they are able to find jobs.

Pitt-Greensburg was also named a Military Friendly School for the fifth consecutive year. This recognition honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students, as well as universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students, as well as ensuring their success on campus. Pitt-Greensburg is proud to be counted among these schools.

In our efforts to share the great things that are happening at Pitt-Greensburg that enrich the affordable, quality education that students receive here, we recently invited Eillie, a digital marketing firm, to our campus to help us in re-defining and articulating our brand. We look forward to hearing what they have learned through their many conversations with alumni, students, faculty, staff, employers of Pitt-Greensburg alumni, and others.

Hail to Pitt!

Sharon P. Smith, PhD
President

Class Notes

Debbie Kritikos ’88 writes that after graduating from Pitt-Greensburg, she earned her teaching certification in Mathematics from Seton Hill University. “I was hired by the Woodland Hills School District in 2000 and worked as a junior high Mathematics teacher for 10 years. During that time, I obtained my Master’s Degree in Education in Technology Enhanced Learning as well as my Instructional Technology Specialist certification from Seton Hill University. I have been working for the past 5 years as an Elementary Technology Coach between Woodland Hills Academy and Fairless Elementary in the Woodland School District.”

Sherry Magretti Hamilton, Esq., ’89 recently was elected Westmoreland County Register of Wills & Clerk of the Orphans’ Court and took office in January. Prior to this election, she had served as a Hempfield Township Supervisor.

Kristen Davis ’08 relocated to South Park, PA. For the past six years, Kristen has been the Public Relations and Communications Specialist and Homeless Liaison for a school district in the Pittsburgh area.

Laura (Sisko) Galmoff ’10 shared that her daughter, Adalyn Anne Galmoff, was born July 28, 2013.

J.P. Hizendez ’12 and his wife, Julie, announce the birth of their son, Michael Anthony Hizendez. Born May 13, 2015, Michael was 20 inches long and weighed 8.4 lbs.

Share your news! Update your information and tell us what is happening at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/update-my-information

Spring 2016 Production

Man of La Mancha, the musical

The Pittsburgh-Greensburg Theatre Company presents the musical Man of La Mancha as its spring 2016 production.

In this well-known musical, Miguel de Cervantes, a poet of the theatre, is brought to prison to await the Inquisition. While there, he is put on trial by his fellow prisoners—but over the actor and playwright, Cervantes mounts his defense by enlisting the aid of those prisoners as characters in the story of the fearless knight Don Quixote de la Mancha. This show demonstrates that the human imagination cannot be contained within a prison’s walls.

Stephen Schrum, PhD, associate professor of theatre and director of the show, is looking forward to the production, not only because the song, “The Impossible Dream,” has such meaning and power, but also because the show celebrates the transformative power of the theatre. The show also marks the end of the college acting careers of several of the cast members who will graduate in April 2016.

Stay up-to-date with what is happening at Pitt-Greensburg, reconnect with friends, and share your news!
Men’s & Women’s Cross Country

In the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) Cross Country Championship meet, the men’s team placed third, their highest finish since 2007, while the women came in seventh out of 10 teams. Both teams are under the direction of first-year coach Tony Berich was named AMCC Golf Coach of the Year. The Bobcats finished third in the AMCC championship tournament. Tony Berich was named AMCC Cross Country Coach of the Year for coaching the team to one of their most successful seasons in a decade, where they made it to the first round of the AMCC tournament.

Fall athletic season successful

Pitt-Greensburg named a Money Magazine “Best College Value”

For the second consecutive year, Pitt-Greensburg has been named one of the best college values in the nation by Money Magazine. The magazine’s ranking system uses three weighted categories—educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes—to make its picks. The list identifies colleges and universities that “turn out graduates with the most manageable debt.”

Pitt-Greensburg designated a Military Friendly School

For the fifth consecutive year, Pitt-Greensburg has been designated a “Military Friendly School” by Victory Media, the premier media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life. The designation honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

Beshero-Bondar elected to TEI Technical Council

Elisa Beshero-Bondar, PhD, associate professor of English, recently was elected to the TEI Technical Council. She was one of 17 candidates competing for six seats. TEI stands for Text Encoding Initiative. The Council makes decisions about TEI encoding, as well as looking after the TEI technical processing and technical support of the community. The TEI Technical Council is responsible for the development and maintenance of the TEI Guidelines and other TEI systems and resources. It recommends, evaluates, and implements new features and modifications of existing features, and supervises the overall development of each new version of the Guidelines. Beshero-Bondar and Sayre Greenfield, PhD, professor of English, were instrumental in developing the new Digital Studies Certificate now available from Pitt-Greensburg.

Education faculty and students present at national conference

Melissa Marks, EdD, associate professor of Education, and three students traveled to New Orleans in November to the National Council for Social Studies conference. Secondary Education majors Ashley Muscarella, James Gabonera, and Jack Hunter joined Marks in presenting a poster on new teaching methods. “It is so cool for these students who are complete newbies to teaching to be demonstrating new methods to people who have 20 and 30 years of experience,” said Marks.

Muscarella leading SPSEA at state level

Ashley Muscarella, a senior double majoring in secondary education and history with a political science minor, has been elected to the state-level office of president of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA). She is leading the regional SPSEA officers in planning the annual spring conference, as well as working to increase the group’s membership from approximately 5,000 registered members to 8,000 by the end of the academic year. Muscarella attended the National Education Association’s (NEA) Student Leadership Conference and Representative Assembly this past summer. “It was 10 days spent with representatives of the National Education Association talking about education politics. As a student member, I actually had a voting voice in what my organization was deciding. That’s powerful,” she said.

Two Chartwells employees bring Compass Group’s Iron Chef Silver Medal Title to Greensburg

Lisa Bierer and Timothy Skodak, chefs with the Chartwells staff at Pitt-Greensburg, competed in the Iron Chef competition held as part of the Compass Group Mid-Atlantic Culinary Marketing Meeting held at Montclair State University. Compass Group is composed of several dining service providers, of which Chartwells is the educational component. Bierer and Skodak were part of a four-member team that finished second for the silver medal. Under specific time constraints, the four teams (16 total chefs representing all Compass Group divisions) designed their menus, began the preparation/cooking process, and then were alerted to the secret ingredient, peppers, which had to be incorporated into each dish. Bierer, manager of the Coffeehouse in the Academic Village, prepared guacamole with apple-smoked pineapple. Skodak, who also is the primary technician for the Chartwells corporate digital cookbook, prepared mashed parsnips that featured two sauces. “It was 10 days spent with representatives of the National Education Association talking about education politics. As a student member, I actually had a voting voice in what my organization was deciding. That’s powerful,” she said.

For the second consecutive year, Pitt-Greensburg, competed in the Iron Chef competition held as part of the Compass Group Mid-Atlantic Culinary Marketing Meeting held at Montclair State University. Compass Group is composed of several dining service providers, of which Chartwells is the educational component. Bierer and Skodak were part of a four-member team that finished second for the silver medal. Under specific time constraints, the four teams (16 total chefs representing all Compass Group divisions) designed their menus, began the preparation/cooking process, and then were alerted to the secret ingredient, peppers, which had to be incorporated into each dish. Bierer, manager of the Coffeehouse in the Academic Village, prepared guacamole with apple-smoked pineapple. Skodak, who also is the primary technician for the Chartwells corporate digital cookbook, prepared mashed parsnips that featured two sauces, glass and cream. The two have a combined 20 years of service at Pitt-Greensburg.

“We have the ability to impact how students see and taste food every day,” said Richard McMahon, director of food service for Chartwells dining service at Pitt-Greensburg. “Lisa and Tim are just two examples of how seriously we take our responsibility to provide delicious food that is healthy, too.”
Pawprints: continued

Education students to study teacher in New Zealand
Four Education majors will travel to New Zealand in February to complete the second half of their student teaching experience by spending several weeks working in schools there. Chris Shur and Dave Postlethwait, both majoring in Secondary Education with a mathematics concentration, Bryan Edwards, majoring in Secondary Education with a biology concentration, and Kierstin Brown, a Childhood Education major, will make the trip. "It's a great experience for our Education majors to get to know other people and cultures. It makes them global citizens," said Melissa Marlos, EdS, associate professor of Education.

Real-World Insights Business Conference held
Mike Kane, CEO and co-founder of Colhelm, was the keynote speaker and EQT Corporation was the corporate presenter at the second annual Real-world Insights Business Conference held in October 2015. Local company representatives also spoke about challenges and opportunities, business practices, and employment structures. The program was hosted by the Accounting Business Network, Office of Career Services, and Management faculty. The event and was designed to provide a variety of perspectives from individuals working in diverse fields. The conference was open to all Pitt-Greensburg students and alumni.

Criminal Justice Day brings experts to campus
The Criminal Justice Club hosted its annual Criminal Justice Day in November 2015. Now in its 16th year, the event gave the community the opportunity to network with criminal justice professionals who are on the cutting edge of law and justice.

CFAR's Community Arts & Reintegration Project
As part of its Community Arts & Reintegration Project for Westmoreland County, Pitt-Greensburg's Center for Applied Research (CFAR) hosted Will Cooper-Balis, MSW, LSW, Restorative Justice Program Manager, and Dawon Williams, Guild Coordinator, from the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts program. The two discussed how the Mural Arts' collective mural-making processes have been a powerful tool for generating dialogue, building relationships, empowering communities, and sparking economic revitalization. The event, which was free to the public, was funded by the Richard King Mellon Community Foundation of Westmoreland County Impact Fund, affiliated with The Pittsburgh Foundation.

Humanities Day planned
Stephen Schrum, Lori Jakiela, and Silvina Orsetti, all Humanities Division faculty, are working to re-establish Humanities Day as an annual event to bring high school students to the campus. The event, planned for May 7, will allow students to compete in the areas of foreign languages, music, art, theatre, film, writing, and literature. Teachers will have the opportunity to earn Act 48 credits/hours in professional development workshops that will be offered concurrently, and parents will be able to participate in informational sessions about the campus.

11th Annual Dr. Bernard Cobetto Lecture Series on contemporary ethical issues
Restorative Justice: Exploring Ethics and Criminal Justice in the Age of Mass Incarceration presented by Joanne Katz, JD
Professor of Legal Studies
Department of Criminal Justice, Legal Studies, and Social Work
Missouri Western State University

Please call 724-836-7980 to reserve a seat at this free event.
April 13 • 7 p.m. • Ferguson Theater

This event was designed to showcase the variety of careers available to students who major in criminal justice, as well as provide an opportunity to network with criminal justice professionals who are on the cutting edge of law and justice.

Faculty Senate: Pitt-Greensburg making an impact in Greensburg and in Oakland
Pitt-Greensburg currently holds the honor of being the only regional campus in the University of Pittsburgh system to have a member of its faculty, Franklin "Frank" Wilson, PhD, elected to and serving as president of the University of Pittsburgh Faculty Senate. Here, we share the activities of both the Pitt Faculty Senate and our own Pitt-Greensburg Faculty Senate, which is led by Anne M. Czurzinski, PhD.

Space limitations prevent the publishing of the complete articles. Please visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/FacultySenate to read more.

A year ago I had no desire to, or expectation that, I would serve as the President of Pitt-Greensburg’s Senate. A case, perhaps, of being the right person, in the right place, at the right time, resulted in my taking this position on July 1, 2015. This is especially exciting for a sociologist like me, as I’ve been interested in understanding organizations from my undergraduate days at the University of California at San Diego. As Senate President I preside over both the Faculty Assembly and the Senate Council. My term is one year, with the possibility of being re-elected twice. Then I will serve on the Executive Committee up to three more years as Immediate Past President. The Senate is the structure wherein Pitt’s practice of shared governance takes place. My goal is to make sure that practice is authentic, and that it continues to expand and be championed by all my predecessors. I have an opportunity to set or affect several University agendas, to serve on important committees, and to act as the University Marshal at various convocations at the Pitt campus.

Being able to interact with the students, staff, administrators, and faculty of the University has already been interesting, stimulating, and a high point of my professional development and career. As a Pitt graduate (PhD-1999), I have always been proud of my continuing connection with the University, and I have gained a new appreciation of its size, complexity, diversity, and impact.

While I am the first President of the University Senate to come from a regional campus, I am also mindful that I represent the entire University. My hope is that the fact that I’m from Pitt-Greensburg has brought increased awareness for our campus and the other undergraduate-only schools in Johnstown, Bradford, and Titusville, which are important parts of the University of Pittsburgh. While I claim no credit, I do hope my role as President helped the Chancellor and his Chief of Staff decide to attend our annual Circle Dinner last September, and for the Board of Trustees to hold their October retreat and meeting in Greensburg, where many experienced a regional campus for the first time. These things have been symbolically important, my hope is that more substantive recognition and assistance will come our way.

The biggest challenge for me has been trying to find the balance between my responsibilities here and those in Oakland. There are not enough days, or hours within them, to do all the interesting and important things I enjoy doing in both places. It would be overwhelming were it not for my new colleagues and friends on the Oakland campus, and more importantly, my long-time colleagues and friends at Pitt-Greensburg.

"Pitt-Greensburg's faculty care a great deal about the educational experience of their students and work closely with individual students and groups to ensure their success. The collective goal is to expand student learning beyond the classroom and to help students find greater opportunities and fulfill their lives," said Anne M. Czurzinski, PhD, president of the Faculty Senate at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

Czurzinski, an associate professor of Communication, noted that one of the group’s major accomplishments for the fall 2015 term was the endorsement of a revised tenure and promotion document, “Policies and Procedures for Faculty Appointment, Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure of Tenure,” which is awaiting approval from the Provost’s Office.

The Faculty-Welfare Committee, chaired by Elisa Beshore-Bondur, PhD, with the leadership of Frank Wilson, PhD, “led an exciting, enlightening, and informative discussion in Faculty Senate that produced a document that is easier to read and reduces ambiguity,” said Czurzinski. “I believe the revision process increased collaboration, transparency, and effective communication among faculty, as well as between faculty and the administration.”

The Faculty Senate addresses critical issues that benefit students’ education experiences, including the development, revision, and implementation of new and existing academic programs and curricula. They also discuss changes in general education requirements, academic standards, placement tests, the use of technology in the classroom, graduation requirements, and other issues that have a direct impact on the student learning experience and the achievement of their academic goals.

During the spring term, the Education Planning and Policies Committee will work with the foreign language department to review the campus’ foreign language requirement and possible use of a placement test. The two academic committees on mentoring and on international studies will also be offering recommendations.

The Faculty Senate is the official instrument for shared governance at Pitt-Greensburg. It ensures and promotes the creation and dissemination of knowledge, and supports diversity among faculty, staff, administration, students, the Advisory Board, and other members of the University. Policies and issues pertaining to faculty welfare, academic programs, curriculum, and other topics relating to the welfare of the campus are addressed. The group works to create harmony and desire for more recognition of efforts of the students and other bodies of the University and recommends policy changes.

"Pitt-Greensburg’s faculty and staff, working closely with individual students and the University community as a whole, ensure the students’ success and future opportunities," said Pitt-Greensburg President Frank Wilson, PhD. "Pitt-Greensburg is committed to providing an educational experience that is second to none in the region and beyond."
Become a member of the 1787 Society of the University of Pittsburgh and create a lasting legacy
Your planned or deferred gifts, regardless of the size, through a bequest, annuity, trust, life insurance policy, or other planned or deferred gift opportunity to the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and/or the University of Pittsburgh can change lives.
Your commitment may be made to any area of the University and can provide professorships, research funds, student scholarships, unrestricted funds, and a higher quality of education for all of our students.

With the support of alumni, family, and friends, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg has established the Nancy Florez-Estrada Mentoring and Leadership Award for Students. This award enables the example set by the late Nancy Florez-Estrada, PhD, A&S ’95 to endure long into the future.
A committee of faculty and staff developed the award in honor of Dr. Estrada, a revered campus mentor and leader who was deeply dedicated to providing students the opportunities to develop their own skills as mentors and leaders.

This award will ensure that her legacy continues by funding a program whereby students can work with faculty and staff in and out of the classroom to develop their mentoring and leadership skills. The students in this program would advise, mentor, and teach students in a variety of academic, cultural, and service projects.

When fully funded, the award will provide $3,000 per year ($1,500 per semester) for a student to work up to 10 hours per week fulfilling the requirements of the award. Examples of those activities include:
• Advising students in the planning and coordination of Academic Village arts and cultural programs;
• Leading students in planning campus service projects;
• Advising student organizations about fundraising strategies, budgets, marketing, meeting management, supervising and motivating volunteers, and program planning and evaluation;
• Teaching students valuable leadership skills through organization officer training workshops;
• Presenting sessions at the Fall Leadership Conference.

In 2014, Estrada retired from Pitt-Greensburg as an associate professor of Spanish. She dedicated her 32-year career to her students and the broadening of their horizons. From 1999 through 2009, she served as director of the International Academic Village, collaborating with students to develop international programming. She also served as advisor to the campus Spanish Club where, under her mentorship, students regularly brought the Spanish and Latin American cultures to campus by hosting dinners, workshops, films, performances, and speakers.

At this writing, the award is nearing its goal of $10,000. Anyone who would like to contribute to this award in memory of Estrada should use the enclosed envelope or call 724-836-7497 to donate using a credit card.

Questions about this fund or donations may be directed to Jodi Kraisinger, director of University Relations and Institutional Advancement at gifts2pg@pitt.edu or 724-836-9942.

Mark your calendar for Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2016
Friday, Sept. 30 • Saturday, Oct. 1 • Sunday, Oct. 2
www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend

Nancy Florez-Estrada, PhD
Left: Joseluis Florez-Estrada, Nancy’s husband, with the tree that was planted this fall in memory of his wife. The tree, donated by Joseluis, is located outside of Powers Hall.

A sampling of the activities that took place during Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2015.
Visit our photo galleries at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/photo-galleries to see photos from these events and more!

Watch for details . . .
PGAA Tailgate and Pirate Baseball outing is planned for Sunday, June 12
Watch the monthly PGA E-Newsletter or www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/events for details when they are finalized!

Upcoming Alumni Events at a Glance
Details: www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/events
February
17 Professional Development Committee Meeting
20 Admitted Student Day (Alumni volunteers needed)
March
16 Professional Development Committee Meeting
19 Admitted Student Day (Alumni volunteers needed)
April
2 Admissions Discovery Day (Alumni volunteers needed)
9 Pitt-Greensburg Dinner Theater featuring the musical I’ll See I’ll Man
10 Senior Send-Off (Alumni hosts needed)
16 Admitted Student Day (Alumni volunteers needed)
29 New Alumni Reception (Alumni hosts needed)
Parent Appreciation Dinner (Alumni hosts needed)
30 Alumni Leadership Dinner (Alumni hosts needed)
Commemoration Breakfast
Commemoration
Recognizing Excellence: PGAA Award Nominations

The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) is currently accepting nominations for its 2016 Alumni awards until July 1. Award recipients will be honored at the Alumni Celebration Dinner on October 1, as part of Blue & Gold Weekend.

Homecoming 2016:
- The Alumnus of Distinction Award acknowledges excellence among alumni of Pitt-Greensburg. It is the highest honor given by the PGAA to an individual alumnus(a) annually.
- The Volunteer of Excellence Award honors alumni who have dedicated a significant amount of personal time to attending alumni meetings and events, working on special projects, and contributing to the overall success of both the PGAA and the University.
- The Young Alumni Leadership Award, a new award initiated in 2015, recognizes established and future leaders among Pitt-Greensburg’s young alumni.


Pitt-Greensburg SAA active on campus and in Oakland

SAA Members: Marina Shenouda, Daniel Laughi, Emma Rockwell (on top of statue), Mackenzie Lovelace, Stephanie Costabile (behind statue)

• The Alumnus of Distinction Award acknowledges excellence among alumni of Pitt-Greensburg. It is the highest honor given by the PGAA to an individual alumnus(a) annually.
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• The Young Alumni Leadership Award, a new award initiated in 2015, recognizes established and future leaders among Pitt-Greensburg’s young alumni.


Pitt-Greensburg Board Nominations An opportunity to make a difference

The Pitt-Greensburg Board of Directors is seeking nominations for Board members.

You are invited to nominate candidates—self-nominations are encouraged—to serve one term of three years beginning July 1, with the option of being elected to serve a second term.

Nominations will be accepted through April 1.

Members of the Board serve in an advisory capacity to the Office of Alumni Relations and work closely with the staff who are responsible for the day-to-day operations. The PGAA Board of Directors serves a critical role by providing strategic direction, resources, and professional expertise to help carry out the PGAA mission.

Responsibilities and duties, along with the nomination form, may be found at http://bit.ly/PGAABoardNominate.

Are you planning a wedding? Reserve the Mary Low Campana Chapel Lecture Center for your wedding ceremony.

Contact: Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Office 724-863-7496
pgaa@pitt.edu
Visit http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/community/weddings.

Notice of Proposed PGAA Bylaws Amendments

This is to provide official notice that amendments to the PGAA Bylaws have been proposed. The amendment proposals will be voted upon at the annual PGAA Leadership Meeting held Commencement weekend on Saturday, April 30, at 8 a.m. in the Lynch Hall Conference Room on campus.

Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/board-directors to view the proposed bylaws. An online ballot is available through April 26.