

Blue & Gold

Magazine ♦ Summer 2014



The Road to Hollywood runs through Pitt-Greensburg



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Message from the President

As you may have noticed this year, Blue & Gold has undergone a few changes. First, we increased the number of pages in the previous three issues of the Blue & Gold newsletter from eight to 12 in order to give you a broader view of what is happening on campus. Second, we made the decision to print one issue a year as a magazine. I hope you are enjoying the additional stories and photos we have shared with you this year.



The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg continues to move toward its goal of becoming a liberal arts college for the 21st century. Each step we take makes a new program or experience available to our students—and we want to share as many of our advancements and achievements with you as possible.

In this issue, you will find stories about students (many of whom just graduated) who have pursued hands-on experiences that have taken them to other countries and will make them more marketable when they seek jobs or graduate school placements. Of course, these opportunities would not be possible without the support and guidance of faculty and staff.

You will also note that five members of our campus community are leaving their responsibilities here in order to pursue their own interests after they retire from campus. They have each left their mark here, and we are grateful for their dedication and service that benefited our students. We also wish to express our appreciation to Louis T. Steiner, who is stepping down after years of valuable Advisory Board Service and who has been named an *emeritus* board member.

Lastly, we are glad to be able to share the contributions of two retired faculty members who will continue to positively affect Pitt-Greensburg students far into the future. We thank them for their generosity and the example that they set for us all.

Hail to Pitt,



Sharon P. Smith, PhD
President

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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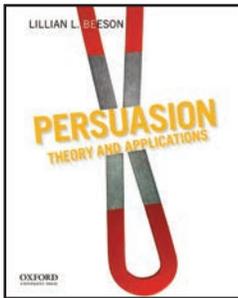
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The Bookshelf: *New books by Pitt-Greensburg faculty*

Emeritus Professor pens Communication Textbook

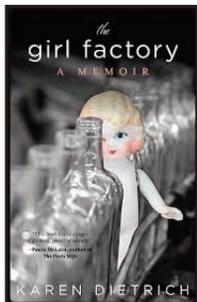


Lillian Beeson, PhD, *emeritus* professor of Communication, has written *Persuasion: Theory and Applications* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

The book provides a comprehensive introduction to persuasion from classic rhetorical theory to contemporary social science. Beeson then investigates the

application of persuasion theory through the various fields of politics, religion, art and entertainment, advertising, public relations, and law. Contemporary and controversial examples engage students and spark provocative classroom discussion. Students will learn the traditional models of how persuasion works, how to question its impact on contemporary society, and how to apply this knowledge in their own lives.

Girl Factory: Memoir of growing up in Western Pennsylvania

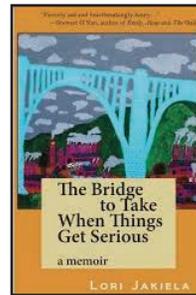


Karen Dietrich, adjunct instructor of English, takes a slice of her life and turns it into an evocative memoir that chronicles 14 years in *Girl Factory* (Skirt!/Globe Pequot, 2013). Dietrich moves through girlhood, adolescence, and young adulthood, illuminating small-town factory life and exploring a complicated mother-daughter bond. This

coming of age story explores class issues and family relationships, integrates the pop culture of the 1980s and 1990s, and explores the darker aspects of Dietrich's childhood—all described through lyrical, poetic language.

Dietrich, an alumna of Pitt-Greensburg's writing program, is the author of three chapbooks: *Understory* (dancing girl press, 2013), *Girl Years* (Matter Press, 2012), and *Anchor Glass* (Finishing Line Press, 2011).

Jakiela writes Second Memoir; both Humorous and Tender



Lori Jakiela, associate professor of English, continues to build her portfolio of published works with her latest offering, *The Bridge to Take When Things Get Serious* (C and R Press, 2013). A memoir, it is described as “. . . the story of mothers and daughters, the debts we pay, and the new lives we build for ourselves when we least expect them.”

Most recently, the memoir received the Bronze award in the Women's Issue category of the Independent Publisher Book Awards (the IPPY awards), which “recognizes excellence in independent publishing.”

Jakiela chronicles her life when, after seven years in New York, she gives up her job as an international flight attendant and her dreams of becoming a writer to return home to Pittsburgh to take care of her dying mother. Always the loving, befuddled daughter, Jakiela searches to find her new life while sleeping in her childhood bed and teaching writing to students who hate to read.

Books published by faculty in 2011 and 2012 include:

Other Kinds (Short Flight/Long Drive Press, 2012)

by Dylan Nice, adjunct instructor of English;

The Water Poems (Autumn House Press, 2012)

by Judith Vollmer, professor of English;

Women, Epic and Transition in British Romanticism

(University of Delaware Press, 2011)

by Elisa Beshero-Bondar, associate professor of English;

Medieval Ohio (Spuyten Duyvil Press, 2011)

by Richard Blevins, *emeritus* professor of English

Wealth, Power, and the Crisis of Laissez-Faire Capitalism

(Palgrave MacMillan, 2011)

by Donald E. Gibson, PhD, *emeritus* professor of sociology

Spot the Terrorist! (Turning Point/Word Tech Press, 2011)

by Lori Jakiela, associate professor of English.



The Road to Hollywood passes through Pitt-Greensburg

From left: Nate LaSor, Alicia DiPaolo, Dr. John Prellwitz, and Cam Porterfield on location in Honduras.

Several recent alumni have made it their goal to pursue careers in the entertainment industry. As students, they majored or minored in the visual and performing arts and are now living and working in Los Angeles or pursuing graduate degrees that will soon take them there. These alumni include **Elliot Sheedy '12**, a student in Emerson University's MFA program who plans to become a filmmaker/director, **Megan**

Nathan "Nate" LaSor '14, arrived at Pitt-Greensburg four years ago with the dream of working in the film industry.

This spring he graduated with a major in communication and a minor in visual and performing arts (VAPA) with a focus in film and visual media. He left May 20 for Los Angeles, taking with him a portfolio of work that will move him further along in his journey to fulfill his dream.

But two years ago, Nate was not sure that the road to his dream passed through Pitt-Greensburg. He even considered transferring from the campus to a college or university that offered a program dedicated to cinema and filmmaking. After an internship at a film company in Pittsburgh and another opportunity that allowed him to work on the Los Angeles set of the Hollywood film, *Dark Skies*, Nate returned to campus with a clearer sense of how Pitt-Greensburg was part of his plans. In

conversations with film industry professionals, he was advised that having a broad educational foundation as an undergraduate would serve him better than a degree that focused on cinematography. Plus, he had shown the professionals he worked with that he already had a strong set of skills and knowledge in place.

LaSor returned to the Pitt-Greensburg campus in the fall of 2012 with his passion for achieving his dream further stoked. While talking about his aspirations with faculty members and other students, he realized that he could continue to develop his skills as a film maker and director at Pitt-Greensburg.



Alicia DiPaolo '14 had performed in high school productions of *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Les Miserables*, before earning the role of the Queen in the Apple Hill Playhouse (Delmont, PA) production of *The Frog Prince*. At Pitt-

Hughes '14 who is entering Loyola Marymount's MFA program in Writing and Producing for TV, and **Jesse Palatucci '13** who lives in Los Angeles and just finished shooting an independent film. This article is an example of the experiences Pitt-Greensburg students are having that prepare them to pursue these goals.

Greensburg, she chose to double major in psychology and visual and performing arts (VAPA, theater concentration) in order to sustain her interest in a career in the theater. She also pursued a minor in Spanish.

DiPaolo's strong organizational skills would be put to full use during her senior year at Pitt-Greensburg. She and classmate Jess Uhler '14 chose to produce and direct "A Night of Magic," showcasing *A Very Potter Musical*, as their senior capstone project. When a cast member dropped out of the show, DiPaolo added the role of Herminie to her responsibilities.



H. Camdon Porterfield '14 arrived at Pitt-Greensburg with four years of experience writing news for the high school newspaper. Cam, as he is known to his friends, majored in communication at Pitt-

Greensburg. His sense of humor and ability to think on his feet made it easy for him consider a career in broadcasting, public relations, or marketing. Of course, there is always that interest in filmmaking to explore.

While working on his undergraduate degree in communications with a minor in history, Porterfield continued to work 40 hours a week for his parents' business, a real estate appraisal company.

Working with John Prellwitz, PhD, associate professor of Communication, Porterfield helped to pioneer, manage, and grow the campus' Sports Communication Internship program, the first University program in the tri-state area to offer online streaming broadcasts of campus athletic events.



Honduran children took pride in performing traditional dances for the Pitt-Greensburg film crew.

In the spring of 2013, LaSor began collaborating with Prellwitz and Stephen Schrum, PhD, associate professor of theater arts. He had approached them with his idea for a student group that would provide real, hands-on experience in digital media. Money received through the R.K. Mellon grant was used to purchase equipment to further advance the group's efforts.

"One exciting element [of Pitt-Greensburg Media] is that it is a complete collaboration among faculty, students, and staff," explained Prellwitz. "You have faculty from different disciplines and departments, students from different majors, staff from different departments—we have all facets of the campus involved. The administration and library staff are incredibly supportive. Dr. [J. Wesley] Jamison and Dr. [Sharon P.] Smith helped facilitate and move this along. They realize that we have students for such a short time, and we try to do as much as we can to enhance their experience."

Everything came together during spring 2013, when Pitt-Greensburg Media became an official campus organization. Their mission: to produce professional multimedia products in all facets of digital media. The group would provide hands-on, real-world experience in film and video, photography, journalism, screen writing, graphic design, sports broadcasting, and more.

Among their first projects was the videotaping of the spring theater production, *Eleanor—An American Love Story*, which was performed at The Palace Theatre as part of the campus' celebration of the 50th anniversary of its founding. The group also worked with Lori Jakiela, assistant professor of English, to film readings and interviews of local and nationally known authors who visited campus for the Written/Spoken Series and the Pitt-Greensburg Writers Festival. Other projects included the live-streaming of the fall 2013 theater production, the Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and Chamber Singers concert, and the Red Eye Project, where students write and produce one-act plays in a 24-hour period. Several on-campus concerts also were videotaped.

That spring, LaSor and Prellwitz collaborated on the production of a documentary video for Westmoreland County Human Services (WCHS) entitled, "Tell Me Your Story." The video premiered at various WCHS public events to raise awareness of those with communication disabilities and the types of technology available to help them. WCHS currently airs the documentary on their YouTube channel.

The academic year ended with LaSor being named a Green Scholar for the 2013-2014 academic year. Prellwitz nominated him because of his classroom performance and the work on the WCHS documentary. In addition to paying LaSor for his work, being a Green Scholar allowed him to continue to partner with Prellwitz on research projects in film and media studies, as well as continuing their work on video productions for campus and community partners.

"His work and character impressed me and convinced me the Green Scholar program would benefit him and move the media group forward, which it did," said Prellwitz.



During the summer of 2013, DiPaolo traveled to San Pedro, Costa Rica, taking classes and exploring the country and culture as part of the Vira I. Heinz (VIH) Program for Women in Global Leadership. She was one of four women from Pitt-Greensburg to be awarded scholarships as part of the 2013 cohort. For five weeks, she honed her Spanish-language skills through two classes that were taught in Spanish, as well as helping to teach English in several classes.

In August 2013, Mark Meyer, MD, president of Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh and LaSor's uncle, approached Pitt-Greensburg Media about doing a documentary of the organization's work in San Jose del Negrito, Honduras, one of the four poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere.

The country had been devastated by Hurricane Mitch in 1998, and, in 2001, Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh began partnering with the San Jose Health Committee, a grass-roots organization seeking to improve the health of their community. US medical students and residents participate in brigades that provide medical care in a third-world setting and offer life-forming experiences.

Continued on page 17

Service to Students & Campus a Prime Objective

The Pitt-Greensburg community extends its gratitude and congratulations to faculty and staff who announced their retirement at the end of the 2013-2014 academic year. Their combined years of service number 111 years and are a reminder that these members of the campus community played key roles in establishing Pitt-Greensburg during its first 50 years.

Patty LaMantia

Patty LaMantia, affectionately referred to as “Nurse Patty” by nearly everyone on campus, fulfilled several roles during her 18 years as director of the Campus Health Center, including clinician, administrator, collaborator, and a friend.

“She possesses a unique set of skills,” commented Rick Fogle, dean of Student Services. “She enjoyed the student interaction, was good at the administrative and clerical tasks, and was a skilled clinician who supervised the physician under contract to the campus. All of those characteristics aren’t usually found in the same person.”

LaMantia worked nine months during each academic year and handled everything from homesickness to lab burns and cardiac issues. She was responsible for the initial assessment and treatment of health problems and referrals as needed. She also scheduled the weekly physician visits to campus, provided daily consults, if necessary, and managed the center’s first aid supplies and services.

“It’s probably one of the best jobs anyone can have. It was a hard decision for me to leave,” said LaMantia. “I worked to establish relationships with the students.”

Fogle, who estimates that the health center averages 1,800 to 2,400 student visits during an average year, notes that LaMantia brought the right mix of motherly concern and professionalism to the Health Center, “Students came to her for advice and just to talk to her.”



“At Pitt-Greensburg, we treasure our students as individuals and encourage them to begin to take responsibility for themselves and their future,” said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. “Nurse Patty’ helped guide our students toward that responsibility for their bodies and in doing so helped them expand their minds.”

Fogle credits LaMantia with initiating 10 to 15 health programs during her tenure. These include the Resident Alcohol Awareness Award, Stress Busters, and the Student Health Advisory Council.

She also wrote several grant applications that resulted in awards ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000 from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB). These grants allowed Pitt-Greensburg to expand its alcohol awareness programming, increase security coverage, and fund the automated external defibrillators (AEDs) available on campus. She also organized the various campus vaccination programs for flu, meningitis, and tuberculosis.

Recognized for her ability to see a need and then work with others to fulfill that need, LaMantia developed a volunteer service program for biology and chemistry students at Excelsa Health that has grown over the years and benefits both the students and the community. She also collaborated with the University of Pittsburgh to develop a bio-hazard program to dispose of medical waste from the campus.

LaMantia resides in Harrison City with her husband, Philip. They have three children, Joseph, Paula, and Nicholas.

Please visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/news/LaMantia to read additional details.

Patricia Duck, PhD



Patricia “Pat” M. Duck, PhD, director of Millstein Library and coordinator of the University of Pittsburgh’s regional libraries, part of Pitt’s University Library System (ULS), will retire as of June 30.

Duck’s 28-year career at Pitt-Greensburg began in 1986 when she was named director of Millstein Library. Her career is highlighted by a desire to assist students, faculty, and staff

with developing a deep knowledge of how to use the library’s resources as well as initiating programs and services at Millstein Library that showcase the digital resources available to students at the University of Pittsburgh.

“Today’s library is at the center of the digital revolution that has changed how we think, learn, and communicate,” said Pitt-Greensburg President Sharon P. Smith, PhD. “Pat Duck has been a leader in positioning the Pitt-Greensburg library, in particular, and as an advocate for the regional libraries, in general, as a major resource in enabling us to establish a new model for liberal arts education for the 21st century.”

Under Duck’s direction, Millstein Library has expanded its resources to include a digital media lab. Funded in part by a grant from the R. K. Mellon Foundation and the Carl F. Poke Endowment, the lab features equipment and software that allows the campus community to experiment with image production tools and technologies while developing proficiency in editing multi-media projects.

In addition to supervising two faculty librarians, four staff members, and one volunteer, Duck oversaw Millstein Library's operations, budget, and a collection of over 100,000 items.

She serves as the primary support to Pitt-Greensburg's Natural Sciences Division, secondary support to the Behavioral and Humanities Divisions, and is a consultant to the Digital Mitford Archive at Pitt-Greensburg that is part of a larger project being conducted by Elisa Beshero-Bondar, PhD, associate professor of English.

Among Duck's other accomplishments are the development of the Friends of the Millstein Library group, an annual One Book, One Community reading event, a library consortium with academic libraries in Westmoreland County, the establishment of an annual Children's Literature Conference, and the development of a campus archives collection.

As the coordinator of the Regional University Library System Libraries, Duck supervised the four regional campus libraries at Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville, including personnel, facilities management, budgeting, and information literacy.

Elected to Beta Phi Mu, the library science honor society, Duck was the recipient of Pitt-Greensburg's 1998 Distinguished Service Award. She has written on the topics of digital media in academic libraries and mentoring, as well as sharing her expertise in how to enhance the relevancy of libraries in the digital age. Her professional memberships include the American Library Association, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), and the University of Pittsburgh ULS Peer Review Committee, Users Services Group, and Voyager Planning Group.

After her retirement, Duck will continue to serve as treasurer of the Friends of the Millstein Library group and will work with the Digital Mitford Project. She also will be teaching a graduate class at Pitt's School of Information Science in the fall.

A resident of Export, PA, she is married to John Duck. They are the parents of Mike, Jenn, and Matthew, and have three grandchildren.

Please visit <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/news/duck> to read additional details.

Nancy B. Flórez-Estrada, PhD



The 32-year career of Nancy B. Flórez-Estrada, PhD, associate professor of Spanish, is highlighted by a dedication to students and the broadening of their horizons through international study and travel.

Flórez-Estrada started teaching at Pitt-Greensburg in 1982 as an instructor of Spanish and advanced to associate professor. She has taught a range of courses from

Elementary Spanish to the Modern Spanish Novel, Conversation, Advanced Grammar and Composition, and Hispanic Legends.

In 2010, she was a key member of the team that developed Pitt-Greensburg's then new Spanish major and contributed in the early planning stages of the Spanish curriculum for the Spanish Education major. She also had a key role in the establishment of Pitt-Greensburg's Latin American Studies Certificate (LAS) program in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh Center for Latin American Studies and served as the Pitt-Greensburg Faculty LAS Advisor since its inception in 2001.

"She enthusiastically shared her love of foreign culture—especially all things Spanish—in the student-centered programming at the International Village and as a leader of campus trips abroad," said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, Pitt-Greensburg president. "For 32 years, she has been a trusted advisor to students, passionately encouraging them to expand their horizons and to take every opportunity available."

Flórez-Estrada developed and coordinated the elementary and intermediate Spanish Recitation program and the weekly video component to those courses. She trained and supervised the program's student teaching assistants. Classroom research through computer projects was one of her foci and included coordinating and supervising computer-assisted language instruction for elementary and intermediate Spanish.

She served as advisor to the campus' Spanish Club that, under her mentorship, regularly brought the Spanish and Latin American cultures to campus by hosting dinners, workshops, films, performances, and speakers.

Flórez-Estrada has been the recipient of numerous awards that recognize her expertise in teaching, as well as her dedication to working with students as the Spanish Club advisor, the International Club, and as Director of the International Academic Village. These include the 1989 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award; the 2001 Pitt-Greensburg Professional Development award for faculty; the 2010 Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) Outstanding Faculty Award; the 2010 Pitt-Greensburg Service Award for faculty; and the 2002, 2009, and 2014 Advisor of the Year Award, given by Pitt-Greensburg's Student Government Association.

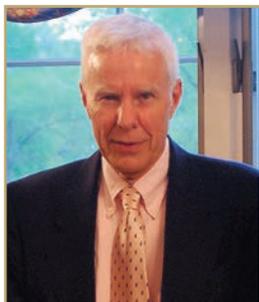
From 1999 to 2009, Flórez-Estrada served as director of the International Academic Village (IAV). In addition to selecting members and mentoring students, she and the IAV students closely collaborated to develop international programming that included more than 35 workshops, international speakers from a variety of countries, studio artists, international musicians, artists, and photographers, international film series, filmmakers, cultural and political series, cultural celebrations, international dinners, and taking students to off-campus international programming, as well. She was instrumental in getting students interested and involved in international cultural, political, and historical issues and motivated to study abroad.

Flórez-Estrada lives in Greensburg with her husband, José Luis. Her daughter, Krista Flórez-Estrada Gallucci and son-in-law Nicolas Gallucci and their 19-month old twins, Benjamin and William, live in San Francisco. Her son Jamie Flórez-Estrada and daughter-in-law Claudia Visbal Flórez-Estrada live in Richmond, Virginia.

Please visit <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/news/estrada> to read additional details.

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Donald E. Gibson, PhD



Donald E. Gibson, PhD, professor of Sociology, sought to make students aware of the importance of an informed citizenship by exploring power, both social and economic, and its effect on US economic problems during his 33-year career at Pitt-Greensburg.

Gibson, a resident of Greensburg, started teaching at Pitt-Greensburg in 1981 as an assistant professor of Sociology. He advanced to associate professor in 1987, then full professor in 1997, and served as chairperson of the Behavioral Sciences Division from 2003 through 2005. Active with the American Democracy Project, a multi-campus initiative that focused on higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens for our democracy, he also played a part in developing Pitt-Greensburg's course on American society.

"A devoted teacher and scholar, Dr. Gibson's scholarship in an impressively wide range of important social areas—including implications of the development of the hospice movement, changes in the economy and shifts in social values, mass media, and environmentalism—demonstrated to his students the power of research to inform decisions on important policy questions," said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, campus president.

Gibson's teaching areas included technology and social change, medical sociology, mass media, white collar crime, and American society. His research areas ranged from mass media, and the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, to the changes in the US economy since the 1960s and the relationship of these changes to shifts in social values and public policy.

If you'd like to share a memory of how Dr. Duck, Dr. Estrada-Florez, Dr. Gibson or Nurse Patty made an impact on your experience at Pitt-Greensburg, please visit <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/share-your-pitt-greensburg-memory>. If you'd like to make a gift in honor of these members of our faculty and staff, please contact Jodi Kraisinger at 724-836-9942 or by email at gifts2pg@pitt.edu.

A prolific writer, his first book was published in 1994, *Battling Wall Street: The Kennedy Presidency* (reissued by Progressive Press, 2014), which challenges conventional wisdom and asserts that Kennedy was always on the side of economic, political, and social progress. Gibson also authored *The Kennedy Assassination Cover-up* (Kroshka/NOVA Science Publishers 1999), described as "an effectively researched and probing analysis of America's most important solved murder." One reviewer credits Gibson with writing three of the most important books available on the politics of modern times, listing Gibson's third book *Environmentalism: Ideology and Power* (NOVA Science Publishers, 2002) with the first two Kennedy books.

A fourth book, *Communication, Power and Media* (NOVA Science Publishers, 2004) explores how the media has been used to control and manipulate people rather than as a means to inform and inspire people. His most recent book, *Wealth, Power, and the Crisis of Laissez-Faire Capitalism* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2011), traces America's rise to global supremacy and examines how free-market ideology and the "establishment" networks exemplified by Wall Street and the Council for Foreign Relations combined to lead the United States to the political and economic crises faced at the dawn of the 21st century.

Gibson also has published numerous journal articles that explore these topics, as well as the hospice movement and the rise of organized opposition to nuclear energy. He also was a frequent panelist discussing the relationship between money and power.

Please visit <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/news/gibson> to read additional details.



ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

ROTC CDT Benjamin Brown '14 was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. A criminal justice major, he served Echo Company as the 1st Sergeant, Executive Officer, and Commander.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned into the Infantry Branch on Active Duty and will complete the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC) at Fort Benning, GA. He will then be assigned to 4th Brigade 25th Infantry Division (Airborne) at Ft. Richardson, AK.

Participating in the pinning ceremony with Brown (center) are David Brown, his father, and Joseph Loughery, his grandfather.



South African Odyssey

Erin Zimmick takes a selfie with “Pimba” in the background during her summer in South Africa.

Erin Zimmick’s desire to explore career opportunities in environmental or sustainability science took her to the Limpopo Province of South Africa last summer. A senior from Pittsburgh, PA, she is a Natural Sciences major and expects to graduate in December 2014.

Working with Beth Tiedemann, director of the Career Services Office, Zimmick identified a summer course at the University of Pittsburgh Laboratory of Ecology at Lake Pymatuning, a year-round ecology field station operated by the Pitt Department of Biological Sciences that is also known as the Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology (PLE). There, during the summer of 2012, she met Morty Ortega, PhD, associate professor of Natural Resources Management at the University of Connecticut (UConn), who was teaching a Bio-Conservation course at PLE.

As they talked about what Zimmick wanted to do after she graduated, Ortega suggested that Zimmick stay in touch to see if they could figure out a way for her to participate in a class he teaches that includes a South African field experience component.

Through email, they arrived at a plan. Zimmick, a full-time student at Pitt-Greensburg, would sign up as a part-time student at UConn during the spring and summer of 2013 so that she could take the African Ecology class offered through the UConn Study Abroad Office. Using Skype, she participated in the pre-requisite classroom part of the course, learning about the people, animals, and country to which she would be traveling.

Then on June 4, 2013, she boarded a plane to spend approximately four weeks in the field. According to the UConn website, the course provides students with an overview of the ecological systems in southern Africa, their management, and related conservation issues, with an

emphasis on the ecosystems and landscapes of the region.

“The course in Africa was very hands-on, which is exactly what I wanted,” said Zimmick. “Every day, we went on a game drive, first to just observe and get familiar with the animals that were around, then to look for ‘tracks and signs.’” This was the graded portion of the ecology course where, working with a professional tracker, they searched out animal spoor (tracks), scat (droppings), broken branches—anything that would help to track an animal.

“By the end of the course, I could tell what animal left the footprint, what gender it was, what foot it was, which direction it was traveling, whether it was running or walking, and whether it had just eaten. It was really in-depth,” she said, noting that she is now certified in “track and sign.”

The group attended lectures and also were certified in first aid, participating in a mock emergency scene that included treating a gunshot wound and a lion attack. Their goal: stabilize the injured, implementing what they had learned in the lecture, and bring the injured back safely to the lecture area. The nearest hospital was hours away, so knowledge of first aid was imperative.

The third part of the course focused on how to handle dangerous and poisonous reptiles. Three types of venomous snakes are native to Africa, the cobra, the puff adder, and the *boomslang*, the most venomous snake in Africa. Zimmick handled the cobra and puff adder, earning certification in this area, as well.

“All of it was incredible,” she said. “It’s easily the best decision that I’ve ever made. It was so hands-on.”

Continued on page 12

Commencement



Front (from left): Dr. Vickilyn Barnot; James Weir '14; Amb. R. James Woolsey; Dr. Sharon P. Smith; Dr. Larry J. Whatule; and A. David Tilstone. Back (from left): Jack Smith, MD, A&S '69, MED '73; Dr. Donald Gibson; Judge John Driscoll; Seán O'Donnell '02; and Dr. J. Wesley Jamison.

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg held its annual Commencement Saturday, April 26, in Chambers Gymnasium. This year's Commencement offered a series of "firsts" in the history of the campus.

For the first time in campus history, Pitt-Greensburg live streamed the Commencement ceremony via the Internet. The ceremony, viewable using a personal computer, tablet computer, or smart phone, is available for viewing at <http://tinyurl.com/Pitt-GbgGrads>.

Out of the 334 students eligible to graduate, 240 students processed, making this the largest group of students to ever participate in a Pitt-Greensburg Commencement since 1989, when the campus first held Commencement after being authorized to offer four-year degrees in 1988.

Pitt-Greensburg also graduated its first class of education majors. Seventeen students graduated with degrees in early childhood education and 12 graduated with degrees in secondary education.

As part of Pitt-Greensburg's Legacy Diploma Presentations, 34 students received their diplomas from members of their families who also hold degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. This is the greatest number of students to have their diplomas co-presented since the tradition was initiated in 2008. Pitt-



Amb. R. James Woolsey

Greensburg is the only campus in the Pitt system to offer this opportunity to graduates and their families, and it serves as a visual illustration that Pitt-Greensburg graduates join a large "family" of graduates from the many schools and campuses that comprise the University of Pittsburgh.

Ambassador R. James Woolsey, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and ambassador to the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), Vienna (1989-1991), was the Commencement



Dr. Larry Whatule

speaker. Woolsey told graduates to "embrace failure, work with troublemakers, and use what you're really bad at." He provided examples of now successful people who went bankrupt before achieving that success and discussed how he was eventually hired by someone who appreciated a dissenting opinion he was courageous enough to share.

Larry J. Whatule, PhD, *emeritus* professor of Communication, was awarded the President's Medal for Distinguished Service for more than 40 years of service to the campus as an educator, the campus public relations officer, and as director of Financial Aid and Admissions.



James Weir '14

James A. Weir '14, student speaker and class co-valedictorian, shared his collegiate journey, telling his classmates that he started college 10 years ago but dropped out when his father became paralyzed after an accident. Returning to school, he completed his degree and graduated two years to the day of his father's death. Weir reminded his classmates that they had been well prepared by their experiences at Pitt-Greensburg for their futures no matter what challenges they faced.

2014

PGAA Awards



Left: PGAA President Seán O'Donnell '02 presents the Volunteer Excellence Award to Mary Lynn Yothers '80, DC, for her service.



Middle: PGAA President Seán O'Donnell '02 presents the Outstanding Faculty Award to Dr. John Prellwitz, associate professor of Communication.



Right: PGAA President Seán O'Donnell '02 presents the Community Service Award to Huang Vo '14.



Left Top: The first group of students to graduate with Education degrees from Pitt-Greensburg.

Below: Pitt-Greensburg's newest tradition—Wearing Pitt gear to Commencement rehearsal was a great show of Blue & Gold spirit!



Above Left: Jenna Szypulski '12 co-presented the diploma to her brother Scott Szypulski '14 with Dr. Sharon P. Smith. Above Right: Greg Turley '86 and Brandon Turley '13, co-presented the diploma to Brittany Turley '14 with Dr. Sharon P. Smith.



The students stayed at the Entabeni Private Game Reserve, living in tents surrounded by a *boma* or corral. The tents were on platforms, which helps to keep the animals out, but Zimmick notes, “The animals were right there. A couple of nights, the lions were very close to our camp.”

After a week in Cape Town as a tourist, Zimmick headed into the next part of her adventure.

“Dr. Ortega and I talked about this possibility before I even signed up for his class,” said Zimmick. “He told me that there was a rhino orphanage that was just getting started, and they frequently will take on volunteers if those volunteers are able to stay for a pre-determined amount of time. I was definitely interested, and he was able to help set this up for me.”

Everything seemed to be in place until a poaching incident occurred right before Zimmick was scheduled to begin volunteering. The organization was concerned about possibly putting the students into a dangerous situation.

“When we got back from Cape Town, we met with Karen Trendler, the manager, and Arrie Van Deventer, the owner of the Rhino Orphanage and Wildlife Center, to beg to be allowed to stay,” said Zimmick. After pleading their case, Zimmick and two other students were allowed to volunteer during the next seven weeks there.

“It was great! We took care of baby rhinos.” The excitement in her voice was evidence of the effect of the experience.

The orphanage takes in and raises, in the best manner, the calves of rhinos that have been killed by poachers.

“Often the calves are injured or traumatized. The goal of the orphanage is to raise them to not be dependent on people, so they can be released back out into the wild once they reach the proper age.”

The volunteers worked 24/7, sometimes working in shifts because of the demands of the job.

“You wake up early in the morning and mix the formula for the rhinos. Since it’s a new facility, we were doing everything by hand. When you weren’t feeding the rhinos, you had to wash the bottles, sanitize the kitchen, clean the stalls, clean the hay, re-bed the stall, and clean the water troughs.”

She continued: “The calves would eat every two hours, so it was always a rush in between feedings. They ate around the clock. You’d

The Plight of the Rhino:

More than 2,600 rhinos have been killed in South Africa since 2008. Adult rhinos are pursued and killed for their horns, which are believed to have medicinal properties and are used in traditional Asian medicine. Because rhinos are now considered a threatened species, with many species nearing endangered status, the black market prices for the horns continue to increase. In fact, the Western black rhino was declared extinct by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in 2011. Three out of five of the remaining species are classified as critically endangered. Loss of habitat is also a key factor in the decline of rhino populations.

sleep for an hour at night, get up, make the formula, feed them, come back, wash the bottles, sleep for an hour, and then do it again. It was pretty hard.”

Each calf is assigned a volunteer who takes care of it for an extended period of time. The goal is to keep the animals relatively wary of most humans by limiting their contact.

Zimmick was assigned to the youngest rhino at the orphanage, a three-month old whom she referred to as Pimba. The two would go out for walks, with Zimmick carrying a bottle of apple juice as a treat for the calf.

“You had to be careful with any photos that you’d take. The location was very secret, and the public can’t get to the orphanage. I wore a panic button around my neck and could push the button anytime I felt uncomfortable. An armed guard, walking at a distance, would accompany Pimba and me on our walks. I think if I pushed the panic button, I would have gotten an armed helicopter and security to come to my rescue.”

The calves are assigned a public name and a private name. The private name is usually something related to the area where they came from and is kept secret. Often if a calf survives a poaching, the poachers will return for the calf out of vengeance.

While she is still trying to figure out exactly what she would like to do with her degree from Pitt-Greensburg, she is much closer to making that decision after these experiences.

“That was a dream come true—the orphanage, especially,” said Zimmick. “All I ever wanted to do was travel and work with animals, so to do something like this was incredible.”



Just a few of the 3,000 photos Zimmick took during her stay in South Africa.

Pawprints

Phi Eta Sigma scholarships awarded

Two members of Pitt-Greensburg's chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, the national honor society for freshmen, have received scholarships from the organization. Phi Eta Sigma was founded to recognize



and reward academic excellence among full-time, first-year students who have received a 3.50 QPA in their first or first two semesters. It is the nation's oldest and largest honor society for first-year college and university students in all disciplines.

This spring, Mavra Saadat was awarded the Kyle C. Sessions Endowed Scholarship in the amount of \$6,000. A natural sciences major, she plans to pursue a career in

medicine. Saadat served as house representative for the Pitt-Greensburg chapter.

This past fall, Nathan LaSor '14 was awarded the Bill W. Shafer Scholarship in the amount of \$6,000. LaSor served as president and historian of the Pitt-Greensburg chapter, which received the Phi Eta Sigma's 2012 national award for Best Philanthropy. He also was elected secretary of the Nominations Committee at the 2012 national convention in Salt Lake City.



These two awards bring the total number of Phi Eta Sigma scholarships received by Pitt-Greensburg students to three. Phoebe Nixon '12 was awarded a \$6,000 scholarship in 2011.

Pitt-Greensburg sets new record in Campus Challenge

With a record-setting 1,459 pounds of food collected and donated, Pitt-Greensburg won this year's Campus Challenge, sponsored by the Westmoreland County Food Bank.

"Our students, faculty, and staff are always so supportive of this initiative," said Brian Root, assistant director of Housing and Residence Life. "I'm amazed at the amount of food we are able to collect for the Food Bank. We've watched our food collection double since we started this back in 2009."

The challenge occurs during the last week of the spring semester and allows the campus communities of Pitt-Greensburg, Seton Hill, and Westmoreland County Community College to donate non-perishable food items to the food bank. (Saint Vincent College did not participate this year.)

The challenge allows students to donate unopened non-perishable food rather than leaving it in the residence halls or throwing it in the trash. The event has grown to include the entire campus communities of each school. During the past six years, Pitt-Greensburg has donated more than 5,000 pounds of food to the food bank as a result of this event. All donated food will be distributed to the needy through the Westmoreland County Food Bank and its network.

Continued on page 14



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www.greensburg.pitt.edu

Tribute to Mark Nordenberg

*In recognition of his service as Chancellor,
the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg Advisory Board
presented the following resolution to Mark Nordenberg.*

RESOLUTION

In Tribute to Mark A. Nordenberg Adopted by the Advisory Board of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

April 8, 2014

WHEREAS, Mark A. Nordenberg has served with distinction as Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh since 1995 and as faculty member since 1977;

WHEREAS, he has announced that he will step down as Chancellor at the end of this academic year;

WHEREAS, in the 227-year history of the University of Pittsburgh, he has been its most transformational leader, building on past strengths and values to create an institution of extraordinary quality in teaching, research, and service, a center of creative thought and learning that keeps faith with its past while fully engaged in continuously advancing into the future;

WHEREAS, he has displayed devotion to the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and a dedication to fair, efficient, and compassionate administration;

WHEREAS, he has combined a passionate devotion to the University and deep pride in the accomplishments of the institution, its students, faculty, staff, and alumni, with a rare personal humility and reluctance to celebrate his own matchless input and talents;

WHEREAS, he has been a champion for the unique role that the regional campuses play in the life of the University and in its commitment to the Commonwealth, giving particular encouragement to Pitt-Greensburg in its high aspirations;

WHEREAS, he has always kept students at the center of everything, and recognized that it is through them that the University's accomplishments are realized, noting eloquently that "when we help our students to become the best they can be, some of them will become the best that anyone can be;" and

NOW THEREFORE, on the occasion of his leaving the Chancellor's Office, be it

RESOLVED, that the members of the Advisory Board of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

PAY grateful tribute to a dedicated and visionary leader;

COMMEND him for his wisdom, integrity, and devotion;

EXPRESS their gratitude that he will remain at Pitt contributing his considerable talents in the classroom; and

AFFIRM their friendship, respect, affection, and warm wishes for all his future endeavors.

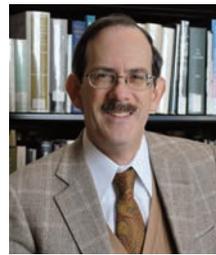
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, on behalf of the members of the Advisory Board, the Chairman sets his signature as of April 8, 2014.

Pawprints continued from page 13

Faculty and Staff members receive Chancellor's Awards

Two members of the Pitt-Greensburg campus community, Sayre Greenfield, PhD, and Sheila Confer, MA, were recently recognized with prestigious Chancellor's Awards.

Sayre Greenfield, PhD, professor of English, is one of four Pitt faculty members to receive the 2014 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. He received a \$2,000 cash prize and a \$3,000 grant for support of his teaching, research, or service activities.



Greenfield, who will take over as chair of Pitt-Greensburg's Humanities Division in 2014-2015, was recognized for excelling in his use of technology in the classroom and for engaging students in digital humanities and research at Pitt-Greensburg. In the award letter, Chancellor Mark Nordenberg cited Greenfield's "innovative use of electronic database search technology" in assignments for his History of English Language course, as well as his role in initiating the Digital Humanities course. In addition, Greenfield devised ways for students to gain practical experience in working with digital methods for generating, archiving, and researching cultural resources in the humanities.

"Dr. Greenfield joined the Pitt-Greensburg faculty in 1994 and quickly established himself as one of our most talented, innovative, and popular teachers," said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. "He has brought a passion for his subject, a devotion to his students, a commitment to excellence, and a dedication to continuing innovation and improvement in his teaching methods."



Sheila Confer, MA, coordinator of the MAP-Works Retention Initiative and assistant director of the Academic Village, is one of four recipients of the 2014 Chancellor's Awards for Staff Excellence in Service to the University, which is awarded to staff members who not only exceed job standards and expectations in performing their duties, but who also make a significant impact on the University through their commitment and performance.

Confer's many roles at Pitt-Greensburg share a common theme: improving students' experiences and success. She coordinates the MAP-Works Retention Initiative, a program designed to help students do well and stay in school. As assistant director of the Academic Village, she established a mentor program and inspired Village students to volunteer in the community. She also teaches classes in the theatre arts department, serves as the theatre lighting designer, and is an advisor to several student organizations.

"Sheila continually demonstrates the energy, creativity, and dedication of five people. She fires the imagination of all who have the privilege of knowing and working with her and builds like-minded individuals to achieve important goals," said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg.

Please visit <http://www.tinyurl.com/GreenfieldConfer> to read an expanded article about their accomplishments.

Bobcat Spring Sports Wrap-up

Baseball Team Advances to Final Round of AMCC Tourney



Anthony Backowski



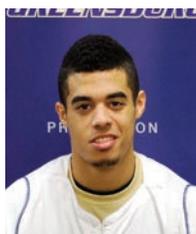
Anthony Bozzuto



Dylan Brooks



David Cenkner



Logan Douglas

The Pitt-Greensburg baseball team earned a spot in the 2014 Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) Baseball Championships for the third consecutive season, showing improved playoff performances and setting new precedents for the future. The team is under the direction of Head Coach Anthony Williams and Assistant Coaches Scott Adams, Jeff McWilliams, Dan Leatherman, and Steve Anderson.

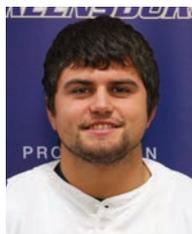
This year, the fourth-seeded Bobcats opened the championship tournament with a 10-1 loss to top-seeded LaRoche Redhawks. The loss meant the Bobcats would move to the bottom of the bracket and have to work their way up to qualify for the Championship game.

The Bobcats started their climb by defeating Mount Aloysius 8-2 in the second round, and then eliminating second-seed Penn State-Behrend in the third round with a 5-1 victory. Waiting for them in the final round would be LaRoche.

The Bobcats fell to the Redhawks, who went on to compete in the NCAA Division III Baseball Championship, 11-7 but set several individual and team records along the way. These include:

- The team's first-ever appearance in the AMCC tournament final round;
- The team's total wins for the season (22) moved the record from 21 set in 2012;
- Senior Dylan Brooks (Ardara, PA/Norwin) posted 154 career hits, taking the top spot among the Bobcats' All-Time Batters;
- Senior Jeramy Kopacko (Brownsville, PA/Brownsville) took the lead in season strikeouts (55);
- Junior Chad Jacob (Bridgeville, PA/Chartiers Valley) set a new season record for hits (57).

Six members of the team earned All-AMCC Baseball Team honors. Earning Second Team honors were Brooks, Jacob, and junior Logan Douglas (Greensburg, PA/Greensburg Salem). Named to the Third Team were sophomore Anthony Bozzuto (Greensburg, PA/Hempfield), sophomore Greg Lynn (Ellwood City, PA/Ellwood City), and sophomore Matt Germanoski (Ellwood City, PA/Ellwood City).



Matt Germanoski



Sarah Giebel



Chad Jacob



Greg Lynn



Jeramy Kopacko



Tomas Monti



Jeremy Niemiec



Caitlin Tobin



Meghan Uher

Men's Tennis posts strong season

Five Pitt-Greensburg men's tennis players earned All-Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) Men's Tennis Second Team honors for their performances this past season: Sophomore David Cenkner (Acme, PA/Mount Pleasant), freshman Tomas Monti (Pittsburgh, PA/North Allegheny), junior Jeremy Niemiec (Scottsdale, PA/Southmoreland), and junior Anthony Backowski (Harrison City, PA/Penn Trafford).

The recognition capped a strong season that took the second-seeded team to the final round of the AMCC tournament, where they fell 5-4 to Franciscan University of Steubenville.

The Bobcats finished their first year under the direction of Head Coach Maria Iovino with their best record in school history (9-3). Their second place season and AMCC Conference finishes also set new marks for the team.

Continued on page 16

Softball Players Earn AMCC Honors

The Lady Bobcats finished the season 5-13 in the conference and 11-19 overall, and placed three players on the All-Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) teams. Bill Monstrola coaches the team, with assistance from Paula Torcaso.

Caitlin Tobin (Greensburg, PA/Hempfield) earned All-AMCC First Team honors while Sarah Giebel (Pittsburgh, PA/Shaler) and Meghan Uher (Acme, PA/Connellsville) earned All-AMCC Second Team honors.

Tobin led the Lady Bobcats for the second-straight season with a .389 batting average and .442 on-base percentage in 30 games. Giebel led the AMCC in stolen bases (26) and was three steals away from the school's single-season record of 29. Uher's season was shortened due to an arm injury, but she still managed to place in the AMCC, including sixth in strikeouts, third in ERA, and first in strikeouts per game.

AMCC Community All-Stars Awards

This spring, the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) recognized Pitt-Greensburg student-athletes as Community All-Stars. The program features three categories: one-time events, array of events, and on-going events. Pitt-Greensburg earned recognition in two categories.



Pitt-Greensburg's annual SOPA Hoops Saturday received a Gold Award in the one-time event category. This event, now in its third year, is the collaborative effort of the men's and women's basketball programs, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA) who partner with Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA)

Westmoreland County. Special Olympics athletes receive coaching pointers during a practice session with the Bobcat basketball teams, followed by an exhibition game held during a home doubleheader and officiated by Bobcat athletes. Funds raised during the doubleheader from concessions, 50/50 raffle, and auction are donated to SOPA Westmoreland County.

The women's basketball team received a Bronze Award in the Array of Events category for their community service with the Salvation Army of Greensburg that includes participating in Project Bundle-Up and serving Thanksgiving dinner to those less fortunate.

Scholar-Athletes named to AMCC All-Academic Team

Two Pitt-Greensburg student-athletes earned All-Academic Team honors from the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference this spring: Sophomore Courtney Carroll (Irwin, PA/Hempfield) and junior Jared DelBianco (Monongahela, PA/Elizabeth Forward). The recognition comes after being named the Pitt-Greensburg Female and Male Scholar-Athletes of the Year.



Courtney Carroll

Carroll, a sophomore captain on the women's soccer team, was named to the 2013 AMCC Women's Soccer All-Conference team, after leading the Lady Bobcats in assists, finishing second in points, and helping lead the program to a fourth place finish in the AMCC. Off the playing field, she is a member of Beta Beta Beta and Phi Eta Sigma who has consistently earned Dean's list honors each semester since arriving at Pitt-Greensburg.



Jared DelBianco

DelBianco, a junior captain of the men's golf team, finished 2013-2014 with a career best 87.8 stroke average. He also finished the 2013 season with a solid performance at the AMCC Men's Golf Championships, shooting an opening day round of 77 followed by an 82 on day two, which helped to propel the Bobcats to a third place conference finish. DelBianco is a member of Beta Beta Beta, Chi Alpha Sigma, Gamma Sigma Epsilon, Phi Eta Sigma and was named to the Dean's List in five of his six semesters at Pitt-Greensburg.



SOPA Hoops Saturday 2014 Exhibition Game

San Jose del Negrito is a remote mountain village of 1,600 people in the El Negrito District of the Yoro Province. The surrounding area served by Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh is inhabited by about 5,000 people. There is no electricity in more than 95 percent of the region. Pittsburgh physicians visit two to three times a year to bring a team of health workers to provide medical and dental care, as well as to bring medications to the community.

Plans fell into place in January 2014 and the three students, LaSor, DiPaolo, and Porterfield, boarded a plane with Prellwitz on February 23.

“This was really beyond our wildest dreams and expectations,” said Porterfield, “especially from where we were as a group just a year ago.”

One of the tangible results of the trip is a five-minute video entitled “Think Small.” (Visit the Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh web site or <http://tinyurl.com/HondurasDocumentary> to view it.)

This video also was entered in the 2014 Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Video Competition in the Global Health Advocacy category. The top three winners in each category are featured on the CUGH web site and the Global Health newsletter. While “Think Small” didn’t place in the competition, it did give the three students hands-on experience, a professional piece for their portfolios, and an item for their resumes.

The group produced two other videos as a result of the trip. A 30-minute version premiered at the May 2014 Shoulder to Shoulder benefit held at the Pittsburgh Center of the Arts. Its purpose is to show how Shoulder to Shoulder is making a difference in the lives of the people of San Jose de Negrito while enabling them to maintain their independence. Shoulder to Shoulder volunteers talk about how far the program has come, remembering that on the first trip, the group worked out of a one-room concrete school house. Today, the people of San Jose del Negrito have built a basic clinic that remains open, even after the brigade personnel have left.

Also under consideration is a longer video, approximately 45 minutes in length, to be used by Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh to help future brigade participants understand the organization’s work, the country, and the conditions under which they will work.



Javier, one of the children the film crew met in Honduras.



The trip provided the opportunity for the students to compare the culture they had grown up in with something completely different—it was an educational experience in itself.

“A trip like this provides perspective on things,” said LaSor. “It’s amazing how much we take for granted here. When you immerse yourself in that environment and life style, it opens your eyes, and you appreciate the things you do have

and, mostly, the people you have,” he continued. “That was something that I found amazing down there, how oriented they are to each other.



The clinic built by the citizens of San Jose del Negrito.

That’s the only way to survive, through the people around you. Bringing that back here was important and provided perspective.”

“The biggest thing that I noticed was the difference in materialistic values,” said DiPaolo. “They don’t have as much as we do, yet they are just as happy, or happier maybe.”

Porterfield added, “Everyone was happy to wake up and tend the fields or take their kids to the ‘bus stop,’ which was a pickup truck that pulled up and all the kids piled in the back. A lot of those places didn’t have running water, or clean water, if they do have water at all. There also was limited access to electricity. They were so happy.”

“They were totally invested in their communities, their families, and their friends,” LaSor said. “It’s because of selfless cooperation that they are able to survive in the mountains. The health clinic is a gem to their society that makes an enormous impact, but their people-oriented nature was amazing to experience. That’s the whole point of the film, to show others what it’s like down there, what the people go through.”

The group met with Shoulder to Shoulder representatives and then among themselves to set a rough blueprint of what they hoped to film.

“We were just going to run with it, see what we could capture, and try to absorb as much of that part of the world and story as we could,” said LaSor. “It worked out well. When we got back and started to review the footage, a lot of our initial ideas had actually come to fruition. We got a wealth of footage plus a lot of other neat stuff to supplement and expand on what we’d already planned.”

Among the unexpected was the rock slide that occurred while they were traveling up the mountain in the back of a pickup truck and the opportunity to film an unexpected medical stop when a Honduran stopped their caravan asking for help for his child. “You can’t plan for that kind of stuff. It just happens. We were blessed with footage like that,” said Porterfield.



According to Prellwitz, the next step for Pitt-Greensburg Media is to recruit more students, like the three graduates, whom he describes as interested, motivated, and mature. Other opportunities are available, including preliminary discussions about doing a piece for Excela Health’s hospice group.

“If we could duplicate ourselves and make 30 of us, the group could handle five projects,” said Porterfield.

“There’s great opportunity here,” said LaSor. “If enough people fill our spots, they’ll do bigger things than we’ve accomplished in the first 18 months.”

Retired Faculty:

Making A Difference in the Lives of Students

Recently, two members of the campus community made decisions that will ultimately impact the lives of Pitt-Greensburg students for generations to come. Both are retired faculty who saw needs and then identified ways they could help to fulfill those needs.

Ruth L. M. Kuschmierz, PhD, may have retired from Pitt-Greensburg in 1994 with the title Professor *Emerita*, but she continues to influence and shape today's students.

For nearly 50 years, Dr. Kuschmierz has helped to sustain the campus German program, making it possible for hundreds of students to study the language and culture of her native country. This spring, Dr. Kuschmierz extended her commitment to Pitt-Greensburg and its students by establishing the Ruth L. M. Kuschmierz Endowed Fund in Support of German Language, Literature, and Culture.

The endowed fund will support the instruction of German language, literature, and culture and will be used in direct support of student instruction.

"In making this gift, it is my hope that current and future

generations of students will develop a deep appreciation for German language, literature, and culture," explained Dr. Kuschmierz.

By helping to sustain

Pitt-Greensburg's German program, Dr. Kuschmierz is contributing to the overall diversity of the campus culture, an important aspect of the Pitt-Greensburg strategic plan for becoming a liberal arts college for the 21st century and to be recognized among selective liberal arts colleges in the greater Maryland-

Pennsylvania-Ohio region. Specifically, Dr. Kuschmierz's support of the German program contributes to Pitt-Greensburg's goal to graduate alumni who have an informed understanding of a global world with an appreciation for diverse viewpoints.



Ruth L. M. Kuschmierz, PhD

"By helping to sustain Pitt-Greensburg's German program, Dr. Kuschmierz is contributing to the overall diversity of the campus culture."

Profile:

RUTH L. M. KUSCHMIERZ

As a professor of German and English, Ruth L. M. Kuschmierz enriched Pitt-Greensburg with the presence of German culture. For 30 years, she taught all levels of German language and literature courses.

Under the auspices of the German Society, she sponsored exhibits and lectures, academic competitions and cultural excursions, the creation of fine campus glass art and the celebration of many festivals. She remembers, "Not only did the Pitt-Greensburg faculty and students become involved, but busloads of high school students attended the observance of German customs. Fond memories recall the *Maifest* with dancing around the Maypole, the *Martinsfest* with the picturesque lantern procession, the Nümberger *Christkindlmarkt* with its festive proclamation, and the spectacular performance of scenes from the opera *Hänsel and Gretel* with Mildred Miller Posvar and the Chancellor in attendance. The publicity in the *Tribune Review* and the involvement in the Westmoreland Bicentennial events made the public aware of Pitt-Greensburg. German culture was thriving with the patronage of faculty and staff, notably President Albert B. Smith, Dr. Carl F. Poke, Dr. Paul Chew, and Dr. Norman McWhinney, who performed in many dramatic roles."



Joel D. Sabadasz

Profile:

JOEL D. SABADASZ

As director of Academic Advising, Joel Sabadasz developed weekly joint staff meetings that allowed academic advisors, faculty advisors, admissions counselors, career counselors, the registrar, and the director of financial aid to easily share information about changes and how they affected students. He encouraged students to be responsible for their academic success, stressing that they arrive at advising meetings prepared with suggested schedules for the coming semester. Academic advisors could then spend more time with students discussing internship or graduate school possibilities.

As a history faculty member, he assisted Tom Headley, former director of Westmoreland Heritage, with planning the annual St. Clair History Lecture. Using seminars, Sabadasz brought together students and these highly acclaimed historians who published important histories about Westmoreland County and Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Joel D. Sabadasz saw a similar opportunity. Before his retirement from Pitt-Greensburg in 2011, Sabadasz worked closely with students as director of Academic Advising and history instructor. Today, he continues to teach United States history part-time at Pitt-Greensburg.

“The fulfillment of my dream was to work on a college campus, as an instructor and as an administrator,” said Sabadasz, who also worked in academic advising and financial aid at another area college.

This spring, Sabadasz saw a way that he could encourage academic excellence for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly those students who receive only federal and state financial aid and no other scholarships, grants, or financial assistance.

The result was The Joel D. Sabadasz Striving for Excellence Endowment Fund. Awards from this fund will be given to students who have achieved a high level of

“Sabadasz saw that he could encourage academic excellence in students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly those students who receive only federal and state financial aid.”

academic success despite having limited financial resources. Full-time sophomore, junior, and senior students who meet the University’s eligibility requirements for financial need will be eligible for the award. The award will be renewable for up to three years, provided the recipient continues to meet the University’s academic requirements. Students may use the award for tuition, books, lab fees, travel, or other educational expenses.

By establishing this scholarship, Sabadasz is helping Pitt-Greensburg to fulfill two other aspects of the strategic plan: fostering an engaging and supportive environment that assures student success and increases on-campus retention and being part of the campus’ efforts to provide sufficient student aid resources to attract quality students.

“Students who are determined will reach their dreams,” said Sabadasz, who also knows that there are a lot of factors that can affect whether a student stays in school, is successful, and graduates. “I’d like to help lighten that load for students.”

Endowed gifts are an excellent way for benefactors to make a positive lasting impact in the lives of our students. This type of gift also provides donors with a means by which they can communicate their personal values to future generations, while signaling their commitment to Pitt-Greensburg’s mission and ideals. If you would like to find out more about the Pitt-Greensburg endowed gifts program, please contact Jodi Kraisinger, director of University Relations and Institutional Advancement, at 724-836-9942 or gifts2pg@pitt.edu.

Upcoming Events



July 4:

The campus is closed in observance of **Independence Day**.

July 26:

Pitt-Greensburg's **Saturday Open House** is a larger group event that welcomes prospective students and their families to campus. The day consists of an admissions presentation and a walking tour of campus. The program runs from 9:30 a.m. to noon, and a \$45 fee waiver to Pitt-Greensburg is offered to students who have not yet applied. To register, call 724-836-9880.

August 9:

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.

September 1:

The campus is closed in observance of **Labor Day**.

September 2:

Pitt-Greensburg Music presents a Faculty Recital featuring Chris Bartley, director of music, and Zach Rohlwing, baritone and Chorale and Chamber Singers accompanist.

September 13:

Pitt-Greensburg's **Saturday Open House** is a larger group event that welcomes prospective students and their families to campus. The day consists of an admissions presentation and a walking tour of campus. The program runs from 9:30 a.m. to noon, and a \$45 fee waiver to Pitt-Greensburg is offered to students who have not yet applied. To register, call 724-836-9880.

September 27:

Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund **Walk for a Cure** Westmoreland will be held at Pitt-Greensburg. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 10 a.m.

October 3-5: Blue & Gold Weekend

October 3: Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing at Ligonier Country Club

October 4: Pitt-Greensburg 5K Run/Fun Walk on campus

Blue & Gold Festival on campus

Pitt-Greensburg Car Cruise

October 5: Pitt-Greensburg Students vs. Alumni/Staff/Faculty Softball Game

Save these dates:
OCTOBER 3, 4, & 5



Blue & Gold Weekend: **HOMECOMING 2014**

Golf Outing ♦ 5K Run/Fun Walk ♦ Car Cruise ♦ Family Friendly Events

www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blueandgoldweekend



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