

# BLUE & GOLD

## Pitt-Greensburg receives RACP funding for new Life Sciences building construction



The new Life Sciences building at Pitt-Greensburg will provide state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories in an LEED-rated building. It will be the second “green” building on campus, joining Frank A. Cassell Hall with that distinction. Watch your email and the Pitt-Greensburg website ([www.greensburg.pitt.edu](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu)) for details about the groundbreaking ceremony and how you can watch construction. Check the fall issue of Blue & Gold for complete details.

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg was one of seven organizations in Westmoreland County to receive funding through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). Pitt-Greensburg will use the \$500,000 award toward the construction of a new Life Sciences building on its Hempfield Township campus. The awards were announced in December 2020.

“We’re very grateful to receive this funding through the RACP,” said Robert Gregerson, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. “It will help us to move forward with our plans to construct a new state-of-the-art building with laboratory and instructional spaces for faculty and students in our nursing and natural science programs. This project also demonstrates Pitt-Greensburg’s commitment to excellence in academics. Our goal is to provide quality educational opportunities for our students, enabling them to graduate and fill the growing vacancies among regional and state healthcare providers and other high-priority STEM occupations.”

The new facility will aid Pitt-Greensburg in meeting the enrollment and pedagogy requirements of its science and health-related programs.

Future improvements to, and expansion of, the existing science facility (originally built in 1976) will also provide a strong basis for recruitment and retention of students, support enrollment goals for new majors, and increase student satisfaction.

Pitt-Greensburg’s plans currently call for construction of the new Life Sciences building to begin October 2021 with completion scheduled for December 2022. The facility would then be open for classes in the spring of 2023.

The RACP is a Commonwealth reimbursement grant program administered by the Pennsylvania Office of Budget. It provides financial assistance for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic and historical improvement projects.

*The construction of the New Life Sciences building will provide named gift opportunities to individuals and corporations/businesses. If you are interested in discussing a named gift opportunity, please contact Jodi Kraisinger, director of University Relations and Institutional Advancement at 724-836-9942 or [kraising@pitt.edu](mailto:kraising@pitt.edu).*

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# Message from the President

It's a beautiful sunny day in Greensburg, and I feel optimism and hope in the air. Earlier in March, we marked one year since we shut down the campus and dramatically changed our methods of teaching, learning, and working. I am extremely proud of Pitt-Greensburg's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the diligent and thoughtful approach to our collective well-being, we have had an amazingly safe campus over the past three semesters. Because of this, along with anticipated improving conditions, we recently announced a return to a more typical approach to operations for the fall 2021 semester.

Effective planning and execution has been critical to our pandemic response, and now we are taking another important step to protect our campus and members of the communities beyond Pitt-Greensburg. On March 22, we began service as a coronavirus vaccine distribution site in partnership with Mainline Pharmacy. At those clinics, our upper-level nursing students are administering vaccine doses to the public. The clinics will continue as long as there is a demand for them. I am proud of this contribution toward fighting the pandemic and hastening a "return to normal" for all.

While we have been teaching and learning under operating postures that have limited our ability to work together in person, this has not stopped our drive to always improve everything we do. For example, we recently received full approval for a new major in special education that complements our current programs in early childhood, secondary and Spanish education. New concentrations in cyber security and information technology administration will also be available to students next fall. We continue to create new opportunities that allow our students to advance in fulfilling careers after their undergraduate education on this campus.

An important milestone was achieved at commencement this year--we graduated our first class of nurses from our bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program. This is the fulfillment of the hard and smart work by so many at Pitt-Greensburg, and we are justifiably proud. We look forward to providing increasing numbers of bachelor's prepared nurses who will make an important impact on health care delivery in our communities. The large majority of our students come from this region and our graduates stay and contribute to the college-educated workforce right here in our backyard. Starting in May, this will include nurses who will go into the hospitals, clinics, and other medical settings to fill critical healthcare needs.

Thanks so much for your continued support of Pitt-Greensburg!

Hail to Pitt!

Robert Gregerson, PhD  
President



## University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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



for your support during  
**Pitt Day of Giving 2021**

We finished among the **LEADERS**  
 in the competition for participation among schools and colleges!

**\$41,000 + raised**      **365 gifts**

*These amounts will be doubled through the  
 Strengthening Institutions Program Grant*

<b>\$1,000</b> POWER HOUR bonus	<b>\$1,250</b> SIXTH PLACE FINISH bonus	<b>\$7,500</b> raised for <b>TECH FOR THE FUTURE</b>
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**18★**  
**Number of  
 registered  
 social media  
 ambassadors**  
*\*in addition to the  
 student organizations/  
 teams who helped  
 share our content*

**1,336**  
 people  
**Total reach**

**31,423**  
**Total number  
 of shares, clicks,  
 & interactions**

Did you guess correctly?



- Masked Bobcat #1**  
Sheila Confer, EdD
- Masked Bobcat #2**  
Todd Brown, PhD
- Masked Bobcat #3**  
Samantha Lemley

**We are in the home stretch . . .  
 but we need your help to reach our goal!**

Pitt-Greensburg is **\$31,000** away from meeting our goal of **raising \$250,000** for the **Technology for the Future Fund**.

These funds will be **matched dollar-for-dollar** by the Strengthening Institutions Program grant from the US Department of Education, resulting in the **establishment of an endowment of \$500,000**.

Your gift to the Technology to the Future Fund will be  
**DOUBLED!**

Make your gift today at  
[greensburg.pitt.edu/bg-newsletter-campaign](https://greensburg.pitt.edu/bg-newsletter-campaign)



# Celebrating the Class of 2020



# Commencement

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021

10:30 a.m.

University of Pittsburgh  
at Greensburg

Full, In-Person Ceremony

SAVE THE DATE!

More information to come  
[www.greensburg.pitt.edu/commencement](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/commencement)

Class of 2020: Update your information  
to receive complete details  
<https://bit.ly/Alumni-Info-Update>

## PGAA Year In Review

The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association found creative and innovative ways to continue its activities during the 2020-2021 academic year. Alumni joined in from across the region, the state, the nation, and the globe for this wide array of fun and professional events. In all, alumni were able to participate in 29 gatherings, either in-person\* or virtually this past year.

### July 2020:

- Online Bingo Night
- Accounting, Management, and Communication Career Panel via Zoom
- Disco-themed Happy Hour
- History, Social Science, and VAPA Career Panel.

### August 2020:

- Pitt Send-Off to welcome incoming students
- PGAA Gift Bags and bottled water distributed during Move-In Weekend\*
- 2020 PGAA Incoming Freshman Award/Madison Spahr '24



### September 2020:

- PGAA Awards are announced
- Alumnus of Distinction Award/Harry Bowser '72
- Young Alumni Leadership Award/Katie Byers '17
- Volunteer Excellence Award/Huong Vo '14
- Bobcat Block Party
- PGAA Board Meeting



### October 2020:

The Blue & Gold Celebration featuring the annual Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing\* at the Greensburg Country Club, Bobcat Block Parties, Playlist Bingo, Alumni Awards Celebration, Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg and awards presentation, Hospitality Tent Raffles, the Stained Glass Tour, Founder's Day Duck Race, and Happy Hour-ween



### November 2020:

- Be A Boss Career Panel
- Annual Resume Contest

### December 2020:

- Merry Mingle

### January 2021:

- PGAA Board Meeting

### February 2021:

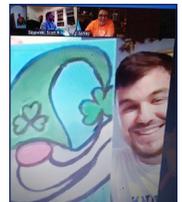
- Pitt Day of Giving and Leaderboard Watch Party
- Professional Impressions

### March 2021:

- Paint Party

### April 2021:

- PGAA Board Election
- Class of 2021 Congratulatory Video
- 2021 Class Agents/Marie Citrano '21 and Mya Cole '21
- Virtual Spring Open House Admission Event
- Vaccine Clinic volunteers
- Disney Night with PGAA & SAA
- PGAA Student Community Service Award/Mya Cole '21
- PGAA Outstanding Faculty Award/Barbara Barnhart '91, MED '10
- Robert Najim '93, CPA, CPIM, MBA represented the PGAA Board at the Commencement ceremonies
- Suit Up For Success\*
- Jim Smith '75 represented the PGAA at the Senior Champagne Toast\*



# Alumni Spotlight: Justin Carter A&S '12

**A Golden Globe**

**A Grammy**

**A Tony**

When Justin Carter A&S '12 took his Mid-West Regional Emmy back to Philadelphia, those were the guesses of the TSA Agents as they scanned the statuette in his carry-on bag.

"It's not something they see every day," he notes, adding that the statuette is now on his parents' mantle next to his grandmother's ashes. When he started his journey to become a TV journalist, he promised his parents his first Emmy. It's a thank you to them for his education and for supporting his dream.

Justin, the former morning news anchor at WICS-TV in Springfield, IL, was the producer on the award-winning Project Illinois: Justice for Ta'naja. This year-long investigative news piece delved into the failings of the state's foster care system. Focused on two-year-old Ta'naja, who died of neglect after she was returned to parents who were not ready or able to care for her, the piece evolved when he and his team discovered that her fate was similar to hundreds of other children.

For Justin, the story shows the power of journalism to spark change, start conversations, and save lives. Although the news team could not bring the children back to life, they could use their platform to ensure the children's deaths made a difference for others in the system.

"It's a dream come true and has led to so much," he says about the story, which also won an Associated Press (AP) award and an Edward R. Murrow award.

But, this dream almost did not come true. Justin's original intent was to study science and be a pharmacist. "I wanted to be a pharmacist for all the wrong reasons. It wasn't my passion," he explains.

By the end of freshman year, he knew he was on the wrong path. Passionate about the news and media, he began taking communication courses. He credits Pitt-Greensburg as being the springboard for his career.

"It instilled in me the confidence to succeed. I learned about myself as a student and a person," he says. The campus offered exactly what he needed as he transitioned from high school to college. He valued the intimacy and one-on-one attention, which helped him to thrive and spread his wings.

Pursuing a variety of activities, he lived in the Academic Village, was a resident assistant (RA), participated in chorale, and was a member of the Diversity Student Coalition (DSC). He also is quick to point out the impact faculty had on him.

Retired professor Lilian Beeson, PhD, was one of his first communication teachers. "She set the tone for me—how rigorous classes can be. I didn't appreciate it then, but I appreciate it now."

Mathematics instructor Gary Hart, PhD, the Student Diversity Coalition advisor, encouraged him to ask questions. Former assistant communication professor Gretchen Underwood, PhD, gave him the confidence to continue in the field, writing him letters of recommendation.



**Justin Carter '12 is moving into digital media. His next adventure is as a host/anchor for the media company, The Shade Room.**

After two years, Justin wanted to experience a larger campus and transferred to Oakland where he graduated from the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences with a BA in communication rhetoric and English writing. His experiences gave him the best of both worlds.

Justin's interest in broadcast news led to an internship with Creative Services at WPVI-TV in Philadelphia that transitioned from intern to tour coordinator.

In July 2012, he returned to Pittsburgh as a news producer and writer for KDKA. For a recent graduate, it was a fantastic opportunity to work for a legendary station in a top 25 market. Following his job at KDKA, he was a news reporter for WICU 12NEWS in Erie, PA, and then, was a general assignment reporter for 13WHAM-TV in Rochester, NY, before moving to Springfield's WICS-TV.

Justin loves what he's doing. "Every day, there is something new to learn. I always want to be passionate." Moving forward, Justin plans to keep telling stories and evoking change through journalism, saying, "Now, I have to get another award. I have to work harder," he jokes.

He encourages current Bobcats to take the time to find their passion at Pitt-Greensburg.

*by Julia Sefcheck '99*



*“As of today, you are alumni.  
I extend my most sincere congratulations.”*

— Dr. Robert Gregerson

## **2021 Commencements celebrate students; First cohort of nursing students receive their BSN degrees**



Amber Peddicord



Malena Gallucci



Kathleen Price



Mya Cole, PGAA Community Service award recipient

“As of today, you are alumni. I extend my most sincere congratulations,” said Robert Gregerson, PhD, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg as he gave the charge to the graduating seniors. At each ceremony, he expressed his pride in the class’s accomplishments and encouraged them to remember the challenges that they overcame this past year, as well as on their journeys to their degrees.

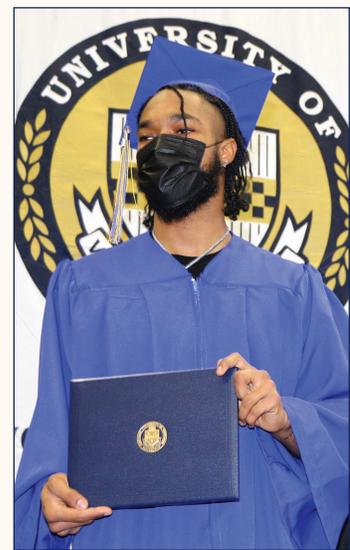
After a year of remote learning, social distancing, and face coverings, the Class of 2021 celebrated their achievements with three in-person Commencements on Saturday, May 1. The ceremonies allowed for social distancing of those in attendance, and each graduate sat in a pod with his or her two guests, allowing them to experience the celebration together.

The ceremonies were designated by degree, with 40 students receiving Bachelor of Arts degrees, 57 students receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in applied mathematics, bio-chemistry, biological science, chemistry, natural sciences, nursing, and information technology, and 63 graduates receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in management, healthcare management, accounting, information systems, early childhood education, secondary education, and psychology. Of the 253 students eligible to graduate, 160 participated in the ceremonies.

Amber Peddicord, an English literature and communication major, was the student speaker at the 10 a.m. ceremony. She encouraged the class to continue to fill each other’s “buckets” by encouraging each other and supporting each other as they move forward to their new lives.

Nursing major Malena Gallucci spoke at the 1 p.m. ceremony. She noted that “Culture has taught us to challenge the status quo; we are masters of innovation.” She noted that as they mastered Zoom meetings and virtual learning, it was the students’ adaptability and flexibility that enabled them to meet their goals.

At the 4 p.m. ceremony, psychology major and valedictorian Kathleen Price, shared, “We’ve all had memorable moments. I met my best friends and learned a thing or two. I want to thank each of you. Thank you for taking the risk to be here today.”



**Pitt-Greensburg's first cohort of nursing students received Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees. They include:**

- Jennifer Fitzgerald who will be working as a registered nurse in the Pediatric Cardiology Department at UPMC-Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.
- Malena Gallucci who has accepted a position at Geisinger Medical Center where she will participate in the Graduate Nurse Residency Program in the cardiac intensive care unit.
- Hanna Horne who will be starting out in the postpartum area of the labor and delivery department at Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital.
- Kaylee McClelland who is still reviewing her options, which include working in a doctor's office, working in the child psychology unit at Excelsa Latrobe Hospital, or accepting a traveling nurse position.
- Christina Pacacha who has accepted a job at UPMC-Magee Women's Hospital as a registered nurse in the Womancare Birth Center. Her long-range plans include returning to school to become a certified nurse-midwife.



From left: Christina Pacacha, Emily Stein, Madison Swiger, Jennifer Fitzgerald, Kaylee McClelland, Jordan Prines, Hanna Horner, and Malena Gallucci

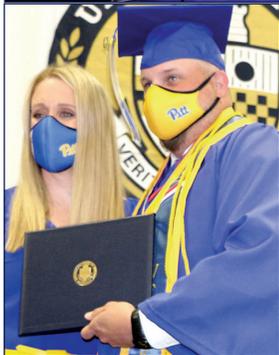
- Jordan Prines who has accepted a position with UPMC-Presbyterian Hospital.
- Emily Stein who has accepted a position as a labor and delivery nurse at Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital.
- Madison Swiger who has accepted a position with the Step-Down Unit at Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital.

**Building a Legacy**

As part of Pitt-Greensburg's Legacy Diploma Co-Presentations, 12 students received their diplomas from Dr. Gregerson and members of their families who also hold degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. Pitt-Greensburg is the only campus in the Pitt system to offer this opportunity to graduates and their families. It is 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. Pitt-Greensburg faculty and staff are also invited to participate in the Legacy Diploma co-presentations.

**The Legacy Diploma presentations included:**

- Maxwell Davies -- co-presented by his mother Amy Delo Davies A&S '91, EDU '92, and his father James Harold Davies CGS '00.
- Katherine Hope -- co-presented by her mother, Lisa Tranquill Hope, the interim director of Admissions and assistant director of Operations and Analytics at Pitt-Greensburg.
- Jacob Snyder -- co-presented by his wife, Sarah Randolph Snyder SHRS '02.
- Rachel Worthy -- co-presented by her father, Clifford Worthy, a member of the Pitt-Greensburg Facilities Maintenance staff.
- Lucas Ali -- co-presented by his mother, Vicki Draskovich Ali '86.
- Cassandra Colland -- co-presented by her mother Ronna Sarsfield Colland '87, of Finance and Risk Management at Pitt-Greensburg.
- Scott Critchfield II -- co-presented by his father, Scott Critchfield '90.
- Michael Dubosky -- co-presented by his sister, Christina Dubosky '13.
- Terrance Madarish -- co-presented by his father Terrance Madarish A&S '81.
- Brittany Platt -- co-presented, by her father, Thomas Platt, EdD, NRP, CGS '95, EDUC '07.
- Kathleen Price -- co-presented by her brother, Patrick Price SCI '14 and Eric Price '19.
- Danielle Romano -- co-presented by her mother Dana Carol Romano '96.



Faculty and staff volunteered to escort families to their seats. Leigh Hoffman (right), assistant dean of Students Services, escorts a graduate and her guests.

To watch this year's commencement ceremonies, please visit: <http://bit.ly/Commencement-2021>  
Please take a moment to explore the accomplishments of our students: <http://bit.ly/Student-Awards-Research-21>

# Pawprints

## Pitt-Greensburg programs earn national rankings

Study.com ranked several Pitt-Greensburg programs in its 2021 rankings. The selection is based on academic and career resources, the quality of education, faculty, and more.

- #4 on the list of Best Bachelor's Degrees in Biology (<http://bit.ly/PG-Best-Biology>)
- #20 on the list of Best Bachelor's Degrees in Psychology (<http://bit.ly/PG-Best-Psychology>)
- #21 on the list of Best Bachelor Criminal Justice Degrees (<http://bit.ly/PG-Best-CJ>)
- #37 on the list of Best Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education (<http://bit.ly/PG-Best-EarlyChildEduc>)



## Pitt-Greensburg maintains its Military Friendly status



For the 11th consecutive year, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg has been designated a Military Friendly® School by Victory Media. This prestigious list sets the standard for higher education institutions to provide the best opportunities for veterans and their spouses. More than 1,200 schools participated in the 2021-2022 survey with 747 schools earning the designation from every state in the country.

The complete list is published at [www.militaryfriendly.com](http://www.militaryfriendly.com) and was published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine.

## Faculty recognized for public service and excellence in teaching



Tim Holler, PhD



Laura Giovannelli, MEd



Paul Adams, PhD



Barbara Barnhart, MEd

Tim Holler, PhD, associate professor of criminal justice, is one of four recipients of this year's Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Public Service. The award recognizes outstanding public service contributions by members of the faculty within the University of Pittsburgh system. It provides a cash prize and a grant to support the recipient's teaching, research, or public service activities.

As director of the Community Arts and Reintegration Project (CARP), part of the Center for Advanced Research, Holler has developed a wide-ranging network of community partners in Westmoreland County and is working to advance restorative justice and improve re-entry of offenders into society. He serves on the Westmoreland County Re-entry Committee, the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, and the Pennsylvania Re-entry Council. Holler also is involved with the Blackburn Center and is active as a member of its Fearless Advocacy for Men's Engagement (FAME) working to develop and support men who are taking on the role of agents of change to end gender-based violence in Westmoreland County.

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg announced its 2021 President's Awards for Outstanding Teaching and Service:

- Laura Geovannelli, MEd, instructor of chemistry, received the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching in recognition for her innovative teaching methods and her encouragement of student development.
- Paul Adams, PhD, associate professor of political science, was the recipient of the President's Award for Distinguished Service, recognizing his sustained service activity that benefits the campus, the University of Pittsburgh, and the community.

The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) presented its Outstanding Faculty Award to Barbara Barnhart, MEd, instructor of biology, in recognition of her dedication to student success and her enthusiasm for teaching.

## New special education major receives approval

Beginning in fall 2021, students majoring in education will have four programs from which to choose: the early childhood education major (pre-K through fifth grade), the secondary education major (sixth grade through 12th grade), the Spanish education major, and a newly approved special education major. Students who want to earn a full double certification in early childhood and special education will be able to do so by adding just one extra semester. Psychology majors will also be able to add a special education major with certification by adding one extra semester to their college journey. The addition of special education certification will make these graduates more marketable when looking for employment working with students with disabilities in school settings.

"There is a huge need for special education teachers across Pennsylvania and across the country," said Melissa Marks, EdD, associate professor and director of the education program. "While there were many students who earned a double major in early childhood education and special education, very few teachers at the secondary level were trained. Plus, many of those who earned double majors didn't want to be special education teachers."

Jeanne Burth, EdD, and Jennifer Suppo, EdD, both associate professors of education, pulled from their deep backgrounds in special education to develop the Pitt-Greensburg program. "These two faculty members worked tirelessly on syllabi and developing the programming that meets the competencies required by the State of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh," said Marks.

## Full-Tuition Scholarship Winners announced

Three incoming first-year students are the recipients of full-tuition scholarships from Pitt-Greensburg. Valued at more than \$50,000 each, the awards cover the cost of in-state tuition for up to four years if the student maintains a 3.5 GPA each academic year. Eligible applicants must have achieved a cumulative high school GPA of 3.8 or higher, scored a minimum of 1250 on the SAT or 26 on the ACT, be a US Citizen, and be admitted as a full-time freshman student as a direct applicant.

Abigail Benally, from Ganado, AZ, plans to major in psychology. Determination, focus, and intelligent sensibility are qualities that she



Abigail Benally



Hannah Nelson



Gabriel Yeager

will bring with her to Pitt-Greensburg. During a year characterized by change for nearly everyone, Benally and her family made the tough decision to have her transfer to another high school midway through her senior year. Living in a small rural community located in Northeastern Arizona on the Navajo Nation—a place marked by the highest number of COVID-19 cases in America—she transferred from Ganado High School to Holbrook High School (Holbrook, AZ) when athletic programs were canceled on the Navajo Nation. On the days she attended classes or basketball practices in person, she would wake up at 5 a.m. to drive 25 miles to the reservation border to catch the bus that would take another hour to arrive at her new high school. Throughout all of this change, her academic and athletic careers continued to flourish.

Benally is the recipient of multiple academic and athletic awards: Superintendent Honor Roll, Principal Honor Roll, Student of the Month, Student-Athlete of the Month, Navajo Times All-Star, multiple All-Region first and second team recognitions, and four-time All-State Honorable Mention.

Hannah Nelson, of North Huntingdon, PA, will graduate from Greensburg Central Catholic High School and major in nursing at Pitt-Greensburg. A four-year letter winner in soccer, Nelson also was active in a variety of school activities, worked part-time, and maintained her high GPA. Resilient, empathetic, and mature, are words used to describe Nelson who experienced two significant tragedies during her high school career. With the support of family and others, she maintained her focus and recognizes how this has transformed her perspective on life in general. She writes that through her perseverance she knows that she will be able to help others grow and heal from their tragedies.

Nelson is a Highest Honor Roll student and received the Pat Dawson Memorial Scholarship. She also is a member of the National Honor Society. Captain of the Greensburg Central Catholic soccer team, Nelson participated in track and field, the Barbarians Futsal Club, Hungry Hearts Club, and the Mural

Painting for the Art Club. She volunteers at Redstone Highlands Senior Living Community and St. Agnes Vacation Bible School. At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Nelson volunteers at the fish fry and the Christmas Party for Less.

Gabriel Yeager, of Fairfield, PA, plans to major in applied mathematics with a minor in managerial accounting. Described as dedicated, responsible, and hardworking, Yeager mixes his love of math, music, and athletics to craft a successful, well-round student. A math and science tutor for the past four years, he also is a Chamber Choir Community Performer who sings at nursing homes, churches, community events, and festivals. His references credit him as "being a rare type of student who combines exceptional natural ability with a willingness and eagerness to learn."

A member of the National Honor Society, he was on the Distinguished Honor Roll every quarter and a Lion's Club Student of the Month (Jan. 2021). A four-time County Chorus selection, he participates in choir, chamber singers, and band. A three-year letter winner in soccer, he also participates in track and field, the Gettysburg Youth Club Soccer, indoor track and field, and winter conditioning club.

## New honor society established

Pitt-Greensburg is now home to a new chapter of the Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society, the international honor society for business, management, and administration. The society encourages and recognizes scholarship and accomplishment among students of business, management, and administration. It also encourages and promotes aspirations toward personal and professional improvement and a life distinguished by honorable service to humankind.



Melissa Paravate, a senior management major with a Spanish minor, and Robert Miller, a junior double major in accounting and political science, were instrumental in the establishment of the chapter, initiating the discussion and researching the possibilities. Sharon Turchick, MBA, assistant professor of management accounting, will serve as the chapter president. Glenson France, instructor of economics, will serve as vice president, and Clayton Gregg IV, instructor of management accounting, will serve as the faculty advisor. A committee of students will also assist with administrative tasks as needed.

The first cohort of scholars, who are ranked in the top 20 percent of their class in management, accounting, management information systems, or healthcare management, was inducted this spring. Eligible candidates also had to have completed at least 60 credits, including 24 credits in their major for the degree program in which they are enrolled. In addition to their certificate, pin, and other items provided by the Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society, each member of this inaugural class will be personally gifted a graduation medallion on behalf of the faculty officers of the newly formed Pitt-Greensburg Chapter.

"I am thrilled that our business and management students who represent approximately 15 percent of our student body at Pitt-Greensburg will finally be recognized for their outstanding academic accomplishments," said Turchick. "This recognition is long overdue! I am grateful that I was able to work with Melissa and Bobby this past summer and fall to help see the formation of the campus chapter of Sigma Beta Delta to fruition. I am also grateful for my colleagues Glenson France and Clayton Gregg for their work this spring to complete the formation in time for a spring, 2021 induction."

Inducted this spring as the inaugural class were:

- Maria Caughey
- Zachary Johnston
- Melissa Paravate
- Jeffrey Watt
- Scott Critchfield
- Christian Kitch
- Cassandra Pearl
- Hayden Wolfe
- Neisy Culler
- Elissa Pantalone
- Dylan Smith
- Thomas Zezyus

## Pi Sigma Alpha inductions

This spring, juniors Brook D. Kovalcik and Joyce Lin were inducted into the Alpha Kappa Epsilon chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. Kovalcik is majoring in political science and history, and Lin is majoring in political science. The chapter also recognized graduating members and officers, including Jacob A. Snyder, chapter vice president, and Cameron Bryce Seigfreid. The campus chapter was founded in January 2008. It has inducted nearly 90 new members into the society. Paul S. Adams, PhD, associate professor of political science, is the chapter's faculty advisor.

## New Kensington Mural dedicated

After nearly two years of planning, designing, and painting, the mural designated for downtown New Kensington was dedicated on April 11. The mural project was orchestrated by the Community Arts and Reintegration Project (CARP), part of the Center for Applied Research (CFAR) at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Westmoreland Community Action, a major funder for the project, and Olde Towne Overhaul also partnered with Pitt-Greensburg on the venture.



Tim Holler, PhD, CARP director and associate professor of criminal justice, and Bernie Wilke, mural artist, were among the dignitaries who spoke at the event. Following the dedication, a celebration was held at Voodoo Brewery.

Funding for the mural, in part, was provided through a grant from the University of Pittsburgh's Year of Creativity. Westmoreland Community Action also supported the project. Additional information about the mural project may be found here: <https://bit.ly/CARP-NewKen-Mural>.

## Weekly Clinic helps to make COVID-19 vaccine available in Westmoreland County

This spring, Pitt-Greensburg partnered with Mainline Pharmacy (Cambria County) to be a COVID-19 vaccine site. From March 22 through June 7, 11 clinics were held. More than 500 people, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni, volunteered more than 3,000 hours to provide more than 10,000 first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to people from four different counties. Pitt-Greensburg nursing students earned clinical hours when they volunteered to administer the shots. Jodi Kraisinger, director of University Relations and Institutional Advancement, and Joseph Blechash, director of Facilities and Operations, led the initiative that included finding the proper space, setting up the logistics, and procuring volunteers.



Tatyana Reyes, nursing student

## Aaron Slafka Memorial Service Award

Madison A. Jarnot, a junior majoring in political science and creative and professional writing, is the recipient of this year's Aaron Slafka Memorial Service Award. The award, which includes a plaque and a \$500 prize, is presented to a junior or senior majoring in political science who is able to demonstrate commendable service to the University, perseverance, and the ability to overcome adversity.



Madison Jarnot

Jarnot has served the campus in a number of ways including as editor-in-chief and president of the Pitt-Greensburg student newspaper, *The Insider*; president of the Pitt-Greensburg Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society; membership in campus organizations including Sigma Tau Delta, the English national honor society, the Creative Writing Club, and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. Jarnot's previous honors at include the 2019 Ida B. Wells Nonfiction Prize for her *Insider* coverage of Pitt's unionization efforts, and the 2020 Joan Didion Award for Creative Nonfiction.

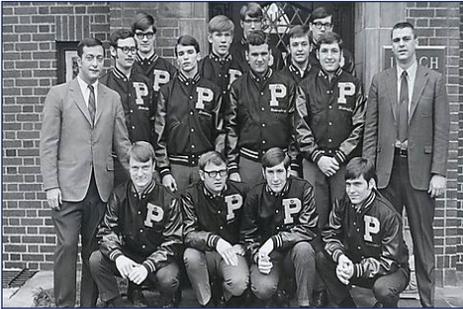
The Aaron Slafka Memorial Service Award is named for Aaron Slafka '07, a respected student leader and athlete, who died unexpectedly in April 2014 at the age of 29.

## In Memoriam:

Mark T. Stauffer, PhD, A&S '79, A&S'98, associate professor of chemistry, died January 3, 2021 (<http://bit.ly/Stauffer-Obituary>). A member of the Pitt-Greensburg faculty for 19 years, Dr. Stauffer served as chair of the Natural Sciences Division for nine of those years. A memorial service was held on campus in April to commemorate his many contributions to the campus and to the lives of his students, colleagues, and family. A scholarship is being established in Dr. Stauffer's memory. Memorial gifts may be made at [greensburg.pitt.edu/bg-newsletter-campaign](http://greensburg.pitt.edu/bg-newsletter-campaign) (select "other" and type in Mark Stauffer Scholarship), or contact Jodi Kraisinger, Director of University Relations & Institutional Advancement, at [kraisinger@pitt.edu](mailto:kraisinger@pitt.edu) or 724-836-9942.



# Athletic Hall of Fame to be established



From the Archives: The 1969 Pitt-Greensburg Men's Basketball Team poses for a photo in front of Lynch Hall.

During the 1969-1970 academic year, the men's basketball team was founded as Pitt-Greensburg's first inter-collegiate athletic team. Over the next 53 years, other sports teams were established and the Pitt-Greensburg Department of Athletics was created. The legacy of each of those teams lives on through the 13 men's and women's athletic teams who compete today wearing the Blue & Gold.

Our student-athletes continue to excel academically year after year, too. This fall, 69 percent of our student-athletes earned the designation of Scholar-Athlete after posting individual grade-point averages of 3.0 or higher.



From the Archives: 1996-1997 Women's Basketball Team

But our student-athletes' accomplishments don't stop when they graduate. Like other Pitt-Greensburg alumni, our student-athletes go on to start their own businesses, contribute to the success of their employers, and contribute to their communities.

That's why the Pitt-Greensburg Department of Athletics believes that now is the time to establish an Athletic Hall of Fame.

"We want our alumni to feel welcome on campus and we want to celebrate their accomplishments," explained Jeremy Yetter, director of Athletics. "Our athletic program has



From the Archives: 2002-2003 Cross Country Team

been in existence long enough, and we have great success stories to commemorate. The dedication, commitment, and the accomplishments of our former student-athletes, coaches, and staff members needs to be celebrated."

The Athletics Hall of Fame will be located in the Fireside Lounge at Chambers Hall, the heart of our campus. "I want both our alumni and students to be proud of our Hall of Fame and the legacy of our student-athletes and teams," said Yetter. "I want this to be a first-class presentation. The Athletics Hall of Fame will provide a formal platform by which to recognize these individual and team accomplishments."

## Pitt-Greensburg Scholar-Athletes hit the mark for Fall 2020

### Baseball

Jacob Bayus+  
Reed Bursic+  
Jace Cappellini+  
Jordan Cavanaugh+  
Jacob Davey+  
Dylan DeRoss+  
DJ Farkas+  
Collyn Flynn+  
Josh Fossick+  
Joey Fracek+  
Chandler Goodwin+  
Ben Green+  
Tony Iannuzzo+  
Brock McCormack+  
Andy Prentice+  
Devin Renzi+  
Zach Russell+  
Jacob Savko+  
Will Thorp+  
Paul Tumicki+  
Thomas Voelker+

### Men's

#### Basketball

Tommy Arbuckle+  
William Butler+  
JoJo France+  
Michael Gaffney+  
Cam Seigfreid+  
Connor Vehec+  
Jaylen Williams+

### Women's Basketball

Ashley Barker+  
Maddy Coddington+  
Nadege Durand+  
Catherine Gollihugh+  
LeeAnn Harris+  
Alycia Lynch+  
Sidney McCully+  
Elizabeth Penrose+  
Maddie Sittler+  
Hannah Wedow+

### Women's Bowling

Audrey Grainy+  
Kaitlyn Macie+  
Brittany Platt+

### Men's Cross Country

Christian Beatty+  
Jason Yeager+

### Women's Cross Country

Nicole Cortino+  
Hannah Corvin+

### Golf

Joe Doubt+  
Brandon Noel+  
Sante Shasko+

### Softball

Hannah Corvin+  
Jaden Difilippo+  
Brittany Dunn+  
Carissa Findura+  
Julianna Hughes+  
Caitlin Kavulick+  
Haley Licchetto+  
Jasmine Majors+  
Ashley Noel+  
Emily Novak+  
Kayla Santucci+  
Laila Smith+  
Madison Stonbraker+  
Kacey Weller+  
Tayjah White+

### Men's Soccer

Jason Argueta Amezcuita+  
Jacob Ference+  
Carson Gilarno+  
Shayne Kasic+  
Noah Knter+  
Alexander Marotte+  
Nathan Morgan+  
Owen Richter+  
Johnathan Thompson+  
Maxwell Weiser+

### Women's Soccer

Alexsia Barlamas+  
Alexandra Block+  
Erika Caldoro+  
Jenna Conty+  
Kiara DeVore+  
Hayley Felix+  
Alexa Fetterman+  
Allie Grimm+  
Rachael Grimm+  
Hayley Felix+  
Brooke Ianarelli+  
Hawa Janneh+  
Ariana Kovach+  
Rebecca Kubler+  
Tiffany Michalek+  
Nylah Pannebaker+  
Alexz Rosser+  
Elise Stratil+  
Sarah VanCisco+  
Gabrielle Weber+  
Lauren Yoder+

### Men's Tennis

Nathanie Baker  
Nathanie Baker+  
Michael Cannon+  
Francisco Garcia+  
Kyle Glessner+  
Vaughn Hunkele+  
Terrance Madarish+  
Andrew Oden+  
Turner Price+  
William Schmidt+  
Deven Summers+

BY THE NUMBERS	
<b>16</b> total number of student-athletes earning 4.0 GPAs	<b>91</b> total number of student-athletes posting a 3.25 GPA or higher
<b>4</b> number of teams posting a combined GPA of 3.5 or higher	<b>8</b> number of teams posting a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher
<b>3.123</b> GPA compiled by student-athletes as a whole	<b>69%</b> percentage of student-athletes achieving a 3.0 or higher GPA
2020 Fall Semester	

116 students earn Pitt-Greensburg Scholar-Athlete+ Honors  
+This honor requires a GPA of 3.0 or higher  
63 students earn AMCC All-Academic\* Team honors  
\*This honor requires a GPA of 3.2 or higher

### Women's Tennis

Miranda Berkebile+  
Kelsey Murphy+  
Abigail Rosman+  
Cathryn Rossi+  
Emily Ruhlman+  
Amber Sterrett+  
Xiangting Tang+  
Alycia Zummo+

### Volleyball

Emma Halutick+  
Abigail Lescallette+  
Taylor Logan+  
Alyssa Pagliei+  
Kathleen Price+  
Alexis Ray+  
Mackenzie Schropp+  
Savanna Stephens+

# Bobcat Athletics in full swing this spring

This spring, Pitt-Greensburg athletics were in full swing as 11 of the 13 teams saw competition of some sort. Five teams participated in scrimmages or exhibition games. Six teams played an abbreviated schedule against conference opponents and competed in conference tournament play. Only two teams did not participate in any competition: men's and women's cross country. For complete details on all of Pitt-Greensburg's athletic teams, please visit [www.pittgreensburgathletics.com](http://www.pittgreensburgathletics.com).

Scrimmaging this spring were men's soccer, women's soccer, volleyball, men's basketball, and women's basketball. Both the men's and women's basketball team played well, posting 20-6 and 4-1 records, respectively.

Participating in an abbreviated conference schedule were women's tennis, men's tennis, baseball, softball, golf, and women's bowling. Here are their highlights:

## Women's Tennis

Freshman Emily Ruhlman earned AMCC Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year accolades, and Coach Doug Smeltzer '17 earned AMCC Coach of the Year honors after the team posted a 4-0 regular-season record and captured the AMCC regular-season title for the second time in the program's history.

Six players were named to the AMCC All-Conference first team:

- Ruhlman (#1 singles) -- She posted a 5-0 regular season record, winning in straight sets;
- Freshman Abigail Rosman (#3 singles) -- Rosman posted a 7-0 season record and held most of her opponents to three points or less.
- Freshman Cathryn Rossi (#4 singles) -- Rossi posted a 6-1 record.
- Sophomore Kelsey Murphy (#5 singles). She posted a 4-2 record and held her opponents to three points or less when she was the victor.
- Ruhlman and Rosman (#2 doubles) -- They posted a 7-0 season record and won the majority of their matches with 8-0 scores.



Abigail Rosman



Cathryn Rossi



Emily Ruhlman



Kelsey Murphy



Miranda Berkebile



Stephanie Pantelas

Four players were named to the AMCC All-Conference second team:

- Junior Miranda Berkebile (#2 singles);
- Berkebile and Rossi (#1 doubles);
- Murphy and sophomore Stephanie Pantelas (#3 doubles).

The team's 4-0 regular season record earned them the first seed in the AMCC women's tennis tournament. The team defeated La Roche College 5-1 to advance to the championship round where they lost 5-4 to Penn State Behrend.

## Women's Bowling

Because it was their first year of competition, the women's bowling team was not eligible to compete in post-season play. While the team lost its matches to St. Vincent College (960-645, 881-701, 880-676), La Roche College (683-680), and Penn State Behrend (761-639), it saw solid performances from freshmen Audrey Grainy and Alaina Jenkins, as well as sophomore Kaitlyn Macie. This was Head Coach Amanda Cunningham's inaugural season leading the team.

## Men's Tennis

Pitt-Greensburg entered the AMCC Men's Tennis Tournament as the second seed and advanced to its second all-time appearance in the championship match after a 5-4 victory over Penn State Behrend. Pitt-Greensburg ended its run for the Championship with a 5-2 loss to number one seed, Mt. Aloysius. The team is coached by Doug Smeltzer '17.

Four members of the men's tennis team earned All-AMCC first team honors:

- Junior Turner Price (#1 singles) -- He was named Player of the Year for the second-straight year, posting a 5-0 record. After three seasons of play, Price remains perfect in AMCC singles matches (15-0).
- Price and senior Vaughn Hunkele (#1 doubles) -- Their 6-0 record included wins in the AMCC semifinal match and the AMCC final.
- Junior Francisco Garcia and senior Andrew Oden (#3 doubles) -- The two were 4-2 in doubles play.



Turner Price



Vaughn Hunkele



Francisco Garcia



Andrew Oden



Kyle Glessner

Earning All-AMCC Second Team honors were:

- Hunkele (#2 singles);
- Garcia (#5 singles);
- Freshman Kyle Glessner (#6 singles).

## Softball

The softball team finished their season with an 11-20-1 overall record and an 8-8 conference record. The Bobcats entered the AMCC tournament as the #6 seed but lost to Mt. Aloysius in a best of three-game series. Junior Brittany Dunn, with a .376 batting average, led the team in doubles (8), RBI (22), and slugging percentage (.494). Freshman Taylor Bojtos was second on the team with a .370 batting average and .420 slugging percentage. Sophomore Ashley Noel led the team with 229 put-outs, four double plays, and a .971 fielding percentage. This is Head Coach Chuck Myers's sixth season coaching the team.

## Baseball

The baseball team finished their season 7-21 overall and 6-10 in conference play. The Bobcats entered the AMCC tournament as the sixth seed but lost in the first round to Mt. Aloysius in a best of three-game series. Senior Jacob Davey posted a .404 batting average that included 27 runs, 40 hits, 10 doubles, two home runs, and 18 RBI. His slugging percentage was .586. Junior Mikey Sullivan played well on both offense and defense. He was second on the team with a .389 batting average and a .528 slugging percentage. He also led the team with a .985 fielding percentage that included 122 put outs and 10 double plays. Senior Jordan Cavanaugh and sophomore Will Thorpe tied for second on the team with .943 fielding percentage. This marks Scott Adams fifth season at the helm of the baseball team.

## Golf

The golf team competed in three invitationals this spring. Senior Joe Doubt finished the two-day AMCC Golf tournament tied for 12th, finishing with a total 168 (83/95), and was named to the AMCC All-Conference second team. The team opened their season at the Penn State Altoona Invitational where Doubt finished in a tie for 18th at the event with his score of 83 (+11). This was Josh Bartley's first season coaching the Bobcats.



Joe Doubt

# Upcoming Events

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated (\$).

## June 26

**Alumni Leadership Meeting**  
Hempfield Room & Virtual (9 a.m. - 10 a.m.)  
Register: <http://bit.ly/Alumni-Leadership-Mtg-21>

## July 4

**Independence Day Holiday**  
(University closed)

## July 5

**PGAA Alumni Award Nominations Deadline**  
Submission Details:  
<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/awards>

## August 22 - 27

**Welcome Week**  
August 22 - Move-In Day  
August 27 - First Day of Classes

## September 6

**Labor Day Holiday**  
(University closed)

## September 27 - October 10

**Blue & Gold Celebration**  
The Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg  
Millstein Library (regular hours)

## September 29

**Blue & Gold Celebration**  
**Blue & Gold Blood Drive**  
On Campus (TBA)

## October 1

**Blue & Gold Celebration**  
**Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing (\$)**  
sponsored by the Elliott Group  
Latrobe Country Club  
Supports Pitt-Greensburg Athletics,  
the PGAA, and the Technology  
for the Future Challenge Register:  
<http://bit.ly/PittGbg-GolfOuting>

## October 2

**Celebrating the Class of 2020 Commencement**  
10:30 a.m. Chambers Gymnasium  
Details/Registration: [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Commencement](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Commencement)

## Blue & Gold Celebration

**Blue & Gold Festival**  
**Welcome Back Picnic**  
**Hospitality Tent Raffles**  
Chambers Hall Lawn

**Blue & Gold Celebration**  
**Alumni Celebration Dinner (\$)**  
Hempfield Room

## October 7

**Blue & Gold Celebration**  
**Founders Day Duck Dash**  
Slate Run

## October 8

**Blue & Gold Celebration**  
**Virtual Hospitality Tent Raffle**

**Blue & Gold Celebration**  
**The Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg Artists Reception**  
Millstein Library (6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)  
Judged Categories winners & Fan Favorites announced  
Light refreshments will be provided.

## October 15

**Fall Break**

## November 21 - 28

**Thanksgiving Recess** (no classes)  
University offices closed Nov. 25-26

## December 3

**Merry Mingle** with the PGAA (\$)  
Millstein Library



Lynch Hall 203  
150 Finoli Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601-5898

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Save the dates!

We're planning for an in-person celebration.

**Sept. 27 - Oct. 8**

[www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blue-and-gold](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blue-and-gold)

**Blue & Gold Celebration events and activities:**

[www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blue-and-gold](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blue-and-gold)

**PGAA events and details:** [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni)

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

**Athletic events:** [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics)

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



Photos in this issue of Blue & Gold reflect the guidelines in effect at the time they were taken.