Upcoming Events

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

November 1
The PGAA will host a special session to paint a lighthouse at Painting with a Twist (Greenwich) at 7 p.m. Registration ($15) is required for this limited-ticketing event. Use code PGAA19 at http://bit.ly/PGAATwist.

November 4
Pitt-Greensburg welcomes new president, Dr. Robert Gregerson

On July 1, Robert “Bob” G. Gregerson, PhD, stepped onto campus as Pitt-Greensburg’s fifth president and has spent the summer becoming familiar with our programs, meeting faculty and staff, and meeting members of the greater Greensburg community. He is also interacting with students at events, like the Student Activities Fair and Coffee with the President, a soon-to-be-regular monthly event designed to allow him to dialogue with students. The owner of a new Twitter account, @pittpghpres, Gregerson looks forward to interacting with a wider community via social media.

An official biography for Gregerson is available here http://bit.ly/GregersonBio, and it details the academic path (he’s a biologist who minored in German) and career path that brought him to Pitt-Greensburg. Blue & Gold asked Gregerson if there was a defining moment when he knew he was ready to step into the role as president of a college campus.

“There wasn’t an epiphany; it was more of a gradual change in my thinking,” he said. “When I had been a dean for about five years, I started asking myself ‘what’s next?’ I had been a student and faculty member at two different small colleges, and I was really feeling a pull back to that type of environment—where education happens on a personal scale. So, my goal was to make myself competent for a presidency at a small public university. I think that being a dean is the perfect preparation for that role, and I guess that turned out to be true.”

As Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University, he had 23 direct reports and the college served approximately 6,000 students. He also worked closely with development personnel to create an advancement plan for the college that culminated in a $5 million campaign. He notes that his guiding philosophy is pretty simple. “Treat others the way you hope to be treated—with respect, courtesy, empathy, and dignity. All of that’s important endeavors are based on human relationships. If the foundation of our relationships is mutual respect and support, then everything else is working out the details together.”

Blue & Gold asked Gregerson about what motivates him. His answer: “I am motivated by enabling student success; everyone we all at Pitt-Greensburg should be in support of that goal. I like working collaboratively with others to solve problems and get things done. I respect people who are willing to work hard to accomplish their goals.”

On a more personal note, Gregerson is married to his high-school sweetheart, Sarah. They are the parents of three sons, two who live in Georgia and one who lives in Florida. His favorite place (other than Pitt-Greensburg) is the Top of the Bluffs restaurant on Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands. “It has the most beautiful view I’ve ever seen, and the food is great. It also has a swimming pool IN the restaurant!” He adds that anywhere in Belize or Costa Rica are tied for second place.

December 6
Pitt to the Power of One

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Watch for details! Your gift will make a paw-sitive difference in the lives of our students.

University of Pittsburgh Greensburg

Lynch Hall 203
150 Finoli Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601-5888

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

University of Pittsburgh Greensburg
It is a great honor to be the fifth president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg! My wife, Sarah, and I moved here in late June, and I started work on July 1. The welcome that we have received has been very heartwarming. This is a wonderful area with a great university environment. In my short time here, I have learned much about the campus and community, but there is still so much more to discover.

My efforts as president will be focused on ensuring that Pitt-Greensburg is a great place to live, work, and learn. We have much to be proud of, but also significant challenges to overcome. The foundation of the university is strong—the faculty and staff are dedicated to providing the best possible undergraduate educational experience for our students, and their caring, creative, and innovative work will be our hallmark. Pitt-Greensburg has the tremendous advantage of being part of a major research university, but at the same time, offers a learning environment that allows each student to develop their individual talents in a nurturing context that emphasizes deep connections among students, faculty, and staff. We don’t have large, impersonal classes, and all of our courses are taught by professors who have expertise in their disciplines.

I believe that this highly engaged approach to learning is the ideal environment for students, but we are facing with a declining traditional college-age population. This fact presents an enrollment challenge to all institutions of higher education in the region, so we must work very hard to attract and retain more students to our wonderful learning environment on a scale that allows each student to develop their individual talents in a nurturing context that emphasizes deep connections among students, faculty, and staff. We have much to be proud of, but also significant challenges to overcome. The foundation of the university is strong—the faculty and staff are dedicated to providing the best possible undergraduate educational experience for our students, and their caring, creative, and innovative work will be our hallmark. Pitt-Greensburg has the tremendous advantage of being part of a major research university, but at the same time, offers a learning environment that allows each student to develop their individual talents in a nurturing context that emphasizes deep connections among students, faculty, and staff. We don’t have large, impersonal classes, and all of our courses are taught by professors who have expertise in their disciplines.

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The Academic Community.

It has been a great pleasure to meet with faculty, staff, and students during the recent academic year. As spring classes were wrapping up, I had the honor of having the opportunity to meet with the Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company. The company presented Chekhov in Yalta, and I am looking forward to attending Chekhov in Various Locations. The Arts at Pitt-Greensburg Music at Pitt-Greensburg

In November, Music at Pitt-Greensburg will present collaborative performances between the Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and the Kaska Esence Ensemble. The two ensembles, joined by soprano Cynthia Ortiz and baritone Skip Nagier, will present “Tonight – Noël” – Music of Bach, Saint-Saëns, and Handel. On November 21, the two groups will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Delmont Presbyterian Church (Delmont, PA), followed by a performance on November 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church (Greensburg, PA). On December 2 at 7 p.m., Tyler Humphries-Randolph, soprano, will present her student capstone lecture and performance. The voice and piano students of Cynthia Ortiz and Matt Khump will perform on December 3 at 7:30 p.m. Both concerts will be held in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

The Joan Chambers Concert Series will feature soprano Elizabeth Lins Shoenthal on February 14 in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center. A frequent recitalist throughout central Pennsylvania and Virginia, she has sung principal roles with opera companies in Harrisburg and Philadelphia. Her full biography may be found at http://bysc.edu/Shoenthal.

Rounding out the schedule are performances of the Friday Evening Music Club, a community-based group that has called Pitt-Greensburg its home for the past four decades and draws area performers and audience. Upcoming performances are December 6 (Sounds of the Season), January 24 (Student Recital), and February 28 (Organ Highlights at First United Methodist Church Greensburg). Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center unless otherwise indicated.

Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company presents: Chekhov in Yalta

The Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company will focus this year’s performances around the theme “The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming!” In the two plays being produced this year by the theatre company, we see that the American and Russian people are much alike in attitudes about art and also about government corruption and confidence games.

This fall, the Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company will present Chekhov in Yalta, written by John Driver and Jeffrey Hatcher. In this comedy-drama, Russian playwright Anton Chekhov is visited by the wacky members of the Moscow Art Theatre, who will do anything they can to get their hands on his latest play — before he succeeds either to love (with one of the theatre’s actresses, no less!) or to tuberculosis. Dr. Stephen Schrum, associate professor of theatre, serves as the director of this production.

Performances for Chekhov in Yalta are November 14 through November 16 at 7:30 p.m. and November 17 at 2 p.m. in Ferguson Theatre. Tickets for this show, available at the door only, are $10 (regular) and $5 (students/emeriti/Pitt ID). For more information contact Schrum at shrum@pitt.edu or 724-374-7843.

Wait for details about the spring 2020 production of the farcical The Government Inspector by Russian playwright Nikolai Gogol, in an adaptation by Jeffrey Hatcher.
Faryaal Alam, a former columnist and feature writer for ESPNU and ESPN The Magazine, wrote the number-one bestseller Fi. His latest book, Madalein Lorince, a first-year nursing student, is the recipient of the first award. She is enrolled in Pitt-Greensburg’s BS in nursing program and her career goals include becoming a nurse practitioner followed by becoming a doctor.

“I am working at Redstone as a nursing assistant,” said Lorince. “I enjoy being able to build my medical background and learning things that will help open up future opportunities. I plan to take my CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) license within the next year or so, so I will have one license under my belt as I obtain my BSN!”

Students must work a minimum of eight hours a week at a Redstone Highlands or Redstone Home as part of the scholarship agreement. Lorince is able to schedule from eight to 30 hours a week with Redstone, depending on her class schedule.

To apply for the scholarship, students must make application through Redstone Presbyterian SeniorCare. Eligibility to apply includes having been accepted into Pitt-Greensburg’s BSN program, earning a 3.0 grade-point average for the previous educational year, and submitting an essay that details the applicant’s interest in working with the senior population as well as goals and purpose for applying for the scholarship. Two letters of recommendation are also required.

Redstone Highlands also established an internship in partnership with the Pitt-Greensburg healthcare management major. The internship requires a minimum of 10 weeks per semester and may be extended to additional semesters.

Senior biological sciences major Faryaal Alam interned with Redstone Senior Care this summer as part of her minor in healthcare management. The internship is designed to provide a broad experience by using rotations through various departments and experiences.

“I got to learn so much by being in different parts of Redstone every time I went in (to work),” said Alam. “I also enjoyed having the chance to network with everyone and gain valuable insight into the field.”

**Honor Roll of Donors**

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

**Pitt-Greensburg makes every effort to ensure accuracy in the Honor Roll of Donors. If an error in the accuracy is noted, please call (724) 836-9942 or email krasing@pitt.edu.**

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**Women’s Soccer earns regional ranking**

At this writing, in late September, the women’s soccer team is off to a great start in pre-conference play after winning the No. 8 (September 17) poll spot in the United Soccer Coaches Association Division III Top 25 for the Great Lakes Region. Freshman Ashley Lucas has scored in every game, including two goals against Muskingum and three assists against Chatham. As goalkeeper, junior Alexa Fetterman posted her first shutout and two saves against Geneva College. Other players to watch are sophomore Tiffany Michalke, second on the team in scoring with six goals, and sophomore goalkeeper Lauren Yoder, who has allowed only two goals in five games while posting 20 saves. AMCC play began September 24 with a match against Pitt-Bradford. Follow Pitt-Greensburg’s season at pittsburghathletics.com.

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**Women’s volleyball team**

The women’s volleyball team opened their season with a 2-10 record (as of September 25), posting victories against Wittenberg University and Chatham College. Sophomore Alexa Ray leads the team with 102 points and 24 blocked shots in 12 matches. She is followed by freshman Emma Halutick with 89.5 points and 23 blocked shots in 12 matches. Freshman Zoe Sheffler has posted 88 points and 12 blocks in 13 games.

A young—mostly freshmen and sophomores—women’s tennis team is off to a slow start, posting a 1-6 record for September. The team made their win against Bethany College. Sophomore Miranekle Berklefeldt, along with freshmen teammates Riley Reis, Xiaoting Tang, Kelsey Murphy, and Alycia-Zoomer have eachposted one win for the season against various opponents. The team is 0-3 in conference play.

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**Men’s Basketball**

The Men’s Basketball Alumni Club (MBAC) will celebrate the upcoming 20th anniversary of the men’s basketball program’s back-to-back AMCC championship seasons, the 15th anniversary of the regular season AMCC championship, and the 50th anniversary of Pitt-Greensburg athletics with a reunion centered around the November 30 men’s basketball game against Penn State-Behound in Chambers Hall Gymnasium. (This is not an alumni game; no alumni will be asked to play.) Visit https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/mbac to access the MBAC newsletter with complete details.

All players from the Pitt-Greensburg Men’s Basketball program are invited back to campus for this event. All returning alumni players will be introduced during half-time with special attention given to those teams celebrating milestones (60-, 70-, 80-, 90-, 100-, 110+)! Players who RSVP by October 11 will receive a gift. Players who RSVP after October 11 will not be recognized and may not attend the pre- and post-receptions but will not receive a gift.

The day will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge (Chambers Hall) with a reception for all returning players and their guests. The game begins at 2 p.m. After the game, MBAC will host a social for the returning players and their guests. If you are interested in helping with or attending the event, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 724-836-7496 or pga@pitt.edu.

Redstone Highlands, a senior living facility with locations in Westmoreland County, is partnering with the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg to provide a unique scholarship opportunity for our baccalaureate nursing students. Announced this past spring, Redstone Highlands is offering one full-tuition, four-year scholarship at Pitt-Greensburg, worth up to $17,500 per academic year.

What makes the scholarship unique is that it offers the recipient the opportunity to work at a Redstone Highlands facility as a paid member of the staff, earn the nurse aide certification at the employer’s expense, and work for two years in a full-time position as a registered nurse after receiving his or her nursing degree. (Graduates choosing not to accept a position with Redstone agree to pay back the scholarship funds awarded.) The scholarship also makes housing available to the award recipient, should the student choose to accept it.

“The idea for the scholarship began several years ago when Redstone was positioning itself as an anchor organization for the community,” said John Dickson IV, CEO of Redstone Presbyterian SeniorCare. “Using data from recent community-health needs assessments, we identified the macro and micro issues affecting the health and well-being of the community.

To address the macro issues, Redstone initiated programs to bring better health to the community through awareness. Redstone also identified how they could enhance the lives of their employees. Through a survey of its 400 employees, in which 81 percent participated, Redstone found that, in addition to identifying food insecurity issues and daycare needs, many employees were looking for debt forgiveness or tuition assistance. Along with instituting an income-based tuition-assistance program for daycare, Redstone also allocated money for scholarships.

Redstone Highlands also extended an internship in partnership with the Pitt-Greensburg healthcare management major. The internship requires a minimum of 10 weeks per semester and may be extended to additional semesters.

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“I got to learn so much by being in different parts of Redstone every time I went in (to work),” said Alam. “I also enjoyed having the chance to network with everyone and gain valuable insight into the field.”

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**Redstone Highlands Creates Unique Nursing Scholarship**

Healthcare management internship also established

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**Women’s Tennis**

Junior Price leads the Bobcats with an 11-3 record for the season. Price and junior Emma Halutick are tied 4-4 heading into the final match, since Price was able to score 79 points in the second set to force a tiebreaker. Her victory in the tiebreaker sealed the win for the Bobcats.

Sophomore Miranda Berkebile, along with freshmen teammates Reilly Reis, Xiaoting Tang, Kelsey Murphy, and Alycia Zoom are each capable of adding 2-3 goals in 12 games. Sophomore Andrew Oden was able to return a 2-5 deficit in the second set to force a tiebreaker. His victory in the tiebreaker sealed the win for the Bobcats.

Fagan, a former columnist and feature writer for ESPNU and ESPN The Magazine, wrote the number-one bestseller Fi. His latest book, Fi, was released by Simon & Schuster in early October as part of the campus’ observance of Mental Health Awareness Week. His visit was sponsored by the Pitt-Greensburg Athletics Department and the Academic Village.

“Seeing Kate come and speak to our campus was such a tremendous opportunity for our students,” said Jeromy Yetter, director of athletics. “Kate speaks on a regular basis at some of the largest universities across the nation, and we feel lucky to have had her visit our campus in October. Mental health is such an important topic today and using this opportunity to bring further awareness will benefit our students and campus.

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**Athletics**

NYT best-selling author and mental health advocate Kate Fagan speaks to students

New York Times best-selling author Kate Fagan spoke to a full audience when she visited campus in early October as part of the campus’ observance of Mental Health Awareness Week. Her visit was sponsored by the Pitt-Greensburg Athletics Department and the Academic Village.

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student no later than January 15, 2020. Each scholarship is worth more than $50,000 and is renewable up to four years if the student meets the renewal criteria. Complete details for the 2020 scholarship competition are available at http://bit.ly/PG_FullTuitionScholarship.

Events

A Legislative Action Conference, sponsored by the Criminal Justice Club, Career Services, and the Academic Village, will be held November 7. Panels of presenters will address pressing issues within the criminal justice field and discuss the steps that need to be taken to reform this ailing system. Topic areas are expected to include The Death Penalty, Illegal Immigration, Police/Community Relations, Special Populations and the System, and Drug Legalization/Decriminalization. A networking session for students and organizations is planned during the lunch break. This event is free and open to the public.

Plans are underway for the 2019 Veterans Week observance. Highlighting the activities is “A Conversation with WWII 45th Infantry Division veteran Guy Prestia” on Wednesday, November 13. Todd DePastino will chat with Prestia about his service in WWII, including North Africa, Sicily, the Italian Campaign, and liberating Dachau Concentration Camp. The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center. Veterans Week opens Monday, November 11, with a wreath-placing ceremony, the Veterans Luncheon hosted by Phi Eta Sigma, and the Reflections of Service event. Tuesday, November 12, will feature the Pitt-Greensburg Student Veteran Luncheon and a screening of the documentary Top Secret Rosies. Wednesday, November 13, will feature Coffee & Donuts with Dependents, a Try It Out event, and the WWII speaker. Thursday, November 14, will feature a Resource Fair for veteran and military students. The week closes on Friday, November 15, with a campus RED OUT—everyone wears red in support of active military—and the official removal of the commemorative wreath. Most events are open to the public. Please check www.greensburg.pitt.edu for details.

As part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the Academic Village, a year-long series of events and activities have been planned. Films, open mic, screenings, field trips to theater performances, discussions of controversial topics, dinner club outings, special speakers, and special programming led by faculty are part of the mix. Check the event feed on the website (www.greensburg.pitt.edu) to see dates, times, and events as they are finalized.

Two workshops, Beginning Investing and Taxes, were offered to the campus and greater Greensburg community. The workshops were underwritten by funding from the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) supplemental grant award. Advisors from Waddell & Reed shared tips on how much to invest and where to create a livable nest egg for retirement. Tax professionals from Gary W. Breckley Associates, Inc. provided plain-English tips on how to prepare one’s own taxes.

As part of the Year of Creativity at Pitt, Pitt-Greensburg participated in PARK(ing) Day on September 20. This international celebration turns countless parking spaces into parklets, gardens, social spaces, art studios, performance venues, interactive exhibits, and more. Students, organizations, and departments took over a section of the Chambers Hall parking lot for two hours with their displays celebrating creativity and Pitt.

More than 35 schools and programs were represented at the 16th annual Graduate & Professional School Fair, held in October. The event was open to the public and offered a wide variety of options to those interested in pursuing post-graduate educational opportunities. This event was organized by the Office of Career Services.
In September, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg unveiled its new website design, which was accomplished after a four-month planning and design process. The new site is significantly more mobile-friendly than the previous site and is up to date with Pitt’s web accessibility standards for users with disabilities. Further informational upgrades will continue to occur over the next several months to sections and individual pages. The URL for Pitt-Greensburg’s site remains www.greensburg.pitt.edu.

**Accolades and Awards**

For the ninth consecutive year, Pitt-Greensburg earned Victory Media’s Military Friendly School designation for meeting and exceeding the Military Friendly Standards in all six categories.

Marie A. Fioravanti, DNP, RN, is the recipient of the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Nursing Cameos of Caring Award. Fioravanti, the director of nursing and an associate professor of nursing, will accept the award at a gala dinner scheduled for November.

Pitt-Greensburg was awarded funding for two projects through the Pitt Seed Project. The Pitt-Greensburg Military and Veterans Program will use their funds for a two-year project to expand the development and execution of scholarship, education, and support programs that benefit the Pitt-Greensburg military, veteran, and campus communities. The Center for Applied Research (CFAR) will use the funds they received for a two-year project that will enhance their education and training infrastructure, especially as it pertains to the undergraduate research assistants working with the center.

Pitt-Greensburg received funding through The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to expand alcohol awareness activities at the campus. Pamela Freger, director of the Health Center, will use the funding to implement programming to reduce underage drinking, reduce high-risk or dangerous drinking, and to promote responsible alcohol consumption by those of legal drinking age. The new programming will augment alcohol awareness strategies already in place.

Kristen Asplin, PhD, assistant professor of psychology, and Jeannie Burth, EdD, associate professor of education, are the recipients of funding through Pitt’s Open Education Resources (OER) grant program. Asplin will use her grant to develop open education resources in the area of child development, and Burth will use her grant to create OER writing lesson and unit plans. Open Education Resources help students save money on course materials as well as providing faculty with the ability to customize their courses.

Thirty-six students marked a significant milestone in the pursuit of their bachelor’s of science degrees in nursing (BSN) when they received their symbolic white lab coats at the Gold-AACN White Coat Ceremony for Nursing held in August. This is the second group of students in Pitt-Greensburg’s program to participate in the ceremony that signifies the transition from classroom learning to clinical learning. The purchase of the white lab coats was made possible through two grants. The Westmoreland/Frick Hospital Foundation, which also funded the purchase of the lab coats for the 2018 ceremony, provided funding again this year. Additionally, Pitt-Greensburg was one of two schools in Pennsylvania and 50 nation-wide to receive funding from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation (APGF) through the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to support this ceremony.

This summer, McKenna Hall underwent key renovations and was designated the new home of the Pitt-Greensburg BSN program. The space features a new skilled nursing lab with eight fully operational beds and two programmable mannequins, operated via the SimPal. A state-of-the-art Hoversim Pilot teaching station also was installed. Additionally, new virtual reality equipment was purchased and set up in Millstein Library specifically for use by nursing students. It includes a variety of software that will enhance nursing students’ learning experience in anatomy and other subjects.

Pitt-Greensburg’s psychology program continues to grow with the addition of two new minors: clinical psychology and legal psychology. The clinical psychology minor provides students with the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills that will allow them to communicate and work with mental health, counseling, or social work professionals. The legal psychology minor provides students with an overview of how psychological theory and research are becoming increasingly relevant to legal policy and judicial decision-making.

To the Creative and Professional Writing Program, using grant funding from the Office of Academic Affairs, will expand its curriculum with new writing courses that focus on writing and the healing arts. In spring 2020, the first in a series of five interconnected topics/courses will launch, all designed to help students across disciplines to engage with writing as a way to live deeper, more meaningful lives. Lori Jakela, professor of English and director of the Creative and Professional Writing program, will teach the courses, which include Writing and Happiness, Writing About and Through Trauma, Experimental Writing, Place-Based/Home Writing, and Food and Family.

Prospective students interested in competing for one of Pitt-Greensburg’s three full-tuition scholarships should plan to have their scholarship applications completed and submitted no later than January 22, 2020. The applicants should also have completed the admission application process to Pitt-Greensburg and be an admitted student.

**New website design in place**

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**Program Updates**

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Three honored at the Alumni Celebration Dinner, held during Blue & Gold Celebration 2019.

Hon. Austin A. Davis ’12
PGAA Alumnus of Distinction

Hon. Austin A. Davis ’12 was the recipient of this year’s Alumnus of Distinction Award, which recognizes excellence among Pitt-Greensburg alumni and is the highest honor given by the PGAA. “I am honored and humbled to be selected as this year’s Alumnus of Distinction,” said Davis, who serves as the Pennsylvania State Representative for the 26th Legislative District. “My passion and commitment for public service was fostered at Pitt-Greensburg, and I would not be the public servant I am today without those experiences. It is my hope that the University continues to inspire students to seek careers in public service.”

At an early age, Davis made the decision to dedicate his life and career to public service. In high school he founded and served as chairman of McKeesport Mayor James Brewster’s Youth Advisory Council. “My passion and commitment for public service was fostered at Pitt-Greensburg, and I would not be the public servant I am today without those experiences. It is my hope that the University continues to inspire students to seek careers in public service.”

From left: Hon. Austin A. Davis; Robert and Tami Ray, parents of Cayla Ray who accepted the award on her behalf; Thomas Jollie.

Cayla Ray ’14
PGAA Young Alumni Leadership Award

Cayla Ray, DMD ’14 was awarded the PGAA Young Alumni Leadership Award, which recognizes established and future leaders among Pitt-Greensburg’s young alumni who are age 35 and younger.

A biological science major with a minor in psychology at Pitt-Greensburg, Ray earned a doctor of dental medicine and a certificate in dental public health from the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH) at A.T. Still University. She is serving her pediatric dental residency at Primary Children’s Hospital in Salt Lake City, UT.

“Cayla always had something to add to class discussions and debates and was energized by her classes here,” said Olivia Long, PhD, associate professor of biochemistry, and a mentor to Ray. “Cayla dedicated her senior year to determine if there was a different population of microbes in college students’ mouths than those of reported adult population. She won first place at a local conference for her poster presentation. Cayla was a true leader on this campus, an outstanding student, and a compassionate person.”

At Pitt-Greensburg, Ray co-founded the Pre-Health Committee, developed guidebooks for entrance into health programs, and organized study groups for graduate admissions tests. A regular volunteer at The Eat End Hunger Café, she posted more than 400 volunteer hours.

The recipient of the Tami Hunger Award (2019) for most community service at ASDOH in four years, she served as the community service coordinator for the local chapter of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, and she founded and served as president of the ASDOH chapter of Students United with America’s Toothfairy (SUAT).


Thomas “Tom” Jollie ’72
PGAA Volunteer Excellence Award

Thomas “Tom” M. Jollie ’72 was the recipient of the PGAA Volunteer Excellence Award, which recognizes alumni who have dedicated a significant amount of personal time, as volunteers, to attending alumni meetings and events, working on special projects, and contributing to the overall success of both the alumni association and the University.

Jollie, a native of Irwin who resides in Greensburg with his wife Sharon, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BS in mathematics. A member of the campus’ first official men’s basketball team, he now is a founding member of the Men’s Basketball Alumni Club (MBAC), serving as its treasurer and the driving force behind the MBAC project that resulted in the purchase of a shooting machine for the basketball teams.

“Since Tom has been elected to serve on the Alumni Board, he has selflessly donated of his time and his resources to support his alma mater,” said Harry Bonger, a member of the PGAA Board and MBAC. “Tom’s efforts truly make him worthy of the Volunteer Excellence Award.”

A member of the PGAA Board of Directors, Jollie sits on the committee and regularly volunteers at PGAA events. As a former basketball player and sports booster, he also has served on the Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing committee.

Jollie credits Pitt-Greensburg for his success, as well as being a launching pad for his sister, a prosecuting attorney in Greensburg, and his brother, an insurance business owner in Irwin.

While a student in the Pitt system, Jollie volunteered with the Army National Guard, serving six months of active duty and delaying graduation until 1972. He then served six years as a member of the military police here in Pennsylvania. After graduation, he entered the insurance business. Forty-seven years later, he is currently the T M Jollie Insurance Agency, Inc. (Mt. Pleasant) and has owned the business for over two decades.


Upcoming events:

• November 13 – Campus-to-Career Panel Discussion 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mill Village Hall 108. Panelists will answer questions about their journey from college to their current positions and provide insight and advice from their own experiences. The event is free and open to alumni, students, faculty, and staff. Register at bit.ly/PGAAPanelRegistration.

• November 16 – Pitt-Greensburg Men’s Basketball Alumni Club will host a reunion/recognition game. For more information, visit PGAA.org.

• November 21 – Men’s Basketball Alumni Club will host a reunion/recognition game when the Bobcats take on Penn State-Behrend. All returning basketball alumni will be recognized at halftime. Special recognition for alumni from teams playing in ’89-90, ’99-00, ’04-05, ’09-10. Pre-game reception and post-game gatherings are also planned. Please see page 10 for details.

• December 6 – Merry Mingle Join in the fun at the next Merry Mingle in Millstein Library from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event will include a signature drink, wine and beer bar, hot chocolate bar, appetizers, games, giveaways, and more.

Contact pgaa@pitt.edu for details.

PGAA recognizes outstanding alumni

“IT is a true honor to be nominated and chosen as the 2019 Young Alumni Leadership Award winner for Pitt-Greensburg,” said Ray. “To this day, I still connect with many of my mentors, professors, and coaches from Pitt-Greensburg, and I truly can’t thank them enough for their commitment to my success. I am confident that Pitt-Greensburg helped me develop the foundation for a successful future.”

While a student at Pitt-Greensburg, Ray completed independent research in my lab,” said Olivia Long, PhD, associate professor of biochemistry, and a mentor to Ray. “Cayla dedicated her senior year to determine if there was a different population of microbes in college students’ mouths than those of reported adult population. She won first place at a local conference for her poster presentation. Cayla was a true leader on this campus, an outstanding student, and a compassionate person.”

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• Newely-elected PGAA president Bob Najim ’93 began his term on July 1, 2019. Joining him on the Executive Committee are Scott Szymulska ’14, vice-president; Barbara Smith ’94, secretary, and Carrie Ann Bush ’14, treasurer. The PGAA Board of Directors welcomed five first-time and two returning alumni to terms beginning July 1, 2019.

• In June, the PGAA hosted two events: The PGAA sold out all 75 tickets for its “Pitt-Greensburg at PNC Park” featuring a black- and gold tailgate with a “Yinzer” buffet before the game. The group then celebrated National Pitt Networking Day with an event at Applebee’s Neighborhood Bar & Grill (Greensburg).

• In July, the PGAA hosted a Pitt Send-Off event at Applebee’s Neighborhood Bar & Grill (Greensburg). Fifty-eight guests, which included incoming and current students, alumni, staff, and family and friends, attended the event. Dr. Gregerson was on hand to welcome the incoming students.

• Alumni volunteers distributed bottled water and welcomed students and their families on Move-In Day.

Updated November 26, 2019