

BLUE & GOLD

Student achievements celebrated; Digital and social media platforms used



Each spring, Pitt-Greensburg recognizes its students for their academic achievements, their leadership, their overall contributions to campus life, and their contributions to the community. Usually, this recognition occurs in a series of campus events held at the end of the semester. When the awards are presented, a brief synopsis of each recipient's accomplishments is shared with the audience.

This year, the precautions taken to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus prevented the campus community from coming together to celebrate these achievements. Instead, these students were recognized for their hard work via a special section of our website. This information was then shared via social media on Pitt-Greensburg's official pages. Please visit bit.ly/Celebrating-Students-2020 to celebrate the accomplishments of our students.

"We are so proud of our student leaders on campus," said Albert Thiel, director of the Student Center and Student Involvement. "The work they do in spreading cultural awareness, fostering civic engagement, creating meaningful social connections, supporting in the classroom learning, mentoring new and emerging leaders, and inspiring their fellow students, faculty, and staff members cannot be quantified."

While it's difficult to quantify the contributions of these students and their classmates, nearly 100 awards were distributed to students and organizations for their leadership during the 2019-2020 academic year.

The awards recognized programming, leadership, community service, campus pride, and outstanding student contributions.

A group of 18 students were recognized for completing the requirements for the Greensburg Experience More (GEM) program, which is designed to provide students with a co-curricular experience that complements and enhances their classroom learning. To complete the program, students engage in structured professional and personal skill development in the areas of leadership, service, career, cultural awareness and appreciation, and Pitt-Greensburg pride and traditions. Students take from two to four years to complete the program. Please visit bit.ly/2020-GEM to learn about these students' experiences.

"To me, GEM is a way to personalize and become fully engaged in the collegiate experience," said Rick Fogle, dean of Student Services. "To paraphrase, Malcolm Forbes, a diamond is a GEM that was a chunk of coal that stuck to its job. Each inductee persisted and stuck to their job. You are all GEMs. You have made yourselves better and have the potential to make the world better. Congratulations, we share the joy and pride of your accomplishments."

Check out pages 6 and 7 to celebrate our graduates and see the academic accomplishments and research our students have achieved.

Message from the President

As I write this message, we have just begun the 2020 summer session. Our faculty are teaching all classes remotely this summer, as we did for the latter third of the spring semester. This shift in how we teach and learn has been a dramatic change. I have been thoroughly impressed with the response of the faculty, staff, and students to the unprecedented challenge presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our standard in-person processes quickly turned into a work-from-home/learn-from-home operating mode, but we worked tirelessly to ensure that this new environment provided the best possible learning opportunities and student support that we could achieve. The faculty and staff truly rose to the occasion through their dedicated efforts on behalf of Pitt-Greensburg's students.



Following the end of the semester, we began our preparations for the 2020-2021 academic year. The first element of this process was to examine the spring semester to learn from our colleagues and from many other institutions that faced the same shift to remote work that we experienced. We asked ourselves what worked well, what wasn't as effective, what best practices could be identified, and we looked for expertise among our faculty and staff that we could draw from as we look to improve every aspect of our operations.

Working with colleagues at the other Pitt campuses, we created a Pitt-Greensburg 2020-2021 Planning Group charged with examining possible scenarios for the upcoming academic year, including the academic calendar, various structures for teaching our classes, creating reduced density personnel arrangements, improving remote working conditions, and many other related topics. In conjunction with the other Pitt campuses, we intend to announce our plan for operations at the beginning of June. I can assure you of one thing: it won't be "business as usual" in some ways, but as always, we will be focused on providing the best possible education for our students and supporting their academic and personal success.

I am pleased to report that the Life Sciences Building project is proceeding through this challenging time. The planning and design phases are progressing, but the ongoing status of this project will be decided at the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees meeting to be held in June. This state-of-the-art facility will benefit our students in nursing and the basic sciences. It is an important step forward for our campus, and I remain hopeful that we will share news of its progress and completion in future issues.

To close, I want to thank you all for your commitment to the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Working together, we fulfill our mission to promote our students' success. They deserve our very best.

Hail to Pitt!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Gregerson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Gregerson, PhD
President

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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Campus Heroes: Making a difference during COVID-19

When the University of Pittsburgh initiated its response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, it offered faculty and staff the option of volunteering up to eight hours a week in their community. This is just a brief overview of the activities of faculty, staff, students, and alumni as they found ways to contribute to the pandemic efforts since March 2020.

Additionally, Pitt-Greensburg was able to donate 53 boxes of latex gloves from its supplies to Excelsa Health in support of their pandemic preparations. *Do you have a story to share about how you are contributing to supporting COVID-19 efforts in your community? Please share your story with us at bit.ly/COVID19-Heroes.*

Faculty and Staff



Jeffrey Antal

Jeffrey Antal, Media Services & Instructional Technology Manager, is taking working remotely to a new level. As a member of the Westmoreland County Station 80 North Belle Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, he is signing up for shifts at the busy fire station while continuing to carry out his duties for Pitt-Greensburg. Joining him at the fire station are other volunteers who are also working from home. In addition to answering calls for structure fires, the fire station is on standby to assist its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider with their workload.



Cali Blair and her youngest co-worker and daughter, Audrey

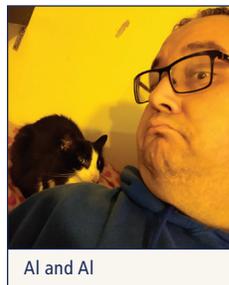
Admissions Marketing Content Coordinator Cali Blair has been making cotton masks and giving them away to people unable to find or buy them. "I've always had a passion for sewing," said Blair who learned to sew from her grandmother. "I was motivated to sew masks because I wanted to help the community in some way while at home. I thought sewing cloth masks would be the best use of my skills while helping others in need." When her workload allows, Blair spends about four hours a week sewing the masks. To date, she has distributed more than 40 masks. To contact Blair for a mask or to donate 100 percent cotton material for her projects, email her at cab365@pitt.edu.



Linda Smales

Linda Smales, MSN, RN, nursing instructor for Foundations of Nursing and the skills lab, became aware of the projected need for personal protection equipment (PPE) at regional health care facilities. Smales, a former nail technician during her undergraduate years, and her sister, Thy Chan Gallagher, a former nail salon owner, reached out to nail salons in the area to collect items that were in short supply. The result was an overwhelmingly large outpouring of support from the nail salon community: more than 200 cases of gloves, more than 30,000 face masks, and hundreds of containers of hand sanitizer—plus Clorox

wipes and soap—were donated. Smales and her sister, who did this on a voluntary basis, matched supplies with health care facilities, distributing the products to more than 45 facilities including organizations in Pittsburgh; Baltimore; New York; York, PA; and Philadelphia. When the CDC changed their guidelines requiring people to wear masks in public, the two sisters purchased 1,000 cloth masks and had 100 made and donated from another salon friend to give out to the community. Smales was interviewed by Wendy Bell (KDKA Radio), Heather Abraham (KDKA-TV), and had a photo published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Her opinion piece on why she orchestrated this can be found here: bit.ly/Smales-Opinion.



Al and Al

Al Thiel regularly volunteers one evening a week with Animal Friends of Westmoreland County. He helps with the care of the cats and the rabbits. "I really enjoy the opportunity to make a difference for the group, and it gives me a chance to interact with cats since I can't have pets in my apartment," said Thiel. "It was also a good excuse to get out of my apartment without feeling like I'm not following the spirit of the 'stay inside' orders." With the University allowing employees to use up to eight hours a

week volunteering, Thiel picks up some afternoon and evening shifts when they are open. He cares for about two dozen cats, but his personal favorites are Beatrice, Rita, Al, and Rosie. "It's a way for me to give back to a group and serve as a volunteer rather than helping to coordinate or run a program," said Thiel who serves as the director of the Student Center and Student Involvement.

Alumni



Lindsay Shrader

Lindsay Shrader '13 works on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic as a healthcare worker in the imaging department at UPMC Passavant. "Our department takes care of all of the patients coming in for their testing exams, like x-rays, MRIs, CTs, ultrasounds, etc.," said Shrader. "It's my job to take care of the patients and make sure they receive the proper treatment and care they need."



Carly Cardello

Carly Cardello '17 works with Dr. Dario Vignali in a Pitt School of Medicine immunology research lab. Pitt challenged its researchers to propose projects related to COVID-19 with an offer of grant funding. The proposal submitted by Dr. Vignali and his team was approved, and Cardello is now helping to collect data that is being used to show the immune system response to the virus in order to determine biomarkers from a transcriptomic level. "Not only do I love being actively involved in research in my lab, but one of the biggest challenges we face is that we don't know much

about the virus," said Cardello. "If we can look at how this virus affects our immune system, we may be able to draw conclusions and help us better understand what is happening within our bodies biologically." Cardello and her team will apply their understanding of how the immune system works in cancer patients to better understand COVID-19. "It may even lead to discoveries that may guide other COVID-19-related research," she added.

Students

Samantha Lemley, a criminal justice major, remembers a time when her family needed to accept help from their local food bank. Her family has since recovered from that period and no longer needs the support, but Lemley explained, "I want to give back as much as I can to help people who are in a similar situation as me when I was little." When COVID-19 forced the shut-down of non-essential businesses, Lemley and her employer, Sheetz (Belle Vernon, PA) collected and donated canned and non-perishable foods to the local food bank. Lemley, who also serves as vice president of the Student Alumni Association and the Accounting & Business Club, continued to work at her job at Sheetz and to help out at two other stores while completing the spring semester via remote learning.

Pitt to the Power of One

COVID-19: Health and safety remain a priority

“Unprecedented,” “new normal,” “social distancing,” “essential workers,” “flatten the curve”—all words that became part of our everyday language as we watched the COVID-19 Pandemic unfold this spring. When we started the semester in January, little did we know that we would be making the decision to abruptly shift to remote learning and remote working in March. Real-time information concerning Pitt-Greensburg’s activities may be found at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/covid-19.



March 12:

President Robert G. Gregerson, PhD, shared his first communication with the campus community on March 12, saying

“The health and safety of our campus community is of paramount importance, and we are in an unprecedented situation with the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.” The primary focus was (and is) to keep members of the

community safe while ensuring that we provide a learning environment that allows students to complete their courses. While the campus was officially closed to the public on March 20, it has continued its everyday teaching and business operations.

Spring break marked the point when the decision was made to switch to remote learning and remote working. The Pitt-Greensburg computing services department facilitated that transition, making sure faculty and staff had the computer software, hardware, and digital applications to move classes and business functions to the digital realm. Using Blackboard, Canvas, and Zoom, faculty were able to offer synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (recorded) instruction. Staff were set up to access files stored in the cloud or through virtual private networks (VPN). Meetings moved from in-person to Zoom or MS Teams.

On another front, students were alerted to what they would need to continue their classes remotely. Students, faculty, and staff who needed to borrow Chromebooks and wifi hotspots received those items via the University of Pittsburgh IT department.

“The Chromebooks are a relatively ‘low-powered’ laptop, meaning they can’t support a lot of heavy duty software, etc. Instead, they are meant to be used with Pitt’s IT virtual lab,” said Erik Gatz, Pitt’s walk-in support desk coordinator who handled the equipment requests. “This virtual lab was intended for launch this summer, but they moved it up when they committed to the remote learning situation. This virtual lab matches the Pitt IT computing background and provides students and faculty access to the most commonly used programs on campus without bogging down the Chromebooks.”

March 12-March 15:

Resident students were given access to residence halls to move out their personal belongings over a four-day period. Parents and students expressed sadness at having to move out so early in the semester but also voiced understanding the need to do so. The move-out of more than 600 students was calm and smooth while following social distancing guidelines. Students received pro-rated refunds for the remaining portion of their housing and meal plans. Provisions were also made for several students who, for various reasons, were unable to move to off-campus accommodations.

March 17:

The University of Pittsburgh announced that Commencement ceremonies for all Pitt campuses are postponed until further notice. “This is a very sad but necessary development in response to the COVID-19 pandemic . . . it is my strong desire to celebrate your accomplishments with you. I want to assure you that we will commemorate our graduating seniors when circumstances make that possible,” wrote Dr. Gregerson in a letter following Chancellor Patrick Gallagher’s communication.

March 18:

Chancellor Gallagher announced that by March 20 Pitt will reduce to an absolute minimum the need for faculty and staff to be on campuses while allowing core teaching and research missions to continue.

March 25:

Dr. Gregerson released a video message via social media and the Pitt-Greensburg website to highlight the changes that had occurred and express his appreciation for the efforts of the campus community: “I want to emphasize that across our entire campus every member of the Pitt-Greensburg family has transitioned to a new way of work, and it’s been remarkably successful.”

April 2:

In a special video message to students and their families, Dr. Gregerson, Vice President of Academic Affairs Jacqueline Horrall, PhD, and Dean of Student Services Rick Fogle expressed their appreciation for the flexibility shown in adapting to the new remote learning mode. Key highlights included students having the option to request a letter grade or a success/no credit grade after semester grades were posted and reminders that services like counseling and academic advising were still available to students via digital platforms.

May 21:

Dr. Gregerson’s May 21 communication discussed the early preparations for the fall 2020 semester. In collaboration with the Provost’s Task Force, a Pitt-Greensburg Planning Group made recommendations to improve the academic experience of the students and faculty, the experience of students beyond the classroom, and the remote work environment for employees. Faculty workshops collected lessons learned from the spring semester, and professional development workshops held in early May benefited both faculty and staff. All of these activities were conducted via Zoom or MS Teams.

ADMISSIONS:

Pitt-Greensburg's Admissions activities continued throughout the spring and summer with a different twist. Virtual visits via Zoom allowed prospective students to meet faculty and administrators, ask questions, and learn about our programs. A series of Friday sessions shared financial aid information. Summer Orientation and Academic Registration (SOAR) will move to the digital realm, too. Check out the Admissions social media pages to see campus tours produced by current students, profiles on incoming students, and profiles on faculty.

SUMMER SESSION:

Pitt-Greensburg's summer sessions are being conducted remotely. In the past, students had a choice of both in-person classes and online. Pitt-Greensburg's 2020 summer enrollment set a new record, increasing over last year's record enrollment that was boosted by an offer of free on-campus housing.

FALL SEMESTER:

At this writing, preliminary plans are in place for the fall semester to begin August 19 and run through November 20. Students will not return to campus after the Thanksgiving break. Like nearly all US universities, Pitt-Greensburg will adopt the hybrid-flexible (Hy-flex) model for teaching and learning. Some classes will be fully online, with both synchronous and asynchronous delivery modes, other classes will give students the option to attend in person or via remote technology. For staff, remote-options will be emphasized when possible. Please check www.greensburg.pitt.edu for the most current information.

Pawprints

Pitt-Greensburg's commitment to racial equality and justice reaffirmed

As our nation takes a hard look at the reality of racism and its systemic roots in our society, Pitt-Greensburg reaffirms its commitment to racial equality and inclusion. Please visit bit.ly/PGStatement-Diversity-Inclusion to watch video messages from President Robert Gregerson and the President's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. Please take a moment to read the messages shared by Pitt Chancellor Patrick Gallagher and Provost Ann Cudd that are also shared there.

Physics professor now a NASA Solar System Ambassador

As part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Solar System Ambassador program, Associate Professor Larry "Todd" Brown, PhD, is planning events throughout the year to share NASA science and mission discoveries with the campus and local community. Brown was selected after a rigorous application process and joins more than 900 volunteers from across the United States, as well as in Canada, China, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, in this endeavor.

Brown has been teaching physics and astronomy for more than 20 years and is actively involved in the development of pedagogical techniques for teaching physics and astronomy. He has given numerous physics and astronomy workshops across the United States for both in-service teachers and students of all ages. He is also an active member of an international group of scientists and educators interested in bringing nuclear physics, particle physics, cosmology, and plasma physics into the classroom.



Ghilani receives Aviation Space Writers Foundation Award

The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum selected Jessica Ghilani, PhD, assistant professor of Communication, to receive the 2020 Aviation Writers Foundation Award. This biennial award, offered in even-numbered years, provides a \$5,000 award to support research on aerospace topics. Ghilani will use the funds to conduct research at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center annex of the National Air and Space Museum, which will further her research on "Advertising Military Innovation: Technological Visualizations in American Military Recruitment." The research will then be included as a book chapter in the manuscript that she is writing.

Marks co-authors textbook about teaching diversity



"Knowledge and understanding lessen prejudice," said Melissa Marks, EdD, associate professor of Education, as she talked about the publication of her new textbook, *Teaching About Diversity: Activities to start the conversation* (Information Age Publishing, 2020). She co-wrote the book with Scott DeWitt, of Knox College.

Marks finds that many educators are hesitant to discuss topics like religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, wealth/class, and other divisive issues for fear of not knowing the answers, fear of offending someone, or fear of breaking the law (e.g. religion in schools). Her goal in writing the book was to provide information about these issues and offer activities that engage and challenge students' biases, assumptions, and assumed knowledge.

"These non-threatening activities allow teachers and students to discuss issues, and many of these activities are used in my Diversity of America course here at Pitt-Greensburg, in my co-author's classes at Knox College, or were used when I was an eighth grade teacher. Everything in the book is based on research and years of experience," said Marks, who directs Pitt-Greensburg's Secondary Education program.

This is Marks' second book. Her first book, *How to Talk with Families about Child and Adolescent Mental Illness* (2009), was co-written with Diane Marsh, PhD, and republished as a Korean edition in 2015.

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Celebrating the 2020 Graduates

The COVID-19 Pandemic forced the University of Pittsburgh and its regional campuses to re-evaluate their complete operations when the state of Pennsylvania issued its social distancing orders. In addition to remote learning and remote working, the pandemic forced events to be canceled or postponed.

In March, the University of Pittsburgh postponed Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020, but the celebration of the graduates and their achievements went on—digitally via the Pitt-Greensburg website and social media.

Each graduate was invited to submit a photo (or have their ID photo used) and a quote about their experiences. That information was coupled with their majors, minors, and honors to create individual slides that were woven into a PowerPoint-based video that cycled through each graduate's information while the Pitt Alma Mater played in the background. The video, which featured a congratulatory message from campus President Robert Gregerson, premiered on Saturday, April 27, at 11 a.m.—the same time that our actual Commencement would have taken place.

The Celebration video was preceded by another PowerPoint video that featured congratulatory messages from Pitt-Greensburg faculty and staff. This video was released on Thursday, April 15, via social media. Then on Monday, April 29, a PowerPoint video featuring welcome messages from members of the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) was released.

The images here are just a sampling of the celebration. While indefinite at this time, plans are under consideration to celebrate Commencement 2020 in person as Pitt develops protocols to manage the ongoing pandemic threat. Join the celebration at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/academics/commencement where you can watch all three videos and Dr. Gregerson's special message to the graduates.

Alicia Dorsett

Bachelor of Arts: Communication

The last four years have been more than I could've dreamed of, and I couldn't be more grateful. My friends have made it worthwhile. #H2P







Carlos Rodriguez

Bachelor of Science: Biochemistry

Cum Laude Honors

There's a long road ahead now but with the experiences and knowledge I have accumulated, I shall know no fear. Thank you all.







Holly Pravlik

Bachelor of Science: Psychology

Cum Laude Honors

Thank you to my Mom, Dad, Stephanie, and Andrew. I cannot wait to continue my academic journey as a Doctor of Occupational Therapy student at Pitt this fall!







Matthew Matis

Bachelor of Arts: Criminal Justice

Magna Cum Laude Honors

Congratulations seniors and thank you everyone who helped guide me through this experience! A famous astronaut once said, "To Infinity and Beyond!" Good luck everyone!







Brady Kingston

Bachelor of Science: Management

I want to thank my family, coaches, teammates, and friends for what an incredible journey these past four years have been. Also, thank you Pitt-Greensburg!







Faryaal Alam

Bachelor of Science: Biological Sciences

Cum Laude Honors

Thank you to my parents and all the staff and faculty members at Pitt-Greensburg who have supported me these last four years of college!







PURCS showcases undergraduate student research

For more than a decade, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg has dedicated itself to providing opportunities for its undergraduate students to perform research in a variety of subjects that correspond to their studies. This year, the work of 24 students was highlighted in the inaugural Pitt-Greensburg Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase (PURCS).

Originally planned as the Pitt-Greensburg Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium set for April with a full-day of presentations on campus, PURCS was redesigned as a digital showcase that is available on our website at bit.ly/PURCS2020. A special social media campaign throughout the month of April was designed to share the accomplishments of these students through the official Pitt-Greensburg pages.



Faryaal Alam '20
Biological Sciences

Assessing the recovery of acid mine drainage using Benthic Macroinvertebrates



Adam Andrekanic '20
Chemistry

Determining concentration of the trace metals Iron, Copper, Zinc, Manganese, and Aluminum in beer using flame atomic absorption spectrometry (FAAS)



Courtney Cambal '20
Education

The portrayal of femininity and "The New Woman" in Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes



Fiona Carter '20
Information Technology/
Math

How to Build a Barricade: Analyzing contemporary Irish women's literature with GIS



Leta Cirigliano '21
Early Childhood Education

Emergent literacy resource website



Kiara DeVore '21
History

Helen Clay Frick project (West Overton Museum, Scottdale)



Joseph Harriger '21
Biology

A contingent model discovering in vitro effects of Magnesium availability during pathogen metabolism and growth



Amanda Filicky '20
Biochemistry

Preparation of N-substituted-3-amino-5-phenyl-cyclohex-2-en-1-ones from 5-phenyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione using various primary amines in aqueous acetic acid and their effectiveness in treating C. Elegans induced with convulsions



Jeremy Hafner '20
Chemistry

Determination of metal ion concentrations in popular beer types via microwave irradiation and flame atomic absorption spectrometry (FAAS)



Nikolaus Hartos '20
Biochemistry

Preparation of N-substituted-3-amino-5,5-dimethyl-cyclohex-2-en-1-ones from 5,5-Dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione using various primary amines in aqueous acetic acid and their efficacy with convulsions induced in Caenorhabditis Elegans



Jennifer Miller '20
Biochemistry

Preparation of N-substituted-3-amino-2-methyl-cyclohex-2-en-1-ones from 1,3-cyclohexanedione using various primary amines in aqueous acetic acid



George Panagis '20
Biological Sciences

Long-gap peripheral nerve repair through sustained release of a neurotrophic factor in nonhuman primates



Veronica Squadrito '20
Biology

Marijuana use as a treatment for Parkinson's Disease in C. elegans



Haley Stonebraker '20
Secondary Education and History

Naughty Suffs: A historical analysis of the interpersonal relationships of imprisoned American suffragettes and their survival



Hannah Stanley '20
Early Childhood Education

Point of view unit-Medusa Group Projects



Kendall Beckett '20
Biology

Studying Parkinson's Disease in C. elegans with Ketone exposure



Tori Conroy '20
Biology

Using Caenorhabditis elegans to uncover the relationship between Ketones and Parkinson's Disease



Dom Rotunda '20
Biology

Using Caenorhabditis elegans to discover the relationship between Ketones and Parkinson's Disease



Myranda Michaels '20
Biology

Caenorhabditis elegans with Parkinson's Disease (WLS1) treated with Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and Cannabidiol (CBD)



Katelyn Runyan '21
Biochemistry

Can chemicals in marijuana help treat disease?



Kayla Morrill '20
Biological Sciences

The use of Curcumin in treating Parkinson's Disease using C. elegans



Levi Trapanotto '20
Biological Sciences

Effect of natural compound Curcumin on Parkinson's Disease using C. elegans



Cheyenne Perez '20
Biology

Effects of Naloxone and Opioid interactions within the C. elegans addiction model



Corrine Silvio '20
Biochemistry

Effects of Naloxone and Opioid interactions within the C. elegans addiction model

Alumni Spotlight: Old Friends, New Memories, and Golf

By Julia Sefcheck '99, Alumni Engagement Officer

Tracy Schumann '96, Thomas "TC" Collins '94, Bryan DeLisio '96, Patrick Stofko '97, and Jim Deluca '93 forged a friendship at Pitt-Greensburg that has lasted more than 20 years. For the past three years, they have participated in the annual Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing, an event that provides them with a chance to reconnect with campus, relive their college days, and support the University.

They attended in the mid '90s when the campus was, as Jim says, "even smaller." They chose Pitt-Greensburg because family members had attended there and the small campus and classes provided individual attention.

Before arriving on campus, TC, Tracy, and Bryan were already friends from high school. Jim met Tracy and Bryan through his roommate TC, and Patrick jokes that he met the guys during freshman year while "dominating them at intramural football."

The five were also involved in campus firsts. TC, an administration of justice major, founded the Criminal Justice Society and Criminal Justice Day; Bryan played on the initial four-year men's basketball team; and Patrick and Tracy were players on the inaugural baseball team. These activities, intramural sports, missed classes, living together as students, and other campus friendships created memories and made lifelong bonds.

"Best time of my life," says Bryan adding, "You don't appreciate it until you've graduated and have to work for a living."

When it came to life after graduation, they credit Pitt-Greensburg for preparing and providing them with the necessary skills to succeed in their careers.

"My education served me very well. Because my job has always been in my major; the skills that I learned at Pitt-Greensburg are utilized every single day," explains TC, a senior paralegal in bankruptcy law for a West Virginia-based law firm.



The 2017 Golf Outing started the tradition: TC Collins (from left), Bryan DeLisio, Tracy Schumann, and Patrick Stofko.



TC Collins (from left), Jim Deluca, Tracy Schumann, and Bryan DeLisio at the 2018 Golf Outing.

Management major Bryan, a program/project manager for a human capital management firm, agrees and daily uses the skills he acquired. Jim, a federal agent, explains that living on campus as an 18-year-old helped him learn a lot and set him up for his future. Another management major, Tracy, now vice president of business development for a financial technology company and owner of a residential and commercial junk removal company, explains that higher education is a test, which he passed, and notes that his degree has served him well.

Whether they stayed local or lived out of state, they managed to stay close, getting together and participating in each other's their weddings. Although running races, traveling, Pitt football, and other interests keep them busy, they still make time for family gatherings and golf.

They've made the Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing a tradition, turning it into an overnight trip. In 2017, Bryan, TC, Tracy, and Patrick were the original foursome. When Patrick could not play in 2018 and

2019, Jim took his place, but Patrick still supported last year's event through a donation from his employer, Under Armour.

"The first year, we stayed in Greensburg and went out to some old hangouts—at least the ones that were still open. It was nice acting like we were 21 again," adds Bryan.

They also attend because, as Patrick explains, "It gives you the opportunity to help students that are at Pitt-Greensburg today and keeps you connected to your university."

They believe in supporting the campus' amazing programs and giving back to the school that gave them so much. Actively recruiting for this year's outing, they want other alumni to experience the atmosphere of camaraderie, sportsmanship, and friendship.

"It's a fun time, especially if you're able to play with old friends. As I always say, 'Old friends. New memories,'" Tracy adds, encouraging others to join them on the links.

Pawprints continued from page 5

Gregerson performs in WDC fundraiser

Campus President Robert Gregerson made his Westmoreland County singing debut at this year's Westmoreland Has Talent held in March at Ferranti's Lakeview. Gregerson sang Elvis Presley's I Can't Help Falling In Love With You at this event that supports the Westmoreland Diversity Coalition.



2020 Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing
September 25 at the Greensburg Country Club
Registration:
www.greensburg.pitt.edu/golf-outing

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Veterans Services News

- Pitt-Greensburg is one of 20 colleges and universities that is partnering with other businesses and organizations through the Pittsburgh Veteran Employer Coalition (PVEC) to provide employment support to military veterans and their families. The PVEC is made up of military-friendly organizations that want to hire, retain, and provide services for military veterans and family members. Through collaboration, the PVEC provides resources through its partners at no cost to veterans and their families. Pitt-Greensburg invites its current students and alumni who meet the PVEC's criteria for service to visit the website (thepvec.org) or talk to our staff representatives for more information.
- For the 10th consecutive year, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg has been designated a Military Friendly® School by Victory Media, which has come to set the standard for higher education institutions to provide the best opportunities for veterans and their spouses. Pitt-Greensburg met and exceeded the Military Friendly Standards in all six categories.



- Using funding from a University of Pittsburgh Seed Grant, Pitt-Greensburg established a Vet2Vet Peer Mentor position as part of its new student-veteran peer-mentoring program. The goal of the Vet2Vet Peer Mentor program is to connect with incoming student-veterans in order to help them navigate student life, identify challenges they may encounter, provide appropriate resources on- and off-campus, and offer ongoing support toward academic success. The primary role of the Vet2Vet Peer Mentor is to help incoming student-veterans make a smooth transition from the military to student life on campus.



Jacob Snyder, a history major with a minor in political science, will take on these responsibilities as Pitt-Greensburg's first Vet2Vet Peer Mentor. He brings his experience as a 20-year veteran with the US Army to his role assisting other veterans here at Pitt-Greensburg. This spring, Snyder was selected as one of the first 48 student veterans to receive the 2020 Student Veteran Leadership Award by G.I. Jobs magazine. The award recognizes student veterans who are making a positive impact at their school and in their communities.

Spring Dean's List released

Our students and families look forward to the end of the semester when grades are tabulated and the Dean's List is released. We invite you to visit bit.ly/PG-DeansList where you will find the spring semester results. Students must earn a 3.25 GPA or higher to earn this recognition.

City of Greensburg offers valuable experience to Pitt-Greensburg students



Melissa Paravate



Katrina Slaughter

In January, junior Melissa Paravate and sophomore Katrina Slaughter were selected to participate in Cohort 1 of the Student Planner Program at the City of Greensburg. Paravate, who is majoring in management with a minor in Spanish, was involved with the Hotel

Project and the Development Regulatory and Process Barriers Project. Her experience was set up to include assisting in the selection of a consultant for the Hotel Site Study and drafting policy proposals recommended in the Development and Process Barriers Report. A bioscience and psychology major, Slaughter's focus was with the Five Star Trail Project with the goal of developing and implementing an outreach plan to engage key stakeholders.

Under the direction of John Prellwitz, PhD, associate professor of Communication and chair of the Humanities Division, the Public Relations

Strategy & Practice class also worked with the City of Greensburg to develop an overall public relations plan to promote the city as a welcoming community to its identified key publics. The class worked in groups to develop plans and individual public relations materials that were then presented to representatives of the City of Greensburg.

Healthcare Management course provides hands-on experience

As part of the curriculum of Management, Design & Optimization of Healthcare Processes (Healthcare Management Program), the students worked with the tools and techniques to identify, design, and reengineer healthcare processes. The students completed their study of the Quality Function Deployment (QFD) tool that included a hands-on workshop. The workshop involved a site visit and tour of Wagner Dining Hall and an interview with Richard McMahon, director of Dining Services. Following the event the students applied the data they collected to complete a QFD analysis with improvement recommendations. The teams then reported their findings using a PowerPoint presentation format to McMahon. The class teaches students real-world analytical and problem-solving skills and provides the opportunity to apply the skills in a real-world setting. Students not only have the ability to learn about healthcare process and process improvement methodologies but have the opportunity to earn their Lean Greenbelt Certification through this class. The class provides Pitt-Greensburg with an Operational Excellence offering and helps us to improve our competitive standing when compared to other programs.



Experiential learning opportunities a component of Creative and Professional Writing courses

Lori Jakiela, MFA, professor of Creative and Professional Writing, is incorporating experiential learning/field trips into her classes. This past spring, her Food Writing class participated in a cooking lesson at ORDER, a restaurant in North Huntingdon, PA, a trip to DeLallo Foods, and toured Chartwells, the company that operates Pitt-Greensburg's dining service. The class also had a visit from naturalist/herbalist Lars Spritz. Jakiela noted, "Our Pitt-to-the-Power-of-One small class sizes allow us to create unique opportunities for our students." This fall, she is offering a Travel Writing class that will also include field trips to local sites. In both classes, students draw upon the site visits and experiences for their writing assignments.



Pitt events held to support 2020 graduates in job search

In May, Pitt-Greensburg's Office of Career Services invited 2020 graduates to participate in a virtual panel presented by the Pittsburgh Human Resources Association (PHRA). The hour-long discussion featured all-star human resources (HR) executives who shared tips on how to navigate a job search in the COVID-19 era. Topics covered included resume preparation, interviewing via technology, evaluating potential employers, questions to ask and how to respond, how and when to negotiate an offer in the current business climate, and what type of positions to expect when starting an HR career.



To support the University of Pittsburgh Class of 2020, Pitt hosted a Virtual Job Fair that was open to individuals who graduated between August 2019 and August 2020. Recent graduates connected one-on-one with recruiters representing a plethora of job, post-graduate internship, and graduate program opportunities. This event was sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Career Centers, including Pitt-Greensburg's Office of Career Services.

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Athletics

Balas to coach new women's bowling team

Amanda Balas, who competed for NCAA Division I St. Francis University, was named the inaugural head coach of the new Pitt-Greensburg women's bowling team. Balas, a two-time Northeast Conference (NEC) Bowler of the Week and NEC Rookie of the Week, was selected to the All-Rookie Team. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting in 2018 and completed her master's degree in business administration in May.

Balas also was a standout bowler at nearby Penn Trafford High School, where she captured the 2014 Pennsylvania High School Individual State Championship and had runner-up finishes in 2013 and 2016.

Pitt-Greensburg's bowling program will play an independent schedule in 2020-2021. Starting with the 2021-2022 academic year, the program will be a full member of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) and become eligible for postseason play. The regular-season runs from October through March, with the championship held in April.

"As we went through the search process, Amanda rose to the top very quickly, and we are very excited to have her lead our women's bowling program," said Jeromy Yetter, director of Athletics. "Amanda will be a great asset to the women joining our program." Yetter noted that 150 high schools in Pennsylvania compete in women's bowling, with the largest number of schools (39) competing in the WPIAL.

With the addition of women's bowling, the number of athletic teams fielded by Pitt-Greensburg increases to 13 overall and seven for women. The campus joins 10 other schools in the AMCC that offer women's bowling as a collegiate sport: D'Youville, Hilbert, La Roche, Mt. Aloysius, Medaille, New Jersey City, Pitt-Bradford, Penn State Altoona, Penn State Behrend, and St. Vincent.

The NCAA sanctioned women's bowling in 2004. Unlike most sports where championships are split between Division I, II, and III, all three bowling divisions compete against each other and culminate in the April championship. Twelve teams are selected by the NCAA Bowling Committee to compete in the championship. Eight teams earn automatic qualifications with the other four teams earning at-large bids. In total there are 87 schools across all three NCAA divisions that sponsor women's bowling.

Bobcats welcome new golf coach



Josh Bartley

Josh Bartley joins the Pitt-Greensburg Athletic Department as its new golf coach. He combines an accomplished collegiate career with professional experience that will benefit Bobcat golfers.

"Josh's background as a successful player at IUP coupled with his instructional experiences will be an outstanding addition to our department and the golf program," said Jeromy Yetter, director of Athletics at Pitt-Greensburg.

A member of the golf team at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), Bartley captured the 2017 Pennsylvania State Athletic

Conference (PSAC) Individual Championship and was named First Team All-PSAC. That same year, he was named PING All-Atlantic Region and was voted IUP Men's Postseason Performer of the Year.

After completing his collegiate golf career, Bartley competed in 15 Professional Golf Tournaments on both the SwingThought and GPro Tours. He also served as the assistant golf pro at John's Island Club in Vero Beach, FL, where he helped manage more than 150 tee times on a daily basis and assisted with range management.



Amanda Balas

Winter Sports Recap

Men's & Women's Basketball teams finish strong

For the first time in five years, the men's and women's basketball teams both qualified for the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) Tournaments.

The women's team entered the tournament as the fourth seed and hosted fifth-seed Penn State Behrend in the first round. With a 71-53 victory over the Lions, the Bobcats advanced to the AMCC semifinals where they faced top-seeded host La Roche. Unfortunately, Pitt-Greensburg's season ended with a 60-54 loss to La Roche.



Hayley Schaetzle

Head Coach Hayley Schaetzle was named the AMCC Women's Basketball Coach of the Year—only the second women's basketball coach at Pitt-Greensburg to earn Coach of the Year honors. Carol Gelet received the honor three times (2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2007-2008).

Juniors Nadege Durand and Shaquoia McCray earned AMCC All-Conference honors. Durand nabbed her second-consecutive First Team selection, while McCray earned a Third Team nod. With 17 points scored on Senior Day against Alfred State, Durand became the 13th player in Pitt-Greensburg's

Women's Basketball history to eclipse 1,000 career points.

The men's basketball team entered the AMCC Tournament as the second seed, giving them a bye for the first round. In the semi-finals, the Bobcats fell 73-68 to Penn State Behrend.



Jackson Brody

Brody Jackson was named the AMCC Men's Basketball Coach of the Year, joining Karl Radday who earned the honor in 2001-2002. Under Jackson's direction, the squad posted the best start (7-1) and best final winning percentage (.769) since joining the NCAA in 1997. The team also posted their best home court record (12-1) in 14 years. Their second-seed berth in the AMCC tournament tied the record for best seed earned by the team in the AMCC tournament since 2004-2005.

AMCC All-Conference honors were earned by Matt Johnson (First Team), Cam Seigfreid (Second Team), and JoJo France (Third Team).

While the COVID-19 Pandemic forced the cancellation of the NCAA Division III Tournament after the first two rounds were completed, it did not affect the completion of the men's and women's basketball season.

Spring Sports sidelined by COVID-19

March 2020 will go down as a historic month in the collegiate sports world. On March 12, the NCAA canceled all remaining winter and spring championships for 2020 due to the evolving COVID-19 public health threat. The following day, March 13, the Presidents Council of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference voted unanimously to cancel all remaining regular season conference games and conference championships, and Pitt-Greensburg canceled all athletic competition and practices for the remainder of the spring semester. Specifics related to the fall athletic season were not released in time for publication.



Pawprints continued from page 9

Completing your degree is now easier than ever

Somewhere along your journey, you may have found it necessary to take time away from pursuing your college degree—maybe to work, discover yourself, attend another school, or simply take a break. If you are ready to complete your degree, or have a question about finishing your education, we can help you. Visit bit.ly/CompleteYourDegree to find out the best way to return to your studies. You always will have a home at Pitt-Greensburg.

New varsity esports team established

This spring, Pitt-Greensburg became the first campus in the Pitt system to establish a varsity esports team, as well as the first college in Westmoreland County to offer the opportunity to gamers. The team

completed with a limited schedule and will launch a full season of play for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Dan O'Connor, a help desk analyst in the Department of Computing Services and Telecommunications, is coaching the team. With recruitment of players occurring for the fall semester, O'Connor noted that they would like to expand the team to 30-plus players. The program's name will be Pitt-Greensburg Esports and will eventually have both a varsity team and junior varsity (JV) team. The team will be administered under Student Activities, and the students will be eligible to play for prize money, scholarship money, and equipment prizes—which they will be able to keep.

"We are very excited to add esports to our list of university-sponsored intercollegiate competition," said Robert Gregerson, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. "Interest in esports is growing across the country, and we want to be sure that our students have the opportunity to compete in this arena. I'm very pleased that Dan is taking on the role of team coach. He will do a great job working with our students in this new role."



Scholar-Athletes recognized for success in the classroom

Student-athletes recognized at the Scholar-Athlete Breakfast:

Baseball

Jacob Bayus
Brody Bonadio
Austyn Carson
Jacob Davey
Dylan DeRoss
Ben Green
Wyatt Keller
Abram King
Brock McCormack
Matt Mish
Andy Prentice
Paul Tumicki

Colleen Murphy
Ashley Barker
LeeAnn Harris
Victoria Foster
Lizzie Penrose

Men's Cross Country

Tyler Bowser
Zach Conley
Hayden Deller
Rex Hall
Jason Yeager

Erika Caldoro
Tori Conroy
Jenna Conty
Kiara DeVore
Megan Downey
Lexi Fetterman
Allie Grimm
Brooke Ianarelli
Hawa Janneh
Tiffany Michalek
Elise Stratil
Lauren Yoder

Softball

Rena Caruso
Hannah Corvin
Jaden DiFilippo
Caitlin Kavulick
Madison Knepp
Jen Miller
Samantha Rice
Tayjah White

Men's Basketball

Tommy Arbuckle
Brady Kingston
Jake Kitner
David Knox
Cam Seigfreid
Isaiah Zeise

Golf

Tyler Courtney
Joe Doubt
Dan Kiester
Nate Morris
Brandon Noel

Men's Soccer

Justin Campbell
Dylan DeRoss
Tyrell Dommes
Javin Melvin

Volleyball

Emma Dongilli
Emma Halutick
Kassi Niver
Kathleen Price
Alexis Ray
Mackenzie Schropp

Women's Basketball

Nadege Durand
Maddy Coddington
Cat Gollihugh
Maddie Sitler
Shaquouia McCray
Sidney McCully

Women's Soccer

Alexsia Barlamas
Amelia Braggs

Bobcat hockey team wins College Hockey East M4 Division

The Pitt-Greensburg Bobcats Club Ice Hockey Team brought home the 2020 College Hockey East M4 Division Title after a hard-fought game that went into three overtime periods against the St. Vincent College Polar Bearcats. The Bobcats advanced to the March 1 championship game after a 3-2 victory over Case Western University earlier in the weekend.

Pitt-Greensburg, which plays at the Division III Club level, jumped out to an early 2-0 lead against the Polar Bearcats in the first period, with goals by Michael Sedlak and Josh Jones. St. Vincent battled back and tied the game at 2-2 midway through the second period. From then on it was a goaltenders' duel with each team's goaltender playing incredibly well through the third period, as well as the first and second overtime periods. Pitt-Greensburg goaltender Sean McDonald ended the day with 95 saves. David Ulishney coaches the team with assistance from Jarred Kimmick and Zachary Frantik. Zachary Bernstein served as goalie coach, and Scott Lesnak was the team's equipment manager.

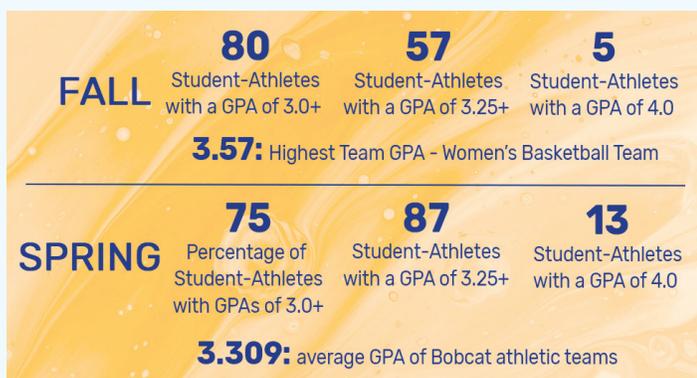
In 2014, the Bobcats won the 2014 CHE Open Division Championship against Carnegie Mellon University and the Community College of Allegheny County to go on to the National Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) Championship Finals, winning the 2014 NCHA Founder's Cup in a match-up against UC San Diego. Pitt-Greensburg finished as the NCHA runner-up for the 2014-2015 season, losing to St. John Fisher College. The NCHA disbanded after the 2017 season.

Update: Technology for the Future Fund

One of the lessons that we are taking from our experience during the COVID-19 pandemic is that our reliance on technology, both on campus and off, continues to increase. This spring, our ability to quickly transition from face-to-face learning in the classroom to remote learning via digital devices was because the University had the appropriate equipment and software in place to handle the need. But, that need is changing every day.

That's why it has become even more important that Pitt-Greensburg—with your generous assistance—fulfill our commitment to the Technology for the Future Challenge.

September 30 marks the close of the fourth year of our five-year challenge. At this writing, we still need to raise \$30,000 to meet our fourth-year goal of \$200,000. The funds that we raise are matched dollar-for-dollar by the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) grant and will ultimately result in a \$500,000 endowment at the end of the five years—if you help us to meet our annual goal. Please take a few moments today, and go to bit.ly/Pitt-Gbg-GiveNow to make a gift that will ensure that our hard-working students, faculty, and staff can continue their work into the future.



The Arts

Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company plans fall production with in-person and digital contingencies

The Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company will present Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* as its fall production. The play will be performed November 12, 13, 14, and 15.

"We are putting contingencies in place that will allow us to present the play live at Ferguson Theatre or as a digital production via Zoom," said Stephen Schrum, PhD, associate professor of theatre and director of the play. "When everyone went into quarantine, I began watching what other theatres were doing online and with Zoom. This production would not just be some people doing a reading while on camera. I plan on using the features of Zoom to enhance the performance, not simply be the medium to carry the performance." Schrum, who is experienced with podcasting, noted "I have a good deal of familiarity with audio drama and think this production can be successful using the software."

Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* tells the story of a town dependent on its spa, a popular tourist destination, for its main source of income. When a local doctor discovers that the water is poisoning visitors, he tries to make the information public, but becomes branded an enemy of the people by town officials who don't want to lose the revenue generated by the spa. The play is a classic look at a timely problem.

Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. on November 12 through November 14. Curtain time for the November 15 performance is 2:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

Because of the fluidity of events due to COVID-19, please check our website (www.greensburg.pitt.edu) for the latest information on the campus status and events.

July 24

Wellness Initiatives for prospective students will be presented by Admissions and Financial Aid at 10 a.m. Register for the 30-minute virtual event at bit.ly/Admission-Events or by email at jlj208@pitt.edu to receive the Zoom link.

September 25

Blue & Gold Celebration: Plans are underway for the 2020 Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing that supports Athletics, the PGAA, and the Technology for the Future Fund. For details and to register, visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/golf-outing or call 724-836-7039.

September 25-October 8

Blue & Gold Celebration: The Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg will be open to the public at Millstein Library during its regular hours. The Artists Reception will be held at 6 p.m. on October 8. Should the situation merit, a virtual version of the show is under consideration. Register your artwork for display here: www.greensburg.pitt.edu/art-show.

October 3

Blue & Gold Celebration: Join us for the Blue & Gold Celebration at Pitt-Greensburg and enjoy a variety of activities, including athletic events, the Blue & Gold Festival, Alumni Welcome Back Picnic & Photo Booth, Stained Glass Tour, and the Alumni Celebration Dinner. Stay for Casino Night and the Homecoming Dance, too. Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blue-and-gold for the most current information on these events and activities.

November 12-15

An Enemy of the People, by Henrik Ibsen, will be performed by the Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on November 12-14 and at 2:30 p.m. on November 15. Depending on circumstances, the play will be performed live in Ferguson Theater or as a radio play via Zoom. Check www.greensburg.pitt.edu for details.

New events are added each week!

Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu to view additional events.

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

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SAVE THE DATE:
SEPT. 25 - OCT. 8

Friday, September 25

- Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing
- Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg



Saturday, October 3

- Blue & Gold Festival
- Welcome Back Picnic
- Alumni Celebration Dinner
- Casino Night



Thursday, October 8

- Founders Day Celebration
- 2nd Annual Founders Day Duck Dash

www.greensburg.pitt.edu/blue-and-gold

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

