



Alumni Spotlight — The 2020's



Alumni Spotlight: Faryaal Alam '20

Faryaal Alam graduated from Pitt-Greensburg in 2020 with a BA in biological sciences/healthcare management.

What brought you to Pitt-Greensburg?

The friendly atmosphere of the campus brought me to Pitt-Greensburg. When I toured it, all of the students, faculty, and staff were so eager to help out and answer all of my questions.

Were you a commuter or a resident?

Resident

What activities were you involved with as a student?

As a student, I was involved in the Student Activities Board and Health and Rehabilitation Science Club. I was also a Pitt Pal in the Office of Admissions.

Did you have a favorite professor, staff member, coach, or mentor that really impacted your life?

Each and every professor and staff member who I came across during my time at Pitt-Greensburg has really impacted my life, gave me valuable advice and were excellent mentors to me.

Of all the classes you took, what is the one class you would recommend everyone take? Who taught the class? Why would you recommend it?

I would recommend everyone take Special Topics of Healthcare with Ron Ott. It is a great way to learn more about the challenges facing healthcare systems.

What do you remember most vividly from your time at Pitt-Greensburg?

The thing that I remember most vividly from my time at Pitt-Greensburg would be how caring and genuine all the staff and faculty members were. I also recall all the excellent events I attended such as Up All Night, the Moonlight Breakfast, and Career Panels from the Career Services Division.

What have you been up to since graduation?

I am currently pursuing my master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

How did your experiences and education at Pitt-Greensburg prepare you for life after college?

My experiences and education at Pitt-Greensburg have helped prepare me to be a well-rounded student and to always take advantage of each and every opportunity.

As an alum, how do you support Pitt-Greensburg?

I participate in many of the events through the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association such as serving as a judge for the resume contest and participating on career panels.

What advice do you have for your fellow Bobcats?

I recommend all students to get involved in leadership on campus and to seek out internships.

For fun:

What is your favorite food?

Pizza

List 3-5 fun facts about yourself that most people probably wouldn't know.

1. I love to watch movies on Netflix.
 2. I read and do arts and crafts in my free time.
 3. My favorite color is pink.
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Alumni Spotlight: Jared Hoffman '20

Jared Hoffman graduated from Pitt-Greensburg in 2020 with a BA in Communication.

What brought you to Pitt-Greensburg?

I came to Pitt-Greensburg as a transfer student. After my first year of college, I felt really defeated and lost. I looked up communication programs since I knew that was the major I wanted and saw that Pitt had a great program. Knowing that I did not want to go to a large campus, I looked at Pitt-Greensburg. One day I was driving home from my previous college and decided to stop at Pitt-Greensburg. I walked the entire campus myself, and it just felt like home. I came to campus without an official tour or really meeting with anyone, but an admissions counselor. To this day, it was the best decision I have ever made. Pitt-Greensburg gave me a great degree and a place to call home for the rest of my life!

Were you a commuter or a resident?

Resident

What activities were you involved with as a student?

Pitt Pal, Presidential Ambassador, Lambda Pi Eta, Ski Club, and Study Abroad.

Did you have a favorite professor, staff member, coach, or mentor that really impacted your life?

There were so many people who impacted my experience. I am not sure I could narrow it down to one favorite. The people who impacted me the most are Dr. Ghilani, Dr. Prellwitz, Dr. Czerwinski, Dr. Underwood, Dr. Kimball, Dr. Confer, and Joani Pletcher, who was my supervisor in the Admissions office!

Of all the classes you took, what is the one class you would recommend everyone take? Who taught the class? Why would you recommend it?

American Revolution and History 1865 to Present with Dr. Kimball. These classes taught me more about the history of our country than any other history class I have ever taken. Dr. Kimball focuses on challenging your beliefs on what you have learned in the past, and shows you many truths. Everyone should take one of these history classes because not only will you know much more about the history of the United States, but you will be equipped with knowledge that will forever impact your future and how you perceive the United States.

What do you remember most vividly from your time at Pitt-Greensburg?

All the leadership opportunities I had on campus. I served as a Pitt Pal for two and a half years, which helped me impact so many different students' lives. It was the best thing to know you made a difference when you saw a student who was on your tour of campus. I also got the honor of being a presidential ambassador which I loved because I was able to develop great relationships with both Dr. Smith and Dr. Gregerson. These were invaluable. On top of that, it was the best feeling to put on that blue blazer and represent campus. I met my best friend Brandon through that program as well. I also had the opportunity to lead a club and to study abroad which equally shaped my experience. I loved talking with other students about different opportunities and trying to make a difference in our community.

What have you been up to since graduation?

Since graduating, I started working as a recruiter for a local business; however, I just recently landed my dream job of being an educational tour consultant with Education First Tours in Denver. I will now be able to bring the world of going abroad to high school students across the United States. Without Pitt-Greensburg, this dream would have never been a reality.

How did your experiences and education at Pitt-Greensburg prepare you for life after college?

Pitt-Greensburg helped me get where I am today. It taught me passion for study abroad. Finding that passion and now working with in the educational travel field has changed the game for me. Pitt-Greensburg also taught me to be a leader through many professional development programs offered through Career Services and my major. These skills have helped me to excel in the workplace. I think the biggest takeaway is that many of our professors teach us to be resilient and adaptable. That has been ever important during the Covid-19 pandemic.

As an alum, how do you support Pitt-Greensburg?

Right now, I am still learning about how I can support Pitt-Greensburg; however, I hope to get involved with the alumni association and would love to be a resource in any way possible in the future.

What advice do you have for your fellow Bobcats?

Take all the leadership opportunities that you can, and study abroad. There are so many resources for the program at Pitt-Greensburg, yet so few people do it. I assure you that if you study abroad, it will broaden your horizons and give you a whole new outlook on life.

For fun:

What series do you recommend alumni binge watch?

The Office

List 3-5 fun facts about yourself that most people probably wouldn't know.

1. I am an avid lifeguard who has still worked after college.
2. I am moving to Denver without ever going there!
3. I am a huge local news junkie (My favorite reporter is Mike Holden).
4. I have watched The Office series from start to finish more than ten times!