

# BLUE & GOLD

## New Honors Program set to begin Designed to enrich the learning experience



Sheila Confer, EdD



William Pamerleau, PhD

Photos taken prior to 2020

Personalized academic attention is the hallmark of a Pitt-Greensburg education. Opportunities have been developed to encourage faculty and student collaboration that enhances the overall learning experience. Students expand their skills and knowledge while developing both their confidence and their resumes.

Pitt-Greensburg's new Honors Program builds on this foundation by providing students with faculty mentors who guide the exploration of interdisciplinary study that can be crafted specifically to student interests and needs. It was approved prior to the fall 2020 semester with a partial roll-out starting spring 2021.

The program is designed to give students more active roles in their education by allowing them to choose and develop projects that more deeply immerse them into the subject matter, enhance the inter-disciplinary connections across their academic work, and provide them with recognition for this work completed in addition to their regular course of study.

"The idea started when we were planning the 20th anniversary of the Academic Village," said Sheila Confer, EdD, director of the Academic Village. "I started to think about how to reimagine the Village. I had the seed of an idea that I shared with Bill Pamerleau [a former director of the Humanities Village], John Prellwitz [Humanities Division chair], and Frank Wilson [assistant vice president for Academic Affairs]. This idea grew out of the collaborative work done to create the video marking the anniversary."

The new program seeks to re-invest faculty in the Academic Village and to motivate students to be engaged above and beyond the normal classroom work.

"We also had been talking about retention and recruitment," said William Pamerleau, PhD, professor of philosophy. "We worry that we are losing good students who want to be on the Pittsburgh campus. This program gives those students an incentive to be strong academic students AND to stay here at the Greensburg campus. We talk about how we're small and can do inter-disciplinary projects and team teaching. This is another way to utilize our small campus size to provide situations for students to work with us and bridge classes. It fits in so many ways with what we do."

"Students responded enthusiastically in focus groups, and applications were accepted this past fall," said Pamerleau. "We expect more than 20 students to participate this spring, with a larger group joining the program in fall 2021."

To be eligible to apply, students must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average (GPA). Incoming first-year students must be in the top 10 percent of their graduating class to be eligible. Honors students must maintain a 3.5 overall GPA and have a 3.5 GPA at the time of graduation in order to receive Honors Program recognition.

Students are required to enroll in at least one Honors section per academic year or participate in an active learning project. Projects include planning events in coordination with the Academic Village. An Honors Program transcript will be maintained by the Academic Village, tracking students' honors courses and learning projects. The Honors Program Committee and/or the Academic Village, in coordination with Honors Students will plan events of interest to Honors students.

A key component of the program is that participating students who remain in good standing will have special opportunities and recognition, including access to guaranteed housing in the Academic Village Honors Program Suite, if desired, and receiving Pitt-Greensburg Honors Graduate recognition when they graduate.

"We really want one-on-one mentoring to be a feature of the program," said Confer. "We have plenty of faculty who have expressed an interest in participating in the program. We definitely expect the offerings to grow." At this time, faculty across the disciplines have identified 23 courses in which honors students are welcome to participate. "Students will enjoy close mentoring relationships with Honors Program faculty. When conditions permit, Honors students will have opportunities for academic travel and Pitt-Greensburg faculty-directed study-abroad programming. First-year Honors students will have the opportunity to participate in a first-year honors seminar where they will form connections with fellow Honors students and faculty."

# Message from the President

A few months ago, after eating too much turkey and pumpkin pie, I reflected on the many things we all could be thankful for at Pitt-Greensburg. Without a doubt, the fall semester was full of challenges, but abundant examples of determined effort, collaboration, caring for others, and innovation were demonstrated by our students, faculty, and staff. Great institutions overcome adversity through the hard and smart work of their people and by having a common purpose to rally behind. At our core, we are a teaching and learning community. With the fall semester completed, and spring underway, continued excellence in our mission has guided our efforts and continues to do so.

Working and studying amidst a pandemic has certainly been difficult, but our collective response to the COVID-19 crisis has been inspiring to witness. We began the year guided by meticulous planning, which was essential for keeping our campus as safe as possible. Equally important, our students' behaviors demonstrated a strong concern for their own and others' safety. This helped ensure that the Pitt-Greensburg campus remained in the Guarded Operating Posture (lowest level of concern) for the entire fall semester, with very low numbers of coronavirus infections. We continue to be diligent, focused intently on the health and safety of all members of our community.

As the fall semester ended, one impactful highlight for me included watching several senior capstone presentations. These efforts, overseen by faculty mentors, are collaborative projects among students finishing their undergraduate degrees. The quality of the work and the effectiveness of the presentations was very impressive. These students, on the cusp of graduation, have worked hard to achieve their academic goals and their futures are bright. These seniors represent one piece of a big picture—our students have sustained their efforts under difficult conditions and have accomplished much. A related point of pride—the faculty and staff have worked exceptionally hard to ensure that students not lose their academic momentum under challenging conditions. This year has proven that we're all in this learning enterprise together, and the results have been gratifying.

Finally, at the conclusion of the 2019-20 academic year, we were unable to commemorate our graduates' academic achievements with a traditional commencement ceremony. We believe it is very important to celebrate this year's graduates and our 2020 graduates with commencement exercises. Planning is underway, and we have designated May 1 and 2 as the dates for commencement ceremonies. If at all possible, we will gather at the beginning of that glorious spring month to show our pride in the accomplishments of our students. Stay tuned for details!

Hail to Pitt!



Robert Gregerson, PhD  
President



## University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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# Pitt Day of Giving: Tuesday, Feb. 23

Your gift will make a MAJOR difference for your campus.  
Please donate at [http://bit.ly/giving4gbg!](http://bit.ly/giving4gbg)

## Volunteer to be a SOCIAL MEDIA AMBASSADOR

The Ambassador who connects with and influences the most people to visit Pitt-Greensburg's Day of Giving page will win a prize.



Photo taken in 2018



Make a donation on Feb. 23 to support your campus

- Alumni
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- Faculty
- Staff
- Students

Select **PITT-GREENSBURG** when you sign up at [pi.tt/PDoGambassador](http://pi.tt/PDoGambassador)



Visit <http://bit.ly/giving4gbg> to see who is helping Pitt-Greensburg to win the LEADERBOARD RACE.

All donors will have their names entered into a drawing for fun prizes!

Your gift to the **TECHNOLOGY FOR THE FUTURE FUND** will be matched dollar-for-dollar to help us reach our goal of \$250,000 raised by Sept. 30.

Choose from 10 giving options to support the projects that you care about--and help our students and your campus!

## Watch the competitions:

- Pitt-Greensburg competitions: <http://bit.ly/giving4gbg>
- Social Media: #PittDayOfGiving
- University-wide competition: <https://www.pittdayofgiving.com/pages/pdogleaderboards>

You've heard of the Masked Singer--well, we've got the MASKED BOBCAT!



Follow us on social media for clues! Watch for details about how you can obtain an entry form to submit your guesses. Correctly guess who the "Masked Bobcats" are, and you will be entered into a drawing for prizes!

To make sure that you are receiving all of our Pitt Day of Giving updates, verify your contact information at <https://bit.ly/Alumni-Info-Update>

Go for the GOLD! Graduates Of the Last Decade (2011-2021) can help Pitt-Greensburg win bonus money through the Young Alumni Challenge.



Photo taken prior to 2020

The school/college with the most GOLD graduates participating will WIN bonus money that will benefit the campus!



Everyone WINS!



# New approach to teaching algebra expected to multiply student success



Students worked in small groups, wearing face coverings and social distancing, as part of the new POGIL Algebra class.

Student success is a major consideration in all planning and programming developed at Pitt-Greensburg. When a four-year overview of the campus's algebra sections showed a less than satisfactory success rate, Jacqueline Horrall, PhD, vice president for Academic Affairs, knew she had to reverse that trend. Horrall reached out to Kayla Heffernan, PhD, assistant professor of mathematics, and Victoria Causer, instructor of statistics, and enlisted their assistance.



Kayla Heffernan, PhD

Photo taken prior to 2020

This fall, Heffernan and Causer initiated the process-oriented guided-inquiry learning (POGIL) strategy in a large-section Algebra course. POGIL uses self-managed teams to explore and construct knowledge and understanding. It facilitates higher-level thinking and promotes collaboration, mastery of content knowledge, communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Students are assigned roles within the groups and those roles change throughout the semester.

This past spring, Heffernan and Causer applied for and were awarded a Course Incubator Grant through the Pitt Center for Teaching and Learning that would enable Pitt-Greensburg to convert space in Millstein Library to a POGIL classroom. This classroom would accommodate approximately 100 students and be equipped with the technology necessary to allow the students to work in small groups and share screens with the class. While the funding is on hold due to COVID-19, Heffernan and Causer adapted their active-learning strategies and implemented them this past fall in Village Hall.

Further changes to the course structure were necessary when COVID-19 campus protocols required social distancing and FLEX@Pitt became an option for students. The class of 65 students was segmented into groups of 20 to 25 who either met in-person in Village Hall or remotely via Zoom. One group met in-person on Mondays, another group met in-person on Wednesdays, and the third group met online on Fridays. Because it was more challenging to engage the online group, Heffernan and Causer are revising the spring meeting schedule so that students have to attend every day no matter if they attend in-person or remotely. They found that mixing the online and in-person groups was more interactive.

"It was my favorite class this semester," said Heffernan. "Of all my classes meeting during this time of COVID-19, these students were the most engaged." The size of the class and the small-group assignments provided an opportunity for these first-year students to meet and make friends.

The POGIL instructional process incorporates an active-learning classroom that is different from a traditional classroom. There is no "front of the classroom" and the professor is a facilitator who guides the students through the lesson rather than presenting a lecture on the material. A traditional Algebra class at Pitt-Greensburg might have 25 to 30 students and one professor, while the large POGIL class will have 60 to 100 students with two to three professors and teaching assistants. With multiple people who know the course material and double the typical office hours, students have a significant increase in the resources available to them throughout the semester.

Heffernan and Causer incorporated three groupings into the semester: random, by ability or level of knowledge, and self-selection by the students. Heffernan and Causer plan to analyze the data to determine which type of grouping was best.

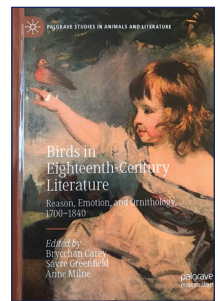
The two professors collected a large amount of data, including responses to several short surveys taken throughout the semester and two longer surveys taken at midterm and the end of the semester. Because of the way the lessons were set up, Heffernan and Causer will be able to track students' ability to learn in their small groups against the asynchronous learning that happened when the students were remote learning. They plan to analyze this data during the spring semester, which will also serve as Causer's dissertation for the doctorate in education that she is completing. Causer will teach a second iteration of POGIL Algebra in the spring semester and continue to gather data.

During the spring semester, Heffernan will be reviewing and editing the POGIL lessons. Those materials will then be shared with other schools for beta testing, with the ultimate goal of being compiled into a textbook to be published by the POGIL Project in late 2022.

## Greenfield and book explores the role of birds in literature

Sayre Greenfield, PhD, professor of English, co-edited the book *Birds in Eighteenth-Century Literature: Reason, Emotion, and Ornithology, 1700-1840* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). Greenfield and fellow co-editors Brychan Carey (Northumbria University, England) and Anne Milne (University of Toronto Scarborough, Canada) collected the 13 essays for the book that is part of the series *Palgrave Studies of Animals and Literature*. Greenfield also drafted the introduction and contributed the essay "When Poet Meets Penguin: British Verse Confronts Exotic Avifauna."

This book examines literary representations of birds from across the world in an age of expanding European colonialism. It offers important new perspectives into the ways birds populate and generate cultural meaning in a variety of literary and non-literary genres from 1700 through 1840 as well as throughout a broad range of ecosystems and bioregions. It considers a wide range of authors, including some of the most celebrated figures in eighteenth-century literature.

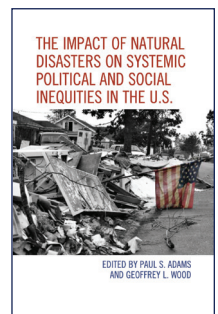


## New book examines how natural disasters impact social inequality

Paul S. Adams, PhD, and Geoffrey L. Wood, PhD, co-edited *The Impact of Natural Disasters on Systemic Political and Social Inequities in the US* (Lexington Books, 2020). The book examines how natural disasters impact social inequality in the United States. Timothy Holler, PhD, also contributed a chapter. Topics covered include criminal justice, demographics, economics, history, political science, and sociology to show how effects of natural disasters vary by social and economic class in the United States. This volume studies social and political mechanisms in disaster response and relief that enable natural disasters to worsen inequalities in America and offers potential solutions.

Adams also published a short piece entitled "American Exceptionalism? We've Been Comparing the US to the Wrong Countries" in *Juxta* on October 31, 2020. *Juxta* is an online politics journal and site co-managed by Pitt Greensburg alumnus Joel Lawson '89 at <https://medium.com/juxta-media>. You may read Adams article at <https://bit.ly/AmericanExceptionalism>.

Adams is an associate professor of political science and chair of the Behavioral Sciences Division, Wood is an associate professor of sociology and director of the Center for Applied Research, and Holler is an associate professor of criminal justice and director of the Community Arts Reintegration Project.





# Alumni Spotlight: BJ Bertges '05

Never knowing what could have been is worse than being told no. At least, that is what Pitt-Greensburg alumna BJ Bertges '05 believes.

This attitude mixed with a desire to learn, make new connections, and be happy in her work has guided BJ in her career and led her to become the first woman director of Championships and Development for the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) in 2019.

"I couldn't pass up the chance to advance and see another dimension of college athletics, and see if I had what it took," she says of her decision to apply for the role.

The significance of being the first woman hired full-time by the USCAA was not a thought. She was focused on growing professionally and learning the business of college athletics.

As a woman in a traditionally male-dominated field, she recognizes the significance of her position as a role model to other young women. She is also fortunate to have had colleagues who have supported her and seen her as equal.

Her daily work includes marketing, scheduling, fundraising, and communications. Her schedule is dictated by the sports seasons with the Fall Championships Week as the largest annual event.

Her overall goal is ensuring student-athletes have the same positive experiences that she had as one.

Despite being involved with sports from a young age, she did not come to Pitt-Greensburg as a student-athlete. As a freshman walk on, she tried out for women's volleyball and made the team. Some of her volleyball teammates encouraged her to try out for the softball team on which they also played. Despite her lack of fast-pitch experience, BJ tried out and made it. She spent four years playing both sports.

BJ was surprised to learn that she still holds individual career records in softball for most double plays turned and most putouts. The accolades were never as important to her as the friendships, the teams' accomplishments, and how the program developed.

BJ acknowledges how critical her campus experiential learning opportunities were as they provided her with valuable transferable

skills. As a work study, she worked in Student Services and coordinated intramurals. Student Services staff including administrative assistant Ginny Kemerer, "her second mom," played an important role in developing her fervor for higher education.

"They didn't treat you like a kid. They placed their trust in you, and you learned a lot," she adds.

Professors Larry Whatule, PhD and Lillian Beeson, PhD, now retired, also inspired her academically, helping her choose communications as her major. Passionate about their subject, they made it easy to be enthusiastic.

BJ was working as an anesthesia technician when her mother Barbara encouraged her to pursue a master's degree. While searching for a communications program, she saw a sign for sports management. It was a lightbulb moment, and she enrolled in the program.

Making a connection at Pitt-Greensburg during an interview for an assistant volleyball coach position proved beneficial. Unable to pursue the position, she was informed about another opening at Penn State Beaver.

Hired by Penn State Beaver as the assistant athletic director and head women's volleyball coach, she learned more about higher education, attended conference and national level meetings, and volunteered at championships. After eight years, she left her role for her current position.

From student-athlete to administrator, her career has come full circle, and former coaches and supervisors are now colleagues. As with sports, her career is about making connections, growing, learning, and being passionate about what she is doing.

"I'm happy doing what I'm doing," she concludes.

As for those young women who may follow in her footsteps, she encourages them to establish a great support system, find people who will push them, and build relationships that will help them grow.

*By Julia Sefcheck '99*



Photo taken prior to 2020

## Pitt-Greensburg on the Road

Join President Bob Gregerson when he makes a virtual visit to your region this spring.

**Watch your email for the invitation to join your online event.**

To verify your contact information, please visit:  
<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/update-my-information>



# Pawprints

## Commencement planning underway

Commencement is an important part of our students' educational journey—it's a milestone that marks their hard work and accomplishments. Should Pitt-Greensburg have the opportunity to gather in person, our intention is to include the Class of 2020 in our celebration this year. At this time, no one can see what spring 2021 will bring, so we ask that you save May 1 and May 2 as tentative dates for our Commencement activities. We are considering numerous options and ask that you check <https://bit.ly/Commencement-2020-2021> where our most up-to-date plans will be shared.



Photo from 2019 Commencement

## Pitt-Greensburg develops first-ever winter session classes

For the first time ever, the University of Pittsburgh offered winter session classes—and Pitt-Greensburg initiated and managed the program that ran from Dec. 7, 2020 through Jan. 15, 2021. Ten remote-learning classes, which were mostly filled to capacity or had waiting lists, were open to students from all Pitt campuses.



"When we learned that the winter break would be extended, we started brainstorming how we might use the long period of time to our students' benefit," said Pitt-Greensburg President Robert Gregerson, PhD.

The idea for the winter session came from conversations Gregerson had with Jackie Horrall, PhD, and Frank Wilson, PhD, vice president and assistant vice president, respectively, for academic affairs.

"The winter session was developed with student success in mind," said Beth Tiedemann, director of academic advising and registrar at Pitt-Greensburg. "This is an innovative approach that can help students get ahead in credits and spread out their credit load." Tiedemann worked with the Offices of the University Registrar and Admissions and Financial Aid at the Pittsburgh campus to implement the necessary technology infrastructure in programs like PeopleSoft.

While Tiedemann worked on the logistical side, Horrall coordinated with Pitt-Greensburg division chairs and the Office of the Provost in Pittsburgh to determine which courses could be offered.

Both Tiedemann and Horrall expressed gratitude for support provided by the Pittsburgh campus.

"The effort that the folks in Pittsburgh put in to make this occur was phenomenal," said Horrall. "People from across multiple campuses came together to make this happen. They sought information on our behalf and provided us with great support to help us work through the logistics."

"As we continue to navigate the pandemic, collaboration and innovation have become more important than ever. This new effort has been a wonderful opportunity to leverage expertise across campuses to increase the flexibility that we can offer our students as they work to achieve their academic goals. This is one more example of how we can learn from the past and continue to improve so that, ultimately, we further enhance our mission of academic excellence," said Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Joseph J. McCarthy.

Read the full article, written by Will Entrekin, that was published in *Pittwire* (11/18/20) at <http://bit.ly/PittwireWinterSession>.

## Celebration of Faculty Scholarship and Service

Pitt-Greensburg's Millstein Library staff produced a virtual version of its annual Celebration of Faculty Scholarship and Service. Forty-nine faculty across the three divisions (Behavioral Science, Humanities, and Natural Sciences) were featured for their publications, presentations, community service, professional service, and for the grants, stipends, and awards they received during the 2019-2020 academic year. Take a few moments to see these accomplishments at <https://bit.ly/FacultyScholarship-Service>.



## New spring reading series celebrates the beauty and diversity of America's literary landscape

This past fall, Sheila Confer, EdD, director of the Academic Village, Lori Jakiela, MFA, professor of Creative and Professional Writing, and Albert Thiel, director of Campus Center and Student Engagement, presented a preview of Pitt-Greensburg's 2021 Spring Reading Series, *Voices: Celebrating the Beauty and Diversity of America's Literary Landscape*, at Pitt's Engagement Project Awards Coffee Chat.

*Voices* is a monthly reading series celebrating the richness of human lives and stories. It is funded in part through Pitt's Year of Engagement initiative as well as the Pitt-Greensburg Office of Student Life, Academic Village, and Student Government Association.

Building on the campus's long-running *Written/Spoken Series*, *Voices* showcases Pitt-Greensburg's focus on experiential learning by bringing together undergraduate student writers with award-winning authors. The readings, scheduled at 8 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month from January through April, are free and open to the public. Please visit [www.greensburg.pitt.edu](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu) to register to attend these events via Zoom.

The series launched January 28 with readings by award-winning poets Dilruba Ahmed and Sheila Squillante, memoirist Nancy McCabe, and poet/nonfiction/performance artist Adriana Ramirez.

The rest of the season's line-up includes:

- February 25 — National Book Award finalist Deesha Philyaw, memoirist/spoken word artist Brian Broome, and acclaimed Syrian short-short story author Osama Alomar.
- March 25 — Mississippi Poet Laureate Beth Ann Fennelly, international award-winning crime writer Bill Boyle, and poet Nancy Krygowski.
- April 22 — *Beyond Hillbilly Elegy* — featuring voices of Appalachia: Novelist Damian Dressick; author, storyteller, and photographer Greg Clary; poet Byron Hoot; and poet Rich Gegick.

## 12 students inducted into Nursing National Honor Society

Twelve Pitt-Greensburg nursing students were inducted into Sigma National Nursing Honor Society this past December. As part of the University of Pittsburgh, they were invited to join Pitt's Eta Chapter. Membership in this prestigious organization is by invitation, and only those students in the top 35 percent of their class who hold a 3.5 GPA or higher are invited to be members.

The junior nursing students participating in the virtual induction ceremony included: Lacie Barkley, Nathanael Black, Camryn Brown, Jacalyn Humbert, Chelsea Kobuck, Danielle Liberoni, Emily Markowsky, Charles Mazon, Stephen Miller, Grace Seanor, Kierin Sullivan, and Erin Weaver.

"The organization has a long-standing history of helping members engage in nursing leadership and scholarship, and our chapter prides itself on supporting student members in their pursuit of academic excellence," said Marie Fioravanti, director of Pitt-Greensburg's nursing program.





## Political Science Honor Society inducts two new members

The Alpha Kappa Epsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, inducted two new members for fall 2020:

- Cameron Bryce Seigfreid, a senior double majoring in criminal justice and political science; and
- Maxwell J. Davies, a senior political science major and criminal justice minor.

Pi Sigma Alpha is one of the prestigious and selective honor societies in the United States and the only one specific to the field of political science.

## Erika Caldoro wins Viewer's Choice Award Honorable Mention

Erika Caldoro received the Viewers' Choice Award Honorable Mention for her presentation titled, "Effects and Recovery of Sewickley Creek Watershed from Acid Mine Drainage" at the 2020 Student Symposium on the Environment, an annual event hosted by Westminster College and co-organized with the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. You can watch Caldoro's video presentation here: <https://bit.ly/ErikaCaldoro>. The symposium highlights environmental study, research, artistic expression, and service work done by students in the region. The event, which includes student poster presentations, displays, and oral presentations, moved from an in-person to a virtual format this year. Forty-seven students representing seven schools participated in the event. Timothy Savisky, PhD, assistant professor of biology, was Caldoro's advisor for the project.



## Spanish Club helps plan Westmoreland Museum's Virtual Community Day

Members of the Pitt-Greensburg Spanish Club played a major role in planning and presenting activities for the November 1, 2020, Virtual Community Day at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art. The event celebrated El Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). Pitt-Greensburg students created eight of the 10 videos that were available via Facebook or YouTube throughout the day. You may view some of the videos at <https://bit.ly/SpanishClub-1> and <https://bit.ly/SpanishClub-2>.

"We are always looking for ways to inform and to share knowledge of the culture and beautiful traditions that are part of the different Latin American countries," said Elizabeth Contreras, instructor of Spanish and advisor to the club. "The Day of the Dead celebration is mainly Mexico and Guatemala where it has indigenous components." Contreras has participated in the Museum's Community Day planning for the past two years.

Presenting were:

- Danielle Wolff, president of the Spanish Club, who created two craft videos. One showed viewers how to make a los calavera (sugar skull) mask out of a paper plate and the other was a paint-with-me tutorial of a colorful guitar.
- Aleya McMinn who created the craft video Ojos de Dios and an overview of musical instruments and genres often heard in Mexican music. McMinn is the club's House Representative.
- Alexis Martir, the Spanish Club secretary, who demonstrated how to make Pan de Muerto (Bread of the Dead).
- Club Vice President Kelsey Murphy who read the children's book Abuela by Arthur Dorror.
- Grace O'Malley who shared her travel experiences in a video entitled Talk with Me about a Trip to Argentina. She handles marketing and public relations for the Spanish Club.
- Club member Juliet Montes Durán who, with the help of her extended family, created a Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) altar and explained the meanings and symbolism of the different components.

## History Professor's Far-Flung Fun Brings Students Together

William Campbell, PhD, a visiting professor of history, brought students together in September when he held a demonstration of his homemade trebuchet on the campus athletic practice field.



Photo credit: Aimee Obidzinski/University of Pittsburgh

"I was stuck in quarantine with nothing to do," said Campbell of the event's genesis. "I had the materials and thought, 'Why should the mad scientists have all the fun?'" The result was a functional catapult with counterweights that he assembled in his backyard with parts he made in his basement workshop. "A lot of work went into building it, and for me, getting to set it up and play is the payback."

Campbell thought students might enjoy it too, so he mentioned the project to the president of the campus History Club, who was immediately on board. The Science Club and Academic Village leadership were just as enthusiastic.

A crowd of approximately 70 students, faculty and staff gathered outdoors for the first-ever Clusterchuck. Campbell warmed up the crowd by slinging a couple of cabbages across the soccer practice field. There was a festive atmosphere as the group "ooh'd," "ahh'd" and applauded as the cabbages broke into chunks past midfield. An assortment of other cabbages, cantaloupes and grapefruit were piled nearby, waiting to be flung through the air—as well as weights of more formal measure for the demonstration.

Visit <https://bit.ly/Pittwire-Trebuchet> to read more about the event in Pittwire, the digital news hub for the University of Pittsburgh.

## Bobcat Athletics

### Basketball teams contribute to Chemo Totes project success

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg again participated in preparing Chemo Totes that were distributed to patients receiving chemotherapy. This



Packing the 2019 Chemo Totes

fall, the campus community was invited to sponsor bags or donate towards the purchase of items for the bags. Each tote comes with a personalized tag and can be sponsored in memory of someone special. The totes typically contain everything from blankets to knitted hats—all intended to make the medical treatment a little easier.

Holly Hallman, whose husband Craig serves as an assistant coach for the Pitt-Greensburg men's basketball team, started this project with 48 totes in 2017. In 2019, the project had grown to 415 totes hand-packed by volunteers and delivered to patients in the Greensburg area. Pitt-Greensburg's men's and women's basketball teams have assisted with the packing and delivery of the totes, which usually occurs during Winter Recess. Pitt-Greensburg's Men's And Women's Basketball Coaches Brody Jackson and Kelsey Oddis, respectively, organize the campus's contributions and the distribution process for the teams.

### Save the Date: Blue & Gold Celebration 2021

Mark your calendar and watch for details about Blue & Gold Celebration 2021. Visit [greensburg.pitt.edu/about/blue-and-gold](https://greensburg.pitt.edu/about/blue-and-gold) for new information as it becomes available.

- September 27–October 8 — Blue & Gold Celebration and Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg
- October 1 — Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing at Arnold Palmer's Latrobe Country Club (details: [greensburg.pitt.edu/golf-outing](https://greensburg.pitt.edu/golf-outing))
- October 2 — Blue & Gold Festival and Alumni Celebration Dinner





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## Alumni News

### Spring Events

#### Make an Impression: Volunteers Needed for Virtual Career Event

Alumni Relations and Career Services are looking for volunteers to help with Professional Impressions on February 25, at 7 p.m. EST on Zoom. Connect with students and share your professional experiences with them. Volunteers from the following areas are needed: Accounting, Biological Sciences, Communication, Criminal Justice, Management, Natural Sciences, Nursing, and Psychology. As the event is online, local and out-of-the-area alumni are welcome to participate. Register to be a volunteer at <https://bit.ly/ProfImpressions>.



2015 Professional Impressions

#### PGAA Awards 2021 Nominations Open

Help us celebrate our alumni and their successes and accomplishments by nominating them for the 2021 PGAA Alumni Awards.

Self- and third-party nominations are currently being accepted for the following awards:

- Alumnus of Distinction: <https://bit.ly/PGAAAlumDistinct>
- Young Alumni Leadership: <https://bit.ly/PGAAYoungAlumLeader>
- Volunteer Excellence: <https://bit.ly/PGAAVolExcel>



Nominations will be accepted through July 5. The recipients will be recognized at the Alumni Awards Celebration Dinner during the Blue & Gold Celebration.

#### Join the PGAA Board of Directors

Are you passionate about Pitt-Greensburg? Did Pitt-Greensburg make a positive difference in your life? Do you want to make a difference in the lives of students and alumni? Then, consider joining the PGAA Board of Directors for the July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024 term.

Nominations are being accepted through Friday, March 26. As a board member, you will be a part of an enthusiastic group of alumni who are dedicated to providing opportunities to the campus community and committed to supporting the mission of the University. Board members provide strategic directions, resources, and professional expertise. Learn more about the board roles at [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/board-directors](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/board-directors).



Nominate yourself or fellow alumni at <https://bit.ly/PGAABoardNominations>.

Visit [www.greensburg.pitt.edu](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu) to view additional events. A complete schedule of athletic events is available at [www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics)

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

