

# BLUE & GOLD

## PGAA Alumni Awards celebrate service to others

### Alumnus of Distinction Award: **Huong Vo '14**



Service to others is part of nearly everything that Huong Vo '14, RN, BSN, does. Whether it's volunteering at vaccine clinics, working with patients, or volunteering with the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA), she is always finding ways to help others.

"I volunteer to give back to the community and to be connected to the community," explained Vo. "Volunteering increases my self-confidence and helps me to understand different people and their perspectives." She added, "I think my philosophy of life is to be kind. The world would be such a happy place if we were kind to each other and others were kind to us.

"I am extremely honored to receive the PGAA Alumnus of Distinction Award," said Vo. "There are so many alumni who are deserving of this award for who they are and what they do. I am honored that other PGAA alumni think that of me. I am grateful for the opportunity to be involved with the campus. I am always excited to share, plan, and attend the various events. Being involved is a way for me to give back to the campus that has taught and provided me with so much."

The award acknowledges excellence among alumni of Pitt-Greensburg and is the highest honor given by the PGAA to an individual alumnus/alumna annually.

Vo transferred to Pitt-Greensburg in 2011 and has stayed involved on campus ever since. The recipient of the 2020 PGAA Award for Volunteer Excellence, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences. As a student, her contributions to the campus and community were recognized with the 2013 John Ridilla Leadership Scholarship Award and the 2014 PGAA Award for Community Service.

After graduation, Vo worked at MedExpress Urgent Care as a medical assistant, earned an EMT license,



The 2021 PGAA award winners at the PGAA Alumni Celebration Dinner (from left): Christopher Luccy, DMD | Huong Vo, RN; | Justin Cannalley.

and enrolled in nursing school. She graduated from the Shadyside School of Nursing in 2019 and is currently working at UPMC Urgent Care, while moonlighting at UPMC Children's Community Pediatrics Express Care. Her career also includes having worked as a registered nurse at UPMC East in the Stepdown Unit where she was recognized with the hospital's first-ever Daisy Award (2020), an award that recognizes nurses who provide extraordinary compassionate care. In addition to working full-time, Vo is pursuing a master's degree through Carlow University's nurse practitioner program.

This past spring, Vo was frequently on campus, volunteering to give COVID-19 vaccines during nine of the 11 on-campus clinics held in collaboration with Mainline Pharmacy.

Vo currently serves as vice president of the PGAA and is a member of the Events Committee. Last year, while chair of the Events Committee, Vo and her committee worked to transition the PGAA from in-person events to virtual when health guidelines prevented on-campus gatherings.

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# Message from the President

Another academic year is underway, and campus life has a more typical feel this semester. Our overriding goal is to have a safe environment that fosters student learning and social connection. Most of our classes take place in person, with all faculty, staff, and students wearing masks inside our academic buildings to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The majority of our campus community members are fully vaccinated. Those who are not are required to be tested weekly for coronavirus infection. A negative test is required for entry to our buildings, and anyone testing positive is isolated to prevent spread. Using these precautions, along with stringent sanitizing protocols, we are keeping our learning community as safe as possible.

There are so many great things happening at Pitt-Greensburg!

On September 13, physical preparations began for the construction of the Life Sciences Building. You can watch construction progress live through the camera link at <https://bit.ly/lsb-construction-progress>.

In addition, we are making progress on our plans to enhance the outdoor athletic complex by installing new drainage and artificial turf on the existing soccer and baseball fields along with building press boxes, locker rooms, and public restrooms to support competition in those sports and to expand our athletic offerings in the future. And speaking of athletics, our women's tennis team won its first-ever AMCC Championship and will participate in the NCAA Tournament in May 2022. Our men's golf team finished third in the AMCC Championship Tournament, and our women's soccer team is currently 12-2 for the season. A very important event in the life of the university occurred on October 2, when we celebrated our 2020 graduates with a Commencement ceremony in Chambers Gymnasium. Due to the developing pandemic, this group of students was denied a traditional commencement in the spring of their senior year, so we felt it was essential to invite them to Pitt-Greensburg and give them the celebration that they deserve. It was a great day when those alumni returned to campus and were able to move their tassels from right to left in unison!

Please take the time to peruse all the great events and milestones covered in this issue of the Blue and Gold. There is so much share! I'm proud to see all that we continue to accomplish, and I hope you are impressed with what you see.

Thanks once again for your support of this wonderful institution where promoting the success of each student is our purpose every day.

Hail to Pitt!



Robert Gregerson, PhD  
President



## University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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# Thank you!

## Tech for the Future CHALLENGE by the numbers

\$505,400 Total Technology Endowment

\$255,400

2,441 Donations

617 Donors

63

Faculty & Staff Donors

47

Student Donors

286

Alumni Donors

\$87

Average gift amount

\$250,000

matched by the US Dept. of Education  
Strengthening Institutions Program Grant

## Tech for the Future Challenge:

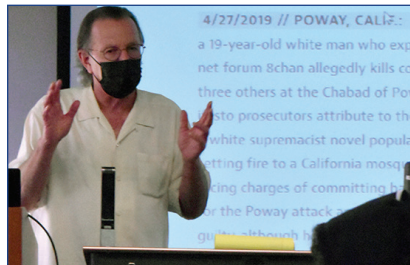
### How your gift is helping our campus

Your gift to the Technology for the Future Challenge helped to create an endowment that will serve Pitt-Greensburg's technology far into the future. Your contribution is already making an impact in our classrooms as students, faculty, and staff increased their use of technology during the past 18 months.



Jeff Antal (left) and Kayla Heffernan share tech tips during a summer workshop on classroom technology. Antal is the manager of Media Services & Instructional Technology.

Heffernan is among the group of younger professors who easily embrace technology and use it to their own and their students' advantage. "Almost everything I do is tech-related," said Heffernan. Technology is part of her everyday teaching methods, allowing her to better interact with her class. It also made it easy for her to transition to FLEX@Pitt during the height of the pandemic.



Frank Wilson, PhD, teaching in Village Hall 118 that is outfitted with Wi-Fi for Internet access, overhead projector, Hovercam, and monitors on the walls that allow students to easily see material shared via the Hovercam.

But the pandemic evened the playing field for all of our professors when FLEX@Pitt became the norm for the 2020-2021 academic year.

"Technology provided more options for both the students and the faculty," said Wilson. "As professors, we were dependent on technology, since we were teaching both in-person and via the online platforms.

"Our success was based on our capacity to use the systems in place," said Wilson. Faculty with stronger tech skills led training sessions during the spring and the summer of 2020, so that all of our faculty enhanced their tech skills and supported each other through the transition to FLEX@Pitt with its remote learning option.

"Everything that I need is just one click away," said Heffernan who uses a two-in-one tablet and stylus while the classroom HoverCam shows the process on classroom monitors or remotely via Zoom. The document can be saved as a PDF and shared with students if they miss a class. With the Panopto video platform recording her action on her tablet and her audio, Heffernan can post the video immediately following class. Students can review via the Canvas course management system and the platforms track everything. "The technology makes my responses nearly instantaneous," said Heffernan. "It's the simple stuff that gets fixed right there. The faster the feedback, the better, and technology allows that to happen."

Thank you for your gift to the Technology for the Future Challenge. With your support, Pitt-Greensburg was able to raise \$250,000 that was matched dollar-for-dollar to create a \$500,000 endowment. Technology is more important than ever, and we are grateful to you for making it possible to reach this goal.

Continued from page 1

"I continue to be involved with PGAA and Pitt-Greensburg because they played a big role in who I am today," said Vo. "I am proud to be a Pitt-Greensburg alumna and I want to show it by giving back."

## PGAA Young Alumni Leadership Award: Justin Cannalley '15

Justin Cannalley '15 credits his experience at Pitt-Greensburg with setting him up for a lifetime of service to others.

"I am humbled at receiving such a great honor," said Cannalley, who received the PGAA Young Alumni Leadership Award. The award recognizes established and future leaders among Pitt-Greensburg's young alumni who are age 35 and younger. "Thank you to all of those who helped direct me into a service-first lifestyle. Having involvement with clubs such as Habitat for Humanity and Outdoor Adventure and Community Service (OACS), as well as working alongside the Residence Life staff, provided me with some of the most inspiring role models that anyone could ask for. Without those connections from Pitt-Greensburg, I am unsure that I would have grown into the man that I am today."



Cannalley graduated from Pitt-Greensburg with a degree in anthropology. He joined AmeriCorps and was an AmeriCorps team member with Habitat for Humanity Summit & Wasatch Counties in Utah (2015-2016), serving as a build coordinator for a house that became a home for a single mother and her two children.

In 2016, he moved to Tennessee and worked for the Community Action Committee AmeriCorps, the longest running environmental service in the state of Tennessee. A forest technician with the vegetation management team at Great Smokey Mountains National Park, he assisted with treating hemlock and ash trees against invasive pests as well as removing exotic plants from the park. He also was a wild-land firefighter and participated in prescribed burns in the park.

In 2017, Cannalley joined the Army Corps of Engineers and volunteered to go to Puerto Rico from October to February 2018 to help with disaster relief from Hurricane Maria. He traveled around the island, making sure existing power generators were working properly, and if they weren't, he would help troubleshoot the issue or repair it himself.

In 2019, he joined the Army Reserves as an 88M Motor Transport Operator, which is primarily responsible for supervising or operating wheeled vehicles to transport personnel and cargo. Since completing Basic Training, he has returned to Philadelphia where he works as a service manager with GREENIX Pest Control and leads a team of 28 technicians in performing pest-control operations in eastern Pennsylvania.

A past member of the PGAA board of directors, Cannalley stays connected to the campus through the PGAA and participates virtually when possible. His participation with the PGAA began as a volunteer with the Events Committee before joining the board. He also has helped with many PGAA events, like building a balloon arch for Blue & Gold Celebration. As an alumnus, he also volunteered on the 2018 Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Trip.

Since returning to Philadelphia, Cannalley has been working on home renovations and completing renovations for a local apartment building. He plans to volunteer with his local Habitat for Humanity affiliate once the COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed and the orientation program resumes.

## Volunteer of Excellence Award: Christopher J. Luccy, DMD, '70 and the late Barbara B. Luccy, RN, '70

"The Volunteer Excellence award is special because it is a recognition from our peers," said Christopher J. Luccy, DMD, '70 about being selected to share the PGAA Volunteer Excellence Award with his late wife, Barbara B. Luccy, RN, '70. "Barbara and I have always been very proud to be Pitt alumni. Working with students, faculty, and especially the staff at Pitt-Greensburg has been very special. It has provided the opportunity to continue sharing knowledge and experience and to see the benefits of our efforts. I dearly miss my 'better half,' but she is always with me in spirit."



Since 2016, Luccy has served as a member of the PGAA Board of Directors. Recognized as the 2013 PGAA Alumnus of Distinction for his professional career achievements, Luccy currently chairs the Professional Development Committee. A six-year member of the Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing planning committee, he contributes to the event's success by securing silent auction items, donating to the event, and recruiting foursomes.

Prior to her unexpected death in December 2019, Barbara supported her husband's volunteer service with the PGAA board and frequently attended its events. The couple, an integral part of the Pitt-Greensburg community, was among the first group of alumni to be highlighted in the Alumni Pawprints Posters that are displayed at various locations around campus. Barbara's presence will continue to be felt on campus as plans are underway to name a space in her honor in the new Life Sciences Building, currently under construction.

Fifty-five years ago, the Luccys met at Pitt-Greensburg as students, and Luccy noted that the foundation for their success was their experiences on campus. Luccy went on to the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and completed a pediatric dental residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (now UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh). Barbara graduated from the School of Nursing at the University of Pittsburgh and worked for two years at Magee Women's Hospital (now UPMC Magee-Women's Hospital) as a staff and charge nurse. She then was recruited to and taught at Pitt's Nursing School.

In 1971, the couple married, and in 1975, they moved back to Greensburg to serve the community in a pediatric dental practice. Luccy provided board certified quality care for each child that was treated in his practice. Barbara managed the practice and supervised the patient-care services. She utilized her nursing skills to ensure the safety of all patients, especially medically compromised children and those needing sedation/anesthesia. For more than 40 years, the couple volunteered countless hours on the local, state, and national level, focusing on children with special needs and multiple University of Pittsburgh programs. With time, their focus shifted to Pitt-Greensburg, where Luccy set up and Barbara developed a scholarship in honor of Dr. Norman McWhinney, professor *emeritus* of English at Pitt-Greensburg.

"I communicated; Barbara made things happen," said Luccy. The Luccy children, Britt, Christopher, and Dana, vividly remember attending Pitt football games, fundraisers, and special events to help others—all initiated by their mother, Barbara.

"While this award is recognizing both my wife and me, our family proudly designates the award to Barbara for all of her volunteer service over the past 40 years," said Luccy. "Our family sincerely thanks the PGAA and the Pitt-Greensburg community for this honor."

# Groundbreaking ceremony held for new Life Sciences Building



Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were, from left, Robert G. Gregerson, PhD, president, Pitt-Greensburg; Daniel O'Connor, president, Pitt-Greensburg Staff Association; Melanie Panutos, MCF Architects; Allen Hohlfelder, MCF Architects; Paul Nickloff, representing the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board; Lou Ferraro, vice president, Rycon Construction; Stacey Triplette, PhD, president, Pitt-Greensburg Faculty Senate; Jacqueline Horrall, PhD, vice president for Academic Affairs, Pitt-Greensburg; Colleen Edlund, project manager, University of Pittsburgh Office of Facilities Management; Ann E. Cudd, PhD, provost, University of Pittsburgh; Austyn Carson, president, Pitt-Greensburg Student Government Association.



Life Sciences Building exterior



Biology Lab



Nursing Clinical Lab

Approximately 100 people gathered at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg on August 20 to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new Life Sciences Building. Construction began September 13 with a projected completion date of November 2022. The building will open for classes in January 2023.

“The Life Sciences Building represents a commitment to our students to provide the best possible learning environment for the natural sciences and nursing programs,” said Robert G. Gregerson, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. “The classrooms and laboratories will be state-of-the-art spaces in which our faculty and students will collaborate. The new facility will also make growth in these programs possible. It also represents a commitment to the community. Pitt-Greensburg graduates contribute to the educated work force for our region, and this contribution will expand as we grow into the new facility. We are so excited to make new learning opportunities available to our students. They deserve the best, and that is what the new Life Sciences Building will provide.”

The building is designed to provide modern facilities and the necessary space to expand Pitt-Greensburg’s growing programs. The \$19.2 million, 32,000-square foot facility was designed by Pittsburgh-based MacLachlan Cornelius & Filoni. It will include a clinical lab, simulation suites, telemedicine space, and a computer lab and office suite for the School of Nursing. Critically needed chemistry and biology labs as well as support spaces are included in the design. In its location adjacent to Smith Hall, the facility will also provide a new corridor connection to Smith Hall, creating a unified Life Sciences Complex. After a competitive bid process, Rycon Construction Inc., of Pittsburgh, was selected as the general contractor.



Watch the groundbreaking ceremony  
<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/about/about/life-science-building>



Live stream of construction and updates  
<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/about/life-sciences-building-progress>

## Honor Roll of Donors



Dear Alumni and Friends,

At Pitt-Greensburg, we are deeply appreciative of your philanthropic investments in the campus, and we are ever mindful of the important stewardship role we have to you, our dedicated donors.

The partnership formed through charitable contributions ensures the campus’ long-term strength and viability by funding scholarships for talented students, creating innovated programs that enhance the curriculum, and providing experiences outside the classroom. You help preserve and strengthen the Pitt-Greensburg experience.

Our 2020-2021 Honor Roll of Donors can be found at <https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/honor-roll-donors>. Again, we extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for continued support of Pitt-Greensburg.

Hail to Pitt!!!

# Class of 2020

## Special Commencement Ceremony



To watch the video from the 2020 Commencement Ceremony and to see more photos from the day, please visit <https://bit.ly/2020-commencement-pitt-gbg> or use your cell phone camera to scan this QR code.

Members of the graduating class of 2020 returned to campus to participate in a special Commencement celebration on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. The group, which included up to four guests for each alumnus, gathered in Chambers Hall Gymnasium on a beautiful, sunny morning to celebrate after a postponement of 525 days.

“These students had their final year of college abruptly disrupted by the emerging COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020,” said Robert G. Gregerson, PhD, president of the University of Pittsburgh. “Now that we are able, we are so pleased to give them the opportunity to experience in person the culmination of a college education—a commencement that celebrates their accomplishments at Pitt-Greensburg.”

In his Commencement remarks to the Class of 2020, Gregerson noted that their senior year was like no other and that he couldn’t think of a more important celebration than this ceremony.

“Most of you have started careers or are pursuing further education,” said Gregerson. “I hope that from time-to-time, as you work and study, that you reflect on your undergraduate education here at Pitt-Greensburg and how the intellectual and personal growth that you experienced here among us in this community helped lead you to the place where you are now.”

In mentioning the construction of the new Life Sciences Building on campus, Gregerson noted that it’s the people—faculty, staff, students, and alumni—who are the real infrastructure of the campus. “You may not have thought of it this way when you were a student here, but each of you have contributed to the process of building this University and your impact on the institution lives on.”

He closed his remarks, saying, “Your senior year didn’t end the way you envisioned, but look at you now. You’re forging ahead and a lifetime of accomplishments await you. . . . Your future is bright because of your determination to make it so.”

This was the second graduation celebration for this group of alumni. In April 2020, when the pandemic pushed campuses to remote operations, the 293 graduates were recognized in a digital presentation that showcased their honors and activities. The graduates also received a digital diploma presentation, and special congratulatory video messages from fellow alumni, faculty, and staff.

Nearly 55 percent of the Class of 2020 graduated with honors (*cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude*). Approximately 73 percent of the class graduated with a bachelor of science degree, 22 percent graduated with a bachelor of arts degree, and five percent graduated with dual degrees.

One of the most impressive statistics of all about this group of alumni is that they posted a 93 percent placement rate within six months of their graduation in April 2020 (Post-Graduation Status Report for the Class of 2020).

“It was wonderful to see the success of the class of 2020 despite the ongoing pandemic,” said Dorothy Zilic, director of Career Services at Pitt-Greensburg. “Our campus’s placement rate of more than 90 percent within six months of graduation remained consistent with previous years, and a large majority of our graduates indicated they gained career-related experience prior to graduation like clinical shadowing, volunteer work, internships, research, and part-time employment. It is so impressive to see the students strive to prepare for careers in their chosen field of study, both academically and outside the classroom—and succeed.”



Pitt Greensburg  
Alumni

### A Champagne Toast

As part of the Blue & Gold Celebration, also occurring on Saturday, the PGAA hosted a champagne toast to the Class of 2020 during the Alumni Welcome Back Picnic. Dr. Gregerson joined Huang Vo '14 and Julia Sefcheck '99 in congratulating the 2020 alumni and welcoming them to the organization.



## Legacy Diploma Presentations

The Legacy Diploma co-presentation recognizes the special bond that the graduates have with a parent, spouse, sibling, child, grandchild, or grandparent who is a Pitt alum or an immediate family member who is current faculty or staff of the University. Pitt-Greensburg is the only campus in the Pitt system to offer this opportunity to graduates and their families. It is a visual illustration that Pitt-Greensburg graduates join a large “family” of graduates from the many schools and campuses that comprise the University of Pittsburgh.

- Austin Berger — co-presented by his father, Larry Berger A&S '93, KGSB '01;
- Fiona Carter — co-presented by her mother, Tanya Ward Carter SCI '05, and grandparent Mary Stevens Carter Nursing '01;
- Shirley Petropoulos — co-presented by her mother, Tess Petropoulos A&S '05;
- Jessica Yacko — co-presented by her father, John Yacko KGSB '96, KGSB '01;



## Most Pitt Degrees

Every year, we ask the graduating class to share how many Pitt degrees are in their families with the graduate submitting the highest number able to be authenticated winning a Pitt spirit bag. This year, we had a three-way tie for the most Pitt degrees at five each. Congratulations to Adam Andrekanic, Fiona Carter, and Jessica Yacko for having the most Pitt degrees in their families among the entries we received.



# Blue & Gold Celebration 2021 Highlights

## Volleyball alumni add another win



The Pitt-Greensburg's women's volleyball team kicked off the Blue & Gold Celebration with their Division III match against La Roche University. The Bobcats played an exciting match, winning two of the five sets and frequently taking the lead. After the match, the team welcomed back alumni and challenged them to a match. Returning to campus to take on the Bobcats were (from left) Elizabeth Gerda '17, Marla Schaffer '19, Amanda Ross '18, Erica Bosh '18, Kassi Niver '20, and Emma Dongilli '20.

## Blue & Gold Blood Drive

Members of the campus community participated in the annual Blue & Gold Blood Drive and donated 45 units of blood--saving 135 lives!



## Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing presented by Elliott Group



Congratulations to the First Place/ Top Alumni Team:  
 Jason Jones '08 ENGR  
 Justin Jones '11  
 Randy Jones  
 Derek  
 Lingafelt

Thank you alumni, parents, staff/faculty, and friends for spending a beautiful day on the greens of the Latrobe Country Club raising funds for and celebrating Pitt-Greensburg. For a complete list of team and skills contest winners, plus a special video message, please visit [greensburg.pitt.edu/golf-outing](https://greensburg.pitt.edu/golf-outing). The 2021 outing was sold out and is the top fundraiser in its 22-year history—thank you to each and every sponsor, contributor, volunteer, and golfer. 2021 Outing Committee members included Chris Luccy, DMD '70, Brian Manning '96, Ron Ott A&S '74, Jim Sankovich, Patrick Stofko '97, Jeremy Yetter, and Sheila Kudrick.

## Campus Bonfire

Students gathered on campus for the annual Bonfire that opens the Blue & Gold Celebration weekend



activities. Al Theil, director of the Student Center and Student Engagement, managed the tunes that created a celebratory mood for students who toasted marshmallows and enjoyed s'mores. The candidates vying for Homecoming Court were introduced in preparation for the announcement of voting results Saturday evening.



## Blue & Gold Festival continues to charm



Students and alumni enjoyed the sunny autumn day on campus Saturday. Many tried their skill at the Blue & Gold Festival then stopped by the funnel cake truck, sponsored by the Criminal Justice Club, for a sweet snack.



## Alumni Welcome Back Picnic toasts the Class of '20

The Alumni Welcome Back Picnic opened with a Champagne Toast to the Class of 2020 and then offered the opportunity for alumni to visit with friends while enjoying brunch. Alumni who majored in criminal justice or were members of the Criminal Justice Club had the opportunity to chat with special guest Tim Holler, PhD, assistant professor of criminal justice. Alumni who participated in the women's softball program were celebrated, too. A bingo game provided entertainment and the chance to score some new Pitt spirit items.

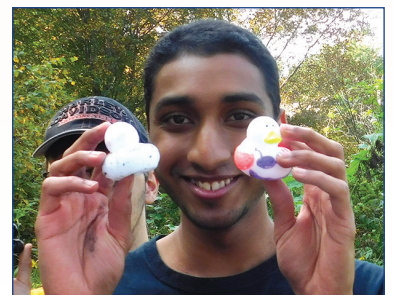


## Scavenger Hunt!

New to this year's Blue & Gold Celebration was the Scavenger Hunt. Participants were eligible to win gift cards to local establishments.

## Founders Day Duck Dash makes a splash

Ashlyn Hewitt, registered as a friend of the campus, was the designer of the winning duck with her creation named Dabriel. She was one of 89 participants in the dash that included ducks designed by 79 students, seven alumni, and three friends.





## Everyone's a winner at Casino Night and Homecoming Dance

Blue & Gold Celebration hit its peak Saturday night with the Alumni Celebration Dinner, Casino Night, and Homecoming Dance. Alumni, students, faculty, and staff all enjoyed the games of chance and music.



Congratulations to this year's Homecoming Royalty Veronica Braman and Robert Miller.

## PGAA Virtual Happy Hour allows those at a distance to join the fun!

Alumni who weren't able to make the trip to campus for Blue & Gold Celebration were invited to participate in the PGAA Virtual Happy Hour. The group, including two alumni from out-of-state (VA and FL), chatted with President Robert Gregerson and participated in some ice-breaker questions and reminisced about campus. An outcome of the ice-breaker activity was an alumni playlist from the personal theme songs shared by the participants. Check out the PGAA Facebook page to add yours! Participants also were included in drawings for Pitt gear.



## Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg celebrates community



Thirty-nine artists representing the community, students, faculty, and staff contributed more than 107 pieces of artwork for display at Millstein Library. Alumni Chrissy Bortz '03 finished third in Photography and Paula Martino '82 claimed third in painting. From the campus, Pitt-Greensburg students Calvin Dziewulski took first place in photography and Jillian McClain won the Fan Favorite vote. Pitt-Greensburg staff member Susan Isola finished second in Photography. The following artwork earned the top prize in each judged category.

- Photography: Taughanock Falls by Calvin Dziewulski
- Mixed Media: The Hiding Children by Julie Yankovich
- Drawing: Inside by Bailey Benedict
- Painting: Mom, Dad, and Me by Mary Ellen Raneri (pictured right)



Scan for a complete list of winners.

# Pawprints

## Early Bridge Program receives funding

The Early Bridge Program at Pitt-Greensburg was one of 20 programs out of 74 applications approved for funding from the 2021 Pitt Seed Grant program. Kayla Heffernan, PhD, assistant professor of mathematics, Kelli Maloy, PhD, associate professor of English, and Kearsten Adams, MT, Academic Advising, are the recipients of the funding and will administer the grant activities.

Since 2017, the Bridge program and its summer component, Early Bridge, have served at-risk students admitted conditionally to Pitt-Greensburg by offering support services to promote academic success. For the past four years, these students have completed a one-week intensive summer program prior to the start of the fall semester. The Pitt Seed Grant allowed the program to provide more robust support to these students. It supported the development of preparatory courses in algebra and composition comparable to 1.5-credit courses, which were offered over a period of four weeks beginning in July 2021.

## Year of Data and Society Grant received for community outreach project

Jessica Ghilani, PhD, associate professor of communication, is the recipient of two grant awards.



She is among the inaugural recipients of a PA Grants for Open and Affordable Learning (GOAL) award, a program designed to encourage and support faculty in creating, adapting, and adopting Open Educational Resources and other zero-cost learning materials for students in institutions of post-secondary and higher education across the commonwealth. Thirty projects across 23 Pennsylvanian institutions were funded. Ghilani is the only recipient of a PA GOAL award in the Pitt system. She will use the funding to support the creation of zero-cost course materials for students who enroll in her sections of Public Speaking, a general education requirement for all students on the campus. Ghilani was also selected from the Cycle 1 Awardees to present on her project at the 2021 Affordable Learning PA Summit in August.

Ghilani, a member of the team of researchers in a newly launched Pitt Disinformation Lab, housed in Pitt's Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security, also received funding through the Pitt Year of Data and Society grant program to support her project, Understanding Data, Digital Culture, and Disinformation: Community Outreach to Bolster Media Literacy and Democratic Resilience in the Monongahela Valley. She will use the money for events and programming that will boost public understanding about social media data through community outreach and intervention that helps people to identify and guard against disinformation. The programming will be focused in communities in rural and exurban southwestern Pennsylvania that are vulnerable to the impact of disinformation. Corresponding research will be done to examine the efficacy of the outreach strategies and to assess the impact of the programs. This community outreach is part of broader Pitt Disinformation Lab efforts to guard against disinformation and its impact in the communities of southwestern Pennsylvania and is one of several planned pilots in diverse communities across western Pennsylvania.



## Marks win Racial Justice Award

The Greensburg YWCA presented its 2021 Racial Justice Award to Melissa Marks, EdD, associate professor of education. Marks stood out among the other nominees because of the diversity and implicit bias training she has done with a variety of organizations—police departments, non-profits, and municipalities—in Westmoreland County. Marks continued to

continued on page 11

# Athletics: Fall Sports Action

## Women's Tennis

For the first time in the program's history, the women's tennis team is the AMCC Women's Tennis Champion, winning the AMCC Tournament as the #1 seed. The conference title gives the Bobcats an automatic invitation to the NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Championship that will be held in May 2022. Abigail Rosman and Amber Sterritt at the #2 doubles position earned All-Tournament Team honors for their performances.



Emily Ruhlman



Cathryn Rossi

The Bobcats, under the direction of Head Coach Doug Smetzler '17, ended their regular season 8-2 overall and 6-0 in conference play, with the team's only losses from Westminster College and Washington & Jefferson College.

Sophomore Emily Ruhlman was named to the AMCC 25th All-Anniversary Team in recognition of her success as a freshman that included recognition as the 2020 Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, and as an All-Conference First-Team selection. Alumnus Shayla Landman '16 also was recognized for her performances as a player in 2014 and 2015, earning All-Conference First Team honors at the #1 singles spot.

Sophomore Cathryn Rossi was named the AMCC Women's Tennis Player of the Week for her performances against La Roche and Mount Aloysius. Playing in the #2 singles spot, she defeated opponents in straight sets, and with Isabella Lane, was undefeated in the #1 doubles spot. Ruhlman also earned Player of the Week honors after going undefeated in that week's singles and doubles matches.

## Women's Soccer



Tiffany Michalek



Emily Bonelli



Becca Kubler



Lauren Yoder

At this writing the women's soccer team posted a 12-2 overall record and was 4-1 in conference play. A combination of strong defensive play and an aggressive offense were the key to the Bobcats' success this season.

Leading the team in goals and points are senior Tiffany Michalek (15 goals/36 points), freshman Emily Bonelli (10 goals/22 points), and junior Ashley Lucas (9 goals/23 points). Michalek also leads the team in assists (6), followed by Lucas (5), and sophomore Becca Kubler (4). As a team, the Bobcats are playing well, posting six shut-outs and allowing only seven points scored. Senior Lauren Yoder, an 11-game starter, has allowed only six goals and posted 26 saves.

Lucas (offensive), Bonelli (offensive), and sophomore Nylah Pannebaker (defensive) were named AMCC Players of the Week. Earning a place on the AMCC 25th Anniversary Team were Lucas and Yoder, along with Melissa Wiggins '05, the 2002 AMCC Player of the Year who led the conference in goals, points, and points per game.

The team started the season ranked second in the AMCC pre-season coaches poll. Lucas was selected the preseason offensive player of the year, and Yoder was named a player to watch in the pre-season poll. Head Coach Chuck Wigle is assisted by Chris Fabian (assistant coach), Steve Kukic (goal keeper coach), and Sean Boyles (strength and conditioning).

## Women's Cross Country



Brittany Dunn



Madison Stonebraker



Sidney McCulley



Elizabeth Penrose

The women's cross country team opened the season at the St. Vincent Invitational 8K where senior Brittany Dunn (24:55.17) and sophomore Madison Stonebraker (25:24.96) finished in the top 20. Three runners also finished in the top 20 at the Penn

State-Fayette Meet: junior Sidney McCulley (30:15.5), Stonebraker (30:55.2) and junior Elizabeth Penrose (31:45.0).

The Bobcats then took on Mount Aloysius in back-to-back meets. McCulley (23:44) and Stonebraker (24:42) led the Bobcats in the first meet. In the second meet, McCulley had her best showing of the season, claiming the win in the 23-runner field and posting a personal best time of 22:55.9. Stonebraker (23:49.6) also finished in the top five. The team secured a first place overall win with Dunn (24:52.9) and Penrose (25:24.0) finishing in the top 10.

The Bobcats finished 14th at the meet hosted by Carnegie Mellon in early October. McCulley (25:15.4), Penrose (25:31.7), and Dunn (25:37.8) had the team's top performances.

The season closed with a race at La Roche University and the AMCC Championships in New York on Oct. 30. The Bobcats are coached by Kelsey Oddis '18.

## Women's Volleyball



Alexis Ray



Emma Halutick



Taylor Logan



Alanna Meloy

Senior Alexis Ray and junior Emma Halutick are living up to their designation as players to watch by the AMCC Women's Volleyball Pre-Season Coaches Poll. Halutick leads the team in scoring (141.5 pts/2.83 pps) and kills (124 kills/2.48 kps), and Ray is second on the team with 77.5 pts and 57 kills. She also leads the team with 16 blocks. Sophomore Taylor Logan leads the team in assists (261), and freshman Alanna Meloy leads the team in service aces (21) and digs (62).

The team, coached by Erica Bosh '18, is 1-18 overall, posting a 3-0 win against local rival Saint Vincent College in mid-September.

## Men's Cross Country

Junior Calvin Dzielwski and freshman Dylan Ackerman have had the most consistent performances for the Pitt-Greensburg Men's Cross Country



Calvin Dzielwski



Dylan Ackerman



Joshua Mentzer

Team this season. The team opened with a fourth-place finish at the St. Vincent College Invitational 8K. Ackerman (32:34.0), with a 34th place finish, was the team's top runner.

The Bobcats posted two top 25 finishes at the Penn State Fayette 8K meet: Dzielwski (33:00.2) and Ackerman (34:03.7) finished 19th and 24th overall.

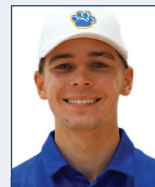
Ackerman (19.22) and Dzielwski (19.30) took first and second place, respectively, at the Mount Aloysius meet in late September. Freshman Joshua Mentzer (22:18) also finished in the top five. The Bobcats returned to Mount Aloysius in October where Dzielwski (19:09.0) and Ackerman (19:28.0) posted personal best times for third and fourth place, respectively.

Most recently, the team competed in an 8K race hosted by Carnegie Mellon University. Dzielwski (31:08.4) and Ackerman (31:14.9) posted the best times for the team.

The season closed with a race at La Roche University and the AMCC Championships in New York on Oct. 30. The Bobcats are coached by Kelsey Oddis '18.

## Golf

The Pitt-Greensburg Golf Team, under the direction of Head Coach Josh Bartley, finished third (698) in the two-day AMCC Golf Championship.



Spencer Beran



Joe Doubt



Will Thorpe

Senior Joe Doubt turned in an 80, the third best score of the day, finishing in fourth place--the best finish of his career at the AMCC Championships.

Doubt and freshman Spencer Beran played well all season. Beran opened the season with a 71-shot performance at the Pitt-Bradford Fall invitational amongst a 50-golfer field and came home the individual medalist. Overall, the Bobcats finished in sixth place. Doubt posted the best Bobcat performance at the Mountain Valley Collegiate Classic, finishing 22 over par and in 20th place. Beran (168) finished 24th in the two-day event, and the Bobcats finished sixth overall.

The Blue & Gold finished 12th in The Guy and Jeanne Kuhn Memorial Invitational. Beran ended the two-day event in the top 40, posting a 75-shot score on day two, while Doubt finished with an 18-above-par score of 162 and tied for 43rd.

Most recently, Beran finished 15th with an 83 at the Behrend Invitational. Doubt shot an 87, and the team shot a 351 for fifth place out of seven teams.

## Men's Soccer

With five matches left to play on their schedule in mid-October, the men's soccer team was 4-7-1 overall and 0-3 in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate

Conference. The team, led by Head Coach Marc Bucci and Assistant Coaches Austin Gorman and Derrick Vogleman, had a strong start with a tie against Thiel College followed by four straight wins against Carlow University, Penn State-Greater Allegheny, Saint Vincent College, and Wilson College.

Senior Javin Melvin leads the team in goals (5), points (10), and shots (22). Freshman Vinny Treonze is second on the team in goals (4), points (8) and shots (18). Sophomore Danny Rodgers, the starting goal keeper, is 3-4-1 with 21 goals against and 56 saves.



Javin Melvin



Vinny Treonze



Danny Rodgers

# Pawprints

*continued from page 9*

offer the training sessions over Zoom when COVID-19 guidelines restricted in-person programming. As a result of teaching her Diversity in Education class, Marks was inspired to publish the book, *Teaching about Diversity: Activities to Start the Conversation*, a book for middle and high school teachers.

## SPSEA helping children learn locally and beyond

Pitt-Greensburg's chapter of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA) put together 200 Summer Slide Bags for first, second, third, fourth, and fifth graders at Jeannette McKee Elementary School. The project was funded through a grant from the Pitt Year of Engagement program. Matching the grant money with other funding, SPSEA designed the bags to combat the "summer slide" when student abilities can deteriorate over the summer if the students don't practice those skills. The bags were distributed in May.

Members of SPSEA also used funding from a Year of Engagement grant for a diversity book project. Melissa Marks, EdD, associate professor of education, and her students saw a need and fulfilled it. With libraries and head starts closed during the height of the pandemic, children, especially those who are poor, had less access to books.

Senior early childhood education major Kayla Fencil won first prize in the 2021 Pitt-Greensburg Undergraduate Research and Creativity Spotlight for her project, *We Can See Ourselves in Others*. Building on the work done by fellow SPSEA member Maura Carr, who researched and compiled a list of children's books with diverse characters, Fencil created a Youtube Channel, and recruited her fellow SPSEA members and advisors to read these diverse books out-loud. The goal of the project is to expose children to books with characters that look like them. The project was such a success that VOICE, the State PSEA magazine, did a story on it.

## Pearl receives PACPA Foundation scholarship

Cassandra Pearl, a senior management: accounting major at Pitt-Greensburg, is the recipient of a \$4,000 Academic Merit Scholarship from the Pennsylvania CPA Foundation. Pearl was one of 64 students to receive scholarships totaling \$213,000 in 2021 that were given in the categories of academic merit, minority, high school, and community college.

The Academic Merit Scholarship is awarded to full-time accounting students who are attending a Pennsylvania college or university, have completed intermediate accounting, earned 45 credits, and have a minimum GPA of 3.4.

Pearl serves as a tutor for most of the accounting classes offered at Pitt-Greensburg and is starting her second year as a teaching assistant for the accounting classes taught by Sharon Turchick, CPA, MBA, assistant professor of Management Accounting.

## Students pass Spanish-fluency tests

This past spring, Danielle Wolff and Aleya McMinn participated in Teaching Spanish K-12 with an Honors Designation. The honors designation is new through Pitt-Greensburg's newly launched Honors Program. Throughout the spring semester, the two students worked with Silvina Orsetti, EdD, instructor of Spanish, to prepare to take the tests needed for Pennsylvania State Department of Education certification. To receive certification, the applicants must earn an Intermediate High level of proficiency on both speaking and writing American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) tests.

Wolff scored an Intermediate High on both the WPT and OPI sections. McMinn scored an Advanced Low on the WPT and Advanced Mid on the OPI. These results on the ACTFL tests allow the students to be certified by the PA Department of Education and to apply for and receive the Global Seal of Bilingualism.

"The tests are difficult," said Orsetti. "Some people have to take the tests multiple times. Our students passed these tests on the first try. We are teaching them at a level where they pass on the first attempt and score at high levels." Orsetti noted that the Global Seal designation will make the two students top candidates for jobs.



## CFAR takes on community health needs assessment

Pitt-Greensburg's Center for Applied Research (CFAR) was awarded the Excelsa Health Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for the third time. Geoffrey Wood, PhD, associate professor of sociology and director of CFAR, and his faculty and student research assistant team began work on this project in August and will continue work through July 2023. Faculty and student research assistants will conduct interviews, focus groups, analyze survey data, evaluate secondary county data sources, and write a report for Excelsa Health to use in support of its efforts.



## "Little Food Pantries" address student food insecurity

When students arrived on campus this fall, a small but significant change had occurred late this summer. Four new "little food pantries" were installed

inside and outside of Millstein Library to provide a resource for students affected by food insecurity. The pantries, where the non-perishable food items are available at no cost, is just one more way that the Pitt-Greensburg community is directly assisting its students. The pantries are a joint effort of several individuals on campus. The Student Government Association (SGA) provided the funding for the boxes and the initial supplies. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to add to the boxes at any time.

# Alumni News

## Communication Panel

**Monday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.; Hybrid**

If you are reading this before Nov. 15, you'll be able to join the conversation with the Communications Panel on Monday, Nov. 15, at 6:30 p.m. More details coming soon! To learn more, visit the PGAA webpage at <https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni>.

## Merry Mingle (\$)

**Friday, Dec. 3; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Millstein Library**

Outside the snow will be falling, and inside alumni will be calling "Yoo hoo!" Don your ugliest, silliest, or craziest holiday sweater and join the PGAA for the annual Merry Mingle. This year's event will feature delectable hors d'oeuvres, a spirited signature drink, hot chocolate bar, ugly sweater contest, games, giveaways, and more.

Register for the Merry Mingle at <https://bit.ly/merry-mingle-21>.



## Professional Impressions

**Tuesday, Mar. 15; 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Hempfield Room**

Alumni Relations and Career Services will offer a networking evening for alumni and students in March 2022. The program will include an optional pre-networking workshop, a featured career speaker, and networking. Jeff Guidos, owner of All Saints Brewing, will talk about his background as a chemistry major, educational preparation and planning, and the reality of owning one's own business. A sampling component of All Saints Brewing products may also be part of the evening.



Register to participate at <https://bit.ly/prof-impress-22>.

## Resume Contest: Thank you

Each year, the Resume Contest challenges Pitt-Greensburg students to craft their best resumes that showcase their skills and career experience. Everyone who participates comes out a winner in that they receive constructive feedback on how to make their resumes better—and they are one step closer to securing jobs. The PGAA and Career Services express their thanks to the following alumni for serving as judges in this year's resume contest: Brian Root '04, Carrie Bush '14, Tony Del Prete '82, Sara Hoover '15, Amanda Zacur '10, Faryaal Alam '20, and Markelle (Sargent) Harden '98.

## Pitt Homecoming Tailgate: It was great to see you!

Representatives of the PGAA were excited to see everyone who stopped by their tent during the Pitt Homecoming Tailgate on Sept. 25. Jim Murphy '76 helped to staff the booth that was part of the tailgate village. Pitt-Greensburg alumni stopped by to share stories about their time on campus. Along with a Pitt spirit basket raffle, the tent offered refreshments, blue & gold beads, and pompoms to its visitors who enjoyed visits from Pitt mascot Roc, the Pitt Marching Band, and the spirited Pitt cheerleaders.

Share your news with us! Visit <https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/update-my-information> to update your information and tell us about your career, marriages, births, and new degrees.

## Upcoming Events

*Events are free and open to the public unless indicated (\$). Unless public health guidance changes, we are planning for the events to be held in-person and on campus.*

### December 2 & 3, 2021

The Pitt-Greensburg **Chorale and Chambers Singers** will present their fall concert at 7:30 p.m. The program will feature the *Liebeslieder Waltzes* by Johannes Brahms and Gwyneth Walker's *Sing Evermore* as well as performances by voice and piano students.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/pg-chorale-fall-21> to confirm the performance location (Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center or virtual).

### December 3, 2021

Join the PGAA for its annual **Merry Mingle (\$)** in Millstein Library. Don your ugliest, silliest, or craziest holiday sweater and enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres, a spirited signature drink, hot chocolate bar, games, giveaways, and more.

Register at <https://bit.ly/merry-mingle-21>

### December 23, 2021 - January 3, 2022

Winter recess for faculty and staff (all University buildings are closed)

### January 4, 2022

All University offices and buildings reopen



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# PITT DAY OF GIVING



2/22/22

Watch for details on how you can make a paws-itive difference in the lives of Pitt-Greensburg students!

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



Visit [www.greensburg.pitt.edu](http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu) to view additional events.

New events are added each week!

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

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