

BLUE & GOLD

Foundation support recognized

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg celebrated the generous support of two regional foundations by naming areas within its science community in their honor.



Sharon P. Smith Nursing and Health Sciences Wing



LSB nursing wing named in honor of Sharon P. Smith

With the completion of the Life Sciences Building (LSB), Pitt-Greensburg’s bachelor’s of science in nursing (BSN) program found a new home with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities—predominantly located on the building’s first floor. A \$1.5 million grant awarded to the nursing program by the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation in 2018 contributed to making this space a reality.

In recognition of the effort put forth by Sharon P. Smith, PhD, past president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, the McKenna Foundation graciously recommended that this nursing area be named the Sharon P. Smith Nursing & Health Sciences Wing. In a letter to Robert Gregerson, PhD, president of the campus, Linda McKenna Boxx, chairman and CEO of the McKenna Foundation wrote, “It would be our great pleasure to suggest that the name of the wing honor Dr. Sharon P. Smith. During her tenure, she did so much to advance [Pitt-Greensburg], and, in particular, to work to create the nursing program.”

A special naming ceremony held in October marked the occasion and officially dedicated the first floor as the Sharon P. Smith Nursing and Health Sciences Wing. In addition to faculty offices, student study spaces, and conference spaces, the wing includes the Nursing Skills Lab, Bud and Ellen Smail Simulation Suite (made up of two simulation rooms and a control room), the Lawrence and Jacqueline Helkowski Tele-Health room, the Barbara Britt Luccy Conference Room, and the anatomy & physiology lab.

“The phenomenal technology that will be available to students is amazing, and your students will no doubt be excited and inspired to learn,” wrote Boxx in her letter to Gregerson. “Healthcare professionals are so needed, especially in our aging county.”

The Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation has a long relationship of support to Pitt-Greensburg that started in 1975. Over the intervening years, the McKenna Foundation has helped to fund the expansion of the campus by contributing to building funds and the President’s Discretionary Fund. Their generosity assisted in building the Student Center (now Chambers Hall), McKenna Hall, Frank A. Cassell Hall, and the Life Sciences Building.



From Left: Dr. Robert Gregerson, Robert Eberly Jr., Robert Eberly III, and Dr. Olivia Long with the sign acknowledging the support of The Eberly Foundation.

Read more on page 3.

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Message from the President

College life is comprised of annual cycles. In late August, our new residential students arrived, our new commuter students checked in, and we held our traditional First-Year Student Convocation that welcomed them all into our special learning community. Continuing residential students returned to campus later that week, and classes began the following Monday.

The excitement and energy over those first few days was contagious. Campus sidewalks were filled with students making their way to classes, staff members were helping students find those classrooms, and faculty were eagerly waiting to meet the students in each of their sections. I spent time speaking with students on the sidewalks and in the hallways. It was so inspiring to hear them talk about majors, some specific classes, and their big goals. I always enjoy being reminded in these very direct ways why we commit to our work as faculty, staff, and administrators—to serve students and help them achieve their dreams.

Speaking of new students, our enrollment is steady for the third year in a row. That's a significant achievement, considering the trajectory of many colleges and universities in this region. Recruiting students is a year-round commitment. Kudos to our admissions staff for all their great work, for the faculty and staff who attend admissions events and engage with prospective students and families, to alumni who contribute in so many ways, for our academic advisors who work with the new and current students to get them enrolled and ready for the fall semester, and to all whose work supports the success of all our students.

This issue of the *Blue & Gold* is filled with great stories from the Pitt-Greensburg campus. I'll just highlight two here—the support that we receive from regional foundations.

Throughout our history, the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation has played a major role in helping this campus to grow through its support of our capital projects. Most recently, a grant awarded through their foundation funded the section of the Life Sciences Building dedicated to our nursing program. Per the foundation's request, this area is now named the Sharon P. Smith Nursing and Health Sciences Wing.

We have a similar history of support from the Eberly Family Foundation. Their grants have helped us to develop our Digital Microscopy Imaging Lab (DMIL) from a small room with six digital microscopy stations to the renovation of a larger room with 12 digital microscopy stations. Having the opportunity to use sophisticated equipment like this as an undergraduate is an important advantage for our students.

With the 2023-24 academic year off to a great start, I invite you to visit the Pitt-Greensburg campus sometime soon if you haven't recently. We are blessed with a beautiful place to work, learn, and socialize, and we love to share it with alumni, families, and friends whenever possible. I hope to see you here!

Hail to Pitt!

Robert Gregerson, PhD
President



University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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The *Blue & Gold* is published for alumni and friends of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Questions and comments should be directed to the Office of University Relations and Institutional Advancement.

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.

Foundation support recognized

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MDIL Named in recognition of The Eberly Foundation



Dr. Olivia Long (seated) and her class using the MDIL that was made possible through funding from The Eberly Foundation. Robert Eberly III, Robert Eberly Jr., and Dr. Robert Gregerson watch the demonstration. Inset: Robert Eberly III and Robert Eberly Jr, chat with Autumn Buchheit, a senior biological science major.

In a small ceremony also held in October, the newly relocated and expanded Microscopy Digital Imaging Lab (MDIL) was named in recognition of The Eberly Foundation and its support of Pitt-Greensburg's programs. In 2015, the foundation funded a \$100,000 grant that established the MDIL in Smith Hall with six work stations. In 2022, the foundation's pledge of \$140,000 enabled Pitt-Greensburg to expand the lab into a larger, newly renovated space, also in Smith Hall, and increase the workstations to 12.

"Incorporating digital imaging technology into microscopy modernizes the learning process and equips students with skills and experiences that are highly relevant in today's scientific and technological landscape," explained Olivia Long, PhD, associate professor of biochemistry and biology. "It prepares them for future careers where digital literacy and proficiency with advanced tools are increasingly essential."

Long further explained that a digital microscopy lab provides a dynamic, flexible, and comprehensive learning environment that allows for more collaborative learning. "Students can discuss findings in real-time, promoting peer-to-peer learning and interaction. Several students can simultaneously view the same sample image, which fosters teamwork and discussion."

"It is essential for allowing students to capture their images and analysis. Our students can now capture high-quality images and videos of their observations," she noted. "These can be used for presentations, reports, and further analysis. Digital images can be analyzed using software tools, allowing students to quantify data and develop analytical skills. Familiarity with digital microscopy prepares students for research environments where digital imaging and analysis are commonplace."

Since 1963, The Eberly Foundation's support of higher education has been widely recognized in western Pennsylvania. For more than a decade, its ongoing support of Pitt-Greensburg's Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME) has enabled Pitt-Greensburg to bring rising ninth graders from Fayette County to campus for a weeklong science, technology, engineering, and math camp. During the height of the pandemic, The Eberly Foundation's generosity also supported the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association Student Emergency Fund, which allowed Pitt-Greensburg to assist students experiencing a temporary, yet immediate, financial emergency.

Regional students continue to benefit from The Eberly Family Trust Endowed Scholarship, including worthy students on our campus.

LSB nursing wing named in honor of Sharon P. Smith



Emely Gonzalez, nursing major and president of the Student Nurse Association at Pitt-Greensburg.



Members of the campus community gathered to celebrate with Dr. Smith.

PGAA Alumni Awards presented as part of Blue & Gold Celebration

The Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) Alumni Celebration Dinner, held annually as part of our Blue & Gold Celebration, celebrates all Pitt-Greensburg alumni. Specifically, it also celebrates the winners of the PGAA Alumni Awards.



The 2023 PGAA Award recipients (from left): Scott Szyplski '14, Katz '18, Myron C. Jones '98, and Dijon Henderson '14.

Alumnus of Distinction

Myron C. Jones II '98 received the 2023 PGAA Alumnus of Distinction award that acknowledges excellence among alumni of Pitt-Greensburg. It is the highest honor given by the PGAA to an individual alumnus/alumna annually.

Since his graduation from Pitt-Greensburg with a bachelor's of science degree in business management and a minor in information systems, Jones has traveled a dual career path that has been characterized by dedication and resilience.

He currently serves as the senior pastor of the Apostolic Christian Temple (Washington, PA), a position he has held since 2010, and as a software engineer at Technology Services Group, Inc. (Triadelphia, WV), specializing in web and app development.

He and his wife, Amethyst, reside in Washington, PA, and are the parents of one daughter, Donyisha, a photographer and videographer.

"Receiving my school's highest honor, the Alumnus of Distinction Award, is a profound validation of the dedication and perseverance that have guided my journey," said Jones. "This accolade signifies more than just personal achievement; it symbolizes the enduring impact of education and the responsibility I now carry to inspire future generations through my experiences and accomplishments. It stands as a testament to how unwavering faith,

determination, and seizing opportunities can pave the way to success. Most of all I am grateful."

Jones noted that he spent his formative years in Greensburg, PA, graduating from Greensburg Salem High School and attending Westminster College for two years before transferring to Pitt-Greensburg. At Pitt-Greensburg, he served as a team captain from 1996 through 1998 and earned AMCC All-Conference second-team honors his senior year as a member of the men's basketball team under the direction of then Head Coach Matt Furjanic.

After graduating from Pitt-Greensburg, Jones worked as a support engineer with CA Technologies. In the intervening years, he developed his skills in IT support, software engineering, and development, while providing solutions for both technical and non-technical users. Developing this expertise led to other opportunities: serving as a technology consultant for Christian Fellowship Foundation, Inc. (2007-2010), where he provided guidance to more than 20 ministries in the Ohio Valley area, and serving as the technology and communications director for the Ohio District Council of Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. Young People's Union (2012-2015).

Jones' full bio is available at <https://bit.ly/23-AD-JONES>.

Volunteer Excellence Award

The PGAA Volunteer Excellence Award, established in 2009, recognizes alumni who have dedicated a significant amount of personal time to attending alumni meetings and events, working on special projects, and contributing to the overall success of both the alumni association and the University.

Dijon Henderson '14 was this year's recipient. Henderson stays active with the campus through his commitment to the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity (HFH). He made his first HFH Alternate Spring Break trip in 2013 and continued his involvement after graduation, volunteering for nine trips—eight as an alumnus. In particular, he has served as an adult van driver on each of those Habitat for Humanity Alternative Spring Break trips. He also volunteers with his local chapter.

His nomination notes, "Dijon willingly used vacation time to help transport 20-plus students to southern, out-of-state destinations. . . . His participation as a driver has been invaluable to us, as the University requires drivers to be 25 years old or older. He has always been eager to step in and volunteer."

His nominator notes that Henderson has volunteered an estimated 150 hours, logging nearly 10,000 miles during the HFH trips. The eight-day trips cumulatively amount to nearly two months away from home and work. More importantly, Henderson helps to promote a sense of camaraderie among the students and other volunteers on the trips. He also teaches student-volunteers how to navigate the HFH work sites, use equipment, and develop their construction skills.

"I'm honored," said Henderson of his selection to receive the Volunteer Excellence Award. "I never expected to get anything in return. I've just been blessed in life, so I've just been doing what I can, where I can, to give back and show my gratitude and help someone else along their way."

Henderson graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He works as a senior laboratory technician who is involved with the polyethylene research and development team at Shell Polymers Monaca. His prior experience includes working as a laboratory technician with NOVA Chemicals, a quality analyst with Bayer, and a chemist with Mylan. Currently enrolled at Duquesne University, he expects to graduate with a master's of science degree in chemistry in 2025.

Henderson's community service reaches beyond the campus, too. An active volunteer with his local church, he helps to distribute food to his community. He also participates in Shell's volunteer days.

Henderson's full bio is available at <https://bit.ly/23-VE-HENDERSON>.

Young Alumni Leadership Award

Scott Szypulski MBA, '14, '18 Katz, was the recipient of the PGAA Young Alumni Leadership award, which recognizes established and future leaders among young alumni.

He graduated with a BS in management-accounting and minors in actuarial science and theatre, then served as a financial assistant in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Critical Care. Today, he is a sponsored projects financial administrator with the School of Public Health's Human Genetics Department, monitoring more than \$6 million in research expenditures and ensuring that grant funding is being spent appropriately for more than 18 faculty members spread across 87 grant accounts. He also assists with submitting research grants to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

As a student, Szypulski served as president of the Student Government Association, Resident Student Council, and the Presidential Ambassadors program. He received several recognition awards for his contributions. He also was active with the Student Activities Board, Habitat for Humanity, Judicial Board, Peer Leader Program, and Phi Eta Sigma.

"Pitt-Greensburg was the place where I began emerging as a leader and building my interpersonal skills through clubs and activities on campus," said Szypulski. "What I learned in those roles stayed with me into my career and helped me in getting where I am today. To be recognized by the PGAA for my leadership is an honor and truly a full-circle moment."

He remains involved with the campus as a member of the PGAA and its board, having served as secretary, treasurer, and events chair. He also volunteers with the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity and chaperoned three Alternative Spring Break Collegiate Challenge trips.

A member of Pitt's Staff Council since 2015, Szypulski helped to establish the Frisch Professional Development Award. For the past seven years, he has also served as chair of the committee for Pitt Day at Kennywood. In July 2023, he was elected vice president of public relations for the Staff Council and is responsible for advertising and issuing communications for the group that advocates on behalf of more than 7,000 Pitt employees.

When not working or volunteering with Pitt and Pitt-Greensburg, Szypulski works for Live Nation at the Pavilion at Star Lake (Burgettstown). Since 2016, he has assisted guests with customer service issues and ADA transportation accommodations. The recipient of Rock Star of the Show recognition, his experience includes filling in as the guest experience manager. In 2022, he was promoted to supervisor of his department where he responds to and resolves higher-level issues during concerts. He also assists with the training of new team members.

Szypulski's full bio is available at <https://bit.ly/23-YAL-SZYPULSKI>.



Help protect the in-state tuition rate

At this writing, the University of Pittsburgh needs your help again! We're at a critical moment in budget negotiations, and the Pennsylvania General Assembly needs to pass the University's appropriation.

We've asked you to speak out before, and more than 5,000 members of our Pitt community have stepped up so far this year. Please — one more time— **take a moment to contact your elected officials** and urge them to support funding for the University of Pittsburgh and its students.

As a voter in Pennsylvania, **your voice is a powerful and persuasive tool.** That's why we've made it easy and fast for you to reach your elected officials.

Just visit with.pitt.edu and let your lawmakers know that you are counting on them to support Pitt and support Pennsylvania's students, families, and future.

Action Steps:

1. **Contact Your Elected Officials:** Use our web form on with.pitt.edu or call your officials. Share why Pitt is vital to you.
2. **Spread the Word:** Encourage your family and friends to get involved—the greater the chorus of voices, the stronger our message becomes.
3. **Stay Informed:** Sign up to be a Pitt Advocate at bit.ly/PITT-ADVOCATES if you haven't already.

Your voice can secure Pitt's future. **Act now!**

Join us for the
Merry Mingle

Dec. 1 ■ 7-9 p.m.
Life Sciences Building

\$30 per person
\$55 per couple

With holiday spirits:
\$35 per person
\$65 per couple

Scan the QR code and register by Nov. 27 for this PGAA tradition!

Welcome Alumni & Families

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT GREENSBURG

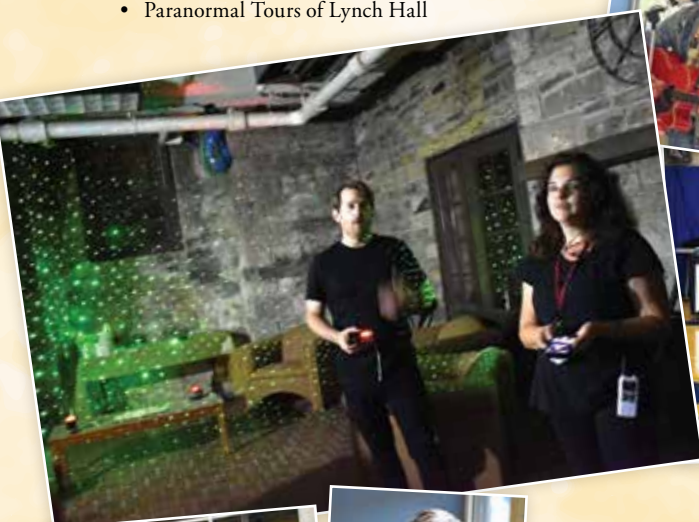
BLUE & GOLD Celebration 2023

Blue & Gold Celebration Highlights

Blue & Gold Celebration 2023 brought together alumni, students, faculty, staff, and their families to participate in a mix of new and familiar activities

Thursday, October 28th

- Blue & Gold Blood Drive with the American Red Cross
- Live Music in Wagner Dining Hall with singer/songwriter Justin Antoszewski '12
- Paint the Campus Blue & Gold & Wings
- Women's Volleyball vs. La Roche University
- Paranormal Tours of Lynch Hall



Friday, October 29th

- Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing presented by Elliott Group at Totteridge Golf Course
- Decorated Wooden Bobcats on Parade
- Happy Camper Pitt-Themed Cupcakes
- Live Music in Wagner Dining Hall with country singer Dave Stout '06
- The Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg Artists Reception
- Bonfire & Homecoming Court

The Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg featured more than 160 pieces of artwork submitted by 71 artists representing the campus and the community. Visit <https://bit.ly/art-show-23> to see all of the winning artwork and a slide presentation of this year's entries.

Congratulations to the winners:

- Fan Favorite: Janice Decker (Home's Eternal Embrace)
- Photography: Walter Mizwa (Lost and Found)
- Mixed Media: Brian McCall (The Warner)
- Drawing: Mary Ellen Raneri (Grandmother and Me)
- Painting: Jason Santmyer (Yellowstone River)

Thank you alumni, parents, staff/faculty, and friends for spending a fun-filled day on the greens of Totteridge Golf Course raising funds for and celebrating Pitt-Greensburg. It would not be a success without each and every sponsor, contributor, volunteer, and golfer. Congratulations to Jeffrey Fisher '03, Matt Montgomery '04, Bryan Rosatti, and Sean Sapotichne '04 for placing first and being named the top alumni team. Second place honors went to the Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. foursome. For a complete list of team and skills contest winners, plus a special video message, please visit greensburg.pitt.edu/golf-outing. 2023 outing committee members included Kyle Blosler '15; Chris Luccy A&S '70, DEN '73; Brian Manning '96; Head Softball Coach Chuck Myers; Director of Healthcare Management Ron Ott A&S '74; Jim Sankovich; Patrick Stofko '97; Athletic Director Jeromy Yetter; and URJA Liaison Sheila Kudrick. To inquire about next year's outing, contact Sheila at 724-836-7039 or pggiving@pitt.edu.



Saturday, September 30th

- Non-denominational Service with Greg Holtz '15
- Brunch With Bruiser
- Hike with Holly
- Esports Chat & Demo
- Blue & Gold Festival with Kids Zone, Welcome Back Picnic, Hospitality Tent, Ice Cream Sodas, Photo Booth, MBAC, Botany Club, Cross Country, Tri-Beta
- Casino Night
- Homecoming Dance



Pawprints

Melissa Marks receives Pitt Seed Grant for new education project

Melissa Marks, EdD, professor of education, was one of five applicants to receive a 2023-24 Pitt Seed grant. Her project, Planting SEEDs—Growing Teachers, has a threefold approach: 1) analyze the newly approved Educators Rising curriculum for consistency within the Pitt education program's state-mandated competencies to promote a high school to university teacher education pipeline; 2) work with local districts to develop a means of implementation per Senate Bill 99 mandates; and 3) provide University credits for introductory Pitt-Greensburg education courses to promote equity and opportunity for a wide range of high school students in southwestern Pennsylvania. In all, 18 applications were received, representing the Greensburg, Pittsburgh, and Johnstown campuses. The winning projects will each receive up to \$75,000 to demonstrate proof of concept and will be eligible to compete for a \$500,000 scale-up grant next spring.



Melissa Marks, EdD

Two Full-Tuition Scholarships Awarded; 2023-24 Competition Now Open

Pitt-Greensburg awarded two full-tuition scholarships in spring 2023 to Westmoreland County high school seniors. The scholarships are renewable up to four years and cover the cost of in-state tuition if the students maintain a 3.5 or higher GPA each academic year. The total value of each scholarship is more than \$54,000.

Hempfield High School graduate Angela Long is majoring in early childhood education at Pitt-Greensburg, building on her more than 250 volunteer hours at the Fort Allen Elementary School where she created and taught introductory Spanish lessons to the elementary students and met weekly with English Language Learners (ELL) to help them develop their English language and social skills. A third degree Black Belt in Tang Soo do, Long regularly teaches the Ninjas Program for preschool-aged students. A member of the Hempfield Girls Tennis Team, she qualified for the WPIAL singles and doubles competition as a senior.



Angela Long

Jack Weinhofer, a Yough Senior High School graduate, received the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Certificate of Merit for posting one of the top 5,000 SAT scores in the state. A National Honor and Spanish Honor Society student, Weinhofer was commended for his strong work ethic and leadership qualities. His independent summer training improved his track and cross country performances, helping him to make the WPIAL varsity team and be selected as team captain. A Black Belt in Karate, Weinhofer regularly volunteers with the Leukemia Lymphoma Society Light the Night event and participates in community clean-ups.



Jack Weinhofer

Competition for the 2023-24 full-tuition scholarships opened in October. Applications will be accepted through Feb. 15. High school students can learn more about the qualifying criteria and how to submit their application packet at <https://bit.ly/upg-full-tuition-scholarship-info>

Pitt-Greensburg selected to be part of Pitt's Community Engaged Scholarship Development Cohort

This fall, the Office of Community Outreach was selected to participate in Pitt's Community Engaged Scholarship Development Cohort. This is a planning resource for teams that are undertaking a community-engaged scholarship project. Over four facilitate sessions, the teams work together to refine and advance their project plans to ensure logistic feasibility, community relevance, scholarly rigor, and social impact. Pitt-Greensburg will be partnering with Greensburg Salem School District for this program facilitated by the Office of Engagement and Community Affairs.

Three students awarded Phi Eta Sigma scholarships

For the first-time in school history, three Pitt-Greensburg students were awarded scholarships from the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. More than \$300,000 in local and national scholarships and awards were given to recipients who met the necessary criteria that includes a high scholastic record and a recommended 3.5 GPA.

Jason Amezcuita, president of Pitt-Greensburg's chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, is the recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship as the W. Lee Johnston Undergraduate Scholar. Receiving \$1,000 each as recipients of Additional Undergraduate Scholarships were Emily Ruhlman and Rachel O'Neill. This is the second consecutive year that O'Neill has received a Phi Eta Sigma Undergraduate Scholarship.

Phi Eta Sigma, founded in 1923, is the nation's oldest and largest honor society for first-year college and university students in all disciplines.

McAlister competing in juried art show



"Street Art Triptych: The Super Women of Florence (Nefertiti, Sophia Loren, Virgin Mary; #LeDiesis)" a photographic work by Amber McAlister, PhD, was accepted to compete in the Seton Hill University Juried Biennial Women in Art Exhibition that opened in October and runs through Nov. 17 in the Harlan Gallery (Greensburg, PA). McAlister, an assistant professor of art history and architecture, took the photos in 2019 while teaching an Italian renaissance art history study abroad course.

"I'm drawn to graffiti and street art, especially in Florence, because it is often having some kind of conversation with the art in the museums in an updated and playful way," explained McAlister, whose work was also exhibited in the 2023 Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg.

Career Services: Workforce Wednesdays



Dorothy Zilic, Marcy Yonkey, and Kristen Stratton

This fall, the Office of Career Services instituted Workforce Wednesdays as a means of highlighting the presence of potential employers and graduate school representatives on campus to better connect students. Regional employers are invited to campus on Wednesdays where they are available in the Bobcat (Chambers Hall). Students can informally engage with the employers/representatives to learn more about career and internship opportunities, as well as exploring how to better fine-tune their studies and skills to fit the marketplace. Internship Coordinator Kristen Stratton, Assistant Director of Career Services Marcy Yonkey, and Director of Career Services Dorothy Zilic developed and maintain the program. To learn how you can participate as an employer, please contact the Office of Career Services at kms298@pitt.edu.

Five Pitt-Greensburg students published in international literary magazines

Five creative and professional writing students had their work published in international literary magazines this past year: Caitlin Crusier, Kaiden Ciongoli, McKenzie Bonar, Jeannette Hutzell, and Geneva Webber-Smith. Dave Newman, assistant professor of Creative & Professional Writing, says that understanding what it takes to be a writer and understanding the students' experiences—along with the knowledge of the broader publishing world and the benefit of small workshop-focused classes—allows him to effectively mentor his students to achieve these results. You can read the students' work at the following links:

- Crusier: <https://bit.ly/CRUSER-NYQ>
- Ciongoli: <https://bit.ly/CIONGOLI-ONE-POEM>
- Bonar: <https://bit.ly/BONAR-TPQ>
- Hutzell: <https://bit.ly/HUTZELL-AIOTB>
- Webber: <https://bit.ly/WEBBER-AIOTB>

Newman, assistant professor of creative and professional writing, was recently featured on NPR/WESA in an interview about his latest book—his seventh—a memoir called *The Same Dead Songs* (J.New Books). His poetry collection, *The Slaughterhouse Poems* (White Gorilla Press), was named one of the best books of the year by New York's *L Magazine*.

They Write Your Name on a Grain of Rice: On Cancer, Love, and Living Even So (Atticus Books), is Lori Jakiela's latest book to be published. A professor of creative and professional writing, this is her seventh book and a hybrid memoir.

Office of Community Outreach established

This past spring, Pitt-Greensburg established an Office of Community Outreach and charged it with increasing the access that young adults (14-24 year olds) have to college-ready, career-related, and leadership development activities. This grant-supported program is working with school districts in western Pennsylvania to design workshops and events to assist marginalized students in preparing for college and careers after graduation. Engagement Manager Audra Lewis and Engagement Coordinator Erica Samios staff the program. Danielle Mehlman-Brightwell, PhD, assistant professor of public policy and communication, supervises the new program and is the principal investigator for the grant.

In spring 2023, the Office of Community Outreach held two programs for students at Jeannette Area High School and Greensburg Salem Middle School. The first activity, Career Cluster Academies, was designed to help students determine up to four career clusters that aligned with their personalities and interests. The second activity brought those students to Pitt-Greensburg where they could participate in one of five career-focused workshops led by Pitt-Greensburg faculty.

This past August, 20 incoming Pitt-Greensburg students were invited to participate in a new leadership workshop orchestrated by Lewis and Samios. One of the workshop activities was to have students use the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis to help them evaluate their own leadership abilities. An award ceremony held at the end of the program showcased the students' work, awarded pins to each participant, and recognized the winners of the GRIT award for leadership and the People's Choice Award voted on by peers. First-year students Liz Jones received the GRIT award, and Donovan Strader received the People's Choice Award. Keynote speakers Makala Ruffin and Madison Spahr spoke about their journeys at Pitt-Greensburg and offered advice to the first-year students.

Mental-health advocate Kate Fagan visits campus

Kate Fagan, #1 NYT bestselling author, Emmy-award winning journalist, and co-host of *Off the Looking Glass* podcast, shared the insights she has gained through her career as a sports journalist writing for *Sports Illustrated*, *espnW*, *ESPN.com*, and *ESPN The Magazine*. Her topic, "Life Instagrammed: Athlete Mental Health and Perfectionism," discussed wisdom and advice that applies to everyone. It was sponsored by the Academic Village, Pitt-Greensburg Athletics, and Pitt-Greensburg Wellness.



Dave Newman



Lori Jakiela



Kate Fagan

Pawprints

Growth through Knowledge and Understanding Speaker Series

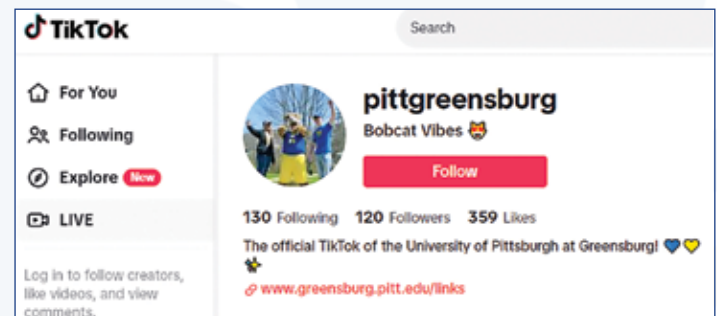
Pitt-Greensburg, in partnership with the Westmoreland Diversity Coalition, continued its annual fall speaker series that focuses on educating others about identifying biases, stopping hate crimes, and assisting marginalized people. The speakers (their topics) included Laura Dimino, PhD, assistant director for The Center for Rural Pennsylvania (Rural America), Aryanna Wagner, executive director of RISE (Veterans), J. Coley Alston, program director of the Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation (LGBTQ+), and Suzanne V. Estrella, Commonwealth Victim Advocate (Violent Crime). These free sessions were offered virtually in September, October, and November.

Garden of Hope Walk: Raising awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion



In October, Pitt-Greensburg hosted its first Garden of Hope Walk to raise awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Inclement weather forced the event inside to Chambers Gymnasium. Participants gathered in the Bobcat where several speakers welcomed the group and reminded them of the importance of DEI. The group then progressed to the track above the gym that had been decorated with signage that expressed a variety of concepts and quotes about diversity, equity, and inclusion. Participants were invited to share how they would change the world, if they could. Sponsored by the President's Committee on Diversity, the Garden of Hope Walk was organized by Roland Woods, assistant dean of Student Life & Success and director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Act now and follow Pitt-Greensburg's TikTok page by Dec. 31 to be entered into a drawing to win a Pitt Spirit Basket valued at \$50!



Catch some Bobcat Vibes when you follow the official Pitt-Greensburg TikTok page. Launched at the start of the fall semester, our TikTok page is full of short videos that capture the spirit and beauty of our campus. Join us at <https://www.tiktok.com/@pittgreensburg>.

Starting in November, TikTokers who follow @pittgreensburg by Dec. 31 will be entered into a drawing to win a Pitt Spirit Basket valued at \$50.



Bobcat Athletics Fall '23

Women's Tennis secures spot in NCAA Div. III Tournament



Members of the women's tennis team received their 2022 AMCC Championship rings this fall at a luncheon hosted by President Robert Gregerson and Athletic Director Jeremy Yetter.

The Pitt-Greensburg Women's Tennis Team marked another historic year, finishing the fall 2023 season 11-2 overall and 5-0 in the conference. The team won their third consecutive AMCC post-season championship tournament and received an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Regional Women's Tennis Tournament to be played in May 2024.

Other highlights of their 2023 season included:

- AMCC Regular Season Title (Fall 2023): Fourth consecutive
- AMCC Women's Tennis Coach of the Year: Doug Smeltzer* (4 consecutive seasons)
- AMCC Women's Tennis Player of the Year: Emily Ruhlman* (4 consecutive seasons)
- Pitt-Greensburg School Record: Most Career Wins - Abby Rosman with 100 wins
- Pitt-Greensburg School Record: Most Wins in a Season: (16 for the spring 2023 season)
- *Pitt-Greensburg School Record: Only coach and player duo in school history to earn four consecutive AMCC Coach of the Year and Player of the Year honors
- NCAA Division III Longest Winning Streak: 16 (tie)
- AMCC Players of the Week: Eden Richey; Abby Rosman; & Amber Sterrett

Women's Soccer receives 2022 AMCC Championship rings



The women's soccer team show off their 2022 AMCC Post-Season Championship Tournament rings for a photo taken before their match against Alfred State.

The women's soccer team received their 2022 AMCC Post-Season Championship rings in a brief ceremony prior to their match against conference opponent Alfred State. Friends and family in attendance were able to enjoy this special moment with their players. The Bobcats went on to post a 7-3 win against the Pioneers.

Other highlights of the 2023 season include:

- Overall: 9-5-1 | Conference: 5-0-1
- AMCC Players of the Week: Nylah Pannebaker (defensive); Maya Wertlet (offensive); Paige John (defensive)
- Pitt-Greensburg School Record: Goals in a match (11 vs. Express of Well College); Points in a match (39 points from 11 goals and 7 assists vs. Express Wells College)
- AMCC Preseason Coaches Poll: #1

Volleyball

- Overall: 4-16 | Conference: 1-3
- AMCC Preseason Coaches Poll: 9th

Women's Bowling

- Overall: 2-7 | Conference: 0-0 (2023-2024)
- AMCC All-Conference Second Team (Spring 2023): Kayla Gaughan
- AMCC Fall 2023 Preseason Coaches Poll: #10
- AMCC Fall 2023 Preseason Player to Watch: Kayla Gaughan



Kayla Gaughan

Women's Cross Country

- New Coach: Jeremy Eshleman '10

Men's Cross Country

- New Coach: Jeremy Eshleman '10
- AMCC Player of the Week: Ethan Barrick (2x)
- Pitt-Greensburg Record for 8K: Ethan Barrick (27:29.0)



Ethan Barrick

Men's Golf

- AMCC Players of the Week: Cyrus Parvizi (75, first place in Saint Vincent Invitational); Ashton Beighley (78, tie for fourth-best score on the day)
- AMCC Post-Season Championship Finish: 2nd place in 36-hole competition



Ashton Beighley



Cyrus Parvizi

Men's Soccer

- Overall: 7-4-2 | Conference: 4-1-1
- AMCC Players of the Week: Brett Barnes (defensive) & Zander Plizga (offensive)
- AMCC Preseason Coaches Poll: #3



Brett Barnes



Zander Plizga

2023 Spring Sports Wrap-Up

Baseball

- Overall: 21-16 | Conference: 7-7
- AMCC Playoffs: Pitt-Greensburg (4th seed) draws Hilbert College and loses in first round (25-11 | 17-5); first home series in AMCC post-season tournament since 2017
- American Baseball Coaches Association All-Region Second Team: James Domer
- American Baseball Coaches Association All-Region Third Team: Colin Solinski
- ECAC Rookie of the Year: James Domer
- All-ECAC Team: Colin Solinski & James Domer
- D3 Baseball All-Region Second Team: James Domer
- AMCC All-Conference First Team: Ben Aftanas & James Domer
- AMCC Newcomer of the Year: James Domer
- AMCC All-Conference Third Team: Randy Hubbard; Jace Cappellini; & Colin Solinski



Ben Aftanas



Jace Cappellini



James Domer



Randy Hubbard



Colin Solinski

Softball

- Overall: 9-27 | Conference: 5-9
- AMCC Playoffs: Pitt-Greensburg (6th seed) draws Penn State-Altoona and LaRoche and loses 8-0 and 5-4, respectively
- AMCC All-Conference First Team: Kayla Santucci
- AMCC All-Conference Third Team: Melanie Mienke



Melanie Mienke



Kayla Santucci

Men's Tennis

- Overall: 0-1 | Conference: 0-0
- AMCC Post-Season Tournament: Pitt-Greensburg (4th seed) draws Penn State Behrend and lost 5-0 in the semi-final match

Grants awarded through FY2023

Funding received from external sources:

- A National Endowment for the Humanities Scholarly Editions & Scholarly Translations planning grant awarded to Pilar Herr, PhD, associate professor of history, for the Chilean Paramentos: Digital Edition & Translation of Indigenous Treaties (1724-1870) project.
- Jordan Boothe, PhD, assistant professor of chemistry, received a Spectroscopy Society college equipment grant towards the purchase of a class set (12) of Bluetooth-enabled polarimeters.
- Funding from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to support the expansion of community engagement to increase opportunities for students ages 14 to 24 to participate in college-ready, career-related, and leadership development experiences to bring about postsecondary success.
- A PA Department of Education Innovative Teacher Prep 2 Practice planning grant was awarded to Melissa Marks, EdD, professor of education, to support Pitt-Greensburg students majoring in education in their journey to teach by enriching their path with greater experiences.
- The Summer Science and Math Experience (SSME) program again received support from The Eberly, Grable, and McFeely-Rogers Foundations. This year marked the 13th anniversary of the program, which served 29 eighth graders from nine school districts.
- For the second year in a row, UPMC East supported the annual White Coat Ceremony. This event is a significant milestone in the academic careers of our second-year nursing students, as they receive the distinctive white lab coats they will wear during their clinical experiences.

Funding received from internal sources:

- Pitt Provost Year of Emotional Wellbeing Grants:**
 - Lori Jakiela, MFA, professor of English and creative writing, received support for her project entitled Writing and Healing Arts: Stories Can Make Us Whole.
 - Kristen Asplin, PhD, assistant professor of psychology, received funds to bring a guest speaker on wellbeing research and education to campus.
 - Beth Tiedemann, director of advising & registrar, received funds to start a therapeutic horticulture initiative on campus
 - R. Leigh Hoffman, dean of Student Life & Success, received funding to implement a majors mentoring program.
- Pitt Provost Open Education Resource Grants:**
 - Laura Giovannelli, instructor of chemistry, received a grant to support open education resource adaptation in Chemistry 0110 and Chemistry 0120 courses.
 - Jessica McCormick, PhD, assistant professor of education, received a grant to support open education resource development for an emergent literacy course.
- A Pitt Momentum Fund Arts and Humanities Microgrant was received enabling Pilar Herr, PhD, Elizabeth Contreras, William Campbell, PhD, and Sean DiLeonardi, PhD, to attend the Institute for Digital Arts Digital Scholarship.
- Melissa Marks, EdD, professor of education, was also awarded a Pitt Chancellor 2023 SEED Program Phase 4 grant to create a partnership with the Southmoreland School District to offer dual enrollment courses to students intending to major in education.

Upcoming Events

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated (\$).

Nov. 16..... Nursing Information Session

6 p.m. – 7 p.m. | Zoom

During this one-hour virtual session, Pitt-Greensburg's nursing faculty and admissions team will provide an overview of the Pitt-Greensburg Nursing program and the important clinical experience. They'll also discuss the future job market for nurses. It's live and interactive! Log-in information will be provided after you've registered. Register at <https://bit.ly/admissions-visits>.

Nov. 18 – Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Recess (students)

Residence halls close at noon on Nov. 18 and reopen at noon on Nov. 26. No classes Nov. 19-26. Classes resume Nov. 27.

Nov. 21.....Transfer Student Instant Decision Day

3 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Millstein Library (main hallway)

Join us for our Transfer Student Instant Decision Days. Fill out your application and receive an immediate decision. The application fee will be waived. If you decide to accept your offer of admission, your \$100 deposit will be waived, too. Register at <https://bit.ly/admissions-visits>.

Nov. 23 – Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Holiday (campus)

University offices are closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Dec. 1 Merry Mingle (\$)

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. | Life Sciences Building

Celebrate the holidays with the PGAA! A favorite annual event, the Merry Mingle is a fun way to kick off the holiday season while connecting with friends. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, a signature drink, a hot chocolate bar, desserts, holiday games, photos with Bruiser, door prize drawings, and more. The cost is \$30 per person/\$55 per couple for all guests. For guests wishing to enjoy "holiday spirits," the cost is \$35 per person/\$65 per couple. Registration: <https://bit.ly/merry-mingle-2023>

Dec. 9 Admissions Information Sessions

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center

This information session is designed for prospective students who want to learn more about Pitt-Greensburg. Learn about our application process, academic programs, and criteria for applying. Register at <https://bit.ly/admissions-visits> to attend.

Dec. 16, 2023 – Jan. 7, 2024Winter Recess (students)

Residence halls close at noon on Dec. 16 when the fall term officially ends. No classes Dec. 17, 2023 – Jan. 7, 2024. Residence halls will reopen Jan. 7, 2024, at noon.

Dec. 22, 2023 – Jan. 1, 2024 Winter Recess (campus)

The University is closed for Winter Recess. Campus offices reopen on Jan. 2, 2024.

Jan. 1, 2024..... PGAA Nominations

Nominations for the 2024 PGAA Alumni Awards and the PGAA Board open at the start of the new year. Visit <https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni> for details on how you can nominate yourself or another worthy alum for these honors.

Jan. 15, 2024..... Martin Luther King Jr. holiday

The University is closed in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

Feb. 27, 2024 Pitt Day of Giving

Mark your calendar for Feb. 27 and watch for details on how you can support Pitt-Greensburg, its students and its programs, with your gift made during this annual event.

Mar. 10 – 17, 2024Spring Recess (students)

Residence halls close at noon on March 9 and reopen at noon on March 17. University offices remain open March 9 through March 14.

Mar. 15, 2024 Spring Holiday

University offices are closed in observance of the spring holiday

Mar. 27, 2024Professional Impressions

6 p.m. | Hempfield Room (Chambers Hall)

Alumni volunteers are needed for this event. Help students to become more comfortable at a networking event. Listen to and give feedback on students' elevator pitches. Participate in a mini-workshop and enjoy appetizers, music, and beer samples. Reserve your spot at <https://bit.ly/PROFESSIONAL-IMPRESSIONS-24>.

Apr. 27, 2024 Commencement

Watch for details about how alumni can participate in this event. Students and families will receive details on deadlines and the schedule of activities.

New events are added each week!

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



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Mark your calendar:

PITT DAY OF GIVING

2/27/24

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!

