

BLUE & GOLD

We Need Your Help: Protect the State-Funded Tuition Discount



This summer, Pennsylvania lawmakers will vote on the annual state appropriation that supports a tuition discount for in-state students at the University of Pittsburgh and its regional campuses. The tuition discount—which state lawmakers have supported for more than half a century—is a life-changing benefit for Pennsylvania students and families.

During the 2021-22 academic year, 91.5% of Pitt-Greensburg students called Pennsylvania home and took advantage of this opportunity to obtain a world-class education at an affordable rate. **As you can imagine, any loss in state support would have a direct, immediate and devastating impact on Pennsylvanians.**



Pitt-Greensburg students were at the Pennsylvania State Capitol for Pitt Day in Harrisburg in March.

Tuition at a Glance: Pennsylvania Families Pay Less			
Campus	Out-of-State Rate	In-State Rate	Discount Difference
Pitt-Greensburg	\$25,000	\$13,400	→ 46% less
Pitt-Greensburg Nursing	\$32,000	\$17,000	→ 47% less
Pittsburgh	\$34,100	\$19,100	→ 44% less

Pennsylvanians are choosing Pitt—now more than ever.

As of publication, a record number of undergraduate students—including more than 26,000 Pennsylvanians representing every county in the state—have applied to all of Pitt’s campuses.

STATE SUPPORT: How Pitt Compares		
Pitt	Penn State	Temple
\$152M state support	\$242M state support	\$158M state support
17,000 undergraduates from PA (70% of all students)	49,500 undergraduates from PA (65% of all students)	17,000 undergraduates from PA (66% of all students)

One Student’s Story:

A Pitt-Greensburg junior works for DoorDash so that she can schedule work around her classes. A criminal justice major with minors in psychology and sociology, she has a keen interest in the fate of Pitt’s state appropriation. The Lackawanna County native is paying for her education on her own and describes Pitt-Greensburg as “her dream school.”

“I fell in love with the campus when I visited—especially how personal it felt,” she recalls.

If lawmakers fail to pass Pitt’s state appropriation, however, this student fears her educational debt could double—and catapult her from dream scenario to financial nightmare.

“I rely on the federal Pell Grant, the Pitt Success Pell Match Program, and the PHEAA grant to help cover my education expenses,” she says. “As a 22-year-old, I probably wouldn’t be approved for loans, and it would be hard for me to come back to college.”

Help the University of Pittsburgh and Pitt-Greensburg advocate for state funding:

1. Visit with.pitt.edu to stay informed and sign up to be a Pitt Advocate.
2. Learn more about how Pitt-Greensburg enhances our region and state.
3. Write your state lawmakers and let them know that funding Pitt’s appropriation is important to you.



Write your State Legislator

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Message from the President

One hallmark of spring on our campus is the annual commencement ceremony. As you read this message, we will have celebrated the graduation of 190 Pitt-Greensburg students on Saturday, April 30, during two ceremonies on that momentous day. This included our second class of nursing graduates—34 proud alumni who will fill much-needed healthcare jobs in the region. Many of our graduates will soon be off to graduate or professional programs. Others have jobs waiting for them or will be seeking that new job to begin their careers. I know that some of you are employing our new graduates, and we are very thankful for the impact you are making upon the lives of these students who have worked so hard to complete their degrees!



Summer is a time to take a short breather and begin preparing for the next academic year. Among the many initiatives we are undertaking is the development of a strategic plan that will guide our collective efforts in future years. We have been hard at work putting together this plan and will be sharing information as we move forward. A more concrete project (pun intended!) is the ongoing construction of the new Life Sciences Building. The steel superstructure has been completed, and work will progress over the summer and fall until the building is completed before the 2022-23 holiday break. We will have a grand opening ceremony, and I hope that many of you can attend that much-anticipated event.

We have been working diligently to fill next fall's entering class of first-year and transfer students. You may have seen a Pitt-Greensburg billboard or two around the region. These represent just one part of our comprehensive recruitment strategy to make prospective students aware of the educational quality and value that we offer. If at any time you know of a potential student who could benefit from a University of Pittsburgh education on this wonderful campus, please contact our admissions staff or me directly.

This spring, Pitt-Greensburg also participated in a major branding initiative funded by a grant from the University of Pittsburgh's Office of University Marketing and Communications. The initiative included a digital billboard that will be in place now through February 2023 as well as a billboard in the central part of the state. The grant also funded geo-fencing around high schools within a 50-mile radius of the campus as well as around high schools in Erie, Northern Pennsylvania, and Central Pennsylvania; social media advertising; and video production that will result in a TV commercial.

Another important undertaking is the advocacy communications targeting our state lawmakers whose vote on the state appropriation directly impacts Pennsylvania students and families. You may have seen the full-page newspaper ads, billboards, and social media advertising that shared the positive impact Pitt and its regional campuses have in the state, as well as the messages encouraging you to contact your state lawmaker so that your voice is heard.

Thanks once again for your support of The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. We appreciate you and look forward to seeing you sometime soon!

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.

YOU DID IT!

Your **PARTICIPATION** in Pitt-Greensburg's Pitt Day of Giving Campaign helped Pitt-Greensburg to **finish fifth in the overall competition, securing \$1,500 in bonus money.**

The official results show that **350 gifts were made** that will benefit Pitt-Greensburg.

You helped us to raise nearly \$30,000!

Your participation allowed Pitt-Greensburg to claim the **Power Hour bonus (\$1000)**, which along with our fifth-place finish bonus (\$1500), **brings an additional \$2500 bonus dollars to our campus.**

It was exciting to watch the competition on the campus leaderboards, too!



PLUS—more than 200 items were collected for the Little Food Pantries.

Especially noteworthy was the generosity of our students whose donations of these items show their care and concern for fellow students.

Your enthusiasm in supporting Pitt-Greensburg and its programs is truly appreciated. Thank you.

thank you

Upcoming PGAA Events

PGAA Seeking Nominations for 2022 Alumni Awards

Pitt-Greensburg alumni do amazing things. The PGAA proudly recognizes alumni for their professional accomplishments, service to community, and commitments to the University. Nominations for the prestigious Alumnus of Distinction, Volunteer Excellence, and the Young Alumni Leadership awards are being accepted now through Monday, Jul. 11. The award recipients will be honored at the Alumni Celebration Dinner, which is a part of the 2022 Blue & Gold Celebration. Alumni can self-nominate or nominate their fellow alumni. Learn more about the awards and past winners at <https://bit.ly/pgaa-award-nominations-2022>.



Alumni Leadership Meeting & PGAA Retreat

Saturday, Jun. 25 – Hybrid - 9 a.m.

Meet the board and hear alumni updates at the Alumni Leadership Meeting. This year's event will be held in-person with a virtual option on Saturday, Jun. 25 in the Hempfield Room. Learn about what's happening on campus from Pitt-Greensburg President Robert Gregerson, PhD, and hear what the PGAA has been working on this past year. The meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Zoom details provided after registration. Let the PGAA know if you are planning to join them <https://bit.ly/pgaa-retreat-22>.

Volunteer Opportunities:

New Student Senior Send Off and Admissions Events

Watch for details in the Alumni E-Connections Newsletter. The New Student Senior Send Off is typically held in the beginning of August.

Admissions events are held on Saturdays throughout the semester. Typically, alumni are needed to mingle with students and families over lunch from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Please visit the PGAA webpage for details at <https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni>.

Move-In Day

Wednesday, Aug. 24

Alumni volunteers are needed to help distribute water on New Student Move-In Day. Shifts are available. Volunteer for the event at <https://bit.ly/pgaa-move-in-2022>. Watch for details in the Alumni E-Connections Newsletter.



Alumni Celebration Dinner

Saturday, Oct. 1 – Hempfield Room

The PGAA will recognize the recipients of the 2022 Alumni Awards and the affinity groups at the Alumni Celebration Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 1 in the Hempfield Room. Cocktails start at 5:30 p.m., and dinner starts at 6 p.m.

The dinner is \$30/person, and members of the affinity groups will receive a 10 percent discount. To register for the dinner, please visit <https://bit.ly/alumni-dinner-22>.



Annual Resume Contest – Oct. 18

The PGAA and Career Services are in need of alumni to review student resumes in October for this year's resume contest. Alumni typically receive packets of 25 resumes. Packets will be mailed Oct. 18, and the deadline for evaluations is Nov. 4. Register to be a resume judge at <https://bit.ly/resume-judge-22>.

Annual Graduate & Professional School Fair – Oct. 2022

Watch for details in an upcoming Alumni E-Connections Newsletter for the 19th Annual Graduate & Professional School Fair. The event is typically held in the Chambers Hall Gym. To learn more, please visit the fair webpage at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/gradfair.

continued on page 4

Upcoming PGAA Events *continued*

Merry Mingle

Friday, Dec. 2 – Millstein Library – 7 p.m.

Kick off the holiday season with the Merry Mingle! Enjoy delicious food, great company, and returning favorites, like the ugly sweater contest. Register early during the Jingle in July sale – Jul. 18 through Jul. 29. Jingle in July prices are \$25 per person/\$45 per couple without holiday spirits and \$30 per person/\$55 per couple with holiday spirits. After Jul. 29, the registration fees are \$30 per person/\$55 for couples without holiday spirits and \$35 per person/\$65 per couple with holiday spirits. Purchase your registrations at <https://bit.ly/merry-mingle-22>.



PGAA Out and About:



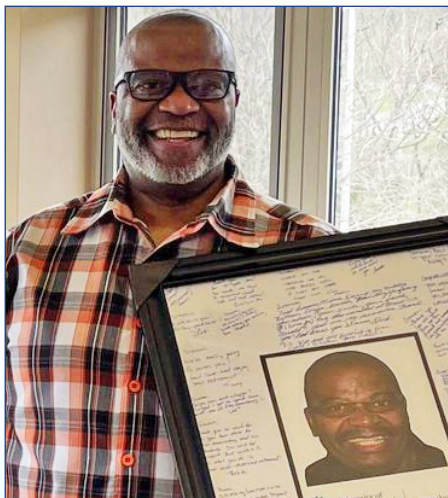
To celebrate **Pitt Day of Giving** on Feb. 22, alumni came out to the Live! Casino Pittsburgh at Westmoreland Mall. The PGAA provided appetizers, and guests watched the leaderboards throughout the event cheering on Pitt-Greensburg. PGAA members then competed in the team trivia game. Despite being in first place, the team bet it all and lost on the final question.

Alumni attended **Commit to Pitt Admissions** events on Feb. 26, Mar. 19, and Apr. 23. An important component of the event, alumni mingled with students and their families over lunch, answering questions about campus life and sharing their experiences.



Melissa Parvate '21 and Kristen Shenkan '21

Members of the PGAA Board of Directors supported Pitt-Greensburg's **Relay for Life** by donating a game night and snacks basket.



Alumni submitted retirement wishes for **Officer Simeon McClain** that resulted in a poster presented to him at his retirement party in April.



Melissa Paravate '21, Jared Hoffman '20, Jim Slavnik '89, Sean Scanlan '16, Kelsey James '13, Carly Cardello '17, Chris Luccy, DMD '70, Huang Vo '14, and Jim Smith '75 networked with current students at **Professional Impressions** in March. The alumni heard the students' elevator pitches and shared insight and advice on careers and the job search process. Kelsey James also performed. All Saints Brewery owner Jeff Guidos spoke and shared beer samples.



Shelly McCoy '98 (front row, 3rd from left), her husband Brian McCoy '98 A&S (back row, 2nd from left), Brian McPeak '98 (back row, 3rd from left), Dan Mavromatis '99 (back row, last on right), and their families.

Pitt-Greensburg alumni made the trek to Atlanta to cheer on the Pitt Panthers at the **Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl** on Dec. 30, 2021. Although the Panthers lost to Michigan State, we loved seeing alumni photos posted online, and alumna Shelly McCoy '98 shared hers with Alumni Relations.

Alumni Spotlight

Sibling Legacy: Bill McIntosh and Jen McIntosh Luciew

When Jen McIntosh Luciew '06 received the call from Jeremy Yetter, director of Athletics, about being inducted into the Pitt-Greensburg Athletics Hall of Fame, she was excited, but her first question was whether or not her older brother, Bill McIntosh '03 was also being inducted.

Like most brothers and sisters, they have an ongoing, friendly competition.

Jen, a former women's soccer player and the only female athlete in the inaugural class, discovered that Bill was being inducted, too, as a member of the 2002 men's soccer team, the first team in campus history to make the NCAA championship tournament.

But, Bill gives her the win on this one since she received individual honors, and she jokes that she needed the win as Bill can be found on one of the Pawprint Posters and was recently featured in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) 25th Anniversary Distinguished Alumni Series.

No matter who got the win, their campus legacy is cemented, and all joking aside, they are proud of each other's accomplishments and are so close that their children are more like siblings than cousins.

"First female. Only female. It's a big deal. I was really happy for her, and it's well-deserved," Bill remarks.

"I'm just very proud of him. He's always succeeded, and he's very hardworking, very goal driven," Jen adds.

For Jen, this is not her first time making campus history. She still holds several women's soccer records for points, goals, and assists. During her career, she earned AMCC honors as Newcomer of the Year, First team (2003, 2005) and Second team (2002, 2005).

"I'm very surprised that they still hold, but I think it's more of a compliment to not just me, but my whole team. I wouldn't have been scoring goals without their passes and without them scoring the goals, I wouldn't have my assists," she adds.

Bill and Jen speak highly of their teammates, who have become lifelong friends.

Bill arrived on campus first. As the first person from his high school to attend Pitt-Greensburg, he knew no one. Being a student-athlete helped him overcome this issue.

"The benefit of being on the soccer team is you almost have an instant group of friends that you're going to be meshed with so it makes it a lot easier when you don't know anybody," he explains.

Since he made those initial connections, Jen had a group of friends when she arrived on campus four years later.

They recall good times with those friends, and Bill adds, "There's a million things that I wish I could relive." Two of their shared memories include using inflatable chairs that most had in their dorms to sled ride during a snowstorm and taking a dip in the campus fountain.



They have maintained these close friendships. Jen and her group of teammates, whom she calls sisters, meet often and came out to support the women's team when they played their first AMCC championship game. Bill still plays soccer with many of his teammates in an over 40-league. The 2002 team tries to make it out to one game a year, and they participate in the annual alumni game in August.

While those forged friendships are important, they also appreciate the education they received.

"I think one thing Pitt-Greensburg is good at is taking maybe average people like myself and making them better," Bill explains.

Bill, an information science major, went on to earn a master's degree in multimedia technology and an MBA. He is now the president and CEO of Bright Tree Studio and the founder and president of Synergy Media Group. As he progressed in his career, his information science background allowed him to have a good understanding of what his

programmers were writing and to better evaluate the software.

Jen, who appreciated the small class sizes and connections with faculty, studied communication. After graduation, she worked at a mortgage company, but following the birth of her daughter, she began working for Soccer Shots, teaching fitness, soccer, and character development to young children. She absolutely loves what she does and is very passionate about keeping children active.

Both were involved with the Student Athlete Advisory Council—Jen served as its president—and Ski Club. Bill played every intramural sport and was a work study in the Office of Safety and Security.

Both Bill and Jen emphasize the importance of college as a time of exploration, stressing the significance of elective classes. Jen pointed to an acting class with Dr. Sheila Confer, and thanks to the late Dr. Ted Zaleskiewicz, Bill is still interested in physics.

Looking forward, Jen, her husband Brian, and their children Ian and Charlotte are trying to visit all of the national parks. She continues to support the women's soccer team and is watching junior forward and midfielder Ashley Lucas, who is on pace to break her records.

"I honestly would love to see it happen," Jen says before adding, "When I came in as a freshman, I don't think they won a single game. To see the program now, how great the girls are, and how good the teams are, it's wonderful."

Bill, who is married to wife Jillian, jokes that he is a chauffeur for his three daughters Riley, Morgan, and Quinn, who play soccer, softball, and basketball. His company is installing the audio-visual technology in the new life sciences building, and he's also a nominee for the campus advisory board. He's enthusiastic about the opportunity as he sees the importance of state schools, like Pitt-Greensburg, and the crucial opportunities they provide students.

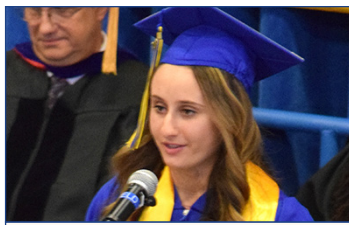
By Julia Sefcheck '99, Alumni Engagement Officer



Commencement 2022



Student Speaker: Hannah Florey '22



Student Speaker: Alicia Ciliberti '22



Dr. Robert Gregerson



Dr. Jackie Horrall

“We are so proud of all you have accomplished. You have shown the hard work and determination that it takes to be successful, and I have no doubt that what you have learned about yourself, including the resilience you have shown during the COVID pandemic, will propel your future accomplishments,” said Robert Gregerson, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg, in his remarks at the 2022 Commencement ceremonies.

Out of the 258 students eligible to graduate, 190 graduates and their families gathered in Chambers Hall Gymnasium for two ceremonies on April 30 to celebrate the completion of their undergraduate degrees. The two smaller ceremonies allowed graduates to sit in small groups with family members. Faculty and staff volunteers greeted guests and escorted them to their seats.

Twenty-one students participated in the Legacy Diploma Co-Presentation. Unique to Pitt-Greensburg, this presentation allows family members who hold Pitt degrees or are employed in the Pitt system to be on stage to present the diploma with President Gregerson. President of the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association Robert Najim '93 MBA, assisted in the distribution of honor cords to the graduates.

At the 10 a.m. ceremony, Hannah Florey '22, an English literature major, spoke about belonging to the campus community: “The real value lies with what each and every one of us brings to the table . . . We foster an environment that is not special in spite of its eccentric or normal parts—but because of them. Together, we make this campus into something that belongs to each of us. And today, we leave it to the next class to do the same.”

Alicia Ciliberti '22, a biological sciences major, was the student speaker at the 1 p.m. ceremony. She spoke of the journey the students had experienced and their resiliency during the pandemic: “Whether you are entering the workforce, graduate school, or professional school, each of us is here today because graduating college is a stepping stone to reaching our dreams.”

Vice President for Academic Affairs Jacqueline Horrall, PhD, and Advisory Board members A. David Tilstone and Michael Lordi were part of the platform parties, performing duties during the ceremony. Grand Marshals were Stacey Triplette, PhD, and Geoffrey Wood, PhD. Student Marshal duties were handled by Jessica Knepper, EdD, Stephen A. Schrum, PhD, Logan Johnson, PhD, and Dean Nelson, PhD.

Senior Send-off

This year, the Senior Send-off was re-designed and held on campus. Nearly 250 people—graduates, parents, friends, faculty, and staff—celebrated with hot hors d'oeuvres and beverages served up by celebrity bartenders Barbara Barnhart, Sheila Confer EdD, and Tim Holler, PhD. Champagne toasts from the class agents, the PGAA board, and Dr. Gregerson capped the event.

Award Recognition

PGAA Student Community Service Award:

- Alexis Ray '22

Most Pitt Degree Winners (a tie with seven Pitt degrees in their families):

- Ashley Wagner '22
- Robert Miller '22

Senior of the Year:

- Robert Miller '22

Senior of the Year and a Most Pitt Degree Winner: Robert Miller '22



Champagne Toast



PGAA Student Community Service Award: Alexis Ray '22 with her mother Ann Marie DeGennaro-Ray '94

Dr. Gregerson called on his love of contemporary music to offer advice to the graduates:

- **Destiny's Child:** "I'm a survivor, I'm not gonna give up, I'm not gonna stop, I'm gonna work harder." Lesson: Be relentless in pursuit of your goals.
- **Pink Floyd:** "Then one day you find, ten years have got behind you. No one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun." Lesson: Don't put off the pursuit of your passions. Patience is good, procrastination is not.
- **Bob Marley:** "Don't worry 'bout a thing, cuz every little thing is gonna be alright." Lesson: Don't sweat the small stuff and try not to worry about the things you can't change.
- **Journey:** "Don't stop believing." Lesson: If something is truly important to you, don't let it stop motivating you.
- **Led Zeppelin:** "There's still time to change the road you're on." Lesson: Throughout your life, you'll need to be open to change. Progress doesn't happen without adaptability.
- **Lauryn Hill:** "What you give is just what you get." Lesson: You don't receive unless you give. Be generous to others with your time and talents and that generosity will be repaid over and over.



Legacy Diploma Co-Presentations

- **Emily Adkins '22** -- co-presented by her brother Justin Adkins UPJ '16 and sister Victoria Rizzuto UPJ '16.
- **Lindsay Beach '22** -- co-presented by her mother Kellie Beach, the director of Student Services for the University of Pittsburgh's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.
- **Sanjar Birdseye '22** -- co-presented by Susan McKeever, his godmother and an adjunct faculty member at Pitt-Greensburg.
- **Joseph Bolla '22** -- co-presented by his father Joseph F. Bolla A&S '93.
- **Reed Bursic '22** -- co-presented by his father Mark J. Bursic '92.
- **Alan Davis '22** -- co-presented by his grandfather Bruce Mickinak.
- **Eran Dzedzic '22** -- co-presented by her husband David Dzedzic ENGR '10.
- **Kayla Fencil '22** -- co-presented by her brother Nathan Fencil '14.
- **Andrew Freehling '22** -- co-presented by his father Greg Freehling A&S '86.
- **Zachary Johnston '22** -- co-presented by his mother Nicole Salego Johnston '91.
- **Lauren Kertis '22** -- co-presented by her father Jeffrey Kertis ENGR '91, ENGR '96.
- **Austin Krause '22** -- co-presented by his brother Alexander Krause SCI '13, MSIS '15.
- **Charles Mazon '22** -- co-presented by his grandfather David Sauer EDUC '64.
- **Brock McCormack '22** -- co-presented by his mother Kimberly McCormack in honor of George McCormack EDUC '90.
- **Lauren Michaels '22** -- co-presented by her father Lee Michaels A&S '85.
- **Robert Miller '22** -- co-presented by his mother Lisa Hampe Miller A&S '93.
- **Alyssa Pollack '22** -- co-presented by her mother Donna Fantini A&S '90.
- **Alexis Ray '22** -- co-presented by her mother Ann Marie DeGennaro-Ray '94.
- **Madison Sitler '22** -- co-presented by her sister Sara Hocker A&S '14.
- **Cailyn Tomasic '22** -- co-presented by her mother Joy Tomasic, who is employed by Pitt's School of Health and Rehabilitative Sciences.
- **Mason Vandermer '22** -- co-presented by his father Kevin Vandermer ENGR '94.
- **Ashley Wagner '22** -- co-presented by her mother Michelle Bucchi Moore NURS '92 and her sister Kayla Wahl '19.



Pawprints

Georgetown CEW ROI Study: Pitt campuses among the top 10 percent of schools

The University of Pittsburgh and its regional campuses are ranked in the top 10 percent of colleges and universities for their return on investment (ROI), as determined by two studies produced by Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (CEW).



For Admissions Director Michael Husenits, these two studies are tangible evidence that Pitt and its regional campuses offer a quality product to students. “Graduating with a Pitt degree offers a substantial return on investment to students and their families,” said Husenits. “This is an outside organization—an unbiased organization—that is taking note and confirming what we are saying: ‘Pitt-Greensburg is a great place, and you get a world-renowned education here.’”

The first study, *Ranking 4,500 Colleges by ROI 2022* (cew.georgetown.edu/ROI2022) uses an online tool developed to help answer the question of whether college is worth it. The tool incorporates the rankings of 4,500 colleges and universities and measures the share of students at an institution whose earnings 10 years after enrollment are higher than those of workers with only a high school diploma. The study extrapolates a student’s earnings over 10, 20, 30, and 40 years using a metric called Net Present Value (NPV). The NPV is how much a sum of money in the future is valued today, and the length of time it would take to invest and earn a specific amount of money over a fixed horizon.

While the Net Present Value may not mean a lot to the average person, what does stand out is that Pitt-Greensburg and the other Pitt campuses were ranked in the top 10 percent of schools offering a higher return on investment. Out of the 4,500 schools ranked, all of the Pitt campuses were ranked within the 400 range:

- Pitt-Greensburg ranked 401;
- Pitt-Bradford ranked 411;
- Pitt-Johnstown ranked 419;
- Pitt ranked 499.

The return on investment is even better for low-income students, according to the Georgetown University CEW report, *The Colleges Where Low-Income Students Get the Highest ROI* (cew.georgetown.edu/lowincome).

For students whose families earn \$30,000 or less per year, Pitt-Greensburg was again ranked among the top 10 percent of schools for return on investment among the 3,410 institutions compared.

- Pitt-Greensburg ranked 255;
- Pitt-Bradford ranked 261;
- Pitt-Johnstown ranked 269;
- Pitt ranked 300.

Approximately 36 percent of Pitt-Greensburg’s student body receive Pell Grants, a key metric in this report. Through the Pitt Success Pell Match Program, Pitt matches a Federal Pell Grant awarded to any University of Pittsburgh student dollar-for-dollar, reducing a qualifying student’s financial obligation, thus reducing overall student loan debt.

Pitt-Greensburg is Military Friendly—now with Gold Designation

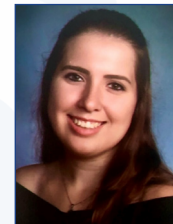
For the 12th consecutive year, Pitt-Greensburg has been selected a Military Friendly School. In particular, the campus was one of 282 institutions out of more than 1800 schools to receive the Gold designation for 2022-23, recognizing its leading practices, outcomes, and effective programs.



Zach Hippely, a senior criminal justice major from Greensburg, can attest to the support that veterans, military students, and dependents receive when they choose to enroll at Pitt-Greensburg. Enlisting in the US Air Force at the age of 17, his experience includes being deployed to southwest Asia, as well as serving as a security forces member. He also is a retired federal law enforcement officer.

“Pitt-Greensburg is an exceptional campus for veterans, military students, and dependents alike because the staff not only understands the community but supports them in this transition to higher education,” said Hippely, who served in the US Air Force for nine years. “Lisa Reffner and Red Bittner excel in providing support, encouragement, and comradery within the military and veteran community which assists greatly with the transition back to civilian life. Their hard work and dedication speaks volumes about their character, and Pitt-Greensburg’s drive for excellence.”

Pitt-Greensburg students elected to state SPSEA leadership

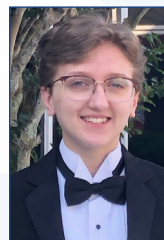


Emily Gill, the 2021-22 Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA) Southwest Region president, was one of 13 Pitt-Greensburg education majors to attend the SPSEA state conference where she was voted the 2022-23 president-elect at the state level of the organization. In all, Pitt-Greensburg students were elected to four of the five state positions, including Gill -- president-elect, Brennen Marsh -- vice president, Amber Bloom -- secretary, and Marina Lagatutta -- political action committee for education (PACE) chair.

Gill was the recipient of the coveted Lucy Vallero Scholarship and was awarded the Student PSEA Underclassmen Award. The Pitt-Greensburg chapter also brought home their third consecutive first-place APEX award for their yearly chapter “dossier” that details the group’s activities on campus and in the community. Alumnus Bryan Edwards ’16, a former SPSEA officer, served on the alumni panel.

Full-Tuition Scholarship awards announced

Three high school seniors from western Pennsylvania emerged at the top of the competition for the full-tuition scholarships offered by Pitt-Greensburg.



Charlotte Boyle, of Altoona, PA, plans to major in biology this fall. Her love of biology was sown by her mother, an environmental educator at a state park, and her father, a biology teacher and avid birder. It was then nurtured by her high school biology teacher who suggested that Boyle research topics of interest outside of class.

“It’s almost comedic that such a seemingly simple idea of researching for fun has helped me so much in my academic career,” wrote Boyle in her essay. “I no longer learn information simply because I have to; I learn it because it is something I enjoy doing.”

At Altoona High School, Boyle participates in band and jazz band ensembles. A two-time drum major, she received the Director’s Award for Jazz, was a Regional Band selection, and performed in the “Top Ensemble” in District Jazz. During a summer 2020 internship with the Penn State Herbarium, she created a digital library of plant specimens.



Hempfield Area High School senior **Elizabeth Martorella** will major in business management. A Distinguished Honor Roll student and a member of the National Honor Society, she captains the softball team where she is a four-year member. She volunteers with the Autism Summer School, Overly’s Country Christmas, Westmoreland Food Bank, and as a peer mediator and tutor.

Martorella credits her advanced placement physics teacher who challenged her “to be ‘an active participant’ and start talking more in class.” Taking his advice, her participation and hard work paid off: “Physics was by far my favorite class, although it was my hardest, and the lessons I have taken away from that class have changed my entire approach to education.”

Caring Hands Club president, Martorella reactivated a dormant program through her leadership and example. Organizing her academic schedule so that her afternoons were available to volunteer in the autistic support classrooms, she styled her high school enrichment program to provide consistent support there while further developing her own skills.



MacKenzie Taylor will graduate from Connellsville Area Senior High School and major in biological sciences. Her motivation: to have a career in medical research that will contribute to finding a cure for the disease that took the life of a family member.

President of the Spanish Honor Society, Taylor is a member of the National Honor Society and the Penn State 4.0 Club. A four-year iMedia intern, she serves as the Leo's Club treasurer and is a four-year varsity cheerleader and current squad captain.

"Her motivation and desire to succeed is how Mackenzie has been able to balance her school work, extracurricular activities, work, and home responsibilities," writes one of her references. "I am in awe of how extremely dedicated she is to her studies and how she has been able to balance it all. She inspires me as well as others through her example."

Taylor writes, "...I cannot let the stress of difficult challenges get the best of me. I must also not become as frustrated or give up on my future due to any unforeseen circumstances, but take it as an opportunity to become a stronger student, as well as a stronger person in general."

Study abroad in Birmingham, England

Melissa Marks, EdD, associate professor of education, led a Plus3 Travel Abroad program for nursing and education students in May. Marks and a group of 15 students embarked on their trip to Birmingham, England, with the purpose of studying "Intersectionality at the Crossroads of Education and Healthcare." This was a two-week, three-credit interdisciplinary experience for first-year students. Approximately half of the students were from Pitt-Greensburg, and their blogs about the trip can be read here: <https://bit.ly/upg-travel-blog>.



Ghilani sharing her research in the media

Jessica Ghilani's research in disinformation and media studies has been a popular topic in the media. Ghilani, an associate professor of communication, was interviewed by Los Angeles radio station's *KNX In Depth with Mike Simpson and Charles Feldman* on several subjects, including disinformation (<https://bit.ly/ghilani-knx1> | 37:49 minute-mark), cancel culture (<https://apple.co/3sCFcCI> | 33.5 minute-mark), the WarnerMedia and Discovery merger (<https://apple.co/3whsuvu> | 28 minute-mark), and social media platforms and ownership (<https://apple.co/3jef249> | 33.5 minute-mark). Ghilani also was interviewed by Lori Jakiela, MFA, professor of English and creative writing, for Jakiela's monthly column in *Pittsburgh Magazine* (<https://bit.ly/ghilani-pittsburgh-mag>).



GEM: Six seniors inducted

Greensburg Experience More (GEM) inducted six students this spring: Melissa Crookston '22, Samantha Lemley '22, Joyce Lin '22, Robert Miller '22, Katie Rugg '22, and Thomas Zezyus '22. GEM provides students with a co-curricular experience that complements and enhances their classroom learning. Participants engage in structured professional and personal skill development across five core components: leadership, service, career, cultural awareness and appreciation, and Pitt-Greensburg pride and traditions. Read about the accomplishments of these students at <https://bit.ly/gem-inductions-22>.



Phi Kappa Phi inductions

Fifteen students and two faculty members were inducted into the Pitt-Greensburg Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. Student inductees included Lauren Ackinclose, Ashley Barker, Jenna Conty, Ashley Cunningham, Giavanna Fiore, Jenna Kuba, Alycia Lynch '22, Alexis Morelli '22, Grace O'Malley, Jayna Rowe, Jenna Tucholski, Sasha Vogel, Jenny Wang, Eleanor Withers, and Jason Yeager. Kelly Safin and Renee Kiner, public services librarians at Millstein Library, were the faculty inductees. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline honor society. Its mission is to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others.

Registration for Art Show now open

Registration for the Art Show at Pitt-Greensburg is now open. Artwork may be submitted in the Judged Category (painting, drawing, photography and mixed media) and the General Category (painting, drawing, photograph, mixed media, digital & graphic art, and other). Registration closes Sept. 14, and the show runs from Sept. 26 through Oct. 7. Complete details about the show and the submission guidelines are available at <https://bit.ly/artshow-guidelines-22>.



Register now for the 2022 Golf Outing, presented by Elliott Group

Gather your colleagues, classmates, friends, and family to compete on a championship course while having fun in support of Pitt-Greensburg students and programs. Early bird pricing (through Sept. 1) is \$175 per person or \$700 per foursome. Skills contests on the course, prizes, and a silent auction are part of the day. Returning this year is the awards buffet featuring a prime rib carving station, chicken picatta, penne pasta with vodka sauce, roasted rosemary potatoes, and more! Details and registration are available at <https://bit.ly/golf-outing-22>.



In Memoriam

Guy M. Nicoletti ('67G, EDUC '72G), PhD, was a part of the founding faculty of Pitt-Greensburg. Formerly of Greensburg, he passed away Oct. 6, 2021, in Cridersville, OH, at the age of 93. Nicoletti retired from Pitt-Greensburg as an associate professor emeritus after teaching engineering courses from 1963 through 2010. He described the campus' development as "one of the most captivating experiences" of his life writing, "The 47 years spent here as a faculty member have been a priceless experience of academic and cultural achievement."



During his tenure, Nicoletti was able to increase the engineering curriculum, install labs, and purchase high-tech manufacturing machines. He also established collaborative courses with the Elliott Group. His interest in the campus continued during his retirement, and he enjoyed hearing of the success of former students. He was a Life Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). Nicoletti, whose wife Nada passed away in February, is survived by daughters Lucie (David) Biddinger, Elise Nicoletti, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Bobcat Athletic Highlights



Women's Tennis

This past fall, the Pitt-Greensburg women's tennis team finished their regular season with their second-straight AMCC Regular Season Championship followed by their first AMCC Tournament Championship win—giving them their first-ever bid to the NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Tournament. The team lost in the first round to Denison with a 5-0 score but battled through each fight, forcing deuce in many of the games.

The team posted a 15-5 overall record and were 6-0 against AMCC opponents. Earning AMCC All-Conference honors were:

- Emily Ruhlman – 1st team singles/doubles
- Miranda Berkebile – 1st team singles
- Abigail Rosman – 1st team singles/doubles
- Amber Sterret – 1st team singles
- Cathryn Rossi – 2nd team doubles
- Isabella Lane – 2nd team doubles
- Doug Smeltzer '17 – Co-Coach of the Year



Baseball

The Pitt-Greensburg baseball team finished their season with a four-game win streak that capped a rough season for the blue and gold. The team finished 7-23 overall and 7-9 in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC), posting wins against Penn State-Behrend, La Roche College, Pitt-Bradford, Hilbert College (2), and Medaille College (2). Three Pitt-Greensburg baseball players earned Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) All-Conference Honors:



Brody Bonadio



Jacob Davey



Will Thorp

- Senior Brody Bonadio – 1st team
- Senior Jacob Davey – 2nd team
- Junior Will Thorp – 2nd team

Softball

Pitt-Greensburg Softball posted a 7-26 overall record and went 5-11 against conference opponents, with wins against Pitt-Bradford, Hilbert College, Medaille College, Alfred State College, Mount Aloysius College, Penn State-Greater Allegheny, and Waynesburg University. Three softball players earned AMCC All-Conference honors:



Krista Bayus



Ashley Noel



Melanie Mienke

- Senior Krista Bayus – 3rd team
- Junior Ashley Noel – 3rd team
- Freshman Melanie Mienke – 3rd team

Men's Tennis

After a record-setting career, senior Turner Price claimed his third AMCC Player of the Year Award and was named to the AMCC All-Tournament Team. He finished his career with a 33-match victory run from his freshman to his senior year and now tops the Pitt-Greensburg record book in combined wins and singles wins. As a team, the Bobcats finished the season 3-8 overall and 2-3 in the AMCC.



Turner Price

From the Archives



A less visible part of Millstein Library is the area known as the Archives. This section of the library, more than 150 linear feet, is the home of papers, artifacts, prints, slides, negatives, and videos that document the campus' history.

For the past 25 years—nearly half of Pitt-Greensburg's existence—volunteer Frank Zabrosky has played an important but unseen part in developing and organizing this area.

Prior to 2017, he worked with Library Specialist Bonnie Chambers '91 and most recently has worked with Jim Vikartosky, also a library specialist.

Zabrosky retired from University Library Services (ULS) at the Pittsburgh campus and began volunteering at Millstein Library. In 2014, he received the ULS Friends of the Library Excellence Award for his work at Millstein Library. His nomination stated, "Frank Zabrosky's expertise has been crucial to the development and maintenance of the Pitt-Greensburg Archives at Millstein Library. Frank has not only provided his expert guidance and mentorship to the Millstein Library and its staff for almost 20 years, Frank has helped to provide the Pitt-Greensburg campus with a valuable documentary history that is well-organized and easy to use." When the campus returned to more normal operations this past fall, Zabrosky decided to truly embrace his retirement.

"The Pitt Greensburg Archives are important because they preserve our institutional history. They provide evidence of our past programs and activities," said Eve Wider, director of Millstein Library. "They also tell us more about the people who have played a role in shaping our campus." Typically, faculty and staff submit materials to the Millstein Library archives for possible inclusion. Nearly 500 entries are currently available at the Pitt-Greensburg online archival site that is part of the larger Documenting Pitt ULS website for historic records of the University of Pittsburgh.

Class Notes

Six Pitt-Greensburg alumni shared their talent during the May 19-22 performance



of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** at The Geyer Center for the Performing Arts in Scottsdale, PA: Karen Ricco '22 (Keyboard), David Postlethwait '16 (The Baker), Keegan Kraisinger '24 (Wife), Laura Bibel '95 (Violin), Thomas Trapp '16 (The Butler), and Stephen Taylor '23 (Gad—one of Jacob's sons).



Maker Faire Philadelphia interviewed **Chad Eric Smith '08** about his career in the arts and his work as the director of Communications and Brand Management at Mural Arts Philadelphia, “the nation’s largest public art program.” At the start of the interview, Smith mentions his experience at Pitt-Greensburg and working with Dr. Stephen S. Schrum. You can listen to Smith’s interview here: <https://bit.ly/chad-smith-maker-faire>.

Retirements

Rick Fogle has spent 37 of his 39 years at Pitt as the Pitt-Greensburg Dean of Student Services. In 1985, his staff consisted of five resident assistants and two work study students. Today, the staff numbers 24 full-time and eight part-time staff, three graduate assistants, 22 community assistants, three work study students, a dining manager, and two athletic trainers. The campus resident student occupancy has grown from 116 residents to nearly 600, with a maximum occupancy of 685.

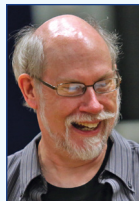


Fogle built a comprehensive set of services to benefit students, most notable being the Health Center, Counseling Center, Career Services, Student Activities, Athletics, and Orientation. Working with faculty, Fogle also shared in the creation of the Academic Village. Underlying the operation of his department was a culture based on collaboration and concern for the students’ well-being, academic success, retention, and satisfaction.

The second longest-serving chief of student affairs officer in the history of the Pitt system and the longest-serving administrator in the campus’ 58-year history, his dedication to the campus went beyond day-to-day operations. He and his wife Amy established two scholarships: the Fogle Family Education Scholarship (2001) and the SGA Truex Study Abroad Scholarship (2002). Recently, they pledged a lead gift toward the construction of a turf soccer/lacrosse field—the largest donation to the campus by a staff member.

“I will miss my direct contact with students and our faculty and staff,” said Fogle, who initiated the Midnight Breakfast during finals week and never missed serving at one of the food stations. “I will miss welcoming students at the Summer Orientation and then watching them graduate.”

Dean Nelson, PhD, is an associate professor of statistics. A member of the faculty since 2002, he also served as the assistant vice president for Academic Affairs for nine years and was a member of the President’s Cabinet. He retired at the end of April.



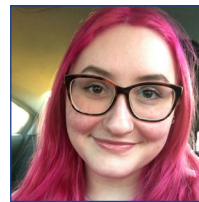
Stephen A. Schrum, PhD, is an associate professor of theatre arts. For 17 years, Schrum has shared his love of theatre and the creative process with students through his classes and as the director of the Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company. He directed a total of 88 plays during his career, in addition to multiple one-acts and overseeing a couple of staged readings. He designed the Arts Entrepreneurship Certificate Program to help visual and performing arts majors to understand the business side of arts as well as preparing them to market themselves. Schrum also created a course called Theatre Technology that incorporated digital audio, digital video, and virtual worlds. Schrum will retire in August.

Pitt-Greensburg Undergraduate Research and Creativity Spotlight

Pitt-Greensburg offers undergraduate research and creativity opportunities to its students—providing important experiential learning opportunities that students can then apply to the workplace or post-graduate educational opportunities after graduation. The Pitt-Greensburg Undergraduate Research and Creativity Spotlight (PURCS) is our way of recognizing the efforts of our students.

Visit <https://bit.ly/purcs-22> to read the complete summaries of each project.

Top Three Winners



Madison Jarnot '22

Major(s): Creative & Professional Writing & Political Science

Project: When Presidents Propagandize the Public: An Analysis of Former President Donald Trump and RT’s (formerly Russia Today) Tweets

Summary: This research investigates tweets about Hunter Biden posted to former President Trump’s @realDonaldTrump Twitter account between March 1, 2020, and January 5, 2021, as well as RT’s tweets during that same time period. The results of this research suggest that Trump amplified Russian propaganda about Hunter Biden in order to denigrate Joe Biden and prevent him from winning the presidential election.



Ethan Crosby, '25

Major(s): Undecided

Project: Roadar

Summary: Crosby created Roadar to use weather data and plot it along a route to provide a safe driving experience during inclement weather. A working version of the app is in the test phase. Server software was written, and an Android and iOS app was developed in a new framework by Google called Flutter. Plans call for the app to release in both the Android and Apple app stores by the end of 2022.



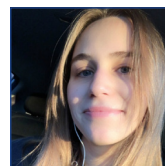
Elliott Walak '22

Major(s): Applied Mathematics

Project: Comparing Mixed and Single Roulette Betting Strategies Using Three Betting Systems

Summary: This research compared how different combinations of betting strategies and systems can be used to maximize winnings at the game of roulette and keep a player at the table longer. The single even money and mixed even money betting strategies were used in the Martingale, Reverse Martingale, and constant betting systems. Incorporating six simulations via the MATLAB programming language, it was found that the mixed bet combined with the constant betting system was the best way to maximize playing time.

Spotlight Honorees (in name alphabetical order)



Lara Bromyard '22

Major(s): History

Project: Early Medici Women in Fifteenth Century Florence: The Family Counsel



Marcus Hale '22

Major(s): History

Project: Avondale Mining Disaster: A Second Look at the Causes, Consequences and the Conclusion

continued on page 12

Spotlight Honorees (in name alphabetical order)

continued from page 11



Brook Kovalcik '22

Major(s): Political Science & History

Project: "They Plowed, They Reaped, Rifle in Hand": The Militia's Defense of Revolutionary Era Westmoreland



Jacob Ross, '24

Major(s): Information Technology

Project: IT Club Sculpture



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How Pitt-Greensburg strengthens our economy



The Pitt-Greensburg campus plays a vital role in strengthening our economy—locally and throughout the state. Some ways that Pitt-Greensburg adds value to our community include:

- A statewide economic impact of around \$76.9 million annually.
- Generating \$3.8 million in state and local tax revenues annually.
- Sustaining 810 jobs that contribute to the economic viability of Westmoreland County and the region.
- Over the past five years, educating more than 7,000 students, including 94% who call Pennsylvania home.
- Fueling our local workforce with more than 300 graduates each year, including 82% who stay, work and help to advance our state's economy.
- Growing a network of more than 10,000 alumni who live in Pennsylvania, primarily in Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties.
- Contributing an average of more the 5,200 collective volunteer hours annually.
- Maintaining a Military Friendly School distinction for 12 consecutive years and achieving Gold distinction in 2022, thanks to a steadfast commitment to serving and supporting veterans.
- Elevating the reputation of our region via successes such as the establishment of the Pitt School of Nursing in Westmoreland County, Center for Applied Research, and Community Arts Reintegration Project.



These examples speak to the many ways that Pitt-Greensburg is a proven engine of opportunity for the region.

SAVE THE DATES

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



Sept. 23

Westmoreland Country Club

Awards buffet lunch to follow play

www.greensburg.pitt.edu/golf



Sept. 23-Oct. 1

Oct. 1



Registration

Through Sept. 14

Show

Sept. 26-Oct. 7

Reception Sept. 30



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

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

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



Visit 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.

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