

BLUE & GOLD

**Pitt-Greensburg
celebrates
President
Sharon Smith
for her service**



PittGreensburg

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Message from the President

This is my final message as President. My 12 years at this very special campus have flown by. Thank you all personally for making them special for me, a highlight of my professional career. These years have been a roller coaster of challenges, opportunities, and accomplishments for Pitt-Greensburg. The period began with our enrollment rising but with national and local crises looming. The first signs of trouble appeared in August 2007 and swiftly grew to the financial crisis and great recession of 2007-2009, the worst shock to hit the US economy in more than 70 years.



Although our enrollment continued to grow until 2011, a demographic calamity and a dramatic shift in public support for higher education were on the horizon. First, the Governor slashed Pennsylvania support for state-related colleges and universities by 50%. Then many voices began to question the relevancy of higher education. State support for higher education has remained stalled at these reduced levels so that Pennsylvania now ranks 48th in the nation. Meanwhile, the demographic downturn has now begun to be felt with the number of high school graduates in Pennsylvania declining in absolute numbers and not projected to pick up again until well into the next decade.

Our campus community responded to each of these and other new challenges with creative concepts, new programs, and a re-affirmation of the value of higher education. Our commitment to our students and to the well-being of our faculty and our staff has not wavered thanks to everyone working together. As each new test was met, our campus grew in confidence in our vision and in our ability to deliver on it. These responses demonstrated what I have said elsewhere, that this campus stays true to the Chinese proverb: "When the winds of change blow, some people build walls, and others build windmills."

In keeping with that spirit, in the fall we are launching two new minors—one in clinical and counseling psychology and one in legal psychology—and will add a new major in data analytics as well. We have an ambitious plan to repair drainage problems in our athletic fields, increase the number of our full-time coaches, and expand the number of our athletic teams. The public response to our proposal for an intergenerational living/learning community for independent seniors on our campus has been enthusiastic and promises a new demonstration of the benefits that can be gained through a partnership that strengthens both the University and the local neighborhood.

I know this community will keep advancing and will welcome Dr. Robert Gregerson enthusiastically as he begins his presidency. The future is bright when the campus, like Bruiser, our mascot, is confident, agile, and ready to build windmills.

Hail to Pitt!

Sharon P. Smith

Sharon P. Smith, PhD
President

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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SHARON P. SMITH

During the 12 years that Sharon P. Smith, PhD, has led the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, she has challenged us to broaden our collective vision of our mission. She nurtured an environment that embraced new ideas and creativity.

Implementing a process that allowed faculty to apply for and receive course releases had a profound impact on the development of new programs and research. Course releases allowed faculty to take on special projects that have transformed the learning environment, the student experience, and our academic programs.

There is not enough space to showcase the accomplishments, progress, accolades, and growth that occurred under President Smith's leadership. It would be impossible to attempt to provide attribution for the innumerable contributions made by faculty, staff, students, and the community that brought these transformations to fruition.

It is through this collaborative effort, coupled with a love of education and dedication to the campus, that President Smith led Pitt-Greensburg through a challenging time of change in the arena of higher education.

And for this, we celebrate President Smith!

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CELEBRATING

President Smith

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg held several events this spring to honor President Sharon P. Smith and her accomplishments as the fourth president of the campus.

Advisory Board meeting

At the spring **Advisory Board meeting**, members ended their meeting with a mimosa toast to Dr. Smith, thanking her for her work and wishing her well as she starts this new chapter in her life. The group also invited her to a special dinner in her honor.



Campus Community celebration

Members of the **campus community gathered at Chambers Hall on April 16** to surprise Smith with a special luncheon and program. "Celebrating President Smith" allowed faculty, staff, and students to congratulate Dr. Smith and express their appreciation for all that she has done in her role as campus leader. Jacqueline Horrall, PhD, vice president for Academic Affairs, served as emcee for the program that featured representatives of the various campus constituencies, including Student Government President Kevin Kara, Presidential Ambassador Madison Bredice, Staff Council President Matt Blair, and faculty member Frank D. Wilson, PhD.

The celebration closed with the dedication of the bronze statue of our mascot, Bruiser the bobcat, in honor of Smith. Smith, who commissioned the statue during her tenure as president, embraced the bobcat and his characteristics. She often encouraged the campus community to emulate the bobcat, which is small, but powerful, assertive, not aggressive, but most of all, he is agile. A bronze plaque will be displayed at the statue bearing this quote.



Celebrating Sharon with the Community



Members of the greater Greensburg community were invited to a second event, "**Celebrating Sharon**," that was held **May 7** at Chambers Hall. Advisory Board member Steve Ryan served as emcee at this event that included comments from Tom Headley, past director of Westmoreland

Heritage; Helen K. Burns, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Excela Health; and Ann Cudd, PhD, provost and senior vice chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh. Several video messages were shared from colleagues of Smith, including Anne Fritz and Barbara Newman (AT&T colleagues), Mark Conrad and Marcia Flicker (Gabelli School of Business and Fordham University colleagues), and Everette Dennis (Fordham University colleague and co-author). A special video message from Chancellor Patrick Gallagher closed the evening's remarks.



MAJORS

12 Majors Established



- Biochemistry
- Chemistry
- Data Analytics
- Education (Early Childhood & Secondary)
- Healthcare Management
- Health Science (pending)
- Information Science
- Nursing
- Public Policy
- Spanish
- Spanish Education

MINORS

9 Minors Established

- Applied Research
- Behavioral Analysis
- Biology
- Clinical and Counseling Psychology
- Criminal Justice
- Film Studies
- Healthcare Management
- Legal Psychology
- Spanish



NURSING

The FIRST ACCREDITED BSN Program in Westmoreland County



- Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- Part of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
- One of the top Nursing Programs in the United States
- Graduates qualify to take the National Licensure Examination (NCLEX)
- Redstone Highlands' four-year nursing or healthcare management scholarship to be awarded annually beginning fall 2019

CENTERS

2 Centers Established

- Center for Applied Research (CFAR)
- Center for the Digital Text



CERTIFICATES

3 Certificate Programs

- Arts Entrepreneurship
- Digital Studies
- Manufacturing Management



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

8 Programs

- Family Appreciation Dinner
- Learning Retirement Community (in progress)
- Katz Immersion MBA (KIMBA)
- Pitt-Greensburg Media Group
- President's Committee on Diversity
- Academic Council for Enrollment
- Advisory Board Update
- Balanced Scorecard



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FACULTY & STAFF

Campus Community Engagement

- Campus Beautification Circle
- Community to Advance Teaching (CAT)
- Climate Surveys
- Course releases that allow faculty to work on research or special projects
- Increased professional development opportunities, including an on-campus Professional Development Week
- Campus Update
- State of the Campus Address
- Administrative Assembly



STUDENTS

New Programs to Benefit Students

- Blue Scholars
- Full-Tuition Scholarship Program
- Green Scholars
- Greensburg Experience More (GEM)
- SALUTE Honor Society (for US Military Veterans)
- Veterans Action Committee
- 12 endowed scholarship or student resource funds established



ALUMNI

PGAA Advancements

- Legacy Diploma Presentations
- Blue & Gold Celebration becomes a campus tradition
- Men's Basketball Alumni Club (MBAC) founded
- Student Alumni Association (SAA) established
- Volunteer Excellence Award
- Young Alumni Leadership Award
- Number of alumni events increased 222%
- Alumni participation increased 290%



TECHNOLOGY

Major Campus Technology Upgrades

- Distance learning classroom for Virtual Learning Instruction (VLI) created
- Virtual Reality equipment used in classrooms
- Technology Support Manager position established in Campus Computing Center
- RK Mellon grant allows for upgrades to critical technology infrastructure
 - Wi-Fi available across campus
 - Upgraded wired speeds for faculty & staff
 - Campus data center (shared drives)
- Live-streaming of events using Boxcast
- Overall upgrades to technology infrastructure and equipment
- Transition to "Smart" Classrooms in progress
- Digital Literacy Initiative, including Millstein Library Digital Media Lab



CASSELL HALL

First Sustainable Building Constructed



- Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified
- 30% annual energy savings
- 50% water usage reduction
- State-of-the-art computer lab
- Video-conferencing classroom
- Instructional technology training classroom

CHAMBERS HALL

Facility Updates

- Ronnie Andrews Fitness Center
- Bobcat Station
- Coaches Offices
- Locker Rooms
- Training Rooms



FACILITIES

New Construction and Additions

- Bruiser Statue
- Cassell Hall
- Digital Microscopy Lab
- Marsh Psychology Lab
- Softball Field



FACILITIES

Renovations

- Active Learning Classroom
- Ferguson Theater renovations
- The Gatehouse



RECOGNITION & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- Best Bang for the Buck
- Top Public University for Scholarship Aid
- Top PA University for Low Student Debt
- Best College for Chemistry Majors in PA
- Best Criminal Justice Degree
- Best College for Criminal Justice Majors in PA
- "Hidden Gem" for Women in STEM
- College of Distinction (various categories)
- Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Ranking
- Best School Offering Applied Behavior Analysis Courses
- Money Magazine Best College
- Military Friendly School

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Westmoreland County Board Affiliation & Service



CAMPUS IDENTITY

Growth in overall visibility



- Implemented "Pitt to the Power of One" branding
- New light pole banners installed
- 3 website redesigns
- Online communications position created
- 228% growth in social media followers/interaction
- 9,000+ campus photos added to Flickr since 2015
- Placement on the Westmoreland County website
- Display ad at Arnold Palmer Airport
- Table ads at Dino's Sports Lounge
- Multiple billboard (standard/digital) campaigns
- Consistent placement in Silver or Bronze category of "Best of Westmoreland" surveys
- Decals and framed prints of campus buildings displayed on campus
- Initiative to use "Pitt-Greensburg"
- Campus-wide poster installation celebrating alumni (in progress)
- Westmoreland County Air Show Sponsor
- 50th Campus Anniversary Production of *Eleanor: An American Love Story* at The Palace Theatre

CAMPUS SUPPORT

Support of Campus Programs Grows

- First National Science Foundation grant (Science Learning Community scholarship)
- US Dept. of Education Title III Strengthening Institutions Program grant & supplemental grant
- Finished among the top three schools/colleges for two straight years during Pitt Day of Giving
- Advisory Board donor participation at 100% for 8 consecutive years
- PGAA Board donor participation at 100%
- Faculty & Staff donor participation at 51% (a 13% increase)
- Largest bequest in campus history received
- Elliott Group donates major gift for new science facility
- 15,673 gifts received
- \$11.9M raised plus 156 grants awarded during the past 12 years



2019 COMMENCEMENT

Special recognition given to Sharon P. Smith, Helen K. Burns, and A. David Tilstone



Row 1 (from left): Dr. Stacey Triplette, Dr. Jacqueline Horral, A. David Tilstone, Dr. Sharon P. Smith, Dr. Helen K. Burns, Katie Corsaro '19, and Tamas Tantos ENG '67.
Row 2: Justin Merriman '00, Dr. Jonathan Vallano, James Smith '75, Dr. Jack Smith A&S '69, MED '73, and Judge John Driscoll LAW '86



PGAA President Jim Smith '75 recognized Amanda Stein '19 as this year's graduate with the most Pitt degrees (9) in her family.



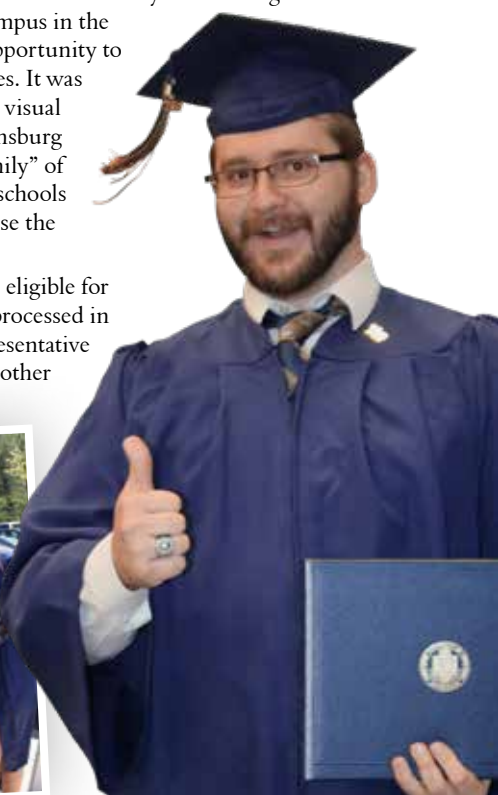
Pitt alumni who processed:

Row 1: Joyce Bucchi '09, Katie Byers '17, Huong Vo '14, Dr. Kerry Manning '85, A&S '93, Heather Metro '14, and Brian Root '04.
Row 2: Joe Ferrante '17, Dr. Chris Luccy '70, Tim Dugan '83, and Troy Ross '99. Row 3: Barb Smith '94, Jessica Friend '17, Mike Krzanowski '11, and Kim Roman Kubas '10

Not pictured: Rachael Blank SCI '97, Michelle Wagner NURS '92, Yvonne Oberle NURS '12, Michael Schmidt ENG '88, and Samantha Brawley A&S '09.



Dr. Olivia Long, associate professor of biochemistry, was the recipient of the PGAA Outstanding Faculty Award.



Commencement celebrates graduates and their success

The 31st Commencement at Pitt-Greensburg followed the same program as others in past years have, yet it was different. Different for the students and their families sitting in the gymnasium, waiting for their special moment on the stage, and different for President Sharon P. Smith, who presided over the ceremony for her 12th and final time. Each handshake—and hug—was especially cherished.

In her address to the graduates, Dr. Smith emphasized the importance of a liberal arts education, saying, “We believe that the liberal arts education you have received is the best preparation for a rapidly changing world in which knowledge is the one inexhaustible resource. We also believe that a liberal arts education gives you something very special—a way of thinking and a set of essential skills that will enable you to anticipate the opportunities and uncertainties of that rapidly changing world.” She ended her remarks with this sentiment, “This is what I wish for each and every one of you: a life of accomplishment, of commitment, of the recognition and the realization of the joy that arises from giving.”



Katie Corsaro '19

“You can do anything as long as you have the passion, the drive, the focus, and the support,” said valedictorian and class representative Katie Corsaro, quoting dancer/actress Sabrina Bryan. “When you find something motivating and worth committing to—finding your passion—you will succeed because your effort will create your ability.”



Justin Merriman '00

Alumnus and award-winning photojournalist Justin Merriman was the main speaker at this year's Commencement. Merriman '00, who began his career with the *Tribune Review*, has gone on to be selected a four-time photographer of the year by the News Photographer Association of Greater Pittsburgh and his work regularly appears in national and international publications. Merriman spoke of his experience as a student here at Pitt-

The ceremony also included recognition of the two recipients of the President's Medal for Distinguished Service.

- Senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Excela Health, Helen K. Burns, PhD, RN, FAAN, was recognized for both her expertise in the area of nursing and the guidance that she provided to Pitt-Greensburg as it developed its program for a bachelor's of science degree in nursing, the first accredited BSN program in Westmoreland County.
- A. David Tilstone is a business development officer and past president of the National Tooling & Machining Association. He has been involved in the metalworking industry for more than 35 years. Tilstone was honored for his 20 years of service to Pitt-Greensburg as a member of its Advisory Board, including 11 years as its chair.

A surprise addition to the program was the presentation of a special citation by Advisory Board Chair A. David Tilstone to Dr. Smith, recognizing her contributions to the campus.



From left: A. David Tilstone, Dr. Sharon P. Smith, Dr. Helen K. Burns



Greensburg and how two faculty members helped him to achieve his dream of being a visual storyteller. He shared snippets of his experiences as a photojournalist, noting, “Since that date and now, I've had the great privilege of being invited into people's lives and the responsibility of being entrusted by them to tell their stories with my camera. . . . My own identity has become so entwined with the people I photographed. I have lived so many lives by witnessing theirs. . . . The thing is, everyone has a story. Approach them that way. Be open to the vulnerability of sharing your own story.”

The Pitt-Greensburg Commencement also featured the Legacy Diploma Co-Presentation. Fourteen students had their diplomas co-presented to them by Smith and members of their families who also hold degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. Pitt-Greensburg is the only campus in the Pitt system to offer this opportunity to graduates and their families. It was initiated by Smith and is a visual illustration that Pitt-Greensburg graduates join a large “family” of graduates from the many schools and campuses that comprise the University of Pittsburgh.

Out of the 257 students eligible for graduation, 188 students processed in the event, along with representative faculty, staff, alumni, and other dignitaries.

Alumni volunteers make an impact



Did you know a strong alumni association helps strengthen the campus and adds value to a Pitt-Greensburg education? Alumni are welcome to participate in all events held on campus. They play a particularly important role at Admissions events and during significant activities like Move-In Day. Check the information below to find out how you can volunteer on campus.

The Pitt-Greensburg Office of Admissions will host a **Jump-Start Your Journey** event on Saturday, July 27. This fun event allows prospective students and their families to tour the campus, hear an admissions presentation, and meet the Pitt-Greensburg community. When you volunteer at Admissions events, you are able to share your experiences as a Pitt-Greensburg student, answer questions, and have fun.

Visit <http://bit.ly/AdmissionsEventVolunteer> to volunteer at these important activities or contact Julia Sefcheck at 724-826-7946 or PGAA@pitt.edu for more information.

Check the Alumni webpage (<http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni>) for information about our annual **Pitt Sendoff** that brings together alumni and incoming Pitt students. Details will be available at a later date for this event that typically occurs in August.



Move-In Day is an exciting day for incoming freshmen—don't you remember that feeling of expectancy and new beginnings? Mark your calendar for Thursday, August

22, and volunteer to be part of the campus community welcoming our newest students. Register at <http://bit.ly/MoveInDayVolunteer> and plan to spend the day with us as you greet students and their families and distribute water bottles. In addition to reliving the feelings of starting the academic year, you will receive a special t-shirt to wear while volunteering.

Watch for details in the next Blue & Gold and the Alumni E-Connections Newsletter for a schedule of our fall events. Volunteers will be needed to review submissions to the **Resume Contest**, which typically begins the review process in late October. Details are being finalized for the PGAA's next **professional development workshop** and **Painting with a Twist** activity. Be sure to mark your calendar for this year's **Merry Mingle** holiday event, set for Friday, December 6, and watch for registration details.

PGAA Snapshots



Alumni and friends of Pitt-Greensburg participated in the new **Professional Impressions: An Evening with Alumni**. Replacing Mock Interview

Night, Professional Impressions included a networking dinner and a dining etiquette presentation by Director of Dining Services Richard McMahon followed by a career Q&A with alumni. The event provided students with the opportunity to practice networking skills while learning about best practices and other practical career advice. Watch for registration details for the 2020 event.



The Student Alumni Association (SAA) held its annual **"Paws and Say Thanks"** activity this past February. This is an opportunity for students to write a postcard message to thank alumni for their continued support of Pitt-Greensburg.



Student Alumni Association (SAA) members were invited to participate in **"Dinner with a Bobcat."** Laura Wagner Aftosmis '91 and husband Charles Aftosmis '92 hosted dinner for the five participating students at the Stone House Restaurant and Country Inn. The group spent the day at Nemaocolin Woodlands where they enjoyed spa treatments and a walk around the grounds. It was a nice respite before finals. Many thanks to Laura and Charles who have been hosting this event since its inception in 2016.



Alumni participated in the Disney-themed **Relay for Life** held on campus on Saturday, March 30. Captained by board member Huong Vo '14, the team raised more than \$1,200. The alumni team placed

third on the campus leaderboard for monies raised. PGAA team members included Kate Andrews '18, April Morris '14, Scott Szyplulski '14, Anthony Payne '14, Brandon Turley '13, Heather Metro '14, Katie Byers '17, Brittany Frund '14, Dylan Frund '14 Quoc Vo '18, and guest Mike Kimmel. Alumni Brandon Adams '18 and Michael Spadafore '18 emceed the event. Thanks to the alumni and friends of Pitt-Greensburg who supported the team.

PGAA Alumni Spotlight

Mary Clymer ('02) and daughter Kate ('05) Sharing a Love for Career Education

Mary '02 and daughter Kate Clymer '05 both graduated from Pitt-Greensburg with degrees in humanities. Sharing a love of career education, they are working together to keep talent in Westmoreland County as the owner and operations manager, respectively, of TRC Staffing Services.

Mary and her family had the benefit of moving coast to coast with a top Pittsburgh company. She took classes in every city, as it was a great way to learn about the area, appreciate its history, and make new friends. Mary and her family returned to Southwestern PA to spend more time with her aging parents.

Upon her return to the area, Mary learned of a local staffing service in Greensburg that was growing and seeking new energy. When she arrived at the interview, the owner was juggling multiple calls, as the office manager was on vacation. Mary offered to answer several calls and was hired. New to staffing but aware of this vital service to local graduates, newcomers to the area, and career candidates, Mary fell in love with the business. After several years as the Operations manager, Mary made an offer and bought TRC Staffing Services. Kate, Mary's youngest child, spent her teens and early twenties working at the agency and learning the business.

Mary enrolled at Pitt-Greensburg to focus on completing her Humanities degree. Kate graduated a year later from high school and also enrolled at Pitt-Greensburg. Kate loved being on campus with her Mom.

"My mother enjoyed learning and the associations with professors and students alike. She set a high standard, valued the experience, and appreciated the well-rounded atmosphere Pitt-Greensburg offered. It was nice to see my mom thrive in a campus that embraced a life-long learner," adds Kate about the great experience she had on campus with Mary.

Kate fondly recalls theater class with Sheila Confer, EdD, Academic Village activities, her work-study position as the



Kate Clymer (left) and Mary Clymer

assistant to the director of Conference Services, her art show capstone project, and sharing books with her mom. Their favorite shared experience was when she was scheduled to go on a trip to Ireland with Pitt-Greensburg. When a chaperone cancelled 48 hours before departure, Kate volunteered Mary as a chaperone and off they went to see Ireland and County Claire on the western coast, home of their ancestors.

After graduation, Kate moved to Pittsburgh and worked in admissions for a major education corporation. Several years later, Kate needed a bigger challenge. She moved to New York City to enjoy the multicultural life, and took a position as the front desk receptionist at St. Paul's School of Nursing in Queens. The president quickly noticed Kate, as she had a "get it done" attitude.

Kate's work ethic made her the "go-to person" for business, audits, and compliance. Within three months, she was given the opportunity to create the Career Services Department and, shortly after, was named St. Paul's School of Nursing's Career Services director.

Recruited by Lincoln Technical Institute in Queens in 2011, Kate was the youngest director of Career Services in the school's history and stayed for seven years, building a diverse team that won accolades and honors for achieving graduate placement rates of more than 80 percent year over year.

Kate brings her education, experience, and talent to TRC Staffing Services. She has a clear sense of career opportunities and growth potential. Whether a candidate is just starting out or recreating their career, Kate offers tips to assist job seekers and clients alike to create long lasting career partnerships.

From east coast to west coast to Greensburg, PA, Mary and Kate Clymer are passionate about the importance of education and employment. They bring dedication and experience to help others find the same success that they have had.

Facilitated by Julia Sefcheck '99, Alumni Engagement Officer

Pawprints

Biology instructor receives Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award



Barbara Barnhart, an instructor of biology, was the one of five faculty members to receive the 2019 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. The award, which recognizes teaching excellence, was presented by Chancellor Patrick Gallagher at the University of Pittsburgh Honors Convocation in February. In all, 13 University of Pittsburgh faculty members were honored with Chancellor's Awards for Distinguished Public Service, Research, and Teaching. The awards carry a \$2,000 prize and a \$3,000 grant to support the work of the recipients.

The Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes teaching excellence through the manner by which faculty members fulfill the University's mission to provide high quality undergraduate and graduate programs in the arts and sciences and professional fields.

Barnhart plays a vital role in the education of students majoring in the sciences at the campus, teaching foundational courses and labs. In particular, her role in developing the Science Seminar at Pitt-Greensburg was integral to the receipt of a National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) grant, as noted in her nomination materials and award citation: "The Science Seminar has been so successful at increasing retention and graduation rates of science students that it is now being adapted for use in other majors. As one of only two faculty currently advising nearly 200 biological science students, Barnhart has made an enormous contribution in the areas of course advising, registration, and student recommendations."

"Barbara Barnhart personifies Pitt to the Power of One," said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. "She brings a passion for her subject, a devotion to her students, a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, and a dedication to fostering a similar commitment among her colleagues and her students."

Three full-tuition scholarships awarded



Joyce Lin



Justin Murray



Hunter Waltermire

Joyce Lin, Justin Murray, and Hunter Waltermire will start their college careers this fall at Pitt-Greensburg with full-tuition scholarships as the winners of this year's full-tuition scholarship competition. The award will cover tuition only at Pitt-Greensburg's in-state rate for up to four years if the student meets renewal

Cobetto Lecture discusses climate change and its effects on Western Pennsylvania



The 2019 Cobetto Lecture on Contemporary Issues tackled the issue of Climate Change as it affects Western Pennsylvania. A panel of experts contributed to the discussion, including Richard Alley, PhD, Evan Pugh University Professor of Geosciences at Penn State; Inês M.L. Azevedo, professor, Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, and co-director for the Climate and Energy Decision Making Center; Grant Ervin, chief resilience officer and assistant director for the Department of City Planning for the City of Pittsburgh; and Barry Kukovich, director of Community Relations for the Peoples Gas Company in Pittsburgh. Serving as moderator for the event was V. Kerry Smith, *emeritus* Regents Professor and *emeritus* University Professor of economics, who is a Distinguished Sustainability Scientist in GIOS at ASU.



St. Clair Lecture: Historian Susan Sommers

Dr. Susan Sommers presented "Arthur St. Clair: Myth and History" to a packed Ferguson Theater for the 2019 St. Clair Lecture. Sommers, a professor of history at St. Vincent College, has built a body of scholarly work exploring freemasonry and politics in 18th century England and America. Her research has led her to

compare the materials published in the 18th century and 19th century about Arthur St. Clair to her archival findings—resulting in an interesting comparison of "myth and history."

criteria of maintaining a 3.5 GPA each academic year. This prestigious scholarship has a value of more than \$50,000 over four years.

Lin, from Belle Vernon, PA, plans to study political science. Fluent in Chinese, English, and Spanish, she is active in multiple school organizations, is a member of her high school golf team, and is an active community volunteer. Murray, from Leesburg, VA, will study information technology. He is described as intelligent, confident, pragmatic, reliable, and motivated. His prowess in programming is illustrated by his fascination with the Texas Instruments calculator and how he develops programs specifically for it. Waltermire, from Marian Center, PA, plans to enter Pitt-Greensburg's pre-med program. This past February, he helped plan and participated in a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic where he served as a medical scribe for the physicians and executed triage and other minor medical procedures.

Pawprints *continued*



Leading voice in criminal justice visits campus

Shaka Senghor, a leading voice in criminal justice reform, visited Pitt-Greensburg in January as part of the campus's initiative to further prepare students to discuss controversial issues, especially in settings that include individuals with opposing points of view. Senghor, a best-selling author and award recipient for his work in elevating consciousness about the need for prison reform and addressing the prison-industrial complex, is president and co-founder of #BeyondPrisons, an initiative designed to uplift the voices and experiences of those impacted by the criminal justice system. His visit was supported in part by the Title III SIP supplemental grant award.

Pitt-Greensburg works to help students learn to practice respectful and civil discourse around topics of disagreement while exposing students to important issues and topics about diversity and inclusion. The expanded program offerings complement current Academic Village programming and the Campus Alliance for Free Thought weekly discussions by providing more instances of diversity across a greater variety of topics. Ultimately, the goal is to provide a "safe space" for students to learn and talk about new and different ideas to help them learn and practice civil discourse, even with those with whom they disagree, and help them to understand that disagreement can be constructive.

One-woman show brings diverse viewpoints to campus

Award-winning actress, producer, emcee, TV host, and philanthropist Qurrat Ann Kadwani brought her one-woman show, "They Call Me Q," to Pitt-Greensburg in January. Funded in part through a grant from the Year of Pitt Global program, "They Call Me Q" is the story of a girl from Bombay growing up in the Boogie Down Bronx who gracefully seeks balance between cultural pressure and wanting acceptance into the American culture. Along her journey, she transforms into 13 characters who have shaped her life. Caucasian teachers, Puerto Rican classmates, as well as Indian and African-American friends were portrayed in her humorous, heartfelt performance.



William Jones discusses Afrofuturism

Pitt-Greensburg students explored the subject of Afrofuturism with William Jones, founder and president of the Afrofuturism Network, who discussed the representation of black people in various mediums—comic books and sci-fi/supernatural films—and their history. He also tackled the topic of blackface and correlations between real history and the representations of black people in comics at various points in time. Playing a part in the discussion was the popular 2018 movie, "Black Panther." Pitt-Greensburg students had the opportunity to apply what they learned during the discussion when the movie was screened on campus the following night.



Tackling food waste and food insecurity

A discussion of the problems of food waste and food insecurity was led by Deborah Thackrah, of Feeding the Spirit, and staff members from the University of Pittsburgh's David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership, including Dr. Audrey Murrell, director, Ray Jones, associate director, and Jennifer Petrie, assistant director. A screening of *Rescuing Abundance* accompanied the discussion. A social documentary, the film shows how the collective effort of businesses, nonprofits, government, higher education, suppliers, and food growers created a blueprint to eliminate food waste and help people suffering from food insecurity. The documentary, filmed in Pittsburgh, is designed to raise awareness and generate action. Food waste is a growing problem across the United States, with 31 percent of perfectly good food being disposed of every day—while millions of people suffer from food insecurity. This event was presented by the Pitt-Greensburg Office of Student Services and the University of Pittsburgh's David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership.



Retired Marine Colonel discusses history of women in the USMC

Pitt-Greensburg welcomed Colonel Nancy P. Anderson, USMC, retired, as part of the campus's women's history month activities. Anderson showcased her book *The Very Few, The Proud Women in the Marine Corps, 1977-2001* (History Division, US Marine Corps, 2018)

where she examined both the expanding opportunities for women in the Marine Corps and the fading cultural gender distinctions in the last quarter of the 20th century. The generation of women described in this history proved themselves in every clime and place, including in command and in combat. Women choose to be Marines for the same reasons as men: duty to country, opportunity, adventure, escaping hardship, or to grow as a person.

Free credit workshop helps students and public understand credit

Sharon Turchick, CPA, and assistant professor of Management-Accounting, presented a free Credit Workshop for the campus and community as part of Pitt-Greensburg's commitment to helping students improve their financial literacy. The program was funded by a supplemental award to Pitt-Greensburg's Title III Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) grant from the US Department of Education. Turchick showed participants how credit, its use and misuse, can affect their lives and covered information on the cost of credit (calculations made easy with apps and online calculators), establishing and improving credit, credit scores, and credit reports.



Professionalization of College Sports discussed

Mark Conrad, an associate professor of law and ethics at Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business, led students in a discussion of the professionalization of college sports. His presentation touched on the concept of "amateurism;" the reasons why the system is anti-competitive for the "money" sports; the leading court cases and last month's ruling in the Jenkins case; US vs Gatto prosecutions and the criminalization of the NCAA rules; as well as proposed solutions: paying players, unionization, endorsements and image rights, establishing "power" conference autonomy, and the viability of minor league football and basketball as an alternative.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month observed

"Don't let this moment dictate the next moment" is the primary message of inspirational speaker Brian Cardoza. A sexual assault survivor, author, artist, and founder of The Broken Knee Club and Survivor Knights, Cardoza spoke at Pitt-Greensburg in April as part of the campus observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). His visit was part of an ongoing educational effort to create a culture of awareness that helps the community to understand the concept of consent as well as how to obtain help—when needed. The theme of this year's SAAM was "I Ask," which focuses on consent. Cardoza shared his journey of being sexually and physically abused from the time he was six until he left home at 15, a journey that took him through jail to the present day where he delivers messages of responsibility and hope as he diligently works to raise awareness and money to fight against childhood sexual assault and physical abuse. His presentation was followed by a student-organized performance of "The Monologues."



Education majors busy with spring events



Regional education majors and high school students interested in careers in education participated in this year's Teachers Leadership Institute Conference, held at Pitt-Greensburg for the second-consecutive year. The theme, "Tricks of the Trade," allowed pre-service teachers to learn from experienced educators, including a panel of new teachers who shared tips and advice based on their experiences. Keynote speakers included Daniel Clara, principal at the Southmoreland School District Primary Center; Sherdina Harper, cross cultural and leadership development programming coordinator for the University of Pittsburgh; Christopher Clayton, NBCT, PhD, director of Education Services for the PA State Education Association; and Bridget Spackman, YouTuber and blogger at "The Lettered Classroom." The event was funded by a grant from Student Pennsylvania State Education Association.

Early childhood education majors celebrated Read Across America Day with a visit to Maxwell Elementary School (Hempfield Area School District). In addition to celebrating reading and Dr. Seuss, the Pitt-Greensburg students, in partnership with WQED, encouraged the 67 second graders to write and participate in the annual PBS KIDS Write Contest. Working at stations throughout the room, 25 Pitt-Greensburg students led the second graders through activities that focused on the steps in developing the draft of a story.

to be utilized and implemented into numerous courses across the Communication program and Pitt Greensburg's interdisciplinary Center for Digital Text. The studio format enables the production of high quality media content easily and without significant media production experience.

Dr. Jeanne Burth, assistant professor of education, was awarded a grant from the Pitt Office of the Provost to develop Open Education Resources (OER) for her Strategies and Techniques of Instruction course. OER is defined as high-quality curricular materials—textbooks, lab notebooks, videos—that are free to students at Pitt and other institutions and allow legal permission for open use and adaptation. Open use means that anyone is free to retain, reuse, revise, remix, and redistribute these educational materials as long as attribution is made to the original creator/author.

Dr. Kayla Heffernan, assistant professor of mathematics, was awarded a Personalized Education Grant from the Pitt Office of the Provost to implement a Humanities First Year Learning Community and a Social Sciences First Year Learning Community.

Faculty Retirements



J. Wesley Jamison, PhD, associate professor of information science and former vice president for Academic Affairs, retired as of April 2019. The first full-time faculty member for the Information Science program at Pitt-Greensburg, he oversaw the growth of the program, which now enrolls 80 students. Jamison served as Division Chair for Behavioral Sciences (1998-2001), assistant vice president for Academic Affairs (2001-2006), vice president for Academic Affairs (2006-2016) and Principal Investigator (PI) for Pitt-Greensburg's Title III Strengthening Institutions Program grant (2016-2019). Jamison was the recipient of the President's Medal for Distinguished Service in 2017 in recognition of his leadership in the development of new majors and certificate programs



The 2015 recipient of the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association Outstanding Faculty Award, **Pamela Ondeck, MBA**, combined 15 years of corporate accounting experience and three decades of classroom expertise to create a learning environment that developed her students' ability to think in an independent and logical manner. She taught a broad range of accounting courses as well as developing three courses and the senior capstone for the major. The advisor to the Accounting Business Network and the campus student chapter of the Pennsylvania Institute for Certified Public Accountants, Ondeck initiated the Real World Business Insights Conference for business students and sponsored the accounting mock interviews to provide career development opportunities for her students. She retired in April 2019.

The following grants have been awarded from outside sources:

The Eberly Foundation, McFeely-Rogers Foundation, Greater Latrobe Partners in Education Foundation, Grable Foundation, and McCutcheon Enterprises are once again supporting the Summer Science Math Experience during the week of June 23 – 28, 2019. More than of 40 participants are expected this year.

Three Pitt-Greensburg students were awarded Women in Global Leadership scholarships through the Vira I. Heinz Endowment. This endowment enables exceptional, diverse, yet financially needy, undergraduate women to improve their leadership and cultural sensitivity skills as part of their international experience studying global issues.

Pamela Freger, director of the Health Center, and the Office of Student Services have been awarded a grant to support expanded activities to prevent and reduce underage and dangerous drinking among our students (e.g., Campus Alcohol Awareness week in the fall and activities surrounding the National Alcohol Awareness month and Alcohol Screening day in April of 2020).

Staff Retirements

Kathleen "Kathy" Fennell, manager of the Campus Bookstore, was the recipient of the 2018 President's Distinguished Service Award for Staff. Fennell combined humor and stellar customer service to all that she did for students, faculty, and staff. She joined the Pitt-Greensburg campus community in 2013 and introduced a series of changes that included repositioning the "bookstore" as the "campus store" and offered a broader range of products. She used student focus groups to fine-tune changes, enhanced and developed the Campus Store's online presence, and provided the means to locally procure Pitt-Greensburg themed floral bouquets for Commencement. Fennell is well-known to many of our friends at Pitt, too, where she served as General Merchandise Manager at the University Store (formerly The Book Center) for 14 years. Fennell retired in May 2019.



Mark Greenawalt, a maintenance worker II with the Pitt-Greensburg Facilities Department, retired in February 2019, after completing 15 years of service to the campus. He was assigned to the residence halls at the Greensburg campus and performed all building maintenance needed throughout the year.

After 24 years with the Pitt-Greensburg Facilities Department, **Lenny Jones** will retire in June 2019. Jones, a maintenance worker II, specialized in painting and building repairs in all campus buildings.



Cindy Crosby, student accounts administrator for Business Services, also retired May 2019.

Grant Update

Dr. Jessica Ghilani, associate professor of communication, was recently awarded an Innovation in Education Award. In support of the Plan for Pitt, in particular the strategic goal to advance educational excellence, this annual instructional grants program is overseen by the Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence. It was created to assist any faculty member who is seeking funding for the development of enhanced and innovative teaching techniques and materials that will strengthen the teaching mission of the University.

Ghilani is developing an innovative, timely, and engaging course that fosters a productive learning environment with educational objectives that include increased digital literacy and media literacy, historical understanding of the context for news and journalism today, and hands-on, experiential assignments that teach students to dissect and produce digital content. From these objectives, students will improve critical thinking abilities and practical, transferable skills while learning about the genesis of real and #fakenews and the circulation of public information in the United States, over time. Technological and educational equipment that the grant will support (namely, a mobile recording studio) will be able

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Spring Sports

Baseball falls in first round of AMCC Championship



Andy Prentice



Ben Green



Brody Bonadio



Chris Common



Tyler Holland

In the first round of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) Baseball Tournament, sixth-seed Pitt-Greensburg (14-21 overall; 10-8 AMCC) dropped a double-header, 4-3 and 8-7, to third-seed Penn State-Altoona.

Seniors Chris Common and Tyler Holland finished their baseball careers ranked first (30) and second (24), respectively, in school history for career home runs. For the season, Common posted a team-high seven home runs, 37 RBI, and 72 total bases.

Sophomore Dylan DeRoss led the team with a .389 batting average and a perfect 8-8 in stolen bases. Freshman Brody Bonadio, second on the team with 42 hits, led the team in stolen bases (12 of 13), and helped to turn 15 double plays. On the mound, sophomore Andy Prentice led the team with a 4-2 record in 11 appearances, posting a 3.25 ERA in 44.1 innings pitched. Prentice also posted a complete one-hitter game against Pitt-Bradford, giving the Bobcats a 1-0 victory.

Three players earned All-Conference honors: Common (First Team – Outfield); Ben Green (Second Team – Outfield); and Mikey Sullivan (Second Team – Relief Pitcher). Head Coach Scott Adams coaches the Bobcats.



Dylan DeRoss



Mikey Sullivan



Vaughn Hunkele



Turner Price



Tayjah White

Men's Tennis

Freshman Turner Price capped his first season by being voted the 2019 AMCC Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year. He is the first Pitt-Greensburg student-athlete to earn both awards. Price and first doubles partner Vaughn Hunkele were named to the All-AMCC Second Team. The team, which is coached by Doug Smeltzer '17, ended the season 3-11 overall and 1-5 in the conference.

Softball

Sophomore Tayjah White earned All-AMCC third team honors for her performance this year. She started all 36 games for the Bobcats and posted a .313 batting average with 21 runs, two home runs, and 15 RBI. She led the team in walks (17) and was tied for fourth in the conference for that category.

The team, under the direction of Head Coach Chuck Myers, finished 9-27 overall and 5-11 in the conference.



Class Notes



Share your news! Update your information and tell us what is happening. Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/update-my-information to tell us your news.

Between issues of *Blue & Gold*, stay up to date with your classmates by visiting the Class Notes section of our website at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/class-notes.

Robert Miller A&S '74, LAW '82 announced he has retired after serving 36 years as an attorney for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Susanne (Miller) Diemert '85 writes that she established a small private practice, Shining Star Therapy LLC, for outpatient mental health as a social worker/therapist.

In April 2018, **Richard Parfitt '96** became the Director of Safety and Security for the School District of Lee County, Florida.

Jennifer (Keenan) Doerrman '05 and her husband, Todd, were married September 19, 2018. She wrote in her submission: "The happiest and BEST day of our lives!"



Chad Eric Smith '08 had his short sci-fi drama *Rumination* screened at the annual Pittsburgh Independent Film Festival in June 2018. The multi-award-winning film was also screened at Pitt-Greensburg in November 2018 along with several other short horror films produced and directed by Pitt-Greensburg alumni and professors.



Lauren (Ameris) Lanzino '10 is currently employed as an assistant professor in La Roche College's Department of Health Science. She is a licensed chiropractor who earned her Doctorate of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic in 2013. She married Gino Lanzino in May 2017.



Sarah (Fitzpatrick) Menzler '10 announced the birth of Connor James Menzler on February 12, 2018. He weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz, and was 29.5 inches long. Connor was welcomed by his mom, dad and big sister, Teagan, age three.



Emily Bilik '13 wrote that she is the District Recruiting Specialist for the Dillons Division of Kroger in Kansas. Bilik also shared that her daughter, Lillian, was born June 6, 2017.



Scott Szypulski '14 climbed to the top of Half Dome in Yosemite Park with his father in September 2018. He just happened to take along his Pitt Magazine for a photo op!



Kevin Scrima '15 graduated with a Master's of Science degree in Information Technology from the Florida Institute of Technology in July 2018.



From the Archives:

Chambers Hall, originally known as the Student Center, was built in 1989. In 1997, a dedication ceremony was held, and the building was named in honor of then recently retired president Dr. George F. Chambers. Landscaping and other features were added to the area around the building (bottom photo), creating an inviting open space for campus events. Share your memories of Chambers Hall at <https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/share-your-pitt-greensburg-memory>.





Sharon P. Smith (right) and new alumna Huldah Kena '19

An opportunity to honor Sharon P. Smith

The Sharon P. Smith Endowed Student Resource Fund is a timeless way to honor President Smith for all that she has given to the students, faculty, staff, and community during her 12 years at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

Given annually, this award will provide students with the means to continue their education at Pitt-Greensburg and their service to Westmoreland County. The ultimate designation of the endowment will be made by President Smith.

Gifts, celebrating President Smith, may be made online at: <https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/smith-endowment>.

Upcoming Events

July 27

- **Admissions Jump Start Your Journey:** Prospective students and their families are invited to enjoy an Admissions presentation, campus tour, and a picnic with the Pitt-Greensburg community. Register: 724-836-9880

August 21

- **Westmoreland County Chamber Bash:** Pitt-Greensburg will host this informal event and introduce new campus president Robert Gregerson, PhD, to our business community. Register: <http://bit.ly/8-19ChamberBash>.

August 22

- **Move-In Day:** Pitt-Greensburg Alumni are invited to volunteer at this event that welcomes new first-year students and their families to the campus.
- **First-Year Student Convocation** (Chambers Gymnasium)

August 26

- **Fall Term** begins

August 28

- **Annual White Coat Ceremony** (Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center): Nursing students entering their second year will receive their white lab coats at 6 p.m.

September 2

- **Labor Day:** Campus closed in observance

September 27

- **Blue & Gold Celebration – Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing** (Westmoreland Country Club): Benefits the Technology for the Future Fund, Athletics, and the PGAA. Sponsorship and registration information: <http://bit.ly/PittGbg-GolfOuting>.

September 27 - October 10

- **Blue & Gold Celebration – Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg** (Millstein Library): The show is open for viewing during regular library business hours.

September 28

- **Junior Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRE) Walk** at Pitt-Greensburg

October 2

- **Blue & Gold Celebration – NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Game** (Chambers Gymnasium) at 7 p.m.

October 2

- **Blue & Gold Celebration – American Red Cross Blood Drive** (Smith Hall Lounge)

October 4

- **Blue & Gold Celebration – Bonfire** (Chambers Hall Lawn)

October 5

Blue & Gold Celebration (all on campus)

- **Hospitality Welcome Tent** (register for prize drawings)
- **The Pancake Man**
- **Blue & Gold Festival**
- **Welcome Back Alumni Picnic with Photo Booth**
- **Alumni Reunions** for participants in **Habitat for Humanity**, **men's soccer**, and the **Academic Village**, or those who were **biology majors**
- **Pitt-Greensburg Car Cruise**
- **NCAA Div. III Men's Soccer Game** (Ridilla Field) at 2 p.m.
- **NCAA Div. III Women's Soccer Game** (Ridilla Field) at 4 p.m.
- **Blue & Gold Mini-Golf Course**
- **Art Show at Pitt-Greensburg**
- **Stained-Glass Tour**
- **Alumni Celebration Dinner**
- **Casino Night**
- **Homecoming Dance**

October 10

- **Blue & Gold Celebration – Pitt-Greensburg Founders Day**

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Your **PARTICIPATION** in Pitt-Greensburg's Pitt Day of Giving Campaign **RAISED MORE THAN \$43,000** for important campus initiatives!

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- This is the **second consecutive year that Pitt-Greensburg placed among the top three** in the School & College Donor Participation Leaderboard.
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- **YOU won the POWER HOUR** (noon to 1 p.m. on 2/28), giving **Pitt-Greensburg a \$1,000 bonus**.
- **372 gifts totaling more than \$26,455** were made during the campaign!
- Pitt-Greensburg **increased its participation by 203.85%**.
- The \$11,000 in bonus funds secured will be applied to the Technology for the Future Fund, where **they will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the SIP grant—resulting in a total of \$22,000 in new funding** generated for the campus! Money raised through the Technology for the Future Fund is designated for an endowment that will help Pitt-Greensburg to maintain and improve the technology used in classrooms, labs, and offices.
- **President's Challenge:** **YOU** met and conquered it! **More than 200 donors participated** in the campaign, so **President Sharon P. Smith made a gift of \$1,000 to the campus**.
- **Bruiser's Challenge:** **STUDENTS**—you met and conquered it! **More than 50 students made gifts** during the campaign. They had their names entered into a drawing for a special gift that Bruiser hand delivered.



<p>It's a \$1 to \$1 match!</p>	<p>To date, the US Department of Education has matched \$115,625 for a total of \$246,766 raised for our endowment!</p>	<p>TECHNOLOGY for the FUTURE CHALLENGE</p> <p>Thank you to the donors who have contributed to our Challenge.</p> <p>Can we count on you to help us raise \$17,859 by September 30 to reach our goal of \$150,000?</p>	<p>The Power of One Donor</p> <p>The Power of One says that YOU can make a difference, YOUR voice, YOUR participation, YOUR donation matters.</p>
<p>Every gift counts. Every gift is multiplied. To make your gift, visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/tech-challenge.</p>		<p>Every gift counts. Every gift is multiplied. To make your gift, visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/tech-challenge.</p>	



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Our popular activities return, along with new ones, on October 5.

