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Blue & Gold

Magazine ♦ Summer 2016



New this year!

**UV Splash:
Pitt-Greensburg
5K Night Color Run**

**Friday, Sept. 30
8 p.m. on campus**

Blue & Gold Weekend
H O M E C O M I N G 2 0 1 6
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH GREENSBURG

September 30, October 1, & October 2

NEW

- ♦ Blue & Gold Mini-Golf
- ♦ Pitt Football Game Watch
- ♦ Campus Horse-Drawn Wagonette Rides ♦ Art Show

Plus these favorites:

- ♦ Golf Outing ♦ Car Cruise ♦ Casino Night
- ♦ Welcome Back Alumni Picnic ♦ Pancake Man
- ♦ Accounting Alumni Reunion ♦ Blue & Gold Festival
- ♦ Alumni Celebration Dinner ♦ Alumni Softball Game
- ♦ Alumni Baseball Game ♦ and more!

greensburg.pitt.edu/BlueAndGoldWeekend



**Pitt Day in Harrisburg
Making a Difference at the state level**

PittGreensburg CAMPUS STORE

YOUR 1ST **Pitt** STOP



Proudly Shop Local for All of Your Hail to PITT Necessities

- T-Shirts, Sweats, Polos, Jackets
- Diploma Frames, Class Rings
- Car Accessories
- Coffee Mugs and Water Bottles
- PITT and Special Occasion Balloons
- Blue & Gold Custom Gift Baskets
- School Supplies
- Headphones and Phone Chargers
- Economical Textbook Options

H2PG

Please visit the store in person or online
greensburgcampusstore.com

Our thanks to Pitt-Greensburg students Kate Andrews, Emily Frye, and Quoc Vo who are modeling our PITT gear!

Pitt-Greensburg Campus Store is owned and operated by the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

Store Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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PittGreensburg MAKING AN IMPACT



Approximately 30 Pitt-Greensburg students, alumni, faculty, and staff represented the campus at Pitt Day in Harrisburg on March 22. For nearly nine months, the Pennsylvania state budget remained stalled while the Governor and legislators negotiated.

Two days after the Capitol was swarmed by the Blue & Gold Pitt contingency, representing all of the Pitt-system campuses, Governor Tom Wolf announced that he would allow the Republican-crafted appropriations bill to become law without his signature, releasing \$6 billion in state funding for schools statewide.



Bryan Edwards '16, as president of the Southwestern Region of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA), organized approximately 175 volunteers and raised more than \$25,000 for the first-ever local Outreach to Teach event. College students from six campuses and members of the community spent a Saturday painting, refreshing, and landscaping the McKee Elementary/Middle School in Jeannette—all to benefit the 800 students as well as teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals who attend and work there. Members of Pitt-Greensburg's SPSEA, Habitat for Humanity Chapter, and Circle K supported Edwards in this effort.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Engage Pitt fund drive that supported the campus' Habitat for Humanity Alternative Spring Break trip to Birmingham, AL. The group raised nearly \$3,500 through online donations. Twenty-five members of the campus community made the trip, where they spent 40 hours working on two homes for two single moms. In April, the campus chapter hosted a spaghetti dinner that raised \$705 for the Central Westmoreland Habitat for Humanity. The chapter received the 2016 Bobcat Pride Award in recognition of their service this academic year.

Upcoming Events



Lynch Hall

July 1:

Be sure to submit your nominations for the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association awards, including the **Alumnus of Distinction, Volunteer Excellence, and Young Alumni Leadership**. Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/alumuni-awards by midnight.

July 4:

The campus is closed in observance of **Independence Day**.

July 16:

Pitt-Greensburg's **Summer Block Parties** offer an admissions presentation, a tour, and a picnic with the Pitt-Greensburg community! Find out what Pitt-Greensburg has to offer and enjoy the picnic and yard games with faculty and staff! To register as a prospective student, call 724-836-9880. Alumni interested in volunteering as hosts for the event should complete the online form found here: <http://bit.ly/AdmAlumVolunteer>.

September 5:

The campus is closed in observance of **Labor Day**.

Sept. 26-Sept. 29: Blue & Gold Week

September 26:

- ◆ Open Mic Night (Village Coffeehouse)

September 27:

- ◆ M/W Soccer Games followed by Alumni Post-Game Gathering (Ridilla Field)

September 28:

- ◆ Bleed Blue & Gold Blood Drive
- ◆ Volleyball Game followed by Alumni Post-Game Gathering (Chambers Gym)

Sept. 30, Oct. 1, & Oct. 2: Blue & Gold Weekend

September 30:

- ◆ Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing at **Totteridge Golf Course**
- ◆ **UV Color Splash 5K (Night Color Run)** on campus

October 1: (All on Campus)

- ◆ Pancake Man ◆ Accounting Alumni Reunion
- ◆ Blue & Gold Festival ◆ Pitt-Greensburg Car Cruise
- ◆ Welcome Back Alumni Picnic ◆ **Mini-Golf Course**
- ◆ **Horse-Drawn Wagonette Rides** ◆ **Art Show**
- ◆ **Pitt Football Game Watch** ◆ Casino Night
- ◆ **Stained Glass Tour/Campus Tours**
- ◆ Baseball & Softball Alumni Games
- ◆ Alumni Celebration Dinner ◆ Homecoming Dance

October 2:

Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/BlueAndGoldWeekend for details on all of the events planned.

October 13:

Robert E. Eberly, Jr., author of *Bouquets from the Cannon's Mouth*, will present the **2016 St. Clair Lecture** at 7:30 p.m. in Ferguson Theater. A Fayette County native, Eberly is a Civil War re-enactor and living historian with the 101st Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers.

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Message from the President

Great things continue to happen at Pitt-Greensburg, as you will see when you read through this issue of the *Blue & Gold*.

Pitt-Greensburg has made a commitment to expand our experiential learning opportunities, and this issue details just a few of our students' experiences as Green Scholars, research assistants for the Center For Applied Research (CFAR), and through the Academic Village.

Over the years, many of our students have taken advantage of our internship and community service opportunities—and that continues to be true for our current students. This past year, Pitt-Greensburg collaborated with more than 85 businesses, universities, and community organizations to offer more than 100 programs and raise more than \$366,000 with or for community groups. Nearly 300 members of the campus community participated in 91 projects during the spring and fall Into the Streets activities.

A new program, Greensburg Experience More (GEM), is designed to challenge students and help them to grow personally and professionally. The skills developed are broadly applicable to work and academic situations as well as being marketable to future employers. This spring, seven students were recognized as completing the requirements for GEM, which include leadership and career development, service, cultural awareness and appreciation, and Pitt-Greensburg pride and traditions. We look forward to congratulating more students as they complete this journey that augments their classroom experiences.

What are the results of these experiences?

We see our students growing in confidence as they take on new and bigger projects. Some are going out into the community, both near and far, and organizing activities that benefit others. Plus, we hear from employers that Pitt-Greensburg graduates have become their hires of choice because of the alumni's strong work ethic and ability to see what needs to be done—and their willingness to do the work.

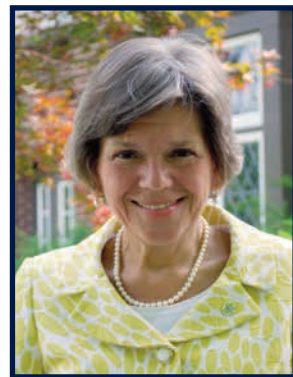
On a more somber note, we mourn the loss of several *emeritus* Advisory Board members, a member of our administrative staff, and a former faculty member. I encourage you to read their memorials at the back of the magazine that showcase their service to Pitt-Greensburg and the community.

On a brighter note, we celebrate with our three retirees, Dr. J. Wesley Jamison, Judith Vollmer, and Linda Smith, as they begin new chapters of their lives. I thank them for their service and contributions to our campus community.

Finally, I encourage you to mark your calendar for Blue & Gold Weekend: Homecoming 2016, which will occur September 30 through October 2. In addition to our usual line-up of events, we have added a UV Color Splash 5K (Night Color Run), a mini-golf course, horse-drawn wagonette rides, an art show, and campus tours. Join us at the Welcome Back receptions and the Alumni Celebration dinner, too.

Hail to Pitt,

Sharon P. Smith, PhD
President



University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

*Blue & Gold is published by the Office of
University Relations and Institutional Advancement.*

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

Class Notes



Frank Spoto, Jr.

Frank Spoto, Jr., '99 wrote that he recently joined The Baltimore Life Companies and will be working with individuals and small businesses in foundational planning.

Megan (Byers) Hinch '03 wrote, "In April 2016, we welcomed our second daughter, Audrey. Her big sister, Lillian (age three), is enjoying all of the fun that comes with a newborn!"

Kimberly Clapper '04 joined the Greater Maryland Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association as the Development Manager for Western Maryland.

Ashley (Scolese) Marn '05 announced the birth of her first baby, Lorelai Melanie, in July 2015.



Mason Joseph Paull

Megan (Walsh) Paull '07 and her husband, Brian, welcomed their first baby, Mason Joseph Paull, on April 6, 2016. He weighed seven pounds, four ounces and was 20.8 inches long.



Audrey and Lillian Hinch



Lorelai Melanie Marn

James Valentovich, Jr., '09 and his wife, **Allyson (Ulicne) Valentovich '11**, announce the birth of their daughter, Brianna Rose. She was born September 27, 2015, and weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Laura (Sisko) Galmoff '10 wrote that her daughter, Adalyn Anne Galmoff was born July 28, 2013.

Megha Pai '13 works as a business consultant at the Duquesne University Small Business Development Center. She is studying at Duquesne University's John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business and expects to graduate with an MBA in 2017. She writes, "I also was published in the *Route 30 Anthology* (Littleburg Press, 2016), along with other talented alumni writers who are proud to call Pitt-Greensburg a second home."

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

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

We Remember

continued from page 18

Carl A. Rossman, Jr. (1948-2016) - continued

As noted, Rossman led the campus's safety initiative, introducing regular training in standard emergency operations procedures, developing the capabilities to host a well-equipped Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and bringing local emergency responders to campus so that they are familiar with its layout and its buildings.

This past January, the Rotary Club of Greensburg named Rossman its Rotarian of the Year in recognition of his 15 years of service to the organization. He served as a member of the club's board of directors, as its president, and was a Paul Harris Fellow. He also chaired the Rotary Youth Leadership Award in District 7330 for many years.

Rossman was a Command Pilot with more the 5,000 pilot hours flying B-52s and T-38s. He held a variety of positions during his U.S. Air Force career that included serving as Associate Dean of Faculty Development, AFSC; Chief of the Safety Division with the 8th Air Force Division Headquarters, and Head of the North Atlantic Section of the United States Atlantic Command.

He earned a BS from the Citadel and an MS in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. His professional military education included Squadron Officers School, Armed Forces Staff College, Air War College, and National Security Management. (Please visit <http://bit.ly/Rossman> for a detailed biography).

Joanne J. Viano '65 -- assistant professor of French and full-time faculty member for 43 years died July 2, 2014, at the age of 73. Viano retired in 2008 and was the recipient of the 2000 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award and Pitt-Greensburg's 1996 Distinguished Teaching Award.

We Remember

continued from page 17

John "Jack" A. Robertshaw Jr. (1926-2015)

Pitt-Greensburg Emeritus Advisory Board Member; Robertshaw Hall named for him

John "Jack" A. Robertshaw Jr., 89, of Greensburg, died September 12, 2015, at his Ligonier home. The son of the late John A. and Emma Ryan Robertshaw, he was born July 28, 1926, in Greensburg. Robertshaw graduated from the Lawrenceville School and Yale University. He also served in the Navy.

Known for his sense of humor, dancing feet, and his generosity, Robertshaw's philanthropy will continue to impact the region for years to come. An emeritus member and past chairman of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg Advisory Board, Robertshaw served on the boards or committees for the Westmoreland County Community College Foundation, the Westmoreland Trust, Excelsa Health, the Westmoreland Museum of American Art, and the Catholic Diocese of Greensburg. He is the namesake for Pitt-Greensburg's Robertshaw Hall.

A lifelong advocate for Greensburg and the region, Robertshaw left Robertshaw Control Co. as vice president of International Sales and partnered with the late John D. Reese to buy Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company in Kecksburg. The business grew into Laurel Group Limited, of which Jack was the chairman. At the same time, he was the chairman of the Board of Laurel Vending Inc.

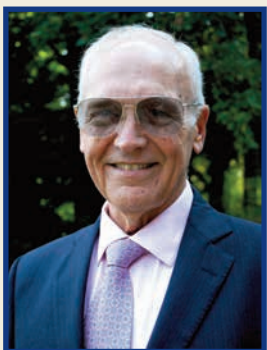
In addition to his parents, Robertshaw was preceded in death by his sister, Emma Hope. He is survived by his wife, Anne Boulin Robertshaw, with whom he would have celebrated their 65th anniversary this year. He is survived by two brothers, William Robertshaw, of Arizona, and Frederick O. Robertshaw and his wife, Niki, of Paradise Valley, AZ; and a sister-in-law, Marie Claude Solvay, of La Hulpe, Belgium. Jack is also survived by five children, John A. Robertshaw III, of New York City; Marc B. Robertshaw and his wife, Colleen, of Rector; Christopher F. Robertshaw, of Greensburg; Lisa Moeller and her husband, Arthur, of New Florence; and Natalie Kelley and her husband, Brendan, of Pittsburgh; and eight grandchildren.

Carl A. Rossman, Jr. (1948-2016)

Vice President for Administrative Services

"He had an uncompromising dedication to quality and made a lifelong commitment of service to the community that was only out-paced by his commitment to his family."

-- Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg



Carl A. Rossman, Jr., vice president for Administrative Services at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, died April 24 after an extended illness. Throughout that illness, he continued to fulfill his duties at Pitt-Greensburg.

"At Pitt-Greensburg, Carl set ambitious goals for the school, himself, and all who worked with him," noted Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. "He had an uncompromising dedication to quality and made a lifelong commitment of service to the community that was only out-paced by his commitment to his family."

In addition to his son, Matthew Rossman, and daughter, Mary Rossman, Rossman is survived by his daughter-in-law Penelope Rossman, and granddaughter, Lyla Rossman. He was predeceased by his wife, Joyce T. Rossman, to whom he was married for 45 years.

Rossman began working at Pitt-Greensburg in May 1999 when he was hired by Frank A. Cassell, PhD, then president of the campus. He continued in that role when Smith was named the fourth campus president in 2007. Rossman's duties included overseeing Business Services, Computing Services and Telecommunications, Conferencing, Facilities Management, Media and Instructional Technology Services, as well as Safety and Security.

His work is most visible in the buildings constructed after 1999, including the Margaret Mead House in the Academic Village (2001), the lighted fountain and new entranceway (2000), the Lyceum (2001), the expansion of Chambers Hall and Wagner Dining Hall (2004), Westmoreland Hall (2005), Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center (2007), the renovation of the Ronnie Andrews Fitness Center (2009), the renovations at Millstein Library that added a psychology lab and patio (2010), the NCAA Division III softball field (2012), and Frank A. Cassell Hall (2012), the campus's first sustainable classroom and office building that received a gold LEED designation.

We Remember continues on page 19

The Bookshelf: New books by Pitt-Greensburg faculty

Book on child and adolescent mental illness to be published in Korean

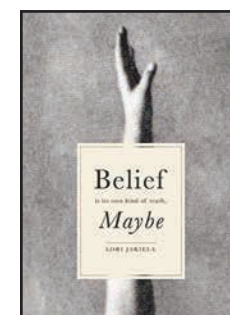


The Hana Medical Publishing Corporation published a Korean translation of *How to Talk to Families about Child and Adolescent Mental Illness* (2015). The book, authored by Melissa Marks, EdD, and Diane Marsh, PhD, was originally published in English in 2009 by W.W. Norton.

"When a young person suffers from an anxiety disorder, depression, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia, the entire family supporting that young person suffers, too," said Marks, an associate professor of Education, who collaborated with Marsh, professor emerita of Psychology, to write this book described as "a practical and accessible book for the clinician working with these families."

The book shows how child and adolescent mental illness affects the family, as well as the most common issues and concerns of these families. Grounded in current theory and research, it emphasizes professional practice with families and includes rich case material and clinical applications. Marks noted that the book is written with sensitivity and filled with practical approaches to real clinical situations.

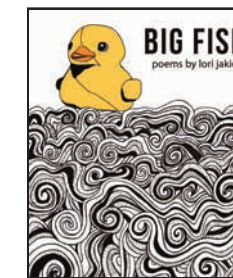
Jakiela's latest memoir receives accolades; poetry chapbook published in April



Lori Jakiela's latest memoir *Belief is its Own Kind of Maybe* (Atticus Books; 2015) was listed among the *Huffington Post's* "20 Notable Non-Fiction Books You Might've Missed this Year." Excerpts from the book were published in national and international literary magazines, and Jakiela, professor of English and Creative Writing, has been interviewed by *Hobart*, *Atticus Review*, and other publications. The book also was a finalist in the Creative Non-Fiction Category of the 2016 Firecracker Awards.

This memoir examines the story of Jakiela's adoption as a child and the subsequent search for her birth family. The resulting rough and jarring correspondence between birth mother and daughter leads the author to focus on her own life and relationships as an adult.

Big Fish, a poetry chapbook by Jakiela, was published in April 2016 by Stranded Oak Press, a new independent publisher of poems founded by Pitt-Greensburg alumni Shannon Sankey '13, Luke McDermott '15, and Michelle Boring '15. Jakiela smartly navigates the exhaustion of aging and parenthood with biting wit and sober honesty.



Kris Collins of *Pittsburgh Magazine* calls Jakiela "a rare find: a writer graceful enough to discover the comedy lingering in the saddest of stories and gimlet-eyed enough to see the sad truths buried in the core of the best jokes."

Jakiela also had poems published in *Chiron Review* and *The Pittsburgh Poetry Review*. Her essay, "Free to Good Home" and an interview appear in the anthology *Creating Nonfiction: 20 Essays & Interviews with the Writers* (ed. Jennifer Hirt and Erin Murphy, SUNY Press, 2016).

Vollmer wins poetry prize for soon-to-be published collection



Judith Vollmer, poet and professor of English, was awarded the 2016 Four Lakes Poetry Prize of the University of

Wisconsin Press for her fifth full-length book of poetry, *The Apollonia Poems*. This national competition is administered by the Creative Writing Program of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Wisconsin Press. The collection will be published in early 2017.

"This book is a trip, or many trips," noted Alicia Ostriker, poet and Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, of *The Apollonia Poems*. "Here is the creative mind at work and play—its geological layers uncovered, lifetimes and cultures revisited." She describes Vollmer's voice as "curious, tender, and flinty, with its own grave and ethereal music."

Vollmer's first book, *Level Green*, was selected by Mary Oliver in the 1990 open, national Brittingham competition, from more than 900 entrants. Vollmer's third book, *Reactor*, was published in 2004 in the University of Wisconsin Press Poetry Series. Her other books include *The Door Open to the Fire* (1997 Cleveland State University Press Prize), *The Water Books* (2012 Autumn House), and the limited edition collection *Black Butterfly* (1997 Center for Book Arts Prize). Vollmer also is the recipient of poetry fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; finalist honors for the Paterson Poetry Prize; a National Book Critics Circle nomination; and several Pushcart Prize nominations.

Vollmer's poems, reviews, and essays have appeared in national and international publications, including, among others, *Agni*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Poetry International*, *Poet Lore*, *Witness*, *The Cambridge Companion to Baudelaire*, *The Great River Review*, *Miramar*, and *The Pittsburgh Poetry Review*.

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Experiential Learning:

Practical applications of classroom work enhancing student learning experience and résumés

In September 2014, Rebecca Parker's world drastically changed after a traumatic car accident that required her to be hospitalized for three months. Parker, who graduated in April with dual degrees in English Literature and Social Science (History emphasis), was forced to take two incompletes and withdraw from another class. On top of that, she worried that she would have to give up her newly announced Green Scholar Award, which would have her partnering with Elisa Beshero-Bondar, PhD, associate professor of English, on various Digital Humanity projects.

"After the first week or two in the hospital, I realized that even though my body wasn't working, my brain still was," explained Parker, whose injuries included a shattered lower right leg. She credits a team of professors in keeping her up-to-date on what was happening in the one class that she was able to complete that semester. Beshero-Bondar and Stacey Triplette, PhD, assistant professor of Spanish and French as well as another Digital Humanities enthusiast, visited regularly with Parker during her hospital stay. Plus Beshero-Bondar made arrangements for Parker to participate in the Digital Humanities class via Skype. Even Pitt's internationally renowned expert in Computational Humanities, David Birnbaum, PhD, professor of Slavic Languages and Literature, came to visit and offered support from his Digital Humanities class. "I was able to keep the Green Scholar position, because I was coding*, and we came up with a great plan for my project. It kept me fresh and wanting to come back to school."

"As soon as I heard Becca had been in an accident, I got her a loaner laptop," said Beshero-Bondar. "I was worried about her becoming depressed over the accident."

The next semester, Spring 2015, Triplette used Skype to allow Parker to participate in the Medieval Literature class. "The whole Humanities Division got behind me," says Parker, who continued to name other professors who supported her through her recovery and rehabilitation. She noted that friends attending other colleges feel lucky to have a solid relationship with one professor. "I can say that I have five or six solid relationships with the professors here."

Parker is one of the first students to earn the new undergraduate certificate in Digital Studies. Her participation in Digital Humanities



Elisa Beshero-Bondar (left), PhD, associate professor of English, and Rebecca Parker '16 review their digital projects in preparation for several upcoming conferences and workshops this summer.

conferences coupled with her research on graduate programs has helped her to articulate the distinction that puts Pitt-Greensburg's Digital Studies program ahead of the others: its design offers students a foundation in all aspects of Digital Studies: coding and digital media. Other programs tend to focus on only one aspect.

Working with Lori Jakiela, associate professor of English, in the Digital Storytelling class, Parker said that she learned how to develop an authentic digital persona in a public digital forum. The class centers on developing an online presence via a blog and using a variety of digital formats, including vlogs (video blogs) to tell stories.

"I am consumed by the Digital Humanities," said Parker. She explained how she adapted an assignment in the History of the English Language course, taught by Sayre Greenfield, PhD, professor of English and Humanities Division chair, to include Digital Studies techniques. "I automatically think about how I would present my research digitally," she noted. "It has changed my entire direction. [As an undergraduate,] I know something that people with doctorate degrees don't know. I have an expertise that others don't have."

Parker is exploring career options that could include teaching or archiving. "I like working with historical documents but I didn't know how I was going to work with them. Having these dual skills lets me be the

*Parker's coding work incorporates XML (Extensive Markup Language) and TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) as text encoding or markup languages that allow researchers to build databases of information about the document(s) they are studying. For instance, these databases can be used to quantify language usage, embed historical, geographic, or other information, or make comparisons among various versions of a document.

We Remember

David G. Assard (1934-2016)

Pitt-Greensburg *Emeritus* Advisory Board Member

"We have lost a wonderful and dedicated man who gave back to his community and especially the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Dave was always willing to offer his time and wisdom to our campus. He was a close friend that became invaluable to us as we moved forward with improving the educational experience of our students. Our Advisory Board will be forever grateful for his contributions."

-- A. David Tilstone, chair of the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board and president of National Tooling and Machining Association and ADT International Consulting.



David G. Assard, of Greensburg, PA, died January 22 at the age of 82. An *emeritus* member of the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board, he had served as an active board member through 2012. As part of the Advisory Board, he had served as chairman of the Academic Affairs committee where he helped to develop initiatives that included a mentoring program to allow Pitt-Greensburg students to work with the community and business leaders to prepare for careers in various fields. His dedication to Pitt-Greensburg was recognized in 2008 when he received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service.

"David Assard knew the value of education in his own life and wanted to assure that others could have that same benefit," said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. "He was particularly concerned about the rising cost of higher education and its impact on our students. He was devoted to Pitt-Greensburg and shared his time and counsel. At a personal level, David and Linda, his wife, welcomed me warmly to this community and became dear friends. I will treasure the memory of wise advice, good conversations, and happy times."

Assard's service to the Greensburg and Westmoreland County community are manifold, and his 40-year career in business demonstrated his skills as a leader and innovator. In particular, he served as president and chief executive officer of Elliott Company (Jeannette) through 2002, when he retired. A military veteran, he served 13 years on active and reserved duty with the US Navy, including service as a naval aviator during and following the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; two daughters, Evalyn A. McMahon and husband, Dennis, of Wethersfield, CT, and Annemarie Langhan of Sturbridge, MA; two sons, Dan Assard and wife, Skiyea Nieves, of East Hartford, CT, and Donald Assard and wife, Janet, of Bolton, CT; and five grandchildren. (Please visit <http://bit.ly/Assard> to read the newspaper obituary.)

Joseph V. Morford, Jr. (1929-2015)

Pitt-Greensburg *Emeritus* Advisory Board Member

Joseph V. Morford, Jr., an *emeritus* member and past chairman of the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board, died May 10, 2015, in Hilton Head Island, SC, at the age of 86. He was born April 20, 1929, in Greensburg PA. After graduating from Greensburg High School, Morford graduated from Purdue University in 1949 with a BS in mechanical engineering.

A First Lieutenant in the US Air Force during the Korean War, he served as a ground radar officer in Korea. After the war, he was hired by General Motors as a design engineer for the Saginaw, MI, steering gear division. In 1956, he returned to Greensburg to join his father at Moore and Morford, Inc., structural steel fabricators, serving as president there from 1982 to 1993. He also was a professional member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Welding Society, and the American Institute of Steel Construction.

Active in the Greensburg community, Morford was a member, deacon, elder, and trustee of the Greensburg First Presbyterian Church. He served as a vice chairman and chairman of the Westmoreland Hospital Association, chairman of the Westmoreland Health System, chairman of the Southwest Health System, and chairman of the Westmoreland-McGinnis Hospital, Ligonier. A Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, he also served as president of the Greensburg Rotary Club and was the recipient of the Rotary Man of the Year Award in 1980.

In addition to serving on the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board, Morford served as president of the Greensburg School Board and the Greensburg Salvation Army Board, as well as a director of the Greensburg Southwest Bank, First Commonwealth Financial Institution of Indiana, and the St. Clair Cemetery Board.

Joe is survived by friend and companion, Sandra Higgins; his four children, Jennifer Morford, Joanna Morford, Jeffrey (Paul) Morford and James (Carolyn) Morford; and four grandchildren.

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Sears named associate editor of literacy/learning journal



Lou Ann Sears, PhD, director of Learning Resources and assistant professor of English, presented “The Role of the Reading Guide in the College Reading Classroom” at the annual meeting of the College Literacy and Learning Special Interest Group (CLL SIG) of the International Literacy Association. She also presented “Constructing Success: How Authors Brian Grazer, Stephen King, and Ben

Carson Can Help You Build a Foundation of Success for Your Students and Yourselves” at the Teaching Academic Survival Skills (TASS) Conference. Sears is chair-elect of the CLL SIG and is the new associate editor of the *Journal of College Literacy and Learning*, a publication of the CLL SIG.

Stauffer recognized with two awards



Mark Stauffer, PhD, associate professor of Chemistry, became the second professor in campus history to earn recognition from the Carnegie Science Center when he was selected as an Honorable Mention for the 2016 Carnegie Science Award in the University/Post-Secondary Instructor Award category. Stauffer also received the Pitt-Greensburg Faculty Award for Professional Development.

Stauffer’s activities include serving as editor of a book on molecular spectroscopy to be published by InTech Open Access Publishing, and developing and presenting the workshop, “Topics in Spectrophotometry,” to a group of high school chemistry instructors here on campus. The workshop was sponsored by the Continuing Education Committee of the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh.

At Pittcon 2016, Stauffer presented two posters based on his research, as well as his original short course on the basics of analytical data treatment, and introduced a new short course on analytical data treatment that deals with more advanced tools and techniques for data treatment.

Student Publications

Amanda Bateman’s ’16 “It’s Over: After the Roommate Honeymoon Phase Ends” was published in the December 3, 2015, issue of *College Magazine*. You can read her article at <http://bit.ly/BatemanRoommate>.

Logan Holmes’ ’15 article “Public Education in Nineteenth Century Pennsylvania, with an Emphasis on John White Geary’s

Expansion Programs” was published in the Spring 2015 issue of *History of Reading News*, a publication of the History of Reading Special Interest Group of the International Literacy Association, formerly known as the International Reading Association. This article was excerpted from his History capstone paper.

Pitt-Greensburg students gain presentation experience

Pitt-Greensburg students studying Digital Humanities with Elisa Beshero-Bondar, PhD, associate professor of English, participated in a joint presentation of semester projects with students from the Computational Methods in the Humanities course taught by David Birnbaum, PhD, professor of Slavic Languages and Literature and an international expert in Computational Humanities, at the Pittsburgh campus. Participating from Pitt-Greensburg were Matthew Burch, Nicole Lottig ’16, Lauren McGuigan, Jessica Milewski ’16, Megan Mills, Rebecca Parker ’16, Rob Spadafore ’16, and Brooke Stewart. The students presented work on three projects they developed to produce digital archives and to analyze literary and historical texts, including Emily Dickinson: Fascicles 16 and 6, Boccaccio’s *Decameron*, and The Restoration of Nell Nelson.

Students also participated in the Sigma Tau Delta 2016 International Convention, where they led two roundtable panels: Let’s Code! <humanities type=”digital”>, moderated by Beshero-Bondar, and To Stay or Go? Jane Austen on Home: Books and Film, moderated by Sayre Greenfield, PhD, professor of English. Pitt-Greensburg students Michelle Dempsey ’16, Brooke Lawrence, Megan Lint, and Parker were joined by students from the Pittsburgh campus and Washington & Jefferson College.

Lint read her original poems, “Nature as Home,” and Parker and Dempsey presented their individual research on Early American Literature.

Biology and Bio-Chemistry Capstone students won honors for their research presentations at the Northeast 3-District Tri-Beta (National Biological Honor Society) convention. Tyler Clark ’16, Cassandra Foradori ’16, and Alexis Newingham ’16 won first place and the Frank G. Brooks award for their presentation, “Tea Time with *C. elegans*: Effects of Green, White, and Black Teas on Alzheimer’s Disease as modeled in *C. elegans*.” The trio won a travel grant to present their research at the National Conference to be held this summer.

Amanda Kochasic ’16, Justin Marin ’16, and Jarrett McDonough ’16 won second place for their poster presentation entitled, “Stress Inducing Effects of Hydrocortisone and Alzheimer’s Disease Progression Modeled in *C. elegans*,” at the Northeast 3-District Tri-Beta (National Biological Honor Society) convention.

Blue & Gold acknowledges the contribution of Stephen Murabito, PhD, professor of English, whose work as editor of *Essai*, a campus publication on faculty and staff development, served as a major resource for this column.



Geoffrey Wood, PhD, assistant professor of Sociology and director of the Center For Applied Research (left) and Emily Gernhardt, research assistant, analyze material gathered through the interview process and census review as part of Excelsa Health’s Community Health Needs Assessment project.

Another student taking advantage of Pitt-Greensburg’s experiential learning opportunities is Emily Gernhardt, a research assistant with the Center For Applied Research (CFAR).

Gernhardt is a junior business management major with a minor in psychology. She became involved with CFAR in September 2015 and has spent the past year working on the Excelsa Health Community Health Needs Assessment project and the evaluation of a community

substance abuse education and workforce development program for the Private Industry Council (PIC) of Westmoreland/Fayette Counties.

“At CFAR, student research assistants are provided the opportunity to develop and implement experiential learning directly into both the CFAR projects and their own scholarly work,” said Geoffrey Wood, PhD, assistant professor of Sociology and CFAR director. “Rather than relying solely on classroom learning, student research assistants are encouraged to gain valuable hands-on experience, which will allow them to pursue graduate school aspirations and career goals.”

“We were responsible for interviewing community leaders in order to gather information about what the biggest health needs are in the county,” explained Gernhardt. The research assistants were responsible for setting up the interviews, performing the interviews, and transcribing them. They also were assigned portions of the US Census to review and summarize as they compared state and national data to what was locally assessed.

“Academically, [the CFAR experience] makes you more confident in your abilities,” Gernhardt said. “You’re working independently and that’s a great confidence booster. You’re learning research skills and interview skills, which are practical skills.” The interviews also have given her a glimpse into what nonprofits are doing in the county, and she noted, “I would consider working for a nonprofit after I graduate.”

Another project that Gernhardt is working on is with the Private Industry Council (PIC) of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc. She is one of four research assistants who are observing PIC’s reintegration classes to determine their effectiveness. Part of the process is performing exit interviews with attendees who have completed three courses.

“I wouldn’t have gotten to do anything like this in my classes,” said Gernhardt. “It has been such a diverse workload. The experience is definitely a résumé builder for either graduate school or a job.” She noted that the research and report preparation would add to a graduate school application, and being able to share that she has worked with a team, met deadlines, and saw a project through from start to finish will definitely be on her résumé.

person who preserves these materials in a different way than has been done in the past.”

Parker is waiting for confirmation that she will continue working next year as an assistant in the campus’ newly established Center for the Digital Text. She will participate in three conferences this summer, presenting her project on Nell Nelson, an obscure female investigative journalist whose work pre-dates that of the more widely known Upton Sinclair (*The Jungle*). Parker and the other members of her Nelson research group are the first completely undergraduate group accepted to the Institute for Liberal Arts Digital Scholarship (ILiADS) at Hamilton College. There she expects to learn more coding applications as well as more about mapping data for visualization purposes. She also will present her project at the Keystone Digital Humanities Conference with other Pitt-Greensburg students and faculty. In late June, Parker will assist Beshero-Bondar with this year’s Digital Mitford Coding School to be held on campus. Parker’s online portfolio (newfire.org/~rjp43), a requirement for the Digital Studies certificate, includes an article on teaching with GitHub that was co-written with Beshero-Bondar. This was after Parker pushed the class to begin using the application and developed a tutorial for their use.

“My class completely changed because of Becca,” said Beshero-Bondar. “If I can cede some of the work to students then the class moves in unexpectedly good directions, especially if you have students who are interested.”

Parker also is preparing to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) while she continues to research where she would like to do her graduate studies. On her list are University College London (UCL), King’s College (London), and Maynooth University (Ireland). Closer to home, Parker is looking at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Of course, there also is the Digital Humanities MA program at Loyola University, which would place Parker in the same city where Nell Nelson wrote her first exposés of the cruel and unsanitary working conditions of Chicago’s manufacturing industry during the late 19th century.

The Academic Village: Nearly 20 years of transforming student's lives



PJ Rey '06 co-founded the annual Theorizing the Web conference and the Cyborgology Blog with Nathan Jurgenson. Rey's MA thesis argued that social media is an environment where exploitation thrives in a relative absence of alienation.

Ask PJ Rey '06 how he felt about high school, and he will tell you he hated it.

Today, he is completing his dissertation for a PhD from one of the top 25 universities in the nation for sociology after completing his master's degree in philosophy at Duquesne University.

How does a teen go from hating high school to becoming an adult who is earning a PhD and—by the way—was the Commencement speaker for his undergraduate class?

By coming to Pitt-Greensburg.

Rey applied to the Pittsburgh campus but was not admitted. The Pitt Admissions staff thought he would be a natural fit for Pitt-Greensburg. Four years later, he graduated from Pitt-Greensburg with a minor in History, as well as a double major in Political Science and a self-designed major that combined Philosophy and language.

"The two people that I worked closely with [in the Academic Village] were Frank Wilson and Bill Pamerleau, whose specializations were in sociology and philosophy," said Rey. "I'm sure it's not a coincidence that my degrees are in those areas."

In a recent telephone interview, Rey reminisced about collaborating with Wilson, Pamerleau, and Nancy Estrada, all professors who were directing different areas of the Academic Village when it was organized by academic interests.

"I was actively involved with a group of students who had decided we needed a common area that would be the social heart of the Villages. It was a bottom up idea," explained Rey. "With the guidance of the three professors [Wilson, Pamerleau, and Estrada], we pushed to have a coffeehouse. We spent countless hours working on it."

Over the course of a year-and-a-half, the students toured other universities to see how their coffee shops were set up; met with Chartwells, the campus' dining service; and developed a budget and a plan.

"We wanted to create a space that was useful and served the needs of the student body, as well as being financially viable. That was a really big task, and I don't think we realized what we were getting into," he said. "It taught me a lot about how institutions and bureaucracies work. We had to cross all of the "Ts" and dot all of the "Is" in order to meet the institutional concerns. With the help of the Village leaders and the administration, we were able to put together a plan and approach the Pittsburgh campus for a line of funding.

Construction happened over the course of the summer, and, as they say, the rest is history. The coffeehouse changed the whole vibe of that

part of campus, and now is an integral part of campus' social, music, and entertainment scene. In 2014, renovations were completed at the Coffeehouse snackbar area that allow Chartwells to offer an expanded menu of sandwiches and Starbucks branded products.

"That Village experience, with people who were excited about learning—it was exhilarating, and it changed my life dramatically," Rey said. "I went from someone who hated school to being the Commencement speaker. I didn't transfer because the mentorship was so good. I knew I wouldn't have the close relationships with professors at a larger campus. I was convinced I had something really special at Pitt-Greensburg."



experience.

"I'm especially proud of the songwriting workshop that the Live Music Committee and the Village Senate hosted this past semester," said Johnson. Entitled "Music with A Message: Bystander Edition," the workshop brought professional musicians to campus who helped participants to write and produce a professional quality recording of an original song that expressed their sentiments about bystander intervention.

"We had 40 people show up, and I'm proud that we helped to push people outside of their boundaries to do something they wouldn't have done on their own."

Sheila Confer, assistant director of the Academic Village, noted, "I think of the Village as a catalyst. I am proud to have known and worked with both PJ and Nichole. They are the kind of students who seek us out and embrace what the campus and the Village has to offer them. If students come to us with open minds and a desire to do great things, then we do everything we can to enable them. It is a wonderfully satisfying experience."

Johnson graduated from Saltsburg Middle-High School in a class of 66 students. Her first class at Pitt-Greensburg—Introduction to Psychology—had 50 students in it.

"The culture shock most students experience when they come to campus is that Pitt-Greensburg is smaller than their high school population," said Johnson. "For me, it was the opposite. My freshman class was larger than my school's whole K-12 student population."

Now, three years later, going into her senior year, Johnson credits her experience in the Academic Village with helping her to adjust in those

The Coffeehouse and the Live Music Committee continue to play an important role for student life on campus. Senior Nichole Johnson chairs the Live Music Committee and determines which bands will perform in the Village Coffeehouse during the academic year. She works with the committee to determine scheduling, contacts the bands, as well as negotiates and writes contracts.

"That definitely is a skill set that I will use after graduation," she said of the

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What do Shakespeare and Austen have in common? Greenfield's academic expertise



This past year, Sayre Greenfield, PhD, professor of English and chair of the Humanities Division, presented several talks in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States, including "Multimedia *Emma*," (with Linda Troost, PhD), at the Jane Austen Society of Australia; "What Good is Hamlet? Three Famous Lines and their Utility in the 18th Century," at the University of Otago; "*Pride and Prejudice* 1995: The Game Changer" (given with Linda Troost, PhD), at "BBC *Pride and Prejudice* 1995: Reflections around a Much-Loved Production" conference; "When Poet Meets Penguin: British Verse Confronts Exotic Avifauna," at The Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment; and "The Source for the Theatricals of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*: A Discovery," at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Herr presents paper at consortium



Pilar Herr, PhD, assistant professor of History, presented "An Examination of Parlamentos as a Tool for Indigenous Autonomy and Independence in Araucanía, Chile's Southern Frontier (1726-1825)," at the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era (1750-1850) Conference.

Jakiela wins City of Asylum Prize, appointed to Poetry Panel, and performs in Pittsburgh production



Lori Jakiela, professor English, was the recipient of the 2015 City of Asylum Pittsburgh Prize that included a month-long writers residency in Brussels, Belgium, where she worked on a novel and essay collection, as well as offering a workshop through the Passa Porta Literary Center.

Jakiela led a writing workshop and gave a public lecture, "All that Glimmers: On Finding the Luminous Details that Make Writing Meaningful," at Chautauqua Institution, where she serves as co-director of the Summer Writers Festival. She served on the selection panel for the *Verses Emissioned* project from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that produced a print

anthology as well as an art exhibit. Now a member of the *Post-Gazette's* poetry selection panel, Jakiela will work with a team of other writers to select the poems that are published in the paper every Saturday.

This past spring, Jakiela was selected as a member of the cast for Pittsburgh's *Listen to your Mother*, a national stage and video production that brings together writers talking about motherhood. She performed in the Pittsburgh production on May 6 at the Carnegie Lecture Hall in Oakland.

Long president of Microbiology society; receives grant to create Microscopy and Digital Imaging Lab



Long (left) with a student

Olivia Long, PhD, assistant professor of Biochemistry, was elected president of the Allegheny Branch of the American Society of Microbiology (ABASM) and hosted the regional conference at Pitt-Greensburg in November 2015. More than 150 people attended from 15 colleges and universities.

Long was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Eberly Foundation to create a Microscopy and Digital Imaging Lab (MDIL) in Smith Hall. The MDIL will have specialized fluorescent microscopes that allow students to focus on the integration of information and emerging visual technologies in the field of biology.

She also was a peer reviewer of National Science Foundation (NSF) grant submissions this past year.

Orsatti showcases the use of apps in teaching foreign languages



Silvina Orsatti, instructor of Spanish, presented "Revolutionize your Digital Stories with Creative *mash-apps*" at the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) Conference and "Tech Lab" at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) Conference. Her lab, "Talk2Me with Avatars," demonstrated creative uses of apps in the presentational speaking mode of communication. She is an executive board member of the NECTFL and assisted in organizing the 2016 conference in New York City.

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Travel award provides opportunity for primary research



Paul Adams, PhD, associate professor of Political Science and chair of the Behavioral Sciences Division, received a travel award from Pitt's Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence and European Studies Center that he used for The Brussels Study Tour. There, he visited with European Union institutions and officials in Belgium, as well as doing primary research, including an interview with the Ambassador of Switzerland to the European Union where they discussed Adams' research on Swiss-EU relations for an article he is developing.

Adams also served as section co-chair, panel chair, panelist, roundtable chair, and paper presenter at the Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA) Convention. He also acted as an external reviewer and assessor for Palgrave MacMillan (London) on two European Politics textbooks that are under consideration for new editions by the publisher.

ROTC Commissioning marks end of an era



Kara Barclay '16, a Biological Science major, has the distinction of being the last ROTC Cadet to commission out of the Pitt-Greensburg ROTC program. Barclay was commissioned on April 29 as a Second Lieutenant in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Medical Services branch. She will participate in three months of specialized training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in

January 2017. Following completion of her training, she will serve as a Medical Services Officer in the PA Army National Guard's C Company 128th Medical Company in Pittsburgh.

The Three Rivers Battalion of Army ROTC will continue to have a presence on the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland campus, but offices and classes are no longer housed/held at Pitt-Greensburg.

Bethem brings second Pitt Sustainability Award to campus

Jacob Bethem, a part-time instructor in Philosophy, became the second member of the Pitt-Greensburg community to receive a Pitt Sustainability award. The award recognized the following projects and accomplishments.

Bethem completed a consultation project with WGL Energy proposing a virtual power plant, an innovative energy-sharing and



financing service that can simultaneously reduce energy waste and save customers money. He proposed a five-year fleet vehicle turnover plan for the City of Pittsburgh to convert to the best available alternative energy vehicles without increasing annual spending. He completed his MBA in Sustainability from Duquesne University and received LEED Green Associate credentials. His research on "utility-sale energy storage" was accepted for publication in Paul Hawken's upcoming book, *Drawdown*.

Librarians present at state and national conferences



Folk, Brashear, Williford

Amanda Folk, director of the Millstein Library and coordinator of the Regional University Library System (ULS) Libraries, Anna Mary Williford, Instruction/Public Services Librarian, and Kelly Bradish, Reference/Public Services Librarian, co-presented "Dynamic Duo: Reference and Instruction are Better Together!" at the 2015 Pennsylvania Library Association Conference. Their presentation, "Research Consultations and Dweck's Theories of Intelligence," was accepted for presentation at the 22nd Research Forum of the 2016 American Library Association Annual Conference.

Ghilani analyzes Military Advertising and Social Media Strategy



Jessica Ghilani, PhD, assistant professor of Communication, presented the paper, "The Army Just Sees Green: Utopian Meritocracy, Diversity, and Army Recruitment in the 1970s," at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies.

Through Pitt-Greensburg's Center For Applied Research (CFAR), Ghilani is conducting a social media analysis for the Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence with the goal of optimizing their social media strategy. Rachel Haras '16 contributed to the analysis.

Ghilani, working with Green Scholar Stephanie Costabile, is advancing a co-authored article-length manuscript examining the history of the Marine Corps advertisements.

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Each year, Pitt-Greensburg sponsors a team to participate in the Blackburn Center's Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes event. The Academic Village organizes the team and most members of the Village Senate participate, as do faculty and staff, along with family and friends.

early months of college. "Sheila [Confer] and Dr. [Frank] Wilson care so much," she noted of the assistant director and director of the Village. "They want to see people succeed."

Johnson applied to live in the Academic Village as a freshman, saying, "I genuinely love school and always have. I wanted to stay focused on my studies. It's nice to be in a community with others who have that focus. I definitely love the academic atmosphere and the networking opportunities."

She noted that Confer and Wilson work hard to put students who have a strong interest in something in touch with other people who have those same interests. It can be someone from campus, like a professor, or an off-campus contact, like a Village alumnus.

A double major in psychology and criminal justice, Johnson hopes to pursue a graduate degree in behavioral analysis. Because of this interest, Confer introduced Johnson to Timothy Holler, PhD, assistant professor of Criminal Justice, who also is working with the Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence through the campus' Center For Applied Research (CFAR). After this introduction, Johnson became a CFAR research assistant. She also is a member of the campus Committee for Gender Equity.

"I assist with surveying incoming freshmen on their attitudes toward sexual and domestic violence," she explained. "We'll survey them again as seniors to see if those attitudes have changed based on the programming that has been held on campus to help educate the campus community on these issues."

Johnson also worked for a year as a research assistant with Jonathan Vallano, PhD, assistant professor of Psychology who also is part of CFAR. In fall 2016, she'll serve as a teaching assistant for Jessica Everly, PhD, associate professor of Psychology.

This summer, she will travel to the city of Stellenbosch in South Africa as a Vira I. Heinz Scholar. There, she plans to attend Stellenbosch University where she will study politics in relation to crime and media. "I hope to be able to use this as part of my senior capstone for Criminal Justice," she noted.

Frank Wilson, PhD, director of the Academic Village and assistant professor of Sociology, summed up the experience of the students saying, "I've always said that the Academic Village is Pitt-Greensburg's 'ongoing experiment.' It has remained dynamic and continues to serve as a catalyst for turning interesting ideas into substantive action. The Village community is created and recreated through the collaboration of students, staff, and faculty. It had a distinct identity during PJ's years, and a different one now with Nichole and her cohort. What connects them, and the other Villagers throughout the past decades, is that these are all people who are not only thinkers, but more importantly—doers."



From left: Laura Stefanyak, Nichole Johnson and Victoria Horr assist first-year students in moving into the Academic Village on Move-In Day.

Test your knowledge about the Academic Village:

- Who was the first director of the Academic Village?
 - Dr. Nancy Estrada
 - Dr. Lillian Beeson
 - Dr. Frank Wilson
 - Guy Rossetti
- When was the Academic Village dedicated?
 - 1990
 - 1995
 - 1999
 - 2005
- How many full-size apartments does each Village house include?
 - 20
 - 16
 - 8
 - 4
- What are the names of the six houses that compose the Village residences?
 - Apollo, Athena, Benjamin Franklin, Margaret Mead, Selene, and Thurgood Marshal Houses
 - Phoebus, Minerva, Thomas Jefferson, Margaret Sanger, Luna, and William O. Douglas Houses
 - Ares, Hermes, George Washington, Susan B. Anthony, Zeus, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Houses
 - Albert B. Smith, George F. Chambers, Frank A. Cassell, Sharon P. Smith, Guy Rossetti, and Carl F. Poke Houses
- Which of the following is NOT an established activity at the Academic Village?
 - Open Mic Night
 - First-Year Student Ice Cream Social
 - Arbor Day Dance
 - Dinner and Discussion with Faculty

ANSWERS: 1-B; 2-C; 3-C; 4-A; 5-C



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Men's Basketball Alumni Club organized

by Sheila Kudrick

What started as a four-game exploratory schedule in 1968 met with such great response that the fourth game had to be moved to a bigger gym to accommodate the number of fans who wanted to get in. The next academic year—fall of 1969—marked the official start of the Pitt-Greensburg men's basketball program.

These beginnings are one of the reasons that Bernard "Bernie" Cobetto '73, Carlyle Carter, Thomas "Tom" M. Jollie '72, and Fredrick "Fred" E. Charles '72 formed the Pitt-Greensburg Men's Basketball Alumni Club (MBAC), in coordination with Harry Bowser '72, also a member of that first team who is a past assistant coach and now a volunteer character coach for the team, and the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association.



Bernard "Bernie" Cobetto '73

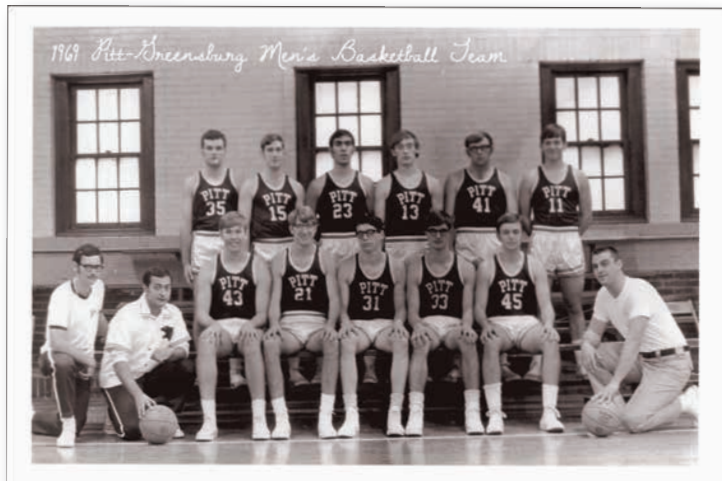
Bernie Cobetto, a new grandfather, feels that being a part of that first team is part of his legacy. "I am a Pitt man in a Pitt family," Bernie said. His brother, son, daughter, and father—Bernard H. Cobetto, MD, '47 who established the annual Cobetto Lecture on Contemporary Ethics here—all went to Pitt. "I got a solid education and played basketball for a great coach," Bernie said of his time at Pitt-Greensburg.

Carlyle Carter came to campus after Bernie and the team's first coach, John Hunter, attended the Fayette-Westmoreland County All-Star Game. "Son of a single-parent family, no one in our family had completed college," Carlyle said. "I loved the idea of continuing to play basketball, and Pitt-Greensburg gave me that opportunity."

Currently the CEO/president of the California Community College Athletic Association, Carlyle acknowledged, "While I ultimately didn't complete my education at Pitt, I don't believe I would have gotten to where I am without the foundation laid at Pitt-Greensburg." One of his career distinctions was being hired as the first commissioner of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. "According to the NCAA, it was the first hiring of a minority commissioner of an athletic conference comprised of non-historically black colleges and universities of any NCAA athletic conference," Carlyle said.

Tom Jollie felt drawn to the Greensburg campus by the opportunity to continue working while pursuing a Pitt degree. He reflected on Dr. Norman McWhinney and how the English instructor mixed learning and laughter. Tom said one of his fondest memories at Pitt-Greensburg was that "there was always someone willing to engage in a philosophical discussion about anything."

Fred Charles attended law school after completing his bachelor's degree in Oakland. After opening his own law practice, he was named chief public defender of Lehigh County, followed by serving as director of the Pennsylvania State Defenders Association. He was then named solicitor for



The 1969 Men's Basketball Team:
 Row 1: Bob Gleghorn (Equipment Manager), Gus Corso (Assistant Coach), Tom Jollie, John Jamison, Steve Frick, Al Skrabski, Bernie Cobetto, John Hunter (Head Coach).
 Row 2: Tom Kristan, Alan Pearson, Fred Charles, Paul Sailley, Harry Bowser, Rich Hardway. Not pictured: Dave Chesser, Dan Cottrell, and Mike Noppe.



Thomas "Tom" M. Jollie '72

Lehigh County and is the only attorney in the history of Lehigh County to have held both positions.

"The club is the nexus between now and then," and Fred believes the alumni will "be proud of what Pitt-Greensburg is now, and Pitt-Greensburg can be proud of who came through its program." Bringing the past, the present, and the future together is what MBAC strives to do. "Fellowship and camaraderie among the past and current players, and support of Pitt-Greensburg by the basketball alumni family are the ultimate goals," said Fred, who serves as the MBAC president.

Desiring to develop MBAC as a social and fellowship club, the officers are collecting contact information as they prepare to send out their first newsletter. Bernie, MBAC secretary, said that he is surprised by the response for the club, with former players responding from as far away as Alaska, Rhode Island, Florida, and California.

"Some of my fondest memories are my times with my teammates at Pitt-Greensburg," said Carlyle, MBAC vice president. "Even though we have not communicated much over the years, I know our bonds are still strong as teammates."

Tom, treasurer of MBAC, agreed, saying that he's involved to reacquaint with friends and teammates—and to remember those times.

"We didn't think at the time that this was something historic," Fred said. "We were thinking about winning."

Visit greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni-spotlight-22 to read the unabridged version of this article. For information on the Pitt-Greensburg Men's Basketball Alumni Club, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at pgaa@pitt.edu or 724-836-7496.



Fredrick "Fred" E. Charles '72

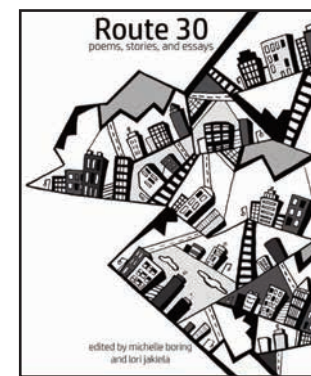
Pawprints

Frank Wilson elected to 2nd term as University Senate President



Frank D. Wilson, PhD, assistant professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, was elected to a second term as president of Pitt's University Senate. He is the first regional professor to serve as president of the University Senate. Prior to being elected to this office, Wilson also served as president of Pitt-Greensburg's Faculty Senate.

Route 30 Anthology 2nd Edition features alumni work



The second edition of the *Route 30 Anthology* was published in April 2016 with a launch party during the Pitt-Greensburg Writers' Festival. Michelle Boring '15, edited the book, which is a collection of previously published work by graduates of the Creative and Professional Writing program who have published books or who have had work published in national or international journals.

The anthology was published by Littleburg Press and is the second anthology published by the imprint that was developed during a publishing class offered on campus in 2012. Boring led the effort with support from Lori Jakiela, professor of English, and Meghan Tutolo '07.

Alumni whose work was featured included Boring, Kyle Holland '15, Adam Matcho '06, Tyler McCloskey '07, Kellie McGough '13, Dave Newman '93, A&S '96, Dylan Nice '08, Megha Pai '13, Shannon Sankey '13, Alayssa M. Sarnovsky '08, Kelly Scarff '08, Jenna Szypulski '12, Tutolo, and Caitlin Wilson '14.

Pitt-Greensburg maintains Military Friendly designation



For the fifth consecutive year, Pitt-Greensburg has been designated a "Military Friendly School" by Victory Media. The 2016 Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

Pitt-Greensburg waives its \$45 application fee for all veterans. It also offers Priority Enrollment for veterans in accordance with the Higher Education Course Scheduling Preference for Veteran Students Act.

Pitt-Greensburg again named a Money Magazine Best College



For the second consecutive year, Pitt-Greensburg was named to the *Money Magazine* list of best college values in the nation. The college-ranking system uses three weighted categories—educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes—to make its picks. Its ultimate goal is to identify colleges and universities that "turn out graduates with the most manageable debt."

Pitt-Greensburg is one of 736 colleges out of the nation's approximately 1,500 colleges to make the cut and one of 74 Pennsylvania colleges on the list.

The three categories used by *Money Magazine* consist of 17 factors that analyze, among others, the average total debt students have at graduation and the amount parents typically borrow from the federal parent PLUS loan program, along with whether alumni from each institution typically earn enough once they are in the workforce to comfortably handle their loan payments.

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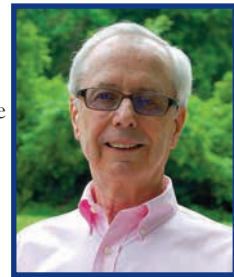
Faculty & Staff retirements announced

J. Wesley Jamison, PhD

"The biggest challenge was adding programs without increasing the resources needed," noted J. Wesley "Wes" Jamison, PhD, who will retire from the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs on June 30. His service began in 2006, and includes one year as interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

"With his lifelong interest in human-computer interfaces and human learning, Wes has been the ideal academic leader on our journey to create the 21st century liberal arts college," said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg. "He has been a tireless advocate for academic excellence and a passionate supporter of the interests and rights of faculty, students, and staff. It has been my pleasure and privilege to work with Wes. He is a highly creative and generous partner, combining visionary ideas with practical financial acumen. His good will and gentle humor have helped define a team spirit for the entire campus."

His administrative responsibilities included curriculum planning and course scheduling, recruitment and evaluation of faculty, planning and budgeting for academic affairs, data analysis for academic planning, as well as supervision of the Academic Advising Center, Admissions, and the Offices of the Registrar and Financial Aid.



His legacy will be found in the nine majors, including Biochemistry, Chemistry, Early Childhood Education, Secondary Education, Information Technology, Management Information Systems, Public Policy, Spanish, Spanish Education, and Visual and Performing Arts, added during his tenure that brought the total number of majors offered on campus to 26.

He marshalled three certificate programs through the approval process, including Arts Entrepreneurship, Digital Studies, and Manufacturing Management. This spring, two new health-related programs began the approval process and will be announced when fully approved. Jamison also served twice as Chair of the Division of Behavioral Sciences and as assistant vice president for Academic Affairs.

"We knew we needed to design programs that would attract and keep students," explained Jamison, who describes himself as a strategist when looking at his overall role for the campus. "Adding our new majors has done that."

While retiring from the administrative position, Jamison will remain at Pitt-Greensburg as an associate professor of Behavioral and Information Sciences. He returned to the classroom in Fall 2015. He also will continue shepherding the two health-related programs through their final approvals.

Please visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/Jamison to read the complete biography.

Judith Vollmer, MFA



Judith Vollmer, professor of English, began her career here in 1981 after earning her BA and MFA from the University of Pittsburgh. During her 35 years of service to the campus, she advanced to full professor and served as director of the Writing Program. She also served as assistant to the President and assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. In 1992, Vollmer received the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. She also participated in numerous committees, both here and at the Pittsburgh campus.

A devoted scholar and teacher, Vollmer has mentored a generation of students through the creative process, teaching them to make words dance on paper. Alumni will remember her teaching a wide variety of courses, including the English Writing Capstone and Poetry Workshop, as well as interdisciplinary courses team-taught with other faculty, like Thinking and Writing about the Natural World with William Pamerleau, PhD.

"Judy helped establish on of the crown jewels of the campus. Her passion for good writing has inspired students to emulate her and launched many successful careers," said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg.

The founder and co-coordinator of the Gerald Stern Poetry Prize, she served as an advisor for The Scott Turow Fiction Prize and the Ida B. Wells Journalism Prize. She also served as co-advisor for *Pendulum*, the student literary magazine.

A prolific writer, she has five published works of poetry to her credit, including the soon-to-release *The Apollonia Poems*, which was awarded the 2016 Four Lakes Poetry Prize of the University of Wisconsin Press. Her poems have been published in anthologies, periodicals, and on literary web sites. She also has an impressive list of published nonfiction.

Vollmer was a Core Faculty member in the Drew University Low-Residency MFA Program in Poetry and Translation. She also was a visiting faculty member in the Carlow University MFA Program and taught in the July 2008 Catskill Poetry Workshop.

She and her work have been recognized with numerous awards and nominations, including 11 Pushcart Prize Poetry nominations, Finalist Honors for the Paterson Poetry Prize for *The Door Open to the Fire* (1998), and Center for Book Arts Poetry Prize for *Black Butterfly* (1997).

Linda Smith



"For the most part, students are usually happy when they come to our office," said Linda Smith, who has served in the Registrar's Office since September 2003 and as Registrar since 2008. "Usually they are requesting a transcript because they are getting a job or they are going to graduate school."

Smith, who will retire at the end of August, has directed services related to student academic records, coordinated the updates of the Campus Bulletin, created and managed class schedules and the academic calendar for fall, spring and summer terms, reviewed residency petitions, served as coordinator for veteran programs and benefits, determined the Dean's List and student graduation honors, participated in certification of graduates, directed the posting of degrees, as well as ordered and sent diplomas to students.

"I truly enjoyed my time at Pitt-Greensburg," she said. "I enjoyed working with students, staff, and faculty. I also have enjoyed the close working relationship that has been established with the Registrar's Offices at the other regionals and with the Pittsburgh campus."

"Linda gives each student personal attention, thus demonstrating the impact that one individual can have in advancing the mission of this school," said Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president of Pitt-Greensburg.

Smith looks forward to spending more time with family and friends. She and her husband, Larry Smith, have three children: Aaron (and his wife Jenna), Natalie, and Tim (and his wife Yeji). They have one granddaughter, Harper, and another grandchild due in November.

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Dinner with a Bobcat: A new tradition begins



Thank you to Charles '90 and Laura (Wagner) '91 Aftosmis for kicking off the first-ever Dinner with a Bobcat—this year's culminating event for members of the Student Alumni Association (SAA)! The two Pitt-Greensburg alumni invited SAA members to dinner followed by a private painting session at a local paint-and-sip franchise.

The evening was filled with conversation and encouragement, treats and good eats, creativity, smiles, and laughter. The kindness and generosity of this alumni duo provided the students with a chance to relax and focus on the relationships offered to them at Pitt-Greensburg, including the lifelong connections of the alumni—not to mention that it was a lot of fun. Thank you, Charles and Laura, for kicking off Dinner with a Bobcat, which we hope becomes a standing tradition!

The Bookshelf: *continued from page 3*

Marciniak authors book on modern sentencing reform



CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS

In July, Carolina Academic Press will publish *Sentencing and Modern Reform: The Process of Punishment*, by Elizabeth Marciniak, PhD, associate professor of Criminal Justice. The book is expected to be used with upper-level undergraduate classes or graduate courses on sentencing issues.

The book is a comprehensive overview of sentencing strategies in the United States and examines the diversity of approaches used by states and the federal system. Marciniak evaluates whether reform goals have been met and looks at how sentencing practices may be revised based on the highlights of recent calls to "reform the reforms"

Marciniak conceived the book idea while teaching a Corrections class about three-strikes laws and had been part of a Criminal Justice Advisory Board in New Hanover, NC, shortly after the 1994 Sentencing Act was passed.

Other Publication Notes

Elisa Beshero-Bondar, PhD, associate professor of English, reviewed Evan Gottlieb's *Romantic Globalism: British Literature and Modern World Order, 1750-1830* (Ohio State University Press, 2014) and David Minden Higgins' *Romantic Englishness: Local, National and Global Selves, 1780-1850* (Palgrave, 2014) for publication in *European Romantic Review* 27:1 (February, 2016).

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Amanda Folk, director of Millstein Library and Coordinator of the Regional University Library System Libraries, published the article "Information Literacy in postsecondary education in the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand" as a Global Perspectives feature article in *Portal: Libraries and the Academy*. Also accepted for publication were "Academic self-efficacy, information literacy, and undergraduate course-related research; Expanding Gross's imposed query model" in the *Journal of Library Administration* and "Academic reference and instruction librarians and Dweck's theories of intelligence" in *College & Research Libraries*.

Jessica Ghilani, PhD, assistant professor of Communication, received an advanced contract from the University of Iowa Press for her book manuscript *Selling Soldiering: Advertising for US Army Volunteers since 1914*. She also received a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will support the completion of her book manuscript revisions.

Sayre Greenfield, PhD, professor of English and Humanities Division chair, published the article "Allusions" to Shakespeare's writings from 1590-1660 in the two-volume encyclopedia, *The Cambridge Guide to the Worlds of Shakespeare* (Cambridge University Press, 2016); the article "Emma's Speakers and Austen's Word Games" in the *Journal of the Jane Austen Society of Australia*, and, with Linda Troost, PhD, the article "A History of the Fanny Wars: The Reception of *Mansfield Park*" in *Persuasions: The Jane Austen Journal* from the Jane Austen Society of North America.

Wendy Hardy, EdD, assistant professor of Early Childhood Education, and **Vickilyn Barnot**, PhD, assistant professor of Education, co-authored "A Tale of Two Kindergartens: New Zealand and the United States" in *Childhood Education*. Hardy also published "The Critical Importance of the Arts in Preschool" in the *Early Years Bulletin—Association of Childhood Education International*.

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2016 COMMENCEMENT



Front (from left): Carrie Larese '16; Dr. Sharon P. Smith; Dr. Anne M. Czerwinski; Dr. Jack Smith A&S '69, MED '73; US Congressman Timothy Murphy '79, PhD

Back (from left): Dr. J. Wesley Jamison; Jim Smith '75; Judge John Driscoll LAW '66 LLB

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg held its annual Commencement Saturday, April 30, in Chambers Gymnasium.

Out of the 288 students eligible to graduate, 206 students processed, along with faculty, staff, alumni, and invited dignitaries.

As part of Pitt-Greensburg's Legacy Diploma Presentations, 33 students received their diplomas from 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 Dr. Sharon P. Smith, president of Pitt-Greensburg, 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.



US Congressman Timothy Murphy '79, PhD

US Congressman Timothy Murphy '79, PhD, a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate who represents the people of the 18th District of Pennsylvania (sections of Allegheny, Washington, Greene, and Westmoreland Counties), offered the Commencement address.

Dr. Smith presented the President's Medal for Distinguished Service posthumously to Carl A. Rossman, Jr., for his 17 years of service as vice president of Administrative Services. Rossman's son, Matthew, daughter, Mary, and daughter-in-law, Penelope, accepted the award on Rossman's behalf.



Dr. Sharon P. Smith (right) presents the President's Medal for Distinguished Service to Mary Rossman (left) and Matthew Rossman, who accented the award on behalf of their father, Carl A. Rossman, Jr.

Anthropology major and University Scholar Carrie Larese '16 gave the student speech as this year's class representative.

The PGAA presented its Outstanding Faculty award to Elizabeth Contreras, visiting instructor of Spanish during this year's Honors Convocation. Contreras was participating in a study trip abroad during Commencement.



Carrie Larese '16

The Commencement ceremony was live-streamed and is available for further viewing at <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/live-video-broadcast-archive>.

A gallery of photos from the day is accessible here: <http://greensburg.pitt.edu/photo-galleries/graduation>.

PGAA Awards

The PGAA announces two awards at Commencement: the PGAA Outstanding Faculty Award and the PGAA Community Service Award. The Association also oversees the "Most Pitt Degrees" contest that recognizes the graduate who has the most Pitt degrees in his or her family.



PGAA President James Smith '75 presents the PGAA Outstanding Faculty Award to Elizabeth Contreras, visiting instructor of Spanish.



James Smith '75 presents the PGAA Community Service Award to Bryan Edwards '16 (left).



Christine Hartner '16 won the contest for Most Pitt Degrees in her family with 16. James Smith '75 presented a Pitt Spirit Basket as her prize.



David Postlethwait '16 (left) received the President's Award for Distinguished Service from Dr. Sharon P. Smith.



Members of the PGAA who participated in Commencement.



Psychology majors pose for photos with professors after the ceremony.



Left: Seen at Commencement

Right: Graduates arrived at the PGAA New Alumni Reception sporting their Blue & Gold Pitt gear, continuing Pitt-Greensburg's newest tradition.

