

November 13, 2019

UNIVERSITY-WIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Office of the Chancellor is accepting applications for the **Pitt Seed Special Cycle** for projects related to the prevention of sexual misconduct. This community-driven effort was announced in response to the AAU Campus Climate Survey results. Application deadline is November 27, and funds will be allocated by January 2020.
- Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit proposals by November 22 to the **Forge Your Own Path** program, which is part of Pitt's **Personalized Education Initiative**. Funding is available at multiple levels, ranging from small-scale, student-led projects to larger-scale projects led by faculty or staff.
- The senior vice chancellor for engagement and the provost will cohost the **2020 Community Engaged Scholarship Forum** on March 3 in the William Pitt Union. The theme of this full-day conference is Progress through Partnerships: Building Momentum Together. Proposals for workshops and posters are being accepted, as are nominations for Partnerships of Distinction.
- The **Center for Teaching and Learning** is in the process of a campus-wide transition in the University's learning management software system, from Blackboard to Canvas.
- For the second year, the **Office of Parking, Transportation and Services is accepting food donations for the Pitt Pantry** in lieu of payment for parking fines issued before November. Those with a \$15 fine may donate dry pasta and sauce or 2 boxes of dry cereal. Those holding a \$25 fine may clear their fine by donating a 40-ounce jar of peanut butter and a 32-ounce jar of jelly.

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

- 150 seniors have been named to the **Panthers Forward Class of 2020**. Each student has been assigned to a mentoring community that includes an alumni mentor and two or three other students. Panthers *Forward* students stand to receive up to \$5,000 in federal student loan debt relief upon graduation.
- The University Library System (ULS) acquired the **George A. Romero Archival Collection**, which forms the foundation of unique scholarly resource, the new Horror Studies Special Collection.
- ULS has been awarded a grant by the Council on Library and Information Resources to digitize recordings of the **Kuntu Repertory Theatre** and the **Bob Johnson papers**.
- Pitt has launched a **Center for Sustainable Business** under the leadership of faculty members from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and with support from the Heinz Endowments.
- Construction has begun on Phase 2 of **Pitt's Community Engagement Center in Homewood**. The expansion focuses on Health and Wellness, and it is slated to open in January 2020.
- More than 300 University employees volunteered for community service projects during the annual **Day of Caring**—an increase of 105% over 2018.

- The **Pitt Police Community Relations** team was awarded the **2019 Pittsburgh Business Times Corporate Citizenship Award**, which honors significant, positive impacts on a community through volunteer work, donations and philanthropy.
- **Pitt's Office of Veteran Services** hosted **Veterans Week**, November 1–8, with a series of events aimed at building bridges, promoting understanding, and encouraging dialogue regarding veterans' issues.
- **Homecoming 2019** drew more than 2,000 alumni and many other members of the Pitt family to the Pittsburgh campus for more than 50 events over four days.
- Three **Distinguished Alumni Fellows** were honored during Homecoming 2019: Pitt Business alumnus and real estate giant Howard W. Hanna Jr. and School of Pharmacy graduates Simone Myers Karp and Lloyd N. Myers were honored for their outstanding careers and service.

STUDENT MILESTONES

- **Kareen Rabbat (Swanson School of Engineering, Class of 2020)** participated in the Global Grand Challenges Summit Student competition in London, England. He and his team were one of ten (out of 50) teams selected to present in the finals.
- Undergraduate students will now have the opportunity to achieve the **Global Distinction credential**. Successful completion of the designation will appear on a student's transcript and each student will receive a personal Global Distinction URL for resumés and networking.

FACULTY AND STAFF MILESTONES

- **Anne-Ruxandra Carvunis (School of Medicine)** and **Caroline Runyan (Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences)** have each been awarded New Innovator Awards by the National Institutes of Health. These prestigious awards are part of the NIH's High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program, which funds highly innovative biomedical or behavioral research proposed by extraordinarily creative scientists. Each will receive \$2.3 million over 5 years to support their research.
- **Pitt researchers from the Swanson School of Engineering** have been awarded \$1.2 million by the National Science Foundation to develop a brain-computer interface system to support the rehabilitation of stroke survivors.
- **Steven Abramowitch (Swanson School of Engineering)** has received the Biomedical Engineering Society 2019 Diversity Lecture award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to improving gender and racial diversity in biomedical engineering.
- **Nicole Mitchell Gantt, William S. Dietrich II Endowed Chair in Jazz Studies**, was named the 2019 Women in the Arts Jazz Visionary Awardee by the Jazz Institute of Chicago. Pitt held its 49th Annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert on November 1 and 2, the first to be organized by Mitchell.
- **Michael Gobat (Dietrich School of the Arts & Sciences)** received the 2019 Friedrich Katz Prize in Latin American and Caribbean history from the American Historical Association for his book, *Empire by Invitation: William Walker and Manifest Destiny in Central America*.
- **Willa Doswell (School of Nursing)**, has been named a 2019 Woman of Excellence by the *New Pittsburgh Courier*. The awards are given annually to 50 African American women who have made significant contributions to the community.
- **Erika Ninos (Student Affairs)** has received the Supportive Staff Member Award for her mentorship and support of Pitt students from the national student sustainability group Post-Landfill Action Network.