

December 11, 2019

UNIVERSITY-WIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Office of Community and Governmental Relations (CGR)**, along with the Salvation Army and Sodexo, will host their annual Christmas Day at Pitt on December 25 at Market Central. Volunteers are welcome, and CGR is accepting donations of new hats and gloves until December 14th.
- **Pitt's United Way campaign** has currently raised \$518,000 – nearly 70 percent of its overall goal of \$750,000. Donations will be accepted through the spring 2020 semester.
- The Office of the Chancellor has launched the third year of **Pitt Seed Projects**. Faculty and staff are invited to submit funding requests for transformative projects that support the Plan for Pitt.

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

- The **Swanson School of Engineering** will receive the 2019 UPSIDE Award (University Prize for Strategic, Inclusive, and Diverse Excellence) for its PITT STRIVE program, which aims to improve the experience of underrepresented students entering doctoral engineering programs and to create a culture and climate that ensures their success throughout the PhD program.
- The University has been awarded a \$4.3 million grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research to create the **National Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Family Support**. The center will serve as a national hub for research to improve the care and quality of life for persons with disabilities and those who support them.
- Friend of the University **Barbara Heigl** has made a commitment to create the Richard J. Heigl Memorial Fund, which supports cancer research at Pitt.
- Friends of the University, **Dr. Robert J. Zollweg and Aileen Boules Zollweg** have created the Dr. Robert J. Zollweg and Aileen Boules Zollweg Scholarship fund, which will provide tuition support for students in Pitt's School of Law.
- **Community and Governmental Relations** hosted the awards ceremony for the Congressional App Challenge. Area students created apps to solve problems in their congressional districts, nationally, and globally. **Alex Labrinidis (School of Computing and Information)** served as a judge.
- The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

STUDENT MILESTONES

- A student-led team from the **Swanson School of Engineering** won the Bronze Award at the InnovateFPGA 2019 Global Contest Regional Final. **Haihui Zhu, Christopher Pasquinelli, and Roman Hamilton**, all undergraduates, developed a sign language reader that uses a camera and artificial intelligence to identify American Sign Language hand gestures and translate them into sentences.
- The **Pitt Panthers football** team has accepted an invitation to play in the Quick Lane Bowl in Detroit on December 26. Their opponent will be Eastern Michigan University.

FACULTY AND STAFF MILESTONES

- Pitt researchers, **Rob Rutenbar (Senior Vice Chancellor for Research), Tao Han (Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences), and Kathryn Albers (School of Medicine)**, have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in recognition of their distinguished contributions to science and its applications.

- **Paul Leu (Swanson School of Engineering)** has been awarded a \$1 million award from the Department of Energy to work with tech company Electroninks to improve the technology and performance of light-emitting diodes found in smartwatches and 4K television screens.
- **Jeanne Marie Laskas (Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences)**, founding director of Pitt's Center for Creativity, published a feature story on Fred Rogers in *New York Times Magazine*. It details her friendship with Rogers and how his philosophy contributed to her beliefs about the creative process.
- **John V. Williams, (School of Medicine)** has been named by the American Pediatric Society as the recipient of the 2020 Norman J. Siegel Outstanding Science Award for his contributions to pediatric science. The award will be presented May 3, 2020, in Philadelphia.
- **Catherine Palmer (School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)** has received a \$2.23 million award from the federally funded Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to study correlations between quality of life and the use of auditory aids in senior communities.
- **Gina Garcia (School of Education)** has been elected to the board of directors of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, an organization for scholarship in higher education administration.
- **Peter Strick (School of Medicine)** was presented with the 2019 Krieg Cortical Kudos Discoverer Award by the Society for Neuroscience for his groundbreaking research on the cerebral cortex.
- **The Office of the Provost** awarded six faculty members the 2019 Provost's Award for Diversity in the Curriculum for their efforts in integrating diverse and inclusive concepts into their courses and curricula. In addition to the award, each awardee also received a \$2,000 cash prize.
- **Alex Toner (Office of Community and Governmental Relations)** was recognized as a 2019 Western PA Rising Star by Get Involved, Inc. for his community service and mentorship efforts.
- **Grace Campbell (School of Nursing)** is among the inaugural cohort of fellows for the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses. Fewer than 20 nurses from across the country were selected.
- **School of Nursing** faculty members, **Brenda Cassidy, Jennifer Lingler, and Patricia Tuite** were recognized at the Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania for excellence in nursing.
- **Inmaculada Hernandez (School of Pharmacy)** received the 2019 Seema S. Sonnad Emerging Leader in Managed Care Research Award from the *American Journal of Managed Care*. Hernandez was also recently included on the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list as a young leader in health care research.
- Eight University faculty members were named awardees of the 2020 John C. Mascaro Faculty Program in Sustainability for enhancing Pitt's excellence in sustainability research and education.

John C. Mascaro Faculty Fellow in Sustainability

David Finegold, Graduate School of Public Health

John C. Mascaro Faculty Scholars in Sustainability

Tony Kerzmann, Swanson School of Engineering

Sara Kuebbing, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

John C. Mascaro Faculty Lecturers in Sustainability

Joshua Groffman, Division of Communication and the Arts, Pitt Bradford

Katherine Hornbostel, Swanson School of Engineering

Robert Kerestes, Swanson School of Engineering

Pamela Stewart, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Andrew Strathern, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences