



May 15, 2019

UNIVERSITY-WIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Robert Gregerson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University, has been named president of Pitt Greensburg, effective July 1, 2019.** He succeeds Sharon P. Smith, who has served as president since 2007.
- **A 30-member search committee for the position of senior vice chancellor for the health sciences has been formed.** Provost Ann Cudd and Professor Steven Shapiro (Medicine) are committee chair and vice chair, respectively. As the committee leads the search, all faculty, staff, and students will be encouraged to participate via open town hall sessions and online surveys.

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

- **The Oakland Campus is among the 100 safest college campuses in America** according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security. Pitt is the only ACC school listed and, along with the University of Michigan, is one of only two main-campus AAU schools in the top 100.
- **The University has joined the American Talent Initiative,** an alliance of universities dedicated to expanding opportunity and access for lower-income students at top institutions.
- **The two-year MBA program at Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business was ranked #5 among the nation's most affordable MBA programs** by *Poets & Quants*. Among the *Poets & Quants* top 50 business schools, Katz is one of only five with a total cost of less than \$100,000.
- **Facilities Management is expanding Pitt's composting operations.** The pilot program will place composting bins in the Eureka Building, William Pitt Union, Posvar Hall, and Benedum Hall, in support of Pitt's sustainability goal to compost half of the University's food waste by 2025.
- **Pitt's Business and Auxiliary Services and Student Affairs hosted Pitt's first "Big Table Event"** at the William Pitt Union on April 17. Each table was hosted by a Pitt staff and/or students who invited individuals from across the Pittsburgh community to participate.

STUDENT MILESTONES

- **For the third time in Pitt's history, all four of Pitt's Goldwater Scholarship applicants have been named Goldwater Scholars:** Pitt has produced 59 Goldwater Scholars. The 2019 scholars:
 - **Mariya Savinov,** physics major, math and economics minors
 - **Teja Peddada,** neuroscience major, math and statistics minors
 - **Swapna Subramanian,** ecology & evolution and anthropology majors, chemistry minor
 - **Julia Driscoll,** chemistry major
- **Graduating senior Saket Rajprohat (College of Business Administration) is a recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship** of the U.S. Department of State. He will complete a one-year fellowship in India focusing on increasing civic engagement among young people.
- **Graduate Ananya Gupta, a 2019 MBA graduate, was named one of the 100 Best and Brightest MBAs** of the Class of 2019 by *Poets & Quants*.
- **A supercomputer developed by a Pitt team reached the International Space Station earlier this month.** The project, led by Alan George, chair of electrical and computer engineering, and grad student Kevin Glunt, enables space-based experiments on computing, sensing, image processing, and machine learning.

- **Nine Pitt students were awarded a 2019 National Science Foundation Research Fellowship.** The program supports outstanding students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees. Fellows receive an annual stipend of \$34,000 for three years, plus a \$12,000 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees. The students are:
 - **Kalon J. Overholt** (bioengineering)
 - **Nathaniel Robert Buettner** (civil engineering)
 - **Dulce Maria Mariscal Olivares** (bioengineering)
 - **Charles D. Griego** (chemical engineering)
 - **Samantha Shablin** (ecology)
 - **Esther Esmeralda Palacios-Barrios** (developmental psychology)
 - **Samantha Fontaine** (evolutionary biology)
 - **Shirley Duong** (developmental psychology)
 - **Tiffany Lynn Betras** (ecology)
- **"Rescuing Abundance,"** a documentary film by College of Business Administration students, won the **Food Award** at the Cinema Verde International Film Festival in Florida. The film explores the problem of food waste, with Pittsburgh as a model for innovative solutions.

FACULTY AND STAFF MILESTONES

- **Graham Hatfull, professor of biological sciences, is a senior author on a groundbreaking paper in *Nature Medicine* describing the first use of bacteriophages (viruses that infect bacteria) to treat a mycobacterial infection in a human. The patient is also the first to be treated with genetically engineered phages. (Hatfull's team engineered the phages to be more damaging to bacteria.)**
- **A scientific collaboration between Steven Abramowitch, associate professor of bioengineering, and surgeon Pamela Moalli, professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences, has been awarded a five-year, \$2.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to create a novel vaginal repair device to improve outcomes in pelvic organ prolapse surgery.**
- **Diego Chaves-Gnecco, associate professor of pediatrics in the School of Medicine, received the 2019 Pediatrician of the Year award at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Pennsylvania Chapter.**
- **David Denis, Professor of Business Administration, received the Distinguished Scholar Award from Drexel University's Governance Institute.**
- **John Jakicic, Chair of Health and Physical Activity and Director of Pitt's Healthy Lifestyle Institute, is receiving the prestigious American College of Sports Medicine Citation Award on May 29.**
- **Margaret (Peg) Smith, professor emerita of mathematics education and senior scientist in the Learning Research and Development Center received a lifetime achievement award from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.**
- **Suzanne Staggenborg, chair of the Department of Sociology, received the John D. McCarthy Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Scholarship of Social Movements and Collective Behavior from Notre Dame's Center for the Study of Social Movements.**
- **Mari Webel, assistant professor of history, is our first faculty member to receive the prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship, which will support her interdisciplinary work on neglected tropical diseases melding history and public health.**