



January 16, 2019

UNIVERSITY-WIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Association of American Universities** will administer an online **Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct**. All Pitt students can participate when the survey launches on **Feb. 11**; feedback from the survey will inform Pitt's continued efforts to prevent and address sexual assault and misconduct on campus.
- Faculty and staff members across all Pitt campuses may submit **2019 Pitt Seed Project** proposals that reflect a clear vision for advancing The Plan for Pitt. Selected proposals can receive up to **\$50,000** in funding support. A letter of intent, due Feb. 8, is required to start the application process.
- **Jay Darr** will step into the role of University Counseling Center director on Feb. 18. Darr will provide clinical and administrative leadership and oversee the strategic direction for the center.
- **Jinx Walton** will retire as chief information officer in February after more than 40 years with the University. Walton has been named a Pittsburgh CIO of the Year and one of Computerworld's Premier Top 100 IT leaders.
- **Nicole M. Mitchell** will join the University on July 1 as director of the **Jazz Studies Program** and the William S. Dietrich II Endowed Chair in Jazz Studies in our **Department of Music** [Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences].

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

- Approximately 200 volunteers from the University community served more than 2,000 meals during the **13th annual Christmas Day at Pitt**. During the event, volunteers also distributed more than **1,000 gift bags** filled with hats, scarves and gloves and about **500 gifts** to children.
- **The Wall Street Journal** and **Times Higher Education** ranked our Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business' two-year MBA program **No. 12 in the world**. The ranking measures career outcomes, school resources, student engagement and learning environment.
- For the first time, **Poets & Quants** ranked our **College of Business Administration** among the **Top 25 of all business schools in the United States**. CBA was ranked **No. 23 overall** and **No. 11 among public institutions**. The ranking formula is based on admissions metrics, student career outcomes and an alumni survey that addresses student satisfaction.
- Our **School of Education** tied for No. 22 on **U.S. News and World Report's** list of the Best Online Graduate Education Programs.
- The **Mario Lemieux Foundation** recently pledged **\$5 million** to UPMC and Pitt to support immunotherapy programs and research, as well as renovation of the second-floor UPMC Hillman Cancer Center pavilion suite.

STUDENT MILESTONES

- The student-run group, **Food Recovery Heroes**, **recovered 5.2 tons of food** last year to distribute to those in need, helping the University earn recognition from the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** for its **food recovery** efforts.

- **Julie Shields** [Swanson School] earned distinction as the **2019 National Co-op Student of the Year** for her work with FedEx Supply Chain. The award, offered by the **American Society of Engineering Education**, recognizes an outstanding student engaged in a co-op experience.
- **Panthers Forward** welcomed 150 seniors as members of the program's first class. The program will offset up to \$5,000 of each student's eligible federal student loan balance and give students access to alumni ambassadors dedicated to the students' professional success.

FACULTY AND STAFF MILESTONES

- **Joseph Alter** [Dietrich School and University Center for International Studies] organized the **Himalayan Environmental Education and Policy Conference** in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, India. The program, which took place from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, brought together scholars of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences to develop a multidisciplinary understanding of environmental problems in the Himalayan region.
- **Stephen Badylak** [School of Medicine] is one of 148 academic inventors elected as a Fellow of the **National Academy of Inventors**, the highest professional distinction accorded to academic inventors.
- Our **Department of Medicine** appointed **Naudia Jonassaint** [School of Medicine] as its inaugural vice chair for diversity and inclusion.
- **Jennifer Laaser** and **Roger Mong** [Dietrich School] each earned a **2018 National Science Foundation CAREER award**. This award recognizes junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through research and education.
- **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** has awarded an interdisciplinary team of Dietrich School faculty **\$225,000** for a multiyear collaborative initiative titled: "Information Ecosystems: Creating Data (and Absence) From the Quantitative to the Digital Age." The project will bring 14 field-leading international scholars to Pitt over the course of the 2019-20 academic year and create competitive research fellowships.

ALUMNI MILESTONES

- **Paula Kelly** (MLIS '09), director of the **Whitehall Public Library** in Pittsburgh, earned one of 10 "**I Love My Librarian**" awards in 2018. This is a collaborative award program of the **Carnegie Corporation of New York**, the **New York Public Library**, **The New York Times** and the **American Library Association**.