October 10, 2018

NEW UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES
• Pitt released the long-range Draft Master Plan. The draft plan focuses on supporting a better student experience, excellence in research and innovation, and strong community partnerships. Learn more: campusplan.pitt.edu.
• Pitt launched the Panthers Forward program, which embraces a pay-it-forward philosophy and the power of community to propel students toward even greater financial freedom and lifelong success. The program is open to seniors graduating in spring 2019. Learn more: Panthersforward.pitt.edu.
• Pitt also introduced Pitt Commons, a digital hub for mentoring and networking open to students, alumni, faculty and staff. Learn more: commons.pitt.edu.
• The Year of PittGlobal kicked off with numerous events in September and programming continues throughout the year. Learn more: yearofpittglobal.pitt.edu.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
• As part of our Be A Good Neighbor program, Community and Governmental Relations department hosted block parties attended by students, residents, staff, Pittsburgh Police, elected officials and community organizations.
• On Oct. 18, Community and Government Relations will host the opening of our very first Community Engagement Center in Homewood.

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION MILESTONES
• The School of Computing and Information (SCI) received approval as a first-year-admitting school and will begin admitting first-year students in the fall 2019 semester.
• SCI welcomed its inaugural class of Army War College (AWC) Fellows: Lt. Colonels LeRoy Carr III and Anthony Newtson. This program provides senior officers with unique learning and engagement experiences through formal and informal educational opportunities.
• SCI received approval for a redesign of the Master of Library Information Science program, which will enable us to better educate library information professionals to work at the confluence of people, information, technology and data.

ATHLETIC MILESTONES
• On Sept. 7, Athletics inducted the inaugural 16-member class of the Pitt Athletics Hall of Fame.
• On Oct. 4, the new Pitt Studios was unveiled. Pitt Athletics and our Film and Media Studies Program are working together to fund a faculty position and create a broadcast curriculum.

SUSTAINABILITY MILESTONES
• On Sept. 20, the Green Building Alliance recognized Pitt at their 25th Anniversary Emerald Evening Celebration. McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine garnered praise as a project that significantly advanced the region’s green building movement.
• From Oct. 2 to 5, Pitt served as a major Host Institution for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education conference.

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES
• This past week, our Pitt Alumni Association hosted Homecoming Week. This long-standing tradition featured daily activities and special events to welcome back thousands of Pitt alumni.
• Pitt–Bradford earned recognition as a College of Distinction for the fourth time by the Colleges of Distinction website and e-guidebook.
• The Office of Human Resources’ Career Transition Project has earned the 2018 University Prize for Strategic, Inclusive, and Diverse Excellence (UPSIDE) Award. This award honors programs that increase access to and full participation in all aspects of the University by minorities, women and other protected classes.

• Three centers housed in the University Center for International Studies— the Asian Studies Center; the European Studies Center; and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies— have been tapped to receive six awards from the U.S. Department of Education, representing more than $5.1 million in funding over four years.

• Neuroscientists at the Brain Institute earned a three-year, $5 million grant from the DSF Charitable Foundation to study neural networks throughout the brain.

FACULTY MILESTONES

• Professor Emerita Toni Carbo [SCI] received the Association for Information Science and Technology Award of Merit, the highest honor from the association.

• Nancy Condee [Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences] has been selected by the Kennan Institute to present research at a forum of top Kennan scholars from seven countries in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

• Emily Elliott [Dietrich School] is the recipient of the American Geophysical Union’s 2018 Sulzman Award for Excellence in Education and Mentoring. The award is given annually to one mid-career female scientist who excels at mentoring future biogeoscientists.

• The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation authorized a three-year grant for $582,852 to Thomas Hales [Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences] to develop software and services that transform math results appearing in journal articles into data that machines can read and learn from.

• Dean Valerie Kinloch, [School of Education] earned the 2018 Advancement of People of Color Leadership Award from the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). This award honors a person of color who has made a significant contribution to NCTE and their professional community.

• Alison Langmead [Dietrich School] was awarded $223,000 from the Getty Foundation to conduct Digital Humanities workshops. This is the first gift that the University has received from Getty.

• Donna Naples [Dietrich School] has been elected as a Fellow by the American Physical Society (APS). The number of APS Fellows elected each year is limited to no more than one-half of 1 percent of the membership.

• Maureen Porter [School of Education] is a recipient of the David Portlock Outstanding International Educator Award, the highest mid-career scholarly award given by the Pennsylvania Council for International Education.

• Jeannette South-Paul [School of Medicine] has earned the America-Japan Society’s second annual Kentaro Kaneko Award honoring individuals who have promoted grassroots, people-to-people exchanges between Japan and the United States. South-Paul has led UPMC’s collaboration with Aso Iizuka Hospital in Iizuka, Japan, since 2006.

• Ann Thompson [School of Medicine] earned the 2018 Leadership Award for an Individual from the Group on Women in Medicine and Science. This award honors people and groups that have “a significant impact for the advancement of women’s roles in academic medicine and science.”

• John Wallace [School of Social Work] has been named a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, an honorific society of distinguished scholars and practitioners dedicated to achieving excellence in the field of social work and social welfare.

STUDENT MILESTONES

• The Robotics & Automation Society won three of six awards, including Highest Overall Score, at the American Venue of AUVSI Foundation’s International Aerial Robotics Competition.

• Catalina Pineda Molina, a postdoctoral associate in Bioengineering, earned the 2018 Mary Ann Liebert Outstanding Student Award at the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society World Congress. This award recognizes research performed by Pineda Molina in the lab of Stephen Badylak at our McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine.