



November 7, 2018

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

- The **University of Pittsburgh** rose from 15th to 11th among U.S. public universities and from 48th to 43rd overall in the **2019 U.S. News & World Report's Best Global Universities Rankings**.
- **The Economist** ranked the **Master of Business Administration** program at our **Katz Graduate School of Business** 51st globally, 36th nationally and 15th among public institutions.
- **The Economist** also ranked **Pitt Business** 5th in faculty quality in the world and 3rd among U.S. schools.
- **Financial Times** ranked the **Executive MBA** program 52nd globally, 18th nationally and 6th among public institutions.
- The **National Science Foundation** awarded **\$1,182,305** to the **Swanson School of Engineering** to support research into using machine learning and Big Data to analyze electronic anesthesia records and prevent postoperative complications and death. **Heng Huang** [Computer Engineering] is the study's principal investigator.
- The **Innovation Institute** and the **School of Computing and Information** hosted an **IBM Bluehack** event—the first event of its kind to be held at any university. The two-day, idea generation hackathon awarded **\$15,000 in prizes to student teams** for ideas on leveraging data to improve health care.
- The **School of Computing and Information** earned an **Other Transaction for Prototype** agreement from the **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)**. The grant was earned under DARPA's new, multi-year effort to support Artificial Intelligence research and development.
- **Pitt Day of Caring**, a day of service for Pitt faculty and staff, involved more than **150 volunteers** who worked at **12 community sites**. Projects ranged from painting to landscaping to handing out food, and more.
- The **Forbes Street Market**—a new grocery store on campus—is now open to the public. The store accepts Dining Dollars, Panther Funds, debit, credit and cash, and the products are offered at affordable prices meant to accommodate students' needs and budgets.

FACULTY AND STAFF MILESTONES

- The **New Pittsburgh Courier** named seven members of the Pitt community as **Women of Excellence for 2018**. This award honors African-American women who are vital to the communities in which they live and work. This year's winners from Pitt include: **Betty Braxter** [School of Nursing], **Debra Dennison** [School of Public Health], **Sherdina Harper** [Student Affairs], **Cheryl Johnson** [Human Resources], **Valerie Kinloch** [School of Education], **Claudia Kregg-Byers** [School of Nursing] and **Linda Williams-Moore** [Student Life].
- During its first-ever summit, the Magee-Womens Research Institute awarded a **\$1 million Magee Prize** to **Yaacov Barak** [School of Medicine] and an international team of scientists that are working to understand how correcting defects in the placenta could help eliminate heart defects in the developing fetus.
- **Clifton Callaway**, **Robert Friedlander** and **Amy Houtrow** [School of Medicine] have been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine, which is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.
- **Tao Han** [Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences] has been elected **Chair of the American Physical Society Division of Particles and Fields**.
- **Vikas Khanna** and **Radisav Vidic** [Civil and Environmental Engineering] earned **\$1.76 million** from the **Department of Energy RAPID Manufacturing Institute** to conduct pilot testing of membrane distillation technology in the Marcellus and Utica Shale.
- **Andy Moran** [Facilities Management] earned a **Green Star Award** from the **Professional Grounds Management Society**. The award recognizes excellence in turf management, landscape, safety, challenges, budget, and sustainable practices.
- **Mathew Rosenblum** [Dietrich School] has a **new album**, "Lament/Witches' Sabbath," from **New Focus Recordings** that explores themes such as migration, loss, memory and transformation.

- **Warren Ruder** [Bioengineering] was one of 58 researchers to be awarded **\$1.5 million** with the prestigious **National Institutes of Health Director's New Innovator Award**. Ruder's research group works at the interface of biology and engineering to create new biomimetic systems that provide insight into biological phenomena while also serving as platform technologies for future medical applications.
- **Mary Rugh** [Facilities Management] received the **Hall of Honor Award** from the **Electric League of Western Pennsylvania**. This award honors Rugh's dedication to overseeing the design and construction of a state-of-the-art electrical infrastructure serving the Pittsburgh campus for the last 33 years.
- **Peter Strick** and **Erik Wright** [School of Medicine] have earned awards from the **National Institutes of Health High-Risk, High-Reward Research** program. The program supports trailblazing ideas in clinical and basic biomedical science that may struggle under conventional funding mechanisms.
- The book "Pennsylvania Farming: A History in Landscapes" by Sally McMurry, acquired by **Pitt Press Editorial Director Sandy Crooms**, earned the **Philip S. Klein Prize by the Pennsylvania Historical Association**.
- The book "Tangible Belonging: Negotiating Germanness in Twentieth-Century Hungary" by John C. Swanson, acquired by **Pitt Press Director Peter Kracht**, earned the **2018 Barbara Jelavich Book Prize from the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies**.

STUDENT MILESTONES

- **Thomas Freitag** [Honors College] earned the **National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals Out to Innovate Scholarship**. The \$5,000 Out to Innovate Scholarship, awarded to one undergraduate and one graduate/professional student annually, supports LGBTQ+ STEM students.
- **Kylie R. J. Seltzer**, PhD candidate [Dietrich School], earned the **Graham Foundation's 2018 Carter Manny Award for Writing**. Seltzer's dissertation analyzes the intersection of race and architecture through the subject of housing in 19th-century Paris.

PHILANTHROPY MILESTONES

- The **Shear Family Foundation**, longtime supporters of Pitt and the Hillman Cancer Center, announced the creation of the **Shear Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Breast Cancer Research** (\$2 million).
- An anonymous donor recently pledged **\$1 million** in support of **The Allan and Marilyn Meltzer Family & Mounzer E. Agha, MD, Award in Innovative Cancer Research**.

ATHLETICS MILESTONES

- **Pitt volleyball** is off to a **25-1 start this season**. The Panthers, under the direction of Head Coach **Dan Fisher**, are ranked **No. 10** in the latest national poll. Moreover, Pitt set a home attendance record on Oct. 21 by packing **2,152 fans** into **Fitzgerald Field House** to witness a 3-1 win over the University of Louisville.
- As part of **WTAE's Project Bundle-Up**, Pitt student-athletes hosted children from throughout Western Pennsylvania on shopping trips for new coats, hats, boots and gloves.

YEAR OF PITGLOBAL

- The Year of PittGlobal steering committee has **awarded \$84,056** in matching funds to **30 projects across eight responsibility centers**, with **31 percent of awards** going to **nine projects at three regional campuses** (Bradford, Greensburg and Titusville). **Pitt-Bradford** planned and celebrated its first International Week program, **Global Week**, Oct. 8-12, as a result of the funding.
- The Year of PittGlobal welcomed international communities to campus at the **Embrace the World festival** on Oct. 13. The event attracted **more than 2,000 people**, and celebrated the **50th anniversary of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS)** and launched the University's **2018 International Week**.
- The **Global Competence Certificate Program** held its first course, providing faculty and staff with a chance to build understanding of diverse cultures and learn about University resources that support the strategic goal of embracing the world. The program, staffed by UCIS and managed by **Human Resources**, launched on Oct. 10. It was enrolled to capacity, with **40 faculty and staff** registered and **30+** waitlisted.