



2/20/18

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

- Our University was named a **Top Fulbright Producer Institution** for U.S. Students and Scholars by the **Chronicle of Higher Education**. Ten Pitt students received Fulbright awards and six Pitt scholars were awarded Fulbright grants for the 2017-2018 academic year.
- Our **Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business'** full-time MBA program improved to no. 19 among business institutions and no. 42 among all U.S. schools according to the **2018 Financial Times Global Ranking**. Katz is ranked at no. 82 in the world.

STUDENT MILESTONE

- **Joseph Kannarkat** [Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences] was named **Kanders Churchill Scholar** by the **Churchill Scholarship Foundation**. This honor is offered annually to just one person in the United States with a STEM background.

FACULTY MILESTONES

- Faculty researchers **Eric Beckman**, **Susan Fullerton** and **Sachin Velankar** [Swanson School of Engineering] are one of just five international winners of the **Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Circular Materials Challenge**. The competition aims to challenge researchers to provide solutions to reduce plastic waste while creating sustainable packaging solutions.
- **Marlene Cohen** [Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences] earned the **Troland Research Award** from the **National Academy of Sciences** for her studies on how neurons in the brain process visual information.
- **Dean Patricia Kroboth** [School of Pharmacy] will be awarded the **2018 American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists Outstanding Dean Award** in March for her contributions and promotion of the welfare of student pharmacists through community service, leadership and professional activities.
- **Dean Gerald Holder** [Swanson School of Engineering] was honored with the **Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers-Pittsburgh Chapter's Distinguished Service Award**.
- **Sandra Murray** earned a **Lifetime Fellow Recognition** from the **American Society for Cell Biology**. She is the first African-American woman to be named a society fellow.

ALUMNI MILESTONES

- Pitt defensive line **Aaron Donald** became the first former Panther to be named **Associated Press NFL Defensive Player of the Year**. Donald was honored with this prestigious award after a stellar season with the Los Angeles Rams and joins all-time great Dan Marino as the only former Panthers to earn one of the NFL's two annual AP Player of the Year recognitions.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

- **Pitt Day in Harrisburg** will be on March 20, 2018. Our most important allies—students, faculty, staff and alumni—travel to the capitol to speak directly with state lawmakers about Pitt's immeasurable value to the commonwealth. You can sign up to attend at **with.pitt.edu** or by texting **PittDay** to **52-886**.

HONORS CONVOCATION

- Our **42nd Honors Convocation** ceremony will be held Friday, February 23 in the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh Music Hall. The annual event celebrates the outstanding contributions of both students and faculty members. **Brian Primack**, dean of our University Honors College, will serve as keynote speaker.

CHANCELLOR'S INNOVATION COMMERCIALIZATION FUND WINNERS

- **The Innovation Institute** awarded \$140,000 through the **Chancellor's Innovation Commercialization Funds**, which aims to support promising early-stage Pitt innovations. Four teams earned funding:
 - (1) **Fibrokinase I**, proposed by Assistant Professor **Cecelia Yates** [Departments of Health Promotion and Development and Pathology], Assistant Professor **Timothy Corcoran** [Department of Bioengineering and Chemical Engineering], Postdoctoral Associate **Zariel Johnson** [Department of Health Promotion and Development] and PhD candidate **Christopher Mahoney** [Department of Bioengineering]. This innovation focuses on anti-fibrotic peptides that have the potential to inhibit idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis through development of an aerosol delivery mechanism.
 - (2) **Threadrite IV**, proposed by Professor **William Clark** [Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science], Research Faculty and Physician **Cameron Dezfulian** [Department of Critical Care Medicine], PhD candidate **Ehsan Qaium** [Department of Mechanical Engineering], PhD candidate **Nicholas Krehel** [Department of Critical Care Medicine] and business mentor **Denny Wist**. This innovation is a system for administering IVs that utilize measurement of electrical resistance of tissue to which the needle is exposed to ensure accurate insertion.
 - (3) **Esophagel**, proposed by Professor **Stephen Badylak** [Department of Surgery], postdoctoral fellow **Juan Naranjo** and graduate students **Lindsey Saldin** and **Jenna Dziki** [Department of Bioengineering]. This innovation aims to halt the progression of precancerous lesions that occur following endoscopic removal of pre-cancerous and cancerous lesions.
 - (4) **Steeltown Innovations**, proposed by Professor **Jeffrey Vipperman** [Department of Mechanical and Bioengineering], clinical advisor **Garth Elias** [UPMC Mercy], entrepreneur in residence **Joe Marcanio** [Innovation Institute], PhD candidate **Chris Dumm** [Department of Mechanical Engineering] and undergraduate students **Jack Bartley** and **Kevin Fleishmann** [Department of Mechanical Engineering]. This innovation is a quick-acting tool handling system that gives a surgeon the capability of self-retaining tool positioning.

CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

- We announced the 2018 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching, Research and Public Service Award winners. Each faculty member honored received a \$2,000 prize and \$3,000 grant.
 - (1) Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award recipients:
 - Associate Professor **Raymond Jones** [Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business]
 - Professor and Chair **Alan Sved** [Department of Neuroscience]
 - Professor **Jana Iverson** [Department of Psychology]
 - Associate Professor **Sara Goodkind** [School of Social Work]
 - Assistant Professor **Philip Empey** [Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics]
 - (2) Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award recipients:
 - Professor **Hulya Bayir** [Department of Critical Care Medicine]
 - Professor and Gerald P. Rodnan Endowed Chair **Sarah Gaffen** [Department of Medicine]
 - Associate Professor **Ervin Sejdic** [Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering]
 - Distinguished Professor **Edouard Machery** [Department of History and Philosophy of Science]
 - (3) Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award recipient:
 - Professor **Kay Brummond** [Department of Chemistry]