



March 20, 2019

UNIVERSITY-WIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Pitt Day in Harrisburg:** On March 26. Alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of Pitt will travel to Harrisburg, meet with elected officials and advocate on behalf of the University. Lunch and transportation will be provided. Find more details at with.pitt.edu/pitt-day-harrisburg.
- Following extreme weather in January, a **Campus Weather Policy Review Committee** was formed. With the Office of the Provost, the committee is drafting interim guidelines to clarify the existing Extreme Weather Policy while a comprehensive review of this policy is set in motion.
- To more fully engage with the University community on issues of public safety and police services, a **Chancellor's Public Safety Council** is being created. The council will serve as an advisory body to the chancellor, foster a community-centered approach to the University's decision-making process, and help strengthen the institution's relationship with constituencies on and off campus.
- Pitt's **Division of Student Affairs** publicly posted the results of an independent review that identifies key strengths, risks and opportunities for improvement related to the University's **Fraternity and Sorority Life** community. The University will be taking several immediate steps in light of these findings. The final report and executive summary can be read at <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cld/fsl/actionplan/>.

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

- Pitt introduced the **Pitt Success Pell Match Program**, kicking off the largest restructuring of financial aid in the institution's nearly 232-year history. The program will leverage the power of the U.S. Department of Education's Pell Grant program by matching these federal funds, dollar for dollar, up to the cost of attendance for eligible students across all five of its campuses.
- As of March 5, Pitt has received **30,743 freshmen applications** for the Fall 2019 class – a new record. The University is on pace to attract a final number of around 31,500 applications.
- On February 28, a record 6,346 members of the University of Pittsburgh community — faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni and friends — from all 50 states and 17 countries made donations to support the **2019 Pitt Day of Giving**. Included as donors were 2,883 alumni (49 percent increase over 2018). The number of total donors increased 89 percent compared to 2018.
- **Joy Starzl** (SSW '97), member of the School of Social Work Board of Visitors and wife of the late **Thomas E. Starzl**, announced a \$2.25 million planned gift – the largest in the school's 100+ year history. The funds will significantly grow the **Joy Starzl Scholarship Fund**.
- Director of Athletics **Heather Lyke** received the **2018 Dapper Dan Sportswoman of the Year**.
- **James Conner**, all-time great Pitt running back now with the Pittsburgh Steelers, was honored as **Sportsman of the Year** and was introduced by another Pitt football icon, **Aaron Donald**, who was recently named NFL Defensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive season.
- UPMC broke ground for the **UPMC Vision and Rehabilitation Hospital** at UPMC Mercy. Expected to open in late 2022, the nine-story tower will house research and clinical programs led by faculty from Pitt's School of Medicine, especially from the Departments of Ophthalmology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.
- Pitt student group **Food Recovery Heroes** was honored by the Pennsylvania Resources Council with a **2018 Zero Waste Excellence Award**. Food Recovery Heroes have worked to recover more than 28,000 pounds of surplus food from campus since 2014.

- To further Pitt's sustainability goals, **Pitt Facilities Management** has introduced an **Energy Project Dashboard** that tracks each potential energy project, its calculated energy savings, and the verified financial return on investment from all implemented energy conservation project. 25 energy projects are currently tracked in the system.

STUDENT MILESTONES

- The **Emma W. Locke Award**, given to a graduating senior in recognition of high scholarship, character and devotion to the ideals of the University, went to **Kaylene Stocking**, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in bioengineering and computer engineering.
- The **Omicron Delta Kappa Senior of the Year Award**, presented to a graduating senior who has attained a high standard of leadership in college activities, went to **Madeline Guido**, a biological sciences major with minors in Spanish and Chemistry.

FACULTY AND STAFF MILESTONES

- **Dawn Lundy Martin**, professor in the Dietrich School's Department of English and cofounder of the University's Center for African American Poetry and Poetics, is the recipient of the **2019 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award** for her collection "Good Stock Strange Blood."
- The **National Science Foundation** awarded two **\$500,000 CAREER Awards**, which support early-career faculty who are academic role models in research and education, to Pitt faculty from the Swanson School of Engineering: **Tevis Jacobs** and **Carla Ng**.
- **John Wallace**, Dave E. Epperson Chair and Professor of Social Work, has been named a **Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare**.
- School of Education Dean **Valerie Kinloch** was named a **2019 American Educational Research Association Fellow**.
- **Daniel Balderston**, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Modern Languages, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, is co-winner of the **2019 Richard J. Finneran Award**, established by the Society for Textual Scholarship to honor the best edition or book about editorial theory and/or practice published in the preceding two years,
- Cancer immunologist **Greg Delgoffe** [School of Medicine] is the first recipient of the newly established **Sy Holzer Endowed Immunotherapy Research Fund** to advance innovative research in cancer immunotherapy. The fund was established to honor Holzer's philanthropic work as president of PNC and his service as chair of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Council.
- **Juleen Rodakowski**, [School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences] was awarded \$3 million in research funding by the **National Institute on Aging** to study the influence of strategy training on daily activities for older adults with mild cognitive impairment.

ALUMNI MILESTONES

- **Paul Scolari** (A&S '05) was named **Superintendent of Dinosaur National Monument** in Colorado and Utah. Scolari holds a Ph.D. from Pitt, where he studied the commemoration of the American Frontier in public monuments.
- **Sossena Wood** (ENGR '18) who earned a Ph.D. in bioengineering, is featured in the NBC News Learn online video collection "**Discovering You: Engineering Your World**," during National Engineers Week. She is now a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University.
- **Linda Wharton Boyd** (A&S '72, '75G, '79G), a past president of Pitt's African American Alumni Council, was among the 99 women cross the nation recently honored as one of the **Top Women in PR**. Wharton Boyd is the director of communications, external affairs and strategic stakeholder engagement for the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority.