



December 5, 2018

## SUSTAINABILITY MILESTONES

- The University signed a letter of intent to purchase 100 percent of the power from a **low-impact hydroelectric power plant** to be built at the existing Allegheny Lock and Dam No. 2, less than 5 miles from the Pittsburgh campus. Expected to open in 2022, the facility will supply about **25 percent of the campus's electricity needs**.
- Pitt achieved **Bronze level recognition** as a **Bicycle Friendly University (BFU)** from the **League of American Bicyclists**. The BFU program recognizes institutions of higher education for promoting and providing a more bikeable campus for students, staff and visitors. This is the first time the University has been honored, and Pitt is one of 193 schools in the nation to hold BFU status.
- Pitt became a member of the **U.S. EPA Green Power Partnership** after purchasing 32,000 megawatt hours of renewable energy certificates for FY'19, which represents approximately 15 percent of Pitt's annual electricity use. The University also signed a 36-month contract to purchase renewable power for an additional 3.2 percent of our electricity usage. These purchases align with the Pitt Sustainability Plan's goal of producing or procuring 50 percent of our electricity consumption from renewable resources by 2030.

## INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

- An anonymous donor pledged **\$1 million** to support the **Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute** to further research into successful transplantation and minimizing organ rejection.

## FACULTY AND STAFF MILESTONES

- **Freddie Fu** [School of Medicine] has a facility named in his honor: **UPMC Freddie Fu Sports Medicine Center**.
- **P.S. Reddy** [School of Medicine] and **Tushar Singh** [GSPH '14] earned the **2018 Sheth International Achievement Award**, which is given every year to a faculty member and an alumnus who are increasing Pitt's global footprint with their work. Reddy, a renowned cardiologist who joined Pitt's faculty in 1971, established the MediCiti Hospital in Hyderabad, India. Singh serves as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's director for Sierra Leone, where he leads all CDC activities.
- **Vikas Khanna** and **Radisav Vidic** [Swanson School of Engineering] are leading a research team that was awarded **\$1.76 million** to conduct pilot testing of membrane distillation technology in the Marcellus and Utica Shale to safely treat shale gas wastewater for reuse.
- A paper by **Sharon Alvarez** [Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business] was recognized as a runner-up for the **2018 Best Paper Award** from the Technology, Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship section of **INFORMS**. The paper is titled "Forming and Exploiting Opportunities: The implications for discovery and creation processes for entrepreneurial, and organizational research." The award was presented at the annual meeting of **INFORMS** in Phoenix.
- **Deborah Good** and **Ray Jones** [College of Business Administration] were named to the **2018 Top 50 Undergraduate Professors list** by Poets&Quants.
- **Inmaculada Hernandez** [School of Pharmacy] earned a spot on the **Forbes' 2019 30 Under 30 in Healthcare list**. Her research examines—among other things—pharmaceutical pricing trends and strategies in response to market disruptions.
- **Adam Leibovich**, **Jeremy Levy** and **James Francis Woodward** [Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences] were elected Fellows by the **American Association for the Advancement of Science** in recognition of their leadership and distinguished contributions to science.
- **Steven Little** [Swanson School of Engineering] earned the **2018 Pittsburgh Award** from the Pittsburgh Section of the **American Chemical Society** in recognition of his service and commitment to the field of chemistry over the years, with emphasis on efforts to reinvent chemical engineering education locally.

- **Yuri Nikiforov** [School of Medicine] was the lead author on a study about the **ThyroSeq® Genomic Classifier**, a genetic test that can help avoid costly diagnostic surgery that involves removing one or both lobes of the thyroid gland. Published in the journal **JAMA Oncology**, the results of an international clinical trial showed that the test correctly identified cancerous nodules as positive 94 percent of the time.
- **José Alain Sahel** [School of Medicine] is leading a trial involving PRIMA, a wireless retinal implant designed to help restore useful vision in patients with advanced atrophic dry age-related macular degeneration. Pittsburgh is the first and only site in the United States where this technology will be evaluated, and promising first results from the clinical feasibility trial of PRIMA were presented at the **American Academy of Ophthalmology 2018 annual meeting** in Chicago.
- Researchers **Albert To** and **Wei Xiong** [Swanson School of Engineering] are part of a team that has received a **\$750,000** award from **NASA** to utilize new computer modeling and optimization techniques, combined with a nickel-iron superalloy, to enable faster adoption of additive manufacturing in various NASA missions.

### STUDENT MILESTONES

- Master's student **Heather Tomko** [Graduate School of Public Health] earned the **Dick Thornburgh Forum Disability Service Award**. This \$4,000 award, named for the former governor of Pennsylvania and disability rights advocate, recognizes a Pitt student from any campus whose service has made a difference in the lives of kids and adults with disabilities. Tomko was named Ms. Wheelchair USA 2018 in July and will continue to promote her platform, "Increasing Inclusion of People with Disabilities into their Communities."

### ALUMNI MILESTONES

- **Lia Petrose** [A&S '17] is Pitt's eighth recipient of the prestigious **Rhodes scholarship**. She will attend the University of Oxford in the U.K. to study computer science and philosophy.
- **Sangya Gyawali** [A&S '16], a lead analyst at BNY Mellon, has been named a 2020 **Schwarzman scholar**. The prestigious international graduate fellowship supports up to 200 scholars annually pursuing master's degrees at the Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China's leading science and technology university. Gyawali is Pitt's first Schwarzman scholar.
- **Shinjini Kundu** [MED '18] and **Coleman Stavish** [A&S '16] were also named to **Forbes' 2019 30 Under 30 in Healthcare list**: Kundu for her work developing a technology to analyze medical images and detect diseases using artificial intelligence, and Stavish for his role as chief technology officer and co-founder of Proscia, a company that uses artificial intelligence to speed up pathology tests for cancer patients.

### ATHLETICS MILESTONES

- **Pitt volleyball** claimed the **2018 ACC title** with a five-set win at Miami on Nov. 18. The Petersen Events Center played host to the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament, with the Panthers entering as a No. 12 seed and losing in the second round. The team earned its most wins in a season (30) since the Panthers went 32-6 in 1990.
- Pitt represented the Coastal Division in its first **ACC Football Championship Game** on Dec. 1 in Charlotte. The team will face Stanford in the Hyundai Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas, on Dec. 31.