

January 16, 2020

UNIVERSITY-WIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Anantha Shekhar** will join the University as senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and John and Gertrude Petersen Dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Shekhar, currently at the Indiana University School of Medicine, is expected to begin his appointment in June 2020.
- The **Plan for Pitt 2025**, a five-year strategic plan for the University, is under development. Listening sessions and workshops for staff, faculty, students, and stakeholders are scheduled for the next several weeks. Check the University Calendar for dates and visit www.planforpitt.edu for more information.
- Applications for **Pitt Seed** funding are being accepted. Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit ideas that support one or more of the six goals within the Plan for Pitt. Letters of intent are due on February 7. An information session will be held on January 23, at 9 a.m. in 817 Cathedral of Learning.
- Additional plans for **Victory Heights**, the proposed centerpiece of the Pitt Athletics campus, have been released. The signature athletics initiative is expected to transform the student-athlete experience at the University and will dramatically expand athletics facilities for competition and training.
- **Jeffrey (A&S '87) and Sandra Martchek** pledged \$1.25 million in support of a 25,000 square foot strength and conditioning center within Victory Heights.
- The **Daniel and Glenda Root Family Foundation** pledged \$1,000,000 in support of lung transplantation research and educational initiatives in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery.
- **Pitt Day of Giving 2020** is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25. The 2019 event raised \$4.2 million from more than 6,000 donors.
- The University will observe **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** (January 20) with a variety of activities on multiple campuses. Activities include a Social Justice Week and Day of Service organized by Student Affairs, and an interfaith service on January 22.
- **Pitt Day in Harrisburg** will be held March 17. The annual day of advocacy at the state capitol allows University supporters to speak directly to state legislators.
- The **Office of Sustainability** has launched the Pitt Sustainability Dashboard, which further advances the Pitt Sustainability Plan and quantifies the University's sustainability progress. Interactive features allow users to view results at both building and campus scales for the Pittsburgh campus.

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

- The **Office of Community and Governmental Relations**, in partnership with Sodexo and the Salvation Army, served more than 2,500 meals on December 25 at Market Central on the Pittsburgh campus for the 15th annual Christmas Day of Service.
- Several **Pitt distance learning programs** were ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*:
 - The Online Master's in Nursing Program rose from #29 to #20 among public universities.
 - In the Online Nursing Master's Specialty Programs category, Pitt ranked:
 - #6 overall and #1 among public universities in Nursing Administration/Leadership
 - #3 overall and #1 among publics in Nurse Practitioner-Pediatric Primary Care
 - #4 overall and #2 among publics in Nurse Practitioner-Psychiatric Mental Health
 - The Online MBA Program improved from #48 to #37 among public universities.
 - The Online Master's Education Program was ranked #30 among public universities

STUDENT MILESTONES

- **Jariatu Stallone**, a biology pre-med student at Pitt-Bradford, was awarded a Pedro Zamora Young Leaders Scholarship from the National AIDS Memorial. Stallone was recognized for combatting stigma attached to AIDS/HIV and for providing educational opportunities in her native Sierra Leone.
- **Brian Broome** (Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences) has sold his debut memoir, “Like This”, to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt publishing company.
- Two Pitt students are winners of a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, which funds study abroad programs for Pell Grant recipients. **Armari Long**, a junior Spanish major, will study in Cuba and **Lilian McGough**, a senior Molecular Biology major, will study in Japan.
- Through a collaboration between **University Dining Services**, the Pakistani Student Association, and the Muslim Student Association, halal food selections are now available at Market Central. The new items will be provided by Salem’s Market and Grill, a locally owned halal restaurant.
- Hundreds of **Pitt football** fans gathered in Detroit to support our student-athletes at the Quick Lane Bowl. Fans were treated to a thrilling victory by the Panthers over Eastern Michigan.

FACULTY AND STAFF MILESTONES

- **Shelome Gooden** has been named the University’s first assistant vice chancellor for research for the humanities, arts, social sciences, and related fields. In this role, Gooden will provide intellectual leadership to evolve new collaborations and opportunities outside clinical and laboratory research.
- **JoAnne Flynn**, (School of Medicine) authored a groundbreaking study on the tuberculosis vaccine, one of the most widely used vaccines in the world. The study, published in *Nature*, found that changing the manner in which the vaccine is administered caused a dramatic increase in its efficacy.
- The *Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics* published results of a study led by **Elizabeth Miller** (School of Medicine), who adapted the Coaching Boys into Men program, a violence-prevention initiative for high school males, to middle school boys. She found 50 percent more positive behaviors towards girls in participants compared to boys who did not go through the program.
- Barry Minick (Katz Graduate School of Business) was awarded the 2019 Ideas Worth Teaching Award by the Aspen Institute for his business history course Market Manipulations: Crises, Bubbles, Robber Barons and Corporate Saints. The honor is one of only 10 selected worldwide.
- **Chris Driscoll** (Pitt Business) was named 2019 Preservationist of the Year by the Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh. Driscoll was part of a team that restored an historic mansion in Bellevue that is now recognized by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.
- **Janice Pringle** (Pitt Pharmacy) received the Excellence in Patient Care award from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation for her work on opioid abuse and improved individual and population health outcomes in Blair County, Pennsylvania.
- **Evelyn Rawski** (Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences) received a lifetime achievement award from the American Historical Association. Rawski also won the Award for Scholarly Distinction and was recognized as a senior historian. She specializes in Chinese historiography and economic history.
- **Taryn Bayles** (Swanson School of Engineering) received the James Pommersheim Award for Excellence in Teaching Chemical Engineering in recognition of her teaching and mentoring and her research on increasing awareness of the engineering field and engineering education.
- **Feng Xiong** (Swanson School of Engineering) received a \$500,000 CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation for his AI Energy Efficiency Project. Xiong’s work involves spiking neural networks (SNN) and aims to improve energy efficiency, bandwidth, and capabilities of SNNs.
- **Lina Dostilio** (Community and Governmental Relations) published a new study in conjunction with her work as the inaugural fellow with the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities which focuses on the impact of strategic community engagement in post-secondary institutions.