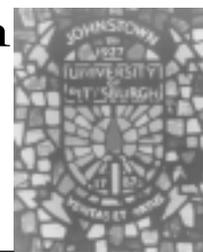


# University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

## Of Note

A newsletter published twice a year for faculty and staff of the University

75th Anniversary  
1927-2002



Fall 2002

### Athletics

Head Coach **Jodi Gault** joined Pitt Johnstown Wrestling Coach **Pat Pecora** and six-time heavyweight wrestling national champion Carlton Haselrig in the Cambria County Sports Hall of Fame when she was inducted on July 27. Coach Gault, who enters her 21<sup>st</sup> season at Pitt Johnstown, has posted a 435-122 (.781) career record and ranks among the nation's elite in career victories and winning percentage. Under Coach Gault, the Lady Cats have appeared in 12 NCAA Tournaments, won five Regional Championships and advanced to the Final Four in 1987.

**Bob Rukavina** was recently elected as a congressman for the National Association of Basketball Coaches to represent independent institutions on a national basis.

**Clyde Horner** earned his 600th career coaching victory with a three-games-to-two volleyball win over Lycoming College on October 19.

### Education

**Nina Girard** completed her doctoral work at the University of Pittsburgh this summer. She obtained a doctorate of education in mathematics education from the School of Education's Instruction and Learning Department. Her doctoral dissertation research study entitled, "Students' Representational Approaches to Solving Calculus Problems: Examining the Role of Graphing Calculators" was conducted by collecting data in calculus classes at UPJ. Sixty-five students enrolled in first-term calculus participated in the study. The study investigated use of multiple representations and the graphing calculator as students solved limit and derivative problems. Quantitative and descriptive analyses ascertained when and how students used the graphing calculator, which representation or combination of representations students chose to use when solving problems, and the relation of these to student success. Results showed that students demonstrated knowledge of a multiple representational approach to problem-solving and made use of the graphing calculator as they solved calculus problems. Students used the graphing calculator primarily as an exploratory tool to solve limit and derivative problems, although there was no overall significant association of correctness when the calculator was used for exploratory purposes on unfamiliar limit problems. When a multiple representational approach was used by a student, it was likely to involve a combination of algebraic and graphical representations, and successful students (those in the top quartile of the class) used two representational

approaches. The calculus course was taught using a multiple-representational-view-of-concepts model of instruction with integral use of the graphing calculator. This approach to calculus instruction has become more common in mathematics education at both the collegiate and high school levels, and the results and conclusions of her study endorse the use of these instructional practices.

In May, **Bernie Poole** presented a paper at the TCC 2002 Online Conference sponsored by the University of Hawaii. The theme of the conference was "Hybrid Dreams: The Next Leap for Internet-Mediated Learning." Poole's paper, co-authored with Mandi Axmann, Instructional Designer at the Technikon Pretoria in Pretoria, South Africa, was entitled, "Education Fact or Fiction: Exploring the Myths of Online Learning." The paper was discussed with conference participants in hour-long chat room discussions on three-successive days. The same paper was the subject of a highly successful, week-long discussion on the ITFORUM, a listserv for the Instructional Technology community. In August, Poole self-published online a new set of tutorials for Microsoft Office XP. These tutorials for teachers were written in collaboration with Lorrie Jackson, Technology Coordinator for the Lausanne Collegiate School in Memphis, Tenn. and Rebecca Randall, fifth grade teacher at Hodge Road Elementary School in Knightdale, N.C. Along with an earlier version published last year for Office 2000, the tutorials are being used in Schools of Education and with in-service teachers in K-12 school districts in North and South America, Europe and Australia. Poole recently discovered that the tutorials, freely available on-line, are being used by teachers in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and Shanghai, China. Poole is currently working on the fourth edition of his main text "Education for an Information Age." The third edition, published last year, also is freely available on-line. Poole has been asked by the Ministry of Public Education in Mexico City, Mexico, to collaborate on the preparation of a Spanish language text based on "Education for an Information Age." The collaborative endeavor, according to Javier Arévalo Zamudio, Director de Medios Audiovisuales e Informática Educativa, "will have the purpose of providing in-service training for basic education teachers and pre-service training for future teachers on the use of new information and communication technology." The second edition of Poole's "Education for an Information Age" text had already been published in Spanish but is now out of date. In August, he attended a week-long Summer Institute in Advanced Technology in Boston, where he learned about WebQuests and developed one for use with Education majors at UPJ. The WebQuest, entitled, "Weaving the

Web into Your K-12 Curriculum,” also is freely available on-line and is being class-tested at this time.

## Engineering Technology

**Maher Murad** presented two papers at the 2002 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Annual Conference and Exposition in Montreal, Canada. The first paper is entitled “Using After Action Reports to Extend Examination Learning.” The second paper is entitled “Mentoring New Faculty: A Student Exercise Designed to Enhance Student-Faculty Relationships,” co-authored by **Robert Martinazzi** and **Jerry Samples**. In August, Dr. Maher also attended the ExCEED Teaching Workshop held at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz. This annual teaching workshop is conducted specifically for civil engineering faculty who want to improve their teaching. The workshop is sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

In June, **Andy Rose** presented three papers at the 2002 ASEE Annual Conference in Montreal. He presented a paper, “Building Better Rapport with Students: Advice for New Engineering Educators,” where he discussed ways to develop teacher-student relationships that encourage a constructive learning environment in the classroom and promote good teaching evaluations. In his paper, “Exposing Students to Innovative Construction Technologies in the Undergraduate Civil Engineering Technology Curriculum,” he discussed his experiences using field trips, videos and guest speakers to incorporate new technological developments into his courses. The third, “Summer Internships for Engineering Technology Students: Sharing the Experiences,” co-written by **Maher Murad**, assessed the summer work experiences of UPJ Civil Engineering Technology students. Students from the sophomore through senior year were surveyed on their summer work experiences in industry, including internships with PennDOT. Feedback indicated how students find summer jobs, how these jobs relate to their career interests, what types of work they perform at different academic levels, to what extent they use their education in the work place, and how their work experiences related to future courses. He also moderated a session on “Balancing Professional and Personal Activities for the New Engineering Educators Division.” In July, Drs. Rose and Maher attended the “How to Engineer Engineering Education” workshop at Bucknell University. This week-long NSF sponsored workshop provided undergraduate engineering faculty hands-on experiences to improve skills in active, cooperative and problem-based learning. The workshop included special sessions on pedagogy, learning outcomes, problem-solving skills, effective use of teams, team building, assessment of team member performance, and effective integration of technology into the curriculum. Selection to attend the workshop was highly competitive with only 48 participants selected from over 300 applicants. The workshop encouraged participation of several faculty members from an institution or department

in order to create a support structure for implementing educational innovations beyond the workshop.

In May 2002, UPJ began participation in PennDOT’s Ambassador Program. Engineering District 9 partners with students and faculty to now provide them with up-to-date transportation information. As part of its strategic focus, PennDOT created the Ambassador Program to build relationships with its customers. PennDOT’s Human Resource Management division will also assist students who are interested in career opportunities with PennDOT.

## Humanities

**Denis Robitaille** has been appointed Chair of the Division of Humanities. His appointment was effective July 1.

## Natural Sciences

**William Brice** delivered the citation and presented the Distinguished Service Award for 2002 to Professor Robert K. Ridky of the University of Maryland. This annual award recognizes outstanding contributions to the Eastern Section/NAGT and to earth science teaching. Dr. Brice was the first recipient of the award in 1999, and he serves as chairman of the review committee. Dr. Brice presented a paper, “Henry Shaler Williams-Thoughts on Evolution,” at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) held in Denver, Colo. In addition, Dr. Brice will attend the concurrent annual meeting of the History of Geology Division of GSA, an organization in which he serves as secretary-treasurer and editor of the Division newsletter. Dr. Brice is completing the second year of a two-year term as President-Elect of the History of Sciences Society, an international organization devoted to the history of geology and the earth sciences. He will be president of that organization for a two-year term beginning in January 2003.

**Bruce Colbert** has been invited as a featured speaker for the West Virginia Society for Respiratory Care on November 14 and 15. The lecture series will be entitled “Updates in Asthma Assessment and Treatment” and will include the 2002 Guidelines for Asthma Management that has recently been approved by a national select expert panel. In addition, he has been requested to do a mini-workshop on stress management for health care professionals. In October, he spoke to a group of Community Colleges and Career Schools on “Instilling Critical and Creative Thinking in the Classroom and Clinical Setting,” in El Paso, Texas.

**Daniel Grove** has written a textbook titled *Respiratory Care Skills for Health Care Personnel* that has recently been published by Glencoe Publishers, a division of McGraw Hill. The text provides respiratory care skills training for health care students as well as health care personnel who are interested in mastering additional skills. The text

includes the essential skills needed to administer oxygen, mediated aerosol, and bronchial hygiene therapies. It includes basic characteristics of respiratory diseases and conditions, assessment, and appropriate intervention. The text is accompanied with an optional CD-ROM, which provides interactive exercises for additional reinforcement.

**John Mullennix** presented two conference research papers, with UPJ students as co-authors, "Typicality Ratings of Male and Female Voices" at the 143<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in June in Pittsburgh; and, "The Encoding of Emotional Tone of Voice into Episodic Memory for Speech," at the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association held in May in Chicago, Ill.

**Terry Shustrick** and **Jackie Baird** attended and made a presentation at the "Second Summer Seminar on the Mathematics Preparation of Elementary Teachers" held June 6-8 at San Diego State University (SDSU). The American Association of State Colleges and Universities sponsored the seminar through a grant received from the National Science Foundation. Based on a proposal submitted in December 2000 by a five-member team from the Division of Education, Mathematics Department, and administration, AASCU selected UPJ as one of 18 higher education institutions nationwide to participate in the grant. In June 2001, the five-member teams from each institution attended the first summer seminar at SDSU, with fewer members of each team returning for the 2002 follow-up seminar. At one session of this year's seminar, Ms. Shustrick and Ms. Baird presented the results of the work that has been accomplished toward the completion of UPJ's project since June 2001.

**Steven Stern's** and **John Mullennix's** program of research on the social impact of computer synthesized speech has been featured in recent issues of the *University of Pittsburgh Research Review* as well as the *Pitt Chronicle*. They also co-authored a paper titled "Mitigating and Exacerbating Negative Perceptions of Computer Synthesized Speech," presented at the annual conference of the American Psychological Society held in July in New Orleans. Undergraduate co-authors were Erin Brumbaugh, Lucas Moore, and Lynn Winters. John Mullennix, Steve Stern and Stephen Wilson (class of 2000) published "Effects of Perceived Disability on Persuasiveness of Computer-Synthesized Speech," in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*. In this paper, the authors find that people judge computer synthesized speech harshly and find it less persuasive, but may be more tolerant of synthetic voice when it is used by a person who is known to be disabled. Dr. Stern and Alysia Handel (class of 2001) published "Sexuality and Mass Media: The Historical Context of Psychology's Reaction to Sexuality on the Internet" in the *Journal of Sex Research*. This article is a theoretical review of opinion, theory, and research on the impact of sex in various forms of mass media over the past century.

**Dave Willey** has been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association. In July, he was the featured speaker at a Kiwanis Club dinner. In February, he appeared on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. Presenting his traveling physics show, "How Does a Thing Like That Work," 20 times last year he also was featured on the NBC-TV specials "50 Years of Late Night Television" and "The 10-year Jay Leno Tonight Show Anniversary Special."

**Kim Ziance** attended the Biotechnology 2002 Educators' Conference held at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., in July. Two hundred participants represented 27 states and three countries. The conference consisted of a symposium, workshops, and round table discussions with the overall goal to provide technical and content updates for science educators.

## Nursing

**Nancy Grove** has been invited to become an Associate Member of the Board of Arbutus Park Retirement Community. The term of office began this fall.

## Outreach Office

**John Dalessandro** has been named Coordinator of the Master of Social Work (MSW) Extension Program at UPJ. He joined the Outreach Office staff on July 15. He earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Penn State University and received his MSW from the University of Pittsburgh. He came to UPJ after having served as Employee Assistance Counselor and Medical Social Worker at St. Clair Memorial Hospital in Mount Lebanon. In his role as MSW Program Coordinator, John will be responsible for the development, implementation and operation of the MSW Extension Program at UPJ. He will serve as the primary academic advisor for all Johnstown MSW students and will be responsible for the development and oversight of all field placements.

## Registrar's Office

**Marilyn Alberter** has been named UPJ Registrar. She assumed the responsibilities on August 1. Mrs. Alberter has served in the Registrar's Office since 1985 and served as the Assistant Registrar for the past six years.

## Social Sciences

**Reinhard Heinisch** published a book entitled, *Populism, Pariah—Austria Turns Right* (Nova Science Publisher, New York, 2002, 305 p.). It analyzes Austrian political change and its repercussions, specifically the country's shift to the right, the emergence of right-wing populism, and the European Union sanctions against Austria.



Jessica Benton and her "buddies" from Hogar de Niños.

During Summer, 2002, four UPJ students and **Reinhard Heinisch** traveled to Bolivia, South America, to construct an orphanage wall in primitive conditions in the Andes. The trip assisted the Bolivian children while immersing UPJ students on South American culture.

## Student Life

The UPJ Health Services organized and hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Nurse Practice Update sponsored by the Organization of College Health Services (OCHS). OCHS membership is comprised of 40 colleges and universities in Western Pennsylvania. The conference was held May 16-17 at the Living/Learning Center. Distinguished faculty and medical professionals were guest speakers presenting information on relevant college health issues. Attendees

were awarded continuing education credits for their participation. Seventeen universities and colleges were represented at the two-day event. **Mary Claire Furman** served as president of OCHS for the 2001-2002 school year.

The UPJ Alcohol Task Force has received a Governor's Highway Safety Award. The Alcohol Task Force, a Division of the Student Affairs Committee, is comprised of staff, faculty and students. Produced by AT&T Media Services, the Alcohol Task Force used UPJ students and local talent to star in the commercials, which were created and developed by committee members. Each of the 30-second commercials in the ad campaign share a theme, "Take a Drink...Swallow Your Dreams," which was developed by a focus group of UPJ students. Containing a social norm, the commercials are targeted to diverse populations including young adolescents, high school seniors and college freshmen, permissive parents, and those over the age of 21. The anti-alcohol abuse commercials were made possible by a grant received from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement and broadcast in the Johnstown cable viewing area on CNN, VH1, MTV, TNT, ESPN and ESPN 2.

Please contact Kim Shook by email at [kshook@pitt.edu](mailto:kshook@pitt.edu) with information for the next edition.

*Of Note* is published by the Office of Institutional Advancement, 272 Blackington Hall.



University of Pittsburgh  
at Johnstown



## UPJ Remembers

The UPJ campus joined together to remember those who lost their lives and honor the brave who have valiantly served our country at a special ceremony on the campus mall September 11.