Guided by our vision of being the regional leader educating for success in the Real World, we have adopted a new strategic plan, The Next Level of Distinctive Excellence (2014-2021), that implements our commitment.

“To offer a high-quality educational experience in a supportive living-learning environment, that is grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, that is current, and that is responsive both to our student’s personal and professional needs and to our communities’ needs” - Pitt-Johnstown Mission

By all accounts, the current strategic plan has continued, even accelerated the momentum of the previous Plan, The New Dimension of Excellence (2007-2013). Having clarified our brand promise and strengthened our value proposition, Pitt-Johnstown is now recognized as the best choice for Real World preparation in our region, a proven pathway for students seeking career and professional success. In addition, we are widely recognized as the leading anchor institution serving the Greater Johnstown community as a key partner in economic development.

One cannot help but be overwhelmed by the transformative progress we made over the past nine years. Our key indicators for success are all on the rise. Our dedicated faculty and staff have provided the advising, counseling and support for student learning that contributed to a rise in retention rate for the first-year students. Efforts to increase the successful integration of first-year students have proven successful and our profile in the community has never been stronger.

- Dr. Jem Spectar
SUPPORTING FACULTY AND STAFF EXCELLENCE

In light of our mission-driven focus to provide an Up-Close-and Personal Teaching and Learning environment to educate for success in the Real World, our plan prioritizes as Goal #1, support for faculty and staff excellence.

With our strong commitment to teaching excellence, 150 full time faculty and several part-time faculty engage in Up-Close-and-Personal Teaching and Learning, advising, and mentoring, contributing to the higher levels of student engagement, retention, graduation and professional success. Through our faculty hiring efforts, we have made concerted efforts to increase the credentials of our faculty.

**Faculty and Staff Pay Increases**

We continue to fulfill our goal by supporting our talented faculty and dedicated staff as they make rich contributions to our students’ personal and professional development. Over the years, a key aspect of this commitment has been to take aggressive steps to continue to make market, merit and equity increases to ensure that we recruit, retain and recognize the excellent contributions of our talented faculty and staff. A 2011 comparison of Johnstown Campus faculty salaries against the IPEDs data benchmarks had indicated that we were lagging far behind peers in the assistant, associate and full professor categories. Since then we have taken measures to address this situation with significant success.

In fact, over the past five years, we have steadily moved ahead in all ranks and have made gains against our peer groups, as reported in the 2015 IPEDS data feedback.

Likewise, a review of Johnstown Campus’ staff salaries vis-a-vis regional campus peers showed Johnstown lagging behind in all categories, but especially so with regard to the clerical/administrative category. Following our strategic initiative to enhance our support for our dedicated staff, we enacted salary adjustments that resulted in an average raise of 5.7% for clerical and administrative support staff.

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**EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

Dr. Spectar presented the 2016 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching at Pitt-Johnstown to Patty Wharton-Micheal, PhD at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown annual Academic Honors Convocation.

The award recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates commitment to education, effectiveness in instruction, and success in engaging students in the discovery and expression of knowledge.

**FACULTY EXCELLENCE**


WRI, Pitt-Johnstown Effort Results in Cancer Research Manuscript Publication

A joint venture by Windber Research Institute (WRI) and University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown has led to the publication of a manuscript in the Journal of Translational Medicine. The research, titled Inhibition of Cancer Cell Growth by ruthenium complexes, was published February 12, 2016, and capped a four-year study.

A team led by Lisa Bell-Loncella, associate professor and Chemistry Department chair at Pitt-Johnstown, and George Iida, director of cell biology at WRI, hypothesized that some metal-containing complexes recently reported in the literature might have potential in treating breast cancer.

Dr. Janet L. Grady, vice president for Academic Affairs and chair for the Nursing and Health Sciences Division at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, said, “The work of Dr. Iida and Dr. Bell-Loncella is a model for the type of academic and scientific collaboration we had in mind when we developed the partnership between Pitt-Johnstown and WRI in 2012.”

Study: Heritage Tourism Had $2 Billion Impact in Pennsylvania in 2014

Heritage tourism had an economic impact in excess of $2 billion in Pennsylvania in 2014, according to a study published recently by Pitt-Johnstown researchers.

“The research team learned how hard heritage organizations are working to promote tourism across the Commonwealth - and their efforts are paying big economic dividends,” said Pitt-Johnstown associate professor of marketing John McGrath, the lead researcher on the project.

The study, “The Economic Impact of Pennsylvania Heritage Areas,” found that tourists spent an estimated $2 billion for goods and services in Pennsylvania’s 12 Designated Heritage Areas (DHAs) in 2014. The total contribution of heritage visitor spending to the state’s economy was 25,708 jobs and $798 million in labor income.

Welcome Mellissia Zanjani
VP of Institutional Advancement

Mellissia Zanjani, PhD, CFRE, joined the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown as its Vice President of Institutional Advancement and serve as a member of the President’s Cabinet.

Dr. Zanjani brings nearly 20 years of senior executive experience to Pitt-Johnstown. She most recently served as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, NJ, a private, liberal arts Catholic university. Prior to that, Dr. Zanjani served in various senior leadership positions including Vice President for College Advancement at Mercer County Community College, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Tacoma Community College, Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Hartford Community College, and Regional Program Director at the American Lung Association of New Jersey.

“We are fortunate to have someone with Dr. Zanjani’s remarkable record of strategic decision-making and donor cultivation join our leadership team,” said Pitt-Johnstown President Dr. Jem Spector.
Thank You David Willey

David Willey exhibited more method than madness as he taught his final physics lab at Pitt-Johnstown on March 24, 2016. His retirement and the end of the spring term concluded 42 years of a unique collegiate instruction style that educated students and inspired Willey's entertaining Mad Scientist persona.

The 18 students in the Krebs Hall lab were treated to a lesson plan, subdued demonstrations, and the end of an era. There was no launch of projectiles via a liquid nitrogen cannon or barefoot fire walks across hot coals.

“We didn’t do much of that in the classroom,” Willey said in summary of a career that brought him to Pitt-Johnstown from Aston, England. “That’s part of the ‘Show.’”

The “show” – a performance of physics by the lab coat-clad Mad Scientist – gained Willey recognition beyond the classroom and landed him 19 appearances on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, including the memorable smashing of a cinder block atop Leno as the host was lying on a bed of nails. Recently, Willey has been a regular guest on the Canadian science program Daily Planet, as well as numerous other variety and science programs.

On July 2, 1998, on Pitt-Johnstown’s campus mall, Willey set the world record for a fire walk. Willey and 14 others conducted the 165-foot walk barefoot across burning coals, which was documented by the BBC for the Discovery Channel and by John Stossel for ABC, and submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records. The record has since been broken.

The walk was a demonstration in the cause of learning. It was conducted to gather data on the relationship between time of contact with the coals and temperature of the coals. “The demonstrations are designed to demystify tricks and identify and show principles of physics at work, and they can be fun,” he said.

Physics has been Willey’s life interest since he attended The Coleshill School and the John Port School in England. His teaching style was formed there. It was the result of an unintended experiment, as two distinct classroom events produced an outcome. “I had a very good physics teacher after a very bad one,” he said. “I thought: if my good teacher can make a big, positive difference for me, maybe I can make the same for others.”

Willey studied at Aston and Birmingham universities, in England, and earned his master’s degree at Ohio State University. He arrived at Pitt-Johnstown in the mid-1970s, established himself as a unique educator, and then expanded his distinctively entertaining presentations from the classroom to the stage in the early 1980s.

His instructional effectiveness earned awards ranging from the Teacher of the Year for Natural Science to the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The e-publication EducationWorld.com, paid tribute, stating: “Willey isn’t afraid to test the laws of physics – literally! He believes that this experimentation is key to explaining difficult concepts to his college classes, and he has taken his message to students and teachers all over the nation.”

The last-lab lesson plan - about simple harmonic motion - used an informal formula that combined wisdom and wit with typical and atypical classroom procedure. There were enough facts and information to fill a textbook, as there were irreverent quips to make a late-night talk show host (or guest) proud.

The instructor acknowledged with genuine appreciation a student’s identification of Hooke’s Law, made a scientific point about elasticity by launching of a rubber band at one student, and used a stepladder to fetch and unleash a Wilberforce pendulum from its ceiling perch.

Attendees of the final lab did not witness an explosively ceremonial exit. Rather, they received physics instruction in a somewhat animated, ever-informative method. They became part of David Willey’s lasting impact on Pitt-Johnstown.
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
During the past year, Pitt-Johnstown engaged in several strategic initiatives to recruit and retain full time freshman students.

Admissions Recruitment
The Admissions Welcome Center built on existing recruiting strategies aimed to increase direct applications, capitalize on options and enhance personal communication.

In addition, we have expanded our marketing and outreach effort throughout Pennsylvania and beyond. We increased the number of high school visits and redoubled our marketing efforts across media platforms, leveraging our unique combination of people, programs and place. The efforts resulted in record numbers of freshman applications.

Freshman Applications 2014-2016

International Recruitment
Sui Chen, Director of International Recruitment, made two recruiting trips to China, where he spent six weeks in the fall and two weeks in the spring, visiting high schools, attending college fairs, and presenting to nearly 1000 prospective students. International direct applications have increased by 555% and direct admits are up by 171%.

Our strategic recruitment initiatives have resulted in an unprecedented 40% increase in freshmen applications. Engineering applications are up 57% compared to this time last year. Applications for Business and Enterprise have increased 59% over last year, Social Science is up 54% and Education is up 29%. Admits are increasing and at current pace, it is projected that the incoming class would be one of the largest freshmen classes in years.

The academic profile of our admitted students continues to be very strong. We are on target to reach our recruitment goals this year in terms of quantity and quality.

3.5 Average GPA of an Incoming Freshman

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Mechanical, Electrical & Civil Engineering and Chemical Engineering

Accounting, Economics, Finance, Information Systems and Management & Marketing

Multimedia & Digital Culture (MMDC)

The new business programs will require six credits of Real World Experiential Learning.

40% Increase in Freshman Applications

57% Increase in Engineering Applications

59% Increase in Business & Enterprise Applications
Student Achievements

Student Achievement Recognized at Honors Convocation

Each year, Pitt-Johnstown honors College Scholars, Division Scholars, and individuals who have excelled in specific disciplines. This year, 100 Student's were recognized for their outstanding academic achievement at Pitt-Johnstown's annual Academic Honors Convocation ceremony April 3, 2016.

Cara N. Lang, a junior majoring in biochemistry and biology, received both the Dr. Jem Spector Award and the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association Achievement Award. Pennsylvania State Sen. John Wozniak – Pitt-Johnstown class of '78 - was the event's keynote speaker.

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Inducts 17 Students, 2 Faculty

Seventeen University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown students and two faculty members have been inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. The nineteenth annual initiation ceremony was held April 10, 2016.

New faculty initiates are Bruce Robart, PhD, assistant professor of biology; and Tuangtip Klinbubpa-Neff, PhD, assistant professor of English literature. The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi reports that it is the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline honor society.

2 Students Earn Vira I. Heinz Scholarships

Students Jada L. Castor and Taylor A. Shea have been named the recipients of the 2016 Vira I. Heinz Scholarship for Women in Global Leadership. Both will be studying abroad during the summer of 2016. Castor is a junior human resources management major who will use the scholarship to enroll in a human resource internship through the University of Pittsburgh's Pitt in London program.

Shea is a sophomore justice administration and criminology major and will participate in a community engagement project and study indigenous cultures through the International Studies Abroad (ISA) program in Adelaide, Australia.

Student Named 2016 Dole Caregiver Fellow for Pennsylvania

Pitt-Johnstown student Wanda Ickes was named the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's 2016 Dole Caregiver Fellow for Pennsylvania. She was recognized for having demonstrated persistence and ingenuity as an advocate for her husband, Sam Ickes, who suffered traumatic brain injuries during his service.

Wanda Ickes became the advocate for her husband, a former Army Ranger and military police officer and gained the attention of the foundation, which supports military and veteran families. The Dole Caregiver Fellows reportedly provide a voice for 5.5 million caregivers.
SUSTAINING AND ENHANCING PROGRAMS THAT PREPARE FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Real World Action Program
Real World Civic Engagement and Leadership Week celebrates and promotes the guiding principles of Pitt-Johnstown’s nationally recognized, signature Real World Action Program: civic engagement and leadership, career preparation, collegiate involvement, community engagement, and making a difference in our world. Events for the week were created to provide students with an opportunity to strengthen skills in key areas including leadership, involvement, service, and teamwork. Throughout the week, the Pitt-Johnstown Student United Way Chapter conducted a canned food drive to benefit the Park Avenue United Methodist Church food pantry in Moxham.

A very high proportion of students acknowledge Pitt-Johnstown prepares them for the Real World.

55% of students participating in the NSSE survey report completing a culminating senior experience
(capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, portfolio, etc.)

Internship Fair
The Pitt-Johnstown Real World Career Services Job and Internship Fair hosted a record number of employers who were on campus to discuss opportunities for summer internships, part-time and full time employment. Nearly 300 students were on hand at the March 24th event in Wellness Center to pass out resumes and get career advice from local employers.

PITT Day
The annual PITT Day in Harrisburg, held March 22, gave students an opportunity to share their Pitt-Johnstown stories with lawmakers, get a first-hand view of how our state government works, and network with fellow students, alumni, and students from other Pitt campuses. Approximately 30 staff and students participated in this year’s Pitt-Day in Harrisburg.

Kevin Powell
We Gon’ Be Alright? Civic Engagement and Voting After Obama, was presented March 22 by Kevin Powell, a recognized American political, cultural, literary, and hip-hop voice. Powell discussed the importance of voting and civic engagement as the 2016 presidential election approaches.

Mountain Cat Awards
The second-annual Mountain Cat Awards ceremony was held this past Sunday, April 17. The event drew approximately 500 people into the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center. In addition to recognizing the accomplishments of our students, the event featured seven performances by Pitt-Johnstown students.

ATHLETICS
Team All Atlantic Region & NCAA Division II Second Year, Kendell Mahoney
All-Conference Honors
All-American Honors
(Basketball) – BIOCHEMISTRY
(Soccer & Track) – MATH
SPACE

Students from every discipline on campus were given the opportunity to share the results of their class projects, independent study projects, senior projects, internships and creative works as talks or poster presentations or performances at Pitt-Johnstown's annual Symposium for the Promotion of Academic and Creative Enquiry (SPACE). More than 300 students participated in the undergraduate research conference.

Marketing students make pitch to Dick's Sporting Goods

Ten Pitt-Johnstown students pitched original marketing campaigns at Dick's Sporting Goods' national headquarters in Coraopolis Pa. on Dec. 17 to their client, Jamie Mencer, a 2012 Pitt-Johnstown marketing graduate. These students were in a promotion management class, one of four upper-level elective seminar classes for senior marketing majors, taught by marketing professor John McGrath.

Students split up into two virtually integrated marketing communications agencies and developed a marketing campaign consisting of advertising, social media and public relations concepts for a client with national prominence. Students elect their own positions and perform the roles of a real advertising agency: account managers, researchers and creatives. There are also media planners.

Fall into Research

Pitt-Johnstown’s third annual Fall Into Research symposium celebrated the work of faculty, students and collaborators. The event, held in October, showcases the work of faculty and summer students and is an opportunity to learn about research and scholarship opportunities. Posters or other visuals are displayed while faculty and students mingle and discuss their work. Innovative research topics, including:

- Pitt-Johnstown and Windber Research Institute student-research partnership
- SPUR Biodiversity summer program
- REU, URP and summer student-research internship recipients
- Research funding recipients, including the Alice Waters Thomas Endowment, College Research Council Grant, Faculty Resource Center Grant, President's Mentorship Fund, and the Sabbatical Grant.

International Festival

Pitt-Johnstown’s International Students sponsored the second-annual International Festival on Friday, April 15. More than 300 students attended the event, which featured informational tables on countries represented by our international students, food, and performances.
College Park Apartments
Committed to meeting the demand for student housing, Dr. Spectar announced a major renovation project that will bring the College Park Apartments back online. The popular CPA, which includes 140 bed spaces, has not been updated since being built in the early 70s. The $6.5 million renovation will include:

- New Heating and Air Conditioning System
- New Roof
- Wi-Fi
- New kitchens and flooring in apartments not previously renovated
- Bathroom upgrades
- Removal of balconies, replacement windows and repairs to exterior facade
- New lighting and carpeting in corridors and lobby
- Sprinklers and updated fire protection
- Renovation to selected apartments for ADA Accessibility

7 RENOVATION & UPGRADE PROJECTS
$34.7 MILLION • 186 CONSTRUCTION JOBS • 74 SUPPORT JOBS

Engineering and Science Building
We are continuing our efforts to increase, sustain, and enhance the quality of our facilities and technology. A complete redesign and renovation of our Engineering and Science Building will house our new Engineering program and provide the unique space and technology to promote our STEM curriculum. Construction is underway and will include the following:

- Renovation of 65,000 square foot Engineering and Science Building
- Expanded space for both the Engineering and Chemistry programs housed in building
- Chemistry will have three new teaching labs and two new research
- Engineering will have 15 teaching labs, an expanded computer lab and additional classrooms.
- New Design/Build Lab and new Magnetics lab.
- About 9,000 additional square feet for engineering
- Building will feature student lounge space and student collaboration spaces for both engineering and chemistry students
- Additional faculty offices

Murtha Center (pictured below)
Construction has also begun on the Murtha Center, which will provide a much-needed multipurpose space on campus that is capable of hosting workshops, academic symposia, student assemblies and public debates.

Learning Commons
Plans are also underway to create a Learning Commons on the Owen Library first floor. The renovated space will be a comfortable study area that could be utilized for group or individual study.

Lights & Sidewalks
As part of an ongoing effort to address campus safety, new stop signs, crosswalks, sidewalks and lights will be installed. In addition, exterior lighting will be added between townhouses and wooded lands.

Blackington Lobby
The design work to enlarge the Blackington Lobby Stair case has been awarded to the architecture firm of MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni. The MCF design will expand the current stairway from 3′8” to more than 5′ in width. The design work will also provide flooring and lighting improvements to the common areas of Blackington Hall, including the Grand Lobby. The construction is projected to begin in December 2016.
HIGH IMPACT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2016 Athletic Hall of Fame
On Saturday April 9, 2016 Pitt-Johnstown honored Rick Baxter, Chuck Bradford, Bridget Hale-Sherick, Steve Littleton, and Dan Revesc by inducting them into our Athletic Hall of Fame. These individuals merit distinction for their accomplishments and leadership in athletic endeavors for Pitt-Johnstown.

Rick Baxter (Baseball 2000-2004)
Bridget Hale-Sherick (Women’s Basketball 1986-1990)
Steve Littleton (Men’s Cross Country and Track & Field 1973-1977)
Dan Revesc (Wrestling 1978-1982)

Pitt-Johnstown @ Your Service
One of Pitt-Johnstown’s top priorities is being a good community citizen. In 2009, the University embarked on the most extensive community service initiative in its history: “Pitt-Johnstown @ Your Service.”

Since then, members of the Pitt-Johnstown community have volunteered more than 30,000 hours to service projects in efforts equating to more than $3.6 million in value. Projects include the national organization Habitat for Humanity and the seven-year commitment to the local Moxham neighborhood project, which has resulted in playground redevelopment, Light-Up Night, Neighborhood Watch and Russell House improvements.

Moxham is where Pitt-Johnstown began to establish its roots in Johnstown before moving to its current location in suburban Richland Township.

Local Poet Launched American Mosaic Series
Johnstown native Roberta Dostal’s poetry reading launched the Pitt-Johnstown American Mosaic Series on January 27. A transgender woman, Dostal will read selections from her recently published book of poetry entitled “Song of My True Self.”

Dostal, who has been a participant in Pitt-Johnstown’s LearningPLUS Program for more than a decade, credits her time at Pitt-Johnstown for launching her writing career and love of poetry. Dostal uses poetry to chronicle her life’s journey, which includes her transition to female in 1996.

“Thanks to the school’s spirit of leadership and interaction, this is an exciting time for our region. Our region is blessed to have such a community-focused university in our midst. We are certain UPJ’s students are also inspired to greatness by the example of their own university’s dedication to improving the world around it, by Pitt-Johnstown’s commitment to “do something to improve our community.”

Excerpt from Tribune Democrat, Editorial
UPJ Connects with Community
Public Service Big Part of Campus Life
Virtual Simulator Gives Lessons In Distracted Driving’s Dangers

Virtual experience drove home a very real message among University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown students and staff via the It Can Wait campaign’s distracted driving virtual reality simulator demonstration.

The event presented by AT&T and State Sen. John Wozniak, Pitt-Johnstown class of 1978, featured a driving simulator that allowed students and staff to experience firsthand the dangers of taking their eyes off the road to look at a phone. “Technology is an important part of our day-to-day lives,” said Pitt-Johnstown President Jem Spector. “This campaign uses technology to provide a highly impactful, chilling and, hopefully, unforgettable virtual experience that has the power to be life-saving.”

Award-Winning Poet Holds Reading Event on Campus

Award-winning poet, singer, songwriter, educator, and human rights activist Aja Monet captivated a Pitt-Johnstown audience with her performance style. The event, sponsored by Pitt-Johnstown’s Humanities Division, took place March 30. Monet is the youngest winner of the legendary Nuyorican Poet’s Café Grand Slam title. Her poetry and songs explore local and global issues through the power of imagination and metaphor.

Global Impact Series Lauds ‘Bold, Audacious Ideas’


Darabi is co-founder and president of Zady, a mission-driven content and commerce brand described best as “The Whole Foods of Fashion.”

Also speaking was Thomas Shen, CEO of Austin-based Malauzai Software Inc., executive vice president of Digital Insight, and the founder of Software Dynamics Inc.

FUNDRAISING

As we move toward formalizing our Capital Campaign, we continue to see very significant fundraising successes. Over the past two years, we have taken in about $6 million in donations during the silent phase.

On a related note, we have revamped our development operation with the hiring of the first Vice President of Institutional Advancement and several other key personnel.

In preparation for the capital campaign, we significantly ramped up our Board of Advisors with the addition of almost nine new members with very significant giving histories and potential.
ATHLETICS
Our student-athletes have achieved distinction not only on the playing fields but also in the classrooms and in the community.

Student athletes participated in athletics in 2015 - 2016

Average student athlete GPA has been higher than the student body for the past 15 semesters

Student athletes were recently recognized for their Academic Success at Honors Convocation

CONGRATULATIONS
NATIONAL TITLE WINNERS
Wrestlers, Nick Roberts & Tyler Reinhart
Roberts (133 lbs.) and Reinhart (165 lbs.) each won individual NCAA Division II national championships. As a team, the Mountain Cats placed fourth nationally.

NATIONAL RUNNER-UP & PSAC WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
Wrestler, Travis McKillop
McKillop (184 lbs.) was a national runner-up for the second time and earned the NCAA’s Most Dominant Wrestler in Division II Award at the conclusion of the tournament.
PAT PECORA

Head Wrestling Coach & Athletic Director

Celebrating his 40th season as Pitt-Johnstowns Wrestling Coach

PSAC Coach Of The Year

Coached 12 individual national champions (2 this year)

Won his 21st regional championship

Remains the third “Winningest” Wrestling Coach in the History of the NCAA [all divisions] with 555 victories

First NCAA Division II Coach to reach 500 Victories

Will be inducted into the Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame on April 23, 2016

JOANNA HAUPT

PSAC East Volleyball Coach of the Year

Her team had an impressive run. They finished 29-7 and qualified for the 2015 PSAC Semifinals.

BOB RUKAVINA

PSAC West Men’s Basketball Coach of the Year

Rukavina took coach of the year honors for the first time since UPJ joined the PSAC in 2013.
The Board of Advisors Welcomes Eight New Members

G. Henry Cook
Mr. Cook is President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Somerset Trust Company. He is the fifth generation of his family to be president of this 125-year old bank. Somerset Trust Company is a $900 million bank with a $532 million Trust Department based in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

Michael P. Hruska
Mr. Hruska, a 2000 graduate of Pitt-Johnstown, is currently the President and CEO of Problem Solutions and provides learning technology solutions to government, Fortune 500 companies, and startups. As a former researcher at National Institute of Standards and Technology (Gaithersburg, MD), he was responsible for joint research and technology development initiatives in materials and quality systems.

Dorothy L. Stroz
Ms. Stroz, a 1984 Pitt-Johnstown alumna, is retired from the Department of Commerce’s U.S. Census Bureau/Geography Division in Washington, DC, where she developed and managed geography programs to support the 1990, 2000, and 2010 decennial census. She also served as adjunct instructor at Penn Highlands Community College for the World Regional Geography Class for fall semester 2013.

Dr. Gerald Zahorchak

Richard A. Bross
Mr. Bross, a 1973 Pitt-Johnstown economics graduate, retired after a nearly 40-year career with Hormel Foods Corporation. He and his wife, Suzanne, who also attended the University, now live in Colorado. During his illustrious career with Hormel, Mr. Bross held the positions of Director of Marketing, Vice President, and 13 years as President of Hormel Foods International. His responsibilities focused on sales, marketing, innovation, strategy, and management. Mr. Bross was one of the top leaders in Hormel Foods for many years during a period of strong top and bottom line growth, outperforming the S&P 500 and the industry Peer Group.

Stephen Zamias
Mr. Zamias is Vice Chairman of Zamias Services, Inc., which he joined in 1979. His professional background includes service as Executive Vice President of Finance for George D. Zamias Developer and overseeing the Accounting and Finance Departments. Mr. Zamias began his career as the Director of Property Management.

John Polacek
Mr. Polacek is the CEO of JWF Defense Systems and JWF Industries. JWF is a full-service, process-based, metal fabrication and metal processing contract manufacturer in Johnstown and has been with the company since 2007. Prior to joining JWF, he served as Vice President and General Manager of the Defense Solutions Group at BAE SYSTEMS.

Douglas Weimer
Mr. Weimer, a 1975 graduate of Pitt-Johnstown and retired attorney, is currently a Museum/Historic Preservation Consultant/Volunteer. His professional career includes being a legislative attorney with the Library of Congress, Staff Attorney with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; and Law Clerk, Chief Judge with US Army JAG Corps. He also served on the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1997-2002.
The advising, counseling and support for student progress we made over the past nine years. Our key indicators "To offer a high-quality educational experience in a,

Very strong. We are on target to reach our recruitment goals this year. The academic profile of our admitted students continues to be strong. Admits are increasing and at current pace, it is projected to be 29%. Social Science is up 59% over last year, Business is up 44%. During the past year, Pitt-Johnstown engaged in nine fairs, and presenting to nearly 1000 prospective students.

Sui Chen, Director of International Recruitment, made two presentations to potential entrants at the recent State High School Scholarship Day. She has received positive feedback from students who viewed her presentation.

New faculty initiates are Bruce Robart, PhD, assistant professor of biology; Dr. Zahorchak, assistant professor of psychology; and Tuangtip Klinbubpa-Neff, PhD, assistant professor of English and Comparative Literature. The Department of English and Comparative Literature was recently designated as one of the University’s Global Impact Institutes. The 19th annual initiation ceremony was held April 10, 2016.

The Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Inducts 17 Students, 2 Faculty

A Pitt-Johnstown student, Sui Chen, is the first recipient of the University of Pittsburgh’s Pitt in London program. During the year, she was responsible for joint research and technology projects and presentation at the University of Pennsylvania, where she was responsible for development of the new "Pitt in London" program.

A Pitt-Johnstown student, Wanda Ickes, was named the Elizabeth Dole Award winner for the Pennsylvania’s Student of the Year Award. Ickes is a dual major in psychology and business administration.

Twenty of our athletes received All-Atlantic Region & PSAC East honors, while netting 1000 points.

Student Achievement Recognized at Honors Convocation

A Pitt-Johnstown student, Kelsi Warshel, was named 2016 Team All Atlantic Region & PSAC East Freshman of the Year in Women’s Basketball. Kimberly Bonnet, a senior, was named PSAC East Freshman of the Year in Men’s Basketball.

Events for the week were created to strengthen skills in key areas of civic engagement and leadership, signature Real World Action Program.

Ms. Stroz, a 1984 Pitt-Johnstown alumna, is retired from the Department of Commerce’s U.S. Census Bureau/Geography Division in Washington, DC, where she developed and managed geography programs to support the 1990, 2000, and 2010 U.S. censuses. Ms. Stroz, a 1984 Pitt-Johnstown alumna, is currently responsible for joint research and technology development.

Mr. Hruska, a 2000 graduate of Pitt-Johnstown, is currently a member of the company’s executive team and smiles at the company’s main office. He and his wife, Suzanne, who also attended the University, have been with the company since 2007. Prior experience includes the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Richard A. Bross

The successful companies JWF is responsible for include: a real advertising agency: account managers, researchers and creative directors.

Ten Pitt-Johnstown students pitched original marketing plans during the global pitch competition at the recent State High School Scholarship Day. The competition was part of the national competition, "Pitch to Pitt," which is a real advertising agency: account managers, researchers and creative directors. The pitch competition at the University of Pittsburgh.

The University of Pittsburgh’s 100th anniversary event was held April 10, 2016.

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Richard A. Bross

The successful companies JWF is responsible for include: a real advertising agency: account managers, researchers and creative directors.

Ten Pitt-Johnstown students pitched original marketing plans during the global pitch competition at the recent State High School Scholarship Day. The competition was part of the national competition, "Pitch to Pitt," which is a real advertising agency: account managers, researchers and creative directors. The pitch competition at the University of Pittsburgh.

The University of Pittsburgh’s 100th anniversary event was held April 10, 2016.