Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, along with Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia Beeson, recently attended the Symposium for the Promotion of Academic and Creative Enquiry (SPACE). The annual undergraduate research conference provided an opportunity for students to discuss with Chancellor Gallagher, Provost Beeson, Dr. Spectar and others their independent scholarly and creative projects, including senior projects, undergraduate research, poetry and short fiction, internship reports, class projects, and professional portfolios.

More than 150 students presented, one of the largest representation of students for the conference, ever. In addition, faculty presented for the first time during a showcase preceeding the student presentations.

Pitt-Johnstown welcomed more than 200 community friends and dignitaries to the John P. Murtha Center dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting. On April 6th, the congressman’s widow, Joyce Murtha, and their children, John and Patrick, joined President Spectar for the ribbon-cutting.

Keynote speaker for the event was Benjamin L. Cassidy, the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, representing Retired Marine Corps General and current Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly.

The Center includes an exhibit, where visitors can access the John P. Murtha Congressional Papers, a collection of Murtha’s personal documents donated to Pitt by his foundation, an Assembly Hall, Veteran’s Lounge, offices, and a mixed reality display of a virtual Rep. Murtha at his desk. The exhibit is open to the public M-F from 8 AM to 5 PM.
FACULTY & STAFF

We continue to invest in our core mission by hiring new faculty and staff and strengthening support for excellence in teaching, scholarship, research and creative activity.

**Staff Hires:**
- Kristin Sewak (Institutional Advancement)
- James Giampa (Admissions)

**Staff Departures:**
- Theresa Horner (Wellness and Health Services)
- Dominick Diloreto (Residence Life)

**Staff Retirements:**
- John Baumgardner (Physical Plant Grounds)
- Jeanne Susko (Career Services)

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In addition to the Up-Close-and-Personal instruction and mentored research provided to our students, our talented faculty has earned many awards and recognitions for their research, publications, and other accomplishments. We celebrate their successes and share a few:

**Dr. Patty Wharton-Michael**

received the President’s Medal for Excellence in Teaching in April 2016.

**Dr. Wieczorek & Dr. Wharton-Michael**

recently received the Top Panel Award for the Training and Development Division from the National Communication Association for a presentation titled Turning the Tables on Patient Advocacy: Responsible Patients Informing Responsive Providers.

**Dr. Catherine S. Cox**

is the recipient of the Sigma Tau Delta Professor of the Year award. She gave a paper presentation, “Approaching the Biblical Genesis by Way of the Local Thrift Shop,” at the annual conference of the College English Association.

**Dr. Tuangtip Klinbubpa-Neff (Noon)**

participated in the Institute of World Literature Seminar at Harvard University, Massachusetts.

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2017 PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

**DIANA L. SCHROEDER, DPN, RN.**

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

Dr. Schroeder is an assistant professor of nursing and program coordinator for the BSN Program.

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PRESIDENT JEM SPECTAR NAMED TO PA BUSINESS CENTRAL’S TOP 100
Pitt-Johnstown students are encouraged to participate in experiential learning activities including: internships, co-ops, study abroad, mentored research projects, entrepreneurship and interdisciplinary initiatives. Throughout, the emphasis is on developing in-demand job skills and attributes including critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and real world readiness. A few notable examples of student engagements include:

**Tyler Coslow**
Supported a community development project within the City of Johnstown as a GIS Intern. The internship was supported by a grant from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He produced a series of satellite maps and topographic exhibits that were used in a riverwall charrette held by V25 in September. Designers and planners from Harvard University’s Loeb Fellowship utilized Costlow’s exhibits to develop a series of conceptual plans and recommendations for increasing access to Johnstown’s rivers.

**Madeline Liedberg**
Presented a paper at the Eastern Communication Association Conference in Baltimore, MD, April 2016, “The Fear of the Unknown,” which was an oral history research project on a patient surviving Hodgkin’s Lymphoma.

**Cara Lang**
Sought to strengthen her experimental biochemistry background by participating in the Summer Urological Research Experience at the Brady Urological Institute at Johns Hopkins University (Summer’ 15).

**Missy Shaffer**
Had work accepted for presentation at a Poster Session at the Eastern Communication Association Conference held in Baltimore, MD in April, 2016, "Blocking the View: The Effect of Digital Medical Records in a Medical Exam Room.”

**Gabrielle Maylock**
Presented a paper at the Eastern Communication Association Conference in Baltimore, MD, April 2016, "How Khaleesi’s Narrative Empowers Audiences." She has received a full teaching assistantship in the master’s program in College Student Personnel at Ohio University.

**Lorin Simbolı**
An Energy and Earth Resources student has been awarded the Stephen Pollock Undergraduate Research Program Grant to fund her project "Uncovering the Tectonic and Deformational Events Related to the Bell’s Mill Road Ultramafic Body, Southeastern PA”

This year, Pitt-Johnstown students far exceeded their peers in engagement factor compared to respondents from Mid-East Public Institutions.
Pitt-Johnstown students joined area businesses to help raise $30,000 for the inaugural Walk for Hope. UPJ students formed the UPJ Mountain Cat Team to participate in this year's walk. The team also sold bracelets on campus and developed a website to accept donations.

This walk is unique because all proceeds are used in the Johnstown community to support cancer victims and their families.

Pitt-Johnstown professor Dr. John McGrath said "You've really got to link the university and community together. And I think the students appreciate working on a real-world project that they can take into a job interview and say, 'I worked on this, this is what I did.' It's a tangible evidence of their work experience."

Pitt-Johnstown's team of 21 students and an advisor spent Spring Recess week as part of a Habitat for Humanity project in Amarillo, TX.

By the end of the seven-day effort the Pitt-Johnstown contingency had worked more than 700 hours, alongside 68 college students, as part of a 2,000-hour project that resulted in two new homes for Amarillo families.

The student group included club members James Geyer; Emily Sasso; Natalie Mumich; Holli Wilt; Amber Boozer; Kyler Smith; Beth Bolden; Kelly Mills; Holly Chappie; Mary Schaude; Micheala Smith; John Michael Knepp; Alexandria Skelly; Kelsey Robbins; Peter Ridella; Ellen Brady; and Katie Bucchin and volunteers Mikah Hobson; Samantha McGaha; Kasandra Matthews; Hannah Klesius and Kelly Devett, Pitt-Johnstown Admissions counselor and the campus Habitat for Humanity chapter advisor.
Noted social media expert and author Glen Gilmore shared tips on how to use digital media to drive business at Pitt-Johnstown’s Globally Impactful Speakers and Talks (GIST) event. The annual event is presented by the Division of Business and Enterprise.

Gilmore spoke to a crowd of students, faculty, staff, and the community at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center and emphasized goals, experience, and patience as time-tested keys to success in the fast-paced realm of social media.

He told the audience to use their social media accounts “to share their passions and to make changes in the world.”

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown introduced Virtual Reality (VR) equipment that is as much about 21st-century learning as it is gaming. The VR system, designed and build by Pitt-Johnstown students, is a creative approach to enhancing the learning experience as well as providing opportunity for some gaming and some entertainment.

The systems may be used for educational purposes as needed, such as providing students a way to virtually explore the world using Google Maps, learn about medicine, or see the International Space Station.

Extensive visioning and planning has been underway to continue to make Pitt-Johnstown academic programs more responsive to workforce needs and marketable to prospective students with excellent credentials.

The Division of Education under the new leadership of Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, former Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Department of Education, has been exploring changes including the addition of a STEM endorsement for pre-service teachers, as well as a contemporary focus on areas such as basic engineering concepts and coding literacy for pre-service teachers.

The Computer Science (CS) Department, as a strategy to distinguish itself from competitor programs, has decided to change the core programming language used in the program.

Faculty in the Natural Sciences division continue to incorporate outside-the-classroom academic activities into the curriculum as a tool to enhance student learning.

Also, over the past year, Humanities Division faculty from English Literature, French, Fine Arts, Multi-media and Digital Culture, and Philosophy have developed new courses for Pitt-Johnstown students that respond to student interest.
Pitt-Johnstown Professor Dr. Michael Stoneham (Division Chair, Humanities) took full advantage of an opportune moment when a Cherry Tree on campus split in half, falling to the ground, during a recent wind storm. The fallen tree became an outdoor classroom. Students from Professors Stoneham’s Environmental Literature Class could be seen sitting amongst the remaining trees as he taught class.

Pitt-Johnstown was well-represented at Pitt Day in Harrisburg. The annual event provides an opportunity for students and staff to share their Pitt-Johnstown story with lawmakers; gain a first-hand view of how our state government works; and network with fellow students, alumni, and students from the other Pitt campuses.

Pitt Day in Harrisburg is part of Real World Civic Engagement and Leadership Week, which celebrates and promotes the guiding principles of Pitt-Johnstown’s nationally recognized, signature Commitment to Real World Action.

“Pitt Day in Harrisburg was a great success for all Pitt campuses as well as the Pitt Johnstown campus,” said Student Government Association President Kyle Maguire. “More than 30 students were able to explore the capitol building as well as build legislative connections. These connections allowed the students to push for higher funding for state schools.”
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Office of Community Engagement is a bridge connecting the Greater Johnstown community with Pitt-Johnstown's faculty, staff, and students. The office engages Pitt-Johnstown with the community by developing, sustaining, and enhancing programs and partnerships that have a positive community impact.

Pitt-Johnstown
Supporting Local Robotics

President Jem Spectar presented a check for $1000 to the Laurel Highlands Education and Robotics FTC Team 8645 -Robotic Doges, during the 2017 STEM DAY.

The nine-person community robotics team includes members from multiple school districts in Somerset and Cambria County.

The team is only three years old and has already won two state championships and most recently, a super-regional championship, which qualified them for the FIRST World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri later this month. The team has been fundraising to raise enough money to pay for their travel expenses.

Welcoming High Schools to Campus

Pitt-Johnstown hosted a STEM Conference welcoming more than 200 high school students from 12 school districts.

The conference complements the University's goal to promote K-12 student preparation for and interest in majoring in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields in college and prepares students to thrive and compete in the 21st century world.

The day-long conference provided an opportunity for high school students to interact with Pitt-Johnstown faculty and students. Eight interactive workshops conducted by faculty and students, included Bits, Bots and Bioshock and the Rise of Robots in our Everyday Lives.

Pitt-Johnstown takes Code for the Commonwealth into the Community

Pitt-Johnstown's Code for the CommonWealth initiative reached out to students and families from Johnstown for a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) event.

Family Engagement Night activities, such as engineering with Legos, robotics, and creative play, were available for young and old alike.
Frank Frontino, East Side Elementary principal, said the event was extra special because Pitt-Johnstown students participated.

"I wanted the college to be here to show the kids about STEM, and for our kids to see that college is achievable," he said.

Pitt-Johnstown students gave presentations based on their different STEM projects, while Greater Johnstown High School students were present to give a helping hand during the event.

The university, along with several partners, recently launched Code for the CommonWealth, with the goal of enhancing digital literacy for workforce competitiveness, beginning in K-12 education.

"Right now we are providing a range of after-school activities as well as in-school activities in three to four school districts," said Pitt-Johnstown President Jem Spectar.

"The goal is to get kids interested in science to build their capacity for problem solving using coding."

"Over the long term," he said, "young people in this region will have the same kind of opportunities that people in other parts of the country are enjoying and they will be able to compete for the jobs of the future."

Dr. Jem Spectar, President of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, was inducted into the 2017 Johnstown West End Lion’s Hall of Fame.

During the annual gala on April 8, 2017, Dr. Spectar was presented the Hall of Fame award by Lions Kamal Gella, Ed Cernic Sr. and Don Kott.

Dr. Spectar was presented with a proclamation from Governor Tom Wolf and The State House of Representatives, by Rep. Bryan Barbin, for his outstanding achievements, community service and citizenship.

Pitt-Johnstown faculty, staff and students joined community members at the downtown Holiday Inn to celebrate Dr. Spectar’s induction.
Pitt-Johnstown hosted the first "Trails Day" at the campus nature area, and more than 15 faculty, staff, and students arrived early on a Sunday morning to clean and repair our trail system.

The team dragged out several trash bags of debris including chairs and a television. They also reconstructed and redirected the initial part of the trail, which had become a stream over the past several years.

Luckily, the weather was gorgeous. All who participated emerged dirty, yet smiling and with a renewed sense of purpose and community. Plans are underway to get back to work with another Trails Day during the summer and to continue repairing and marking our 12 plus miles of campus trails.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and two student organizations - the Environmental Club and the UPJ Democrats - sponsored the effort.
We continue to focus on upgrading our campus to maintain a supportive living-learning environment and to ensure that our faculty and students have access to state-of-the-art facilities.

We also remain mindful of the unique and picturesque 655 acres upon which our campus is built and our strategic commitment to connect our natural environment and resources to our healthy campus initiatives. To that end, Pitt-Johnstown is taking steps to improve recreational walkways, sidewalks and bike paths around the campus to add to the quality of life for the community members and enhance safety.

**BLACKINGTON HALL STAIRWELL AND LOBBY**

May 1, 2017 Construction Start

- Expand stairwell width
- Remove and replace lobby flooring
- Add radiant heat to first floor lobby
- Remove & replace lighting with LED fixtures
- New entry mat system for maintenance

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**BUSINESS IS GLOBAL**

The Division of Business and Enterprise hosted a reception for Pitt-Johnstown's international faculty at the John P. Murtha Center for Public Service and National Competitiveness on April 17, 2017. The reception provided an opportunity for more than two dozen faculty members from twenty different countries to get to know each other, share stories, and make connections.

It also highlighted the fact that Pitt-Johnstown is a hub of global talent, with skilled faculty members from around the world teaching in engineering, the natural sciences, business, humanities, and the social sciences. The theme of the reception was “Business is Global.”

**VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIR**

Pitt-Johnstown’s Director of International Recruitment, Sui Chen and international student Marco Morocho attended a college fair in another continent without leaving the office. They were simulated in representing Pitt-Johnstown at a virtual college fair in Ecuador, South America.

Hyperfair, Inc. provides a self-service platform for Social Virtual Reality for the Enterprises.

The platform allowed for Pitt-Johnstown to self-create a VR booth upload digital assets, and engage with potential students through interacting avatars.

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**UPCOMING PROJECTS**

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We also remain mindful of the unique and picturesque 655 acres upon which our campus is built and our strategic commitment to connect our natural environment and resources to our healthy campus initiatives. To that end, Pitt-Johnstown is taking steps to improve recreational walkways, sidewalks and bike paths around the campus to add to the quality of life for the community members and enhance safety.
A robust marketing campaign launched in October, utilizing multiple mediums, has driven interest in college campus visitors, applications, and website traffic.

Total paid deposits to date are out-pacing last year's numbers, with Engineering seeing the biggest boost in applications, admits and paid deposits.

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**2017 Digital Media Campaign**

- 22.3 million impressions
- 1.128 million clicks

**UPJ Website Visits in 2010 Versus 2017**

- 1,660 vs 70,000

Rye Barcott -- social entrepreneur, veteran, and author of *It Happened on the Way to War* -- was the keynote speaker for Pitt-Johnstown's annual Academic Honors Convocation.

Barcott told the crowd at Honors Convocation that his hope for them would be that they could make each other better. He encouraged them to find their own path and lead lives with courage and integrity.
DIVISION II
ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Pitt-Johnstown’s Athletic programs have become increasingly competitive over the past few years and have drawn scholar-athletes from across the state and beyond. Among the student Athletes, the following were recently recognized at Pitt-Johnstown’s annual Academic Honors Convocation.

Madeline George (Volleyball): Bross Family Scholarship in Business, Sigma Beta Delta International Business Honor Society

Dillon Boyer (Baseball): College Scholar in Electrical Engineering, Faculty Senate Student Athlete Award, University Scholar

Delaney Roman (Volleyball): Dr. Lowell Shaffer Student-Athlete Award, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Beta Delta

Kaitlyn Eckley (Soccer): Dr. Lowell Shaffer Student-Athlete Award

Haleigh Heaton (Volleyball, Cross Country): Faculty Senate Scholar Athlete Award, Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society (will be attending Widener Law School in the fall).

Isaac Vescovi (Basketball): University Scholar

Emily Hanwell (Track): Phi Kappa Phi

Devin Orr (Volleyball): Sigma Beta Delta

OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Pitt-Johnstown’s Wrestling Coach Pat Pecora, to be honored

280 STUDENT ATHLETES | 30% ON DEANS LIST | 10 HAVE 4.0 GPA
AVERAGE STUDENT ATHLETE GPA 2.91 | GRADUATION RATE 78%

WRESTLING COACH PAT PECORA, TO BE HONORED

Pitt-Johnstown wrestling Coach Pat Pecora will be one of nine members of the 24th class of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame at an induction ceremony at the Hershey Lodge in April of 2017.

Pecora has been the coach at University of Pittsburgh Johnstown since 1976 and has doubled as Pitt-Johnstown's Athletic Director since 2008. In his 41 seasons at Pitt-Johnstown, his teams have captured 21 NCAA Regional Championships, and in 1996 & 1999 were NCAA Division II National Champions. Pecora, whose 569 dual meet victories are tied for second all-time in all divisions, has been the NCAA Regional Coach of the Year 16 times. He has coached 12 individual national champions who won 19 national titles.

He is a member the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame-East Boro Chapter, the Cambria County Sports Hall of Fame, the West Liberty State College Hall of Fame, the PA Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame, the NCAA Division II Wrestling Hall of Fame, the Pitt-Johnstown Athletics Hall of Fame, and the Western Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.
Alumnus & Retired Executive
Richard Bross to Address 2017 Commencement

Pitt-Johnstown alumnus and retired Hormel Foods Corp. Executive Richard A. Bross ’73 will serve as honorary speaker at the Pitt-Johnstown 2017 Commencement and receive the President’s Medal of Distinctive Excellence from President Jem Spectar.

Mr. Bross graduated from Pitt-Johnstown magna cum laude with a BA in Economics and was a divisional scholar in Economics.

A noted philanthropist, Mr. Bross’s generous contribution to scholarships at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown has earned him a place of distinction in the 1927 Cornerstone Society -- the university’s most prestigious donor honor roll.

His interest in supporting business students while promoting strong communications and ethical leadership is changing lives. Mr. Bross also contributes his talent and time as a member of the Pitt-Johnstown Board of Advisors.

Author & Film Maker
Inspired by Pitt-Johnstown

Filmmaker and author Tom Getty found his creative incentive while studying at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 2007. A snowy night provided the setting for “The Invading,” a horror fiction novel set on a college campus very similar to the place where Getty’s education and inspiration first met.

He went on to graduate from Pitt in 2010 with a degree in communication and is known for the independent films "Rising Fear" in 2016 and "Emulation" in 2010, which followed his first official film "American Writer" in 2004.

“The story is fiction, but the setting is based on Pitt-Johnstown,” he said. “We always say it is a picturesque campus. If you were going to film a movie about a college, that would be the place. That is the inspiration. “The book is dedicated to my old friends at Hickory Hall.”

We welcome your Alumni news and updates. Please connect with our Alumni Office at upj.pitt.edu/myalumniinfo
Pitt-Johnstown placed 3rd of 20 Pitt schools and colleges in the school participation challenge, garnering an additional $12,500 in challenge funds for a total donation of $34,954.

Pitt-Johnstown held a private reception February 22, 2017 to honor Ron Vickroy, a former Pitt-Johnstown business professor who retired in 2012 after a 27-year career. The event took place prior to the Globally Impactful Speakers and Talks (GIST) event hosted by the Division of Business and Enterprise.

Recognizing Mr. Vickroy’s tremendous impact on his students and the community, the school created a crowd-funded scholarship in his name. Many Pitt-Johnstown students and alumni that he taught over the years have contributed.

Athletics Hall of Fame

Pitt-Johnstown celebrated the 10th Anniversary of its Athletics Hall of Fame by inducting five new members. The 10th Anniversary Class included Troy Barbush ’99 (Wrestling), Amy Kessler ’92 (Women’s Basketball), Brent Matish ’04 (Baseball), Chris Rhames ’99 (Men’s Basketball), and John Sumoski ’91 (Men’s Soccer). Pitt-Johnstown also recognized all of the former student-athletes in attendance, as well as retired Pitt-Johnstown professor Dr. Clark Strausser, for his meritorious service to the athletic department.
550 Graduates

OVER 5k in Service Hours

96% Placement Rate

10 New Degrees

15 New Faculty Members

800 Students Received Coding Instruction

5 Nationally Ranked Athletes

35M in New & Current Construction

Nearly $11.5 Million Dollars Raised

Military Friendly School • Civic Engagement Award
US News & World Report • Brookings Institute
Princeton Review