Pitt-Johnstown hosted two events last month in partnership with Showcase for Commerce to promote the Maker Movement and entrepreneurship in rural Pennsylvania:

- **Maker's Premier**, held in the Wellness Center, was attended by Senator Robert Casey, Congressman Keith Rothfus, and other dignitaries. The event also featured 22 Makers booths, where creators and artisans sold their products. Additionally, students representing five local high schools presented their innovative ideas, such as robotics and STEM projects.
- **PITTch Fest**, a “Shark Tank”-style competition for entrepreneurs and creators who want to turn their big ideas into big business, held a preliminary round at the Wellness Center that featured 17 contestants. Seven contestants competed in the final round held at the War Memorial.

**Pitt-Johnstown Ranked Top Area University for “Value-Added” Earning Potential**

In a [report](#) published this year, the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program ranked the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown as the top, four-year university in the region for the Institution's impact on actual, mid-career earnings of graduates (“value-added”). Out-ranking area institutions like Duquesne, Washington and Jefferson, Robert Morris, Saint Francis, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the report indicated that Pitt-Johnstown graduates enjoy average, mid-career earnings that are 17.6% higher than what a graduate from a similar school would have earned given his/her characteristics. The University’s high ranking is attributed in the report to the value of the curriculum, STEM orientation, and alumni skills. Additionally, Pitt-Johnstown was cited in [US News and World Report](#), together with Brown and Georgetown, for building “in-demand job skills.”

**New Pitt-Johnstown Book Center**

Given the enormous changes to the bookstore industry across the country, Pitt-Johnstown decided to move to an outside vendor in order to maximize services to students and reduce costs. The new Book Center opened in June and features an expanded inventory of book rentals, a best price promise on textbooks, and a full-service e-commerce site, [www.neebo.com/university-of-pittsburghjohnstown](http://www.neebo.com/university-of-pittsburghjohnstown). Check out the new store format, new merchandise, and exciting sales in the Book Center. Questions related to the Book Center or any Auxiliary Operations can continue to be reported through the office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration.
Ladies Day Out

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN FOR A POSITIVE FUTURE

In partnership with Windber School District, Pitt-Johnstown supported Ladies Day Out: Empowering Young Women for a Positive Future. Three hundred young women from local high schools participated in a half-day seminar to learn more about college campus safety and accessing appropriate resources in the event of an assault.

Upcoming Events

Academic Calendar

Academic Planning Day
June 18

Academic Planning Day
June 22

Open House
June 26

Open House
July 17

Full Alumni Association Board Meeting & New Board Member Orientation
July 18

Open House
August 14

First-year Residence Halls
Open & New Student Orientation Begins
August 27

Returning/Transfer Student Move-In
August 30

Fall Term Begins
August 31

Personnel Transitions

New Hires:

- Emilee Baran, Conference Center, January 8, Events Coordinator
- Nathan Cade, Physical Plant, June 16, Cleaner
- Sui Chen, Admissions, May 14, Director of International Recruitment
- E. Ryan Clancy, Admissions, June 29, Admissions Counselor
- Shaquille Jenkins, Physical Plant, June 15, Cleaner

Internal Transfers:

- Dawn Beam, Business & Enterprise Division, March 23, Secretary
- Patricia Cigich, Student Affairs, July 7, Administrative Assistant
- Janet Grove, Physical Plant, March 3, Cleaner
- Jenn Kist, Financial Aid, May 13, Director of Scholarship Programs and High School Outreach
- Bob Knipple, Student Affairs, March 31, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of RealWorld Career Services
- John Kushner, Physical Plant, March 3, Cleaner
- Kathleen Mishler, Natural Science Division, April 1, Secretary
- Joseph Moxim, Purchasing, June 1, Buyer
- Joyce Radovanic, President’s Office, March 20, Assistant to the President for Community Engagement and Executive Director of the John P. Murtha Center for Public Service
- John Ziats, Student Affairs, June 15, Business Manager

Departures:

- Trish Beatty, Institutional Advancement, April 30, Grants

Retirements:

- Jeffrey E. Ankney, Nursing & Health Sciences Division, August 31, Clinical Assistant Professor, 28 Years of Service
- Shelly Snyder Bock, Natural Sciences Division, August 31, Lab Instructor, 26 Years of Service
- Patty Derrick, Humanities Division, July 31, Professor and Chair, 26 Years of Service
- Paul Freedman, Physical Plant, February 5, Shipper/Receiver, 30 Years of Service
- Christine (Chris) Glova, Student Life, May 6, Secretary, 25 Years of Service
- Tom McGahagan, Business & Enterprise Division, August 31, Associate Professor, 33 Years of Service
- Janet Paap, Physical Plant, June 1, Cleaner, 27 Years of Service

Donor Society Created

The Inaugural Dinner and Induction Ceremony for the 1927 Cornerstone Society was held on Saturday, May 16 at Sunnehanna Country Club. Fifty-seven individuals and institutions with lifetime giving to Pitt-Johnstown of $50,000 or more were inducted. Four donors with lifetime giving to the University of $1 million or more were presented with Gold Medallions: Frank J. and Sylvia T. Pasquerilla (honored posthumously), Mark E. Pasquerilla, Robert M. Smith Family, and Somerset Trust Company.
Sustainability Initiative Update

- 3,400 pounds of waste have been recycled since January via Single Stream Recycling.
- 987 recycling bins have been distributed throughout campus.
- We have applied for LEED Gold Certification for the Nursing & Health Sciences Building.

RealWorld Career Services Held Record-breaking Spring Job Fair

- 73 companies (12.6% increase over last year)
- 211 students (41% increase over last year)
- On-site interviews conducted by 2 companies
- New recruiting relationships established with UPMC, McConway-Torley, Bayada Healthcare, Free Medical Clinic
- Recruiting by national companies including Coke, First Energy, MetLife, and AIG Financial Network

Admissions Update

- The Pitt-Johnstown Admissions Team hosted a Guidance Counselor Appreciation Day for the first time in November 2014. Guidance Counselors from around the region were invited to participate in an informative and interactive workshop on Teaching Excellence. The counselors had the opportunity to spend time with distinguished faculty and learn more about Pitt-Johnstown accolades.
- Incoming freshmen were provided with an additional scholarship opportunity this year to help with the rising costs of higher education. Pitt-Johnstown is dedicated to serving prospective students, from around the region and beyond, with an affordable education to the best of our ability.

Facilities Update

- New $1.9 Million Biology and Pre-Medical Sciences labs and offices in Krebs Hall are now complete.
- Plans are advancing for Learning Commons.
- An approximately $20 million project was launched:
  - John P. Murtha Center for Public Service
  - Complete renovation of Engineering and Science Building

Institutional Advancement Update

We have experienced strong development (fundraising) growth so far in the 2015 fiscal year:

- The number of donors is up 50%.
- The number of new donors is up 326%.
- The number of donations is up 59%.
- The number of alumni donors is up 64%.

Athletics Hall of Fame

The annual Athletics Hall of Fame, boasting 325 attendees, was held in April 2015. Honorees included:

- Tim Nolen – Men's Soccer (1975-1980)
- Pat Pecora – Wrestling Coach (1976-present)

Student Affairs Reorganization

Student Affairs is reorganizing to better provide programs and services to our students.

- The offices of Residence Life and Student Life have merged to create the Office of Campus Life. Sherri Rae will continue to oversee Student Life operations and Shaun Hemphill will continue to oversee Residence Life and Greek Life. However, the move will consolidate and streamline student programming on campus. The location of the office is Student Union 130.
- Mark Dougherty and Karen Barrick have moved to Student Union G-61 to run housing operations in the Office of Student Housing.
- Willie Myers and the Student ID Center has also relocated to Student Union G-61.
- The RealWorld Action Program has now become part of the RealWorld Career Services operation. Accordingly, Jeanne Susko, who will continue to coordinate the RealWorld Action Program has moved to Student Union G-52.
Five faculty members were selected to receive College Summer 2015 Research Council Grants totaling $10,000:

- **Dr. Julie Ankrum**  
  Teacher Change: Exploring the Impact of a Literacy Professional Development Initiative

- **Dr. Ryan Bird**  
  Determination of Preferred Geometry and Torsional Barriers of Itaconic, Succinic, and Glutaric Acid Using Chirped-Pulsed FTMW Spectroscopy

- **Dr. Elizabeth Katrancha**  
  A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls

- **Dr. Derek Leben**  
  Familiarity, Not Family, Determines Judgments about Moral Value

- **Dr. Bruce Robart**  
  Genetic Consequences of Habitat Fragmentation in Two Clonal Plant Species on the Pitt-Johnstown Campus

Eleven faculty/student groups received summer semester grants totaling more than $10,500 through the Mentorship Fund:

- **Dr. Bruce Robart / Corey Hartland**  
  Genetic Consequences of Habitat Fragmentation in Two Clonal Plant Species on the Pitt-Johnstown Campus

- **Dr. Rebecca Webb, Dr. Sharon Bertsch / Hannah Barton, Ashley May**  
  The Effects of Chronic Fluoxetine and Norfluoxetine Exposure on Survival, Reproduction and Development in Larval Chironomidae (Diptera)

- **Dr. James Alexander / Ashley B. Eppley, Rebecca Justinus**  
  Comstock Laws and the Early Suppression of Anti-War Sentiment, Unionization, and Dissemination of Birth Control Information

- **Dr. Stephen Kilpatrick / Emily Colella**  
  Investigation of possible hybridization among Pedicularis species on Mt. Rainier

- **Dr. Elizabeth Katrancha / Emily Jaap, Kaitlin Kozak**  
  A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls

Four faculty/student groups received grants totaling $16,400 from the Alice Waters Thomas Fund to participate in SPUR (Summer Program in Undergraduate Research) Biodiversity:

- **Dr. Serdar Tumkor / Tyler Sewak, Sean Robb**  
  Developing a Mobile Application to Visualize the Geometry in Engineering Problems

- **Dr. Sharon Bertsch / Tayler Verbares**  
  Factors Related to Displaced Aggression in Response to Ostracism

- **Dr. Patty Wharton-Michael / Alyssa Wharton**  
  Vaccinations and Immunizations? Let Me Check to See What Google Says

- **Dr. Jeremiah Coldsmith / Nicholas DiGiorgio**  
  The Implications of State Welfare and Tax Policy on Economic Outcomes in Matched US States

- **Dr. Jeremy Justus / Jacob Williamson-Rae**  
  An Investigative Study of Kurt Vonnegut’s Unpublished Drafts and Personal Letters

- **Dr. Marsha Grimminger / Samantha Vivis, Brosnan McCray, Jordan Mummert**  
  Cost Effective Dye Sensitized Solar Cells for Renewable Energy

- **Dr. Christopher Coughenour / Rachel Shanley, Tyler Norris**  
  Investigating Soil Processes and the Potential Links between Soil Geomorphology and Invasive-plan Community Structure in the Pitt Johnstown Natural Area

- **Dr. Ahmad Massasati / Emily Reynolds**  
  GIS/Applied Geometric Correction to Amateur Aerial Photography to Sample Biodiversity Data

- **Dr. Bruce Robart / Logan McIntosh, Kevin Springer**  
  Genetic Consequences of Habitat Fragmentation in Two Clonal Plant Species on the Pitt Johnstown Campus

- **Dr. Rebecca Webb / Ryan Wilson**  
  Continuing the Evaluation of Chironomus diversity in the waters in and around the Pitt Johnstown Campus