

**Alum Donates
\$12 million
to Pitt-Johnstown**

**Donor Profile:
Mark Pasquerilla**

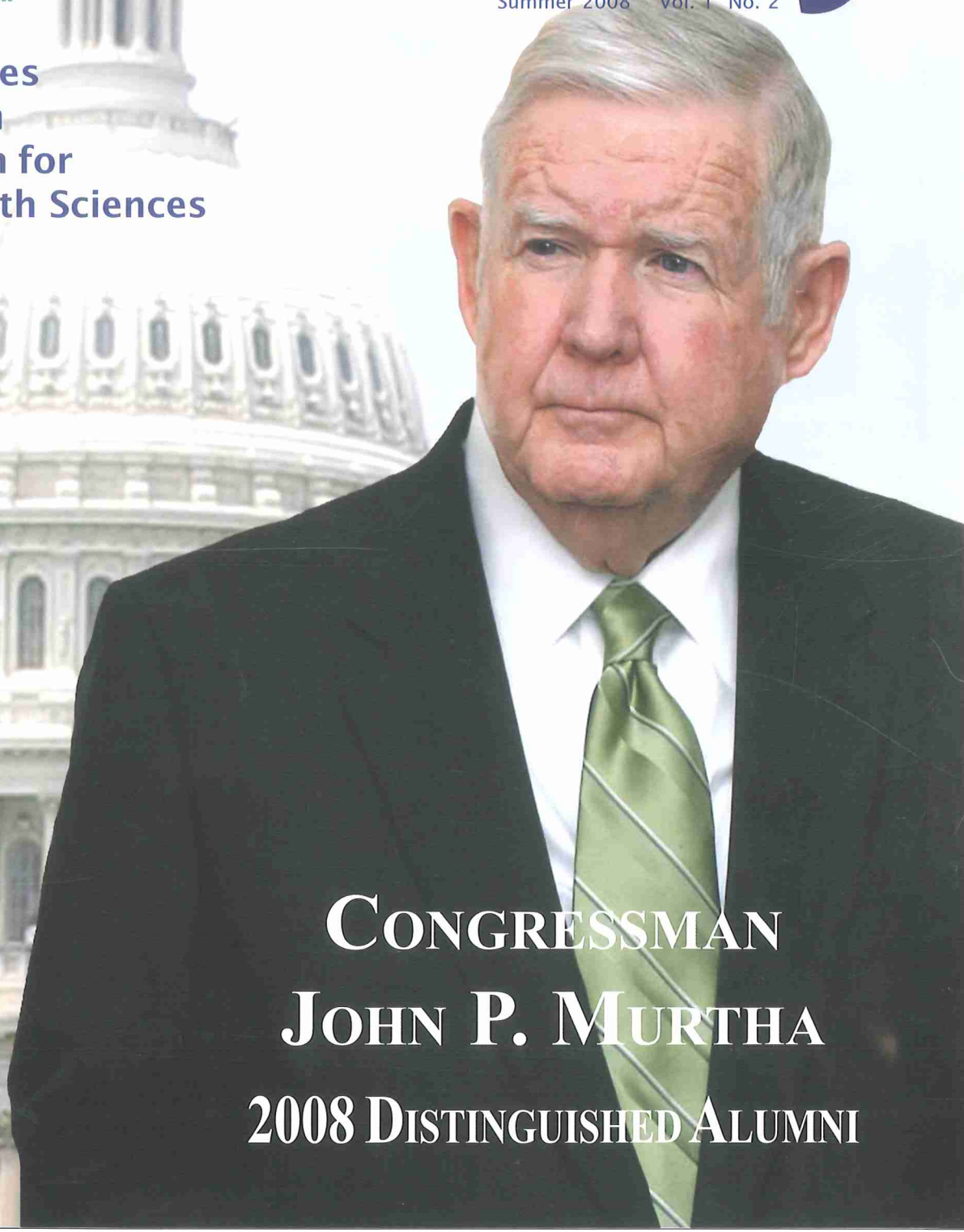
**"a champion of our
community, a visionary,
and ardent supporter..."**

**Campus Receives
\$4 million from
Commonwealth for
Nursing & Health Sciences**

UPJ

Magazine

Summer 2008 Vol. 1 No. 2



**CONGRESSMAN
JOHN P. MURTHA
2008 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

Pitt-Johnstown: *Best-Kept Secret No More*



Another academic year has entered the record books as the pendulum swung from the first orientation event last summer to Commencement in May. Book ends, in a manner of speaking, orientation and graduation give cause to reflect on a year well-spent doing the most meaningful work, transforming our world through the liberating and enlightening power of higher education.

In that regard, the elation was palpable on May 3 as another Commencement event unfolded before thousands of proud faculty, parents, relatives, friends, and well-wishers. In a heartwarming ceremony, about 400 students participated in our 36th annual Commencement. Many thanks to everyone who joined us in welcoming our graduates into the Academy of learned persons, as well as into the larger family of Pitt-Johnstown

alumni. I was, indeed, honored to have been a part of this most splendid and joyful day. To all of our graduates, I wish great success as they pursue their dreams and make a difference in the *real world*.

The academic year that recently ended also caps a period of intense planning for the future of Pitt-Johnstown. Through collaborative task forces, involving participants across the institution, we forged a vision for the future that is embraced in our *New Dimension of Excellence Strategic Plan for Real-World Readiness*. While the road will be long, and at times difficult, the plan provides a solid glide path, specifying matters we must attend to urgently, and targets to keep in sight if we are to do right by our legacy and serve all our constituents.

People around us are taking notice of the great things that are happening at Pitt-Johnstown. Best kept secret, no more! I was *Mountain Cat Proud* and brimming with satisfaction as a small sliver of our fine faculty were lauded in the *Tribune Democrat* for their accomplishments, typifying the many pinnacles of excellence around here. What I have sometimes referred to as the "citizen factory" is thriving at Pitt-Johnstown. But there is nothing routine about the alchemy involved in transforming students' lives, preparing them for productive careers and rewarding lives of meaning and consequence in their respective communities.

Our students' accomplishments in the classroom were also complemented this year with stellar successes. Last

year, I spent a lot of time with various students at events, including an evening with our *President's Scholars* and members of the student leadership council. My encounters with all of our students leave me hopeful about the future.

You, our alumni, continue to give us countless reasons to be *Mountain Cat Proud*. Record numbers of you are becoming more involved in the affairs of your alma mater. In particular, alumni enthusiasm and attendance have been impressive at our local events, as well as during our visits to Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. We are looking forward to an even more robust Homecoming celebration this September. In May, we visited with hundreds of alumni at Johnstown's annual Showcase for Commerce, where our Blue and Gold colors were flying proudly. The event also was the perfect venue to announce two significant alumni stories – the selection of Congressman John P. Murtha as the recipient of the first-ever Distinguished Alumni Award and a \$12 million gift from an anonymous alumnus.

As I sometimes joke, Johnstown *is* our last name, and we are proud to be at, in, and of Johnstown. Best-kept secret, no more, thanks to the great accomplishments of our more than 17,000 alumni. Thank you for your continuing support of Pitt-Johnstown, and I hope that you will return soon to visit your alma mater.

Mountain Cat Proud!

Jem Spectar
President

UPJ

Magazine

Dr. Jem Spectar
President

External Relations

272 Blackington Hall
Johnstown, PA 15904
(814) 269-2080
upjalum@pitt.edu
www.upj.pitt.edu/upjalum

Robert W. Knipple ('87)
*Executive Director
External Relations*

Staff
Dolores A. Berkey ('97)
Francine A. Cooper
Kimberly D. Shook ('86)

Photo credits: Roger Kerekes, Laura McAllister, Richard Povich ('87), and Kimberly Shook ('86). Additional photos provided by Matthew Mazonkey ('05) on behalf of Congressman Murtha.

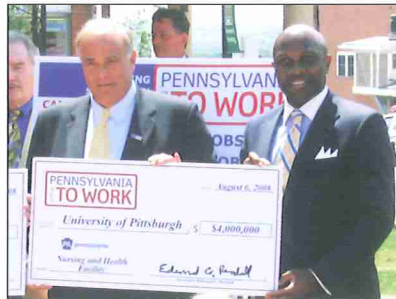
We are *Mountain Cat Proud* to bring you this issue of our magazine. *UPJ Magazine* is published twice annually for alumni and friends of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Questions and comments regarding the publication should be directed to External Relations.

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.

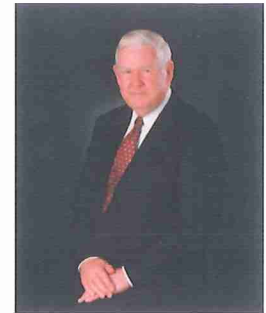


University of Pittsburgh
at Johnstown

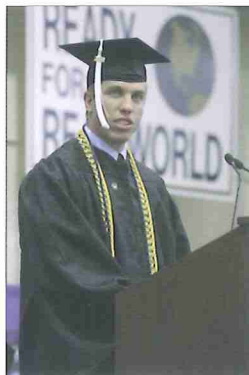
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A Distinguished Alumnus

CONGRESSMAN JOHN P. MURTHA ('60) has been named the recipient of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown's first-ever Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association has selected Congressman John P. Murtha ('60) as the recipient of its inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award.

In announcing the Alumni Association's selection, Pitt-Johnstown President Jem Spectar commented, "Through his exemplary and outstanding record of transformational service to our community and country, Congressman Murtha is clearly a most distinguished alumnus, and we are honored and proud to bestow this honor upon him. Mr. Murtha is a strong voice for what is great and good about America, and has worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of our region. His life's work has reflected the values and principles of service to community, care for country, and courage in facing challenges. His great work benefits not only our local community, but also our entire nation. The Congressman exemplifies all of the traits that this award recognizes and is a truly deserving citizen and alumnus."

The new award, established by the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association, is the highest honor that the school bestows upon its alumni. It will annually recognize alumni for individual achievements, leadership in their professions, service to their community, and loyalty to their alma mater. The award was created to celebrate the excellence and achievements of the more than 17,000 Pitt-Johnstown alumni.

Congressman Murtha, who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1962, attended the

Johnstown campus for the first two years after having served active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps. Following his graduation, he volunteered to serve in Vietnam (1966-67) where he received the Bronze Star with Combat "V," two Purple Hearts, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

In addition to a distinguished 37-year military career, Congressman Murtha has served the people of the 12th Congressional District since 1974. During his time in the House of Representatives, he has been instrumental in redefining our region's economy following the decline of the mining and steel industries. He has helped to create more than 5,000 family-sustaining jobs in Western Pennsylvania in areas including health care, tourism, and technology.

As a loyal alumnus, Congressman Murtha established the John P. and Joyce Murtha Center for Continuing Education and Professional Development at Pitt-Johnstown, which created opportunities for students in our region to pursue graduate-level degrees. Since its creation in 1994, the Center has enabled 122 students from a nine-county region to earn their Master of Social Work degrees. Additionally, 15 students earned a Master of Science in Manufacturing Systems Engineering. Students are also able to pursue advanced Nursing degrees as Acute Care Nurse Practitioners and Family Nurse Practitioners – helping to fill the shortage of credentialed health care professionals.

Congressman Murtha is currently the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, and is highly respected for his first-hand knowledge of military and national security issues. He is a strong advocate for the citizens of our region, having championed several causes, including a patient's bill of rights, prescription-drug benefits, and a better minimum wage. He has worked hard to protect Medicare, Social Security, veterans' benefits, and Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). He was a driving force behind the effort to secure Medicare coverage for preventive health care, such as mammograms and flu shots.

The Congressman's honors include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal and the Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal, the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award, the National Breast Cancer Coalition Leadership Award, the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry's Government Leader of the Year, and Pittsburgh's Riverperson of the Year.

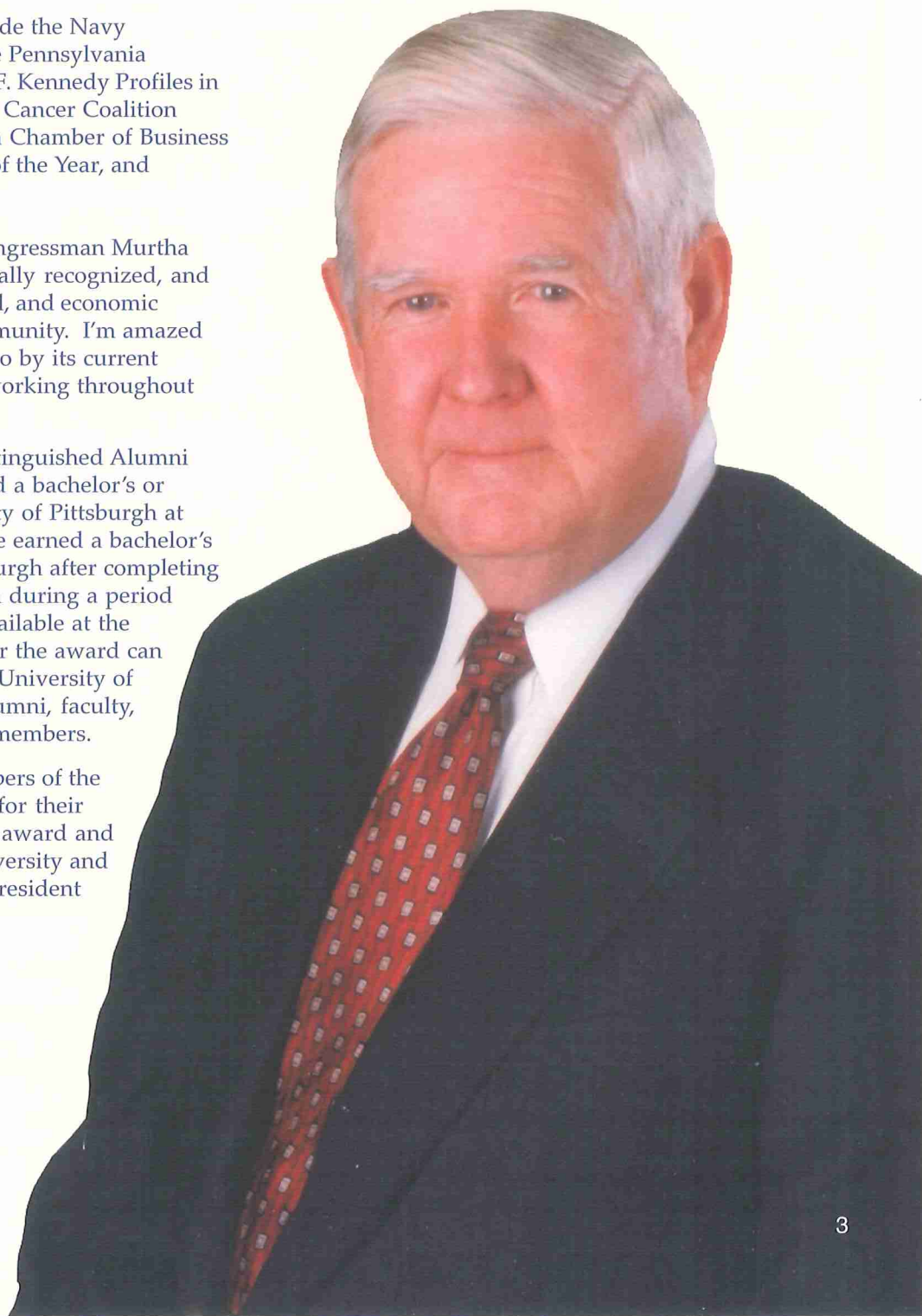
Upon learning of his Award, Congressman Murtha remarked, "Pitt-Johnstown is nationally recognized, and I'm proud of the educational, cultural, and economic contributions they make to our community. I'm amazed not only by the campus itself but also by its current students and thousands of alumni working throughout our region and nation."

In order to be eligible for the Distinguished Alumni Award, candidates must have earned a bachelor's or associate's degree from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Candidates can also have earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh after completing two years of study at Pitt-Johnstown during a period when four-year degrees were not available at the Johnstown campus. Nominations for the award can be submitted by any member of the University of Pittsburgh community, including alumni, faculty, staff, students and Advisory Board members.

"I am most thankful to the members of the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association for their fine work in creating this important award and for their ongoing support of the University and our alumni, students and friends," President Spectar concluded. □

"The Congressman exemplifies all of the traits that this award recognizes and is a truly deserving citizen and alumnus"

Dr. Jem Spectar, President



Anonymous Alum Donates Largest Gift Ever: \$12M for Commuter Scholarship

Pitt-Johnstown has received a donation of \$12 million, the largest gift in the school's 80-year history. Established through the generosity of an alumnus who wished to remain anonymous, the estate gift carries on a Commuter Scholarship that was established at Pitt-Johnstown in 2000. It is estimated that the gift will provide support for approximately 40 students annually.

The scholarship fund supports the attainment of a bachelor's degree at Pitt-Johnstown by providing each recipient who is a commuter student with a full academic scholarship: tuition, fees, and books for eight terms (four academic years). Eligibility requirements for the Commuter Scholarship are commute to campus; carry 12 or more credits each term; in the top 15% of high school graduating class; SAT scores

greater than 1200; maintain a QPA of 3.25 freshman year, 3.35 sophomore year, and 3.45 junior year; and qualify for financial need.

Candidates must be at least a three-year resident and a high school graduate from any of these five Pennsylvania counties: Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Indiana, or Westmoreland.

In announcing the gift, President Spectar, said, "This estate gift sends a valuable message about the importance of alumni support. Through this gift, our loyal alumnus has acted in a way that leaves a permanent legacy and sets an example for others to follow. A gift of this magnitude will enable deserving students to pursue an intellectually stimulating education and position themselves for rewarding careers and

meaningful lives. There are no words eloquent enough to express our gratitude."

Know someone who might be eligible?

Contact the Admissions Office
800-765-4875

Commuter Scholarship FACT:

If a student meets eligibility guidelines throughout his/her four years at Pitt-Johnstown, the value of the Commuter Scholarship will exceed \$50,000.

Long-Time Administrator Retiring from Pitt-Johnstown



Jeffrey A. Lavine, vice president for finance and administration, is retiring after 38 years of service to Pitt-Johnstown.

Jeff came to campus as faculty member in the economics department in 1970. He began his administrative career in 1971 when he was

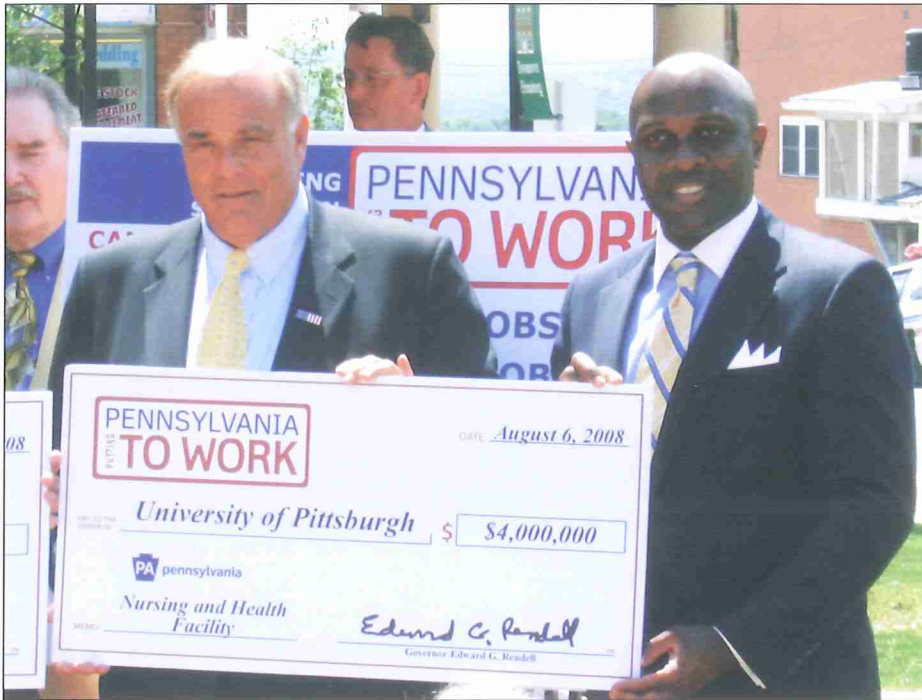
named assistant academic dean. He held positions as assistant to the President and director of planning and budget before being named vice president in 1996.

As part of the campus' executive team for nearly four decades, Jeff has supervised unprecedented achievement and growth at Pitt-Johnstown. He has been involved with more than 175 projects with total project costs exceeding \$65,200,790.

Known across campus for his dry wit and dedication to Pitt-Johnstown, Jeff is the campus' "go-to" guy. Need to know about a construction project from the 1970s? Jeff is the guy who can give you all of the details with remarkable specificity.

Jeff was recognized for his years of service at the spring meeting of the Pitt-Johnstown Advisory Board. He will officially retire on September 30. Best of luck, Jeff. We'll miss you!

Meeting the Needs of Community and Commonwealth: \$4 million Received for New Facility



"Consistent with our recently completed strategic plan, Pitt-Johnstown is committed to responding to our communities' needs, through the development of programs that foster the economic and social health of the Commonwealth. It is well known that the Commonwealth is experiencing a shortage of workers in the health care area, and that such a shortage is expected to intensify. This funding, which will help position us to train nurses and other health care practitioners to meet this shortage, is particularly timely as it enables us to fulfill that strategic commitment to meet our communities' needs. We anticipate that, over the next decade, our initiatives in health care areas will strengthen the workforce of our region." Dr. Spectar concluded.

August 8 was a day for celebration at Pitt-Johnstown, as we received \$4 million in state funds for the construction of a new Nursing and Health Sciences building. Governor Edward G. Rendell made the announcement at a ceremony held as part of the Commonwealth's "Put Pennsylvania to Work" initiative.

In accepting a ceremonial check from Governor Rendell, President Jem Spectar remarked, This is a milestone day in the history of our beloved Pitt-Johnstown. We are very grateful for Governor Rendell's support and we are deeply appreciative of his commitment to the people of Cambria County and our health care needs. The generosity of the Commonwealth will help ensure that our hopes for improved health sciences education and quality health care are realized.

"We are very thankful for the strong support of Representative Edward Wojnaroski and Senator John Wozniak, all of our state legislators, and Congressman John P. Murtha. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our

friends and supporters in the community, particularly the members of the Greater Johnstown Regional Partnership, the Pitt-Johnstown Advisory Board, and our County Commissioners P.J. Stevens, William Harris, and Milan Gjurich."

This funding makes it possible for Pitt-Johnstown to build upon its existing capacity and expertise in allied health care programs and nursing to develop and intensify cooperative partnerships with local health care providers. The funding received today will support Pitt-Johnstown's plans to develop a new facility to house our health sciences programs.



President Spectar expresses his gratitude to retiring Pa. Representative Edward Wojnaroski for his strong support of Pitt-Johnstown.

Steel City Event: Wish You Were Here!

Pittsburgh alums connect

The Steel City was bursting with *Mountain Cat Pride* on Wednesday, May 7. More than 50 alumni and guests gathered at the Omni William Penn Hotel for Pitt-Johnstown's first-ever alumni event in Pittsburgh.

The evening provided an opportunity for alumni to network, reminisce about their days at Pitt-Johnstown, and meet our fifth president, Dr. Jem Spector. Sherra (Nagy) Moore ('99), administrative coordinator for Housing and Dining Services at Carnegie Mellon University, commented, "Those who did not attend missed a great opportunity to connect with other alumni and to interact on such a personal level with President Spector."



In the coming weeks, we will be hosting alumni receptions in Harrisburg and Baltimore. If you reside in one of those areas, we hope that you'll be able to join us!

You can register to attend one of the receptions

by clicking on the "Alumni Receptions" link on our web page (www.upj.pitt.edu/alumni).

If you know of classmates in the area who might have lost touch with us, be sure to spread the word!

Are You CONNECTED?

Many of you have expressed interest in being kept informed of what's happening at your alma mater in between issues of *UPJ Magazine*. Well, we've listened and recently introduced our inaugural electronic newsletter. *UPJ Update* will be published periodically to let you know about the many happenings on campus. Stay connected to the latest buzz and be one of the first to know about:

- ♦ Homecoming 2008
- ♦ Distinguished Alumni Award nominations
- ♦ Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center events
- ♦ Alumni receptions
- ♦ Breaking campus news

To activate your free subscription, simply go to the Alumni web page (www.upj.pitt.edu/alumni) and click on the "e-Newsletter" link.

UPJ Alumni Update



April 2008

A periodic electronic newsletter for Alumni of
The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Alumni and Community Relations • www.upj.pitt.edu/upjalum • 1-888-UPJ-ALUM

Welcome to our first issue of the *Alumni Update*, our periodic e-newsletter created to keep you informed about important happenings at your alma mater! We welcome any input that you have regarding content, frequency, and format! If you have suggestions, please send them to us via e-mail at: upjalum@pitt.edu.

UPJ Alum Discusses Her Field of Dreams

UPJ Alumna Barbara Dunyea ('84) was the featured speaker at the first AIM@Johnstown lecture held on March 24. Barbara, director of research and development at the John P. Murtha Neuroscience and Pain Institute, spoke to students, faculty and fellow alumni about the important role of collaboration in establishing the Institute as an internationally recognized facility. She also discussed the real-world learning opportunities that are provided through internships at the Institute. Thanks for a great lecture, Barb! **Alumni Fact:** Did you know that 50% of the staff at the Institute are UPJ alumni?

Faculty Retirements

On April 7, President Spector recognized more than 200 years of cumulative service by seven retiring faculty members. Faculty members who will be retiring at the end of the current academic year are: Dr. Jon Darling, professor of sociology; Dr. Uldis Kaktins, associate professor of geology; Robert Marinazzi, professor of mechanical engineering technology; Dr. James Scofield, associate professor of English literature; Dr. Clark Straussner, associate professor of economics; John Wesley Traister, biology lab instructor; and Dr. Neil Woffinden, professor of biology.

Mountain Cat Proud Celebration

On March 25, the campus celebrated another winning season for the UPJ wrestling team. At a special ceremony held in the Student Union, the team presented President Spector with the fourth place trophy from the NCAA Division II National Wrestling Tournament. UPJ Senior Albert Miles was named National Champion at the tournament, which was held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Special recognition was also given to Mike Corcetti, Zach Majocha, Brandon Reasy, Shane Valko, and Kyle Keane for receiving All-American honors. This season marked Coach Pat Pecora's 32nd season with the team. *Mountain Cat Proud!*



Commencement 2008

This year's Commencement ceremony will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, May 3 in the UPJ Sports Center. At this year's ceremony, we will be presenting each graduate with a special "UPJ Alumni" pin. Alumni volunteers are needed to help with this year's event. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Alumni office at 269-2080 (toll-free @ 1-888-UPJ-ALUM).

Community Day for Alumni and Friends

We're taking our Mountain Cat Pride into the community and celebrating our country's favorite pastime - baseball! Join us at Johnstown's Point Stadium on Sunday, April 20 for an afternoon of fun, food, and prizes as the UPJ men's baseball team takes on Seton Hill (West Virginia). Come and show your support for your alma mater at our first-ever celebration at Point Stadium! The festivities begin at noon, and the game starts at 1:00.

Alumni Association Update

Volunteers Needed

The Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association is looking for volunteers to serve on committees of the Alumni Board of Directors. Project committees include Homecoming, Mountain Cat Tournament, UPJ Proud Celebration, Career Fair, and Alumni Athletic Night. If you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please contact the Alumni Office.

Giving Back to Pitt-Johnstown

In the past year, the Alumni Association has contributed more than \$10,000 to the scholarship fund at Pitt-Johnstown.

In the spring, the Association awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two juniors: Lacy Schmidt and Brooke Klawuhn.

Ms. Schmidt is a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and the Pitt-Johnstown Dance Ensemble. She also serves as a Student Tour Guide and Admissions Representative (STAR), and resident assistant.

Ms. Klawuhn is a member of Sigma Alpha Pi National Honor Society and a Pitt-Johnstown Cheerleader. She also volunteers at her hometown YMCA where she teaches cheerleading and gymnastics, and is a Vacation Bible School leader.

Annual Mountain Cat Tournament

The 31st annual basketball tournament will be held December 12-13. This year's competing teams are Hollidaysburg, Shade-Central City, Central Cambria, and Bishop McCort. Last year's event raised more than \$12,000 to support Association activities.

New Members

At the July meeting of the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association Board of Directors, four new members were added to the board:

- ♦ Anne Henry ('06)
- ♦ Matthew Mazonkey ('05)
- ♦ Joyce (Ripper) Neumann ('96)
- ♦ Janice (Yursky) Troyan ('78)

Officers for the coming year are:

- ♦ Gladys Go ('92), President
- ♦ Dr. Peter Korch ('84), Vice President
- ♦ Jeanne Feathers ('87), Secretary
- ♦ Dr. Ernest Mantini ('79), Treasurer

Blue and Gold Society

The Blue and Gold Society is a group of student leaders who work to promote the interests of Pitt-Johnstown in partnership with the Alumni Association. Special thanks to outgoing President Lindsey McCombie. Savannah Calhoun will take the helm as President beginning this fall. Other members of the group are:

- ♦ Jillian Berenbrok
- ♦ Heather Pearcy
- ♦ Annalise Policicchio
- ♦ Dana Shirley
- ♦ Tim Schultz



Local Alums Recognized

Five Pitt-Johnstown alumni were recently featured in *Johnstown Magazine* as "Movers and Shakers" in our community. Described by the magazine as "a few of the remarkable local citizens who deserve to be recognized for their contributions to the Greater Johnstown area" these alums make us *Mountain Cat Proud*:

- **Dave Fyock ('62)** is chairman and CEO of Mountain Top Technologies, Inc. He is also chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and vice president of fund development for the Penn's Woods Council Boy Scouts of America.
- **Daniel Perkins ('74)** is president and CEO of MTS Technologies, Inc., and created the Challenge Program, designed to help high school students stay motivated and focused on the educational experience. Mr. Perkins is a member of the Pitt-Johnstown Advisory Board.
- **Barbara Duryea ('84)** is director of Research and Development at the John P. Murtha Neuroscience and Pain Institute, affiliate of the Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center. She is also active with the Arts for Healing and the Integrative Medicine Advisory Council, and is an adjunct faculty member in the Nursing department at Pitt-Johnstown.
- **Kyra Kozielec-Gilmore ('87)** is marketing executive at WJAC-TV and part owner of Dillweed Bed and Breakfast in Dilltown, Pa. She is a past president of the Johnstown Chapter of Professional Referral Exchange.
- **Lisa Rager ('87)** is executive director of the Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Convention and Visitors Bureau. She was instrumental in the creation of the highly successful motorcycle rally Thunder in the Valley.

Campus Rocks with New Spirit



This spring marked the dedication of the campus' new Spirit Rock, located at the upper-level entrance to the Student Union. Beginning in the fall, student organizations will have the opportunity to decorate the Spirit Rock to announce their organizational events or to show their organizational pride. The Spirit Rock will help to foster school spirit, as well as to promote events and activities sponsored by various organizations.

Transforming the Experience

During Spring Term, there was a significant increase in the level of student involvement in campus activities and a positive transformation of the campus climate. The newly introduced *UPJ Real World Experience* has been well received with over 120 students already participating. This heightened interest shows our students are eager to develop as citizens that provide service and leadership in our communities. We will continue to recruit more students in the coming year and to introduce them to the many exciting opportunities available through the *UPJ Real World Experience*.

Developing First-Class Facilities

Pitt-Johnstown has recently kicked off a multi-year campaign to enhance and upgrade the upper-class residential facilities in the lodges and townhouses. Larkspur Lodge was the first facility to receive a full-scale interior renovation, and will be followed by Heather Lodge in the fall semester. Student Union renovations are continuing with upgrades to the club/organization office along with enhancements to the Cambria Room. Additionally, as part of our ongoing commitment to a campus environment conducive to living and learning, swipe-card access is being expanded to include additional residence halls.

Campus Weekends

For the first time, Student Life, in partnership with the Athletics Department and the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, implemented a weekend programming series in which over 5,000 free tickets were given to students so that they had the opportunity to attend social, cultural, educational, and athletic-related activities. Over 300 students participated in many of the new and exciting programs including trips to the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and NASA Center in Cleveland.

Service-Minded Students In the Real World

Our students' level of commitment to community service/civic engagement has never been greater as illustrated by the 8,000 hours of service performed this year. This spring, Pitt-Johnstown received official recognition as a Habitat for Humanity International Campus Chapter. Members of the Pitt-Johnstown group traveled to two sites in Florida during an alternative Spring Break to build homes.

Sophomore Brandon Quinn received the Advisory Board's 11th Service-to-Community Award. Mr. Quinn was recognized for his involvement with Pitt-Johnstown's Habitat for Humanity and service projects in his hometown of Suterville, Pa.



**Brandon
Quinn
Exemplifies
Award-
Winning
Service**



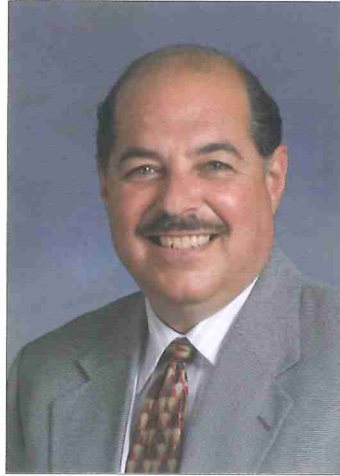
Sophomore Brandon Quinn (center) is presented with the Advisory Board's Service-to-Community Award by board members Rosemary Pawlowski (left), and E. Jeanne Gleason, Board Chair (right).

Teich to Serve as Academic Affairs VP

Dr. Alan H. Teich, associate professor of psychology and natural sciences, has been named Vice President for Academic Affairs (Interim).

In announcing Dr. Teich's appointment, President Spectar offered, "Dr. Teich is a scholar-practitioner in his field with an impressive record of teaching excellence. Strongly committed to the success of his students, he is well-known for incorporating real-world examples and humor into his classes."

Dr. Teich joined the Pitt-Johnstown faculty in 1987 as an assistant professor of psychology and natural sciences. He was promoted to the rank of associate professor in 1993. He received his PhD in Behavioral



Medicine from the University of Miami, his MA in Experimental Psychology from the State University of New York at Geneseo, and his BA in Psychology from the State University of New York at Brockport.

As a member of the Pitt-Johnstown faculty, Dr. Teich has served as the chairperson of the Psychology Department and Natural Sciences Division, and has been a member of the University Welfare Committee, Faculty Senate Council, Johnstown Planning and Budget Committee, the Human Subjects Ethics Review Committee, and Natural Sciences Status Committee. He has served as the faculty advisor to the Psi Chi Honor Society and Psychology Club and is currently faculty advisor to the Pitt-Johnstown lacrosse team. He has also served as faculty representative to the Student Senate.

Dr. Teich co-developed and currently serves as lead presenter of the Help, Understanding, Guidance and Support (HUGS) Program for the Pitt-Johnstown and Cambria County Court of Common Pleas.

Getting Ready for the Real World Expanding Horizons

With passports and textbooks in hand, three Pitt-Johnstown students took their studies abroad this summer through the Vira I. Heinz Travel Study Awards program. The students, who were the recipients of the 2008 awards are Lori Skupaka, Kayla Washko, and Alexis Wieczorek.

Ms. Skupaka, a junior political science major from Northern Cambria, used the scholarship to study modern Czech history and postwar politics at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, under the auspices of the Council on International Education Exchange.

Ms. Washko, a junior creative writing major from Ebensburg, used the scholarship to study advanced Spanish language and archaeology at Pontificia Universidad Catolic del Peru in Cusco, Peru, under the auspices of the American Institute for Foreign Study.

Ms. Wieczorek, a sophomore communication and political science dual major from Johnstown, used the scholarship to study international development in Bolivia under the auspices of Amizade Global Service Learning.

To date, 15 Pitt-Johnstown students have taken part in the Vira I. Heinz Travel Study program. The Heinz Endowments support efforts to make Southwestern Pennsylvania a premier place to live and work, a center for learning and educational excellence, and a home to diversity and inclusion. Committed to helping its region thrive as a whole community, economically, educationally, and culturally, the Heinz Foundation works within Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the nation to develop solutions to challenges that are both national and international in scope.



Lori Skupaka



Alexis Wieczorek



Kayla Washko

Faculty honored for TEACHING EXCELLENCE



Dr. Andrew Rose

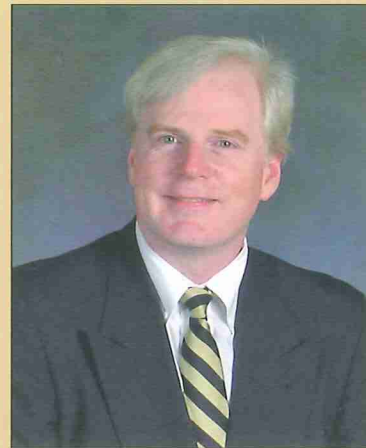
Dr. Andrew Rose, associate professor of civil engineering technology, has been named the 12th recipient of the President's Award for Teaching Excellence.

In announcing the Award, Pitt-Johnstown President Dr. Jem Spectar said, "We are fortunate to have a person of Dr. Rose's caliber and dedication as a member of our Pitt-Johnstown faculty. By serving his students with his time and talents, Dr. Rose is shaping and preparing them for the real world."

Dr. Rose was recognized for his engaging manner in and outside the classroom, his ability to convey complex ideas through memorable and practical demonstration, his deep knowledge of his subject matter, and his professionalism.

Dr. Rose received his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Connecticut and doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He began his career at Pitt-Johnstown in 1999 and teaches courses in University Scholarship, as well as upper level civil engineering technology courses in the areas of structural steel design, soils engineering, foundation design, concrete design, and advanced structures. He has served as the Civil Engineering Technology Department Head for three years.

The award recognizes teaching excellence among the college's faculty and to promote the college's primary mission of quality undergraduate education.



Dr. John McGrath

Dr. McGrath, associate professor of marketing, was a recipient of the 2008 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. He was one of five faculty members from throughout the entire University of Pittsburgh system to receive this prestigious honor.

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark Nordenberg, in honoring Dr. McGrath, noted, "(Your) synergistic teaching approach that integrates marketing theory, research and real-world application enriches your students' learning experience and enables them to secure meaningful internships and careers. The service-learning projects your students conduct in local non-profit agencies are rewarding for the students and benefit the community by providing invaluable assistance that these agencies could not afford otherwise."

Dr. McGrath earned his bachelor's degree from Notre Dame, majoring in both marketing and communications. He holds a master's degree in marketing and real estate development from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management and earned his doctorate at the Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. McGrath's professional career began at Leo Burnett/Chicago where he worked on the RCA and Schenley Liquor accounts. He was promoted to vice president at J. Walter Thompson/Chicago and helped manage several major accounts, including Oscar Mayer, Miller Brewing, McDonnell Douglas, and Northwestern Mutual Life.

Faculty Distinctions

Natalie Conrad, EdD
Assistant Professor; Elementary Education
Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success
Excellence in Teaching Award

Nina Girard, EdD
Associate Professor; Mathematics Education
Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of Mathematics
Distinguished Service Award

Janet Grady, Dr PH
Associate Professor; Nursing
Director, Pitt-Johnstown Nursing Program
YWCA Tribute to Women Education Award for
Educational Creativity, Innovation, and Reform

Reinhard Heinisch, PhD
Professor, Political Science and Advisor; International Studies
Lambda Pi Eta Pitt-Johnstown Instructor of the Year Award

Ola Johannsson, PhD
Assistant Professor; Geography
President, Pennsylvania Geographical Society

Michelle Mock, PhD
Assistant Professor; English
Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success
Excellence in Teaching Award
Phi Eta Sigma Pitt-Johnstown Instructor of the Year Award

Paul Newman, PhD
Professor; History
History Channel's "Save Our History" Teacher of the Year Award

Manisha Nigam, PhD
Instructor; Chemistry
Dr. Edward A. Vizzini Teacher of the Year Award

Doug Reed, MBA
Visiting Assistant Professor; Management
Society of Success and Leadership Award

Jerry Samples, PhD, PE
Professor; Engineering Technology
Director; Engineering Technology
American Society for Engineering Education
National Outstanding Teaching Award

Karen Scanlon, EdD
Associate Professor; Elementary Education
Chair; Education Division
Gamma Phi Chapter of Pi Lambda Theta
Pitt-Johnstown Educator of the Year Award
Phi Eta Sigma Pitt-Johnstown Instructor of the Year Award

Esther Siegfried, PhD
Assistant Professor; Biology
Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success
Excellence in Teaching Award

Ron Vickroy, MS
Associate Professor; Management
Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award

Faculty Retirements

Jon Darling, PhD
Professor
Sociology
31 years

Uldis Kaktins, PhD
Associate Professor
Geology and Planetary Science
33 years

Robert Martinazzi, MS, PE
Professor
Mechanical Engineering Technology
36 years

James Scofield, PhD
Associate Professor
English
37 years

Clark Strausser, PhD
Associate Professor
Economics
35 years

J. Wesley Traister, MAT
Laboratory Instructor
Biology
31 years

Neil Woffinden, PhD
Professor
Biology
33 years

Share your favorite stories about
Pitt-Johnstown faculty members,
and we'll include
them in future issues!
Submit your stories online at:
www.upj.pitt.edu/upjalum

Legendary Coach Named Athletic Director

What a Season!



Pat Pecora, head coach of the nationally ranked Pitt-Johnstown wrestling team, has been named Athletics Director (Interim).

In commenting about his appointment, Mr. Pecora said that he looks forward to providing leadership with commitment to athletic and academic excellence, and enhancing Mountain Cat Pride and school spirit. He also noted, "I feel really good about working with Dr. Spectar. This guy is passionate. He has the work ethic. He's personable and positive."

Mr. Pecora began his career at Pitt-Johnstown in 1976 as head soccer and wrestling coach, and began to create a legacy that has brought national attention to the Pitt-Johnstown athletics program. In his 32 years at Pitt-Johnstown, his teams have captured 20 NCAA Regional Championships. Academically, his teams led the nation in NWCA All-Academic Wrestling Team selections from 1997 through 2000. Mr. Pecora has coached 84 NWCA All-Academic Wrestling Team members and has been inducted into the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame and the NCAA Division II Wrestling Hall of Fame. Mr. Pecora earned his BA in health and physical education from West Liberty State College and has done graduate work in the area of health education.

Men's Wrestling

Our men's wrestling team ended another highly successful season with a fourth-place finish at the 2008 NCAA Division II National Wrestling Tournament in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Senior Albert Miles of Canonsburg, Pa. won the national championship and Mike Corcetti of Export, Pa. garnered a second national runner-up finish. The team posted a 17-5 dual meet record overall and finished second at the East Regional Tournament. This season marked the 24th Top-20 finish and 10th Top-Five finish for Head Coach Pat Pecora.

Men's Basketball

Head Coach Bob Rukavina's Mountain Cats celebrated a record-breaking season by bringing home the 2007-08 West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Regular Season Trophy. The team finished its first season in the WVIAC with a 23-8 overall record and a 17-3 conference record. Senior forward Chris Gilliam was named WVIAC Player of the Year and First Team All-Conference, and Junior Marcus Tullis was named Second Team All-Conference. The men's team also led the NCAA Division II in field goal percentage and

was ranked second in assists per game. This season marked the team's third straight 20-win season and earned Coach Rukavina his 300th career win.

Women's Basketball

The Lady Cats posted a 10-18 overall record and a 9-11 record in the WVIAC during Head Coach Sasha Palmer's first year at the helm. Pitt-Johnstown finished eighth in the WVIAC and hosted an opening round conference tournament game. Junior guard Lindsay Cale of Hummelstown, Pa. was named Second Team All-WVIAC while Shena Aden of Sandy Lake, Pa. was selected to the All-Freshman Team.

Men's Baseball

Head Coach Todd William's team posted a school record in wins and advanced to the North Atlantic Regional Tournament held at Johnstown's Point Stadium. The Mountain Cats posted a program-best 37-19-1 record and a second NCAA North Atlantic Regional Tournament berth. The team also earned the WVIAC Northern Division crown with a 12-4 record and placed seven

players on All-WVIAC Teams. Freshman right-hander Jon Moore was selected to the North Atlantic Region All-Tournament Team following a victory over Kutztown.

Women's Track and Field

Coach Crystal Dye's women's track and field team earned a second place team finish at the Marietta (Ohio) College Indoor Invitational on February 23. Freshman Darianna Terry (Chantilly, Va.) led Pitt-Johnstown by winning the 200 Meter Dash and the Triple Jump. Pitt-Johnstown also placed second at the West Virginia Wesleyan College Snowbird Invitational to open the outdoor schedule on March 19 where Terry earned first-place finishes in the 100 Meter Dash and Triple Jump and a second-place finish in the Long Jump. Pitt-Johnstown also finished eighth at the Wheeling Jesuit (W.Va.) University Invitational.

Golf

Coach Eric Kinsey's men's and women's golf teams competed in several tournaments throughout the spring term. Both programs are beginning to become more competitive in the WVIAC and around the region.

Her Heart is in Her Music

Rachel Allen

Pitt-Johnstown alumna Rachel (Dunn) Allen ('02) is well-known in the Johnstown region as a singer, songwriter, performer, and a percussionist. What many might not know is that she enrolled at Pitt-Johnstown with dreams of working in diplomacy at the United Nations. As Rachel states, "Life took a turn, and I came back to Pitt-Johnstown as a non-traditional student."

Rachel currently is a certified music practitioner at Windber Medical Center, where she works full-time.

Her music helps to bring comfort to not only her patients but also their families. "I play numerous instruments, but use the Celtic Harp at the bedside of patients who are critically ill, chronically ill and actively dying," Rachel said. "I work in patient care areas at WindberCare, including the Palliative Care Unit at Windber Hospice and go into homes of patients receiving home hospice care through Windber Hospice."

According to Rachel, it is not entertainment. She said that live music at the bedside is a therapeutic enhancement to the healing process and the life/death transition. Music is a universal language and applied live at the bedside can address the needs of the patient.

When asked what her career means to her, Rachel explained, "To me, this is sacred, heart-centered work that reaches to the core of who we are as human beings when we are at our most vulnerable, with fears and anxieties perhaps experiencing

physical, emotional, and spiritual pain. Music reaches us in a very profound way, reconnecting us to our dignity, providing emotional release, and has the potential to facilitate profound healing at all those levels. Each interaction is always different.

"This is an amazing field that is taking off and is part of the future and direction of health care," said Rachel.

Rachel is married to John Allen and has two children, Johnny, 12 and Riley Grace, 8. The couple lives in the Moxham section of Johnstown. The family is active in the Grove Avenue United Methodist church and many other organizations.

According to Mrs. Allen, both children are musical, and they play a lot of music at their home on piano, guitars, fiddle, and lots of drums. Her

husband is a photographic artist with a studio at ArtWorks in Cambria City. Rachel also teaches, performs, and presents programs at the Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center, including facilitating the monthly drum circle at Bottle Works. She has performed as a solo artist and with numerous groups throughout



Southwestern Pennsylvania at festivals, concerts, universities, and cafes. She is a founding member of SongWorks, a local singer/songwriter community that meets at the Bottle Works. "I also serve on the executive board of the Music for Healing and Transition, a national organization that certifies therapeutic musicians and also promotes research of live therapeutic music as well as collaborating with health care facilities and other organizations to promote the use of CMP's as an essential member of the health care team," added Rachel.

She released her first solo CD entitled *Almost There* in May 2005 and was the featured speaker at the 2008 Salute to Working Women event held in April at Pitt-Johnstown. □

"Life took a turn, and I came back to Pitt-Johnstown as a non-traditional student."

Of Note:

“What are my classmates doing?” It’s the “most asked” question we get. Tell your former classmates what you’re doing! Submit your information at www.upj.pitt.edu/alumni or mail it to External Relations.

1950s

Wilbur R. Mackin Jr. ('53, '55, '57) taught for four years before joining the Federal Housing Administration (HUD) as a trainee. He retired in December 1988 as the director of development. He currently resides in Nashville, Tenn. and volunteers in the picture framing shop of a local Senior Center.

1960s

Marlin H. Mickle ('60) is a Nickolas A. DeCecco Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Telecommunications, and one of the longest-serving engineering professors in Pitt history. In 2004, he established a trust to create the Ruth E. Mickle and Howard T. Mickle chairs, named for his parents.

1970s

Linda Jay ('75) transferred to the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland campus in September 1973 and graduated with a BA in social work.

Roberta L. Black ('76) is a student employment specialist in the Career Planning and Student Employment Department at Charleston Southern University.

Angela J. Rabatin ('76) has been named a 2008 Business Smarts columnist for the *Washington Business Journal*.

Joan Talarico-Hunt ('77) has been employed for 10 years as the office administrator at Petro, Cohen, Petro, Matarazzo and Warrington Law Firm, one of the top workers' compensation law firms in New Jersey.

Deborah A. Iseman ('77) is the executive director of Professional Development for the St. Lucie County School District. She is head of the department that is responsible for leadership development, teacher development, and instructional technology. She has held the position since 2003. Prior to gaining this position,

she was the principal at Floresta Elementary School.

Thomas Kurtz ('77) became a principal partner in Pivotal Technology Group, (PTG) LLC. PTG is a Johnstown-based company that provides financial, business development and technology consulting to several health care and governmental clients.

Daniel Mickey ('78) has been named assistant vice president and branch manager for Somerset Trust Company.

1980s

David W. Gilliland ('80) is the president and owner of Glenn Engineering, a civil engineering firm in North Huntingdon, Pa. He serves as a municipal engineer for 24 municipalities.

Deborah M. Boyko Keller ('80) moved to Virginia with her husband after teaching for 20 years in Pennsylvania and for two years in Las Vegas. Since 2004, she has been teaching high school special education-English at Culpeper County High School, Culpeper, Va. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, she will move to a new high school as the Instructional Team Leader/Department Chair for the Special Education Department.

John F. Gallardo ('81) has 23 years of transportation and supply chain management experience. He has been appointed President and CEO of PLS Logistics Services, Rochester, Pa.

Michael Mucker ('81) was chosen as Optometrist of the Year by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Optometric Society. He has served in various offices for the Society, including president and vice president. Dr. Mucker has practiced in the Johnstown area for 22 years and is one of the owners of Johnstown Family Vision.

William McKinney ('82) has been appointed president of the United Way of the Laurel Highlands.

Carlos S. Buford ('83) is a member of the Parenteral Drug Association and International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineers. He develops production schedules and assists in formulation transfers for new drug compounds.

Tom Pagano ('83) is vice president/chief information officer of information technology for Ascension Health System, serving a number of hospitals in the Midwest region. He was with Truman Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo., for two years. Prior to working with the Truman Medical Center, he was with the Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Lawrence, Kan.

Barbara Duryea ('84) was the featured speaker at the first AIM@Johnstown lecture held March 24 at Pitt-Johnstown. She currently is director of research and development at the John P. Murtha Neuroscience and Pain Institute in Johnstown.

Rose B. (Bobak) McGregor ('85) is the director, Command Assurance Program at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division. She received certification as an NAVSEA Inspector General (IG), Hotline (Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Mismanagement) Investigator.

Darlynne R. Menkin ('85) and her husband **Marc Menkin** ('85) are the co-owners of Where You Want To Be Tours in San Diego, Calif. Their company has been featured on The Travel Channel and in a number of travel publications.

Kimberly S. (Ryan) Seigh ('85, '98) has authored her first young reader's book entitled *Prospect Hill*, published through Publisher Page. *Prospect Hill* is a historical fiction novel set in the early 20th century and is loosely based on stories told by her great aunt who recently turned 102. She has worked as a social worker primarily with the developmentally disabled and as a Peace Corps volunteer on an orphans' project in Uganda. She currently teaches at Cathedral Catholic Academy in Johnstown.

Donald Zolnosky ('86) has been named the general manager of Sunnehanna Country Club, Johnstown.

Richard L. McHale ('87) has been named director of employee communication and engagement at Dick's Sporting Goods, Pittsburgh. He is a member of the company's senior management and is responsible for all communications to the company's more than 13,000 corporate and retail store employees. Previously, he was manager of eBusiness for Bayer Material Science, Pittsburgh. He is married to **Ellen (Perez) McHale** ('88), and they have two children. They currently live in Shaler Township.

Philip Skuta ('87) currently is director, U.S. Marine Corps Senate Liaison Office.

Christine M. (Curry) Ross ('89) graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in educational leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University.

1990s

Steve Leahey ('91) is employed as senior probation officer by the United States Probation Office.

Charles A. Langston, III ('93) is currently in his fourth year as the Cornell High School's 7th and 8th grade boy's basketball coach. He is also the varsity assistant coach.

Chris Steele ('93) has completed his MA in geography at Binghamton University, and also a PhD from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMC). He now teaches Geography at UMC as an adjunct faculty member and works full-time as a university administrator

assisting academic department chairs and deans in developing new programs.

Wendy L. (Gindlesperger) Vickroy ('93) was married in 1995. She has two children, Hayley, who is eight years old and Jack, who is five. She also helped open, and is the executive director of, Grammy's Place Childcare Center, which cares for children between the ages of six weeks old to 12 years.

Sandra M. Bender ('94) recently was married at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve in Las Vegas.

Chris Stumpf ('94) received the Jack Thornton Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors-International.

William S. Elliott ('95) was recently promoted to associate professor in the Department of Environmental Studies at Southern Oregon University.

Scott Rhoades ('95) was awarded the Indiana Regional Medical Center Shining Star Award, for the implementation of the Patricia Hilliard Robertson Center for Aviation Medicine at Indiana Regional Medical Center. The Center serves as a regional aviation medical center, providing pilots and aircrews with access to FAA Class 2 and 3 flight physicals and related educational programs.

Wendy Farmer ('96) graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a master's degree in educational administration and supervision. She currently is an English resource teacher at the Watkins Mill High School, Gaithersburg, Md.

Jason Wojcik ('96) is professor of history and cultural studies at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, Johnstown.

Carrie A. Mock ('98) is currently staying at home with her two young children. In 2000, she was hired by Loudoun County Public Schools, located in Ashburn, Va., as a first grade teacher. She taught first grade there for four years.

Christopher Foster ('99) has been appointed national sales director for Boswell Pharmacy Services.

Rachel Minik ('99) became a CPA at Highmark in Pittsburgh in 2004.

Bill Toland ('99) is a business writer for the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*. He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, Kim.

2000s

Jeffrey Armstrong ('00) has worked seven and a half years in the Mass Production Parts Quality Department, Electrical/Function Group as a liaison between the manufacturing line and part suppliers. Recently he transferred to New Model Quality Department to work with suppliers to develop parts, assembly processes, and tooling for new Honda products produced at the East Liberty Auto Plant.

Dr. Zac Highberger ('00) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during combat operations after treating more than 2,000 patients during his deployment. Dr. Highberger was stationed at Camp Ar-Ramadi in the Al-Anbar province of Iraq as the sole brigade dentist. He began his military service following his acceptance to the University of Pittsburgh Dental School.

Alumnus Receives President's Award

Mark Matthews ('78) received the President's Award for Outstanding Service to the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association. A current member of the Alumni Board, Mr. Matthews served as co-chair of UPJ Proud 2008. Mr. Matthews was recognized at the spring meeting of the Alumni Board of Directors. He is senior vice president at CBIZ Benefits and Insurance Services in Johnstown.



He was commissioned by the Army and went on to be stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga. He was deployed January 15, 2007 to Iraq where he spent a 15-month tour of duty.

Elizabeth Pochiba ('00) is a teacher in the McKeesport Area School District.

Lisa Ann Sullivan ('00) is currently employed as a supervisory management analyst in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, Md.

Christy L. Discello ('01) recently graduated from Arizona State University with a master's degree in elementary education. She also received endorsements as a Reading Specialist, Library-Media Specialist, and in Early Childhood Education. She is now employed as a K-3 Reading Specialist/Title 1 Intervention Specialist.

Brett W. Haselrig ('01) married **Ashley Hostetler** ('03) on June 9, 2007.

Leah Rae Reitmeyer ('01) works as an intraoperative clinical neurophysiologist for Impulse Monitoring, Inc. She earned her certification in neurophysiologic intraoperative monitoring in 2003.

Andrew W. Stumpf ('01) received an MS in computer science from George Mason University in May 2008. He currently is working as a software engineer for Northrop Grumman in Fairfax, Va.

Alicia R. Comer ('02) is employed as a conversion support analyst for The Bank of New York Mellon Corp.

Mary Elizabeth Nanna ('02) is pursuing her residency in OB/GYN in Savannah, Ga. after graduating from the University of Maryland Medical School.

Mindy Ann Harmon ('03) graduated with an MA in special education from the California University of Pennsylvania and is currently teaching children with special needs.

Keli Marie (Knapp) Neary ('03) married **Kevin J. Neary** ('03) on June 30, 2001 at the J. Irving Whalley Chapel on the Pitt-Johnstown campus. She recently accepted the assistant counsel position with the State Police Office of Chief Counsel.

Nicole F. Oravec ('03) graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in 2007. She was inducted into the dental honor society Omicron Kappa Upsilon and was awarded the Senior Award by the Academy of General Dentistry.

Joyce Miranda ('07) is a GIS/Planner with the Bedford County Planning Commission.

MAKE YOUR MARK IN HERITAGE SQUARE

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Heritage Square Brick Project

Name	_____
Address	_____
City/State/Zip Code	_____
Phone (include area code)	_____
No. of Bricks (\$100 each)	_____
Amount Enclosed (payable to Johnstown Educational Foundation)	_____
Imprinting (14 characters per line including spaces, 3 lines maximum):	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____

Bricks will be imprinted exactly as indicated.

Send completed form and check or money order, made payable to Johnstown Educational Foundation, External Relations, 272 Blackington Hall, UPJ, 450 Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown, PA 15904-2990.

Alumni Advancing at Pitt-Johnstown

Alumni working at Pitt-Johnstown are making a difference every day. During the past several months, President Spectar has appointed several of your fellow classmates into new positions at Pitt-Johnstown...



James Gyure ('70), PhD
Vice President
Enrollment Services
and Planning



Stephanie Korber ('75)
Director
Adult and Continuing
Education



Jeff Sernell ('78)
Associate Vice President
Information Technology



Jeanne Susko ('85)
Director
Community Education
and Outreach



Judith Freedman ('86)
Program Specialist
International Services



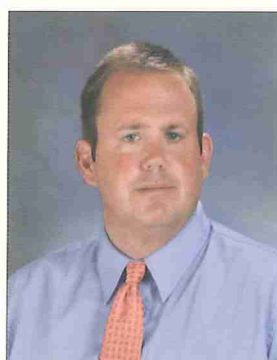
Kimberly Shook ('86)
Assistant to the Director
External Relations



Robert Knipple ('87)
Executive Director
External Relations



Jennifer Kist ('94)
Director
International Services



Christian J. Stumpf ('94)
Associate Vice President
Finance
and Administration

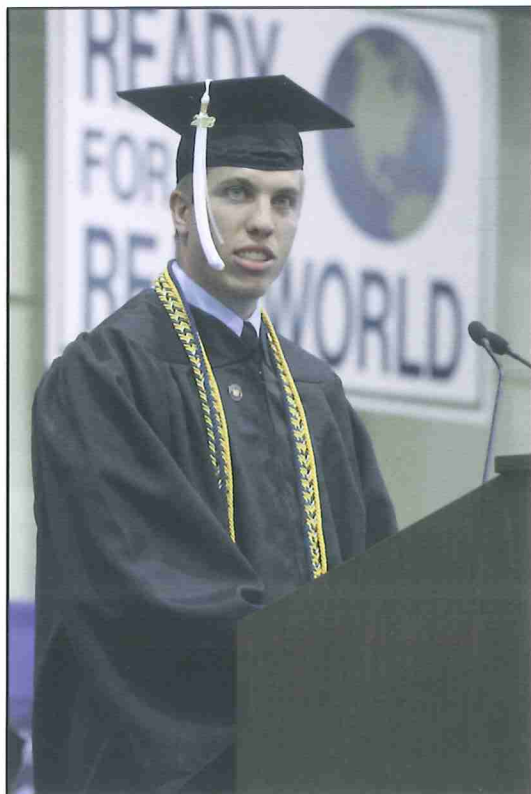


Judith McGuirk ('98)
Assistant Director
Admissions



Joyce Radovanic ('05)
Director
Conference Services
and Special Projects

Senior Spotlight



"We can drive through uncertainty with resolve and purpose, using the tools and confidence we gained through our education."

Steven Kotecki, Class of 2008

special to be an American living in a different country."

Steven attended school at the International Christian Academy, where his classmates included students from North America, as well as students from the local area. It was at school that he met his wife, Shannon. Shannon's family, originally from Portage, was also doing mission work in Africa.

When he was 18, Steven graduated from high school and

returned to the United States where he worked for six months in Seattle. He worked two jobs and then joined the Army Reserve in order to earn money to pay for a college education. In the fall of 2002, he was accepted at Baylor University as a graphic arts major. Steven enrolled in an environmental studies course, which he credits as a turning point in his life. "It made me stop and think about what we do personally and as a society that affects the whole world and its people."

Shortly after this experience, Steven was deployed with his Army Reserve unit to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003. "When I left school to go to Afghanistan, I realized how important education was to me, and I became even more committed to achieving my goal," Steven commented.

Upon his return to the United States, Steven joined his girlfriend

Shannon, who was living with her family in Portage (they married in 2004). In the spring of 2004, he enrolled at Pitt-Johnstown where he was considering a major in environmental studies. He credits his advisor, Dr. Mary Lavine, for helping to solidify his choice of majors. Then, after a meeting with Dr. William Kory, he added geography to his plan and declared two majors. "I met Dr. Kory and he shared his experience of being in the Peace Corps and living in Liberia. I knew immediately that I was in the right place and on the right track," Steven said.

Two years after coming to Pitt-Johnstown, Steven was again deployed to the Middle East, this time serving a 12-month tour of duty in Iraq. During his deployment, he maintained close ties to Pitt-Johnstown. He corresponded with Drs. Lavine and Kory and also received a number of "care packages" from his new Pitt-Johnstown family.

Determined to not allow his deployment to derail his goal of a college degree, Steven enrolled in two correspondence courses through the University of Maryland and completed an independent study through Dr. Catharine Kloss. He completed his courses while working 72 hours a week in a leadership position with his unit as a non-commissioned officer in charge of an engineering shop.

Looking back, Steven admits that it was one of the most challenging times in his life.

Graduates and attendees at Pitt-Johnstown's 36th annual Commencement on May 3 were treated to an inspiring address by a member of the Class of 2008. Graduate Steven Kotecki shared his experiences of growing up with his siblings and missionary parents in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa (the Ivory Coast). He spoke of the journey that brought him to the realization of his dream of a college education. Here is Steven's journey...

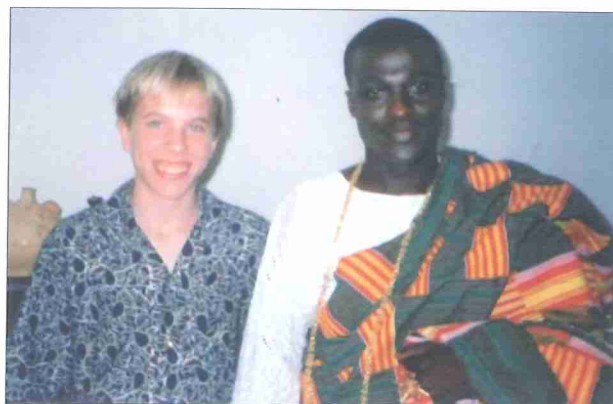
Born in Pullman, Washington, 25-year-old Steven Kotecki has a story to share. Raised in a missionary family, he spent two years living in France before his family moved to Africa. It was in Africa that Steven's future began to take shape.

"Growing up, I felt like I missed out on Nintendo, cable TV, and school buses. I had to ride my bike to school most days. I did not always see it then, but I have since realized what an incredible experience I was given," Steven explained. "It is something

The Kotecki's quickly realized that the **strong** sense of family and **commitment** to community that they came to appreciate in Africa was also found **right** here in the Johnstown area. His mother, Karen, explained, "When I came to visit, I was overwhelmed by the **people** of all ages who had 'adopted' him and loved him." Steven currently resides in Portage with his wife and her family.

Despite two major interruptions to his college career, Steven has managed to remain focused and excel academically. In addition to graduating summa cum laude, Steven received several honors. He was named a College Scholar in Environmental Studies and also received the Dr. Robert J. Hunter Scholarship Award, which annually recognizes a student who demonstrates significant potential for graduate study and who is inclined toward a career in public service. He

has also been named a University Scholar, and has been inducted into Phi Kappa Phi and Gamma Theta Upsilon.



Steven and Dr. Jérémie, a descendant of a ruling chief clan in Côte d'Ivoire.

Steven's educational journey will not end with his graduation from Pitt-Johnstown. He has been accepted into the University of Florida's graduate program in geography, where he will concentrate in African development and Arabic. Dr. Kory boasted, "Steven's academic success

as an undergraduate has earned him a full scholarship to an extremely competitive program."

Upon graduation, Steven plans to return to Africa and continue the work that his parents started several years ago. "There are many misconceptions about Africa," Steven offered. "People think that it's a daunting place, always at war and full of poverty. Although there is widespread poverty, that is only a small part of the story. Africa has stable governments and is making great strides towards economic progress."

In his address to the Class of 2008, Steven spoke of how his experiences with the villagers have given direction to his life. He challenged his fellow graduates to find their direction by asking them, "Do you have an Africa? What is your Africa? What issues or circumstances can you make a difference in?" □

Commencement 2008: Ready for the Real World

More than 400 Pitt-Johnstown students marked the end of their college experience at Commencement held Saturday, May 3. This year's graduating class had the great fortune to hear a message delivered from one of their peers, Steven Kotecki (see page 18). Martin E. Radovanic, Managing Editor and Main Anchor at NBC-affiliate WJAC in Johnstown, shared his real-world experiences as a businessman and father. Pitt-Johnstown Student Senate President Angela Mazur brought greetings on behalf of the students.

The Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association presented a special gift to each graduating senior. As a way of welcoming graduates to the rank of Pitt-Johnstown Alum, the Association offered a FREE one-year membership in the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association. Any graduating senior who completed the online application before April 25 was entered



Special thanks to Angela Mazur who brought greetings on behalf of the students.

into a drawing. Adam Kovalchick ('08) was selected as the winner of a Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association denim shirt. The Association also gave each graduate a Pitt-Johnstown Alumni pin at Commencement.

Congratulations and good luck to the Class of 2008!

Donor: Mark E. Pasquerilla
Position: CEO, Pasquerilla Enterprises
Hometown: Johnstown
Interests: Philanthropy, Jazz

Mark Pasquerilla's name is synonymous with philanthropy. A member of the Pitt-Johnstown Advisory Board and former University of Pittsburgh trustee, Mr. Pasquerilla has continued a legacy established by his late parents, Frank J. and Sylvia T. Pasquerilla.

Mr. Pasquerilla has demonstrated his generous support in many meaningful ways. His philanthropy has included:

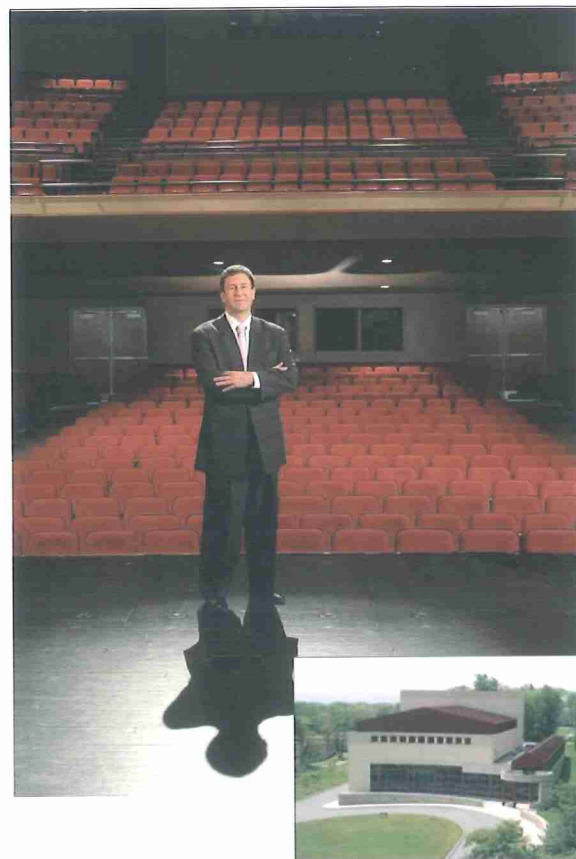
- Ongoing support of the 1000-seat Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, which was a gift to Pitt-Johnstown from his family.
- Establishing the Frank J. and Sylvia T. Pasquerilla Lecture Series, created in 1999, that brings speakers of renown to our area.
- Establishing the Pasquerilla Family Fine Arts Endowment, supporting classical voice, jazz, and world music.
- Spearheading the annual Winter Jazz event, which is a "must-attend" event for jazz aficionados. Proceeds from the event benefit the Blackington Endowment for the Performing Arts.
- Contributing to numerous scholarships and programs including the Advantage Scholarship Fund, the Johnstown Campus Award Fund, the Pasquerilla Family Fine Arts Endowment Fund, and the Pasquerilla Scholarship Fund.
- Supporting the Starzl Transplantation Institute at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

In 2005, Mr. Pasquerilla was inducted into the University of Pittsburgh's *Cathedral of Learning Society*, which was established to recognize individuals who have given lifetime gifts to the University totaling \$1 million or more.

Mr. Pasquerilla's philanthropy is not limited to our community. His wife, Lisa Urgo Pasquerilla, is the founder of Dreams Can Be Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to aiding street children and impoverished youth in Brazil. At the core of the Foundation's mission is providing education, moral, and social development.

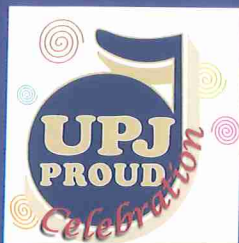
Mr. Pasquerilla earned a bachelor of arts degree in government from Notre Dame University and a master of science degree in international relations at the London School of Economics. As a Fulbright-Hayes scholar under the auspices of the European Research Institute, he also studied international affairs at the University of Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany.

In addition to his board appointment a Pitt-Johnstown, Mr. Pasquerilla serves as a board member for the Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust, AmeriServ Financial, Inc., Concurrent Technologies Corporation, and the United Way of the Laurel Highlands. He is chairman of the board of The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and is an active supporter of several local charities.



"Mr. Pasquerilla is a great champion of our community, a visionary, and an ardent supporter and friend of Pitt-Johnstown."

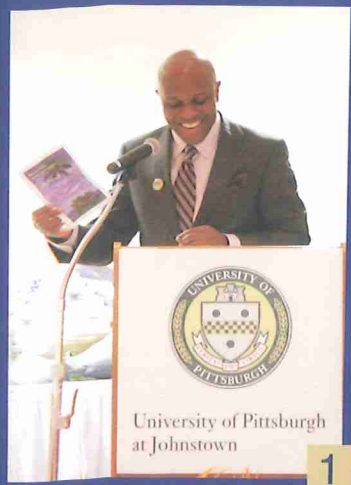
Dr. Jem Spectar, President



UPJ Proud Celebration Saturday, February 23, 2008

(This year's event raised more than \$8,000 for scholarships at Pitt-Johnstown!)

- 1 Dr. Jem Spectar
- 2 Sandy & Richard ('73) Kopco, David ('83) & Christine Cox
- 3 Gladys Go ('92)
- 4 Joyce Radovanic ('05), Jeanne Susko ('85), Stephanie ('75) & Rick ('84) Korber, Michael Susko, Kimberly Lang
- 5 John & Laura Perry ('71) Thompson, Anita Faas ('68)
- 6 Bob Knipple ('87)
- 7 Craig ('86) & Rebecca Minnick
- 8 Florence Doryka, Ellen Mider, Becky Lear ('77)



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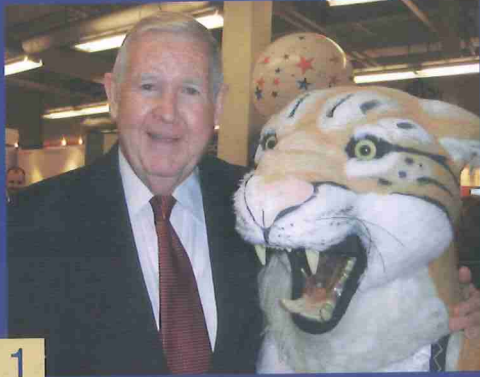
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Showcase for Commerce Friday, May 30, 2008



1

- 1 Distinguished Alum Congressman John P. Murtha and Pitt-Johnstown Mountain Cat
- 2 Robert Hagerich receives a *UPJ Proud* pin from Joyce Radovanic ('05)
- 3 Portage High School students Maranda Evans, Ashley Parks, Arielle Crum, and Kayla Randall pose with the Mountain Cat.
- 4 Beverly Walerysiak, Stephanie Korber ('75), B.J. Sarneso, and Jennifer (Matson) Kist ('94) at the Pitt-Johnstown booth.
- 5 The Mountain Cat unmasked, Lacey Schmidt ('09)
- 6 Bishop McCort High School students Stephenie Anderson and David Holbay share a smile with the Mountain Cat.
7. Nine-year-old Thomas Hall gets an official Mountain Cat Proud greeting from the Mountain Cat and President Spectar



2



7



3



SHOWCASE FOR COMMERCE



6



4



5

Show Your MOUNTAIN CAT PRIDE in your Alma Mater

- First and largest regional campus of the University of Pittsburgh, an internationally recognized center of learning and research.
- Excellent faculty teaching, scholarship and service, as well as enriching faculty-student mentorships and collaborations in scholarship, research and creative activity; dedicated, attentive and supportive staff.
- Personalized instruction in small classes; average class size less than 25.
- 43 undergraduate majors including 3 University of Pittsburgh graduate degrees.
- Student graduation and success rates that exceed the national average of similar institutions.
- 70 active student organizations and a tradition of athletic excellence with nationally recognized, award-winning NCAA Division II and WVIAC programs.
- First-class facilities in an extraordinarily picturesque campus including a state-of-the-art Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center and a leading Living-Learning Conference Center.
- Exceptional community involvement by faculty, staff and students - over 175,000 hours of volunteer service annually.
- 17,000 alumni making a difference throughout our community and the world.
- Top employer and key partner in shaping the economic future with an annual impact exceeding \$60 million.
- Growing partnerships with businesses in areas such as health care, education, commerce, technology, and the arts.
- Expanding workforce capacity by enhancing problem-solving skills, linking theory-to-practice through experiences such as internships and service-learning projects.
- A pinnacle of excellence, preparing students for the *Real World* and a foremost contributor to the area's educational, social, cultural, and economic environments.
- An illuminating *Vision* for the future that charts a path for greater distinction and recognition in the Northeast region.
- A comprehensive *New Dimension of Excellence Strategic Plan* for accomplishing our Mission.

YES, I want to join the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association!

Name _____ Maiden name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Class year _____ Spouse's maiden name _____

Please select your membership*: ☐ single - \$35 ☐ Joint - \$50 (must reside at the same address)

Affordable Lifetime Membership Options:

☐ Regular: Single - \$310; Joint - \$460

☐ Young Alumni (graduated 10 years ago or less) - \$260/\$410

☐ Golden (graduated 40 or more years ago) - \$210/\$360

Payment: ☐ My check is enclosed (payable to University of Pittsburgh)

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Account # _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Please return this form and payment to: External Relations; 272 Blackington Hall, UPJ, Johnstown, PA 15904.

*\$10 of your membership goes towards the Alumni Association Scholarship.

Best-Kept Secret No More...

Over the past several months, the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown has continued to earn recognition for the many great things that are happening. From front-page stories on the local newspaper, to students building classrooms in Bolivia, to recognition by the *Princeton Review* as a national leader in education, we are quickly disproving the myth that Pitt-Johnstown is our region's best kept secret!

February 2, 2008

The Tribune-Democrat
Ready for the 21st Century

February 25, 2008

The Tribune-Democrat
It Seems UPJ's found a Jem

June 9, 2008

PittChronicle
Theresa Horner to Receive 2008
Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award

April 11, 2008

Daily American
Schenck County, New York

Prof Named History Channel's
Top Teacher

August 7, 2008

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Pitt-Johnstown Nursing School
Gets \$4 Million from State

February 29, 2008

The Tribune-Democrat
Scouts Salute UPJ Prof
for Service to Community

July 17, 2008

Our Town

Pecora excited for challenge as new UPJ athletic director

July 4, 2008

The Tribune-Democrat
Top cat
Pitt-Johnstown names Pecora
interim athletic director

August 7, 2008

Alleghenian.com
Making It Happen For You. Online.
Cash for Cambria

February 1, 2008

The Tribune-Democrat
UPJ Hosting Climate-Changing Forum

February 21, 2008

UNIVERSITY TIMES
Faculty win Chancellor's
Research Teaching Awards

May 30, 2008

Daily American
Schenck County, New York

UPJ to honor Murtha

May 30, 2008

The Tribune-Democrat
Anonymous Alum Gives
\$12M for UPJ Scholarship

August 5, 2008

Indiana Gazette.com
Documentary honors
'Nam vets



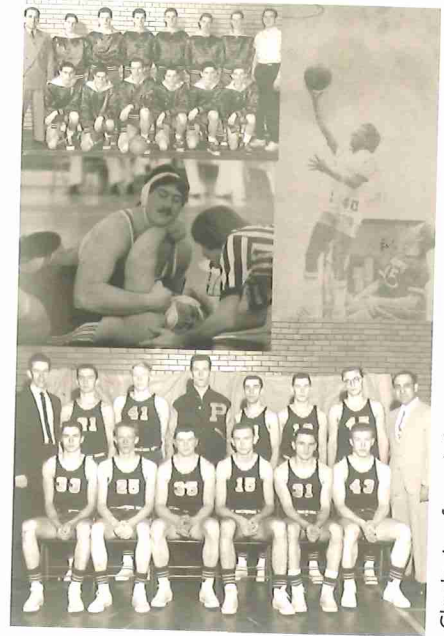
Dr. Reinhart Heinisch and six Pitt-Johnstown students recently participated in an annual service-learning project in the Bolivian Andes, where they built three classrooms for a secondary school. In this photo, Dr. Heinisch (far right) and his students take a break from their work to prepare for the celebration of the Dia del Maestro (the day of the teacher and master) in the community of Viloma. They are wearing traditional attire to perform the Tinku Dance, a common ritual dance of courtship practiced by the Aymara-Indians of the high Altiplano in the Bolivian Andes.



Seeking Nominations for Athletics Hall of Fame

The second annual Pitt-Johnstown Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet is scheduled for the spring of 2009...we still need YOUR help! Be Mountain Cat Proud and nominate a well-deserving former Pitt-Johnstown student-athlete or coach to join our inaugural class of Lisa Britt ('80), women's basketball; Sean Isgan ('82) wrestling; Carl Sax ('58), men's basketball; Ed Sherlock ('61), men's basketball; and James Wilkes ('53), men's basketball.

Nominate someone today,
by visiting the Athletics Hall of Fame web site:
www.upj.pitt.edu/11644
(click on the "Nomination Form" link).

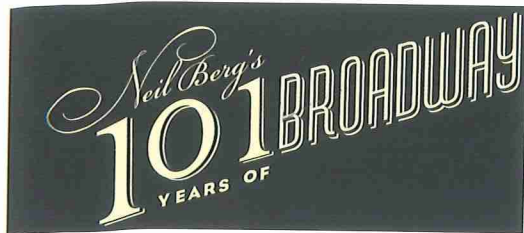


Clockwise from left: Jim Wilkes, top, 3rd from left; Lisa Britt; Carl Sax, bottom 3rd from left and Ed Sherlock, bottom 4th from left; Sean Isgan, top

Mark your calendar!

Saturday, May 9, 2009

Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center



Your evening includes dinner and the highly anticipated return engagement of last season's hit revue, Neil Berg's *100 Years of Broadway*. This dazzling cast of five Broadway stars accompanied by an all-star New York band recreates the biggest moments from the finest shows of the century featuring the actual stars of shows such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Miserables*, *Evita*, *Cats*, *Wonderful Town*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*.



Call for sponsorships! 1-888-UPJ-ALUM



University of Pittsburgh
at Johnstown

Save the Dates!

Upcoming Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Events

Thursday, September 11

Alumni Reception - Harrisburg

Friday, September 12

Alumni Reception - Baltimore

Wednesday, September 24

PITT-nic in the Park - Central Park, Johnstown

Saturday, September 27

Homecoming 2008, Campus

Monday, November 24

Goodwill Arches Light-Up Night - Campus Mall

Fri., Dec. 12 & Sat., Dec. 13

31st Annual Mountain Cat High School Basketball Tournament -
Sports Center

For more information on Pitt-Johnstown events, visit the Alumni web site:
www.upj.pitt.edu/upjalum or call 1-888-UPJ-ALUM

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
450 Schoolhouse Road
Johnstown, PA 15904-2990

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