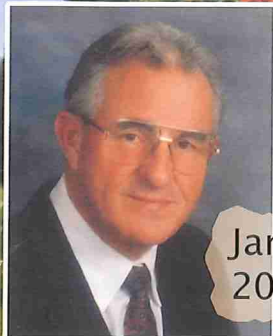


PITT JOHNSTOWN

Summer 2009

Magazine

Don't Miss
Homecoming!
Details Inside

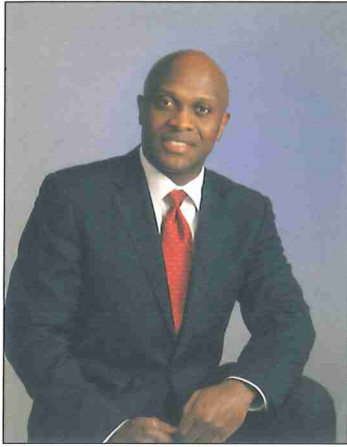


James E. Wilkes
2009 Distinguished Alum

Chicken Soup author Marci Shimoff
inspires 2009 graduates



Achieving Our New Dimension of Excellence



Greetings! I am thrilled to share with you this update on the many initiatives, events, experiences and accomplishments that are transforming your alma mater and garnering acclaim for its high quality, responsive and distinctive programs that foster real-world preparedness.

A major initiative tied directly to the expressed needs and interests of our students and communities resulted in the introduction new academic programs, including majors in biochemistry and computer engineering technology. These were the first new degree programs to be added at Pitt-Johnstown in more than a decade. Additionally, we have established a new Division of Nursing and Health Sciences, which will enable us to further our strategic initiatives in those important areas.

I am proud to report that our enrollment has remained steady, despite the many challenges that were presented nationally over the past year, and our graduation rates continue to place us above the national average. During the past academic year, 517 students graduated ready for the Real World. Many thanks to our dedicated faculty who continue to contribute to their fields while mentoring our students.

Our campus experience and environment continue to be strengthened through ongoing improvements to our facilities and technology, the dedication of our students, and the creation of several new programs including our RealWorld Action Program. Student engagement continues to grow, especially through our campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity. While many college students spent their spring break relaxing on warm, sunny beaches, 64 students participated in an alternative spring break trip to four locations in the southern United States where they invested 2,200 hours constructing homes.

To enhance our ties to the surrounding communities and fulfill our mission as a public-serving institution, we launched our landmark service project entitled, *Pitt-Johnstown @ Your Service*. This ambitious undertaking, consisting of a broad range of projects including fund raising drives, visits to local schools, hospital and nursing homes, demonstrated the Pitt-Johnstown commitment to service that sustains and transforms our communities.

It was also heartwarming to see many community members in attendance at our inaugural Glocal Society Series event, where leaders from the World Health Organization led a discussion on disease prevention, health reform, and health promotion. World-renowned pollster Dr. Frank Luntz and international bestselling author of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series Marci Shimoff were among other luminaries who visited campus recently.

You, our alumni, continue make a positive difference in our community and around the world. For example Dr. Gary Gates ('83), through his work

at UCLA's Charles R. Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy, has established himself as a national expert on the demographic and economic characteristics of gay and lesbian populations. Jessica Bellas ('93) recently facilitated climate change workshops at the Clinton Global Initiative in Asia. Many more alumni accomplishments are celebrated on page 8.

The past year has been one marked by significant accomplishments. Our growing momentum is gaining plaudits far and wide. From an article in Tacoma, Washington's *The News Tribune* recognizing Pitt-Johnstown for graduation rates that exceed the national average, to a story that appeared in several national newspapers (including the *Denver Post* and *Fresno Bee*) praising our "100 Days-100% Initiative," an ever-expanding national audience is taking note of the great things that are happening at Pitt-Johnstown. Additionally, Pitt-Johnstown was recently named a "Best Baccalaureate College" (northern region) by *U.S. News & World Report*, a Best Northeastern College by the *Princeton Review*, and a "Top 10 Best Place to Work" by *Johnstown Magazine*.

As Pitt-Johnstown continues its quest for a new dimension of excellence, we are always mindful of the rich legacy that you, our alumni, have helped to create and sustain. We are grateful for your continuing support of Pitt-Johnstown, and I look forward to seeing you on campus soon!

Mountain Cat Proud!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jem Spectar".

Jem Spectar
President

Dr. Jem Spectar
President

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Kimberly D. Shook ('86)
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Francine A. Cooper
Administrative Assistant

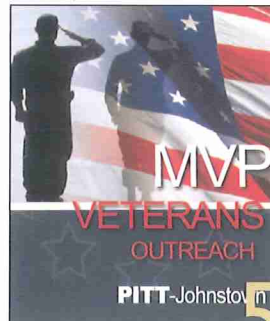
We are *Mountain Cat Proud* to bring you this new version of our magazine. *Pitt-Johnstown Magazine* will be published annually for alumni and friends of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Questions and comments regarding the publication should be directed to External Relations.

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



University of Pittsburgh
Johnstown

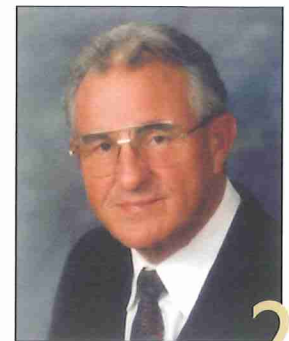
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A Distinguished Alumnus

JAMES E. WILKES ('53) has been named the recipient of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award.

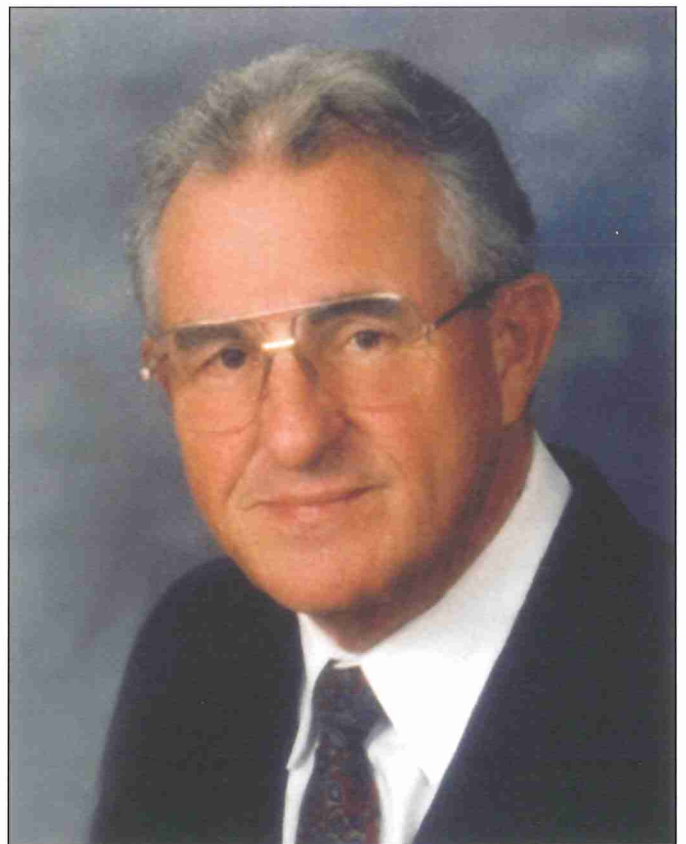
James E. Wilkes ('53) has received the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award. Mr. Wilkes was honored at the 2009 UPJ Proud Celebration, and was officially presented with his award at a small ceremony on the Campus mall.

In announcing Mr. Wilkes' selection, Pitt-Johnstown President Jem Spectar offered, "Mr. Wilkes has a lifetime of individual achievement that is evidenced by his leadership in his profession and service to his community. He has achieved professional success on an international level through his leadership in the petroleum industry, but has never forgotten his roots. As a truly loyal alumnus, Mr. Wilkes sets a very strong example for others through his support of Pitt-Johnstown and the larger University of Pittsburgh. We are, indeed, very proud to recognize Mr. Wilkes as this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient."

An entrepreneur in the oil and gas industry, Mr. Wilkes graduated from Windber High School. With the help of the J. Irving Whalley senatorial scholarship, he attended Pitt-Johnstown during the "Asphalt Campus" days, when the school was located in the Moxham section of Johnstown.

He served in the US Army for two years and received funding from the GI Bill, making it possible for him to attend the University of Pittsburgh where

he earned his degree in geology. His career began as an engineer trainee for Halliburton, an oil field service company, where he worked for 21 years, rising through the ranks. He left Halliburton in 1980 to form his own business, Universal Well





Bob Knipple, executive director of External Relations, presents Mr. Wilkes with his award.

"As a truly loyal alumnus, Mr. Wilkes sets a very strong example for others through his support of Pitt-Johnstown and the larger University of Pittsburgh."

Dr. Jem Spectar, President

Services in Wooster, Ohio. A year later, he and a partner formed Duck Creek Petroleum, an oil and gas well drilling and production company. He sold the company in 1985 and, in 1986, he and his son, Ted, a petroleum engineer, along with two other partners formed an international oil and gas field specialty chemical company, Clearwater, Inc. The company had offices in Pittsburgh, Houston, Calgary, and Moscow. In 1988, his son Scott, a geologist, formed Wilkes Energy, an oil and gas production company based in Akron, Ohio. Mr. Wilkes continues to be involved in the oil and gas business as an investor with Scott.

A loyal alumnus, Mr. Wilkes and his wife, Margaret, have created four scholarships at Pitt-Johnstown: the James E. and Margaret Wilkes Scholarship; the James E. and Margaret Wilkes Athletic Scholarship in basketball; the James E. Wilkes Windber Scholarship for Windber High School graduates, and the Margaret E. Wilkes Scholarship for Nurses.

Mr. Wilkes was one of the first five inductees into the 2008 Pitt-Johnstown Athletics Hall of Fame.

Mr. Wilkes' generosity also extends to the University of Pittsburgh, where he created the James E. and Margaret E. Wilkes Football Scholarship,

supported the Quest for Excellence-Olympic Sports and Football Locker funds, and contributed to the Panther Club Athletic Scholarship Fund and the Men's Basketball Athletic Scholarship Fund. He was a 2007 inductee in the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning Society, which recognizes those charitable individuals who have made lifetime gifts totaling \$1,000,000 or more to the University.

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.

Nominations for the 2010 award will be accepted beginning November 1. Information will be available on the Alumni Relations web site: www.upj.pitt.edu/upjalum.

New degree programs added

The number of degree options for Pitt-Johnstown students has just increased with the addition of two new degrees, a new track within the computer science degree, and a revamped degree in healthcare.

Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry

The new biochemistry degree will help to meet the growing demand for workers in the emerging biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and medical fields. The first two years of study in biochemistry will include fundamental courses in physics, biology, mathematics, and chemistry. In order to graduate, students will need to complete 120 credits.

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering Technology

The convergence of technologies such as high definition television, personal computers, and networking has given rise to this engineering specialty. The new program will teach the theories and principles of computing, mathematics, science, and engineering, and will train students in applying those theories and principles to solve contemporary technical programs through the design of computing hardware, software, networks, and processes. Students will also be required to

complete a two-semester practical design project, which will involve the design and construction of a prototype of a commercially viable product.

Applied Computer Science Track

The Computer Science program at Pitt-Johnstown, which was established in 1982, emphasizes the depth of highly technical, mathematically based aspects of computing. Graduates from the program, which have consistently benefited from very high placement rates, have typically accepted positions in mathematically technical jobs such as working with missile guidance systems, simulators, and mission-critical systems. The addition of the applied computer science track provides an opportunity to prepare students for broader-based careers in computing applications including software engineering, database engineering and administration, information assurance, web design and development, and applications programming.

Bachelor of Science in Health Care

As a way of better reflecting the successful graduate outcomes in the health sciences field, the Health Related Professions major is now the Bachelor of Science in Healthcare. The

program will provide the knowledge and skills for healthcare professionals from a variety of backgrounds to move beyond the staff level positions to roles as leaders and managers within their chosen professions and organizations. The program will be administered by the new Division of Nursing and Health Sciences, which will be led by Dr. Janet Grady. The new division will manage, plan, organize and coordinate related teaching, professional development and service activities while furthering our strategic initiatives in nursing and health sciences.



Dr. Janet Grady has been named to lead the new Division of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Concrete Canoe Team Competes Nationally

Congratulations to the members of the Pitt-Johnstown Concrete Canoe Team on advancing to the National Concrete Canoe Competition! The members, representing Pitt-Johnstown's chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), competed June 11-13 at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. This is the second time in three years that the team has competed at the national level.

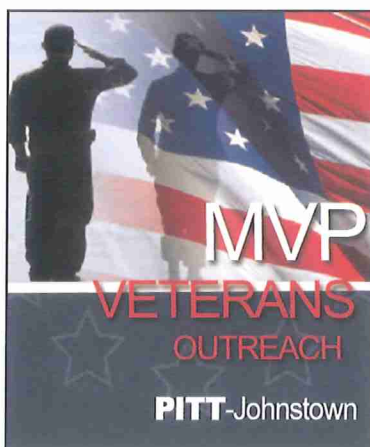
Members of the Pitt-Johnstown team are: Michael Zerby Jr. (Captain), Allison Ziance (Co-Captain), Emily Babik, Jonathan Burkett, Sarah Cordek, Miranda Dibert, Alex Dysinger, Jill Hamill, Alex Kassick, Frank Mele, and Jesse Snyder. Brian Houston, assistant professor of civil engineering technology, is the club's advisor.



Reaching out to Veterans

Pitt-Johnstown is expanding its outreach to military veterans through its new MountainCat Veterans Program (MVP). The MVP has been created to assist veterans in making successful transition to college in a state that has the fourth-largest population of veterans in the United States.

Among the benefits offered to veterans are: accelerated admission review and application fee waivers, priority registration, deferred tuition payments, credit evaluation, a veterans' support group, free on-campus parking, and single point-of-contact in administrative and



student services departments. MVP participants will be provided with special membership identification cards designating them as "Pitt-Johnstown MVPs."

MVP benefits will extend to other areas of campus, including the bookstore where participants will receive special discounts on clothing, and the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center where they will attend free performances. The school will also host an annual Veteran's Day celebration.

Ranked Among the Best

Pitt-Johnstown has garnered significant national recognition recently by being named a "Best Baccalaureate College" (northern region) by *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2010* and a "Best Northeastern College" by the Princeton Review. Both recognitions are among the most prestigious in the field of education.

The ranking in the top tier of baccalaureate colleges by *U.S. News & World Report* represents a significant ascent from last year, when Pitt-Johnstown was ranked in the third tier. Factors considered in determining the ranking include freshman retention rates, alumni giving, class size, and peer assessments.

Pitt-Johnstown is one of 218 schools included in the northeast region to be recognized by the Princeton Review. Overall, Pitt-Johnstown is one of 640 colleges, out of 2,500 four-year colleges from the four regions across the country, to be recognized as a best regional college.

President Spectar commented, "These rankings are one more indicator of our overall institutional excellence, including the dedication of our faculty and staff, the quality and efforts of our students and alumni, and the strong support of our community."

Locally, Pitt-Johnstown was recognized as a "Top 10 Best Place to Work" by *Johnstown Magazine*.

For additional information, visit www.upj.pitt.edu/MVP

Pitt-Johnstown Designated "Military Friendly"

Pitt-Johnstown has been designated a 2010 "Military Friendly School" by *G.I. Jobs*. The designation is reserved for the top 15% of colleges, universities and trade schools in the United States that are reaching out to America's veterans as students.



"We are very proud of our designation as a Military Friendly School," commented President Spectar. "We have tremendous respect and appreciation for our military veterans, who have given so selflessly of themselves in defending our freedom. This prestigious honor is shared by our entire campus community including our faculty, staff, students, alumni and, especially, our military veterans."

In addition to providing benefits to student veterans such as on-campus veterans' programs and credit for military service, criteria for making the Military Friendly Schools list include efforts and results in recruiting and retaining military and veteran students, and academic accreditations.

Athletics Excellence

The Tradition Continues

The 2008-09 Pitt-Johnstown sports season proved to be another successful one for the Mountain Cats and Lady Cats competing in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Men's and Women's Soccer

Head Coach Eric Kinsey's men's soccer team finished the regular season with a 9-8-1 overall record and a 5-4-1 conference record on its way to advancing to the WVIAC Tournament Semifinals for the second consecutive year.

Women's soccer, under first-year Head Coach Jim Herlinger, suffered through some of the growing pains of a relatively new program. The Lady Cats, posted a 4-13-0 overall record and a 3-6-0 record in the WVIAC. Pitt-Johnstown finished eighth in the WVIAC but did not earn a spot in the postseason tournament.

Volleyball

Head Coach Linda Renzi's Lady Cat volleyball team finished the regular season with a 20-12 overall record and a 9-6 conference record. The Lady Cats reached the 20-win plateau and advanced to the WVIAC Tournament Quarterfinals in Charleston, W.Va.

Baseball

Head Coach Todd Williams' (12th season) baseball team posted a 29-15 overall record and finished third in the WVIAC Northern Division with a 9-7 mark.

Women's Track and Field

Jim Herlinger's women's track and field team participated in four outdoor meets during the season. Pitt-Johnstown earned a sixth-place team finish at the West Virginia Wesleyan College Invitational on April 17.

Men's and Women's Basketball

Head Coach Bob Rukavina's Mountain Cats men's basketball team (24-8, 15-5 WVIAC) posted its fourth straight 20-win season, finished fourth in the WVIAC regular season, and won the conference post-season tournament title. The Mountain Cats also earned the program's second consecutive and fourth overall bid to the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional Tournament.

The Lady Cat basketball team posted an 18-12 overall record and a 14-6 mark in the WVIAC in Sasha

Palmer's second year as head coach. Pitt-Johnstown finished fifth in the WVIAC regular season standings and advanced to the conference semifinals.

Wrestling

The Mountain Cats wrapped up the 2008-09 season with a 13-4 dual meet record, a runner-up finish at the East Regional Tournament and a 14th place finish at the National Tournament. On January 20, 2006, Coach Pecora earned his 400th career victory. His 460 victories currently rank him in the top-15 all-time and in the top-seven among active coaches in all divisions in career wins.

Hall of Fame Class of '09



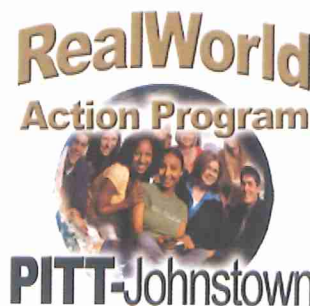
The Pitt-Johnstown Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2009 was inducted on Saturday, April 4. Above, President Spectar congratulates the new inductees (left to right) Mindy Young-Gagliardi '92 (women's basketball); Dave Roman Sr. '61 (basketball); Paul Leonard '77 (baseball); Joachim Knispel '86 (soccer); Clyde Horner '67 (head coach), and Carlton Haselrig '89 (wrestling).

Student Engagement

Preparing for the Real World

Pitt-Johnstown is taking student engagement to a new level with the *RealWorld Action Program*. The new initiative empowers students to develop a customized personal and professional action plan to achieve their individual goals and to develop as agents of positive change in our communities and our world.

The program reinforces the development of key attributes for successful participation in our highly competitive, rapidly changing world, where local and global are interconnected.



The *RealWorld Action Program* encourages students to develop specific action plans.

- **Career and Professional Development:** Students participate in intensive and focused career-preparation activities that include career counseling workshops, networking, internships, and mock interviews.
- **Campus Engagement:** Active participation in campus clubs, organizations, and activities, including governance groups, to effect positive change across the campus community.
- **Civic and Community Engagement:** Involvement in service opportunities to gain real-world understanding of the pressing issues of our time while fulfilling their obligation as members of the local community.
- **Global Engagement:** Academic endeavors, including study abroad and international service projects, that highlight challenges and opportunities created by our rapidly changing world.

Students receive points for their participation, with a focus on the values of four LIST attributes. Points are added to a student's electronic record in one of three ways: 1) students "swipe" their valid University ID at campus-sponsored events, 2) students may upload points by logging into their RealWorld Action Program account, or 3) points are awarded automatically for students who are official members of a student organization or athletic team.

In addition to providing students with a strong portfolio, the program offers benefits to the students including eligibility for the annual RealWorld Action Program scholarship award and a medal of distinction for superior achievement.

Pitt-Johnstown is offering first-year students an opportunity to create connections and explore the four levels of engagement (leadership, involvement, service, and teamwork) that are the core components of the schools' signature *RealWorld Action Program*. Alumni and community leaders are among the mentors who provide students with real-world perspectives in their primary area of interest. A student may choose to join any of the following *RealWorld Interest Groups*:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Arts and Performance | • Health Sciences-Medical |
| • Business-Corporate | • Language, Literature, and Culture |
| • Environment-Ecology | • Law and Society Science |
| • Global-International | • Technology and Society |
| • Public Service and Government | • Teaching and Learning |



We are currently looking for alumni to participate in the program as mentors. If you are interested in sharing your experiences and guidance with a student, contact Erin Rozumalski at (814) 269-2035 (e-mail: erinroz@pitt.edu).

For additional information, visit www.upj.pitt.edu/RealWorld

Class Notes

We are
Mountain Cat Proud
of our successful alums!



1960s

Kenneth Walsh ('68) after 34 years of service, retired as director of the Division of Electronic Service Delivery at the Social Security Administration. He recently began a new career as a social studies teacher at St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, Baltimore, Md. He also earned his master of education degree in curriculum and instruction at Loyola College of Maryland.

1970s

Laura Perry-Thompson ('71) has been named senior officer for equity and inclusion at Pitt-Johnstown.

Sally F. (Fessler) Caplan ('73) is director of finance for Mario Andretti and the Andretti family, Andretti III, LLC, Roswell, Ga.

Gail A. Landis, C.P.M. ('73) is director of government relations and business development, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., Harrisburg, Pa.

Craig Paulenich ('73) is an associate professor of English at Kent State University. He has published a book of poetry, *Drift of the Hunt* (Nobodaddies Press, Sacramento, 2006), and is co-editor (with Kent Johnson) of *Beneath A Single Moon: Buddhism in Contemporary American Poetry* (Shambhala Press, Boston, 1991), an anthology of poems and essays by 45 American poets.

George Gvozdoch Jr. ('75) has been elected president of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, the charitable affiliate of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He

has served as a bar examiner for the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners and is a part-time instructor at Pitt-Johnstown.

George A. Hancock ('75) is currently serving as the parent representative on the Windber Area School District, Health, Physical Education, and Family Consumer Science Curriculum Committee. His non-credit class "The Cemetery Tour" offered through the Pitt-Johnstown Community Education and Outreach Office, has been selected and segments filmed for the upcoming "Creepy Commonwealth" special dealing with ghostly hauntings, urban legends, and mysterious happenings.

Thomas Kurtz ('77) has been named CEO of the Windber Research Institute. Tom is also a long-standing member of the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association board of directors.

Gloria (Donati) Sharp ('77) is human resources manager with eVergance Partners, Overland Park, Kan., and has also volunteered with People to People International.

Janice (Yursky) Troyan ('77) is an elementary teacher at West Side Elementary School in the Greater Johnstown School District.

Bradley U. Shick ('78) senior project manager for The Quandel Group, Inc. Scranton, Pa. overseeing projects such as: PepsiCo. World Headquarters, Somers, N.Y., Hoffman LaRoche's Multidisciplinary Science Center, Nutley N.J., Evertrust's U.S. Headquarters, Jersey

City, N.J., and PPL SSCS Nuclear Power Plant NRC Security Upgrades, Berwick Pa.

1980s

Stephen Kapsalis ('81) has joined Babcock Power Inc., based in Danvers, Mass., as the company's chief operating officer.

Dr. Gary J. Gates ('83) of Los Angeles has received a 2008 Recent Alumni Award from Carnegie Mellon University's Alumni Association in Pittsburgh. He is now a senior research fellow at UCLA's Charles R. Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy, where his work is often featured in national media outlets and scholarly journals.

Charlie Carl ('84) is a managing partner in the law firm of Carl, Keaton, & Frazer, in Romney, W.Va., where he focuses on civil litigation, including real estate and property issues. He also is president of the South Branch Valley Bar Association and past member of the West Virginia State Bar Association Young Lawyers Committee.

Todd J. Sheffler ('87) is a dentist and owner of Caring Family Dentistry, Concord, N.H.

Colonel Philip Skuta ('87) director of the U.S. Marine Corps Senate Liaison Office, was recently promoted to the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Brian Gaia ('88) is a product manager of reactor internals design and analysis at Westinghouse Nuclear in Pittsburgh.

Brian Lawver ('85) is director of Advancement Services at California State University, Long Beach.

Lisa J. (Sculco) Lotito ('88) is founder of Good Paws Good Cause, LLC, an on-line store that sells merchandise for pets and people, and donates a portion of each sale back to charitable organizations.

Christine M. (Curry) Ross ('89) is director of institutional research and assessment at Hampden-Sydney College, Va.

Brooks R. Shoemaker ('89) is general manager and chief executive officer of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., Bedford, Pa.

1990s

Dolores Berkey ('97) has been named director of operations at Pitt-Johnstown.

Randy Lee Boone ('90) associate professor at Northampton Community College, Tannersville, Pa., was awarded a Faculty Innovation Grant from NCC during the 2008-09 academic year for "Solid Foundations: A Developmental Learning Community for Basic English and Speech Communication Students." He has been accepted into the first President's Leadership Institute class and has published a chapbook of poems entitled *Ignoble Daydreams for Impudent Minds* through Violent Publications.

Mila S. (Eggers) McNutt ('90) assisted in creating an innovative occupational therapy program to teach and assist offenders in a county jail to successfully reintegrate into the community. She is currently coordinating three other grant programs for Goodwill in Pittsburgh.

Aaron F. Lucier ('90) associate director of campus living for operations, received the Judy Spain Award from the Association of College and University Housing Officers – International.

Scott C. Shumaker ('91) was appointed global organizing project coordinator for Service Employees International Union.

Melissa A. Bunk ('92) assistant vice president and client services officer for First National Bank Wealth

Management, has received the Martin Rosenberg Academic Achievement Award from the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries (ASPPA).

Jennifer Gallagher ('92) is director of financial services at the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bloomington, Ind.

Amy Miller ('92) has been promoted to associate professor of mechanical engineering technology at Pitt-Johnstown.

Christian Stumpf ('94) has been named chief of staff at Pitt-Johnstown.

Nicole (Rombaugh) Kuzmiak ('97) has been promoted to principal at Westmont Middle School in Johnstown.

Kenneth W. Conn, Jr. ('98) received the 2008 *Don Foshee Award* for outstanding leadership from the Texas Distance Learning Association.

Kimberly (Ryan) Seigh ('98) published the book *Prospect Hill* (Publisher Page). Inspired by her great aunt's stories, Ms. Seigh reveals life in 20th-century Johnstown through the fictional Crystal Edelweiss. The story follows the Edelweiss family after the 1889 Johnstown flood as it struggles to stay together and as Crystal transforms herself into an independent 1920s woman.

Martin J. Radovanic ('98) was recently promoted from Regional Field Based Trainer to Sales Training Manager for Endo Pharmaceuticals based in Chadds Ford, Pa. He works closely with members of Marketing, Sales, Sales Operations, Medical, Legal, Regulatory and Managed Markets to ensure that current programs are compatible with marketing direction, sales force needs, and Endo's strategic vision. He is married to **Melissa (Spada) Radovanic** ('00), and they have two sons.

Vincent P. Strugala ('99) has been named manager of First Commonwealth Bank's Elton Road branch. Vince is married to Christine (Fox) Strugala ('00).

Amy M. Weaver ('99) earned a master of science degree in Instructional Technology from Wilkes University. She is employed as an adjunct faculty member at the Pennsylvania College of Technology and a full-time mathematics teacher at Williamsport Area High School.

Patty Wharton-Michael ('99) presented a lecture, "The Johnstown Flood of 1889: Through the Eyes of the *Johnstown Tribune*" during the Johnstown Area Heritage Association's commemoration of the 120th anniversary of the Johnstown Flood.

2000s

Christopher Gallus ('00) received a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Joni Lee (Walker) Hufford ('00) earned her teaching certification in business education from Shippensburg University. She is employed as an outdoor ministry administrator by Living Waters Camp and Conference Center, Schellsburg, Pa.

Justin G. Orient ('01) is a registered professional engineer currently licensed in the state of Delaware.

Stacy M. (Matt) Van Goor ('01) currently is employed by Dystech as a test examiner and counseling support for the Army.

Amanda (Mathews) Fischer ('02) Philadelphia Zoo Keeper, was featured in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as assisting aging animals to acquire a better quality of life.

David T. Horten ('02) has opened NyKo's, a new restaurant in Johnstown.

Rachelle R. Bouchat ('03) earned a PhD in mathematics from the University of Kentucky, and is employed as an assistant professor of mathematics, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, Pa.

Melissa P. Shearer ('03) is an operations project manager for ADC, a world leader in providing global network infrastructure products and services, Shakopee, Minn.

Matthew R. Reiking ('03) is a Pennsylvania Professional Engineer for ESP Associates, P.A., Fort Mill, S.C.

Christine M. (Wilson) Long ('04) earned a master's degree in education from St. Francis University, Loretto, Pa., and is presently employed as a fifth grade teacher at the Cathedral Catholic Academy, Johnstown.

Katie J. (Gehman) Maxwell ('04) is a software engineer with Raytheon Intelligence and Information Systems, State College, Pa., where she has been selected for the Raytheon Engineering Leadership Development Program. She is also pursuing her master's degree in systems engineering with George Mason University.

Brad A. Meucci ('05) has joined KMA Design, an environmental graphic design and public relations firm located in Southpointe, Pa.

Lacey Slavich ('07) is director, communications and outreach services at Windber Research Institute, Windber, Pa.

Brent Allen ('09) has joined Sisterson & Co. LLP in Pittsburgh, Pa.

*Do you have something to share?
Tell your former classmates what you're
doing! Submit your information at
www.upj.pitt.edu/alumni or e-mail it to
External Relations at upjalum@pitt.edu.*

In Memorium

Alumni

Sara J. (Owen) Torquato '44
William W. Rogers '48
John A. Bukosky '49
Daniel R. Bifano '50
James S. Furnary '52
Don J. Bowers '53
William P. Hirsch '56
Mary (Usnik) Lamonaca '62
Raymond J. Lichvar '68
Karen (Cuppert) Buterbaugh '75
Jan L. (Robinson) McCullah '80
Jody R. Billingsley '94
Larry P. Stofko '97
Samuel S. Hicks '99

Faculty

Dr. William R. Smith

Show Your Mountain Cat Pride!

Pitt-Johnstown is trying to increase the number of alumni who donate to their alma mater. We urgently need your participation. In return for a donation of \$50 or more, you will receive a free miniature Mountain Cat, just like the one peeking around the tree. For a donation between \$10 and \$49, you will receive a miniature Mountain Cat key chain. By donating \$100 or more, you will receive both! These make perfect gifts...and are yet another way to show your Mountain Cat Pride!*

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Please accept my gift of ☐ \$50 ☐ Other _____
amount

☐ Check Enclosed (payable to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown)

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Account No. _____

Expiration Date _____ Telephone _____

Signature _____

Apply my contribution to:

☐ Scholarships for students ☐ Pitt-Johnstown's greatest need

☐ Other _____
please specify

*The amount of your gift would be less the fair market value of these items.
Contact External Relations for these amounts.



To make your contribution,
complete and return this form to:
Pitt-Johnstown
272 Blackington Hall
450 Schoolhouse Road
Johnstown, PA 15904

A Life of Service to the Global Community Chester "Chet" Thomas

To a stranger, the sight of school desks, a lawn tractor, portable generators, birthing tables, and medical supplies inside a church along Penn Avenue in Jerome, Pa. might seem odd. But, to those helping to fulfill one alum's lifelong passion, this is nothing out of the ordinary.

The items, which were loaded onto a tractor trailer bound for Wilmington, N.C. on July 23, were being shipped to rural Honduras where Somerset County native Chester "Chet" Thomas ('66) has established Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG). The truck was loaded by Chet's family and friends, who have supported his efforts for nearly three decades.

What started as an idea in 1982 to help the rural poor in Honduras has developed into a 595-person organization that currently employs more than 150 people distributed among seven regional offices. Through its mission to "empower families, reduce poverty, build just, peaceful and productive communities based on Christian values," PAG has made a tremendous impact on Honduras. Chet's efforts have resulted

in the construction of 74 schools, 18 medical clinics, and 50 health care centers, as well as more than 150 miles of

roads. His efforts have made a substantial impact on the development of the region.

PAG has been responsible for constructing 133 miles of water lines, which have provided farmers with much-needed irrigation. As a result, the area has become an agricultural center with more than 75 tons of

produce being shipped each week to distributors including Wal Mart. Through his efforts to educate locals on the basics of farming, and introducing apple trees (more than 300,000 trees have been planted to date), Honduras now leads Central America in apple production.

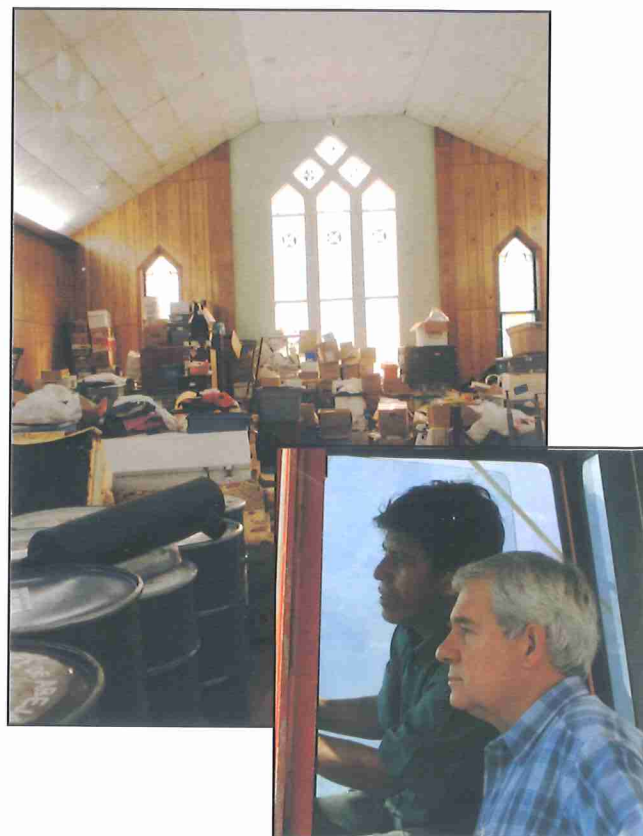
Chet has developed PAG into a living classroom for thousands of college students from around the globe who have visited the area. The organization has built Los Pinos Environmental Center, which serves as a housing facility for tourists and students. The complex includes residential and meeting facilities, a food store, and restaurant.

College students from around the globe have visited Los Pinos to engage in service-learning projects, interacting with the residents of the

villages and helping to advance the standard of living. In 2008, the center hosted more than 3,000 visitors. The Center is located in the

heart of Cerro Azul Meambar National Park (PANCAM), which is managed by PAG. PANCAM, covering more than 194 square miles, is a habitat for several species of flora and fauna.

Last year, PAG planted more than 40,000 energy and wood trees for reforestation, and a nursery of 65,000



trees was started. Currently, PAG is working on the design of a station that will provide a center for university students to carry out additional scientific investigations into the region's plant and animal life.

Chet completed his first two years of college at Pitt-Johnstown's "Asphalt Campus" before earning his bachelor's degree in education from the Pittsburgh campus. Upon graduation, he joined the Peace Corps, where he served in Colombia until 1969. In 1974, following hurricane Fifi, Chet relocated to Honduras where he founded an orphanage for the children of parents lost in the hurricane. In 1976, disaster struck again, and he answered a call to Guatemala to help earthquake victims. In the early 1980s he returned to Honduras where, as they say, the rest is history.

We are Mountain Cat Proud of Chet for the amazing work that he is doing on a global scale!

Chet's efforts have resulted in the construction of 74 schools, 18 medical clinics, and 50 health care centers, as well as more than 150 miles of roads.



Robert T. Jeschonek ('87, journalism) has published *Mad Scientist Meets Cannibal*, a solo short story collection (PS Publishing). PS Publishing writes, "In these pages, Robert T. Jeschonek will take you on a tour of the wildest places and people you've never imagined... If you're looking for something mind-blowing, you've come to the right place..." His *Star Trek* fiction has appeared in *Star Trek: New Frontier: No Limits* and in three volumes of *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*, winning the grand prize in Volume VI. Bob is married to Wendy (Snively) Jeschonek ('88), and resides in Johnstown.

Kathleen George ('63, theatre) is a professor of theatre at the University of Pittsburgh. She received her doctorate in theatre and master of fine art from Pitt. She published her latest novel *Aftermath* in December 2008. She is the author of *Taken* and *Fallen*, and a short story collection, *The Man in the Buick*. Dr. George has been granted fellowships at artists' colonies, including the VCCA and MacDowell. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and was listed among the Distinguished in Best American Short Stories. She is married to writer Hilary Masters. For more about Kathleen visit www.kathleengeorgebooks.com



Jessica Bellas ('93, CET) has published a memoir entitled, *Maotai, Mooncakes & Monks: Misadventures in Hong Kong & China*. The memoir, chronicles Jessica's experiences after moving to Hong Kong in 2006.



Her stories, which began as weekly e-mails to friends and family in the U.S., were an instant sensation and her e-mail list grew to several hundred names. Her book can be purchased online at www.tamcopublishing.com. She has been hired as a project manager in the environmental division at Martin Baker Corporation in Pittsburgh. Her new job brings her back to the United States after having spent three years working in Hong Kong.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The PARTY of the decade is happening at your alma mater!



BLUE & GOLD GALA

Friday, October 9, 2009
PITT-Johnstown Sports Center
6:30 P.M. Cocktails
7:30 P.M. Dinner & Silent Auction
DJ
Party Attire

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Athletics program is proud to present the **Blue and Gold Gala**. The event will benefit athletic scholarships. Pitt-Johnstown is a NCAA Division II Athletics program and a member of the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC).

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Triple Gold Level \$5,000
Two (2) reserved tables for sixteen (16) guests
Full-page advertisement in program
(Your tax-deductible amount is \$4,200)

Triple Blue Level \$2,500
Reserved table for eight (8) guests
Full-page advertisement in program
(Your tax-deductible amount is \$2,100)

Double Gold Level \$1,000
Reserved table for eight (8) guests
Business Card display in program
(Your tax-deductible amount is \$600)

Double Blue Level \$500
Four (4) tickets
Business Card display in program
(Your tax-deductible amount is \$300)

Gold Level \$250
Two (2) tickets
Name listing in program
(Your tax-deductible amount is \$150)

Blue Level \$125
One (1) ticket
Name listing in program
(Your tax-deductible amount is \$75)

LEND YOUR SUPPORT!

Company _____ Contact _____
Phone Number _____ Email _____
Street _____
City, State, Zip _____
Sponsorship Amount: _____ ☐ Unable to attend but would like to donate \$ _____
Payment Method: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Check (payable to Pitt-Johnstown)
Account# _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Please return form no later than **October 2, 2009**, by mail or fax to Helen Golubic, Director of Development, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, 272 Blackington Hall, Johnstown, PA 15904, fax 814-269-1965, or hgolubic@pitt.edu. For inquiries, please contact 814-269-2083.
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown is a 501(c)3 corporation.

AUCTION OPPORTUNITIES
☐ I would like to donate to the silent auction.

Please contact me at _____ (phone)

Alumni Association Update

New Members

Congratulations to the newest members of the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association Board of Directors: Joyce Radovanic ('05), Lacey Slavich ('07), Michelle (Goodman) Stumpf ('94), and Kevin Ziance ('86).

Officers for the coming year are:

- Gladys Go ('92), President
- Jeffrey Philibin ('88), Vice President
- Jeanne Feathers ('87), Secretary
- Melissa Bunk ('92), Treasurer

Annual Mountain Cat Tournament

This year's Mountain Cat Tournament is being held December 18 and 19 in the Pitt-Johnstown Sports Center. Teams participating in the tournament are Bishop McCort, Greater Johnstown, Richland, and Tussey Mountain High Schools. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the door. Dr. Ernest J. Mantini ('79) chairs the event.

Pitt-Johnstown Proud

Mark your calendars for next year's Pitt-Johnstown Proud (formerly called UPJ Proud) event, scheduled for March 20. The evening will include dinner, presentation of the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award, and a performance of Neil Berg's "The Twelve," which begins where Jesus Christ Superstar leaves off. This high-energy rock show, represents each one of Christ's apostles through a tribute to a different classic-rock icon such as: David Bowie, Led Zeppelin, U2, Tom Waits, Bruce Springsteen, Pink Floyd, Eric Clapton, Aretha Franklin, and Janis Joplin.

Don't miss the biggest alumni fundraiser of the year!

Watch the alumni web site for additional details.



Stay Connected!

Find out what is going on at your alma mater. Join us on Facebook and LinkedIn, catch up with classmates and the latest happenings on campus. If you would like to receive the alumni e-newsletter, please subscribe by clicking on the link at www.upj.pitt.edu/alumni. And, if you talk to fellow classmates regularly, tell them to subscribe so they can stay connected with their alma mater, too.

Blue and Gold Society

Membership in the Blue and Gold Society for the 2008-09 reached a milestone this past year. The group has grown to 26 members, an increase of 500%, over two years. The group has been busy with a variety of projects both on campus and in the community. Members participated in the Salvation Army's Project Bundle-Up program; dressed as the Mountain Cat and distributed blue and gold balloons at the Pitt-nic at the Park, had a face painting booth at Homecoming, held a clothing drive for Mom's House, and collected money to help a local family with medical expenses. Special thanks to outgoing President Savannah Calhoun. Dana Shirley will take the helm as President beginning this fall.

Other members of the group are: Jacquie Bayer, Amanda Beliveau, Alycia Bobak, Chelsey Carrieri, Bridgette Dawson, Nicholas Diclaudio, Megan Guiher, Peter Himmelwright, Megan Johnson, Jen Karmanocky, Tien Lau, Sean McCully, Alvine Melone, Laura Orchowski, Danielle Palmer, Heather Percy, Annalise Policicchio, Ben Policicchio, Stacie Popowski, Danielle Rodgers, Kerry Serfass, Mike Slezak, Steph Sodmont, and Bryce Troyan. Kim Shook serves as the group's advisor.

Renew Today!

Renew your Alumni Association Membership

Renewal forms are available online at www.upj.pitt.edu/alumni or, by calling 814-269-2080 (toll free 1-888-UPJ-ALUM).

\$10 of your membership supports scholarships at Pitt-Johnstown!

Class of 2009: "Be extraordinary!"

Saturday, April 25 marked a rite of passage for more than 350 Pitt-Johnstown seniors as they processed across the Sports Center floor to receive their diplomas. It marked Pitt-Johnstown's 37th annual Commencement ceremony.

Marci Shimoff, author of the biggest self-help book phenomenon in history, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, was the featured Commencement speaker. In her highly entertaining and inspirational address, Ms. Shimoff encouraged graduates to "be willing to be uncomfortable... be willing to be afraid... believe in yourself... and, go for happiness first." She discussed the importance of taking advantage of every opportunity and inspired graduates to make a difference in their world.

Throughout her address, Ms. Shimoff shared personal stories about those who inspired her to write her *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. She spoke of individuals who faced what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles, only to achieve phenomenal success. At one point during her speech, she even pulled out a Pittsburgh Steelers baseball cap and paid tribute to the Super Bowl champions.

Perhaps her two most powerful words were spoken when she offered graduates this simple, yet powerful, advice, "Be extraordinary!"

Joining Ms. Shimoff on the platform were graduating senior Kathryn Shadron who spoke on behalf of her classmates. In her speech, she thanked President Spectar for the opportunities that he has provided for students to transform our world and for taking the time to meet the students during his frequent visits across campus. She likened her time at Pitt-Johnstown "a climb over a mountain to our dreams." She concluded her speech by telling her classmates, "Our life is a climb, but it's worth the view."

Pitt-Johnstown Student Government Association President Jeff Burtner also offered words to the audience. Mr. Burtner spoke of the many ways in which Pitt-Johnstown helps to prepare graduates for the real world, primarily through the *RealWorld Action Program*. He offered, "Your Pitt-Johnstown experience has given you the knowledge to face the problems of today, the vision to see solutions where none seem

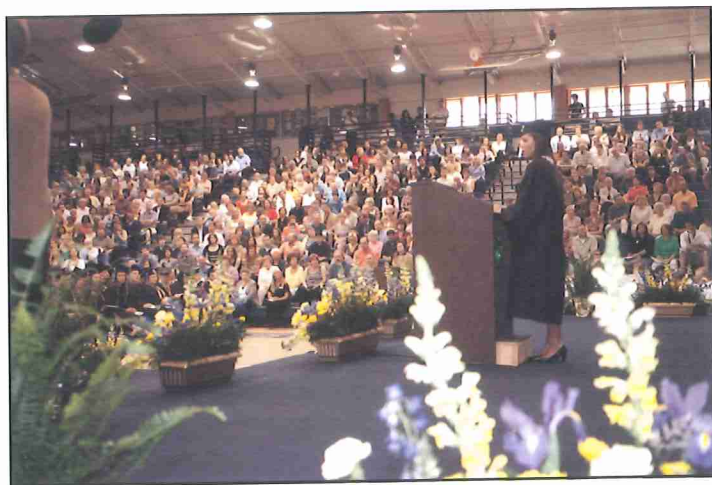
to exist, and the ability to overcome the greatest obstacles on whatever path this lifetime may lead you."

During the ceremony, Dr. John Thompson was honored with the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. In presenting the award, President Spectar spoke of Dr. Thompson's passion for teaching, his use of real-world examples in the classroom, and his ability to motivate students to generate and develop their own ideas.

Other speakers at the ceremony included Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association President Gladys Go ('92) who offered congratulatory remarks on behalf of the alumni. Dr. Andy Rose, last year's recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, served as the Grand Marshall.



International bestselling author Marci Shimoff delivers the Commencement address at the 37th annual ceremony.



Donors: Dr. Lane R. and Louise Miller

Position: Vice President, Global Research and Technology, Lord Corporation

Hometowns: Somerset and Johnstown

Interests: Louise – kayaking, working out, volunteering, books about Hindu and Indian spirituality.
Lane – running; World War II and Civil War history; progressive metal music; and solving engineering problems. Both like to travel.



Lane and Louise (Karmanocky) Miller met at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown more than 30 years ago. Then, she was Louise Karmanocky from the West End of Johnstown, and he was Lane Miller who hailed from a dairy farm in Somerset. Marriage was inevitable because it was love soon after first sight; they began dating while Lane lived on campus with his two friends from Somerset, Michael Tims and Larry Romesberg. Louise attended classes at Pitt-Johnstown while studying nursing at Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital. Graduating in 1979 with a degree in mechanical engineering technology, Lane went on to complete his master's degree in engineering science at Penn State, Behrend Campus and his PhD at North Carolina State University in mechanical engineering. In 1982, Louise obtained her diploma in nursing. They married in April 1982.

Today, Dr. Miller is vice president of global research and technology at Lord Corporation, a diversified global technology driven company headquartered in North Carolina. Lord specializes in developing innovative solutions and products in adhesive, coating, and vibration/motion control technologies for the aerospace, defense, and automotive industries. Mrs. Miller, in addition to being busy with their three children Sarah, 22-years-old, who attends the University of North Carolina - Wilmington; Jake, 19-years-old, who is pursuing a welding career; and Sam, 17-years-old, who wants to be an engineer or scientist, is active as a volunteer nurse with the Red Cross and various local and international organizations where she often uses her Spanish language skills, and leads a local kayaking club in navigating the rivers of eastern North Carolina.

"I have always highly valued my undergraduate education and the entire experience that I had at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. I consider my BSMET degree to be the main foundation of my career."

Dr. Lane Miller

In 2008, Dr. and Mrs. Miller decided to create a scholarship to honor John G. Klavuhn, who had taught Dr. Miller thermodynamics. Dr. Miller said, "Louise and I talked for a long time about giving something back to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. We felt that we had been blessed with a great education and experience when we were students and now we are in the position to show our gratitude by helping others. Naming the scholarship after Professor John Klavuhn was fitting because he was an inspiration to me, both my advisor and mentor. In addition to being a gifted educator and charismatic person, John applied engineering theory to practical problems, such as turbine design, embodying the essence of what it means to be an engineer."

The first John G. Klavuhn Scholarship was awarded this year to Jonathan M. Burkett (Mineral Point, Pa.), a scholar who is involved in many activities on campus. The scholarship rewards students who are majoring in mechanical engineering technology, have a QPA of 3.25 or higher, have financial need, and reside in Southwest Pennsylvania.

President Spectar noted, "The Klavuhn Scholarship is important to the Mechanical Engineering department because it provides a full-tuition scholarship. Being able to reward a high-achieving student with an academic scholarship that recognize his/her efforts is the most meaningful kind of support a university can offer. On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff at Pitt-Johnstown, I want to express my gratitude to the Millers."

Picking Named to Board of Trustees

Howard M. "Skip" Picking, III has been elected to the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees.

Mr. Picking has long been a friend to Pitt-Johnstown, serving as a member of the Advisory Board since 1974. In addition to being the Board's vice chair, he currently chairs the Board's Finance Committee and previously chaired the Board's Development Committee. Mr. Picking and his wife, Adelle, have endowed the annual Great Americans Day lecture series, which has brought national experts and hundreds of high school students and community members to Pitt-Johnstown for more than a decade.

Serving the Community

The Pitt-Johnstown Advisory Board presented its 12th Service to Community Award to Dr. Nancy Grove ('67), Pitt-Johnstown professor emeritus and director of Nursing Program. Dr. Grove was recognized for her involvement with United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). She has been an active volunteer member of the board of directors for UCP and Choices People Supporting People, and a leader of the strategic planning and board development committees. She works closely with Board members and staff in supporting ways to improve the needs and services for individuals with disabilities in the community.



(left to right) Jeanne Gleason, chair, Advisory Board, Dr. Nancy Grove, and President Spectar

Renovations Spread Mountain Cat Pride

Throughout the summer months, crews were hard at work transforming portions of the Student Union to better serve our students. The renovations involved creating the campus' newest entertainment and dining venue, The Mountain Cat Club.

The Club features a dance floor, stage, and even a disco ball, and provides a programming area for student affairs activities such as dancing, karaoke, comedians, and poetry readings. The venue also features four flat screen televisions so students won't miss a minute of action during Pitt football and basketball games. The menu will feature appetizers, salads, sandwiches, and pizza. The Mountain Cat Club will also be a location for Homecoming events, so be sure to check it out when you're on campus!

The Mountain Cat Club is adjacent to the newly created "The Zone," a student area that features the latest in arcade technology. Watch for more information on "The Zone" in the next issue.

Pitt-Johnstown's signature "Mt. Cat Proud!" rallying cry has been incorporated into the design of both facilities.



Crews put the finishing touches on the new Mountain Cat Club.

Leading Edge in Career Services Practice: Giving 100% to Graduates

Pitt-Johnstown took dramatic steps to ensure that our recent graduates had every advantage available to them following commencement.

Through the "100 Days-100% Initiative," which began on Commencement day, April 25, and continued for 100 days, Pitt-Johnstown's career counselors dedicated 100% of their time, talent, and resources to assisting students in securing meaningful employment or acceptance into graduate school. As part of the effort, counselors Angela Boyd and Victoria Biter served as personal coaches and headhunters for the graduates. Their efforts included:

- researching companies and employment opportunities based on each student's personal interests and background,
- identifying local and regional job fairs,
- submitting resumes to prospective employers on behalf of the students (444 resume packets were sent to 353 employers), and
- coaching students on the interviewing process by conducting and critiquing mock interviews.

Social networking played a critical role in the efforts as counselors helped students incorporate sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, into their job search. During the process, the counselors added 485 "friends" on Facebook, which was used to promote topics including "10 Boilerplate Phrases that Kill Resumes," "10 Questions to Never Ask in a Job Interview," "7 Lucrative Jobs from the Obama Stimulus Plan," and "Allegheny County Health Department Website Job Listings."

Students were also taught the finer points of networking and were aided in developing a "30-second commercial" to market themselves.

Response from the students was outstanding. In fact, some students, who had previously decided to delay the start of their job search, have participated in the program. The students say they are more confident in their job search process, are more aware of how to identify potential employers, and are better prepared for their interviews. Several e-mail messages and phone calls have been received from satisfied students. One recent graduate, Matthew Zern, recently wrote, "I interviewed with Beer, Ream, and Company on Tuesday and it went very well. I was offered the position for a staff accountant on Wednesday. Thanks so much for your help."

As of July 31, 149 of the 336 students enrolled in the program were currently employed or enrolled in graduate/professional school. This translates into a 44% placement rate.



2009 Graduate Alyson Bender discusses her resume with career counselors Victoria Biter and Angela Boyd

(a recent survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers reported that only 20% of recent graduates have found a job). By all accounts, the initiative, which represents a new model in Career Services, was an overwhelming success.

This initiative was recognized by media across the country including the *Denver Post*, and *The Raleigh News and Observer*.

Familiar Faces Return to Campus



Retired faculty and staff members visited campus last fall to attend an Emeritus Club luncheon hosted by President Spectar. Attendees reminisced about their time at Pitt-Johnstown and enjoyed getting reacquainted with fellow co-workers.

PITT-Johnstown Your Service Week



Specially designated “@ Your Service” shuttle vans traveled more than 200 miles to transport volunteers to schools and community organizations.

In March, Pitt-Johnstown embarked on its most ambitious community service initiative in our history. With more than 84 volunteers, (representing faculty, staff, students, and an Advisory Board member), the campus reached out to the community by supporting more than 20 service projects and community events. By the end of the week, more than 150 hours of service had been completed, and the entire community had been touched by our Mountain Cat Pride. October 9 has been designated as our next “@ Your Service” Week. Contact the Alumni Office for volunteer opportunities!



The International Service Forum, which included panelists representing the American Red Cross, Humanitarian Interfaith Ministries, and Pitt-Johnstown attracted more than 75 attendees. (Pictured: Panelists discuss the rewards of service, including opportunities to serve on an international level.)



Volunteers spread Mountain Cat cheer and treated patients to a few songs during goodwill visits to local nursing care centers. (Pictured: Jeff Sernell ('78), Karen Barrick, Frank Dupnock ('75), Paulette Lewis and Darell Bowman delivered blue and gold balloons to residents of the Golden Living Center.)



International students, representing Syria, Hong Kong, Australia, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, and Vietnam interacted with more than 400 school children to discuss life in their native countries. (Pictured: Iyad Anbari talks about life in Syria)



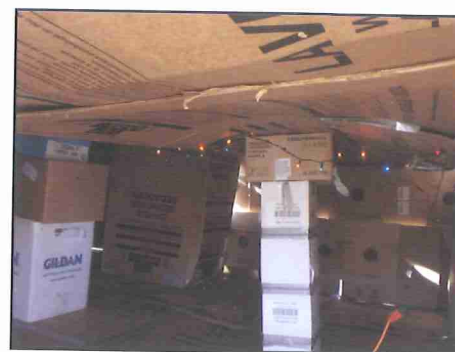
Volunteers, accompanied by the Pitt-Johnstown Mountain Cat, read “The Mountain Cat Who Mattered” to more than 600 children between the ages of 3 and 7 in the Ferndale, Richland, and Greater Johnstown School Districts. (Pictured, Jennifer Kist ('95) reads the story to a group of students at West Side Elementary School.)



More than 50 volunteers joined the Diabetes Walk, which raised \$2,000 for the American Diabetes Association, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. (Pictured: Diane Lenio and Cara Stewart, the event organizer, promote the walk.)



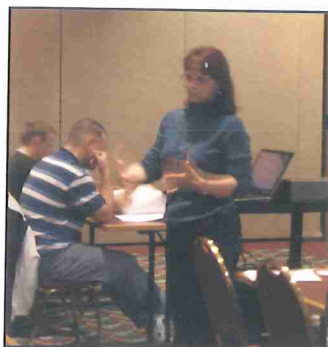
The first-ever "April Fools Basketball Game" (faculty/staff versus the students) raised more than \$1,500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Incidentally, the faculty/staff won 47-41. (Pictured: Nikki Babik and the Mountain Cat congratulate Chris Stumpf ('94) for collecting the most donations.)



Eight Habitat for Humanity club members braved 20-degree temperatures and heavy frost to sleep in the Cardboard City on the campus mall. (Pictured: The interior of Cardboard City. There was no heat, no cable television, and no beds...but there was a little festive lighting.)



Volunteers prepared and served a meal at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen (and canned food items were collected for the Salvation Army during the week). (Pictured: Celese Thomas, Jeanne Gleason, Helen Golubic, Judi McGuirk ('98), Joyce Radovanic ('05), Linda Coyle, Chris Stumpf ('94), Kim Lang, Sue Palov, Lena Delucia, and Bob Blaschak ('87) don their "@ Your Service Week" aprons before serving the evening meal.)



25 teachers from Greater Johnstown School District spent the day interacting with faculty and students to explore opportunities within Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). (Pictured: Amy Miller ('92) leads a discussion on the importance of engineering.)



The Mountain Cat interacted with more than 1,000 people during the week. (Pictured: The Mountain Cat pays a visit to Robert Lepley, of Boswell, at Memorial Medical Center's pediatric unit.)



Habitat for Humanity Volunteers constructed a children's playhouse for donation to a local Habitat family.



Volunteers performed several "spring cleaning" chores at Mom's House. (Pictured: Mark Dougherty and Sherri Rae mend a playground fence.)

The Mountain Cat

Who Mattered

Have you ever wondered how the Mountain Cat became the Pitt-Johnstown mascot? During “@ Your Service” Week, we debuted the never-before told story about our mascot’s rise to fame.

More than 50 years ago, a mountain cat was born in the Allegheny Mountains of western Pennsylvania. As a cub, it liked to play with the other animals in the forest and was known for a fierce roar that could be heard for miles around.

Its parents lived, of all places, in dense woods, which were also home to a college called the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown that sat in a clearing on the top of a mountain. They were the envy of all the other cat families in the area because they were the only cats who inhabited this beautiful place. Their forest home was known for its wide streams, big rocks, and beautiful waterfalls; 150 different kinds of trees, flowers, and berries; and many animals, including deer, squirrels, foxes, raccoons, skunks, rabbits, chipmunks, and even bears.

Keeping watch over this paradise was a daily activity of the mountain cat family. But, as the mountain cat grew older, the parents noticed its interest in all of the things that the college students were doing. Many days, the mountain cat would come home late and the parents knew that it had been watching a wrestling match or a basketball game or a baseball game. So they sat down with the mountain cat and offered it some advice: be considerate of the students, don’t startle them with your fierce roar. The mountain cat listened to its parents. It didn’t want to scare the students, because it wanted to be their friend. It couldn’t stop thinking of all the fun that the college students had every day.

The mountain cat spent most of its free time standing on a big boulder behind some trees watching the college students. It would see them come outside first thing in the morning, stretch, yawn, then go back inside. It would see them leaving for class with book bags. It would see them sit against the wide trunk of a shady oak tree with their

books open and papers spread about. It would see them talking on cell phones or working on their laptops. The students looked like they were having so much fun. As the mountain cat listened to the students’ cheers and laughter, it wanted so badly to be able to go to class with them and be their friend.

It could see that the college students talked to the birds, chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, and deer. Sometimes they would even put bread or cereal or nuts out for those animals.

No matter how much its parents encouraged the mountain cat to scout for food and play in the sun like other mountain cats, it still wanted to be with the students. The mountain cat kept wondering what the students were doing. Were they playing Frisbee or soccer? Were they studying? Were they listening to their iPods?

Needing to understand its feelings, the mountain cat asked its father, “How can I be the best mountain cat that I can be?” The father answered, “You must answer that for yourself. What is important to you? What do you want to do? What paw print do you want to leave?”

When it heard those words, the mountain cat left the den and started to roam the woods in search of the answer. The mountain cat stopped and talked with all of its forest friends. It asked the family of robins, “Is flying enough for you?” The robins chirped in unison, “Flying is the best, it’s like owning the sky. You can fly anywhere you want to go.”

Then the mountain cat came upon a chipmunk and asked him, “How would you spend your day, Mr. Chipmunk, if you had a choice?” And the chipmunk said, “Finding food and shelter, and helping my friends.”

Next the mountain cat saw a squirrel sailing from tree to tree so it waited to ask, “Mrs. Squirrel, what do you enjoy doing every day?” The squirrel said, “I run through the campus and look for nuts to feed to my family. My

favorite is chestnuts, and you need a lot of them to make it through winter, you know."

Softy, the brown rabbit, walked by just then, adding, "I especially like to dig deep holes and fill them up with food. That way my family and I can have food when it's snowing."

Then, five deer and a fawn passed by, so the mountain cat asked them, too. "It is enough for us that we live on land where hunting is not allowed. We can roam free, eat tall grass, keep our fawns warm, chase each other through the meadows, and watch every sunrise and sunset. Sometimes the college students will bring us apples to eat."

The mountain cat thought about their answers all night long, and when the sun came up the next morning, it roared its fiercest roar ever, so fierce that the leaves shook on the trees. The school children in Westmont, and Ferndale, and Johnstown, and Richland all heard the roar. The mountain cat chased its tail, ran towards the sunrise, and went running back to its den because it could finally give its father an answer. The mountain cat took off at a full run, this time not even stopping to watch when it saw some students flying a kite in the distance.

"Father and Mother," the mountain cat said, "I am here on earth not just to look out for myself but to help those college students who live here with us. I want to be involved; I want to matter."

The mountain cat's mother got in close, licking its face. The mountain cat's father cuffed it in the ear with its large paw. The mountain cat closed its eyes and purred.

Then, that summer, the college posted signs, "Applications for campus mascot being accepted." The mountain cat didn't hesitate and was the first to apply for the position. The students voted, and the mountain cat won!

The mountain cat eagerly anticipated its first official duty, when it would wear the cheerful blue-and-gold mascot costume and do something of value for the students and school it loved. The mountain cat greeted the students as they arrived for the first day of school and it made hundreds of new friends.

That night when the mountain cat returned to the den, its parents eagerly asked how it went. The mountain cat said, "It was better than I could have imagined. I fit in! I brought smiles to everyone's faces, and best of all, everybody wanted their photograph taken with me. In fact, the students asked me to go to classes with them, so I applied and I got accepted. I'm going to college," the mountain cat shouted with glee.

Four years later, the Mountain Cat joined its fellow students at graduation. The mountain cat, who so many years before wanted to be a part of the college, was now graduating. It marched proudly into the crowd, walked across the stage, received its diploma, and let out a big Mountain Cat Proud roar.

The friendly mountain cat now has cubs of its own, and still lives in the woods near the campus. It's a little older now and doesn't get to hang out with the students as much, but the students often stop to visit as it rests atop its big rock.

The students at Pitt-Johnstown loved the mountain cat so much that, a few years ago, they had a statue made in its honor. The bronze statue, which weighs more than a thousand pounds, sits in the middle of the campus where the students and teachers can see it every day.

And that's the story of how the mountain cat became the mascot of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.



HOMECOMING 2009

Friday, September 25*

- 10:30 a.m. **Pitt-Johnstown Accounting Alumni Job Fair - Cambria Room, Student Union**
- 11 a.m. **Golf Outing - Oakbrook Golf Course, Jennerstown**
- 6-7:30 p.m. **President's Alumni Reception - Blackington Hall Lobby**
- 7:30-8 p.m. **Fireworks "Pre-Game Show" - Campus Mall**
- 8 p.m. **Fireworks - Campus Mall**

Saturday, September 26*

- 11 a.m. **Homecoming Parade**
- 12:30 p.m. **Presentation of the 5 Queen finalists - Campus Mall**
- 1 p.m. **Pitt-Johnstown's Own Mad Scientist Dave Willey
"How Does A Thing Like That Work?" - Campus Mall
(as seen on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno)
Campus Mall**
- 1:30 p.m. **MountainCat Wing Fest & Sundae Bar - Campus Mall**
- 1-5 p.m. **20+ Things to do in 4 Hours - various campus locations**



- o Classic Car "Cruise-In"
- o Live music
- o Latin dancing
- o Storytelling
- o Children's crafts
- o Shopping at the Bookstore
- o Children's entertainment
- o Walking Tour of Campus
- o Outdoor Yoga
- o Alumni Networking
- o Pictures with the Mountain Cat
- o Karate Demonstration (Pitt-Johnstown Karate Club)
- o Magician
- o Campus Tours — See the new campus sites!
- o Geocaching
- o Karaoke in the new Mountain Cat Club
- o Open Swim at the Zamias Aquatic Center
- o Alumni Volleyball Game
- o Food booths: popcorn, cotton candy, hot dogs, hot pretzels, soft drinks (nominal price)
- o Black Action Society Soul Food Festival
- o Student booths

- 4:30 p.m. **Chapel Service**
Sponsored by Protestant Campus Ministry
A special remembrance will be held for deceased alumni.

- 7:30 p.m. **Queen Coronation and Concert @ the Sports Center:**
Emerson Drive & Blessid Union of Souls

- 8 p.m. **Concert @ the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center:**
Smokey Joe's Cafe

*Some events and times are subject to change.

September 25 & 26

www.upj.pitt.edu/Homecoming

Homecoming 2009

Registration Form

Special discounts for Alumni Association members!

Please indicate which events you would like to attend.

The reservation deadline is Monday, September 14.

	Number	Cost
Golf Outing; Friday, September 25, Oakbrook Golf Course \$50/golfer; \$45 AA member; Advanced registration required	_____	_____
President's Reception \$15/person; \$10 AA member; Advanced registration required	_____	_____
Wingfest \$10/per person; Advanced registration required	_____	_____
Emerson Drive/Blessid Union of Souls Concert \$10/person; Advanced registration required	_____	_____
Smokey Joe's Cafe concert \$39/person; \$33/AA member; Advanced registration required	_____	_____
	Total cost	_____

Payment Information

Charge my credit card:

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

☐ Discover

Card number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail your completed registration form to the
Alumni Office

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
272 Blackington Hall
Johnstown, PA 15904.

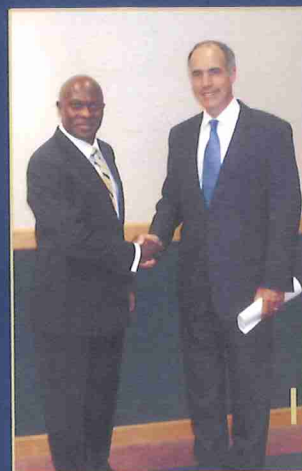
Fax to 814-269-1965, or call in your reservation and credit card information to
814-269-2080
or toll-free at 1-888-UPJ-ALUM.

September 25 & 26

www.upj.pitt.edu/Homecoming

Around Campus

1. President Spectar and Senator Robert P. Casey Jr. during the Senator's recent visit to campus.
2. Adelle Picking, Marvin Fletcher, Retired Tuskegee Airman Russell C. Davis, and Howard "Skip" Picking, III at Great Americans Day event.
3. A delegation of 35 Student Affairs professionals from Canada's Wilfrid Laurier University recently visited campus to learn more about our many signature programs including the RealWorld Action Program.
4. Second annual Think Pink Game. (left to right) Quinton Davis, Matt Ionadi, the Mountain Cat, Donna Vickroy, and William (Trey) Sharpe
5. A signature Pitt-Johnstown blue and gold balloon arch sets the stage for this year's UPJ Proud celebration
6. The Mountain Cat greets visitors to the Pitt-Johnstown booth, where Bryan Valentine and Judi McGuirk are ready to answer questions at Showcase for Commerce.



Increasing Awareness



National Recognition

Denver Post
Fresno Bee
CNBC.com
Forbes.com
The News Tribune (Tacoma, Wa.)
Fox-44 News (Burlington, Vt.)
The Idaho Statesman
Philadelphia Business Journal
The Sun Herald (Biloxi, Ms.)

JOHNSTOWN
www.johnstownmag.com
magazine
 10 Great Places to Work



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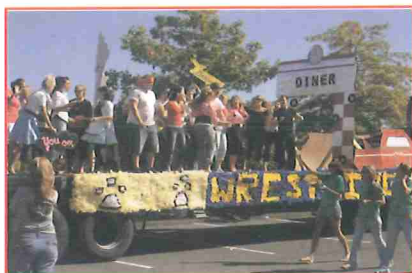


Mountain Cat Proud

Phone: 814-269-2080
1-888-UPJ-ALUM
www.upj.pitt.edu/upjalum

HOMECOMING 2009

This year's celebration will be reminiscent of those memorable Homecomings of the past. Join us for a weekend packed full of fun for you and your family! See page 22 for details!



Expanded Homecoming parade featuring queen candidates and local marching bands! Special Grand Marshalls - Blessid Union of Souls!

Plus:

- ♦ President's Alumni Reception
- ♦ Mountain Cat WingFest!
- ♦ "20 Things to do in 4 Hours"
- ♦ Concerts featuring Blessid Union of Souls, Emerson Drive, and Smokey Joe's Cafe
- ♦ Tour the new Mt. Cat Club & The Zone!



"How Does a Thing Like that Work?" by Pitt-Johnstown's own Mad Scientist David Willey (a regular guest on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno")



Spectacular fireworks display!



Spend a relaxing day on the greens with former classmates!