



02/22/17

## STUDENT MILESTONES

- **The Harry S. Truman Foundation** announced juniors **Joseph Kannarkat**, **Anjana Murali** and **Peter Zheng** are **Pitt Truman Scholarship** finalists. The winners will be announced in April.
- **The American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education** named PhD candidate **Oscar Medina** [School of Education] a 2017 Graduate Fellow. Medina's research focuses on examining the experiences of Latino students who are attending predominately white institutions.
- **The Coro Center for Civic Leadership** awarded junior **Hashaam Jamil** its 2017 Coro Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Emerging Leader Award last month. This award celebrates leaders who work to build strong, inclusive communities and who model Dr. King's inclusive approach to leadership.

## FACULTY MILESTONES

- **The Coro Center for Civic Leadership** awarded Professor **John Wallace** [School of Social Work] its 2017 Coro Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Individual Leadership Award. John was one of three winners honored in this category.
- **The National Security Agency** awarded Assistant Instructor of Chinese **Vanessa Wei** [Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures] a STARTALK grant to offer a free Chinese language summer camp to 20 high school students. STARTALK's mission is to increase the number of U.S. citizens learning, speaking and teaching critical need foreign languages.

## CHANCELLOR'S INNOVATION COMMERCIALIZATION FUND WINNERS

- **The Innovation Institute** awarded \$140,000 through the **Chancellor's Innovation Commercialization Funds**, which aims to support promising early-stage Pitt innovations. Four teams earned funding:
  - (1) **Thermoresponsive Hydrogel for Orbital Volume Augmentation**, proposed by Assistant Professor **Morgan Fedorchak** [Department of Ophthalmology] and Assistant Professor **Jenny Yu** [Department of Ophthalmology]. This innovation is a non-degradable hydrogel material that can be injected into the orbit of the eye following ocular trauma or as a treatment for genetic eye disorders.
  - (2) **BodyExplorer: Autonomous Simulated Patient**, proposed by doctoral candidate **Douglas Nelson Jr.**, Professor **John O'Donnell** [Department of Nurse Anesthesia] and Visiting Assistant Professor **Joseph Samosky** [Department of Bioengineering]. This innovation is a mannequin medical simulator with projected augmented reality that aims to help health care professionals sharpen their clinical skills.
  - (3) **Nano-LED Technology for Microdisplays**, proposed by Professor **Hong Koo Kim** [Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering] and doctoral student **Daud Hasan Emon**. This innovation aims to lower energy costs and lengthen battery life of existing LED technology.
  - (4) **Reactive Extraction of Water: Desalination Without Membranes or Distillation**, proposed by Distinguished Service Professor **Eric Beckman** [Swanson School of Engineering]. This innovation is a chemical method for desalinating water that requires less energy than the longstanding existing methods.

## REGIONAL CAMPUS MILESTONES

- The **2016 Collegiate Advertising Awards** honored **Pitt-Bradford** with a Gold Award in Newspaper Advertising-Series and a Silver Award in the direct mail-series category. These awards recognize U.S. colleges and universities for excellence in communications, marketing advertising and promotions.

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Our **Innovation Institute** and the **University City Science Center**—a Philadelphia-based nonprofit committed to connecting innovation to entrepreneurship—will collaborate to commercialize a Pitt-developed technology that improves the alignment of lower-limb prostheses. Assistant Professor **Goeran Fielder** [School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences] developed the technology along with former faculty member Jonathan Akins.

## INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

- **The Financial Times** released its 2017 Global MBA Rankings and recognized our **Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business** as: 21st among U.S. public programs, 45th in the United States and number 85th globally. The Financial Times evaluates programs across 20 categories, including salaries of graduates, alumni satisfaction and faculty research productivity.
- **The Princeton Review's** 2017 edition of *Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Schools That Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck* chose Pitt as one of its “best value” schools.
- The **Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)** selected our **College of Business Administration (CBA)** as a **2017 Innovations That Inspire Award winner** in the Engagement with Business category. AACSB recognized CBA for launching two career development programs that offer undergraduate students opportunities to interact with business leaders and alumni in an academic setting.

## GRANTS AND GIFTS

- **The National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute** granted our **Swanson School of Engineering** and **McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine** a four-year, \$2.36 million award to develop a compact respiratory assist device for children suffering from acute and chronic lung diseases. The Pittsburgh Pediatric Ambulatory Lung—the proposed name for this innovation—would replace traditional oxygenation methods used in pediatric care.
- **The Council on International Educational Exchange** awarded our **Study Abroad Office** matching funds for 200 Pitt students to receive a U.S. passport. As a result, **the University Center for International Studies** and the Study Abroad Office will hold a passport application event in fall 2017.

## CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

- We announced our 2017 **Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching, Research and Public Service Award** winners. Each of the 10 faculty members honored received a \$2,000 prize and \$3,000 grant.
  - (1) Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award recipients:
    - Assistant Professor **Sean Garrett-Roe** [Department of Chemistry]
    - Pitt-Greensburg Associate Professor **Melissa Marks** [Division of Behavioral Sciences]
    - Associate Professor **John Schumann** [Department of Neurobiology]
    - Senior Lecturer **Cindy Skrzycki** [Department of English]
  - (2) Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award recipients:
    - Distinguished Professor and Chair **Mark Gladwin** [Department of Medicine]
    - Professor **Thomas Kensler** [Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology]
    - Professor **Ronald Stall** [Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences]
    - Assistant Professor **Kara Bernstein** [Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics]
    - Associate Professor **Haitao Liu** [Department of Chemistry]
  - (3) 2017 Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award recipients:
    - Undergraduate Advisor and Senior Lecturer **Anthony Novosel** [Department of History]