

CHANCELLOR PATRICK GALLAGHER

Report to the University of Pittsburgh Senate

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST:

- The **Office of the Provost** served as host for the faculty development theater program, “Are You Aware,” to exam implicit bias in faculty recruiting.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Professors Susanne Ahmari and Marlene Cohen** were selected as 2015 McKnight Scholars by the McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience – one of the most prestigious awards for emerging neuroscientists.
- **Sanford Asher**, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, was honored by the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh for his contributions to the field.
- **Duncan Clark**, Professor of Psychiatry, was awarded a \$5 million National Institute on Drug Abuse grant to study the impact of adolescent marijuana, alcohol, and other drug use on the developing brain.
- **Professors Michael Collins and Anthony Kontos**, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, hosted 35 of the leading U.S. concussion experts to share on best practices and protocols.
- **Marc Coutanche**, Assistant Professor in Psychology and the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, and a Research Scientist in the Learning Research and Development Center, has been awarded the 2015 Krieg Cortical Kudos Scholar award from The Cajal Club, a prestigious organization of neuroscientists.
- **Yang Dong**, Neuroscience Professor, received the Society for Neuroscience’s Jacob P. Waletzky Award for his research on substance abuse, the brain and nervous system.
- **Psychiatry Professors William Klunk, David Lewis, and David Kupfer** were ranked in the top one percent of most-cited documents, according to a recent Thomas Reuters report.
- **Professor Melissa Libertus**, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Research Scientist, in the Learning Research and Development Center Learning, Research and Development Center, received a \$499,750 grant from the National Science Foundation to study parent-child interactions and children’s math abilities.
- **Aníbal Pérez-Liñán**, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Political Science and member of the Center for Latin American Studies was named Editor-in-Chief of the *Latin American Research Review*, the premier interdisciplinary journal of original research on Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Jerrold May**, Professor of Business Administration, received a grant of \$705,155 from the Department of Veterans Affairs, for a Business Access to Care Project.
- **Professor Rami Melham**, Department of Computer Science, is awarded \$964,435 grant for project “Lazy Shadowing an Adaptive, Power, Aware Resiliency Framework for Exascale Computing”
- **Professor Nathan Urban**, Associate Director of Pitt’s Brain Institute and Vice Provost for Special Projects, was awarded a \$6.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation, to explore the sense of smell and how the animal nose knows how to localize the smell of mates, food and other significant scents.
- **Stephen Wisniewski**, Professor of Epidemiology and Associate Vice Provost for Planning, and **Frank Scirba**, Director of Pitt’s Emphysema Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Research Center, are leading a \$16.8 million federal initiative aimed at developing new treatments for breathing disorders.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Ervin Dyer** was recognized as a Minority Achiever for outstanding professional contributions by Talk Magazine in October. He is a writer/editor with Pitt’s Office of University Communications.
- **Maxine Bruhns** recently celebrated 50 years of leadership in managing the Nationality Classrooms.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Iyanna Boatwright-Buffaloe**, a University of Pittsburgh sophomore and trombonist is the recipient of the 2015 Pitt-BNY Mellon Jazz Scholarship. She won the \$5,000 academic scholarship funded by Pitt's Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and BNY Mellon, which is awarded annually to a current or incoming Pitt music student
- **Osly Flores**, a doctoral student in the School of Education, has been selected as a 2015-2016 Barbara L. Jackson Scholar by the University Council for Educational Administration, which provides "formal networking, mentoring and professional development for graduate students of color who intend to become professors of educational leadership."
- **Five Pitt News** staff members received awards from the Associated Collegiate Press national journalism competition this weekend. Four Pitt students and one Pitt alumnus won awards in the categories of 2015 Story of the Year, Spot News Photo of the Year, Sports Story of the Year and Multimedia Story of the Year

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION:

- Pitt-Johnstown launched its pioneering Bachelor of Science in Engineering program, which will include the study of civil, mechanical, and chemical engineering.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:

- Pitt-Johnstown is doing a \$23 million revamp of the John P. Murtha Center for Public Service and National Competitiveness. It will upgrade engineering and physics labs and provide other updates.

PARTNERSHIPS:

- In October, the University entered into agreement with the Korea Medical Devices Industrial Cooperative Association. This international economic partnership will not only advance the development of medical products, it will aid regional development by fortifying Pitt's already excellent biotech programs, and expand regional opportunities for research and technical assistance.
- Last week the University also announced a research collaboration with Shire PLC, a global biopharmaceutical company, to advance potential treatments for rare diseases, which affect more than 320 million people worldwide according to patient advocacy organizations.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS:

- Pitt-Johnstown Business and Enterprise Division opened the region's first media training center, Mountain Cat Mission Control, to enable students to engage as partners for regional businesses.
- The Swanson School of Engineering has a partnership between Pitt's Electric Power Systems Lab in the Center for Energy and PITT OHIO to promote sustainability and energy efficiency.
- The University's Korean Heritage Classroom is ready for unveiling. The classroom is Pitt's 30th Nationality Room and the first new room to open since 2012.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION:

- The Pitt Law School and K&L Gates law firm have established the K&L Gates Diversity Fellowship, one of the first of its kind in the state.
- The Office of Admission and Financial Aid joined the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success to help recruit underrepresented students to Pitt.
- Larry Davis, Dean and Donald M. Henderson Professor in the School of Social Work, sponsored a panel discussion on the legacy of civil rights icon Julian Bond; Davis also spoke in Denver on "Race in America" What is Pitt Doing to Lead the Narrative," which was sponsored by the Pitt Alumni Association Academic Showcase.