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www.upj.pitt.edu/upjalum

PITT Johnstown

Mountain Cat News Edition (Winter 2009)

New Wellness Center Under Construction



What has nine sides, features a main structure that is 172 feet by 112 feet, and offers spectacular views of the campus? It's Pitt-Johnstown's new Wellness Center, which is currently under construction. Ground was broken for the facility on November 10.

President Jem Spectar presided over the groundbreaking ceremony and was joined by Howard M. Picking III, Pitt-Johnstown Advisory Board vice-chair and University of Pittsburgh Trustee, and Jeffrey Burtner, Student Government Association president.

In his remarks, President Spectar emphasized the importance of the facility. "Today we celebrate the groundbreaking for a new physical structure, but this will

be more than just a building. It will be a place where our students can explore the very important connection between the mind, body, and spirit."

The 40,000-square-foot facility, being constructed at a cost of \$9.7 million, will be connected to the Sports Center and will feature a three-lane, elevated running track, cardiovascular and strength-training equipment, dance/exercise/classroom space, two multipurpose courts for basketball and volleyball, and an indoor climbing wall. The facility will also include an outdoor wellness park. The facility is scheduled for completion in early 2011.

Additional information about the project is available at: www.upj.pitt.edu/WellnessCenter.

Nominate Now: Distinguished Alumni Award

Do you have a classmate from Pitt-Johnstown who epitomizes success: someone who is a leader in his/her profession, who serves the community, and has shown loyalty to Pitt-Johnstown? Please help us by nominating someone for the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Distinguished Alumni Award celebrates the success of our alumni, who are making a difference right here in our community and around the world. Additional information is available on our web site. The nomination deadline is January 4. Nominations will remain active for a period of two years.

The third Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented at **Pitt-Johnstown Proud** on Saturday, March 20. The event, which is the biggest alumni fundraiser of the year, will include dinner and a performance of Neil Berg's "The Twelve." Proceeds raised at **Pitt-Johnstown Proud** support scholarships at your alma mater.

Learn about the significant accomplishments at Pitt-Johnstown in the past year by reading our Annual Report. The report is available on-line at: www.upj.pitt.edu/AnnualReports (please enter 2009 as the PIN).



Visit our web site for the link!

Alumni Association Recognized for Giving Back



Congratulations to the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association on receiving a 2009 University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association Gold Banner Award. This is the second year in a row that the Association has received this prestigious honor, which recognizes the Association's efforts to support scholarship, contribute to student success, and reconnect with alumni.

Over the past academic year, the Alumni Association increased its endowed scholarship fund by 31% through its successful fundraising events, presented its annual Student Achievement Award (in the form of a \$1,000 scholarship), and partnered with the Office of Career Services to conduct a career and majors fair. The Association also provides financial support to several areas on campus including the athletics programs, Owen Library, Zamias Aquatic Center, the Blue and Gold Society, and the annual Accounting and Management Job Fair.

Pictured above: Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association President Gladys K. Go (center) accepts the award from Pitt Alumni Association President F. James McCarl (left) and Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Albert J. Novak.

An Explosive Homecoming!

A little rain (okay, a LOT of rain) didn't dampen the spirits at this year's Homecoming celebration! While many of the activities

were moved indoors due to rain, alumni from as far as Alaska turned out for this year's events, which included a Friday evening reception, a Saturday morning parade, and "20 Things to do in 4 Hours." The weekend kicked off Friday morning (the weather was picture-perfect) with the Pitt-Johnstown Golf Classic, which attracted more than 50 golfers. Golf is now a part of our annual Homecoming tradition.

If you couldn't make this year's Homecoming, check out the scrapbook on our web site (www.upj.pitt.edu/upjalum).

Pictured above: Pitt-Johnstown's favorite "Mad Scientist" Dave Willey dazzles the audience with his "How Does a Thing Like That Work?" demonstration.



**Mark your calendars for
next year's Homecoming:
September 24 & 25, 2010!**

Make a Difference at Your Alma Mater!

We urgently need your support. In return for a donation of \$50 or more, you will receive a free Mountain Cat stuffed animal. 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

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Apply my contribution to:

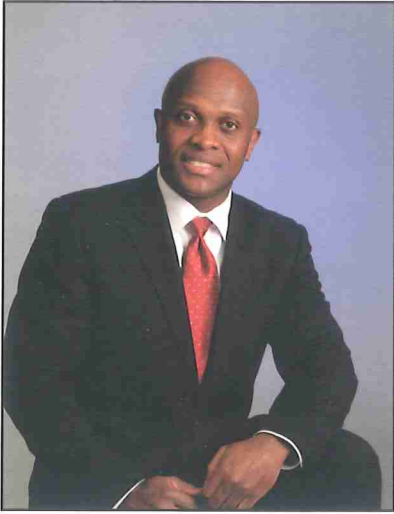
☐ Scholarships for students ☐ Pitt-Johnstown's greatest need

☐ Other _____

please specify

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

A Season of Gratitude



thanks to our talented student-athletes, our campus received the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference *Clement H. Clower Institutional Sportsmanship Award!* (Visit www.upj.pitt.edu/give to view our Annual Report and learn more about all of Pitt-Johnstown's accomplishments.)

Your support of your alma mater has never been more critical. More than ever, the University must adapt to the shifting tides that impact our country's economy, its workforce, and its future. The University has responded and now counts on its alumni to help move important initiatives forward. Some initiatives include:

- The "100 Days-100%" initiative exceeded all expectations in its very first year! Thanks to the diligence of our Career Services team, 44% of our 2009 graduating class had secured employment or were enrolled in graduate/professional school by the end of July, more than double the national average!
- The *RealWorld Action Program* that empowers students to design a customized personal and professional action plan to develop as agents of positive change in our communities and our world.
- An International Studies option that encourages study abroad and currently enrolls 42 international students on campus.
- The superb Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center continues to attract thousands of visitors to our campus, especially in 2009 with a record number of performance events!

- Our commitment to our community has increased dramatically through "Pitt-Johnstown @ Your Service." In 2009, our faculty, staff, and students lent helping hands to more than 35 organizations.

Please show your ongoing support to Pitt-Johnstown. Your tax-deductible gift to the Pitt-Johnstown Annual Fund by December 31 provides essential support towards financial aid to students, facilities upgrades, and curriculum and faculty development. As an alum, you may understand better than anyone that a gift can be life-changing for students who benefit from the progress it enables in financial aid resources, cutting-edge curriculum options, and always-needed campus improvements.

I urge you to consider the largest gift you can, but I promise you that *all* gifts are deeply appreciated. If you *all* help us annually, you have my heartfelt thanks. If you are considering a first-time gift to the University, I assure you that your support will be carefully directed for maximum benefit. And all donors of \$50 or more will receive our cute Mountain Cat stuffed animal!

Please visit campus the next time you are in the area; I look forward to meeting all our alumni. Best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous New Year!

Jem Spectar, Ph.D.
President

Seasons Greetings!

I take immense satisfaction and pride in the way the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown has responded to the challenges of 2009, an arduous year that has helped to focus our intentions on transforming Pitt-Johnstown. As an alum of this prestigious university, you are equally entitled to brag about the strategic accomplishments of your university.

Our faculty and staff have persevered in their efforts to strengthen our academic excellence, adding new majors in biochemistry and computer engineering technology, and in the establishment of a new Division of Nursing and Health Sciences. Our hard work to empower our students has forged the innovative and signature *RealWorld Action Program*; Pitt-Johnstown is nationally recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as a "Best Baccalaureate College" (2010), by the *Princeton Review* as a "Best Northeastern College" (2010), and by *G.I. Jobs* as a "Military Friendly School" (2010). And

Mountain Cat Proud: 18,515 alumni!

Graduates in every state except . . .



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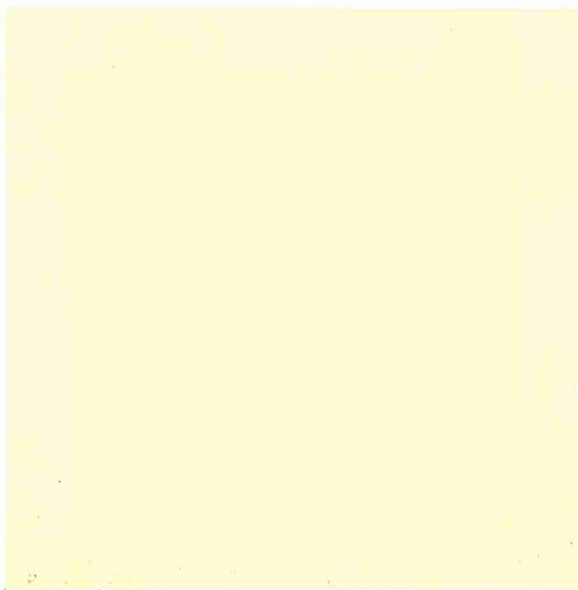
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