



The Insider

Serving the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg Campus

Professors Pied for Nancy Estrada Fund



Nicole Farkosh, Junior Math Major, pies Pitt-Greensburg math professor Dr. Gary Hart. The Pie Your Professor in the Face event was held March 18 on the lawn in front of Chambers and was sponsored by the Math Club to raise money for the Nancy Estrada Fund. Other participants included Dr. Wilson, Dr. T Brown, Dr. K Brown, Dr. Espinoza, Dr. Stauffer, Dr. Nelson, Rick Fogle, Police Chief Gillilan, and Harry from Cassel.

Wal-Mart Set to Raise Minimum Compensation

by Ben Garfinkel

In a recently released quarterly report, Wal-Mart announced a plan to raise its minimum associates' wage to \$9 per hour. The plan is set to begin in April, and will increase to \$10 in 2016. This wage increase puts the retail giant ahead of the curve; Federal law has mandated since 2009 that hourly workers be paid \$7.25 or more per hour of work.

While nationally this wage increase will place Wal-Mart's minimum compensation rate above the requirement, some state and local governments have different laws requiring a higher minimum wage. Some of the highest hourly wages are: San Francisco at \$10.70; Santa Fe \$10.66; San Jose \$10.15; and Los Angeles \$9. Washington, D.C. and San Diego plan to raise the minimum wage rate to \$11.50 per hour, Washington, D.C. by 2016 and San Diego by 2017.

The Wal-Mart stores in these locations must abide by local laws. Wal-Mart is the United States' largest private employer, employing 1.3 million Americans. The quarterly report indicated that the wage increase would cost the company about \$1 billion. The same report indicated that the compa-



ny earned \$115 billion in revenue that quarter.

Although the increase is certainly positive, the sentiment toward it by some Wal-Mart employees is less than praiseful. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, "Sue," a Wal-Mart cashier who works at the Robinson-area store, says that the increase isn't enough. Sue works full time at Wal-Mart, but must also bartend on the side to make ends meet and provide for herself and her three-year-old son. She says that while the increase will definitely be a boon, that it won't be enough for her to leave her bartending position. Sue says that she would have liked to see **SEE WALMART, PG 3**

The FCC Takes a Stand on Net Neutrality

by Rob Spadafore

A war is waging over access to the Internet. Early this March, the Federal Communications Committee laid out the new rules for their vision of the open Net. Coming in at 400 pages, the FCC's document set a definitive stance on many issues and explains the commission's reasoning behind the decisions.

Late in February, after a clear urge from President Obama, the FCC voted down party lines 3-2 for strong new regulations on broadband services. By redefining broadband as a "Title II" telecommunications service under the Communications Act of 1934, the agency will be able to regulate Internet service providers (or ISPs) in a similar way to telephone companies. This move grants the FCC an unprecedented amount of control, granting the commission the ability to make ISPs provide equal access to its services for customers.

The recent rulings differ from past statements the FCC made on the subject. In May of last year, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler proposed a very different set of rules that allowed ISPs to charge websites for better service. After massive outcry from the public and

tech groups like Google and Facebook, the FCC took some time to reevaluate their stance.

The FCC justifies its current decision as an effort to preserve net neutrality. Their official stance is that ISPs are restricted from limiting, or throttling, people's access to particular web content or sites.



"The open Internet drives the American economy and serves, every day, as a critical tool for America's citizens to conduct commerce, communicate, educate, entertain, and engage in the world around them. The benefits of an open Internet are undisputed. But it must remain open: open for commerce,

innovation, and speech; open for consumers and for the innovation created by applications developers and content companies; and open for expansion and investment by America's broadband providers," the FCC's document states in its first paragraph.

Still, some are concerned with the most recent proposal. While the FCC's document doesn't set up new taxes on the Internet, broadband connections are now classified under the same category as telecommunications. While the process is difficult, the FCC is capable of modifying their decision later down the road to create a tax on the Net similar to taxes on services like phone calls or text messages.

Internet providers oppose the decision, claiming that the ruling will hurt potential investment and growth of their companies, which may lead to higher prices and weaker services for customers.

The FCC framed the ruling around three essential pillars. Providers are not allowed to block consumers from any lawful content. They're also unable to throttle access to any services, including content from competitors or a specific source. Lastly, ISPs are not **SEE NEUTRALITY, PG 2**

The Insider

Serving the University of Pittsburgh at
Greensburg Campus

122 Village Hall
150 Finoli Dr.
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: 724-836-9896
Facebook: facebook.com/insiderPA
E-mail: UPGInsider@outlook.com
Twitter: twitter.com/upginsider
Web: InsiderUPG.com

The Insider is a student-written and run newspaper serving the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg campus. It is published every other Thursday during the semester.

The Insider accepts submissions, but reserves the right to edit for libel, length, punctuation, grammar, and obscenity; the determination of which is the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. Submissions must be signed and include contact information. They must be received no later than 5 p.m. Mondays. If the author of a letter wishes to remain anonymous, they must attach a separate letter of explanation. Letters can be e-mailed to UPGInsider@outlook.com.

The Insider is funded by advertising revenue and the Pitt-Greensburg Student Government Association.

The Insider is free and available on campus and throughout Greensburg.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writer or speaker, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper staff, student body, Pitt-Greensburg University, or the community. The Insider does not endorse and has not verified the legitimacy of advertisers or their ads. The Insider and/or Pitt-Greensburg University of Pennsylvania is not responsible for the content of advertisements.

Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief
Kyle Holland

Assistant Editor
Christy Walters

Copy Editor
Luke McDermott

Copy Editor
Shannon Sankey

Layout Editor | Webmaster
Michelle Boring

Sports Editor
PJ Dumnich

Social Media
Bobby Walch

Cartoonist
Nikki Pena

Writers

Amanda Bateman | Michelle Boring
Ben Garfinkel | PJ Dumnich | Ean Jury
Julia Mantsch | Luke McDermott
Nikki Pena | Tori Phillips
William Rutledge | Shannon Sankey
Rob Spadafore | Jessica Stewart
Bobby Walch | Christy Walters

Shamrocked

by Ean Jury

Let's get shamrocked!

On St. Patrick's Day, green beer and Guinness flow, leaving glasses empty, bars overcrowded, and green-clad celebrators inebriated for hours. Drunken revelers celebrate their "Irishness" by guzzling down beers, shots, and mixed drinks in record time for a cultural holiday that has turned March 17 into one of the most alcohol-fueled days of the year.

Every year, college students attend parties and bars on this day with one goal: to get completely shamrocked. It's a phrase that encourages college students to binge drink to the point of blacking out. While it's fine to toast to the Emerald Isles patron, St. Patrick, it is still important to understand the side effects of binge drinking before becoming incoherent and bleary-eyed. According to Dr. Jim Sample, an emergency physician at Westmoreland Emergency Room, binge drinking can damage the liver and the brain.

"When a person who does not abuse alcohol on a regular basis consumes a large quantity of alcohol in a short period of time, it can damage these organs," he said, "The liver can only metabolize about one drink per hour, so when someone binge drinks, the liver cannot absorb all of the alcohol fast enough. This, in turn, can lead to alcohol poisoning."

While binge drinking is mostly as-

sociated with minor, acute side effects such as nausea, vomiting, memory loss, and dehydration, it is possible that other more serious complications can arise as well. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1,825 college students die each year from binge drinking. Binge drinking occurs when drinking causes the blood alcohol content (BAC) to rise above .08 percent. This typically



occurs when a male consumes five or more drinks and/or when a woman consumes four or more drinks in two hours.

In fact, 75 percent of all alcohol consumed by adults is in the form of binge drinking. The ratio is even greater among college students, with 90 percent of all alcohol consumption occurring as binge drinking.

According to Tharon Logan, the

owner of The Point in downtown Greensburg, St. Patrick's Day is one of her busiest days of the year.

"People come in around 10 a.m. and drink for the rest of the day, well into the early hours of the morning," she said, "It's one of the only times I hire security. Customers often become belligerent and unruly."

One of the greatest problems with binge drinking is impaired judgment. Due to the amount of alcohol in their system, people can no longer rely on their decision-making skills. This, in turn, results in some drunks thinking they are sober enough to drive.

Since alcohol is a depressant, it slows down the central nervous system and inhibits brain cells.

"When your central nervous system slows, you are not able to process things sharply or quickly," said Dr. Sample. "So when people drive drunk, they are often unable to process what lane they are driving in, when they should turn, etc. All important decision-making skills are impaired."

So when you go out, be smart. If you intend to be out all day, pace yourself. If you want to bar hop, go with friends you trust who will dissuade you from belligerence. If you're drunk, don't drive; call for a designated driver instead. While drinking and celebrating can be fun, it can also be dangerous if you don't know how or when to exercise caution.

The FCC Takes a Stand on Net Neutrality

FROM NEUTRALITY, PG 1
allowed to provide better or faster service to sites that pay extra.

These rules ensure that ISPs cannot set up what are commonly referred to as Internet fast lanes. For example, if Netflix paid Comcast, the digital-video service would stream high-quality videos faster than services that didn't pay extra.

But Netflix, along with other companies like Google, Facebook, and Amazon, stands against throttling the open Internet, filing comments with the FCC after the commission's proposal last year. These companies and over 30 other tech businesses are part of a lobbying group called the Internet Association.

Both the Internet-Association's and the general-public's criticism provided a clear and unified stance on America's desire for a free and open Internet. Together, they submitted over 1.7 million comments to the FCC between May and September of last year.

These rules still need to be published in the Federal Registrar and will start two months after that. At that time, companies like AT&T who disagree with the FCC's decision will be able to file lawsuits. Until then, the rules are considered the law of the digital land.

Police Blotter

These are the events that took place between Saturday, February 21, 2015, and Friday, March 27, 2015 on the Pitt-Greensburg Campus

Saturday, February 21, 2015
5:50 p.m. - University Courts

"Disorderly Conduct—Visiting non-student found to be in possession of marijuana in a residence hall Juvenile arrest."

Monday, March 2, 2015
10:54 p.m. - University Courts

"Drug Abuse Sale, Possession—Resident student possibly stalking another. Resident student found to possess marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia. Investigation continues, charges may be filed."

Saturday, March 7, 2015
2:03 a.m. - University Courts

"Disorderly Conduct— One resident student found to be in possession of small amount of marijuana. Arrested, charged with Disorderly Conduct."

Saturday, March 7, 2015
4:30 p.m. - Franklin House

"Larceny-Theft— Resident report theft of small, miscellaneous personal items. Discovered after return from spring break. Investigation continues."

Wal-Mart Set to Raise Minimum Compensation

FROM WALMART, PG 1

the increase raise the minimum-wage rate to around \$12 to \$15 an hour; it would take this much for her to be able to leave her side job.

Typically, a Wal-Mart Department Manager can earn between \$9 and \$21 an hour, according to estimates from Glassdoor, a web service where employees and former employees anonymously review companies and management. When speaking to a Wal-Mart manager on different occasions, I was directed to a 1-800 number to answer specific questions about the corporation as a whole.

A manager who works at the Greensburg-area store, Kathleen, said that she is pleased with the wage increase and that the increase would “give her employees a better opportunity to provide for their families.” Kathleen also said that she is glad that even the lowest wage in the company

would be above the national minimum wage rate.

In October of 2014, a group called Our Wal-Mart protested in the streets of New York; Washington, D.C.; and Phoenix. The protest demanded that workers be paid a wage of \$15 an hour at the least.

When examining the wages at Costco, a direct competitor of Wal-Mart (specifically, the Wal-Mart-owned bulk store Sam’s Club), it can be clearly seen that large businesses can afford to pay workers at least \$15 an hour. According to the Harvard Business Review, Costco employees earn an average of \$17 an hour, while employees at Sam’s Club earn an average of \$10.16 an hour. Eighty-two percent of Costco employees receive health insurance, contrasted against the fewer than 50 percent of Wal-Mart employees who have that benefit.



courtesy of Nikki Pena

Brian Williams: The Price He Paid

by *Tori Phillips*

On January 30, 2015, Brian Williams raised eyebrows when discussing events during his coverage of the Iraq War back in 2003. The country was pulled into the nightly story when it became clear that Williams had created lies about his coverage, most notably his claim that the helicopter he was in had been assaulted by ground fire. His January story did not tie into the story he told back in 2003.

Williams apologized via Facebook, writing: “Because I have no desire to fictionalize my experience . . . and no need to dramatize events as they actually happened, I think the constant viewing of the video showing us inspecting the impact area—and the fog of memory over 12 years—made me conflate the two, and I apologize.” Eleven days following the slip-up in his story, the president of NBC News, Deborah Turness, announced Williams’s six-month suspension from “Nightly News” without pay.

“This suspension is the appropriate and proportionate action,” Turness said. “Brian misrepresented events which occurred while he was covering the Iraq War in 2003 . . . This was wrong and completely inappropriate for someone in Williams’s position.”

“When you violate that trust of the American public, you’re also significantly damaging the reputation of the corporation,” John Prellwitz, Associate Professor of Communication at Pitt-Greensburg, said. “He’s seen as a reporter. That trust is really important in the United States—[a violation of] public trust that NBC took seriously.”

In the meantime, Lester Holt has served as anchor for the “Nightly News.” On February 20, 2015, Williams resigned his membership from the “Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation’s” board of directors.

Personal embarrassment may be an additional consequence as a result of these humiliations, but are the punishments appropriate enough for someone in Brian’s position?

When journalist and biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin faced accusations of plagiarism due to errors in citation and credibility for her book “The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys” back in 2002, at first, she waived about the errors in her work. Weeks later, she openly admitted to more flaws in her citations and resources; she eventually resigned from the Pulitzer Prize Board and took a leave of absence from her seat on PBS’s “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer” until she, as PBS said, “gets her situation resolved.” Goodwin never returned to PBS.

While the Pulitzer-Prize-winning author of “No Ordinary Time” has improved on her reputation following the scandal surrounding her book, the fate of Williams’s future remains in question. Although both figures initially remained reluctant to admit their errors and have been faced with consequences, the aftermath of Goodwin’s scandal may offer hope for the remainder of Williams’s career.

Prellwitz says that Williams may be able to redeem himself yet, “if he keeps out of the public eye during the six months of his hiatus.”

Are Driverless Cars the Way of the Future?

by *William Rutledge*

Uber is a driving service that was started in 2009 with the idea of making it easier to get around. It’s like a cab service, just much more reliable and cheap. Instead of calling hours ahead and waiting for a cab, Uber has its own application for smart phones, which shows the drivers who are in your area via GPS. You can usually get rides within 15 minutes of placing the order and as little as one minute if you are in an Uber-heavy area.

The app has had much success since its launch. At the moment, Uber is operating in over 200 American cities, with more on the way. By teaming up with Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Uber hopes that it can take its service to the next level. For years, Carnegie Mellon has been making strides in the robotics field, especially robotic cars that require no driver.

Uber’s chief executive, Travis Kalanick, said to Code Conference,



Uber app. Courtesy of wtvox.com

“When there’s no other dude in the car (driver), the cost of taking an Uber anywhere becomes cheaper than owning a vehicle. So the magic there is, you basically bring the cost below the cost of ownership for everybody, and then car ownership goes away.” This would save the user money because only the service is being paid for, you don’t have to pay for the person to drive you around, which will bring down prices for their services.

Uber will be building a lab where it can work with Carnegie Mellon to start making these driverless cars, which Uber wants to become the standard of the company. Some of the things they want to put into the new cars are better map sharing (to avoid driver confusion) and safety measures (to better protect the passengers and other people on the road).

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission signed a two-year agreement to let Uber run its cars in Pennsylvania in every city with the exception of Philadelphia. Carnegie Mellon has already teamed up with Google, and now, with Uber in the mix, Pittsburgh is becoming a big influence in the world of technology.

“This is a case where collaboration between the city and its universities is creating opportunities for job growth and community development,” Bill Peduto, mayor of Pittsburgh, told the Columbus Dispatch.

Andrew Moore, dean of the CMU School of Computer Science, weighed in after hearing about the deal between the company and University.

“Carnegie Mellon has been working hard over the last few years,” Moore said, “developing direct relationships with the absolute top companies in technology and science, so it’s not surprising that we tend to bump into each other.”

According to techcrunch.com, “Shares in Uber, meanwhile, continue to soar. Its stock was up a whopping 10 percent in after-hours trading on news of the deal, bringing shares to an all-time high.” Pittsburgh is becoming a technological powerhouse, which has been a surprise to people who were not aware of the technological profile that Pittsburgh has. But to the students and professors of Carnegie Mellon University, it has been a long time coming. The future is here and it is beginning right in your back yard.

Community Assistants Prepare for Fall Term

by Christy Walters

Summer break is just around the corner, but the Pitt-Greensburg Residence Life staff is already planning for next year. Ten new students were hired to fill Community Assistant (CA) positions for the Fall 2015 semester.

“We had a very strong group of applicants this year,” said Brian Root, Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life.

Out of 55 applicants, including both new and returning CAs, only 21 positions were available to be filled.

“We couldn’t even hire half of the applicants,” Root said. “Some students didn’t even make it to the group process stage because of GPA restrictions or other factors, but even then, we had tough decisions to make.”

The Residence Life professional staff takes many aspects of an applicant’s character into consideration during the hiring process.

“I personally look for applicants with leadership experience and I try to determine how well they might be able to meet the expectations of the job, like handling one-on-one meetings with their residents,” Root said.

Sarah Young, Resident Director of Robertshaw Hall, said that the two qualities she looks for in CA applicants are attitude and initiative.

“I want a team that’s friendly and compassionate and has a strong work ethic,” Young said. “It’s my opinion that leadership starts from the firm determination to not only want to help, but to act on the plan.”

The professional staff also looks for experienced applicants when making their decisions.

“We rely on our CA staff to be a resource for our resident students and to help them successfully connect with our campus, our curriculum, and with one another in the halls,” Young said. “This is best accomplished if the C.A. has some experience with getting involved and taking advantage of campus resources so that they are better able to refer students who may need guidance.”

The new hires are enthusiastic about starting their jobs and they are eager to make a difference in the on-campus community.

“I live in College Hall this year. I love it, but there are some people on my floor that I never got the chance to know. Being a CA will be exciting because I know I will get to know all my residents on a personal level,” said Mike Spadafore, a freshman business management major.

Freshman Sara McConnell said she’s most excited to plan programs for her residents.

“I want to know what people are in to and create events that will make them happy to participate,” she said.

Marissa Shaffer, a freshman Chemistry major, said she’s excited to bond with, and learn from, her fellow Community Assistants.

“I think that being part of the friendly, close knit group of C.A.s will be super exciting.”

While the new hires are excited, they’re also aware that there might be challenges along the way.

“I think my biggest challenge will be having to prioritize things, such as clubs, schoolwork, work, and the CA position,” said Sade Banks, a sophomore chemistry and psychology major. “I know I will definitely have a huge calendar on my wall just so I will be able to keep everything organized.”

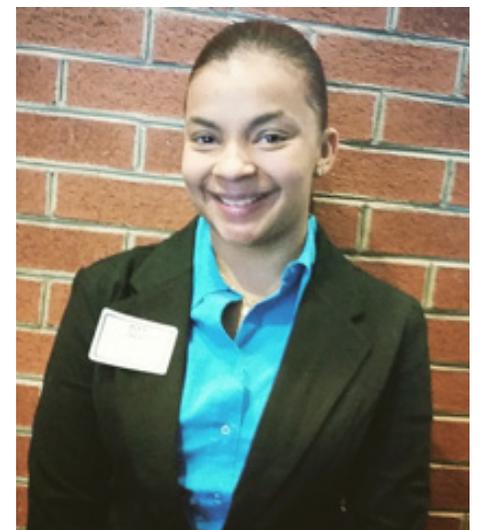
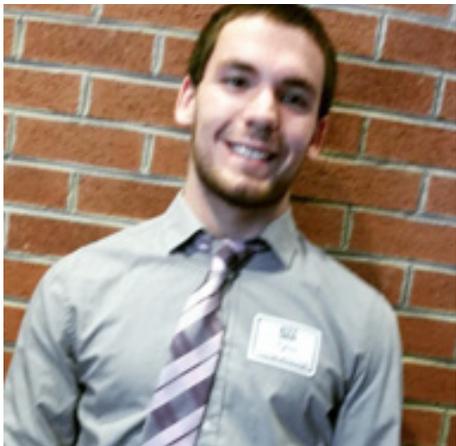
Age differences and maintaining authority are also concerns.

“It’s weird to have an authority position when those you’re in charge of are older than you,” McConnell said.

“I will always want my residents to come to me with issues and concerns and to have faith and trust in me with anything,” said Kate Andrews, a freshman Secondary Education major. “At the same time, I will be looked to as a rule-enforcer and a role model on this campus, so it will be a challenge balancing friendships and authority.”

To be considered for a position, students had to fill out an online application of short answer questions, attain two letters of recommendation, and have at least a 2.5 G.P.A. Students that met those requirements were invited to Group Process Day, which included group activities and half-hour interviews with the Residence Life professional staff.

The following 21 students will serve as Community Assistants for the Fall 2015 semester: University Courts: Sami Lipp, Jess Jaszcar, Lynn Evans, and Paidamoyo Muzorori; Academic Villages: Cassie Foradori – Apollo House, Sara McConnell – Athena House, Rob Pokora – Franklin House, Tara Ritenour – Marshall House, Kate Andrews – Mead House, and Kara Goughnour – Selene House; Westmoreland Hall: Marissa Schaffer, Noel Saraceno, and Mike Spadafore; Robertshaw Hall: Jake Giffen, Gabby Mack, Maria Yates, and Tyler Lookabaugh; College Hall: Brandon Herrington, Zach Mazingo, Sade Banks, and Amanda Bateman.



Pictured are the new CA's for the fall semester: Kara Goughnour, Rob Pokora, Sara McConnell, Brandon Herrington, Paidamoyo Muzorori, Marissa Schaffer, Mike Spadafore, Sade Banks, and Tyler Lookabaugh. Not pictured is Kate Andrews.

Mr. and Ms. UPG Crowned



Pictured are the contestants: Brittney Lojas, Chad Weissert, Mr. UPG Ryan Tang, Ms. UPG Amanda Smith, Jerome Williams, Shayla Clisby, Gami-Lou Beli, and Shelby Povlick. -Photo courtesy of Jessica Stewart

by Jessica Stewart

The Diversity Student Coalition (DSC) hosted the Mr. and Ms. UPG Pageant on Wednesday, February 25 at 7 p.m. in Ferguson Theatre.

“The pageant is a way to promote diversity, while encouraging the student body to participate,” said Le’Nisha Williams, DSC president.

The contestants were judged on five segments that included swimwear, casual wear, talent, evening wear, and question-and-answer. The judges were Sheila Confer, Troy Ross, Jen Kominisky, and Dr. Jackie Horrall. There were eight contestants this year: Shelby Povlick, Gami-Lou Beli, Amanda Smith, Shayla Clisby, Brittney Lojas, Chad Weissert, Ryan Tang, and Jerome Williams.

The swimwear segment ranged from bikinis to shorts and some cool shades. Casual wear showcased the

sophisticated side of the contestants. The talent portion had singing, magic tricks, comedy, and art, allowing each contestant to express their individuality. The theatre filled with laughter and applause after each performance.

“My favorite part of the pageant was getting the chance to perform on stage for the talent segment,” Amanda Smith said.

DSC concluded the segments with the evening wear. Contestants put on their very best to make one more appearance on the stage. The evening concluded with the crowning of Mr. and Ms. UPG. When the judges’ scores were tallied, Ryan Tang was crowned Mr. UPG and Amanda Smith was crowned Ms. UPG for 2015.

“It was the wonderful support from my peers that encouraged me to enter the pageant,” Ryan Tang said.

Pitt-Greensburg’s Habitat for Humanity Traveled to Pittsboro, North Carolina



The students and staff attending the spring break trip are Sarah Arndt (Student Trip Leader), Alyssa Baker, Raina Bradley, Katie Byers, Justin Cannalley, Akshai Chundru, Shayla Clisby, Flynn Connelly, Trevor Dece-sere, Patrick Dittmar, Fiona Filencia, Cassie Foradori, Jocelyn Hamwey, Cody Karch, Gabby Mack, Haley Moody, Zach Mozingo, Joe Most, Rob Pokora, Noel Saraceno, Marissa Shaffer, Natalie Skinner, Molly Tanner, Mario Tarabocchia, Quoc Vo, Trevor Wormack, Jimmy Wotring, Brian Root (Campus Chapter Advisor and Trip Leader), Cayla Turner (Graduate Resident Advisor), and Dijon Henderson (Alumnus).

Brian Root Receives Chancellor’s Award for Staff for Excellence in Service to the Community

by Amanda Bateman

Pitt-Greensburg congratulates Brian Root, who has recently received the Chancellor’s Award for Staff for Excellence in Service to the Community.



Brian Root is the Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life and is an advisor for many clubs on campus, including Habitat for Humanity and Circle K.

This honor is awarded by the University of Pittsburgh, not just the Greensburg campus. The award is given to “those whose performance consistently exceeds the standards and expectations set for their position. This award is intended to recognize those staff members whose commitment and performance has made a significant impact on the University.”

What community service projects/groups are you a part of?

I’ve been involved in community service since junior high. Some of my more notable areas of involvement are with the Kiwanis Club, Habitat for Humanity, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation’s Walk for a Cure, and the United Way. Some of my other favorite local nonprofits to volunteer with are the Westmoreland County Food Bank and Meals on Wheels.

Which community service project/group is your favorite?

I’ll always have a soft spot in my heart for the Kiwanis Club. I’ve been involved in the Kiwanis family since I was a freshman in high school. I was in the Key Club for four years in high school and Circle K for three years in college. The Key Club at my high school (Reynolds High School) was my first true outlet for doing service in the community. The Kiwanis Club is the parent organization to both the Key Club and Circle K. I have history in the Kiwanis family that dates back almost 20 years.

However, I must say that Habitat for Humanity has presented me with so many wonderful service opportuni-

ties, as well. I have taken groups of students on alternative spring break trips to Florida, Tennessee and North and South Carolina. In addition, I’ll soon be embarking on a personal Habitat for Humanity Global Village trip to Romania in May. There’s something very special about helping construct a home with a family who will eventually be able to call it a home.

Why do you participate in these groups?

I grew up in a single-parent house. My mom didn’t have a lot of money, and she had four kids. Therefore, my family was often the beneficiary of community programs ranging from the Salvation Army to our local church. My mom was on Welfare, got food from a local food pantry, and for several years, we lived in public housing – what many refer to as ‘the projects.’

One of the random memories I have from my childhood was courtesy of the Salvation Army’s “Coats for Kids” program. I remember walking through Hills Department Store with an adult volunteer who helped me pick out a coat and gloves. I didn’t quite understand the impact of that program until I grew older, but how awesome was it that I was receiving a coat and gloves because of the Salvation Army and a local group of volunteers.

Because I understand what it’s like to rely on charity, it really instilled in me the desire to give back to my community. I love the idea of giving back or paying it forward.

What’s different about doing community service as a staff member versus doing community service as a student?

There’s not much difference really. Community service is the same regardless of your age and situation. As a student, there are numerous opportunities at your fingertips; but those opportunities don’t disappear as an adult. A lot of my service work is done in partnership with our students. I advise three service organizations here at Pitt-Greensburg. That makes service even more special to me, because oftentimes I am getting to do two things that I love at the same time – giving back to the community and engaging with my students.

Brian Root will be recognized at a reception on May 5 at the Chancellor’s Residence. His name will be added to a plaque displayed in the William Pitt Union inscribed with the names of all recipients of the Chancellor’s Awards.

Is It Enough?

Wal-mart: A Little More than Minimum Effort

Wal-Mart has increased its minimum pay to employees to \$10 per hour. This is a big step forward, but is it enough?

We can all agree that the current minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour isn't enough for a family to live on (assuming the breadwinners work only 40 hours per week), but is \$10?

Roughly, someone making \$10 per hour, working 40 hours per week, is going to gross \$20,800 per year. Even without taxes, for a single mother, that isn't going to cut it.

According to wikiinvest.com, Wal-Mart's profits for 2014 were \$129.74 billion. Thinkprogress.org says that about 500,000 employees will see a wage increase. For the sake of argument, let's treat these employees as if they were all Pennsylvania workers, working at state minimum wage. Their pay would increase by \$2.75 per hour. Again, for the sake of argument, let's say that these employees are all working 40-hour-work weeks. Wal-Mart is spending an extra \$2.86 billion on employees. While this seems like a lot, keep in mind this is only about 2.2 percent of Wal-Mart's profits.

In a country where Wal-Mart is so ubiquitous that it could set the pre-

cedent for minimum wage, why not pay employees \$12 per hour? This would cost a total of \$5.72 billion, or 4.4 percent of their total profits. More importantly, it would allow a 40-hour-per-week worker to gross about \$24,960 per year, or an extra (roughly) 16 percent of their total income.

Wal-Mart could even choose to raise its prices in order to compensate for the money that it's losing. That way, it could still keep its profits high and employees happy. How much would it cost the average customer to pay for the Wal-Mart-employees' wages at this rate? According to makingchangeatwalmart.org, the cost would be an extra \$.46 per shopping trip, or \$12.50 per year.

More importantly, this raise increase would do one of two things: give Wal-Mart an unprecedented hiring advantage over competitors who do not want to pay as much or force others to pay a higher wage, as well.

But while Wal-Mart can afford to do this, what does this mean for the average small-business owner that can't afford to keep up with a rising minimum wage? Maybe it's a good thing Wal-Mart wants to keep its employees poor.

#BruisersBookies



Pictured are the members of #BruisersBookies. Back row from left to right are Sharon Okoye, Amanda Schlosnagle, Jessica Stewart, Thalia Speksnijder. Front Row left to right are Paida Muzorori, Kim Dao, Bookstore Manager Kathleen Fennell, Amanda Sepp, and Mallory Oates. With Bookstore clerk Brandon Hreha. (Photo courtesy of Jessica Stewart)

by Jessica Stewart

Bruisers Bookies is a club started by Bookstore Manager, Kathleen Fennell, and Director of Business Affairs, Ronna Colland. The goal of the club is to "allow students to share what they would like to see in the bookstore," Fennell said.

The club has helped to increase sales by promoting the bookstore via social media. Members of the club helped with Grad Central that took place on February 17, 2015.

The students in the organization discuss what new items they would like to see, whether they want "Pitt" or "Pitt-Greensburg" written on apparel, and what new improvements can be made to the bookstore.

Some things to look forward to in the bookstore are the new items that will be coming in for graduation and the 10-percent discount that will take place the whole month of April. Anyone interested in sharing their opinions or becoming a part of the club are welcome to join. Bruisers Bookies usually meets once a month on Wednesdays at noon.



Racism and Rivalries

by Christy Walters

On March 8, a video surfaced of Parker Rice and Levi Pettit, brothers of the University of Oklahoma chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, performing a racist chant.

They chanted, "You can hang him from a tree, but he will never sign with me! There will never be a [expletive] in SAE."

Pettit's family released a statement denying that their son is a racist, claiming that he had just made a bad decision. Rice released his own statement, admitting that his actions were "wrong and reckless" and "alcohol induced."

Nathalie Baptiste, a writing fellow at "The American Prospect" magazine, said the men "sang as if they were at a pep rally and their school was headed for the big championship game."

This type of behavior has not been uncommon in recent media coverage. Last month, Chelsea soccer fans were

slammed after video footage emerged showing them performing racist chants, like "we're racist, we're racist, and that's the way we like it," on the Paris Metro and on trains in Manchester.

Chelsea fans denied the chanting and their alleged refusal to allow a black man to enter a tramcar after a soccer match because of his race. The fans claimed they wouldn't let him on because he was wearing opposing-team apparel.

I think almost everyone can agree that chanting vulgar refrains and denying African Americans access to public transportation or certain social groups, like the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, are socially and morally wrong.

I'm a huge Pittsburgh Penguins fan. I dislike Flyers fans simply because they bleed orange and black. Die-hard Steelers fans feel the same way about Ravens fans or even Browns

fans, depending on whom you talk to, and Pirate fans feel that way about Cardinals fans.

Rivalries are natural, especially when competition is involved. Sure, it feels good to heckle the Islanders fans in front of you when the Penguins go up three to one with a minute left in the third. It feels good to elbow the Patriots fan at your Super Bowl party and make a comment when Tom Brady gets sacked on a fourth down. But would we really let that kind of behavior spill over into everyday life?

Would you pass someone over for a job because they hailed from Blackhawk territory? Would you not let a kid into college because he follows the Yankees? No. Most people would probably say that sounds ridiculous.

So does it sound any less absurd to deny someone entrance to a fraternity or a subway car because of their skin color? Does it sound less insane to

judge someone's ability based on race, ethnic background, or gender?

It doesn't.

It's 2015. We've already fought multiple battles for equality and obviously some are still going on. But that is supposed to be the beauty of America, people are supposed to be given equal opportunities to get jobs, go to school, run for office, and even join fraternities and sororities. I'm not sure if prejudice and bias can ever be completely wiped out of our culture, but wouldn't it be better if everyone focused on the important issues in the world—the economy, foreign affairs, and healthcare—rather than focusing on who can and can't be included based on race?

Let's not turn the clock back almost 50 years. Treat other people with respect and get to know them before you judge them and decide they are unworthy of being in your circle. Save your snide comments and rivalries for game day.

The Order: 1886, Stunning and Stale

by Rob Spadafore

A lot of attention is on Sony's new cinematic third-person shooter, "The Order: 1886." After early disappointments like "Watchdogs" and "Destiny" failed to give validity to the new generation of console hardware, expectations heightened for the first party offering, with some anticipating the game since the announcement trailer at Sony's E3 2013 Press Conference.

Developer Ready at Dawn crafted a detailed and gritty world to satisfy gamers who are looking for a visual stunner but failed to implement gameplay mechanics that engage the player with their dystopian vision of London.

Visually, it is the best looking console game on the market. Settings and textures are meticulously detailed and expertly rendered. Cut scenes run so seamlessly into game play that, at times, I forgot I was playing a game until an onscreen prompt reminded me to press a button.

While I marveled at the visual feat, the interactions are sometimes unnecessary or jarring. After a brief cut scene



that showed the main character repel down a zeppelin, he idled along a set of metallic rafters, waiting for my queue, and leaving me with no option but to press forward on the analog stick. After a few steps along the structure, the cut scene resumed. Other times, quick-time events appear mid scene, as if the player needs to be reminded that he or she is still playing a game.

The best elements of The Order are polished, like the shooting mechanics that are simplistic but satisfying. Cover mechanics are mostly fine-tuned, and I

never got bored with the array of weaponry. The game's main character, Galahad, is gruff and a bit generic, but the supporting characters are well-crafted, and the central plot entertains despite a predictable late-act twist.

Ultimately, peculiar design choices block the player from truly inhabiting a role in the game's universe and act as reminders of the screen and controller. During the quieter moments, items are scattered about for you to pick up and view. Reading newspaper headlines can be informative, and looking

at photos evokes something deeper about the alternate history, but rolling objects like an apple or iron statue around with your virtual hand provides no satisfying feedback. Annoyingly, collectible audio logs don't start playing over the game when picked up and force the player to access and listen to them through the main menu.

Whether because of graphical limitations or a desire for a more cinematic effect, two large black bars constantly frame the top and bottom of the screen. It limits the field of view considerably, denying players full-screened scopes of the landscapes. Button prompts appear both in and out of cut scenes, pulling attention away from the wonderful action and placing it on the controller.

Gamers were hoping for an experience that felt 'next-gen.' What "The Order" delivers is a graphical powerhouse whose design and vision were rooted in the past: the ideal game a decade too late. Despite an engaging story and wondrous graphics, "The Order: 1886," at full price, is hard to recommend.

Bands You Should Know About

by Bobby Walch

Too often the best music comes from bands that never make an appearance on radio or television. If you have heard of the band name, then chances are you know only about that one song that made it to the radio. These bands, however, usually have more great songs that you are missing out on by



listening only to their singles.

One band that you might have passed up is The Hush Sound. The Hush Sound was formed in 2005, and consists of four band members: Bob Morris and Greta Morgan, vocals, guitar, and piano; Darren Wilson, the drummer; and Chris Faller, the bass player.

The Hush Sound can be described as a mix between Indie and alternative rock. They have recorded three albums since their formation, the most recent being "Goodbye Blues." The Hush

Sound's most popular hits include "Wine Red" and "Crawling Towards the Sun." However, you might not have heard "Hourglass," "Lighthouse," or "Break the Sky." These songs are great because the lyrics are simple yet powerful. Their relaxing sound makes the music good to put on while you are trying to focus on homework, or even rock out to when you need music that you can sing along to. The Hush Sound last performed in Pittsburgh in June 2013.

Marina and the Diamonds is another artist that you might have missed, even though she is gaining popularity. Marina Diamandis created the name "Marina and the Diamonds" in 2005, with "The Diamonds" as a reference to her fan base.

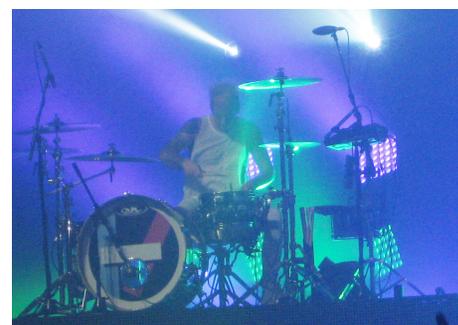
Marina and the Diamonds has a specific mix of indie and electropop. At the moment, she has released three albums, the latest, entitled "Froot," was released this March. One of her most popular hits is the song "Hollywood."

Less popular songs that are recommended are "Are You Satisfied?," "The Outsider," and "Lonely Hearts Club." These songs are amazing because they are upbeat and energizing. Marina and the Diamonds is an artist that anyone can listen to and enjoy. Additionally,

the lyrics to her music are empowering to women because they smash many old-fashioned-patriarchal stigmas. Marina and the Diamonds will be performing in Pittsburgh at Stage AE on May 26.

The final band that you may have heard of is Twenty One Pilots. Twenty One Pilots was formed in 2009, and consists of Tyler Joseph, vocals, and Josh Dunn, drums. In 2014, the band gathered attention by performing at the "MTV Music Awards" and on "Late Night" with Seth Meyers.

Twenty One Pilots, like Marina and the Diamonds, has a distinct sound that makes its music original. The music can be described as a mix between



indie pop and pop rap. The band itself describes the sound as a "[d]istinctive fusion of piano-driven schizoid pop and lyrical uplift."

Twenty One Pilots has released

three albums, with "Vessel" as its most popular album. On March 16, the band released a new song, entitled "Fairly Local," and announced that on May 19, they will be releasing a new album,



called "Blurryface." The band's most notorious song is "Car Radio." Recommended songs are "Lovely," "Forest," and "Semi-Automatic." These songs are inspiring and hold deep meaning within their lyrics. Twenty One Pilots is a band that might require you to listen to its songs a few times before they start to grow on you because the sound is different from a lot of bands you may have heard before. Twenty One Pilots performed in Pittsburgh last September, and has performances in the city quite often.

Next time you find you love a song by a band you are unfamiliar with, take a chance and buy a CD. Who knows? You might find a new favorite band.

Women's Basketball Fall in AMCC Finals

by PJ Dumnich

In their third matchup of the year, number three seed Pitt-Greensburg and number two seed Pitt-Bradford faced off in the AMCC semi-finals on Friday, February 27.

If this team were to succeed, they would have to rely heavily upon the seniors that Coach Erin Eaton said "are incredible young women who gave their all to our program."

Similar to their previous matchups, the first half remained close, but it was Pitt-Bradford that held the lead heading into the second half by a score of 21-27.

Seeking her 1,000th point of her career one game after Kayla Dames did so, Morgan Biddle led the Bobcats in first half points with a total of 11.

Biddle's milestone point would come on the foul line, where she put her team up by a score of 41-39, with 7:05 remaining.

A period of back-and-forth play, that included a tying three pointer by Emily Nelson, followed.

In fitting fashion, Biddle found herself at the free throw line once again. :01 remained on the clock with her team down by a score of 48-49.

With all of the pressure in the world on her back, Biddle sunk both of her shots to lead the Pitt-Greensburg

Bobcats onto the AMCC Championship game.

In the championship, Pitt-Greensburg played the underdog role against the number one seed, La Roche College.



Senior Morgan Biddle setting up the play against Pitt-Bradford — Courtesy of www.pittgreensburgathletics.com

After initially trailing in the early minutes of the first half, the Bobcats went on a 17-6 run to put themselves up by 10 with less than nine minutes left.

This lead would all but vanish by halftime, though, as La Roche led Pitt-Greensburg by a score of 31-28.

The Bobcats, led by Biddle (18 pts), Dames (11 pts), Emily Nelson (8 pts), and Brittany Butterworth (7 pts),

gave it their best shot in the second half, but La Roche's lead would never vanish.

With the victory, La Roche improved to 22-5 on the season, and is granted an NCAA tournament bid.

Despite the loss for the Bobcats, they still had a successful season with a record of 18-10, thanks in large part to the senior class.

These seniors were the coach's first recruiting class, and Eaton said that "they arrived to Pitt-Greensburg with a desire and dedication to return our program to championship caliber."

The team has improved each and every year that these seniors have been a part of the program, and considering that they made it to the championship in their final year, it is safe to say that they accomplished their goal.

Eaton "could never thank them enough for their leadership, perseverance, passion and guts."

"Words could never fully explain what they've meant to (this Bobcats) program."

Although they're losing a vastly important part of their team, the Bobcats are in good hands next year with the underclassman, and they hope to get fan support all year long just as they did in the playoffs.

Men's Basketball Team Falls Short in Semi-Finals

by William Rutledge

The Pitt-Greensburg men's basketball team's season came to an end on February 28. The Bobcats went into this semifinal game after defeating D'Youville College earlier in the week. The game was held at Penn State Erie and pitted the Bobcats against the No. 2 team in the AMCC, Medaille College.

Medaille came into this game on a roll, having beaten Pitt-Greensburg in the two previous games played between the teams this year. The Bobcats



Marcus Thomas high fives his teammates as they leave the floor -photo courtesy of pittgreensburgathletics.com

fell behind early, but came back with 10 unanswered points of their own to take the lead later in the first half. Medaille's hot shooting brought them back into the contest, and they went into halftime with a 34-25 lead over the Bobcats.

The good shooting continued for Medaille, and they went up by 10 on the Bobcats near the end of the game. Pitt-Greensburg would answer with 6 unanswered points. Pitt-Greensburg got the lead down to as little as three but could not overcome the deficit. Medaille made just enough shots to stay ahead and won the game 79-73.

Jerell Figueroa led the scoring for Pitt-Greensburg, with 21 points on the night, and was followed by Rocco Contristano, who scored 20 points. Rocco Contristano made a milestone, reaching 1,000 career points in a Pitt-Greensburg uniform.

The season may be over, but the future is certainly bright for this team. With only one departing senior, Brian Heinle, the stage is set for another great season next year with a lot of experienced players. This team is still built for success in the near future.

Bobcats Fail to Repeat as National Champions

by PJ Dumnich

Before the NCHA National Championship Tournament could take place, the Pitt-Greensburg Bobcats took on Carnegie Mellon University in the open-league playoffs.

It was a hard-fought match throughout the game, but Carnegie Mellon ruined the Bobcats' chances of repeating as champions with a 5-4 overtime win.

Freshman defenseman Luc Tilley said that it was a "tough game to lose next to the guys I call family, but next week we take it all in nationals and come back champions."

With their minds focused on a new goal, the Bobcats headed to Newark, Ohio.

Before the official tournament could start, three games took place in order for every team to earn a seed in the tournament.

With a 1-2 record in the seeding games, Pitt-Greensburg was given the third overall seed in the tournament.

Given the three seed, the Bobcats were set to face off against the second seed, the University of Buffalo, in the semifinal.

The Bobcats found themselves down by a goal with one minute left, and their hopes of moving onto the championship were diminishing with



Pitt-Greensburg celebrates their semi-finals victory against the University of Buffalo

each passing second.

That is until Nico Vecchio received what may have been the timeliest penalty shot of his career.

In clutch fashion, the captain capitalized on his opportunity in order to tie the game up, 4-4.

Sticking with the clutch theme, Dan Merz scored his first of the game with 6.5 seconds left in regulation in order to send the Bobcats onto the championship game against St. John Fisher College.

Vecchio finished with two goals and one assist, Dante Youhon with one goal, Anthony Maroadi with two assists, Dan Merz with one goal, and

goaltender Ryan Palonis with one assist and the W.

With the energy that is brought to a national-championship game, and the Bobcats' matchup against St. John Fisher did not disappoint.

The Bobcats were tied with St. John to enter the second period, thanks to two goals from Merz.

From that point on, the game got out of hand for the Bobcats, and they were never able to gain the lead, despite Merz's hat trick, a goal from Tilley, and a goal from Vecchio.

The final score was 5-8, and St. John Fisher was crowned the NCHA National Champions.

A repeat never happened for these 2014-2015 Pitt-Greensburg Bobcats, but a record of 24-6-0 and second place in the NCHA playoffs are nothing of which to be ashamed.

Although they finished second, Nico Vecchio was honored with the "Most Valuable Player" award for his accomplishments in the tournament.

The Bobcats will lose some key players next season in their seniors and those who are moving onto Oakland, but their sights will still be on reclaiming what was once theirs.

Their desire is something that will never change— no matter how much the roster does.