SPRING 2013
Upcoming events:

- RISE Fun Run: April 6
- Finals Week: April 22-27
- CBA Commencement: April 27
- BAS Baccalaureate: April 27
- Commencement: April 28
- Last day for undergraduate move out: April 28

PARENTS OF GRADUATING SENIORS!

Are you looking for a unique way to congratulate your student? Look no further! The Pitt News, the daily student newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh, will be offering Graduation Shout-Outs in our Spring Finals Week Edition. The shout-out order must be placed by Thursday, April 18. They will be located in the classified section of the www.pittnews.com under the headline “Graduation Shout-Outs.” Call 412-648-7978 to place a shout-out or email advertising@pittnews.com if you have any questions. The prices are as follows: 1-15 words: $6.00, 16-30 words: $7.10, each additional word: $0.10.

COMMENCEMENT!

On Sunday, April 28, 2013, excitement will abound as thousands of students are recognized as University of Pittsburgh graduates! The excitement will not be limited to students. We know that parents and families are equally thrilled to be a part of this special day. We recognize that you play an integral role in the success of your student and you deserve to celebrate, too!

Ceremony details are numerous and can be found online by clicking here. Through U.S. mail your student should have received a Commencement Information pamphlet that includes ceremony instructions, and when and where to purchase a cap and gown. This preparation information can also be found by clicking here. Unlike previous years, tickets will not be required to attend Commencement.

Please encourage your student to contact the dean’s office for specific information regarding individual school recognition ceremonies. The dates for these separate celebrations may or may not be the same as University Commencement.

Graduation is the highlight of the academic year and marks the end of classes, exams, and many hours of studying in front of a computer monitor. One week students are submitting research papers and sitting for exams, and the next week they are in a cap and gown remembering how freshmen convocation was in the same building not so long ago. This is a busy time for students, their families, faculty and staff. Please encourage your student to “stop and smell the roses” and enjoy this special time. We hope you will enjoy it, too!

Hail to Pitt!
Spring break is over and the end of the academic year is fast approaching. This is a time of year when students are finishing research papers, completing internships and studying for final exams. It is also a special time for our seniors...Commencement!

Information and links to Graduation Central, two days for graduates to receive ceremony instructions and purchase their regalia, is contained on our front page. It’s always a good idea for parents and families to have details about these special events, so please be sure to read and make notes of the ceremony information. Parents of undergraduates may be in need of different information.

There is still time for your returning student to check out a summer job or internship! Please read more about Career Services/Placement Assistance opportunities on page 9. Information on residence hall move-out and summer storage facilities is also included in this issue as well as information for parents of commuter students. The latter article was added as a result of a parent comment on the last newsletter survey.

We congratulate the parents and families of our seniors! To parents and families of fall, 2013, freshmen, we say, “Welcome, and thank you and your student for choosing Pitt!” The Office of Parent and Family Resources will do its best to keep you informed and help you to support your student.

As always, please share your ideas and comments by completing the survey at the bottom of this page. We read each response. If I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at parents@pitt.edu or by calling 412-624-8548.

Hail to Pitt!

*Sandy*

Sandy Talbott
Parent and Family Liaison

---

**PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY**

Please take a minute and provide us with some feedback about our parent and family newsletter. By answering a few simple questions online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7S2BLBD you will help us produce newsletters that are informative and beneficial to you. If you have a question for which you would like a response, please send it via parents@pitt.edu.
RESIDENCE HALL AND UNIVERSITY APARTMENT MOVE-OUT

Spring semester is rolling to a close and it’s time to start thinking about move-out logistics. Details for parking, housing cart availability and cart pick-up locations have not been locked in at the time of this publication, but here is what we know now.

On-campus housing officially closes at noon on April 28, 2013, except for graduating seniors who may stay until noon on Monday, April 29. Please have your student contact Panther Central or call 412-648-1100 if they plan to stay until Monday.

Housing carts will be available at several on-campus locations, and beginning Wednesday, April 24 through Sunday, April 28, University police will direct you to parking areas for loading purposes only. Please click on the below link in coming days for exact cart station and parking times. They will not be available all day, every day.

Shortly, an online brochure with more in-depth details will be available on the Panther Central Web site. The brochure will include guidelines for cleaning and where to dispose of trash, etc. Please take care to not leave any personal articles behind, as they will be discarded and you may be assessed for the disposal costs.

PITT LAUNCHES NEW SUMMER COURSE SCHEDULE

By Pat McGrane, Communications Manager, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

The new summer sessions course schedule at the University of Pittsburgh provides an exciting opportunity for students to catch up on needed credits, stay on track to graduate in four years, or get ahead for the fall term. By reducing course overlap, expanding class availability, and maximizing day and evening hours, the new summer sessions schedule allows students to enroll in two classes in a row without course conflict, take additional upper-division classes in their major, and complete core requirements. With hundreds of classes offered during day and evening hours, students have the flexibility to enroll in courses without forgoing summer jobs, internships, or family vacations.

Summer sessions offer students the convenience of choosing between full term, 12-week, 6-week, and 4-week courses. Summer classes provide students with a wonderful opportunity to complete final general education or specialized requirements needed to graduate, finish core and prerequisite courses, and enroll in popular courses and labs that fill quickly during the fall and spring terms. Students may also explore subjects in their major without the pressure of a full class load.

On-campus housing is available in Litchfield Tower C for summer sessions. For more housing information please visit http://www.pc.pitt.edu/index.html.

Registration continues for the summer term. For more information on summer sessions, students should talk with their advisor or visit www.summer.pitt.edu.
When I first got to Pitt studying abroad was not on my agenda. I was a Division I athlete who was getting good grades, making friends, and leading a pretty normal college life. But by the time my junior year rolled around, I realized that something was missing. I made an appointment with Pitt’s Study Abroad office and was introduced to PittMAP, a global program that enabled students to live and study for five weeks each in Argentina, South Africa, and China. It was a risk. I had been out of the country before but never for that long or that far from home, yet something about the program just made sense to me. I took a leap of faith by signing up. Looking back, I have no regrets.

During my trip I did and saw things I never knew existed. I played soccer in underground Argentinean soccer rings, climbed mountains on the southern tip of Africa, rode a bicycle through the Forbidden City in Beijing, went on a safari, stood on the edge of a massive waterfall in the Amazon rainforest. Simply put, I found that “something” that I had been missing. I soaked up everything I could from the culture and people around me, listening and watching, realizing just how big the world is and how amazingly diverse the people are who live in it. I grew more as a person in that one semester than I had previously done in the five before it.

When I came back from my study abroad program everything was different. I had grown years in just a few months and was more confident in myself and my abilities. The challenges I faced and the things I achieved while studying abroad are priceless experiences to me now. Those experiences, coupled with assistance from Pitt’s Study Abroad office, led to an internship in London and subsequent employment with International Studies Abroad (ISA) in Austin, TX. Most importantly, I have no doubt that my study abroad experiences played a large part in shaping me into the person I am today. (Please note that parents can click here to read about current Pitt Study Abroad opportunities.)

Students show their Pitt Pride in Paris, France.
WEB SITE FACELIFT

Have you seen Pitt’s new Web site? It has been completely redesigned so that our viewers will find it informational and easy to navigate.

The parents tab to the right and near the bottom of the front page will guide you to specific parent information. From that page parents can access Academic as well as Student Affairs sites, including the Panther Parents Association and Panther Parent Ambassadors.

We hope that you will take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with our new-and-improved University of Pittsburgh Web page. Hail to Pitt!

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS: FINANCIAL LITERACY

By Steve Cohen and Heather Williamson, Certified Professional Financial Managers (CPFM), Student Payment Center, University of Pittsburgh

Student Financial Services wants to help your students achieve success, not only academically, but throughout their career and as an Alumni of the University of Pittsburgh.

Understanding how to manage money, minimize debt, and maintain a good credit profile will help them be successful in life. To that end, we are pleased to offer courses and resources to help your student achieve financial literacy.

Go to the Student Payment Center Web site www.payments.pitt.edu, and click on “$Manage My Finances” to view some of these resources. Be sure to check out our online University of Pittsburgh CashCourse. CashCourse is a free resource and is available 24/7 to you and your students.

Questions about financial literacy? Email us at finlit@pitt.edu and one of our Certified Personal Financial Managers will reply to you as soon as possible.
PARENT, MENTOR, SOUNDING BOARD: ACHIEVING THE RIGHT BALANCE

By Panther Parent Ambassador, Sindy Fedida

The challenge of staying involved in our college-bound sons’ lives, but keeping a respectful distance, was the plan. Our sons had an alternate plan; they thought our parenting should cease when their college experience began. We knew our parenting roles would change, not end. After all, we too, lived through college experiences and knew our sons might choose to use our knowledge and resources at some point. It didn't happen often, initially, as they were on a path to independence. My husband and I discussed how we might tackle finding the right mix of allowing them freedom while encouraging safe choices, when to intervene and when to promote self help, and the toughest challenge—how to handle the constant push and pull of intimacy.

Our parenting styles differed but we found common ground on issues of allowance, grades, class choices, staying in touch, off-campus travel and, legal matters. As a family we all participated in discussing expectations while away at college and all agreed on a game plan. Rules were sometimes broken and consequences included; get and pay for your own lawyer; repair the car with your money; if you're not happy with your grade seek help; if you lost it you find it; and other matters.

My husband was and remains a terrific sounding board for our sons. He respectfully listened to all their new college experiences gave just the right amount of praise, and never showed disappointment in their choices, even if at times he was. My approach was different. I gave endless advice, and sometimes shared grim tales about what might happen if they… Okay, so they chose to chat with my husband and for me chose communication via the brief text, “All good’ or “I’m great love you.”  If I got lucky I’d get the quick, timed call as one or the other was about to go into a lecture. It’s what has become known as “The obligatory abbreviated contact call.” I had to seriously re-evaluate my approach. I knew listening more and speaking less would promote a more successful relationship with my sons so I made a great attempt to be that sounding board for them. Slowly it started to work and conversations picked up. I also observed that in listening “I heard” my sons both reviewing the choices they made, options that existed, and now sought my advice when they needed to. I learned my sons were on a journey of self discovery. I knew there would be times of stress and disappointment, but also occasions to celebrate. I knew it was time that my voice in their heads became a whisper and that their voices became the voice that would resonate when the tough decisions had to be made. [Continued on the next page]

IT’S TIME TO ORDER THE PANTHER PRINTS YEARBOOK

A New Tradition With Room For Your Story

Here’s your chance to order a printed copy of the 176-page personalized yearbook! Students are able to add personal photos from their Facebook or cell phones to the yearbook.

Click here to place an order.
I had always told my sons it was okay to make mistakes and that poor decisions are often reversible, leading to invaluable lessons. So why was it so hard for me to let go? I was afraid I could no longer protect them, but eventually realized that they had acquired the necessary tools to protect themselves. My fear-based parenting ended before they each finished their first year of college and I was able to trust letting go and to start enjoying their experiences.

Today, our eldest son has graduated, lives in NYC with friends and has a wonderful job. Our other son is a third year student here at Pitt and couldn’t be happier. I am no longer just a quick text and now enjoy informative discussions with both sons. What changed? I now listen more, preach less, and try to offer respectful opinions. I know if I can sustain a positive relationship with my sons this will be of value to them, and to me, too.

College, it’s the time to try it on. Our students are still in a state of flux. Pitt has offered a place for our son to try out new roles and to inspect, evaluate and redefine himself and his relationships. As a parent of an upperclassman I too, am working on my parental role, which is also in a state of flux. I try to put aside disappointment and anger and replace it with tolerance and understanding. So when my son stated that he was moving off campus after his freshman year to a house with six or seven friends my knee jerk response was going to be to provide ten reasons why this was a bad idea, but instead I responded with “Fantastic, I’m sure you put a lot of thought into this decision.” “It sounds exciting”. And that response opened a door to a dialogue and questions initiated by my son. So this year he will again choose his third off campus house and it has been a pleasure getting invited to meet his amazing friends and witness the cohesive nurturing home they all created.

For our Pitt student, questions centering on his career choices started in the summer of his sophomore year. My husband and I are both physicians and have repeatedly told our sons to pursue a passion, but first to find what their interests might be. We told them, “Love what you do.” When asked what courses to think about taking, our advice was, “Take courses that capture your interest, choose topics that you might wish to explore further.” College should be a time of discovery, a venue to find interests and ways to pursue them. It should be a journey of successes and setbacks. So, now in his third year, we are witnessing a convergence of academic and personal growth. It is all coming together. I am grateful to Pitt for providing just the right blend of everything our son needs to grow into a well-balanced young man. He has been inspired to find and pursue his passions.

Recently, my son asked me, in the humorous British accented voice of Stuey from Family Guy, “Mother, I miss your motherly advice. Would you please do that most motherly thing and give some advice?” Lovingly, and while laughing, I said “Be yourself. This will guide you to make the right choices, the ones right for you.”

S.F. (parent of third year Pitt student)

PITTSBURGH IS MOVING – TO THE ACC, THAT IS!

By Kristy Hueber, Assistant Coordinator of Ticket Operations

As a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, the University of Pittsburgh will be partnered with some of the most prestigious academic and athletic institutions in the country.

Since the league’s inception in 1953, ACC schools have captured 127 NCAA championships, including 67 in women’s competition and 60 in men’s. In addition, NCAA individual titles have gone to ACC student-athletes 145 times in men’s competition and 104 times in women’s action. In the classroom, ACC programs have been a leader among the BCS conferences for Academic Performance Rate (APR) and Graduation Success Rate (GSR). ACC programs are perennially among the high percentage of athletic teams at Division I colleges and universities that meet standards and excel academically.

If you would like to be a part of the Panthers Inaugural season in the ACC, please call the Panthers Ticket Office at 1-800-643-7488 or visit us on the web at www.pittsburghpanthers.com to secure your seats!
Does your student live at home and commute to campus? Or maybe they live in an apartment outside of the Oakland area. Either way, Commuter Student Programs is here to support your student as she gets adjusted to life at Pitt!

The goal of our program is to create a community where commuters will develop friendships while also finding their niche in clubs, organizations, and social activities. Our hope is that Pitt becomes their home-away-from-home and that they, too, will participate in the array of student development activities that Pitt offers. Below are several tips that may help you start a conversation with your student about getting and staying connected on campus.

**Commuter Assistants (CAs)** – These upper class students are also commuters and will help get your student acclimated to campus life. CAs hold regular office hours, plan programs for commuters and are often found in our Commuter Student Lounge.

**Commuter Student Lounge** – This meeting/studying/lounging area is located on the lower level of the William Pitt Union and serves as the venue for commuter student programs. Within the lounge is a microwave, sink, TV and free coffee and tea.

**Commuter Pods** – These small groups function much like a residence hall floor for first year commuter students. Each first year commuter student is assigned to a Pod, which is led by a CA.

**Programming** – Commuter Student Programs has several specific activities throughout the year. In addition, your students can seek out academic and social programs according to their schedules. Please click here to see a complete calendar of Student Affairs events.

**Lockers** – Located in the Cathedral of Learning and can be obtained by visiting the William Pitt Union ticket office.

**Port Authority Transportation** – Students may ride any Allegheny Port Authority vehicle by showing their valid Pitt ID. This can certainly reduce transportation and parking fees.

---

**PITT TRADITIONS: RUBBING THE PANTHER NOSE**

Even folks at Hyundai know that rubbing the nose of the Pitt Panther leads to good luck. Check out their commercial featuring Pitt’s own panther! Please encourage your student to visit the panther statue outside of the William Pitt Union before finals week for some good luck!
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

The spring term concludes in a few weeks, but Pitt’s Career Development/Placement Assistance Office is still working hard to provide your student with opportunities for summer jobs and internships. For more information on the below events and to read about other career and development opportunities for your student click here.

**Just In Time Job Fair**  
Tuesday, April 9, 2013  
William Pitt Union  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Attention graduating seniors, join CDPA for the final career fair of the year! If you are still looking for a job this is the perfect opportunity to meet with employers from a broad range of industries that are still have open positions.

**Summer Job & Internship Fair**  
Thursday, April 4, 2013  
Assembly Room, Ballroom, Kurtzman Room, Lower Lounge, Atrium  
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Employers from many local businesses will be in attendance seeking seasonal workers and summer intern.

**Internship Prep Programs Occur Weekly!**  
Guaranteed experiential learning for undergraduate students who participate fully.  
Students can register themselves by opening FutureLinks through their student Pitt Portal.

If you are in a position to offer an internship or employment experience for Pitt students and you would like to share that opportunity, please complete and submit this form.
PARENT AMBASSADOR CONTACTS

The below Panther Parent Ambassadors have generously offered their contact information so that you may email them if you have a general question from a parent perspective. If you do contact them, please identify yourself as a Pitt parent in the subject line and thank them for their service!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albamonte, Sarah</td>
<td>Fairfax</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarahalba@hotmail.com">sarahalba@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gargani, Melissa</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td><a href="mailto:msgargani@sbcglobal.net">msgargani@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krincek, John and Tara</td>
<td>Nazareth</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnandtara5@msn.com">johnandtara5@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majstorovic, Michele</td>
<td>Orchard Park</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Miska12@verizon.net">Miska12@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebbia, Alaine and Mark</td>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nebbia4@cs.com">Nebbia4@cs.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ricelli, Angie</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:riccelli@pitt.edu">riccelli@pitt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd, Joan</td>
<td>Sykesville</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrtrdldn@comcast.net">jrtrdldn@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in learning more about the benefits and activities of being a Panther Parent Ambassador, please contact Sandy Talbott at sst8@pitt.edu.

Join Us! Become a Panther Parent Ambassador

Enjoy meeting and mingling with other Pitt Parents both on campus and in your area. Assist with parent programs like Family Weekend and Orientation. Have some fun!

Panther Parent Ambassadors will receive:

- Special invitations to specific programs
- Electronic calendars with upcoming student activities
- Custom Parent Ambassador polo shirt
- Parent Ambassador Towel
- Pitt decal
- Parent Ambassador tote bag
- Pompoms for your next Pitt game
- Family Weekend Registration discount
- Magnetic Name Badge

FAMILY WEEKEND!

October 18-20, 2013

Please join us as we celebrate Family Weekend, October 18-20, 2013. Pitt football will host Old Dominion at Heinz Field. Online registration will be available in August.

www.familyweekend.pitt.edu