Winter 2014
Upcoming events:

- **Spring Career Fair**
  February 18 and 19

- **Honors Convocation**
  February 28

- **Panther Leadership Summit**
  March 1

- **Spring Break**
  March 9 – 16

- **PittAdvantage Auction**
  March 28

- **Commencement**
  April 27

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**PITT TO HOST AUCTION TO BENEFIT STUDENT GRANTS**

To support its vision of providing the best collegiate experience in the world for University of Pittsburgh students, the Division of Student Affairs will host a special auction and dinner on Friday, March 28, the “Experience the World Showcase.”

Pitt parents and supporters can purchase tickets, or make donations at [www.PittAdvantage.pitt.edu](http://www.PittAdvantage.pitt.edu). Proceeds from the auction and dinner will provide grants for Pitt students to engage in exceptional experiential learning opportunities around the world as part of the PittAdvantage program.

Pitt student Shivani Patel utilized her PittAdvantage grant to volunteer teach at a school in Jamaica.

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**BUSES HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

This program is designed to give students a safe, comfortable alternative ride home for the three major recesses: Thanksgiving, winter break and spring break.

Buses depart from the William Pitt Union and most of the destinations served are direct routes. Deluxe motor coaches (Lenzner/Coach USA) transport students in comfort.

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**PATRICK D. GALLAGHER NAMED 18TH CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**

The University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees unanimously elected Patrick D. Gallagher, PhD, the 18th Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the University of Pittsburgh. The vote took place during a special meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Gallagher, age 50, currently serves as Acting Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce and Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). He will succeed Mark A. Nordenberg, who is stepping down as Chancellor on August 1, 2014, after leading Pitt for 19 years. Read more here.
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s I write this, snow is falling and campus temperature is about 15 degrees. Students are making their way to class, meals, meetings, the library and recreational facilities. Pathfinders are conducting campus tours for visitors.

Maybe this spring you would like a tour from your very own pathfinder...your student! If you are planning a visit, please review these tips to help you plan your trip:

1. Weekend parking permits for Soldiers and Sailors underground parking garage are available for about $15.00 or $5.00/day. Restrictions may apply on specific dates so please plan ahead. Your student should make these arrangements in advance at the Parking and Transportation Office.

2. The Tansky Family Lounge on the William Pitt Union mezzanine level offers a comfortable place to read or do computer work while you are waiting to meet your student. Guest wireless service is available, and if you get hungry you can purchase a wide variety of menu items in the Schenley Café, one floor below the lounge.

3. Virtual traffic photos in the city and region will prepare you for construction detours and current traffic conditions in and around the 'burgh.

4. Ground transportation from the airport includes rental cars, taxis and the Port Authority Bus Route #28X. In addition, Amtrak, Megabus and Greyhound stations are a short distance from campus.

5. Bring a photo id for residence hall access.

If you have any questions regarding a campus visit or any other concern, please let us know at parents@pitt.edu, 412-624-8548 or visit the office in Suite 130 at the William Pitt Union.

Hail to Pitt!

Sandy
Sandy Talbott
Parent and Family Liaison

DID JA KNOW?
PITT HAS A CAMPUS SHUTTLE TRACKER!

We want your students to be safe and secure. You want your students to be safe and secure. So, encourage them to download the shuttle tracker app on their mobile device or check this site from any campus computer lab. By using this technology, students will know exactly when a shuttle will arrive at any scheduled stop, reducing the amount of time they wait in the cold. Hail to Pitt!
The University of Pittsburgh Study Abroad Office develops programs and facilitates educational experiences for approximately 1500 students each year in over 100 countries. Study abroad is an increasingly important and attractive component of a well-rounded education. As such, the University encourages all students to consider the option to study abroad as a significant enhancement to their undergraduate education.

Fall, 2014 Feature
This Fall, along with our wide array of third-party Pitt Recognized programs, the Study Abroad Office will offer 5 unique Panther Programs. Those programs are:
- Pitt in London, where students will study and participate in an optional internship opportunity in one of the most cultural diverse cities in the world.
- Pitt in London: Honors, where students have the opportunity to study at one of three prestigious London universities based on their academic goals.
- Pitt in Sydney, our brand new program down under in beautiful Sydney, Australia where students will take classes towards their major and participate in an optional internship.
- Pitt in the Himalayas, where students will venture into the foothills of the famous Himalayan Mountains all while taking 15 credits of Anthropology classes.
- PittMAP, Pitt's signature multi-country program where students will spend time in Pittsburgh, Paris, Morocco and Beijing in one semester.

Information regarding these and our many other programs can be found on the Study Abroad website. The Fall application deadline is: March 7, 2014. Please note that most University scholarships and student aid can be applied to a students’ study abroad program. There are also numerous scholarship opportunities available through our office. Contact our office anytime with questions at 412-648-7413.

SUMMER SESSIONS REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 17

Whether your students are just finishing their first term or are closer to graduating, summer sessions at the University of Pittsburgh may provide some exciting educational opportunities for them. Students can catch up on needed credit, stay on track to graduate in four years, and get ahead of schedule for the fall term. Open to students across all majors and schools, summer classes are designed to help students reach their educational goals no matter where they are in their academic career.

By reducing course overlap, expanding class availability, and maximizing day and evening hours, the 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 finish core requirements. Students can complete general education or specialized requirements, finish core and prerequisite courses, or enroll in popular courses and labs that fill quickly during the academic year. Summer sessions also provide opportunities to explore subjects in a major without the pressure of a full class load. In addition, students have the convenience of choosing between hundreds of courses during 12-week, 6-week, and 4-week sessions without forgoing summer jobs, internships, or family vacations.

On-campus housing is available.
Summer sessions registration begins February 17. For more information on summer sessions classes, students should review the summer course schedule here and then meet with their advisor.
Spring Break Opportunities

Greg Kunis, First Year Mentor, Junior pre-med major

Spring Break means a lot of different things to different people, but here at the University of Pittsburgh it means possibilities. Not only are there countless opportunities for Pitt students here on campus, but also around the country.

My name is Greg Kunis and I'm a First Year Mentor here at Pitt. I’ve taken full advantage of the time I’ve had during Spring Break and I plan to utilize it this year for some new experiences. Last year, I stayed on campus and worked in a research lab. It was a great opportunity for me to get many more hours in the lab because I was pretty busy during the semester and couldn't devote as much time. Many students use this time to stay on campus and work on projects or in research labs because they have a week off from classes.

Pitt also offers opportunities for students to travel and volunteer across the country with the Alternative Break program or with Habitat for Humanity. Groups of Pitt students go every year to different locations and participate in community-based projects with nonprofit organizations in order to provide services to communities in need. This year Pitt is sponsoring an Alternative Break trip to Tennessee and Washington DC. Talk to your student about applying for a spot on one of these spring trips. Their free time will be spent helping others and learning how they can benefit different communities through their university.

So, what will your student do for Spring Break 2014?

UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE PLANS TWO NEW HEALTH-ORIENTED PROGRAMS

Is your student motivated to pursue a health profession? Because a large portion of Pitt students are interested in health-related careers, the University Honors College is planning to add honors courses in social sciences that would complement a natural science curriculum. To become familiar with these and other honors college opportunities for your student, go to University Honors College.
For the upcoming 2014-15 academic year, the first priority deadline for upper class students to apply for financial aid is April 1, 2014. Students should have their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the Department of Education no later than this date to meet the priority deadline.

All students who are selected for verification by the US Department of Education, have a second priority deadline of May 15, 2014 to submit their verification documents to the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid. Those documents can include the following:

- 2013 Parent Tax Return Transcript*
- 2013 Student Tax Return Transcript*
- 2013 Parent W-2 forms
- 2013 Student W-2 forms
- University of Pittsburgh Financial Aid Application Supplement Form (academic year 2014-15)
- Other supporting documentation deemed necessary by the Department of Education or the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.

Quick Notes

Parents and students have the option of filing their 2014-15 FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid highly recommends the use of this tool as it is the easiest way to provide tax data and it is the best way to ensure that the FAFSA has accurate tax information. In addition, families who have been selected for verification and use this tool will not be required to submit paper copies of their 2013 Tax Return Transcript.

If you file your tax return:

- Electronically, your tax return data will be available to use the FAFSA IRS Data Retrieval Tool as early as 2 weeks after submitting your tax return.
- By Paper, your tax return data will be available to use on the FAFSA approximately 6 weeks after mailing in your tax return to the IRS.

Please keep these deadlines in mind as you are completing the financial aid application process for the 2014-15 academic year.

It is strongly recommended that families file their federal tax return as early as possible. Federal regulations require that families selected for verification, who did not/could not use the FAFSA IRS Data Retrieval Tool, to provide the University with a Tax Return Transcript.

Tax Return Transcripts will be available to send to the school sooner if the tax returns are filed early. Instructions on how to request a Tax Return Transcript can be found here or by calling 1-800-908-9946.

FAFSA Facts

*By Cindy Henderson, Office of Admissions and Financial Aid*

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IT’S FAFSA TIME!

In order to help you and your student navigate the financial aid application process, please refer to these helpful tips from the Department of Education. Any Pitt specific questions should be directed to the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid at 412-624-7488.
I’m Andrew Colaizzi a First Year Mentor (FYM) here at Pitt. I’m from Mount Lebanon (only a few miles away) and commute to campus. Commuting is a unique experience, and I’ve really enjoyed the benefits of spending time with my family while enrolled here.

FYMs are currently planning several fun spring term events for our commuter students. Please encourage your commuter student to attend these events to help them stay connected and involved on campus!

Each month a movie is shown in the William Pitt Union Commuter Lounge. We call this event our “Commuter Night In.” Commuters are able to choose the movie they want to see by voting on a small group of selected movies. The movie with the most votes is shown—for free!—at Commuter Night In. This semester, movies will be shown on: February 26, and March 25.

Commuter Cafes are held throughout the semester as an informational session for commuters to hear from different groups on campus. It can sometimes be difficult to find a niche when a student doesn’t live in a residence hall, and this program gives them the opportunity to hear from student organizations and campus departments. Our second program for this semester will be held on March 20 at Noon in the William Pitt Union’s Kurtzman Room.

TO PARK OR NOT TO PARK, THAT IS THE QUESTION!

As you probably know, parking around campus can be a challenge and parking tickets (or towing!) are costly. To help you avoid parking in private areas and avoid those nasty fees, please refer to designated parking areas on the campus map.

Commuter Students CAN Get Involved!

By Andrew Colaizzi, First Year Mentor
Junior Accounting major w/minors in Political Science and French

I’m Andrew Colaizzi a First Year Mentor (FYM) here at Pitt. I’m from Mount Lebanon (only a few miles away) and commute to campus. Commuting is a unique experience, and I’ve really enjoyed the benefits of spending time with my family while enrolled here.

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Each month Commuter FYMs plan a large social program designed especially for commuter students. In January, commuter students attended the Pittsburgh Symphony featuring John Williams. On February 21, the FYMS are hosting a bowling extravaganza at a local bowling alley. Then, on March 27, commuter students can enjoy a Pittsburgh Penguins Watch Party in Nordy’s at the William Pitt Union. To wrap up our year, on April 10, a Stress Relief Workshop right before Finals Week will give commuters a chance to get free massages and a brief sojourn from studying.

The college experience is even better when students get involved, so if you have a student who commutes to Pitt, please encourage him/ her to attend these upcoming events!

If you have questions regarding commuter opportunities for your student, please go to the Commuter Web site.
The Experience the World Showcase will be held in the newly renovated Assembly Room in the William Pitt Union from 6:30 to 10 p.m. The event will feature many valuable items for supporters of the University to bid upon, student group performances, and testimonies from students about how opportunities such as study abroad trips, internships, and community service projects, have helped them become better prepared for the next steps in their career journeys.

Students who have completed the University’s Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC) are eligible to receive a PittAdvantage grant of up to $1,500 to cover expenses associated with significant experiential learning opportunities. Applications are available by contacting Scott Hoffman at 412-648-7142 or sch44@pitt.edu.

The OCC helps students grow personally and professionally in at least 10 goal areas by engaging in a variety of programs and services: leadership development, sense of self, career preparation, Pitt Pride, communication skills, global and cultural awareness, wellness, service to others, appreciation of the arts, and initiative and drive. (For more information on the OCC, please visit www.occ.pitt.edu)

“The Experience the World Showcase is such a tremendous opportunity for friends of the University of Pittsburgh to support a program that can make such a difference in the lives of our students,” said Dr. Kathy Humphrey, vice provost and dean of students, who is co-chairing the auction committee along with Keith Schaefer, chair of the Student Affairs Committee of the University’s Board of Trustees.

“When we gave out the first grants this summer, and the students returned from their internships or study abroad experiences, there were two universal themes that we heard: that the experiences were ‘life-changing,’ and that the only way the students could have afforded to travel abroad, or accept an unpaid internship, was through the financial support they received.”

This past year, Pitt provided 16 OCC experiential learning grants to students in the amount of $1,500 each. The student experiences included:

- an unpaid internship with CBS Sports in New York City
- a study abroad healthcare research experience in Argentina
- attendance at the Global Mental Health Professions Seminar in Italy
- an unpaid internship with the UPMC Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab
- an unpaid internship with Armstrong County, which resulted in the establishment of the “Courthouse Kids” program
- a study abroad experience in Belfast and Dublin, Ireland
- participation in the Pitt in China program (internship at Beijing United Family Hospital)
- a medical mission trip to Guatemala
- a global service-learning experience in Petersfield, Jamaica
- a study abroad/community service experience in Cape Town, South Africa

“The impact that the PittAdvantage program has already had in the lives of our students has inspired us to work even harder to raise funds to expand the program to serve hundreds of students each year,” said Humphrey.

“Hopefully the auction and dinner will be a lot of fun and introduce people to the program. Ultimately, we hope to create an endowment so that the PittAdvantage is sustainable.”

Tickets for the Experience the World Showcase Auction and Dinner are $100 each. Businesses, organizations, and individuals can support the PittAdvantage by becoming a corporate sponsor of the event, sponsoring a student at an annual cost of $1,500, or donating items for the auction. Tickets and sponsorship information is available online at www.pittadvantage.pitt.edu.

For more information, contact Shawn Ahearn at 412-648-1005 or ahearn@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 in your region and, when possible, on campus. Have some fun!

Panther Parent Ambassadors will receive:

- Special invitations to programs and campus tours
- Parent Ambassador polo and promotional items
- Family weekend breakfast
- Discount toward Family Weekend registration
- Hotel promotion for Family Weekend

For more information, contact Shawn Ahearn at 412-648-1005 or ahearn@pitt.edu.
The application process for the scholarship required a personal statement, an essay and short answers, and two recommendation letters. I worked on multiple revisions of my essays and answers to make them concise and effective. When I was selected as a finalist, I had a phone interview with the UKSI Program Coordinator and two other academics from the participating institutes. The National Scholarship Advisors in the University Honors College assisted me both in the preparation of my application and the phone interview. Through the UKSI I realized that I love what I study and want to dedicate my life to a career in archaeology. I highly recommend that Pitt freshman and sophomores apply for this scholarship.

This US-UK Fulbright Commission Summer Institute scholarship is open to freshmen and sophomores of all fields (US citizenship required). Preference is given to students with minimum experience abroad. The application deadline is February 27 or March 6, 2014, based upon the Institute you choose. Please contact the University Honors College, National Scholarships Office for assistance.

PARENT AMBASSADOR CONTACTS

The below Panther Parent Ambassadors have generously offered their contact information so that you may e-mail 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!

Abramson, Wendy  Sarasota, FL  Moore, Franz  Albrightsville, PA  Nebbia, Alaine and Mark  Bethlehem PA  Ricelli, Angie  Pittsburgh PA  Robertson, Joann  Bethesda, MD  Jenkins, Sherrie  Sarasota, FL  Saunders, Nina  Wayne, PA  Ricelli, Angie  Bethlehem PA  Saubers, Nina  Garnet Valley, PA  Jenkins, Sherrie  Sarasota, FL  Schultz, Karen  Garnet Valley, PA  Jenkins, Sherrie  Sarasota, FL  Todd, Joan  Sykesville MD  Jenkins, Sherrie  Sarasota, FL  Tramontana, Sue  Leonia, NJ  Abramson, Wendy  Sarasota, FL  Moore, Franz  Albrightsville, PA  Nebbia, Alaine and Mark  Bethlehem PA  Ricelli, Angie  Pittsburgh PA  Robertson, Joann  Bethesda, MD  Jenkins, Sherrie  Sarasota, FL  Saunders, Nina  Wayne, PA  Ricelli, Angie  Bethlehem PA  Saubers, Nina  Garnet Valley, PA  Jenkins, Sherrie  Sarasota, FL  Schultz, Karen  Garnet Valley PA  Jenkins, Sherrie  Sarasota, FL  Todd, Joan  Sykesville MD  Jenkins, Sherrie  Sarasota, FL  Tramontana, Sue  Leonia, NJ  If you are interested in learning more about the benefits and activities of being a Panther Parent Ambassador, please contact Sandy Talbott.
SPRING CAREER FAIR AND PREP WEEK

By Andrea Matuszak, Career Development Placement Assistance

With the Spring Career Fair just around the corner, the Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance is devoting this entire week to help students prepare for the Spring Career on February 18 and 19.

Career Fair Prep Week begins on February 11 and 12. Recruiters from companies including PLS Logistics, UPMC, Compunetix, E.A. Fischione, and Mitsubishi will be on campus to review résumés and stage a mock career fair. If students still haven't found the time to get their résumé reviewed, Resumania on Thursday, February 13 will provide them with one more chance before the Career Fair. On Friday, February 14, representatives from Enterprise Rent-a-Car and American Eagle will host career prep information sessions. Students are encouraged to come hungry to all events, as food and refreshments will be served all week.

Finally, the Spring Career Fair will be held on February 18 and 19 in the William Pitt Union from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students with nontechnical majors should come on February 18, and those with technical majors should attend on February 19. The brand new Career Fair Plus app can be downloaded by students to research companies, mark potential employers as favorites, and even see every company’s location on the floor plan. Students can pre-register at my.pitt.edu and proceed to the express check-in on the day of the fair. For more information, including times and locations of these events, visit careers.pitt.edu.

ATTIRE FOR HIRE

Do you have professional clothing that you would consider donating to job-seeking Pitt students? If so, please plan on contributing your cleaned and pressed suits, jackets, shirts, blouses, skirts, shoes, etc. to the Career Development Placement Assistance “Green Room” so that needy students have appropriate attire to wear for job interviews and career opportunities. This way, we can work together to insure that all Pitt students have the best possible “Attire for Hire”.

Donation sites will be set up in the William Pitt Union and Sutherland Hall during move-out week; April 23-25, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

If these are not convenient dates or you would like to donate earlier, items may be dropped off at the Career Development Placement Assistance Office, 200 William Pitt Union during business hours, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Sandy Talbott at sst8@pitt.edu or 412-624-8548.
Can you tell us about yourself and the purpose behind having the SORC?

My name is Gina Scozzaro and I am the Business Manager in the SORC. I started working in this office as a student almost 10 years ago and began full-time employment in December 2007. This office is used as a resource for both student leaders of organizations and students looking to get involved in organizations. We provide computer access, free copying, mailing and supplies, program planning assistance, and University-business operation trainings to all organizations. We also assist students looking to get involved, and/or find an organization that matches their needs and interests.

How many student organizations does Pitt have?

We have over 450 student organizations certified on campus for both the undergraduate and graduate populations. They range from academic-related to cultural, to arts and literature, to service, and even club sports. Our online [directory](#) provides additional details about each group and their contact information.

My daughter played high school sports but she is not playing on a Division I team. How can she still be involved on a team?

There are over 30 competitive club sports on campus for both men and women. Most clubs operate and practice throughout the school year but compete and travel during their specific seasons. Some clubs are more structured with coaches and league or division assignments and some tend to be more recreational with local inter-collegiate competition. Most club sports require their members to pay semester dues in order to offset travel costs that are not allocated to them by the Student Government Board. The best way to get involved with a club sport is to contact its President or Captain directly for individual practice times.

We received a US letter about an honorary society. What is that?

There are quite a few honorary societies that work with our office in order to reach students who qualify for membership. If a parent receives written communication from an honorary society or fraternity, that communication probably went through the SORC in order to be distributed. Students and parents should contact the letter’s author for all questions pertaining to that particular society. All honorary societies have national websites where additional information can be found.

Is there extra cost involved with Student Organizations or club sports?

Depending on the nature of the organization and the types of activities they have throughout the year, membership dues may be required. Again, these funds are normally used to offset costs that are not allocated to the organizations by the Student Government Board.

What is your favorite memory regarding SORC?

My favorite memory, or memories I would say, are during our annual Student Activities Fair held at the Petersen Events Center at the end of Orientation week. This event showcases over 300 student organizations and draws over 5000 students who want to get involved on campus. It’s a great way to meet new people and connect with members of organizations. Most SORC activities and events qualify for [Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC) credit](#).

There literally is something for everyone!