



University of Pittsburgh

Division of Student Affairs

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260
412-648-1006

January 5, 2017

Dear Pitt Students –

Happy New Year! It is my pleasure to welcome you back to campus for the start of the 2017 Spring Semester. I hope that your final exams went well, and you enjoyed a relaxing holiday season with family and friends.

While you were away on break, several exciting things were happening here in Student Affairs, especially in the area of Campus Recreation. On Friday, December 16, the new Pitt Sports Dome was inflated for the first time by the construction crew working on the project with our partners in Facilities Management. ([Check out this video of the inflation](#)). The Pitt Sports Dome is tentatively scheduled to open sometime in February, and will greatly enhance recreational opportunities for all students. Look for more details about the opening in the weeks ahead.

In addition, a much-needed new basketball floor was installed in Bellefield Hall, and a significant amount of new exercise equipment was installed in the Baiertl Recreation Center at the Pete, with additional equipment being relocated to Bellefield, the William Pitt Union, and various residence halls.

Our staff and student leaders have been engaged in planning many special events that we hope you will attend this month, including our second Dialogue with the Dean to discuss diversity and inclusion on Tuesday, Jan. 10. We had an excellent Dialogue last semester that generated several ideas on how we can continue to enhance our campus culture. My hope is that our event next week will have the same level of enthusiasm and engagement, and produce specific strategies and achievable outcomes.

We also have a full schedule of events and activities planned for the annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Week at Pitt, highlighted by our Social Justice Symposium on Thursday, January 19, and both our “MLK Day of Service” on Monday, Jan. 16, and our “Month of Service” featuring service opportunities each day of the month. There are several excellent sessions planned throughout the day of the symposium, so I encourage you to attend as many as your schedule permits. I will also be hosting our monthly Dean’s Hour on Jan. 19, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the atrium on the main floor of the William Pitt Union. Stop by for fresh cookies and to talk.

In closing, I want to thank you and commend you for your on-going efforts to make Pitt a more diverse and inclusive campus, and for your commitment to improving the student experience for everyone. I wish you another productive, rewarding, and successful semester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenyon R. Bonner".

Kenyon R. Bonner
Vice Provost and Dean of Students