WINTER CHEER

A. Unisex Pitt Crewneck Sweatshirt—versatile and comfortable CI Sport navy pullover with gold and white stitched script Pitt, $36
B. Script Pitt Coasters—blue and gold Nature Stone graphic coasters, pack of two, $17
C. Cheese Board—an ideal tailgating accessory, wooden graphic cheese board featuring script Pitt and seal, includes a stainless steel cheese knife, $48.99
D. Ladies Hooded Pitt Sweatshirt—stylish and cozy oatmeal/navy Ouray pullover with large front pocket, script Pitt, and asymmetrical, three-button hood, $52
E. Pitt Infant Onesie—Panther pride can start early with a CI Sport short-sleeved, gray, blue, and gold onesie with “Biggest Smallest Fan” graphic, $22
F. Pitt Electronics Sleeve—script Pitt laptop or tablet cover made of durable blue neoprene fabric; available in 10” for $19.99; 13” for $19.99; and 15” for $21.99
G. USB Flash Drive—8GB of digital storage with blue and gold script, sturdy, hinged, metal case and small key loop, $19.99
H. Pitt Fire Pit—made from a one-piece steel drum with hand-welding and a natural rust patina, featuring a plasma-cut script Pitt logo and a spark screen, $249.99
I. My First Pitt Words board book—written by Connie McNamara, featuring colorful pages combined with simple words for the youngest Panthers fans, $10.99
J. Good Night Pittsburgh board book—written by Mark Jasper and illustrated by Ruth Palmer, featuring a visual tour of the Steel City’s most popular sites, for children preschool aged and up, $9.95

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Super Science

Humans living on Mars. 100 percent renewable energy powering cities. Health care tailored to personal genetics. Global innovators gathered on Pitt’s campus in October to explore the frontiers of science and technology. The guest-in-chief was a self-described “science geek”—U.S. President Barack Obama. He chose Pitt and nearby Carnegie Mellon to host the first-ever White House Frontiers Conference.

—By Robyn K. Coggins

First Class

Here’s a glimpse at a few of Pitt’s newbie students, who are just beginning to forge their futures. Although most of these freshmen are still formulating their academic plans, they all express a desire to improve the world—and their interests range from biology and bioengineering, to music, film studies, and Hispanic languages, to mathematics and economics, to health policy and the business of medicine.

—Cover story by Micaela Fox Corn
As 2017 begins, a supposed Chinese saying comes to mind: “May you live in interesting times.” It’s typically characterized as a curse—as in, May you experience chaos, disruption, and a flock of black swans ahead.

But interesting times are nothing new in human history, and unexpected change also brings unforeseen opportunities.

For me, it’s particularly uplifting to work on a university campus, where every year another class of students arrives to this special place where they will learn, mature, and emerge as productive global citizens. Many of them will shape the future for the better—and some will be among the very best of those who improve our world.

This issue offers a look at a few of Pitt’s first-year students, who are the latest generation of freshmen to choose the University of Pittsburgh as their incubator for success. Like all undergraduates here, these students benefit from the leadership and influence of Pitt’s Dean of Students Kenyon Bonner, who is featured in this issue, too. Read on for plenty of stories that show Pitt people in action—sharing knowledge and skills, creating the future through discovery, and serving others near and far.

Yes, the new year is sure to bring surprises, but some things are tried and true.

Education, discovery, service to others—cornerstones of the Pitt mission. Welcome 2017!

Cindy Gill
Editor in Chief
Wonderful
I enjoyed reading the latest issue of Pitt Magazine. Thanks for highlighting the wonderful things that my fellow alums and faculty are doing.

A.J. Kreimer
Arts and Sciences '75
Moorestown, N.J.

In the Alps, Too
My daughter and I traveled to Europe for 15 days with our Rochester, N.Y.-based Girl Scout troop and other Girl Scouts from Buffalo and Tampa. During our visit at Our Chalet in Adelboden, Switzerland—one of five international Girl Guide/Girl Scout centers—our guide Kelly mentioned that she was a volunteer from Pittsburgh. I told her I went to Pitt, and she said she was returning there in the fall for her sophomore year. As we were talking, Liz Crinzi, who was traveling with her Buffalo, N.Y., Girl Scout troop said that she was attending Pitt as a freshman this fall.

Kelly ran to her room to get her Pitt T-shirt. This picture was taken at Our Chalet, 4000+ feet up in the beautiful Swiss Alps. It’s a small world after all! H2P!

Kristi Miettunen Hughes
Arts and Sciences ’93
Avon, N.Y.

Beautiful Rooms
I am writing to express my joy at reading the story titled “Rooms to Know” by Nick Keppler. I am a former member of Quo Vadis, and I have a very deep love for the Nationality Rooms. As the article moved from one room to another with Caryn Polanski, I could envision the decor in each. Such beautiful rooms with such a rich history! Being a member of Quo Vadis is one of the happiest parts of my time at Pitt. My only regret is that I missed the “new” rooms on the third floor.

Joyce Carson
Arts and Sciences ’70
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Pitt Forever
I really have enjoyed your magazine since I left Pittsburgh in 1959! My father was a 1926 chemical engineering graduate who played in the Pitt band, and my mother a 1929 Pitt education graduate. I received a bachelor’s degree and dentistry degree and also played in the marching band, concert band, and Air ROTC band. Best regards to the magazine staff and Pitt.

Robert M. Marks
Arts and Sciences ’58
Dental Medicine ’59
Mount Laurel, N.J.

Touchstone
Having retired from teaching in Pittsburgh some years ago, the magazine brings it all back to me. My grandson is in the School of Engineering, so it keeps me in touch with the latest endeavors in his field, as well as others. Here in Cochranton, Pa., during construction of a replacement bridge over French Creek, a lovely young woman was assigned to the project as foreman, which made your latest edition’s cover all the more meaningful to me.

Susan June Baer
Education ’82G
Cochranton, Pa.
Energy Innovation

Launched in 2016, the Energy Grid Research and Infrastructure Development (GRID) Institute at Pitt will collaborate with public and private partners to upgrade the nation’s aging power system. Some of GRID’s goals include: integrating renewable energy into the main grid, optimizing energy storage, and developing hybrid AC/DC systems. Gregory Reed and Rebecca Bagley were instrumental in launching this initiative. Reed is a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the Swanson School of Engineering, director of Pitt’s Center for Energy, and director of the Electric Power Systems Lab. Bagley is vice chancellor for economic partnerships.

—Kristin Bundy
Superbug Drug

Scientists in Pitt’s Center for Vaccine Research have developed a two-for-one antibiotic that fights bacteria and a deadly respiratory virus in one punch. Called eCAP, the drug is a synthetic version of the body’s naturally occurring first line of defense against infections. It’s also a major breakthrough for science in the fight against “superbugs” and other antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, which have become a growing threat to worldwide public health. “To the best of our knowledge, no other antibiotics out there work on both the bacteria and the virus during a co-infection,” says Jennifer Bomberger, assistant professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and senior author of the study reporting the drug’s effects.

Year of Diversity

Throughout this academic year 2016-17, the University of Pittsburgh is celebrating the Year of Diversity, which focuses on the importance of difference in building learning communities and preparing students to value experiences that are unlike their own. This includes differences across race, gender expression, veteran status, disability status, politics, ethnicity, religion, and social status.

Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia Beeson noted three key goals: to recognize and appreciate the full range of differences among us; to reflect on the value of diversity and how it strengthens systems and communities; and to understand that different ideas and perspectives are fundamental to the advancement of knowledge.

Diversity and inclusion are core values at Pitt and are central to the University’s strategic efforts to ensure that the Pitt community is engaged in exploration and understanding of others’ ideas, viewpoints, and experiences. At an October event to launch the year’s theme, Chancellor Patrick Gallagher urged the crowd to view the Year of Diversity as a starting point for exploring the issues.

“This is a catalyst to do special things that will have a long-lasting impact across the University,” he said, adding that the Year of Diversity’s official calendar is filling quickly with events that “will look at diversity from every angle and perspective.”

So far, more than 100 events are planned.

The Year of Diversity seeks to build a community where everyone feels acknowledged, respected, and valued. “Part of diversity is thriving through discomfort,” said Pam Connelly, associate vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion. “It’s not easy, but it is only through hearing and understanding opposing viewpoints that your own perspectives can be tested, refined, and improved. It can be challenging, but ultimately empowering.”

—Ervin Dyer, Sharon S. Blake

New School in 2017

It’s official: the University of Pittsburgh has a new school—the School of Computing and Information. It will begin official operations in July 2017 and enroll its first cohort of students in the fall. Business, medicine, science, engineering, the humanities, and many other areas all require that students are proficient in using computing and information resources. The new school will combine and build upon the resources of Information Sciences and the Department of Computer Science to integrate computing and information with core disciplines across the University.

The result will be a dynamic, multidisciplinary environment that supports discovery, innovation, and entrepreneurship driven by data and technology. “With this launch, Pitt and our board have recognized the rapidly growing importance of computing and information in virtually every discipline—and in solving both large and small issues facing our society today,” said Chancellor Patrick Gallagher.
Advancing Education
The University Center for Teaching and Learning, created in 2016, brings a multidisciplinary team of educators and resources together with one mission: to discover and apply the best principles of effective teaching and learning in a rapidly changing world. The center is a hub for various forward-thinking programs like a course incubator, a mentoring component, a center devoted to diversity in curriculum, and a team to re-envision classroom design for optimal learning. The center’s focus is to transform the ways in which faculty teach and students learn in the 21st century.
—Kristin Bundy

Berg’s Science
In 1880, Thomas Edison started what has since become one of the world’s leading peer-reviewed academic journals—Science. Pitt’s Jeremy Berg has begun a five-year term as the Science family’s editor-in-chief, unanimously elected by the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Board of Directors, effective July 1, 2016.

Those who know Berg say his energy, curiosity, and creativity make him a natural fit for the high-profile role. As former director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the National Institutes of Health, Berg is well known for encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration and for dismantling silos.

Though he’ll be commuting to Washington, D.C., during his Science tenure, he will continue with many of his responsibilities at Pitt, including service as associate senior vice chancellor for science strategy and planning in the health sciences, and professor of computational and systems biology and chemistry. He will also transition into an advisory role at Pitt’s Institute of Precision Medicine.

Diplomacy Partnership
The U.S. Department of State has named Pitt a partner in its Diplomacy Lab venture, which seeks to broaden the department’s research base as it faces a range of complex global challenges. The Diplomacy Lab is a public-private partnership with U.S. colleges and universities that taps universities’ intellectual capital for research on and innovation in foreign affairs. The alliance creates new opportunities for Pitt students and faculty, especially in relation to the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, the Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies, and the University Center for International Studies.
Honoring Physician-Scientists

Pitt’s David A. Brent, Anne B. Newman, and Brian Zuckerbraun were inducted into the Association of American Physicians, which honors doctors with outstanding credentials in biomedical science and/or translational biomedical research. Also in 2016, Caterina Rosano, Bernhard Kühn, and Stephen Chan were inducted into the American Society for Clinical Investigation, which recognizes early-career accomplishment in new members age 50 or younger.

Among the Best

In 2016, two Pitt professors were elected as members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, whose ranks consist of top scholars and leaders in the arts, sciences, business, and public affairs. Terrance Hayes, award-winning poet and professor in the Department of English, and James Woodward, distinguished professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, are the University’s most recent electees. Hayes’s latest poetry collection How to Be Drawn (Penguin 2015) was a 2015 finalist for both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Woodward’s theories and research on philosophical issues have appeared in many scholarly journals including the International Journal of Epidemiology and The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science.

Pitt Research Profile: One Year

$726.5 million in total annual sponsored research

During the fiscal year ending in June 2016, the University received $726.5 million in total sponsored research funding. Examples of multidisciplinary areas of research include aging, bioengineering, computer modeling, drug discovery, global health, humanities, nanoscience, neuroscience, philosophy, and translational medicine, among others. Pitt also launched 10 student start-up companies, formed or purchased 73 new companies, disclosed 314 inventions, and obtained 80 U.S. patents.

- 10 Student start-ups launched
- 73 New companies formed or purchased
- 314 Invention disclosures
- 80 U.S. patents obtained

GOOD WORD

The Swanson School of Engineering’s Benedum Hall has become an award-winning, sustainable, LEED Gold building—one of nine certified-sustainable Pitt buildings, with more to come.

Hayes, above, and Woodward
Ground Control to Doctor Tuan

Escaping the bonds of Earth's gravity may provide new insights into osteoporosis thanks to a Pitt project that will travel aboard the International Space Station. With support from the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space, Pitt's Rocky Tuan is developing a 3D system to evaluate the accelerated aging and degeneration of bones known to occur in the zero gravity environment of space. “Studying such rapid progression offers great advantages to developing treatments for osteoporosis faster and more effectively, in ways that are not possible on Earth,” said Tuan, who is the Arthur J. Rooney, Sr. Professor in Sports Medicine in the School of Medicine’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. “Our research will benefit not only the health of astronauts for long stays in space or a future journey to Mars, but also will help people on Earth, providing capabilities for the screening of drug therapies, enhancing personalized medicine, and developing bioreactor technologies for tissue engineering.” Tuan is also director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Engineering and affiliated with the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

A Poetic Feat

In 2016, faculty from the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences founded the Center for African American Poetry and Poetics (CAAPP) at Pitt, among the first of its kind in the nation. CAAPP is unique in its focus not just on African American and African diasporic poetry, but also on the theories, practices, and community that relate to the genre. Plans for the center include fellowships and residencies for writers; readings and community workshops in partnership with other Pittsburgh organizations; and the development of a new graduate-level course taught collaboratively by the center's advisory committee, which consists of faculty from the departments of English, History, and Africana Studies.
A classroom has been transformed into a sanctuary of sorts. Gone are the desks and chairs. The tiled floor is covered by the outline of a large, circular labyrinth painted on a sheet of canvas. A silent assembly of adults, teens, and children walk the winding path, as soft instrumental music plays in the background. They must find their own pace, concentrate on each step, and avoid bumping into one another. Instructor Mary Lynn Callahan calmly coaches the group from the room’s edge.

“Focus on the path,” she says. “One foot in front of the other.”

Callahan, a minister at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, is trained in meditation practices, including the ancient custom of walking labyrinths. She explains how the winding course, which eventually leads to an open center, is laden in symbolism. To some practitioners, it may represent life, or the journey toward spirituality or an inner self. The basic premise of the labyrinth and many other mindfulness practices, she says, is occupying the brain so that it doesn’t think too much. “Our thoughts are running constantly—what’s for dinner, what tasks to do. The labyrinth path is complex; each step requires intentionality, which focuses the brain.”

The center, launched in early 2016 and housed within the Graduate School of Public Health, aims to promote the practice and scholarship of mindfulness at Pitt through education, research, and service. It’s all part of the University’s multidisciplinary approach to a field full of potential. Recent studies indicate that mindfulness practices—often defined as the work of focusing the mind on the present—can lead to many benefits, including stress and anxiety reduction, better chronic pain management, and enhanced concentration.

The fair invited the campus community to take a peek at all the center has to offer. In addition to meditation classes, there were talks on subjects like mindfulness in the classroom and kid-friendly activities like family yoga and mindful coloring. There were also information booths run by local nonprofit groups—yoga studios, educational curriculum organizations, and stress reduction courses at the University’s medical center. Ultimately, the event drew nearly 500 curious attendees looking for ways to unwind.

Back at the labyrinth, business major Cedar Hansen is immersed in walking the weaving path. When he reaches its center, he ponders its symbolic connection to his own life. “You can’t see ahead much, whether in 10 steps you’ll go left or right, so you just think about the current step,” he says after the class concludes. “I don’t know where I’ll be in 10 years. I’m
working toward graduation and a career, and meditation helps me not get overwhelmed by the destination and stay focused on what I'm doing now.”

Hansen’s personal meditation practice—focusing on his breath and clearing out thoughts for exactly 21 minutes each day—began a year ago, and he enjoys the sense of calm and centeredness it brings. With the Center for Mindfulness and Consciousness Studies now on campus, keeping up with his restorative routine and gaining new resources will be easier than ever.

Welcome, Neighbors

BY KAYLEN SANDERS

Large cardboard boxes fill the room—perched on tables, propped on chairs, and cluttering the floor of the William Pitt Union assembly room. In one box, a ceramic pitcher peeks out from behind a kettle and a set of silverware. In another, shampoo bottles are stacked beside soaps and lotions. Busy Pitt students flit among the cardboard containers, carrying items ranging from teddy bears to toasters.

Undergrad Harpreet Bassi pauses for a moment to survey the scene. She is the public relations chair for Pitt’s Genocide Relief and Awareness Club (GRAC). Her Facebook updates and rounds of emails requesting volunteers paid off. The room is bustling with more than 100 students and community members, all part of the Pitt Good Neighbor Project, an effort to gather and distribute household goods—and goodwill—to 17 Syrian-refugee families arriving or already settled in Pittsburgh.

Bassi and fellow GRAC members began planning this project weeks ago, but it didn’t feel real until the donation drive, which produced an estimated $30,000 worth of items from Pittsburghers and an additional $680 in funding contributions. Today’s goal: assemble the “welcome kits,” which consist of the things each family needs to rebuild their lives, including kitchenware, linens, diapers, groceries, and school supplies. The extraordinary turnout of both donors and volunteers uplifted club members.

“When a community comes together and says ‘you’re welcome here, you’re accepted, we don’t discriminate against you, and we don’t hate you,’ it’s a very powerful message,” says Sam Mostofa, a neuroscience major and founding president of GRAC.

The project began with a $250 grant awarded by Pitt’s Student Organization Resource Center through PittServes, an initiative that engages students in community service on the local and national scale. In a complex political climate, members of GRAC, a student-run political action club, hoped to show that, regardless of what may divide us, people want to help each other.

As the welcome packages were assembled, that sentiment was reflected over and over in the dozens of colorful welcome notes strung together as a banner stretching across the assembly room. Participants in the donation drive had been invited to write cards, to be tucked into the boxes for refugee families.

Meanwhile, sophomore Liam McLane shuttled children’s books back and forth, cradling stacks in his arms before placing them neatly in cardboard crates. Dedicating time to the community is one of his passions.

“I’ve started trying to plan my own project like this,” says McLane, who studies political science and economics. “This is giving me an idea of what it could look like.”

The packaging of welcome kits continued into the evening. Eventually, GRAC members pulled out thick rolls of cheerfully colored wrapping paper. They wrapped the kits like presents—gifts of support from the Pitt community to Pittsburgh’s newest arrivals.

A Ball for All

BY KAYLEN SANDERS

Throngs of young people decked out in suits, gowns, and glitzy cocktail dresses gather in a sunny room of the O’Hara Student Center. The crowd mingles over finger sandwiches.

At a nearby table, Pitt junior Sydney Vickers chats with her friend, Joyce Braun, who wears a long, blue dress and has a shimmering tiara perched on her head. The attire is inspired by the Disney movie, Cinderella, which Braun and Vickers watched together several years ago. Since then, Braun enjoys making a regal appearance at big events—like today’s occasion, the Best Buddies Friendship Ball.

The ball is the annual culmination of the nonprofit’s efforts to break down barriers and create opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In particular, the event fosters friendships between people with disabilities—“buddies”—and others, their “peer buddies.”

This year, the University of Pittsburgh’s chapter of Best Buddies Pennsylvania hosted the regional soiree. Months of planning resulted in the gathering of more than 300 buddies and peer buddies from colleges and high schools all over Pittsburgh.

“My favorite thing about the ball is that it’s like a prom. You get to dress up and really enjoy it,” says Braun. “All of the schools come together to have fun.” Her peer buddy, Vickers, is an eco-
nomics major who joined Best Buddies in high school and stayed involved throughout her time at Pitt.

“It’s the personal connection that you form with your buddy that’s my favorite,” says Vickers. “Joyce is one of my best friends.”

Their snacks finished, the duo heads into the ballroom, where other partygoers have already taken to the dance floor. The ball’s theme, “A Night in the Big Apple,” is reflected in the room’s décor. A large cardboard cutout of the Statue of Liberty watches over the crowd. Golden balloons that spell out “NYC” catch the light, glimmering over the DJ’s table. Friends with party beads around their necks flock to a photo booth to capture the moment together. Braun and Vickers, hand-in-hand, are ready to dance until they can’t feel their feet.

Pitt’s chapter of Best Buddies nurtures friendships by hosting a number of events throughout the year. The goal is always the same: bringing people together under a banner of inclusion.

“It’s a two-way street. It’s not just that we’re helping buddies out. They help us out just as much. Both lives are changed equally,” explains Kaitlyn Wagner, a Pitt junior and co-president of the University’s Best Buddies chapter. The bond is mutual, forged through a willingness to focus on what someone can do rather than what they cannot. And if there’s one thing just about everyone can do, it’s have fun—the Friendship Ball is living, laughing proof.

Hack Away

A miniature robot whirrs to life. It is a relatively simple creation—a mess of multicolored wires connects two circuit boards affixed to a wheeled platform made of Popsicle sticks. But the software that directs the robot’s movements is much more complex. As a crowd watches, the tiny machine’s programming smoothly navigates it through a crude tabletop maze fashioned from tape and halved Styrofoam plates. The robot avoids obstructions and easily maneuvers around corners. A number of onlookers smile, impressed.

The robot is powered by software designed on the spot during SteelHacks 2016, a weekend competition of innovation, exploration, and fun. Over 36 hours, four Pitt undergrads on a team called RoboSim toiled with computer screens and electrical components to invent something entirely new.

The second-annual University of Pittsburgh-hosted and student-run event drew more than 50 college student technophiles to the William Pitt Union for the three-day, around-the-clock hackathon. But this isn’t hacking in the illegal sense.

“Hacking,” in the context that we use it, means putting together ideas with no previous preparation and using only the materials available at the hackathon,” says Ritwik Gupta, Pitt computing science student and SteelHacks founder.

Like other hackathons, SteelHacks invited teams to collaborate to develop new—or modify existing—hardware or software within a time constraint. With help from Pitt’s Department of Computer Science in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and from the Swanson School of Engineering, along with corporate sponsors including Google and Lockheed Martin, SteelHacks teams had access to an array of cutting-edge technology for their projects. There were virtual reality headsets, motion-capturing software, gesture control armbands, open-source software, smart watches, and microprocessors. At the hackathon’s end, judges would select the winners at a science-fair-style expo.

“We had no plan on what we were going to do, we just had the rough idea,” says Aaron Miller, RoboSim member and Pitt computer science and physics student. The team wanted to create a software package that would make it easier to test robotic prototypes as well as the software that directs them. Ultimately, RoboSim’s goal was simply to “make something cool.”

To do that, the Pitt team’s members fashioned original software by tweaking an existing 3D-creation computer program, and they engineered a test robot, too. They finished their tasks with only 10 minutes to spare in the competition.

In the end, team RoboSim’s impressive work earned it first place. Other groups, too, showed off exciting work. One team created software that converts words into piano music reflecting the words’ mood and tone. Another made a smartphone application for pop quizzesing users and reminding them to study. A team even built a 3D game in which players use a “Panther Cannon” to prevent lions from climbing the Cathedral of Learning.

As the weekend’s activities waned, groggy hackers headed home to catch up on sleep. But the SteelHacks experience will stay with them, in the next class or task that demands creative problem solving and imaginative thinking.
Humans living on Mars. 100 percent renewable energy powering cities. Health care tailored to personal genetics. Global innovators gathered on Pitt’s campus in October to explore the frontiers of science and technology. The guest-in-chief was a self-described "science geek," U.S. President Barack Obama. He chose Pitt and nearby Carnegie Mellon to host the first-ever White House Frontiers Conference.
“Nathan is the first person who can feel with his prosthetic fingers . . . and he can once again feel the touch of another person. Researchers will tell you there is still a long way to go . . . but he can feel pressure with precision. That’s what American innovation can do. Imagine what’s possible for Nathan if we keep on pushing the boundaries.”

—President Barack Obama
athan Copeland’s hands are curled into tight fists, always. They’ve been that way for a dozen years, the result of paralysis from a car accident that left him without sensation below the neck. Recently, though, he was able to grasp, touch, and feel without moving a muscle. Instead, he used his own thoughts to control the movement of a robotic arm. He is the first person in human history to experience the sensation of touch in this extraordinary way, through a brain-computer interface, or BCI.

The 30-year-old is participating in groundbreaking research by Pitt scientists and engineers, who developed the BCI. Microwires, strategically implanted in his brain, use electrical stimulation to direct thought-controlled movement of a carbon-fiber arm.

On campus in October, Copeland was able to shake President Barack Obama’s hand and even give him a fist bump by mind-maneuvering the robotic arm.

This remarkable feat was just one of dozens of examples of innovation on display as part of the October 13 Frontiers Conference—an event sponsored by the White House and hosted by Pitt and Carnegie Mellon to highlight advances in science and technology across the globe. Guests included not only the U.S. president but also Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, NIH Director Francis Collins, NASA Chief Scientist Ellen Stofan, and Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides.

The exhibits in Alumni Hall’s Connolly Ballroom that day elicited the excitement generated by a U.S. presidential visit, the buzz of discovery around a science expo, and the vibe of a day full of spirited TED Talks. The U.S. president, accompanied by Pitt Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, met Nathan Copeland and learned more about BCI and the robotic arm. He also docked a spacecraft to the International Space Station, from the virtual cockpit of a Boeing simulator.

In one corner of the exhibition space, a drone created to inspect infrastructure from the air whizzed behind a black-netted barrier. An eerie snake robot, able to reach remote and confined places, slithered around the hardwood floor next to a creeping spider robot designed to navigate rough terrain. Other exhibits featured a virtual trip to Mars, low-cost paper microscopes, robotic wheelchairs that easily climb curbs—and eventually stairs—and even a project in which video-gamers are helping to map the brain’s uncharted neural circuits.

Elsewhere in Pitt’s Alumni Hall, as blocks away at Carnegie Mellon, scientists from other universities and companies worldwide met to share perspectives on the frontiers in science and technology in five tracks—personal, local, national, global, and interplanetary. How might emerging innovation improve our personal lives, our neighborhoods, our nation, our world, and beyond?

The tracks presented a whirlwind of information, each packed with blockbuster speakers and insights. Tim Hughes of SpaceX, a private aerospace company, shared big ideas for living on Mars, prompted by the ambitious goal to send an American there by 2030; Roman Mars, host of popular radio program 99% Invisible, recorded a live podcast with Stanford University economist Raj Chetty on inequality in America; media guru Tim O’Reilly delivered a hopeful message about how machines and automation might enhance—rather than overtake—human jobs and work; and there was discussion about Pitt’s leading role in making health care more personalized by using customized therapies and preventive strategies.

Collaborating across disciplines to make the BCI a reality were Pitt’s Jennifer Collinger and Robert Gaunt, both assistant professors of physical medicine and rehabilitation in the School of Medicine; Sharlene Flesher, John Downey, and Jeffrey Weiss, graduate students with the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition and the Swanson School’s Department of Bioengineering; Distinguished Professor of Neurobiology Andrew Schwartz in the School of Medicine; Professor and Vice Chair for Research Michael Boninger in the School of Medicine’s Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Science; and Associate Professor of Neurosurgery Elizabeth Tyler-Kabara in the School of Medicine.
Pitt earned attention from national media outlets including *Wired*, *BuzzFeed*, *Nature*, *Politico*, *USA Today*, *Forbes*, *Car and Driver*, and more. Pitt’s social media accounts garnered 1.1 million “impressions” (the number of times a post was viewed) on Twitter and Facebook in 24 hours.

based on an individual’s own lifestyle, environment, and genetics.

The University of Pittsburgh recently received a $46 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health for a landmark research effort that will recruit enrollees for a new precision medicine initiative. The national All of Us Research Program is being compared in scope to the worldwide genome project with its goal to identify and map all human genes. Led by the Clinical and Translational Science Institute’s Steven Reis, the “All of Us” Pitt team plans to recruit 175,000 people as part of the national endeavor to customize health prevention and treatment based on individual differences in lifestyle habits, environmental factors, and biogenetics. The goal nationwide is one million enrollees by 2020. In more good news, the day of the conference, the White House announced a $300 million commitment to national research on these frontiers, including $70 million for brain research and $16 million to expand the precision medicine initiative.

A highlight of the day’s events was an afternoon plenary session, at which President Obama gave the keynote address and participated in a panel discussion on the future of medicine moderated by surgeon and health-policy explorer Atul Gawande, who is also a *New Yorker* staff writer and author of the book *Being Mortal*, among others.

“Earlier today, I got to see some pretty cool stuff,” the president said during his opening remarks. And that Pittsburgh was chosen as the host city for the White House conference was no surprise, Obama added. “Pittsburgh has been revitalizing itself through technology for a very long time. ... The Steel City is now home to groundbreaking medical research and world-class universities. ... doubling down on technology, doubling down on science, doubling down on innovation,” the president said.

The president was introduced by Alexis Chidi, a young woman who exemplifies the conference’s values and promise. She is a Pitt alumnus who enrolled here at age 16 to study psychology and economics. She earned a doctorate degree in the spring from the joint Pitt and Carnegie Mellon MD-PhD physician-scientist program, and she will complete medical school at Pitt in 2017.

“As a product of the collaborative, innovative, multidisciplinary tradition here in Pittsburgh, I cannot imagine a better place to hold this important national forum,” Chidi said.

In his remarks to open the plenary session, Pitt Chancellor Patrick Gallagher captured the spirit of the event: “Today, we are building a world where we will restore sight to blind eyes and sensation to paralyzed limbs. We are realizing a future where we will send people to Mars, grow a human organ on a chip, fill our streets with self-driving cars, and diagnose cancer from a single drop of blood.”

Much of that work is happening here and now on the University of Pittsburgh’s campus. We can all fist-bump to that.

To learn more, visit frontiers.pitt.edu and frontiersconference.org.

“A roaming robotic spider developed by Carnegie Mellon’s Robotics Institute was among the surprising sights in Alumni Hall’s exhibition space. At right: face-recognition technology on display.”

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“Today, we are building a world where we will restore sight to blind eyes and sensation to paralyzed limbs. We are realizing a future where we will send people to Mars, grow a human organ on a chip, fill our streets with self-driving cars, and diagnose cancer from a single drop of blood.”

—Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, University of Pittsburgh
THINK YOU KNOW US?
THINK AGAIN.

1. *The Wall Street Journal*: Pitt is the #1 public university in the Northeast and 13th in the nation
2. QS World University Rankings: Best philosophy program in the world
3. Pitt’s research expenditures top $700 million annually
4. Top 10 nationally in NIH research support
5. Top 5 among U.S. public universities for 2016 Fulbright Scholars
6. 12 countries, 4 continents: Our medical and health sciences faculty serve the world
7. *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance*: Pitt is one of America’s best-value public colleges and the best value in Pennsylvania for the 12th consecutive year
8. *U.S. News & World Report*: Pitt is among the top 50 global universities
9. Among our alumni are Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, and recipients of MacArthur Fellowships, National Book Awards, the National Medal of Science, and many other distinguished awards
10. Our Cathedral of Learning is the tallest educational structure in the nation
What sorts of lessons are taught in the kitchen?

We try to bring in the fun of food. Our Salad Lab teaches kids how to make their own unique salad dressing. We give them mason jars, a formula, lots of different options, and they make their own salad dressing. It’s a great way to get kids excited about eating leafy green veggies.

How are children helped by healthy eating?

We often think about obesity and diet. But what made me search for a solution to the poor diet of many of my patients were digestive issues. Those I see as commonly as obesity or more commonly. Even mental health issues—like anxiety, depression, ADHD—often are intertwined with diet.

With healthy eating, who is more difficult, kids or their parents?

Parents. Absolutely. Kids are often more willing to explore than adults. Adults may have been called picky eaters their whole lives, and to undo that is really hard. Sometimes the best agents of change are children, and I find that sometimes they will go home and influence the adults to eat better.

How does gardening affect eating habits?

When you show kids how food grows, they’re engaging their senses. Before they even put kale in their mouth, they’re planting that seed and watching it grow. They pick it, wash it, and feel excited and confident about the food they grew. It can be much less difficult to convince children to eat a local heirloom tomato grown in their own backyard.

How does this work affect your own family?

I have to practice what I preach—having patience, being consistent, and understanding that eating is a developmental process every child goes through differently. My kids are at the point where they have internalized what food can do for their body, both positively and negatively. That is where I want all of my patients’ families to be—where they don’t have to police their children because they have instilled good eating habits from the beginning.
Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy

BY LAURA CLARK ROHRER, WITH RACHEL MANGINI

In 1977, journalist and Paris Review editor George Plimpton was scheduled to talk at the University of Pittsburgh and needed a ride from the airport to campus. The student editor of the Pitt News was appointed the task—but all did not go well. Hungover, uncertain of what to say, and driving a junky car, the student didn’t make a great impression, but the famous passenger remained good-natured. Weeks passed and the same student unexpectedly bumped into Plimpton at the Harrisburg airport. The two exchanged awkward pleasantries. Then, not long after and by sheer coincidence, the student stumbled across Plimpton again on a New York City street. On that occasion, the literary giant avoided conversation and rushed away, apparently disturbed by the inexplicable presence of this rumbled Pitt undergrad.

Decades later, the two shared a laugh about these encounters when they met again, this time as literary professionals—and not by accident, as they were on a lecture panel together. By then, alumnus Dinty W. Moore (yes, that’s his real name, though he went by “Bill” at Pitt) had morphed from uncertain student journalist to a talented nonfiction writer in his own right. Known to call himself “one of America’s most respected Obscure Memoirists,” Moore (A&S ’77) is the author of numerous books highlighting his signature style of humor and poignancy. He is now the director of the creative writing program at Ohio University and is the founding editor of Brevity, a popular journal of nonfiction.

His latest book—which includes the Plimpton/Pitt-related anecdote—is Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy: Advice and Confessions on Writing, Love, and Cannibals. It takes the form of an irreverent advice column in which notable authors write in with lighthearted questions about nonfiction, and Moore responds with short essays that are as playful as the answers. The book isn’t just for nonfiction lovers, but for humor and creativity aficionados, too.

The story of Moore’s Plimpton junctures is told as a “Google Maps Essay” in which each part of the story connects to a location shown on a map. Those run-ins now seem to have been signs, pointing him in the direction of his career path—a path that wasn’t always so apparent. At Pitt, a professor once encouraged him to experiment with combining journalistic conventions and creative writing—a style in which he’s now expert.

“I was horrible at it,” Moore says, “but maybe a seed was planted.”

It would take years of odd jobs, exploration, and an MFA degree from Louisiana State University before he dedicated himself to writing. Now, he’s offering his insights as an author—and a former wandering Pitt student—for the enjoyment of others. ■

Greatness in the Shadows

Larry Doby made history in 1947 by becoming the first African American baseball player to integrate the American League just weeks after Jackie Robinson did the same in the National League. Yet, Doby never became the household name that Robinson did. Douglas M. Branson, Pitt’s W. Edward Sell Chair of Business Law, investigates why in Greatness in the Shadows: Larry Doby and the Integration of the American League (University of Nebraska Press). Fusing storytelling and statistics, the book shines a light on Doby’s impressive athletic achievements and his perseverance in the face of racial discrimination.

—Kayten Sanders

Finding Common Ground

From working as a community organizer to founding Pitt’s Institute of Politics, Morton Coleman (A&S ’83G) has a wealth of experience serving communities as a social worker, advisor, and professor. In his memoir, Finding Common Ground (University of Pittsburgh Press), Coleman, director emeritus of the Institute of Politics, reflects on a lifetime of learning how to best bring together diverse groups of people to solve economic, social, and political problems. His insights demonstrate the role community development continues to have in shaping the successes of Pittsburgh and cities across the nation.

—Madeline Adamczyk

The Baltimore Plot

Days before Abraham Lincoln’s first inauguration, detectives discovered evidence of a plan to assassinate the president-elect. But just how extensive was the plot, and how close did it come to unfolding? Michael J. Kline sets out to answer these questions in The Baltimore Plot: The First Conspiracy to Assassinate Abraham Lincoln (Westholme Publishing). Covering the 12 days during which President-elect Lincoln journeyed by train to Washington, D.C., the book examines the facts and fiction behind the scheme.

A California-based attorney, Kline (LAW ’85) uses his legal expertise to break down the details just as a criminal prosecutor attempts to prove a case to a jury.

—MA

Surgical Counter-Terrorism

A worldwide criminal operation has an evil organ-harvesting scheme and is preying on military personnel in the novel Surgical Counter-Terrorism. Luckily, undercover agent Doc Strathmore, along with his partner, Smythe, is on the case and determined to see justice. The thriller incorporates suspense, humor, and tons of action as the main characters attempt to thwart disaster without becoming targets themselves. This is the 22nd book written by author Mike Dudek (A&S ’72), who owns a Pennsylvania-based insurance agency and says he writes as a creative, relaxing escape.

—MA
Pitt’s freshman class tops high expectations. This is “the most academically accomplished and heterogeneous class in Pitt’s history,” noted Chancellor Patrick Gallagher in an October report to the University’s trustees.

This year’s freshmen hail from nearly 1,400 high schools in 44 states and include 162 international students from 28 countries. The incoming class’s average academic GPA is 4.01.

“This class is also our most ethnically diverse in the University’s history,” said Gallagher, “with minority students making up nearly 30 percent of the Class of 2020.”

Here’s a glimpse at a few of Pitt’s newbie students, who are just beginning to forge their futures. Although most of these freshmen are still formulating their academic plans, they all express a desire to improve the world—and their interests range from biology and bioengineering, to music, film studies, and Hispanic languages, to mathematics and economics, to health policy and the business of medicine.

Who knows where Year 1 will lead for the 4,035 freshmen in the Class of 2020? Their experiences, accomplishments, and careers-in-the-making are early works in progress.
SANJAY, SAMHITA, AND SREYAS RAVI

Background: From South Brunswick, N.J., the Ravi triplets are motivated, curious, and accustomed to being busy—each in their own individual ways. All three are avid athletes (basketball, biking, running) and instrumentalists (trombone, upright bass, and cello). The brothers have even played at New York’s Carnegie Hall. Sanjay was the first of the three to choose Pitt, which influenced his siblings to favor blue and gold.

Focus: Samhita and Sreyas are both interested in biology and bioengineering, potentially for careers in medicine; Sanjay plans to double major in economics and math.

Inspiration: Their parents. The three siblings say they cannot take full credit for their achievements in life. “A ton of our success is due to our parents’ accomplishments in instilling good values and getting us this far,” says Sreyas.

Aspiration: Samhita loves science and hopes to be involved in medical research while at Pitt. “I want to help people,” she says. Her brother Sreyas shares her enthusiasm for medical science, particularly orthopaedics. Sanjay, meanwhile, can see himself involved in financial investing—and he’s exploring his options with the joint math-economics major offered by the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.
ABBAS KIZILBASH

Background: From Southlake, Texas, a suburb of Dallas, this freshman enjoys sports and embraces a multicultural perspective. He reads Arabic and is fluent in Urdu, the language of his grandparents in Pakistan. He has traveled there many times to visit extended family, even though he remains, he says, an outsider with his American habits and customs.

Focus: An involved student who welcomes leadership roles, Kizilbash is passionate about economics and finance. “When I studied for econ tests in high school, it didn’t feel like studying,” he says. “I started investing in the stock market as an experiment—looking at the numbers, identifying trends, doing the research. It was all just fun.”

Inspiration: This quote from boxer Muhammad Ali, which is on a poster hanging in his residence-hall room: “I hated every minute of training, but I said, ‘Don’t quit. Suffer now, and live the rest of your life as a champion.’”

Aspiration: “I want to get into the business of medicine eventually,” he says, with the idea of perhaps opening his own practice. His parents are both science oriented, and his father is a cardiologist. In the meantime, he’s thriving in his new life at Pitt. “Everyone here wants to help you. They want to be your friend. A diverse community really allows for more acceptance, I think.”
ANA DRISCOLL

Background: A science whiz from Alexandria, Va., Driscoll sought an urban university with strength in the sciences and in Hispanic languages because she grew up speaking some Spanish thanks to the influence of her mother’s Cuban family. Now, she wants to master that bilingualism as she also pursues her interest in biological sciences. “All that came together at Pitt,” she says.

Focus: Ultimately, improved standards of global public health, guided by statistical and policy analysis. She already published an article on the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine debate in a student-run science magazine, and she’ll be participating in Pitt’s First Experiences in Research program in the spring semester, conducting research in public health.

Inspiration: Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate, for her bravery and willingness to sacrifice for her ideals. Also Pride and Prejudice’s Elizabeth Bennet for her sense of humor and “strength to do things which society doesn’t expect of her.”

Aspiration: Driscoll hopes to work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization. “I’m really into the idea of ensuring we raise the standard of care for everyone by looking at policy and using a statistics perspective,” she says. Shorter term, she wants to study abroad in Argentina while earning a certificate in Latin American Studies.
ZACH FULLERTON

Background: Fullerton grew up in nearby Bethel Park, Pa., and already has family ties to Pitt—his sister, Sarah, is currently a senior on the Pittsburgh campus and helped inspire his Panther pride. While in high school, he balanced academics with a yen for performance. His acting and singing talents earned him a number of roles, including the title character in his school’s production of *Peter Pan*.

Focus: Biology with an interest in eventually pursuing dentistry. He’s also enjoying the course “Intro to Performance” and taking advantage of spare time to play pool at Nordy’s Place in the student union or catch a film at SouthSide Works.

Inspiration: Witnessing individuals working collectively to accomplish a communal goal. It’s something he saw a lot while doing theater, and it reminds him that almost anything can be accomplished if people work together.

Aspiration: Even though it wasn’t cool, he always liked going to the dentist as a kid. (Perhaps that’s why he was voted “Best Smile” in his high school yearbook.) “I’ve always enjoyed interacting with kids,” he adds. So, pediatric dentistry may be in his future. Meanwhile, he’d like to put his people skills to work as a resident assistant at Pitt in the future.
JULIUS HUBBY

Background: A standout student and the president of his high school’s senior class, the Dallas, Texas, resident is also a bit of an adventurer. In August, he moved onto the Pittsburgh campus without previously visiting. “I’d never been to Pennsylvania, either,” he says, but a high school friend enrolled here, and Hubby also was influenced by a Pitt advocate at a college fair. “From the moment I stepped on campus, I’ve loved everything.”

Focus: The movie buff expects to dual-major in film studies and biology and minor in Portuguese. “My best friend from home is Brazilian, and I’ve always loved the language.”

Inspiration: Dr. Ben Carson. “Not the political side, but the medical side,” he says. “It’s amazing that he basically came from poverty and became one of the top neurosurgeons in the world. He broke through so many barriers.”

Aspiration: After a car accident damaged Hubby’s face during childhood, he marveled at how emergency doctors were able to rebuild his nose using a bone from his rib. The experience cinched his interest in becoming a doctor—someone who can help others in remarkable ways.
Sometimes around 1595, Queen Elizabeth I sat for a portrait, which shows her adorned in strands of luminous pearls. European nobility coveted the pearl—a gem that has been prized since ancient times. But there’s more to the pearl’s story than what glitters in imperial wealth and status.

Pitt’s Molly Warsh, an assistant professor of world history, spent a lot of time during the past decade globe-trotting, digging through historical archives. She has been researching the colonial-era dynamics that surrounded the pearl industry and its Spanish-controlled Caribbean fisheries during the years following Columbus’s first voyage to the Americas.

“It’s difficult to convey the scale,” Warsh says of the 16th- and 17th-century operation. “The best estimates of marine biologists are that in the 30 boom years of these fisheries, they harvested more than a billion oysters—which produced millions and millions of pearls.”

Warsh’s research delves into the complex labor systems, economic quandaries, and range of human experiences generated by the plunder of these maritime jewels during a time of expanding colonialism. To unravel the intertwined economic, political, social, and cultural threads of the pearl industry in its heyday required Warsh to dive deep into many disciplines: economics, sociology, art history, environmental science, and others.

Because natural pearls are such a variable commodity, she explains, “it became really hard for governments to tax or regulate them in any way.” They were smuggled easily and often, and sold on black markets, where they trickled into the hands of soldiers and everyday citizens, who cherished even a single pearl not as adornment, but as a valuable bartering tool.

Spanish officials wondered how to convert this natural resource into recognizable, taxable currency. A pearl-based lexicon emerged as handlers tried to impose order and make a profit. As she combed the archives over time, Warsh began noticing new words to describe pearls based on shape, color, and size. *Barrueca*, for instance, eventually becomes *baroque* in English—a word used to describe a misshapen, irregular pearl. “Later on, this becomes a metaphor for outlandish style, for something that breaks the mold.”

Her forthcoming book *American Baroque: Pearls and the Nature of Empire 1492-1700* resists the idea that the dynamics of cultivating imperial fortunes can be categorized. “The endeavor of empire is a constant struggle; it’s full of complexity,” she says. As an historian, she argues that the heart of the imperial endeavor must be viewed not only through the lens of colonial empire-builders and elites around gilded government tables, but also through examinations of the ordinary lives engaged in “small-scale, local, site-specific practices of resource cultivation,” that helped shape a political economy.

The beginnings of Warsh’s pearl project were seeded while she was a graduate student in history at Johns Hopkins University, where she earned a PhD in 2009. She then spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, based in Williamsburg, Va., where she expanded her research on global empire, focusing on British Atlantic history.

After serving on the faculty at Texas A&M, Warsh arrived at Pitt in 2012. Her thematic teaching style resonates with students, and her course on the Global History of Piracy is among the Department of History’s most popular offerings. This fall, as the interim director of Pitt’s prominent World History Center, Warsh introduced a new course on resource exploitation: how humans and their environment have interacted throughout and shaped his-
Pitt researchers have uncovered a vital key to understanding why Parkinson’s disease causes degeneration of the brain’s nerve cells. A research team led by J. Timothy Greenamyre, the Love Family Professor in Pitt’s School of Medicine, found that alpha-synuclein, a brain protein related to Parkinson’s, is toxic when overproduced or mutated by cells. When this occurs, alpha-synuclein disrupts mitochondrial function, which leads to neurodegeneration. Now, the research team is developing ways to prevent alpha-synuclein toxicity, which could potentially lead to new therapies to slow or stop the progression of the neurological disease, which affects about one million people in the United States each year. Greenamyre also directs the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases on Pitt’s campus.

How Do You Say “Bird?”
Karen Park, an assistant professor of linguistics, is using global bird migration and the study of human language to better understand aspects of biodiversity, human culture, and more. Her research is part of a £4 million project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council of Great Britain’s Open World Research Initiative through a Creative Multilingualism grant, led by the University of Oxford. The project includes a public education component, with cross-cultural outreach to schools, museums, and community centers.

Kidney Stone Solution
A natural citrus fruit extract has been found to dissolve calcium oxalate crystals, the most common component of kidney stones, according to research conducted by Pitt’s Giannis Mpourmpakis in the Swanson School of Engineering, along with colleagues at The University of Houston and Litholink Corporation. The findings, published in the journal Nature, offer the first evidence that the compound hydroxy-citrate inhibits the growth of oxalate crystals and can lead to their disintegration. As part of the study, Mpourmpakis—an assistant professor of chemical and petroleum engineering—and a graduate student applied density functional theory, a computational method used to study the structure and properties of materials, to understand how chemicals interact. The discovery could eventually lead to new kidney stone treatments.
One

of the first books Carolyn Kellogg was assigned to review for the Los Angeles Times was a novel she did not like. She agonized over her critique, feeling guilty and conflicted about writing negatively of another writer's work for the paper's large audience. But her editor reminded her that if she were going to be a book critic, she had to be, well, a critic. That meant having the confidence to publicly share her opinions.

“I thought about it and probably cried but said, ‘Okay I’m gonna do it,’” she says.

Now, nearly a decade and many reviews later, Kellogg has ascended to the position of books editor of the LA Times. It’s a role well suited to the writer and bibliophile who forged a vibrant career out of curiosity, a sharp critical eye, and a voracious appetite for reading.

By the time Kellogg began writing for the LA Times, the fourth most widely distributed U.S. newspaper, she had already acquired many of the tools needed to parse out how a book is working, or isn’t. The daughter of a librarian, she grew up in the Northeast nurturing a love for all things literary. After attending the University of Southern California, she followed her penchant for the written word to the Internet, working as an editor on websites including public radio’s Marketplace and the news outlet LAist.com. Kellogg also launched her own site, a witty literary blog called Pinky’s Paperhaus, where she wrote about the latest books and literary award winners, and interviewed authors for a podcast series.

But after spending so much time focusing on others’ work, Kellogg wanted to turn her full attention to her own writing. By 2006 she had landed at Pitt’s graduate writing program, where she studied with novelist and now-retired professor Chuck Kinder, who helped her hone her fiction writing skills as she earned a Master of Fine Arts degree. “Her insights and suggestions were often better than mine,” Kinder recalls.

Meanwhile, online, she continued sharing her take on the literary world. Her work soon caught the eye of an editor at the LA Times, who invited her to review that first book, and then another. Shortly after graduating from Pitt, Kellogg moved to California and became a staff writer for the paper, where her thoughtful analyses were featured regularly. Others noticed her keen observations, too. The Pitt graduate served as the vice president of the board of the National Book Critics Circle for six years and, in 2009, won LA Times’s feature blogging award for her writing on the newspaper’s book blog, which she helped to found.

The books editor since early 2016, Kellogg assigns articles and chooses which books—of the hundreds that cross her desk every week—her team of critics will review. Being surrounded by so much great writing is an ideal perk, but what is perhaps better, she says, is being able to help share that writing with others.

“There are always people who will turn to the book pages. But there’s also that person getting the paper to read about the Dodgers, who might accidentally flip to one of our essays about how Latino poets are left out of national poetry month,” she says. “I hope to surprise readers or introduce them to something they’ll love.”
As Pitt’s vice provost and dean of students, Kenyon Bonner helps undergraduates navigate young adulthood on a bustling urban campus, applying lessons drawn from his own experiences of community and service.
A woman with visual impairment struggles to get through a narrow passage between chairs. She reaches out an arm, attempting to maneuver her way around tables in a crowded restaurant setting.

Looking on impatiently, a waiter says, “Ma’am, you’re disturbing the other guests.”

For the diner trying to navigate her path, the embarrassment and frustration are palpable.

This scene unfolds not in the dining room of a fancy restaurant, but in the second-floor ballroom of Pitt’s O’Hara Student Center, where tables and chairs are set up in an interactive exhibit called the Disability Diner. The restaurant patron is, in fact, an undergraduate student wearing goggles that block her vision. Several fellow diners, also students, wear noise-canceling headphones that simulate deafness.

Another tries to reach the table in a wheelchair.

Designed by members of Pitt’s Students for Disability Advocacy, the Disability Diner was one of eight interactive exhibits or “rooms” featured in “Boxes and Walls,” a two-day event last spring sponsored by Pitt’s Division of Student Affairs. Other rooms focused on issues including food insecurity, anti-Semitism, and awareness of sexual assault.

The event’s purpose was to present students with situations and circumstances they may not encounter in their everyday lives, encouraging them to think about—and even feel for themselves—others’ experiences.

“The work and importance of community starts with each of us,” says Kenyon Bonner, who leads Student Affairs as vice provost and dean of students.

For much of his professional career, Bonner has been bringing students together, helping them find their way. He knows, too, that it’s equally important for them to support each other. It’s a philosophy he calls “lift as you climb,” premised on his belief that as students learn and grow, they have the responsibility to help others excel and grow as well.

That outlook took root in him long ago in a tough neighborhood in Cleveland where he grew up, the eldest of three siblings. In the 1970s, shifting economies began rusting out many industrial centers, including Cleveland. As jobs and hope withered, crime and gangs sprouted. The Bonner family’s home was broken into twice, and a 5-year-old Kenyon saw a man shot to death. His social worker father, Robert, and stay-at-home mom, Linda, worked hard so their children would see the world of opportunities that existed beyond the corner of 112th and Benham.

“We wanted our children to know that people do bad things, but you don’t have to be one of them,” recalls Mrs. Bonner about those years. Each night as her son went to bed, she read him a Bible verse. A favorite was Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

No matter the darkness outside the house, Kenyon Bonner would know the sunshine of promise. His parents believed education was a pathway to promise, and they sent him to a school district in his grandparents’ neighborhood, where the streets were safer, the instruction stronger. Through his parents, he also became immersed in the social networks of people helping people. His mom carried him to city council sessions as she petitioned for neighborhood improvements. He went with his union–officer father to meetings at Union Hall #1746 with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. He visited the Cayuhoga Department of Human Services, where he saw his father providing for people who needed food and shelter.

And, he had role models. James Collins supervised his father, and the Tuskegee University graduate treated the younger Bonner like a grandson. He took him to Cavaliers basketball games and drove him to basketball camp when the Bonners’ car wouldn’t run.

All of what Bonner saw taught him that “you don’t get through life without the help of other people.”

Today, Bonner has responsibility for helping some 18,000 undergraduate students on the Pittsburgh campus. His skills are particularly important as students navigate the terrain of adulthood. And, as Pitt celebrates this academic year around the theme of diversity, he has a prime opportunity to share his philosophy: Help those around you to excel and grow—listening to, learning from, and respecting others who have dissimilar, even conflicting perspectives.

Today, Kenyon Bonner has responsibility for helping some 18,000 undergraduate students on the Pittsburgh campus. His skills are particularly important as students navigate the terrain of adulthood. And, as Pitt celebrates this academic year around the theme of diversity, he has a prime opportunity to share his philosophy: Help those around you to excel and grow—listening to, learning from, and respecting others who have dissimilar, even conflicting perspectives.

Those familiar with Bonner often see this principle in action. Around campus, he’s known for the way he easily glides into the daily orbit of students. He often sits at the back in meetings, listening to their suggestions to improve campus life. Afterward, he approaches those who expressed their views, invites them to chat, and encourages them to share their perspectives by joining a committee or panel to move their ideas forward.

Bonner arrived at Pitt in January 2004 from Kent State University, where he earned a master’s of education degree in rehabilitation counseling.

“I took counseling and enjoyed it,” he says, “but I became more excited about wanting to do the work that prevented kids from needing counseling.” That’s how he got into student affairs. At Pitt, he began as associate director in the Office of Residence Life, and others quickly noticed his skills with collaboration, counseling, and outreach to parents and students.

He was promoted to director of the Office of Student Life, rose to associate dean and director of student life, and then served as interim dean of students for a year until his promotion last March.

Bonner was also given the leadership role with RISE, a Pitt program that prepares students not only for graduation but also for greater opportunities and rewarding lives. The innovative program mentors underrepresented students on their path to success.

In the early 1990s, as an undergraduate at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pa., Bonner initially struggled with self-doubt and alienation. He was one of
about 40 African American students on the rural campus of 1,200. There were no Black faculty. He initially wondered if he had made the right decision. The transition from urban Cleveland to the two-centuries-old W&J campus was a shock. Bonner had to confront differences of race, class, and culture. He dedicated himself to studying and getting to know his classmates. And, in time, he soared.

At Pitt, RISE is a program that helps students adjust to university life and rise to success, whether they come from the lawns of suburbia or the corners of urban America. It's a space where the big campus becomes a small community.

RISE students use their individual skills to strengthen each other. If some excel in math, they're expected to tutor algebra for others needing math help. If a RISE student is down, others are expected to offer a pep talk. RISE participants also mentor high school students and design community service projects.

Something else happens at RISE, too. Bonner's quiet confidence and his ability to relate and speak comfortably to students' concerns draws them in. Particularly, young African American men who, when they see the 6 foot 6 inch tall Bonner glide into a room with his dark suit, broad shoulders, and mile-long list of accomplishments, also see a vision of what they can achieve.

In 2009, KaHill Liddell walked into RISE. He was a solid student from a good school in Washington, D.C. and he was trying to find community at Pitt. He found it in the study sessions designed by Bonner, where another RISE student sat with Liddell to review his science lessons. He earned a Pitt undergraduate degree in health services in 2013 and was ready to pursue his highest goals, but also to pour himself into helping others. Today he is a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, soon to set sail to Pearl Harbor where he will serve as a health care administrator at a hospital in Hawaii.

Liddell credits his success to the “open door” relationship he had with Bonner, who would often initiate conversations on academics, social life, and leadership. “He definitely kept my head on,” says the Pitt graduate. And he’s one of many who have benefited from Bonner’s presence on campus and in their lives.

All of what Bonner saw taught him that “you don’t get through life without the help of other people.”...

At Pitt, RISE is a program that helps students adjust to university life and rise to success, whether they come from the lawns of suburbia or urban America.

Bonner’s philosophy of lift as you climb is threaded throughout the fabric of all his chief priorities guiding the student experience on campus. He oversees nearly 200 staff members and coordinates programs and services to address the holistic needs of students. His reports include the Office of Student Life, University Counseling Center, Student Health Service, and Disability Resources and Services.

With the 2016-17 Year of Diversity, he is encouraging his staff and students to try new ideas. Already, they’ve taken a Civil Rights trip to the South and blogged along the way. They’ve created “Boxes and Walls,” and there are 100+ events throughout this academic year—many organized by students—to explore the theme of diversity.

With Title IX and the University’s commitment to zero instances of sexual assault, Bonner is working with student groups as they form programming to talk about issues of consent. He’s also continuing the effort to eliminate the stigma of mental illness and depression on campus, including more psychologists available to care for students at the counseling center and a student mental health task force on awareness and treatment.

On a personal level, Bonner is still climbing. One weekend a month, he boards the train and travels 16 hours round-trip to the University of Pennsylvania, where he is earning a doctorate in higher education management.

He’s still lifting, too. During Pitt’s orientation week in the fall, Bonner introduced a workshop on diversity and inclusion to 4,000 new students at the Petersen Events Center. It was an exercise designed to plant the seeds of acceptance and engagement in students during their time at Pitt and beyond: to use their heads, to think critically, to be curious; but also to use their hearts—to have empathy and grace for others who think differently.

He wants all students to know that “they are people privileged to receive a higher education,” and he wants them “to use their education to help make the community and the world a better place.”

It’s a universal formula for how to lift as you climb.
We are coming to Boston. Pitt Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, faculty, researchers, and coaches will be in Boston for a series of events and the February 8 Pitt vs. Boston College men’s basketball game. Mark your calendars and plan to join us to meet and network with Pitt leadership and fellow alumni. Watch your mailbox and check online for details of the event. pitt.edu/alumni

University of Pittsburgh
s an undergraduate in Pitt’s School of Nursing, Kelsey Buchanan balanced a rigorous course schedule. She contributed to research projects and spent hours studying. Plus, like many other students, Buchanan financed her own education and was determined to graduate with as little debt as possible. She got help toward that goal through an R.P. Simmons Scholarship.

“The scholarship enabled me to concentrate on doing well in school instead of having to worry as much about paying for classes and making ends meet,” she says. “I received an amazing nursing education that has resulted in a vibrant nursing career.”

Buchanan (NURS ’13) is one of more than 700 people to benefit from a Simmons Scholarship while at the University of Pittsburgh. Their stories mean a great deal to Richard P. Simmons, the retired business executive and Pittsburgh philanthropist who established the scholarship program in 1987 with an initial endowment of $1 million for students from the Pittsburgh region. Each year, scholarships ranging from $500 to $2,000 are awarded to incoming Pitt students based on factors including SAT or ACT scores, extracurricular activity, and financial need. Recipients can reapply in subsequent years.

Simmons knows firsthand the positive impact that financial assistance can have on student achievement. While studying engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the early 1950s, the Bridgeport, Ct., native needed to borrow money to complete his degree. After graduating, he built a highly successful career in the steel industry, becoming the president of metal company Allegheny Ludlum before leading a group of managers and investors in buying the company in 1980. He took the business public and later merged it with Teledyne, Inc. to become Allegheny Technologies, Inc. Simmons served as chairman of the board and the company’s president and chief executive officer until retiring in 2000. He has also served on the boards of major corporations, including PNC Bank and US Airways.

Today, Simmons is chairman emeritus of Allegheny Technologies, a trustee emeritus for MIT, and is involved in a number of charitable and cultural foundations. His accomplishments generated the seeds of economic opportunity for many others, especially college students.

“I decided that since I had achieved my financial success in Pittsburgh, I would give back by returning some of that success to this region.” —Richard P. Simmons

“After giving it a great deal of thought, I concluded that establishing undergraduate scholarships was my best use of cash.” He chose to establish a scholarship at Pitt in part because of its emphasis on liberal arts and engineering.
I
n 1936, a young man with a newly minted Pitt business degree reported to his first day of work as a trainee at the National Valve and Manufacturing Company. His father owned the company, but Henry E. Haller Jr. nonetheless arrived ready to work hard. His attitude, coupled with his ample business acumen, paid off. In fewer than 20 years, he rose to the position of executive vice president of the multimillion-dollar firm. His long career at the company was both fruitful and rewarding. Yet Haller, who died in 2012, wasn’t just an expert businessman; he was also kind, generous, and community-minded, says his widow, Linda Haller. “Henry was full of gratitude and humility, and devoted to friends, family, and his alma mater.”

His devotion to Pitt has left a lasting legacy. In 2003, Haller created a scholarship for students in Pitt’s College of Business Administration. And in 2015, in honor of the industrialist’s memory, the Haller Foundation, led by Linda Haller, made a $5 million gift to Pitt. “Henry loved the University,” she says. “I feel strongly that we should continue to support it.”

The gift established a named deanship: the Henry E. Haller Jr. Dean of the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration. The contribution is particularly impactful, explains Arjang A. Assad, the school’s current Haller Dean, because it provides funds to be used at the dean’s discretion to address the school’s highest priorities and new strategic thrusts. That means that important initiatives can get off the ground faster, advancing the success of its students and faculty.

Today, Pitt is one of only 15 of the top 50 U.S. business schools with a named deanship. In addition to generous cash gifts, Pitt also receives valuable gifts in-kind from its alumni. If you have book collections, artwork, equipment, or other personal property that might enrich the University, go to www.giveto.pitt.edu/ways-give for more information on how to donate.
Storied Life

BY LIBERTY FERDA

A gaggle of toddlers gathers around the librarian as she begins to tell a story. She holds up the book to show its illustrations, but her eyes never leave the curious young faces before her. A seasoned storyteller, she knows that instead of just reading aloud, “you learn the story well and retell it in your own words, as though it happened to you.”

Story time with preschoolers was one of the joys of Barbara Quarles’s 32-year career as a children’s librarian as she nurtured inquisitive, growing minds. It was Quarles’s high school librarian, Jean McDonough, who encouraged her to pursue her love of books by becoming a children’s librarian.

To achieve her dream, Quarles attended Pitt, earning a degree in library science. On the recommendation of beloved Pitt professor and award-winning librarian Elizabeth Nesbitt, she took a job at the Free Library of Philadelphia. There, Quarles worked in book selection and helped create many book lists, including those identifying titles suitable for children with special needs. Later, she transferred to the Phoenix Public Library in Arizona where, in addition to her other duties, she continued her interest in book selection, generating reading lists, and connecting young people to enriching writing.

The highlight of her career came in 1974, when Quarles’s expertise was tapped for a nationwide endeavor. She was selected to serve on the prestigious Newbery-Caldecott committee to choose the two best children’s books in illustration and story. The winners were Gerald McDermott, who wrote the brightly colored Arrow to the Sun, and the first-ever African American author awardee, Virginia Hamilton, for M.C. Higgins, the Great.

Quarles (SIS ’64), who has been a longtime supporter of Pitt’s School of Information Sciences, recently established a $10,000 charitable gift annuity that will provide discretionary funding for the School of Information Sciences. She hopes to encourage the next generation of librarians to realize their dreams.

Moving Memorial

BY MATT CICHOWICZ

Rob Bomba’s dream was to become a physician. He planned to complete his college degree and attend medical school, with hopes to one day join Doctors Without Borders to aid those in need around the world. Service was his passion. An army veteran and former volunteer fire fighter in Ross Township, Pa., he pursued his education while working two jobs: one as a paramedic and another as a 911 dispatcher.

In December 2015, Bomba had just earned his associate’s degree and was preparing to apply to the University of Pittsburgh when he died unexpectedly. He was 31 years old. Yet, Bomba’s drive and ambition continue to inspire.

“If Rob did something, he wanted to do it the best,” said Scott Long (A&S ’95), Bomba’s friend and former roommate. “Everything about being a nontraditional student was a challenge, but he got good grades at community college, and he would have gotten good grades at Pitt.”

To honor Bomba, Long rallied friends and family to establish the Robert S. Bomba Memorial Fund to support nontraditional Pitt students (those who pursue degrees later in life) and share the aspiring doctor’s goal of helping others. To raise funds, they turned to the University’s crowdfunding website.

“When we heard about EngagePitt™ we knew that it was perfect for reaching out to a multitude of people across a large spectrum,” said Long. “Rob knew a lot of people at work, in the army, and across the country. Crowdfunding helped get our message out and track down that network.”

In April, through contributions from 66 donors, the Robert S. Bomba Memorial Fund exceeded its goal of raising $20,000. Those who receive support from the Bomba fund will add to the lasting legacy of a life lived in service to others.
James M. Gockley (LAW ’80), a retired general counsel for BNY Mellon, recently made a $100,000 contribution to establish a charitable gift annuity that will benefit the School of Law scholarship fund, which provides financial support to Pitt law students as they pursue their degrees.

“We help how we were helped,” says Teresa Sirianni Amelio (EDUC ’60, ’99G), who still appreciates the financial support she received while at Pitt. Recently, Amelio established a $10,000 Student Resource Fund to help students in the School of Education afford the tools they need to succeed.

Pitt’s General Scholarship Fund received a gift of nearly $34,000 from the trust of University Trustee Emerita Helen S. Faison (EDUC ’46, ’55G, ’75G), who died in 2015. A trailblazing educator, Faison served as a school principal before becoming deputy superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools and founding director of the Pittsburgh Teachers Institute.

Our alumni have a long history of supporting new generations of Panthers. Each year, the Pitt Alumni Association awards nearly 100 scholarships to current students. Visit alumni.pitt.edu/students/scholarships to learn more.

In the summer issue, we highlighted the 2016 senior class’s EngagePitt™ campaign called Project Paw Print. It asked the year’s graduates to donate funds in support of a scholarship for a civic-minded sophomore, junior, or senior. The senior class rallied behind the cause and, soon after graduation, had raised more than $10,000!
Update: Earlier events.

1937
Miller Milroy, DEN ’37, a retired dentist in Richwood, W.Va., celebrated his 102nd birthday in 2016.

1938
Austin Hay, A&S ’38 celebrated a birthday in December at age 101. He had several careers after serving in World War II, including acting. Among his film credits are North by Northwest, Being There, Her Alibi, and The Contender. He now resides in Washington, D.C.

1948
Evelyn Louise Klahre Anderson, A&S ’48 published Stars and Flowers: Informative Talks with Celebrities about Plants (Cowfeeton Press). The book is based on interviews she conducted with celebrities ranging from Broadway stars and astronauts to presidents and first ladies on their personal memories connected to plants and flowers. She lives in Erie, Pa.

1959

1962
Rosemarie Rizzo Parse, NURS ’62G, EDUC ’68G is serving as the first visiting scholar for the Kresge Center for Nursing Research at Binghamton University’s Decker School of Nursing. She was selected for her “outstanding contributions to nursing over the past four decades through her progressive leadership in nursing theory, research, education, and practice.”

1967
Patricia Ruth Messmer, NURS ’67, EDUC ’88G received the 2016 Hall of Fame Award from the American Nurses Association. She is a consultant for nursing research and education at the Benjamin León School of Nursing at Miami Dade College, chair of the Nurses Charitable Trust, co-chair of the ANA-PAC Leadership Society, and president of the Florida Nurses Foundation.

1969
Anthony J. Basinski, A&S ’69, LAW ’74 published Dead in the Water (CreateSpace), a mystery novel that follows a former LAPD homicide detective’s investigation of the disappearance of a bride on her honeymoon. Basinski is a Pittsburgh-based attorney and writer.

1970
Ed Roberson, A&S ’70 received the Poetry Foundation’s Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize. The $100,000 award honors outstanding lifetime achievement in poetry. He is the author of nine books and an artist-in-residence at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

1972
David A. Kendall, EDUC ’72G published When Descendants Become Ancestors: The Flip Side of Genealogy (Balboa Press). He conducts presentations and workshops for genealogy groups and historical associations, encouraging people of all ages to write about their lives to educate future generations. Kendall lives in Alexandria Bay, N.Y.

1973
Dennis J. Palumbo, A&S ’73 wrote an essay about his career transition from Hollywood screenwriter to psychotherapist that was published in How Does that Make You Feel? True Confessions from Both Sides of the Therapy Couch (Seal Press).

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Smart Spending

BY EMILY B. KING

A few years ago, computer scientist Mohamed Aly had an epiphany. He and his wife, Khadiga Elhaddad, awaiting the arrival of their second child, were trying to save money where they could. Piles of coupons and sales flyers cluttered their mailbox each day. There has to be a better way to connect people to the discounts that are relevant to their needs, he thought.

The idea stayed with him and eventually motivated Aly to leave his job as a senior research engineer at Yahoo! Research to launch his own start-up, Seealz, in California’s Silicon Valley. The company began by using data science to understand shoppers’ interests and help retailers and manufacturers target consumers with personalized offers through a MixaWallet, a program relieving shoppers from the need to collect coupons. Over a four-year journey, the company evolved into a data-driven decision-making platform that aids enterprises in multiple sectors including retail and health care.

Aly’s path to success began in his hometown of Alexandria, Egypt, where he earned an undergraduate degree. Then, he pursued a master’s degree and PhD in computer science at Pitt, where a vibrant multicultural setting provided the right environment for him to thrive both academically and personally.

“You have students from all over the world and the United States, resulting in this awesome graduate school experience,” he says.

While at Pitt, Aly (A&S ’09G) secured a coveted internship with Google, which helped pave his path to a career in tech and entrepreneurship. Today, his company and his family continue to grow. He and his wife now have three children who, Aly says, are already Panthers fans.

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Legend
G = Graduate Degree
H = Honorary Degree

Zachary J. Mastren, CBA ‘05 has joined the Pittsburgh office of Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl LLC. He will serve as counsel in the firm’s Bankruptcy & Creditors’ Rights, Corporate, and Internal Investigations practice groups.
Philip J. Benyo A&S ’74 was recertified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in the geriatric medicine subspecialty. He has been certified in internal medicine since 1981. Benyo is a physician with Lehigh Valley Health Network–Hazleton, where he serves on the board of directors. Michael Hassett A&S ’74, GSPH ’76 recently retired. His initial career was with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, working in various roles involving water quality management and mining and reclamation. He then entered a sales and marketing career as an account executive with Comcast Spotlight, where he achieved President’s Club status. Beulah C. Moody EDUC ’74 celebrated her 100th birthday in July. During her career, she taught in the Easter Seals school system, becoming the director of education at the Easter Seals Society of Allegheny County. She leads a monthly book group, takes a pottery class, and volunteers.

1975
Sylvia V. Henderson BUS ’75G received certification as a Vistage Chair, through which she will share her business insights. She is launching a group of CEOs for Peer Advisory Group in Mid-Montgomery County, Md. Carole Ann Drick (Kimbrough) NURS ’75 is president for the American Holistic Nurses Association. She is based in Youngstown, Ohio, where she has a Conscious Living Center practice. A. J. Kreimer A&S ’75 was elected to the Institute of Management Accountants’ Global Board of Directors. He is vice president of the Boy Scouts of America’s Northeast Region, and an assistant professor of practice in the accounting department in the Fox School of Business at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa. Eddie N. Moore Jr. BUS ’75G is the president and CEO of Norfolk State University in Virginia. He served as interim president from September 2013 through September 2016. Joseph B. Testa A&S ’75, a longtime investment professional and adviser, is author of Investment Dilemma (Crossroad Press), published in 2016. He is president of Testa Financial Management, Inc., in Pompano Beach, Fla.

1976
M. Rita Evans A&S ’76, SIS ’77G retired as library director for University of California, Berkeley’s Institute of Transportation Studies.

1977
Kenneth Gormley A&S ’77 was recently named the president of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He previously served as professor and dean in its School of Law. James E. Holiday ENGR ’77, ’82G completed the “Seven Summits,” the quest to climb the tallest mountain on all seven continents. He is an advisor engineer for Bechtel Bettis in Pittsburgh.

It’s Electric

BY KAYLEN SANDERS

Adam Rossi was sold on the electric bicycle from the moment he took a swift, smooth ride on one. As he cruised up a hill, he marveled at the combined electric and pedal power that helped him maintain a steady speed without much effort. Typically, e-Bikes use a sensor to measure how much energy is exerted through pedaling, then use solar-generated electric power as a supplement. As an advocate for renewable energy, Rossi liked that, too. His family owns Adam Solar Resources, a solar sales, design, and installation company that assisted, he says, with the first-ever solar-array installation at Pitt, on the roof of Benedum Hall.

That first spin on an e-Bike inspired Rossi (A&S ’05) to establish Adam Solar Rides, a retailer of e-Bikes in Bridgeville, Pa. The Pitt grad wants to bring more of that green, fossil-fuel-free transportation to the Pittsburgh area.

“Electric bikes make sense financially. And they make sense for helping the world,” says Rossi.

Being an advocate for sustainable resources wasn’t always his plan. While at Pitt, the entrepreneur studied film and credits the creative discipline with teaching him “how to wear all hats.” As a small business owner, Rossi acts as graphic designer, social media guru, and photographer, among other things—all while keeping the gears of commerce running smoothly.

Looking ahead, Rossi expects to build Adam Solar Rides into a full-fledged electric vehicle dealership, where he’ll help people zoom toward the future by supplying everything from solar-powered skateboards to electric cars.

1974

Robert J. Benyo A&S ’74 was recertified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in the geriatric medicine subspecialty. He has been certified in internal medicine since 1981. Benyo is a physician with Lehigh Valley Health Network–Hazleton, where he serves on the board of directors.

Keith A. Johnson ENGR ’87 joined the Pittsburgh office of Gannett Fleming as a senior project manager. He will bring transportation planning and traffic engineering services to the firm’s clients in Western and Central Pa., Ohio, and W.Va.

Gary M. Sanderson A&S ’09, LAW ’12 was elected to the Allegheny County Bar Association as secretary and treasurer of the Corporate, Banking, and Business Law Section. He is an associate attorney at Meyer, Unkovic & Scott in Pittsburgh.
1978  
Terry L. Calloway A&S ‘78 received the East End United Community Center’s 2016 Volunteer Award. She is retired, and lives in Connellsville, Pa. Albert V. Scala Jr. UPJ ‘78 was promoted to vice president of Urban Engineers in Los Angeles, Calif.

1980  
Donald K. McKim A&S ‘80 published John Calvin: A Companion to His Life and Theology (Wipf & Stock Publishers). He also wrote New Members: Call to Discipleship (Congregational Ministries Publishing of the Presbyterian Church), a workbook. He and his wife, LindaJo, live in Germantown, Tenn.

1985  
Jan S. Marcus A&S ‘85 is assistant director of graduate admissions at Hood College in Frederick, Md., where he coordinates admissions for graduate programs in the arts, humanities, education, biology, and counseling. He is also the official scorer for Hood’s volleyball team, and is in his 18th season as lead football statistician for Shepherd University.

1986  
Raymond M. Panas A&S ‘86, GSPH ‘91 is director of the new Clinical Studies Support Program at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The program seeks to improve collaboration between the operating units that support clinical research.

1988  
Timothy Murin A&S ‘88G is president of the Division of Environmental Geosciences for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He works for AECOM in South Park, Pa., as a senior principal scientist of geology focusing on environmental issues related to oil and gas development.

1989  
Wende Dikec A&S ‘89 is a writer specializing in romantic fiction under the pen name Abigail Drake. Her newest set of books, Saying Goodbye (Pennrose Press), is about a woman studying Japanese in college. The first volume in the series is dedicated to Pitt’s Department of East Asian Languages and Literature.

1991  

1992  
Brian D. Helfrich A&S ‘92 has been promoted to deputy district director of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, Pittsburgh District Office. Sagar Patel ENGR ‘92 has joined the board of directors for Kennametal Inc., a supplier of tooling and industrial materials. He is the president of Aircraft Turbine Systems for Woodward Inc.; the chairman of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council in Rockford, Ill.; and a member of the Illinois Governor’s Innovation Advisory Council. Donald D. Trexler SHRS ‘92, GSPH ‘94, KGSB ‘94 is CEO at Acadia General Hospital in Crowley, La.

New Members: Call  to Discipleship

Jan S. Marcus A&S ‘85 is assistant director of graduate admissions at Hood College in Frederick, Md., where he coordinates admissions for graduate programs in the arts, humanities, education, biology, and counseling. He is also the official scorer for Hood’s volleyball team, and is in his 18th season as lead football statistician for Shepherd University.

Art of Bread

BY MICAELEA FOX CORN  
A young woman enters a bakery, drawn by the aroma of a wood-fired brick oven. Admiring the artisan breads on display, she wonders what it might be like to work here, even though she has no prior baking experience—only a freshly acquired bachelor’s degree from Pitt in fine arts and the history of art and architecture. She converses with the owner, and her curiosity and enthusiasm lead to a tryout, shaping loaves. The arts graduate performs like a natural and is hired on the spot.

A decade later, Shana Slossberg is shaping her own loaves for a living—about 600 a week. She owns Talking Breads, a bakery specializing in traditional European breeds and named, in part, for the distinctive crackle the dough makes emerging from the oven. The bakery is located on her 45-acre farm in Shermans Dale, Pa., near Harrisburg, where she and her husband raise animals and also produce most of her baking ingredients, right down to the stone-milled flour. Known to customers as “the Bread Lady,” she sells her wares at weekly farmers markets in Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., and there’s sometimes a scramble for the last loaf of fruit and nut bread, one of her most popular creations.

Slossberg (A&S ’06) hopes one day to establish Talking Breads bakeries in D.C. and in Pittsburgh, returning to the city where she received her Pitt education. “Baking is very sculptural to me,” she says. “It’s kind of like creating a little piece of art that you can eat.”
1993
Ken Stillwell UP ’93 is CFO of Pegasystems, a software company based in Cambridge, Mass.

1995
Bruce R. Boemer LAW ’95 was named Pennsylvania’s attorney general after winning an unanimous confirmation vote in the Senate. He fills the remaining months in the term of former Attorney General Kathleen Kane. John Jakicic EDUC ’95 was appointed to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Advisory Committee by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. He will collaborate with 15 other national leaders to produce the 2018 edition of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, which provides information on how adults and children can improve their health through exercise.

1997
Phalgun Raju ENGR ’97 was included in the 2016 Asia 21 Young Leaders list. She is founder/CEO of expertDB, a global marketplace for expert consulting.

2003
Dara Davis Beer A&S ’03 started a business, Shop ’Til I Drop Concierge, which provides personal shopping services in Santa Monica, Ca. She lives in Pacific Palisades, Ca.

2006
Debbie M. Henne SHRS ’06 published a children’s book, The Little Apple Seed (CreateSpace). She works part-time as a speech-language pathologist. Rudi Navarra GSPIA ’06 is the program officer for The Solutions Project, a company seeking to accelerate the transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy, in Miami, Fla.

2007
Natasha A. Brown GSPIA ’07 is health scientist administrator and program director for the National Cancer Institute in Rockville, Md. LaShawn D. Lopez A&S ’07 received the Teacher Excellence Award from Success Academy Charter Schools. She teaches Language Arts at SA Harlem North West in New York City. Valerie Lee Nguyen A&S ’07 received a doctoral degree in osteopathic medicine from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is continuing her medical training in pediatrics at Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pa.

2010
Stephen J. Petraney A&S ’10 will be clerk- ing for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito beginning 2017. He is an associate in appellate litigation and critical motions practice at Jones Day in Washington, D.C.

2011
Robin Z. Monroe CBA ’11 was promoted to tax supervisor at Boyer & Ritter LLC’s Camp Hill, Pa., office.

2012
Vincent Michael Pronesti A&S ’12 earned a doctoral degree in osteopathic medicine from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is continuing his medical training in internal medicine at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh.

2015
Dominique S. Luster SIS ’15 is an archivist for the Carnegie Museum of Art. She oversees the digitization, publication, and exhibition of images by Pittsburgh photographer Charles “Teenie” Harris.

Solution Maker
BY KAYLEN SANDERS
There, Willkomm watches as the boy stretches his arms across the table toward a plate of food. Despite his best efforts, his limited mobility prevents him from grasping his snack. Willkomm (SHRS ’97) sets to work fabricating a quick solution. Turning to the collection of everyday items in her office, the assistive technology specialist assembles flexible tubing and a spring clip to create a kind of grabber. When clamped to his wheelchair, the tool helps the boy bring food directly to his mouth. After a little practice, he is able to feed himself for the very first time.

Willkomm’s specialty is creating low-cost devices to help people with disabilities live full and more independent lives. Known as a “MacGyver” of assistive technology, she uses ordinary materials like duct tape and PVC pipes to make extraordinary equipment—and she teaches her students how to do the same.

Growing up farming in Wisconsin taught her to make do using what was available, encouraging creative problem solving. After college, she earned a master’s degree in vocational rehabilitation from Drake College and then worked as an assistive technology specialist in Iowa, helping rural and farm families. Eventually, she wanted to learn new and better ways to help those she serves, so she earned a PhD in rehabilitation science at Pitt.

“The University of Pittsburgh gave me the foundation I needed in materials, in biomechanics, and in engineering principles to create more solutions for people with disabilities,” she says. Today, she is a clinical associate professor in the University of New Hampshire’s occupational therapy department and director of New Hampshire’s statewide Assistive Technology Program.

“There are always new discoveries, always new challenges,” says Willkomm, who continues to engineer solutions, one problem at a time.
I N  M E M O R I A M

John R. Bowden Jr.  A&S ’89G, January 2016, age 73, of Midland, Pa. He served the country for 23 years of active duty with the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam, and later in the U.S. Army during Desert Storm. He went back to school in his 40’s and earned a Pitt master’s degree in social work. Prior to retiring, he worked for the VA Hospital System in Oakland and Aspinwall, Pa.

Nicholas Andrew Cogley A&S ’95, December 2014, age 41, of Pittsburgh, Pa. He worked for Allscripts as an expert technical support consultant. He enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, gardening, woodworking, and his dog, Bella.

Jean L. Fineman EDUC ’47, June 2016, age 92, of Pittsburgh, Pa. An educator, teachers’ advocate and community leader, she was known to generations of students in Pittsburgh and its eastern suburbs as an engaging and innovative English and reading teacher, administrator, and proponent of public education. She traveled widely and spent her retirement involved in a number of organizations, including the United Nations Association of Pittsburgh.

Carol Crum Knerr EDUC ’75, April 2015, age 61, of Greentree, Pa. She was a physical education teacher with Easter Seals. A longtime Panthers fan, she and her husband were Pitt Football season ticket holders.

Josephine P. Kreider EDUC ’33, December 2015, age 104, of Wappingers Falls, N.Y. Born in Pittsburgh, she attended Pitt during the Great Depression. A social worker for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, she enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, baking, sewing, gardening, and gathering family and friends together. She contributed to many charities and organizations.

Alfred Lawson, Jr., A&S ’54, July 2016, age 87, of Washington, D.C., and Indian Lake, Pa. His career focused on labor union representation, and he served as an attorney for the United Steelworkers in Pittsburgh. President Jimmy Carter appointed him as a charter member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. He also served as arbitration director for Maryland’s attorney general. He was a longtime member of Pitt’s board of trustees, as well as many other boards.

George Lewis BUS ’52, August 2016, age 87, of Richmond, Va. He was raised in Pittsburgh, and moved to Richmond in 2015 from Louisville, Ky. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years and is survived by his daughter and son.

Todd Davis Maragas A&S ’84, June 2016, age 44, of Canton, Ohio. A football player while at Pitt, he went on to become a successful businessman and entrepreneur. He served as president of his family’s business, AP&P Development and Construction Company. He loved spending time with his family and friends, and had a passion for the outdoors, particularly fishing.

Simon W. Oderberg A&S ’67, April 2015, age 69, of Fort Worth, Tex. He served in the U.S. Army as military police in Germany, then became a senior trial attorney for the Interstate Commerce Commission. He enjoyed fixing classic cars, swap meets, and car shows. After retirement, he volunteered for Meals on Wheels, delivering food in his classic cars to those in need.

Susan G. Ryberg SIS ’71, May 2016, age 66, of Mount Olive, N.C. A native of Pennsylvania, she was retired from the Moye Library on the campus of the University of Mount Olive.

Emily Ann Seaberg EDUC ’53G, December 2015, age 86, of Dillsburg, Pa. She taught school until she married her first husband, Dr. Frans Jan Barends, when she became a devoted wife and full-time mother to her five children. She loved writing, literature, the opera, gardening, pets, and travel.

Lucethria “Cetra” Brooks Walden A&S ’89, August 2016, age 50, of Manassas, Va. She worked for Sears, U.S. Civil Service Federal Credit Union, Worldwide Federal Credit Union, and Fairfax County. She also was a beauty consultant, special events planner, and a flower-arrangement decorator. A member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, she enjoyed singing and performed as a soloist and with various groups and choirs.

Anne Braun Wenslow EDUC ’60G, June 2014, age 82, of Alfred, N.Y. She taught high school before joining Alfred State College as professor of office administration and technology. She held many campus positions, including department chair and president of the faculty senate. After retirement, the mother and grandmother served as a consultant and evaluator of office education programs for the N.J. State Higher Education Department and other entities.

Theodore W. Woods BUS ’67G, August 2015, age 70, of Mechanicsville, Va. He spent his career in information technology work, serving his last years as IT director of Virginia Housing Development Authority and retiring in 2012 as IT director of Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He also taught night classes at Virginia Western Community College, Rappahannock Community College, and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.
When she moved to Pennsylvania from Massachusetts in the middle of seventh grade, it was too late for Angela Timashenka to run for student council or enroll in clubs. So, the active preteen decided to get involved in her new community by volunteering to chair her school’s American Cancer Society Daffodil Days fundraiser. This proved to be an early sign of the youngster’s enterprising nature. She was the top salesperson that year for her success selling flowers door-to-door on behalf of the charity.

At Pitt, Timashenka pursued dual degrees in writing and communications, while the seeds of her experiences with volunteering and helping others began to blossom. The ambitious college student also honed her leadership skills working as assistant director of the Pitt Ambassadors Program, which, among other ventures, raised money for the general scholarship fund for students in need. After graduating, she joined the staff at Allegheny College and later earned a master’s degree in business from Pitt while working at the American Lung Association. She then served in leadership positions with the American Cancer Society and the Alzheimer’s Association.

In 2016, Angela Timashenka Geiger (A&S ’92, MBA ’97) was unanimously elected president and CEO of the nonprofit Autism Speaks. Now heading the world’s leading autism research and advocacy organization, she’s eager to pursue new opportunities to help others.

“I would definitely say that a hallmark of my career is solving big problems,” says Geiger. “That’s what excites me about this role.” At Autism Speaks, she sees the potential to build awareness around early diagnoses and interventions, and to help older children and their families as they start to age-out of state and federal support systems.

Her pursuit of supporting others has taken her all over the country, but Pitt remains her true home, she says. It isn’t just where she found her focus; it’s also where she met her husband, Richard Geiger (A&S ’93, GSPIA ’95). She remains connected to campus and, since 2012, has served on the board of Pitt’s Alumni Association, where she continues to offer her trademark energy and giving spirit in service to others.
Sports Report

BY MATT CICHOWICZ

The stadium is electric with the cheering crowd’s energy. In the stands, the freshman’s eyes are glued to the football field, observing each play of the game with rapt excitement. Beside her, though, several friends struggle to keep up with the action on the field. To help them join the fun, she explains to them, play by play, how the Pitt Panthers are winning yet another game.

It’s the fall of 1976, and Diane Powell is absorbed in what will be a historic, undefeated championship season for University of Pittsburgh football. The young writing student is also enraptured by her studies and a growing interest in sports journalism.

“I always knew I wanted to write,” she says. For Powell, a high school cheerleader and member of a sports-loving family from Philadelphia, Pa., it seemed natural to blend her passion for athletics with a career in communications. But first, she would learn the ropes of news journalism, writing for The Pitt News and studying nonfiction.

After earning a Pitt degree with a focus in English and political science, she became a news reporter for the New Pittsburgh Courier. Since then, she has worked in public relations, radio journalism, and sports reporting, covering both college and professional athletics for regional newspapers. She’s one of a growing number of women in a field typically dominated by men.

“When I first covered the Super Bowl, in 2002, there was only one other woman in the press box with me,” she recalls. “Now there are more. Not many more but a few more.”

Married and living in Atlanta, Ga., Diane Powell-Larché (A&S ’80) is the CEO of her own sports and entertainment publicity firm. She continues to report on sports, including Panther football, as a freelance writer. “I love covering sports because I understand the game,” she says. And she especially loves the game when it involves former Pitt athletes.

“I check the rosters, and if I see a former Pitt player, I always wait for them after the games and try to at least take a picture and do a short interview,” she says. “When I say I’m from Pitt, they light up.”

Powell-Larché

Care Connection

BY MATT CICHOWICZ

In a village outside of Hyderabad, India, an elderly man waits at home for a checkup. He patiently watches as a medic makes her way along the dirt road toward his house. When she arrives, she reaches into a satchel and removes a stethoscope with a special Y-shaped attachment around the chest piece. While she listens to his heartbeat, this attachment—the CardioSleeve—records an electrocardiogram (ECG), assessing the heart’s health. The ECG is then transmitted to the medic’s mobile device and sent to the patient’s other care providers. The isolated patient is now connected to the care he needs.

The innovative CardioSleeve is the creation of Rijuven, a company headed by Pitt alum Evens Augustin.

“Initially we wanted to create another kind of stethoscope,” explains Augustin, the CEO of Rijuven. “We decided to find a way for doctors to be able to keep their stethoscopes while connecting to a larger network of new technology.”

After many years working as a biomedical engineer, Augustin enrolled in Pitt’s MBA program to help nurture his entrepreneurial spirit and provide him with the education he needed to start his own business. He co-founded Rijuven in 2012 and began developing a range of products to connect patients to better care and open the lines of communication between specialists.

“All of the framework for that type of skill set came from Katz Graduate School of Business,” says Augustin (BUS ’01G). “That particular education is instrumental to what I’m doing right now. I’m continuously using the tools that were provided to me as a student.”

And now, those tools are translating to helping patients and doctors better connect all over the world.

Alumni: Data

Panther Populous
States with the highest number of Pitt graduates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>182,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>9,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>8,813</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>8,344</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Augustin pictured with the CardioSleeve
Q&A: Mighty Mothers
BY KRISTIN BUNDY

According to Pitt alum Yetty Williams, “It has always taken a village to raise children, but these days, it takes an e-village.” Five years ago, as a stay-at-home mother of two in the bustling coastal town of Lagos, Nigeria, Williams craved a connection with other mothers online, but she could only find Western parenting sites. So, she decided to start her own website, connecting Nigerian women in Africa and around the globe by launching www.LagosMums.com. What started as an idea has grown to attract thousands of followers. She’s now expanding the reach of the site by holding in-person events and launching an app for moms on-the-go.

“I love being able to encourage women to be bold and realize that everyone has unique gifts and talents, which they can and should harness,” Williams (A&S ’99) says. “Women need to encourage and empower each other, and I love to do that.”

What inspired you to create LagosMums.com?
Parenting is a universal and global matter. It’s by no means limited to one particular area. I decided to start LagosMums as a resource to help me on the parenting journey and to connect other Nigerian mums as they raise their children and families. I am happy to provide solutions and a sense of a community.

How did your time at Pitt influence what you are doing now?
Being at Pitt was an awesome time for me, and the first time I was away from home. Pitt taught me to be independent as I learned how other people and cultures lived. One of the things I really picked up was the importance of gaining work experience and a sense of independence early.

What advice would you give to moms?
It is okay to ask for help. Open up and give it your best. There isn’t one right answer to parenting, and there is no perfect parent. I admire the parents who are willing to be flexible and get skills to be the best parents possible. Parenting is one of those things you can never perfectly prepare for, but I have found that the power of a community makes it much easier to navigate.
Many of our new students began their journey with Pitt long before classes started. Incoming Panthers are invited to one of many Pitt Send-Off events hosted by Pitt Clubs around the U.S. in the months leading up to the fall semester. Once students are on campus, freshman women have the opportunity to take part in Pitt’s oldest tradition—Lantern Night—at the Heinz Chapel. In addition, students who have an alumni parent or grandparent are welcomed to the Legacy Luncheon on the Cathedral of Learning lawn. The Pitt Alumni Association is pleased to be there as the journey begins and is proud to offer programs and services that help students and alumni get engaged and stay connected to Pitt…for life!

Jeff Gleim (right) with Chairman and CEO of CVS Health Larry Merlo (PHARM ’78), who was honored at Homecoming as the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Fellow.

Mark Your Calendar Stay connected to Pitt no matter where you live. The Alumni Calendar at alumni.pitt.edu/calendar lists events scheduled throughout the country and around the world.

Pitt Pics The Pitt Alumni Association is on the photo sharing website Flickr. Visit alumni.pitt.edu/photos to see photo galleries from Pitt alumni events near and far.

Alumni Connection Did you know that you have a profile on the Pitt Alumni Directory? Fellow alums can see your name and class year, but you can opt to share other information and a picture. Go to alumnionline.pitt.edu to complete your entry.

When it came time to apply to colleges, Gary Brownlee knew just what he wanted. The young man from Williamsport, Pa., sought a school in a place where things happen; somewhere he could get both an excellent education and exposure to music, sports, and excitement. Brownlee got all that he wanted—and more—when he was accepted to the University of Pittsburgh in 1970. He earned a bachelor’s degree in economics before earning an MBA from the Katz Graduate School of Business.

Today, Brownlee is a business advisor with the Indiana Small Business Development Center at Purdue University, but he still exudes enthusiasm for Pittsburgh and his alma mater. He has remained connected to Pitt by serving on the board of the Pitt Alumni Association (PAA) since 1998. His tenure has included two terms as treasurer, one as secretary, two as Midwest regional director, and two years as president-elect.

In July, Brownlee began a two-year term as president of the PAA. Exciting new plans for the association are in the works, he says. He is actively collaborating with the PAA to ensure the promotion of engagement throughout the lives of alumni no matter where they live, including through an expanding global network of Pitt Clubs and through programs targeted at young alumni.

To Brownlee (A&S ’74, BUS ’78G), one of the most exciting parts of his unfolding tenure is assisting the association in its new status as dues-free. Moving forward, he says, the only membership requirement will be a Pitt diploma. As someone who knows how to get the very most out of his long relationship with the University, this is music to his ears. “We can truly say that we serve all Pitt alumni.”

—Jeff Gleim
Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations and Executive Director, Pitt Alumni Association
NOW AND THEN

Antonio Narducci, Class of ’19, enjoys wintertime fun on the Cathedral of Learning lawn.

PHOTO COURTESY THEO SCHWARZ/THE PITT NEWS
Build Your Own Cathedral of Learning!

In recognition of innovative excellence at Pitt and in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Cathedral’s dedication, the Pitt Alumni Association is sponsoring the Cathedral Innovation Challenge. Create a replica of our iconic building, and win great prizes. Winning entries will also be on display at the Randall Family Big Idea Showcase on March 14, 2017.

Visit: alumni.pitt.edu for contest information.
On February 28, 2017, we will all come together—students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends—for a special Pitt Day of Giving. We’ll celebrate the University’s founding, the accomplishments of those who have gone before us, and the bright future ahead for today’s students. And we’ll give generously...out of gratitude for what Pitt has meant to us, and with a personal commitment to the next generation of Pitt students. Your donation will go directly to support the world-class education, innovation, and dedication that make us who we are!

YOU are Pitt... YOU make us strong...
YOU will help us transform lives on February 28, 2017.