Champion swimmer Liz Prager ’17 gets schooled in a new realm of underwater knowledge while researching marine life in the Caribbean.

Diving Deep

New coaches for soccer, swimming and baseball
Exploring the insects, birds and trees of campus
President reflects on first year of strategic plan
Advice for parents of college-bound students
Leading purposeful lives

VISITORS TO OUR CAMPUS OFTEN MARVEL at the pleasant and cheerful way our students greet them when they arrive and at the courtesy our students demonstrate — for example, holding the door open for those coming behind them. Such cordiality is commonplace on our campus and has come to personify the caring and compassionate culture we’ve created, as well as the values that undergird the culture, specifically respect for humanity in all its forms and manifestations and subordination of self-interest to something beyond self.

Of course, our students reflect the spirit of our culture in more ways than pleasantly greeting visitors and holding doors open for those coming behind them. In a recent presentation to our Advisory Board, Director of Student Engagement Tonya Ackley provided data on the number of community service hours students contribute annually to the local community, as well as the dollar amounts they raise to benefit community organizations. According to Ms. Ackley, over the last five years, students averaged nearly 4,000 community service hours and, during that five-year period, made charitable donations in excess of $30,000.

To bring into focus the data Ms. Ackley presented to the Board, a group of students from our Habitat for Humanity Club described their ongoing activities in the community and their alternative Spring Break trips to help build homes for indigent families. They spoke of how their work in helping people fulfill their dream of owning a home brings purpose and meaning to their lives in ways that nothing else does.

It goes without saying that the Advisory Board members were delighted to see that currently enrolled students do not all fit a commonly held stereotype about college students today — that they’re coddled, self-serving, and self-indulgent. In fact, many Board members expressed a greater sense of hope about the future of our society after hearing reports from and about our students.

As our students complete their studies on our campus and assume their roles in society, we take delight in knowing that they will not only achieve success in their fields of study, but will also help to fulfill an important feature of our vision: Pitt-Bradford will become a model for innovative, experiential baccalaureate education, empowering our students to become life-long learners and critical thinkers prepared to lead purposeful lives and to serve their communities.

We continue to be deeply grateful to all of our constituents who help us in so many ways to execute our mission and advance our bold vision.

Warmest regards,
Livingston Alexander, president

“Over the last five years, Pitt-Bradford students averaged have nearly 4,000 community service hours annually and made charitable donations in excess of $30,000.”
features

8 Meet the coaches
Athletics has four new head coaches this year in baseball, men’s and women’s swimming, men’s soccer, and women’s soccer. We asked them about their coaching philosophies, favorite memories of their sport and what advice they’d offer parents of athletes.

10 Making a splash
As a championship swimmer, senior biology major Elizabeth Prager is no stranger to the water. This summer she combined her piscatorial talents with a research mission to study the effects of artificial light on marine life at night in the waters of the Dutch island of Bonaire off of Venezuela.

14 A walk in the woods
Students, staff, faculty and members of the community all appreciate the natural beauty of campus, but what exactly are those dragonflies, birds and trees? We asked master gardener Bob Harris and biology faculty members Dr. Lauren Yaich and Dr. Denise Piechnik to share some of their favorite specimens with us.

22 President’s report
Dr. Livingston Alexander delivers the state of the campus and the campus’s progress along Pathways to Excellence and Distinction.

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Senior Noah Gasch shows off the countryside of Guatemala.

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Wade Robertson earns writing award.

40 Insider Q&A
Bob Patterson ’98 of Chegg Inc. shares advice for the college’s search process.

NEW LOOK
We hope you enjoy our new look. Thanks to our redesign committee: Jill Ballard, Pat Cercone, Alan Hancock ’07, Dr. Mark Kelley ’03, Dr. Gautam Mukerjee, Ryan Race ’07, Lindsay Retchless ’98, Alana Stewart ’15 and Kimberly Weinberg.
Simple life

Seniors Noah Gasch, a broadcast communications major from Evans City, Pa., and Breanna Barrera, a history-political science major from Goleta, Calif., spent part of their summer interning with the Latin American Children’s Fund in the Huehuetenango region of western Guatemala, where Gasch took this photo of the countryside. Gasch took photos and video footage for the organization’s website and a documentary he’s working on throughout the fall semester. Barrera served as translator and found a new calling to help those in the developing world. Read more about their trips at www.upb.pitt.edu/Gasch and www.upb.pitt.edu/Barrera.
New Digs
New residential hall planned for 2018

Campus expansion is planned again for spring, when the university will break ground on a new $15.65 million, 178-bed residence hall to replace some of the townhouses erected in the 1970s.

The net gain will be 38 beds, bringing on-campus housing capacity to 1,085 students.

“The new residence hall will be similar in look to those built in recent years and include common areas for socializing, study and fitness,” said Dr. Livingston Alexander, president. “The location will be in the area of the current Dickinson townhouse apartments, which will be removed prior to construction.”

The new residence hall is expected to be ready in August 2018. The rapid increase in on-campus housing is due to an increasing number of requests by students to live on campus. To accommodate both rising enrollment and more students wishing to live on campus, the university constructed and opened new all-suite residence halls in 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2014.

With more students living on campus, the KOA Dining Hall will also be expanded by 50 seats. More critically, the kitchen area will be expanded by 3,100 square feet to allow more space for food production, storage and dishwashers.

The Frame-Westerberg Commons were last renovated in 2003, when the current dining hall and Mukaiyama University Room were added.

(overheard)

“Every time it rains, I walk in the rain. Every night at 10:30, I go out and see the stars and the moon.”

— Death row exoneree Anthony Ray Hinton speaking to a capacity crowd in Bromeley Family Theater this fall on how he now takes nothing for granted.
Melka retires after 40 years

Dr. Richard Melka, associate professor of mathematics, retired at the end of the summer after 40 years of teaching at Pitt-Bradford.

In addition to the dozens of different mathematical courses he’s taught at Pitt-Bradford, Melka developed a unique senior colloquium course with Dr. Andrew Dzirkalis, associate professor emeritus of political science, and Dr. Hashim Yousif, professor of physics, on Science and Religion in Western Culture.

The faculty members received a grant from the John Templeton Foundation for the course’s development, which was in keeping with Melka’s interest in the relationship between mathematics and religion. In 1994, he published “A Geometric Model of the Christian Trinity” in the journal Mathematical Connections.

An early and enthusiastic adopter of computers in and out of the classroom, he had experience with BASIC, FORTRAN, Pascal and other early computer languages.

Outside of the classroom, he twice served as president of the faculty senate at Pitt-Bradford, volunteered extensively with the pastoral council of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Bradford and taught a weekly Bible study group at the Federal Correctional Institution – McKean.

Flood of compassion

When Dr. Pat Brougham, an assistant professor of criminal justice, and Polly Pierce ’03 of Kane, Pa., heard of flood victims in need, both sprang into action.

Before arriving at Pitt-Bradford in 2013, Brougham, a Smethport, Pa., native, lived for 20 years in north central West Virginia, where she worked with juvenile justice facilities. So when she heard that her friends and former colleagues and clients who lived in the area had been hit by flash flooding that took 23 lives in June, she put out a call for help to her new Pitt-Bradford friends and family.

Brougham gathered donations of cleaning supplies, diapers, food and other staples and more and delivered them in person.

“It feels good to do something to help,” she wrote on her Facebook page while thanking friends who donated.

Pierce had a more formal role assisting flood victims as an American Red Cross-trained volunteer called to help with a mass feeding effort for those displaced by widespread flooding in Louisiana in August.

Pierce told The Bradford Era that she was trained as a shelter volunteer in order to help with the 16 Degrees and Below shelter operated in Bradford by the Asbury United Methodist Church.

After spending two weeks in Louisiana, she told The Era, “I will never forget my time with these extraordinary folks.”

Dr. Richard Melka

Dr. Pat Brougham’s car loaded up and ready to roll to help flood victims in West Virginia this summer.

Dr. Pat Brougham’s car loaded up and ready to roll to help flood victims in West Virginia this summer.

STUDENT STANDOUTS

Troi Williams ’17

Williams witnessed firsthand as history was made at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia this summer. The public relations major from Bala Cynwyd, Pa., was an intern in the communications department in Studio 2016, the convention’s on-site, full-service media hub where she scheduled national TV and radio interviews in the studio.

Nnedimma Ugochukwu ’18

Ugochukwu, a computer information systems and technology major from Washington, D.C., spent the summer as an intern at Google Inc.’s headquarters in Mountain View, California. She served as an in-house technical support for Google employees, met other interns from around the globe and enjoyed the concerts, festivals, dance classes and the food at the famous Googleplex campus.

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Students study immunization access

After surveying health care practitioners and community members, students present their results in Washington, D.C., as part of the Appalachian Regional Commission’s Appalachian Teaching Project.

**Winter 2016:** Nursing professors Dr. Lisa Fiorentino and Dr. Tammy Haley apply for a $4,500 grant from the Appalachian Teaching Project to study and report on immunization access in McKean County. Pitt-Bradford is one of 14 institutions chosen.

**Spring 2016:** Fiorentino and Haley enlist the support of the McKeans County Collaborative Board as a community partner.

**Sept. 8:** Students in Introduction to Nursing Research and Community Health Nursing classes meet to make a plan of action.

**Sept. 15:** Students meet with librarians about resources, read about what data already exist and learn more about the role of immunizations in community health. They decide who they will need to interview and write their survey.

**Sept. 22:** Students meet with the university’s Institutional Review Board, which governs any research involving humans.

**Oct. 4:** Students help with a flu shot clinic on campus and deliver immunizations to 230 people.

**Oct. 6:** Phew! The project gets approval from the review board.

**Oct. 10:** Data collection begins. Students pair up to interview subjects in health care and other service settings. These qualitative studies record demographic data as well as obstacles to immunization.

**Oct. 25-Nov. 9:** The group makes test presentations at the Zonta Club of Bradford, Penn-York Undergraduate Research Conference and McKeans County Collaborative Board, refining the presentation after each one.

**Dec. 2-3:** Students travel to Washington, D.C., to present their findings to the Appalachian Regional Commission along with other universities.

**March 9-12:** Five students will travel to the Appalachian Studies Association conference at Virginia Tech to present plans for pilot programs that could be used to increase access to vaccinations.
Matthew Nolder ’16
A new grad has found love at his first job

THE GRAD: Matthew Nolder graduated in Fall 2015 with a history-political science degree. But he didn’t stop studying there. “I have always been a huge history buff because I love learning about historical events and how people lived during various periods of history.”

THE JOB: Nolder works in the PA Wilds Conservation Shop at the newly opened Kinzua Bridge State Park Visitors Center. He helps tell the story of the magnificent railway trestle built twice – from iron in 1882 and from steel in 1900 – before it was struck by a tornado in 2002. The tornado took down five of the bridge’s towers. He also sells locally made products in the store.

WHY HE LOVES IT: “I love how I am just one team player in preserving the remarkable history of the Kinzua Bridge and its significance to helping Pennsylvania prosper,” he said, adding that he also enjoys meeting travelers from all over the world and so far has met visitors from China, Italy, South America, England, Russia, India and more.
Meet the Coaches

SOMETHING UNUSUAL HAPPENED THIS YEAR when, for various reasons, a third of the head varsity coaches in Pitt-Bradford athletics turned over.

“This is a unique situation, where we have four brand new head coaches coming on board at the same time,” said relatively new athletic director Bret Butler, who was formerly the head baseball coach. “It’s an exciting time for our department.”

Zach Foster, Baseball

Most recent coaching position: Assistant baseball coach at Pitt-Bradford

Athletic career: A former star pitcher for the Panthers from 2005-08 under Butler, he was the first Pitt-Bradford player drafted to play professional baseball and played six years of professional baseball with the Pittsburgh Pirates minor league system.

Coaching philosophy: “My coaching philosophy is centered around servant leadership. To be able to make an impact in people’s lives on the field and off.”

What he looks for in a player: “First and foremost – character. Also the ability to play the sport at a high level.”

Favorite coaching memory: “Having our guys send Coach Bret Butler off with a win in his last game as head coach.”

Favorite memory of competing: “My first Big League outing against the Boston Red Sox... so many nerves pitching in front of 15,000 people, but so much adrenaline!”

Marquis Walker, Women’s soccer

Most recent coaching position: Head girls’ soccer coach at Hudson (Ohio) High School, which finished the 2015 season ranked No. 7 in the state with a record of 15-2-2.

First season: Guided the Panthers to a 5-1-3 conference record and the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference semifinal.

His advice for parents of young athletes: “Find as many high quality training opportunities as possible. Oftentimes, families will look for the best team to get their child on that goes to many tournaments or play in multiple leagues. I personally think that this does not allow for the repetition that is needed to develop skills by young players. Games are great and fun, but cannot replace the development that is done in training sessions.”

What he looks for in an athlete: “The first is someone who is a competitor and does not want to lose. This can be easily seen when a player loses a ball – does she stand and watch or put her head down, or does she try to win it back immediately no matter what position she plays.”
Doug Alban, Men’s and women’s swimming

Most recent coaching position: Assistant swimming and diving coach at University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.

His coaching goals: “To prepare these young adults for success after graduation. All the school records and personal bests are great, but knowing these athletes will have the confidence to go out and make their mark on society and be genuinely good human beings is the true goal.”

Favorite memory of competing: “When I was 12 years old, I was on a swim team that competed in a small, local league. I ventured into the world of USA Swimming as the only swimmer from my team. I went to much bigger meets farther from where we lived with dozens of teams and hundreds of athletes, but I stood alone. I could not tell you any of my times from those meets, but I can tell you all the people from other teams who reached out to me and offered to let me be a part of their team.”

Favorite coaching memory: “Any first day of practice to start the season.”

Alban: “Knowing these athletes will have the confidence to go out and make their mark on society and be genuinely good human beings is the true goal.”

Nathan Whitehurst, Men’s soccer

Most recent coaching position: Assistant men’s coach at Allegheny College

Coaching goals: “If I can train and motivate our players to perform at their highest level each and every day on the field, in the classroom and in our community, then our season will be considered a success.”

What he looks for in an athlete: “I look for players who really understand the game. Players with technical ability and tactical awareness are the optimal recruits. They are the ones you can really build a team around.”

Favorite coaching memory: “My favorite memory of coaching is from coaching high school. We played the same team in the state tournament three years in a row. For two years, we lost with young players. The third year, we ended up winning. The players had really developed, and it was very rewarding seeing them improve that much.”

Biggest coaching challenge at Pitt-Bradford: “I think my biggest coaching challenge here is a separation in the conference between the top half and the bottom half teams. The challenge is taking the team into that top half and staying there.”
No stranger to water, champion swimmer and biology major Elizabeth Prager spent her summer diving into underwater research in the Caribbean.

by Salynda Hogsett ’17
For Elizabeth Prager, night dives were pretty normal, maybe even routine – but this night was different.

Normally, when Prager and her research team dove, they had weights, tools and slates strapped to themselves to keep track of their research and keep them stable underwater. This dive, however, was just for fun, and they were able to plunge in without any restrictive gear.

They were diving during the height of the ostracod breeding season. Ostracods, a kind of microscopic crustacean, become bioluminescent when they breed, gleaming neon blue like glow sticks.

As the divers descended, they muffled their flashlights against their bodies and allowed darkness to envelop them. Before long, they found themselves completely surrounded by billions of glowing, breeding ostracods.

“I felt like I was swimming in the galaxy,” Prager said, remembering the tiny, neon-blue orbs that had surrounded her.

Prager is a senior biology and engineering student at Pitt-Bradford and captain of the Pitt-Bradford swim team. She has set many swimming records throughout her years on the swim team and was even named the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference’s Swimmer of the Year in her freshman year.

Her memorable night dive took place this past summer in the waters surrounding Bonaire, an island off the northern coast of Venezuela. She was on a summer study-abroad experience organized by the Council for International Education Exchange, a non-profit organization that provides study abroad opportunities for college students.

Prager was enrolled in the Summer Intensive Research in Coral Reef Ecology program, an eight-week course that focused on building field research expertise and experience. She was one of six students who attended the program, most of whom attended colleges and universities much bigger than Pitt-Bradford. Although Prager was a little worried about being left behind since she had never taken
any ecology classes before this trip, her education at Pitt-Bradford prepared her well for the work of the program.

“I could keep up with the other students,” she said. “I could absorb all the information that they were trying to throw at me, learn it all, then represent it and not feel like I was behind. My education helped me keep up to par with people from other schools.”

The students were taught by Astrid de Jager, a dive master and instructor; Dr. Enrique Arboleda, a marine biologist from Jorge Tadeo Lozano University in Colombia; and Professor Nathaniel Hanna Holloway, a professor of marine ecology research methods.

The first four weeks of the course were dedicated to intensive class work and diving school. Prager and the other students in the program took classes in coral reef ecology and marine ecology research methods and received several SCUBA certifications.

“We pretty much fit an entire semester into four weeks,” said Prager, who completed 10 upper-level credits throughout the duration of the program.

The last four weeks of the course were mostly dedicated to a final research project. Prager and her research group investigated the effects of artificial light on shallow marine life at night. Prager and her group spent a lot of time looking for and reading the research that has already been done on the topic, and they didn’t find much.

“There’s not that much going on in that research field,” Prager said.

The lack of research presented an interesting opportunity for Prager and her team.

“We didn’t know what we were looking for because no one has studied this before,” Prager said. “We were the first people studying light effects on marine organisms.”

All the dives for the research project were night dives. The team marked out grids on the ocean floor with rebar stakes to provide parameters for their research. They lit certain sections...
with artificial light and left some sections dark, gathering similar samples in each area to create a comparison. Prager and the rest of her team measured plankton, polychaetes, crabs and barnacle larva to see how the organisms reacted differently in the treatment and control group.

After the field research, they had to catalog, process and measure the samples that they took.

“For every one hour we spent in the field, we would spend another three in the lab,” Prager said. Although she did get frustrated with the amount of time that they had to spend in the lab (up to 6 hours at a time), Prager became confident in her lab skills, especially microscope use, as a result.

Now back on land and diving head first into her senior year, Prager isn’t done with the research. She continues to work with members of her research team from Bonaire as they attempt to publish their research findings. However, since the paper is unpublished, she is unable to share the results.

Prager and the other students didn’t spend all their time engrossed in research. Study abroad experiences present many different learning opportunities that aren’t limited to the classroom, and her group took advantage of them.

Group members took a 10-mile hike on the island of Bonaire, listening to bird calls and learning to identify the local wildlife. They also spent a lot of time in Washington Slagbaai National Park, which protects the northwestern section of the island, and the Bonaire National Marine Park.

The group also flew to the neighboring island of Curacao, about a 20-minute flight from Bonaire. There they got a behind-the-scenes look at the Sea Aquarium, an aquarium that provides a natural environment for the animals living in it.

“It really opened my eyes to the efforts of conservation and animal protection and education,” Prager said.

They also visited Substation Curacao, a company that uses a mini-sub to provide research and tourism experiences. Not only does Substation Curacao provide tourists with the opportunity to see the ocean floor, it also works with NASA on long-term research in the area.

Prager, with a background in engineering and biology, was intrigued by the collaboration she saw between the different experts at Substation Curacao.

“The engineers there said, ‘We don’t really understand the biology part. We just drive because we know how to make the mini-sub work,’” Prager said. “It was cool to see that branching together of engineers and biologists.”

Through this trip, Prager discovered a passion for marine ecology, but she still plans to pursue a career in the medical field as an eye surgeon or a doctor of osteopathic medicine after graduating.

“Med school is my overall dream, and I’m not going to give up on it,” she said.

Even though she doesn’t plan on making marine ecology a career, she said that she still wants to stay involved in the field.

“I’d like to still be included in what’s going on in ecology, the marine environment and conservation because I think that’s something that is a passion for me,” Prager said. “I don’t think that I’m going to sway my career goals toward ecology, but I know that because of this study abroad trip and because of what opportunities I’ve been afforded through it, that I can use the information that I’ve gained to better my medical career.”
A WALK IN THE WOODS
Highlights from campus’s living laboratory
by KIMBERLY MARCOTT WEINBERG
Even those who don’t know a maple from an oak, a warbler from a jay or a skimmer from a bee can enjoy the curated nature of the Pitt-Bradford campus and Richard E. McDowell Community Trail that serves as both community park and living laboratory.

To point out a few of their favorite specimens, we turned to three campus naturalists: master gardener Bob Harris, and Dr. Lauren Yaich and Dr. Denise Piechnik, both members of the biology faculty.

Tree Campus USA

In April, Pitt-Bradford became one of only two colleges founded in the second half of the 20th century to be named a Tree Campus USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Pitt-Bradford and the Pennsylvania College of Technology (the other ‘young’un, founded in 1989) join such august campuses as the University of Pennsylvania and Moravian College, both of which are approaching their tercentennials.

For the Arbor Day Foundation, it’s not the age of the campus or the trees, but the care that is taken with them.

The accreditation process was led by the campus’ sustainability committee, chaired by Dr. Matt Kropf, assistant professor of energy science and technology, and Dr. Mary Mulcahy, associate professor biology.

In order to earn the designation, the campus created a tree committee to answer questions such as how to handle pest control and develop a tree management plan. The committee also leads the campus’s effort to celebrate Arbor Day, which this year included the return of an American chestnut tree to campus when a blight-resistant hybrid was planted along the McDowell Trail.

In October, the campus was featured in “The Princeton Review Guide to 361 Green Colleges” and recognized for its agreement with the Area Transportation Authority that lets

This photo taken by Don Tanner in the 1950s shows Harri Emery airport, which would become campus within the next decade. At top left, a white farmhouse and outbuildings can be seen with a large lollipop-shaped sugar maple closest to the V in the road. That tree remains untouched near the gazebo. The long row of evergreens along what would become Campus Drive were removed when the then-Tom L. McDowell Fieldhouse was expanded in 2002.

A female belted kingfisher (below) awaits a fish along the Tunungwant Creek. Even in the shallow creek, the birds dive and plunge headfirst into the water to catch their food. Dr. Lauren Yaich said she often sees these water hunters farther downstream along the Cook Farm Trail.

This fisher fly with its feathery antennae is an expert at detecting pheromones and being detected by hungry fish, making it a favorite species for fly fishermen to copy.

The fast-growing, pyramid-shaped dawn redwood (left) was alive during the time of the dinosaurs. It was thought to be extinct until a single specimen was found in a deeply wooded hillside in China in 1941. In 1947, according to the Arbor Day Foundation, seeds from that tree were collected and distributed worldwide.
students, faculty and staff ride for free. The publication also cited the fact that 51 percent of the campus’s food budget is spent on local and organic food, the presence of a sustainability committee and designated officer, and its record of diverting 54 percent of its waste from the landfills thanks to some smart new compactors.

He speaks for the trees
To Bob Harris, a member of the facilities crew who puts his knowledge as a master gardener to work around campus daily, there’s no such thing as a boring tree.

Ask him about a tree, and you’re just as likely to learn about Colonial American history or the Ice Age. We asked Harris to tell us about some of the trees on campus, and the first one that sprang to his mind was a two-century-old sugar maple planted near the gazebo (right).

Harris said that the late maintenance worker Jeff Armstrong told him the large maple was one of five that was there when the campus moved to the former Harri Emery Airport site in the early 1970s.

The other trees, Harris said, were removed as buildings were constructed. He said it was likely that the farmhouse family got maple sugar from the tree and that it is still very healthy.

An amateur again
Ornithology was a branch of biology that Lauren Yaich had never gotten into. Then three years ago, her daughter Kaitlin Barton took an ornithology class at Pitt’s Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology and began sharing her pictures and findings.

Dr. Lauren Yaich’s favorite birds are warblers like this yellow one. Audubon naturalist Roger Tory Peterson called warblers “the sprightly butterflies of the bird world.” They come in a variety of yellows, oranges and blues with black masks, stripes and other fanciful markings.

A row of red maples planted along the Kendall Garden Apartments are the brightest trees on campus in the early fall. Sugar maples and red maples are the most common maples on campus, but Bob Harris, master gardener, said Norway maples have recently been planted along the campus loop on the edge of the Hanley Library lawn. He also recently planted an Autumn Blaze maple in the middle of the Robert B. Bromeley Quadrangle in honor of Marian Bromeley. Harris said he knew maple was her favorite tree and that a beloved old maple had died at her home in Angelica, N.Y., just before she died at the age of 104. Harris said when he was asked to plant a tree in her memory, he knew just the tree and where to plant it.
This 200-year-old sugar maple doesn't look that big from afar until freshmen Maya Bingaman and Nahian Khan give it a big hug.
Yaich began taking her own snapshots of birds, then looked them up on the websites of the Audubon Society or the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

“The campus trail is a really good place to look for birds because you have a variety of habitats,” she said. Yaich now spends three or four hours a week in the summer photographing birds along the McDowell Trail, Marilla Trail or in the Allegheny National Forest, then looking them up at home. She’s joined a Facebook group to help with the trickier identifications.

“I use it as an example with my students of growth mindset,” she said. “It’s fun being an amateur again.”

Between Fisher Hall and Hanley Library is a new little grove of young and diverse non-native trees. It’s a tiny arboretum that was planted by Harris, perhaps as an excuse to tell the colorful stories of some of his favorite species. Take the catalpa, which he said was a favorite food source of the wooly mammoths. Catalpas also served as an early political yard sign in the American colonies. It was the favorite tree of Queen Elizabeth, Harris said, and those who planted them in their front yard were understood to be royalists.

The Robert B. Bromeley Quadrangle is the home of the pin oaks, with a score that was planted after, or soon after, the completion of Hanley Library. Another dozen decorate the lawn of Hanley Library as well as various walkways on campus. There are so many pin oaks on campus, Harris says, because when they were planted, it was “the best street tree in America,” able to withstand hard winters, swampy conditions and salted sidewalks. In 25 years, the rapidly growing trees are now taller than the buildings surrounding the quad. This year, dozens of blue jays descended on campus in October to harvest and store the trees’ acorns, which they bury like squirrels do.
Although campus is home to frequent sightings of squirrels, skunks, groundhogs, deer, bear and the occasional fox, chipmunks are definitely the most populous mammal on campus aside from humans. They make their homes in the quad and along the McDowell Trail, where acorns, nuts and seeds are plentiful.

Dragonflies, like this red one, are known in the world of entomology as skimmers. Dr. Lauren Yaich found his one along McDowell Trail. They prefer marshy wetlands, where they can devour scores of mosquitoes.

The Tunungwant Creek attracts more familiar blue heron and green heron like this juvenile stalking its dinner.
1. Alicia Hooks ’12 meets up with Lindsay Hilton Retchless ’98, director of alumni relations, at the Washington, D.C., alumni event this summer.

2. Sigma Lambda Chi alumni Matt Ryan ’98, Dan DiCesaro ’89–’91, Chris Luke ’94 and Dan Miller ’93 meet up to Hail to Pitt.


5. Daniella Aiello Pusl ’98 and Stephanie Vettenburg-Shaffer ’98 at the ’80s and ’90s alumni gathering during Alumni and Family Weekend.

6. Cassandra Walker Leahy ’05, left, was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame during Alumni Weekend, joining her twin sister, Calista ’05, right. Softball coach Tina Phillips, center, did the honors.

7. Lambda Xi alumnae Jessica Martin ’15, Bree Wolff ’15 and Morgan Mader ’15 gather at the young alumni reception at alumni weekend.

8. Ben Himan ’02, Bill West ’98 and Dr. Thad Urban ’00 catch up during Alumni Weekend Sept. 30.
1960s
Ralph Bailey '67-'69 is a global account manager for Conexus Technologies Inc. in Bradford, Pa.

1970s
Barbara Moore '69-'72 is pastor of Evans Memorial United Methodist Church in Lewis Run, Pa.
Virginia Ganley '77-'79 is a registered nurse at the University of Maryland.
Melissa R. Fiel '80-'82 is senior financial application specialist for Corning Data Services.

1980s
Diane McMinn Kirsch '78-'81 retired last year as director of the division of statistical registries for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She lives in Landisville, Pa.

1990s

2000s
Sean Housler '00-'02 married Sarah Randolph '12 in July in State College, Pa. Sean is a district manager for Key Energy Services working toward a Master of Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. Sarah is the director of asset management for Keystone Real Estate Group.

John Clopp '07 was named chief of police in Johnsonburg, Pa.
Tom Murphy '07 is a natural resources instructor at the Cattaraugus-Allegany (N.Y.) Board of Cooperative Education Services' Career and Technical Education Center in Belmont, N.Y. He lives in Port Allegany, Pa.

Anjanette Nicolazzo '08 is a national accounts manager for Zippo Manufacturing Co. You may have seen her on Zippo’s Facebook page giving a video sneak peak of the company’s 2016-17 catalogue.

Brittany Raabe '08 has been named the director of nursing at Lakeview Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Smethport, Pa.

2010s
TJ Dekmar '12 is the new head coach of the Goldey-Beacom College men’s basketball team in Wilmington, Del.
Zhouji “Jim” Duan '13-'14 is studying for his Master of Science degree at the University of Virginia.
Brad Miner '14 is the international program coordinator for the University of Pittsburgh College of Business Administration.
Victor Robertazzi '15 was an intern this summer with World Vision International in Mozambique, focusing on water sanitation and hygiene. He is attending the University of Maine School of Policy and International Affairs.

For years, Wade Robertson ’72 has been a salesman by day. It’s a job that pays the bills, but his twin loves have always been the outdoors and writing.
As a college student, he majored in English and earned a letter on the small-bore rifle team. Now he writes a newspaper column for local publications The Bradford Era and Olean (New York) Times Herald.
This summer, he reached the peak of his craft when he was honored by the Professional Outdoor Media Association at its annual meeting in Kalispell, Montana.
Robertson received the top Pinnacle Award, as the association’s honors are called, for a column published in The Era about his first pheasant hunt.
Robertson told The Era he was stunned to have been chosen for the national writing award. “It was difficult to comprehend that of all these professional journalists and writers, I had won. Truly, an almost impossible dream had just come true to a small-town boy who loves to roam the hills and streams of rural Pennsylvania and New York state.”

Jim Eckstrom, executive managing editor of the two papers, said that Robertson’s writing is popular with all readers for its descriptive style and storytelling.
That wasn’t all for Robertson this year. In the spring, his writing was also recognized by the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association. Robertson earned an Excellence in Craft Awards for two columns – one on fishing in winter and another on assembling one’s own ammunition.

In Memoriam
Joseph G. Hannon ’85 died Oct. 17 in Bradford. After playing basketball at Pitt-Bradford and graduating with a degree in petroleum technology, he worked for American Refining Group for more than 20 years.
Among the more salient successes from the past year were the following:

**New Levels of Academic Excellence:** Establish standards of excellence in academic programs that distinguish Pitt-Bradford as an outstanding provider of higher education.
- In an effort to ensure that our top capital construction priorities are included in the University Master Facilities Plan, we conducted an Academic Space Study to document our needs for additional academic space. The results indicated the need for a new academic building, renovation and expansion of Hanley Library, expansion of Fisher Hall, and expansion of the kitchen and dining areas in the Frame-Westerberg Commons Building, along with several other recommendations.
- We took the first steps in developing Engineering Technology programs by visiting other institutions that offer engineering technology and by consulting with experts in the field. We’re also positioning to develop other new academic programs in forensic science and health care.
- Programs-Targeted-for-Prominence continue to have priority in targeted fundraising and in allocation of funds: Computer Information Systems & Technology received a $2 million gift from donors, along with a $44,000 networking and security lab and one additional faculty member; Biology received $35,230 from the Bradford Educational Foundation for equipment and supplies; Psychology received $30,000 from the Bradford Educational Foundation to upgrade the psychology lab; Broadcast Communication received $49,780 from the Bradford Educational Foundation to upgrade the Mac Lab.

**Student Enrollment:** Recruit qualified students to meet enrollment goals and promote high standards of performance in scholarship, innovation and service.

**Student Engagement and Academic Success:** Create a vibrant academic campus culture that fosters a sense of belonging for all students, engages them in the academic and social life of the campus, supports student success and promotes a life-long affiliation with Pitt-Bradford.
- In spite of the triple threat of population decline, intense competition and the rising cost of a college education, our Fall 2016 FTE enrollment was 1.2% higher than the
previous year; and our Fall 2016 FTE of new students also exceeded the previous year total by 4.1%.

- Pitt-Bradford was one of 13 public universities recognized by President Obama’s administration for success in enrolling and graduating students who qualify for Pell grants.
- Pitt-Bradford compares favorably with its peer benchmark institutions in terms of retention and four-year and six-year graduation rates.

**A Diverse Community of Scholars:** Create a mutually respectful, enterprising and intellectually curious community of students, faculty and staff who value and embrace diversity in all of its forms, manifestations and expressions.

- We continue to make great progress in recruiting students from under-represented minority groups, who now make up 20 percent of the overall student population. African-American students make up more than 13 percent of the overall student population.
- Proactive steps are being taken to ensure that applicant pools for faculty and staff vacant positions contain adequate proportions of individuals from under-represented groups. Full-time faculty who are members of under-represented minority groups make up 5.7 percent of the faculty.
- During Fall semester 2015, the Diversity Committee administered a campus climate survey to the entire student population. The purpose was to assess the campus climate in order to determine the degree to which the climate is welcoming to under-represented groups and other protected classes of students, faculty and staff. The results are being reviewed and analyzed by the Diversity Committee.

**Rural Engagement and Outreach:** Enhance the quality of life in the region by sharing our expertise, knowledge and experience in service to the educational, economic and cultural development of Northwest and North Central Pennsylvania and Western New York.

- We formed a new Advisory Board Council – Community, Government and Corporate Outreach – to assist us in creating better connections with surrounding communities. We’re making great progress in creating a college-town atmosphere and improving town-gown relations.
- Construction has begun on the Marilyn Horne Museum and Exhibit Center with a May 2017 target date for dedication and opening. The Center will display memorabilia from Marilyn Horne’s life, including her early years in Bradford, her early professional life, her glorious career as one of the world’s most acclaimed and beloved performing artists and later years as a tireless teacher and mentor. There will be interactive stations featuring audio and visual performances of Ms. Horne, as well as interviews with her regarding her career and her craft.
- Performing Arts series (Prism, Spectrum and Kaleidoscope) continue to draw adults and children from the region in large numbers.
- We continue to provide a rich variety of continuing education for professional and personal development, contracted training for businesses and organizations and conferences for local and national groups.

**Strategic Communications and Enhanced Visibility:** Communicate our mission/vision/values to external as well as to internal constituencies, utilizing our institutional strengths to advance the institution and to support our vibrant campus culture and sense of belonging of all constituencies.

- The application numbers, admit numbers and matriculating student numbers increased in each of the targeted recruitment areas, including Allegheny/Butler Counties, Lehigh/Berks Counties and the Southern tier counties of Western New York.
- Promotional materials for recruitment now feature the regional resources that surround our campus, e.g., Allegheny National Forest and Holiday Valley Ski Resort.
- The Programs Targeted for Prominence, e.g., Biology, Computer Information Systems and Technology, Criminal Justice and Nursing are now high-priority features in our promotional materials and ads.
Financial and Capital Resources: Enhance and leverage financial and material resources in order to most effectively serve a population of 1,500 to 1,800 FTE students and an engaged community of faculty and staff.

- The design for Phase II of the Master Plan for Housing is now complete and construction of the second of three planned residence halls will begin in late spring/early summer of 2017.
- We have received $1.5 million from Metz Culinary Management as an investment in the Commons dining/kitchen area expansion. The remainder of funds needed for completion of the project will come from other sources.
- We have continued to host alumni and donors at Pitt football games and at alumni receptions in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Warren, Pa., and Pittsburgh. Of course, we also welcome and host alumni and donors at our annual Alumni and Family Weekend and other events on campus, such as the Leadership Donor and Founders’ Society Reception and Donor Scholarship Luncheon.

Campus Ambience and Sustainability: Pursue and promote environmentally sustainable operational practices, as well as architecturally consistent design, construction, and landscaping, in order to most responsibly steward and further enhance the beauty and functionality of our campus.

- Our director of the Energy Institute involved students in the installation of several solar panels on campus as part of experiential learning activities in the Energy Science & Technology major. He also formed a Sustainability Committee that promotes sustainability practices on campus that result in the efficient use of resources.
- The American Refining Group/Harry R. Halloran Jr. Energy Institute has created mutually beneficial partnerships with American Refining Group, Minard Run Oil Co. and the Penn-Brad Museum.
On Oct. 20, I started my 12th and final year as chair of the Pitt-Bradford Advisory Board. My term will come to an end in October of 2017. At that time, Jeannine Schoenecker, president/COO of American Refining Group in Bradford, will assume the position of chair of the Pitt-Bradford Advisory Board. Jeannine will become only the 6th chair of our Board.

Thinking of the journey from 2005 to now, I am struck by how much our beloved campus has changed. The physical plant has grown, and many of the original buildings have been redone to meet the needs of today’s educational environment. Our course and major offerings have increased significantly, again to meet the needs of today’s students. Our student population and diversity have changed to better reflect our region and nation. All of this has led to a very positive reflection of Pitt-Bradford – one we can all be proud of.

I have been humbled and honored to serve as chair of the Advisory Board. Very special to me is to have been the first alumnus to serve in this position. I attended Pitt-Bradford from 1973-1975 and finished my degree at Pitt in Pittsburgh in 1977. The relationship between the Pitt-Bradford Alumni Association and the Advisory Board has been greatly enhanced. During the past 12 years, presidents of the PBAA have served on the Advisory Board. The PBAA presidents during the past 12 years have invited me to their annual meeting. We have worked together to successfully coordinate events of both groups.

During the past 12 years, I have had the opportunity to serve on the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees and as a member of the Property/Facilities and the Budget/Finance Committees of the Trustees’ Board. This gave me a unique opportunity to carry the message of Pitt-Bradford to the full board and administration of the University of Pittsburgh. The result has been a strengthening of the relationship between our two campuses. I have considered this to be a great honor and have gotten the opportunity to meet some very interesting and influential members of the Trustees’ Board and administration.

My time as chair in Bradford has afforded me the opportunity to work with and get to know some of the finest people I have ever met. The relationships I have developed during this time will carry forward with me for the rest of my life. To ALL of you, please know how much I have cherished this opportunity.

The opportunity to work in concert with President Livingston Alexander these past years has truly been a highlight in my life. His business acumen and understanding of the needs in the current educational environment are outstanding. Pitt-Bradford is very fortunate to have the incredible vision and leadership of Livingston.

As my tenure draws to a close, I am especially happy that I will be leaving this position to a highly competent new chair. I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with and get to know Jeannine Schoenecker. The past several years, Jeannine has served on the Executive Committee and as chair of the Community, Government and Corporate Outreach Council. Her leadership qualities and devotion to Pitt-Bradford will certainly lead the Advisory Board in new and exciting directions. I am highly confident that Jeannine will enjoy tremendous success as chair of the Pitt-Bradford Advisory Board.

In closing, I thank the Advisory Board for its support during the past 12 years and for the great opportunity to serve as chair.

Craig A. Hartburg ’73–’75
Chair
Honor Roll of Donors

Number in ( ) indicates number of consecutive years giving since 7/1/1989. Donors reaching 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years or 25 years of consecutive giving are highlighted in green for achieving these milestones. Congratulations and special thanks to these loyal donors.

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From left, Bill and Carol Huber, Maria and James Williams and the Rev. Leo J. Gallina Jr. visit during the annual Leadership Donor Reception last December.

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Tamra Minnier ’81 chats with students during the spring Donor Scholarship Luncheon. This year she created the Marilyn and Glenn MinnierEndowed Nursing Scholarship to honor her mother and late father.

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The Class of 2016 became the second to endow a scholarship thanks to a challenge issued by George ‘82 and Lynda Repchick. The Repchicks challenged the class to reach 30 percent participation for its gift, promising that if the class were to do so, they would fund the remaining balance. The scholarship will be awarded for the first time this academic year.
MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE GIFTS
Gifts made to the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, both directly and through
the Bradford Educational Foundation, in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved
one hold a special significance for both the donor and Pitt-Bradford.
Contributions were received between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, from the
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Northwest Savings Bank representatives Bill Pantuso ’93, left, and Julie Marasco, center, pose with recipients of the Northwest Savings Bank Annual Scholarship, from left, Lanessa Hickman, a psychology and biology major from Lees Summit, Missouri, Charles Roebuck ’16 and Mikaela Jones, a biology major from Holland, New York.
Advisory Board Chairman Craig Hartburg ’73-’75, back left, and President Livingston Alexander, back right, share a moment with students from the Blue and Gold Society.

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fall/winter 2016
Pitt-Bradford had its highest ever participation rate among faculty and staff in its annual internal campaign during 2015-16. Seventy percent of full-time faculty and staff – 134 donors – pledged $36,776 to the university, with the average pledge being $274.

“Normally, we’ve gone way above national participation rates, but this is the highest rate we’ve ever had,” said Jill Ballard, executive director of Institutional Advancement.

Dr. Michael Klausner, an associate professor of sociology, was a faculty donor.

“I give to Pitt-Bradford because I want prospective students who may not have the financial wherewithal to benefit from a Pitt-Bradford education to be able to do so. As a faculty member, I continually see how students develop and grow a variety of their intellectual and social skills during their stay at Pitt-Bradford, and I desire the same opportunity for others.”

70% of staff and faculty give to campaign
FOUNDERS' SOCIETY
Since its founding in 1963, the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford has been fortunate to receive the support of many generous individuals, organizations and community leaders in seeing a vision become a reality. With each successful addition to the campus and its curriculum, there have been supporters who helped initiate and carry forward ideas through planning and philanthropy.

Pitt-Bradford has established the Founders’ Society to recognize alumni, faculty, staff and friends who have made a commitment to the college through a planned gift to the Bradford Educational Foundation. In making these gifts, Founders’ Society members are ensuring that Pitt-Bradford will have the financial resources to provide educational opportunities well into the future.

Planned gifts — gifts made through wills, life insurance, trusts and other programs — have become an increasingly important source of Pitt-Bradford’s strength and growth. These resources provide for scholarships, academic program expansion and campus development as well as unrestricted funds.

All planned gifts, regardless of size, enroll the donor in the Founders’ Society.

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PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Silvia M. Martinez and David O. Krantz pose with Gabrielle Neuhof ’16, the first recipient of their new endowed scholarship.

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Ann Keane and Pat Vigliotta ’89 enjoy a mother-son moment during the annual holiday Leadership Donor Reception.
Survey says
PBAE survey finds out what alumni care about most

This summer the Pitt-Bradford Alumni Association conducted an alumni attitude study designed to analyze the perceptions, attitudes and experiences of its members.

“The university is fortunate to have such a dedicated and loyal alumni community, and we initiated the survey to improve the alumni experience for our graduates,” said Lindsay Hilton Retchless ’98, director of alumni relations.

Those who responded indicated a high level of loyalty to the university or a faculty member or instructor.

Respondents said that in terms of gifts to the university, they would like to know more about how gifts are used, how to designate gifts to a chosen fund or area and how to support current and future students.

The topic that affects the alumni opinion of the university the most, the survey revealed, is the increasing value of a Pitt-Bradford degree. Alumni expressed a desire to know about the university’s improvements through hearing about new scholarships, student and faculty accomplishments and new facilities.

Portraits magazine was the most popular means of receiving information from the university, along with email and the Pitt-Bradford website.

The survey also pointed to the current and future PBAE programs that alumni care about most, which included identifying job opportunities for graduates, serving as ambassadors to promote Pitt-Bradford and mentoring students.

“We’re using the survey results to help us understand what we’re doing well and where improvement is necessary,” Retchless said.

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To see your name in the 2016-2017 Honor Roll of Donors send your gift before June 30, 2017.

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To see your name in the 2016-2017 Honor Roll of Donors send your gift before June 30, 2017.
Bob Patterson ’98
Advice for college-bound students and their parents

As the vice president of student success at Chegg Inc., Patterson leads a team that counsels families on how to get their students into the college of their choice. He has 18 years of admissions experience at Stanford University, University of California Berkeley, University of North Carolina, University of Pittsburgh and Pitt-Bradford. We asked him how to help your favorite student get the fat envelope.

How has the admissions process changed since the 1980s and ‘90s?
The number of high school students graduating has declined, but the number of applications to colleges have increased. Students have also increased the number of schools they’re applying to, so colleges are getting more overall applications. That means they’re turning down more applicants, too.

Also, parents can be completely out of the loop and not know what’s going on with their student’s search process since colleges are communicating directly with students via email or text. Get a joint email account for college communications.

How much should parents be involved in the process?
Help your student create a balanced and realistic list. A lot of people today are very unrealistic about their foundation school (what those of us in Generation X used to call a “safety school.”)

When should a family begin the college search?
For most families, 10th or 11th grade is a good time to start visits. Check out the local college and go to a large, medium and small school to get the feeling of different-sized campuses.

Any secrets to improve chances?
Colleges want to have high yield rates for accepted students, so one thing many take into account is “demonstrated interest.” Visit the campus; go to an open house; have an interview.

Also, when a school says something is recommended – such as taking the SATs – it’s required.

What is the benefit of a college like Pitt-Bradford?
It’s a nurturing place that gives a student a better chance at getting to know faculty or taking on leadership roles.
THE $100K ALUMNI CHALLENGE IS ON!

George Repchick’s Alumni Challenge to you:

If 700 alumni make a gift, I will personally give $100,000 to Pitt-Bradford for student scholarships!

To meet this challenge, we need all alumni to participate. Every gift counts, no matter the size. Give what you can and watch Pitt-Bradford turn your gift into $100,000 for student scholarships!

The Challenge is On, DONATE TODAY!

George Repchick ’82

Turn your gift into $100,000

1 Make a Gift

Make your online donation at: www.upb.pitt.edu/challenge
Or simply fill out the donor card and mail it back.

2 Challenge a Friend

When you give, share their email address, and we’ll send them your personal challenge along with information to make a gift.

Pay it Forward by Giving Back—Donate Today!
The women’s volleyball team holds its Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference trophy aloft after capturing the conference tournament championship before a packed house in the KOA Arena. It was the coronation of a magical season in which the team amassed a school-record 25 wins and an undefeated conference season. Head coach Tom Roof would be named AMCC Coach of the Year, and sophomore middle hitter Kirsten Platz of Erie, Pa., was named AMCC Volleyball Player of the Year.