CHRONOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT JOHNSTOWN

Executive Heads of the Johnstown Center of the University of Pittsburgh

1927-1933 Dr. Stanton Chapman Crawford
1933-1936 Dr. Kendall S. Tesh
1936-1945 Viers W. Adams
1945-1953 Claire A. Anderson
1953-1958 Dr. George W. Hoffman
1958 Claire A. Anderson (Acting)

Presidents of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

1958-1971 Dr. Theodore W. Biddle
1971-1974 Jack E. Freeman
1974 David J. Brewer (Interim)
1974-1993 Dr. Frank H. Blackington III
1994 Dr. David L. Dunlop (Interim)
1994-2007 Dr. Albert L. Etheridge
2007-present Dr. Jem M. Spectar

History

1927
May 12: Johnstown Junior College of the University of Pittsburgh celebrates its opening with a kick off banquet in the cafeteria of the new Johnstown Senior High School on Somerset Street. The College is the first junior college with university affiliation in the Eastern United States; designed to be a two-year college to prepare students to transfer to the University of Pittsburgh to complete their degrees.

September 24: The first classes begin in the west wing of the Johnstown Senior High School building on Somerset Street with an enrollment of 150 students, including 40 women.


A drama club and men’s basketball team are organized.

The Women’s Self-Governing Association is formed. In 1962, the organization changes its name to Associated Women Students.
1929
A football team is organized.

December: Dr. Crawford institutes Awards Day to offer recognition to outstanding students and student organization leaders.

1930
January 10: First issue of the student newspaper, *The Panther Cub*, is published.

Dr. Daniel Auchenbach organizes a Glee Club, which remains active for a decade.

Pitkin Club, a student organization of a quasi-religious nature, is organized by the students to discuss current public issues or philosophical topics dealing with morality or religious tenets.

1931
November 19: Phi Theta Kappa (Beta Mu Chapter), a national junior college honors fraternity, is chartered. It remains active until the 1970s.

1932
Spring: For economical reasons, the students vote by a 10-1 margin to abolish all competitive athletic teams in favor of intramural teams representing education, business, engineering, arts and sciences, and pre-professional studies.

In addition to day classes, evening courses for adult students are offered.

1933
July 1: Dr. Kendall Tesh succeeds Dr. Crawford as Executive Head, upon Dr. Crawford’s transfer to the Oakland campus.

1936
A Johnstown branch of the Pitt Alumni Association is formed as a result of 553 Pitt graduates living in the Johnstown area.

July 1: Viers W. Adams assumes the duties of Head of the Johnstown Junior College.

1937
May: Johnstown Junior College, also known as Johnstown Center of the University of Pittsburgh and Junior Pitt, celebrates its 10th anniversary at the Sunnehanna Country Club.

1942
September: 28 tuition-free courses to benefit future servicemen as well as wartime civilian workers are offered through the Engineering, Science and Management War Training Program.

1945
January 19: Claire A. Anderson becomes Head of the Johnstown Center as Mr. Adams leaves to pursue a doctorate degree at the University of Chicago.

1946
September 1: Johnstown Center moves to the former Cypress Avenue Elementary School in Johnstown’s Moxham neighborhood. The students nickname the location “the asphalt campus.”
Fall: 650 full-time students are enrolled, of which 550 are World War II veterans. Saturday classes are added to the daily schedule.

1947
February: Enrollment is nearly 1000 with 850 being full-time students.

May 23: A war surplus building is requisitioned for spill-over classes to accommodate the large influx of veterans. The building also houses the cafeteria, engineering drafting room, bookstore, and offices.

1951
October 8: An Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps is created and remains a feature of the college for the next 15 years. The Pershing Rifle drill team, an element of the reserve unit, competes against similar units at other colleges.

1952
May: Johnstown Center celebrates 25 years. 82 members of the charter class attend a banquet at the Sunnehanna Country Club.

1953
October 12: Mr. Anderson voluntarily steps down as Head of Johnstown Center. A welcome dinner and reception for his successor, Dr. George W. Hoffman, is held on October 23. Dr. Hoffman assumes his duties on October 26.

1956
Mercy Hospital of Johnstown sends 46 nursing students to the Johnstown Center for the first time. The Center also institutes entrance and placement examinations for new freshmen.

1958
February: Dr. George Hoffman leaves to serve as Director of the Bureau of Higher Education in the Department of Public Instruction in Harrisburg. Former Executive Head Claire Anderson is recalled from his faculty position to become “acting director.”

July 1: The Johnstown Center is renamed Johnstown College of the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Theodore W. Biddle assumes his duties as Johnstown College’s first president.

September: Johnstown College starts its earliest fall term as it switches to a Trimester Academic Calendar. The first experimental program, “early admission” for current high school students, is implemented.

1959

September 21: The student newspaper, The Panther Cub, shortens its name to The Panther.

1960
March 9: Honors Day. Speaker: Edward H. Litchfield, Ph.D., Chancellor of the University.

April 7: Lambda Sigma Rho, the first Greek social fraternity, is chartered.
1961
March 8: Honors Day. Speaker: George Boas, Ph.D., Andrew Mellon Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh.

August: Dr. Theodore Biddle and Mr. Charles Kunkle, Jr. announce the intention to launch a public campaign for a Building Fund for development and building purposes. Dr. Biddle also announces that a gift from the Wilmore Coal Company of 136 acres in Richland Township, a suburb of Johnstown, might be used as a potential college campus.

1962
March 7: Honors Day. Speaker: Lionel Charles Knights, Ph.D., Andrew Mellon Professor of English, University of Pittsburgh.

October: Johnstown College celebrates its 35th anniversary. Chancellor Litchfield speaks about the University’s goal to erect a large building for classroom and administrative purposes and several student dormitories within the next three years on the Richland Township property.

Johnstown College opens its first residence hall, Dillon Hall, on Osborne Street for seven women students.

November 20: The first Johnstown College student yearbook, The Sentinel, is published.

1963
The Student Education Association for pre-education majors, a branch of the National Education Association, is chartered.

January 22: Phi Delta Psi social fraternity is chartered.

March 1: Delta Sigma Chi social fraternity is chartered.

March 6: Honors Day. Speaker: Mario A. Pei, Ph.D., Andrew Mellon Professor of Modern Language, University of Pittsburgh.

March 27: Chi Lambda Tau leadership and scholarship social fraternity is chartered.

August 4: Alpha Kappa Pi social sorority is chartered.

1964
The Fort Stanwix Hotel is deeded to the college for use as a co-ed student dormitory.

1965

November 12: Chi Epsilon Nu social sorority is chartered.

December 16: Ground breaking ceremony for the new Richland Township campus is held.

Johnstown College hosts eight adult men and two adult women from India, arranged through the “Experiment in International Living” program. In 1966, the same program sends seven young people from Italy and two from Spain to Johnstown.
1966

April 12: 316 additional acres are purchased for the Richland Township campus with a $70,000 grant from the Richard K. Mellon Foundation. An additional three acres are donated by members of the Jacob Hoffman family. Total acreage is 455.

September 21: Cornerstone-laying ceremony for the Richland Township campus. Walter W. Krebs, publisher and editor of the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat, receives an honorary doctorate for his community leadership and service to the college.

Total enrollment is 1,150.

1967

September 26: The $8 million Richland Township campus is dedicated. Phase one of the campus includes the North and South Halls, three dormitories (Oak, Laurel, and Maple Halls), and a Student Union & Gymnasium. Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the guest of honor, is conferred an honorary doctor of laws degree and speaks at the ceremony.

1968

1969
March 7: Honors Day. Speakers: Leland Miles, Ph.D., President, Alfred University.

1970
March 4: Honors Day. Speaker: Paul M. Sherwood, Ph.D., Dean of Students, Philadelphia Community College.

July: Professor N. Lewis Buck is transferred from Oakland with the title Associate Dean for Engineering Technology to plan the curriculum for a new four-year bachelor’s degree in Engineering Technology.

The Programming Board is created to plan and schedule yearly activities for the entertainment and cultural enlightenment of the student body.

December 13: The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown celebrates its first “graduation” consisting of twenty-three education students. Speaker: Dr. Horton C. Southworth, Chairman, Department of Elementary Education.

1971
March 3: Honors Day. Speaker: Robert E. McClure, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry.

May 24: North Hall and South Hall are renamed Krebs Hall and Biddle Hall, respectively.

June 13: A $2 million library building is dedicated. The first and second floors can house 200,000 volumes. There are study areas, audio-visual and microfilm rooms, a rare book room, personnel offices, and two smoking lounges. The ground floor houses the Bookstore and classrooms.
July 1: Jack E. Freeman assumes his duties as the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown’s second president, following Dr. Biddle’s retirement.

Summer: President Freeman appoints the first faculty-dominated search committee in the institution’s history to seek a replacement for Paul D. Walter, Academic Dean. He also organizes a faculty-student committee to assist him in a “fundamental reevaluation of institutional philosophy and objectives.”

The faculty is organized into academic divisions from discipline-specific programs. Division chairs are: Gerald Brown, Humanities; John D. Wilson, Education; N. Lewis Buck; Engineering Technology; Robert J. Hunter, Social Sciences; and Edward Vizzini, Natural Sciences.

September 22: Zeta Sigma Tau social sorority is chartered.

October 23: The first annual Homecoming. Donna Jean Wells is crowned Homecoming Queen.

November 24: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Department of Education approves Johnstown College as the first regional college in Pennsylvania to grant a four-year degree.

December 12: Convocation. Diplomas for 31 elementary and secondary education graduates are presented for the first time by the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Speaker: Dr. Ryland W. Crary, Chairman, Department of Foundations of Education in Pittsburgh.

1972
Faculty Senate and Faculty Council are organized. Dr. George R. Walter is elected as the first president of the Faculty Senate. The first Faculty Council includes Dr. Carroll Grimes, Catherine Kloss, Robert Sukenik, Dr. William Doncaster, Thomas Sigmund, Dr. Christopher Chweh, Larry Rodgers, and Dr. Anthony Tilman.

March 22-25: The Music Department, under the leadership of Thomas Furlong, presents its first musical, *Man of La Mancha*.

April 9: Honors Day Convocation includes the first 19 Arts and Sciences students to graduate from this campus as well as 44 students in elementary and secondary education. Speaker: Dr. Rhoten A. Smith, Provost, University of Pittsburgh.

September: Bruce J. Haselrig, first black administrator in the school’s history, is appointed to the newly created position of Assistant to the Dean of Students.

September 19: Jack E. Freeman is inaugurated as the second president of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

October: Delta Chi fraternity is chartered.

October 14: Dianne Falvo is crowned Homecoming Queen. The Log Cabin, a new recreational facility, opens during Homecoming weekend.

1973
Acacia social fraternity is chartered.

February: *Emanon* is the first student yearbook published since the 1962 edition of *The Sentinel*.
April 8: The first academic convocation, honoring the graduating class, is held in the Cambria County War Memorial Arena. 260 graduates hear greetings from President Freeman, remarks from senior class president, Larry Widmer, and a student address by Vicki Kimmel. Speaker: Dr. Charles U. Walker, ’50, President, Russell Sage College.

Summer: Four new townhouses are built, adding 30 apartment units with the capacity to house 120 students.

Fall: Wrestling is added as an intercollegiate sport.

September: Backroads, the University literary magazine featuring student writing, is first published.

September 29: Angela Rabatin is crowned Homecoming Queen.

1974

January 16: The Panther is renamed The Advocate in order to create a separate identity from Pitt’s main campus. Athletic teams choose the name “Golden Panthers.”

January 31: President Freeman resigns to become Vice Chancellor of the University for Planning and Budget in Pittsburgh. He simultaneously continues his University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown presidential duties through April.

April 7: Academic Convocation. Speaker: Jack E. Freeman, President, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

April 8: David J. Brewer is appointed interim president.

June 2: The Rocky Run Nature Area is dedicated in honor of Dr. Henry J. Idzkowsky, retired Biology professor. The area offers more than a mile of trails through approximately 40 acres of fields and woodlands, for use by the Terrestrial Ecology Program and public visitors.

August 1: Dr. Frank H. Blackington, III, assumes his duties as the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown’s third president.

September 1: UPJ joins the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

The Humanities Division offers five new degree programs: English Literature, Writing/Journalism, American Studies, Speech, and Communications/Theater. The Natural Sciences Division offers five new degree programs: Biology, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, and Broad Natural Sciences.

Fall: Full-time enrollment is 2,439 students.

October: WUPJ-Radio broadcasts for the first time.

October 5: Sonja Streich is crowned Homecoming Queen.

November 16: Jim Morgan, cross-country, is the first UPJ athlete to compete in a NAIA championship.

1975

January: Women’s gymnastics and basketball are organized.

March 20: Student Awards Dinner for academic achievement.
April: UPJ is the first regional campus of a major university voted into the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) without having “separate accreditation.”

April 6: Academic Convocation for the graduating class of 400 students includes the first 64 engineering technology graduates. Speaker: Dr. Walter Adams, Distinguished University Professor and Professor of Economics, Michigan State University.

Spring and Summer: Two additional townhouses are built, adding 16 apartment units. Housing shortages continue to be an issue as the student population grows.

September 16: Inauguration ceremony for Dr. Frank H. Blackington, III, is held.

Fall: The Women’s Volleyball Club is organized. Men’s soccer team wins the Division II title of Western Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Soccer League.

October 11: Pam Hutzell is crowned Homecoming Queen.

1976

January: Library staff, under new director Rodney Ferguson, begin to reclassify the entire collection from the Dewey Decimal Classification System to the Library of Congress Classification System. The project is completed in the summer of 1981.

March: Ed Sherlock, Athletic Director, is elected Secretary-Treasurer of NAIA.

March 14: The Engineering and Science Building is dedicated. The building provides a 230 seat amphitheater-type classroom-auditorium, classrooms, laboratories, and office spaces for the Engineering Technology and Natural Sciences Divisions.

April 4: Academic Convocation. Speaker: Dr. Eric F. Goldman, Rollins Professor of History, Princeton University.

March-September: Five group housing residence buildings are built to provide living spaces for 256 students. Three of the buildings accommodate Delta Chi, Lambda Sigma Rho, Acacia, and Delta Sigma Chi social fraternities and Alpha Xi Delta, Zeta Sigma Tau, and Delta Zelta social sororities.

October 2: Anne Uschak is crowned Homecoming Queen.

October 16: UPJ hosts the NAIA District Championships in cross-country.


1977

January: The basketball program becomes known as the “Mountain Cats.”


Following the July 20, 1977 Johnstown flood, UPJ serves as a Red Cross disaster center until August 15, housing approximately 430 local townspeople and 540 volunteers and workers from various relief organizations.
Fall: Steve Littleton, cross-country, achieves All-American status when he places 11th in the NCAA Division II National Championship meet.

October 1: Cindy Malysko is crowned Homecoming Queen.

November 30: Men’s basketball defeats Point Park College, 75-72, in the historic opener in the new $1.2 million, 2,700 seat Sports Center. The Center includes a wrestling room, conditioning room, dance studio, ticket office, and four basketball courts.

1978
The soccer team wins the Western Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Soccer League Division II championship.

April 22: The Academic Convocation ceremony is held for the first time at the Sports Center. Speaker: Dr. Harold Delaney, Associate Executive Director, American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Fall: Buckhorn and Sunset Lodges are constructed, housing 96 students.

Fall: The Student Union building is renovated, providing a student lounge with dining spaces and a game room, a commuter lounge, and offices for the Catholic and Protestant campus ministries.

A Learning Skills Center is created to help students with academic problems and to teach good study strategies and habits.

October 28: Anne Foster is crowned Homecoming Queen.

1979

Fall: Henry Winger, cross-country, sets a new NAIA District 18 course record on the UPJ course. He is named All-American for the third time in his career upon finishing eighth out of 384 runners in the NAIA national championships at the University of Wisconsin, Parkside.

October 20: Toni Giallonardo is crowned Homecoming Queen.

1980
March 23: UPJ Chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, a National Honors Society for first-year students, is chartered. In April, 84 UPJ students are inducted.

March: Lisa Britt, women’s basketball, closes her career with over 1900 points and an invitation to the Olympic tryouts in Colorado Springs. She is named All-American by the EAIAW (Eastern Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) Coaches Association. She is drafted by the Minnesota Fillies of the Women’s Professional Basketball League.


October 25: Lori Butala is crowned Homecoming Queen.
1981
Chi Lambda Tau Honor Society is revived. It recognizes juniors and seniors with a combination of scholarship and leadership qualities.

“RN to BSN” degree program is established. By 1986, there are more than 100 professional nurses actively pursuing degrees.

April 18: Academic Convocation. Speaker: Frederick M. Binder, President, Juniata College.

October 3: Laura Moschgt is crowned Homecoming Queen.

1982
February: Jamie Thompson is the first men’s soccer player named to the NAIA All-American squad.

March 27: Kappa Delta Rho, a new national social fraternity, is chartered.

Winter: College Park Apartments complex on Theatre Drive is purchased. The apartments are ready to house 104 upper-level students in September.

March: The wrestling squad takes first place in the NCAA Division II Eastern Regionals.


Fall: Women’s cross-country is added to the women’s intercollegiate athletic programs.

October 9: Rose Spridik is crowned Homecoming Queen.

1983
Winter: UPJ officially recognizes Alpha Gamma Delta, a national social sorority. Circle K, first chartered at the college by the Johnstown Kiwanis Club in November 1952, observes its 30th anniversary.

Men’s cross-country wins the NAIA District 18 championship on the UPJ course. Mike Miller takes first place.

Fall: UPJ offers a certificate in International Studies.

September: UPJ joins with JARI, the Southern Alleghenies Regional Commission, and the Greater Johnstown Vocational-Technical High School to create a Center for Technology Training and Development (CENTECH).

October 15: Gretchen Thomas is crowned Homecoming Queen.

November 12: Cas Bonczewski, Steve Gordon, Joachim Knispel and Jim Sostack are named All-Conference players for the Western Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Soccer Conference (WPISC).
1984
January: Dr. Blackington is elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. He is also named chairman of the Committee on Academic and Student Personnel.

February 2: Steve Hotte wins the first Mr. UPJ competition, sponsored by the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. Proceeds benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

February 24-25: Coach Pat Pecora is elected President of the NCAA’s Division II Wrestling Coaches Association.

February 28: Michael D. Yates (Economics) is the first UPJ faculty member to receive the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

October 13: Marianne Ieni is crowned Homecoming Queen.

November: UPJ is chosen as one of 13 sites throughout the state for a Regional Computer Resource Center to promote and improve the use of computers in elementary and secondary classrooms.

1985
January: A Ski Club is organized.

January: The Student Council on World Affairs sponsors the first UPJ Ethnic Festival, celebrating the multitude of regional ethnic backgrounds.

February 3: Michael C. Lisi is crowned Mr. UPJ.

February 15-16: Robert Yahner becomes the first UPJ wrestler to win four NCAA Division II Eastern Regional wrestling titles and earns All-American honors.

February 16: The women’s basketball team wins the Mason-Dixon Athletic Conference championship.

1985 President’s Distinguished Teaching Awards go to Charles Clifton (English) and Albert Vannucci (Political Science).

April 21: Academic Convocation. Speaker: John E. Sheehan, Chief Executive Officer, Johnstown Corporation.

Fall: The women’s basketball team moves up from Division III to Division II.

October: The Prime 750 mini-computer is available to Engineering Technology faculty and students to enable teaching Computer Aided Design/Drafting (CADD) as well as Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM).

October 4-5: UPJ hosts a two-day conference celebrating the “Year of the Pennsylvania Writer.” Pennsylvania authors who contributed to Pennsylvania’s state’s literary heritage are recognized. David Bradley and David McCullough are featured authors of the conference.

October 18: Kim Riek is crowned Homecoming Queen.

1986
February 2: Brian Glaspy is crowned Mr. UPJ.
March 19: Governor Dick Thornburgh presents on Pennsylvania’s Ben Franklin Partnership and the Renaissance Communities Program during Engineer’s Week 1986.

Coach Pat Pecora is named “Coach of the Year” for the NCAA Division II Eastern Region wrestling. Carlton Haselrig wins the national heavyweight wrestling title in both NCAA Divisions I and II.

Jill Halapin, women’s basketball, is named “player of the year” by the Mason-Dixon All-Conference. Coach Jodi Gault is named co-coach of the year.

October 12: Tina Eppolito is crowned Homecoming Queen.

1987
February 1: Charles “Chuck” Reed is crowned Mr. UPJ.

February 25: “Shaping a Future – the Campaign for UPJ” is officially kicked off as part of the 60th anniversary at a luncheon held in the Holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown. The goal of the fundraising campaign is to raise $8.7 million. Frank and Sylvia Pasquerilla announce they are contributing $4 million to the college for the construction of a performing arts building.

October: UPJ receives a grant from AT&T of $175,000 to purchase two super microcomputers, 10 new AT&T personal computers, and two high-performance graphics terminals to support electronic publishing.

October 17: Cynthia Blair is crowned Homecoming Queen.

Geology is approved as a degree program.

1988
April 23: Academic Convocation. Speaker: Rudolph H. Weingartner, Provost and Senior Vice-President, University of Pittsburgh.

Fall: Women’s soccer club is organized.

October 1: Pamela Neely is crowned Homecoming Queen.

The wrestling squad earns first place for the second consecutive year in post-season Eastern Regionals of the NCAA Division II. Haselrig wins both the Division I and II national heavyweight titles for the second consecutive year.

Sally Mosay, women’s basketball, is chosen “player of the year” in the All Mason-Dixon Conference. Jill Halapin is a NCAA Division II Kodak WBCA All-American.

Yan Zhang, citizen of the People’s Republic of China, is UPJ’s first Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence.

1989
January: Roger Wright, president of Consolidated Natural Gas Companies, announces a $100,000 grant to UPJ to finance an Entrepreneurial Development Assistance Project.

February 5: Matt Dudukovich is crowned Mr. UPJ.

Bridget Hale, women’s basketball, is named a NCAA Division II Kodak WBCA All-American.
The wrestling squad earns its third consecutive Regional title. Carlton Haselrig wins his third consecutive NCAA Division I and II national titles, becoming the first and only wrestler to win six national heavyweight titles. It is no longer permissible for Division II wrestlers to compete in Division I national tournaments.

Pittsburgh Steelers draft Carlton Haselrig ’89.

October 7: Meggan Jordan is crowned Homecoming Queen.

November 15: The men’s soccer team wins the WPISC title in Division II.

1990
February 4: Bill Jones is crowned Mr. UPJ.

Bridget Hale, women’s basketball, is named a NCAA Division II Kodak All-American for second consecutive year.

March 3: The wrestling team wins its fourth straight NCAA Division II Eastern Regional Wrestling championship.

March 7: Student Senate approves a Hockey Club.

March 23: The Zamias Aquatic Center, fully funded through a $1 million gift from George and Marianna Zamias, is dedicated.

October 6: Lori Morrison is crowned Homecoming Queen.

October 16: University Office of Provost Donald Henderson approves a Geography Major at UPJ, the only Pitt campus to offer this major. It is established for the Spring Term.

October 30: The “Shaping a Future” campaign tops the $15 million mark. Pennsylvania’s Lt. Governor Mark Singel, State Senator William Stewart, and Representative John Wozniak deliver a symbolic check signed by Governor Robert Casey for the construction of a $7 million classroom/administration building.

1991
Masayuki Tadokoro of Dokkyo University, Hyoga, Japan, arrives as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence.

The Geography Department is named the publisher of The Pennsylvania Geographer. This is the first professional journal published at UPJ.

February 3: Jerry Vitale is crowned Mr. UPJ.

March: UPJ adopts the University of Pittsburgh academic calendar; a spring break is scheduled for the first time.

April 27: Academic Convocation. Speaker: John E. Murray, Jr., President, Duquesne University.

September: Enrollment is 2,690 full-time and 918 part-time students.

September 11: The Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center (PPAC) is dedicated. Designed by Damianos Brown Andrews, Inc., the PPAC features a 1,000 seat auditorium, a black-box-style experimental theatre, an arts gallery, and space for faculty and staff offices.
September 6: Picking Drive, a new second entrance to campus, is officially named in honor of Howard M. Picking, Jr., one of the original 1958 Advisory Board members.

September 22: The J. Irving Whalley Memorial Chapel is dedicated. The all-faiths chapel, which houses a 250 seat sanctuary, conference room, and office space, is the result of a gift from the Whalley Charitable Trust.

October 12: Jennifer Rossi is crowned Homecoming Queen.

1992
February 8: Dave Armstrong is crowned Mr. UPJ.

March 1 and 22: College Scholars Recognition Ceremony and Donor Awards Ceremony continue the tradition of Awards Day.

March 13: The women’s basketball team wins the NCAA Division II East Regional Tournament.

Mindy Young, women’s basketball, is named NCAA Division II Player of the Year, Kodak WBCA All-American, and GTE Academic All-American.

May 2: Academic Convocation. Speaker: Donald M. Henderson, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh.

Fall: Dr. David L. Dunlop, Academic Dean, institutes a new “Readiness for College” course required of all freshmen.

October 1: Heather Leonard is crowned Homecoming Queen.

October 31: The men’s soccer team wins the WPISC championship.

December: Dr. Blackington announces at the Century Club dinner that the college library will be named Owen Library in honor of former Greater Johnstown High School English teachers and Johnstown Center alumni, Elvina Owen and Sara Owen Torquato, who provided a large endowment for library resources.

1993
February: The Engineering Division invests in an electric-power-system simulator with a $100,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. It is the second computer-operated simulator in the country.

February 6: Brent Davis is crowned Mr. UPJ.

February 21: The wrestling team wins its fifth Regional title at the NCAA Division II Eastern Regionals.

May 8: Academic Convocation. Speaker: J. Dennis O’Connor, Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh.

October 2: Natalie Conrad is crowned Homecoming Queen.

December: Academic Dean David L. Dunlop becomes interim president for the spring term following Dr. Blackington’s retirement.

1994
February 6: Eric Viskovicz is crowned Mr. UPJ.

1994 Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Award is presented to Ronald Vickroy.

July 1: Dr. Albert L. Etheridge assumes his duties as the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown’s fourth president.

September 14: The remodeled Student Union is dedicated. It now houses administrative offices; career, health, residence, and student services; personal counseling; the Bookstore; Post Office and Mailroom; WUPJ-Radio; the Advocate’s darkroom; and a ballroom/multipurpose room.

October 2: Jodie Nicotra is crowned Homecoming Queen.

December 2: The Living/Learning Center is dedicated. It houses 400 students and will also serve as a conference center. There are a game room, a small shop, a computer center, an exercise & fitness area, and a dining room that can serve about 200 people.

November 11: Valerie Plish is crowned “Miss UPJ” in the first Miss UPJ pageant sponsored by Delta Sigma Chi fraternity.

1995

February 18: Wrestling Coach Pat Pecora is named NCAA Eastern Regional Coach of the Year.

April 9: Academic Honors Convocation. Speaker: Dr. Albert L. Etheridge, President, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

May 6: Commencement. Speaker: Dr. Albert L. Etheridge, President, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

August 27-29: First annual Freshman Convocation is held. Its purpose is to focus on the needs and expectations of freshmen and addresses the faculty’s professional needs.

October 14: Former President Jack Freeman crowns the 25th Homecoming Queen, Sara Latta. Ruby Biddle, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Blackington, and past queens attend the Homecoming events.

October 21: Litchfield Avenue is renamed Kunk’s Drive in honor of retired UPJ Advisory Board member, Charles Kunkle, Jr.
1996
January 24: All-American Tony Albertelli, wrestling squad, is ranked 2nd in the nation.

March 15-16: The wrestling squad captures its first NCAA Division II title.

March 24: Academic Honors Convocation. Speaker: Joseph F. Rutledge ’73, Vice President for Development, Interactive Magic.

April 13: Women’s Rugby Club is organized.

1996 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award was presented to Campus Ministry.

May 4: Commencement. Speaker: Vickey L. Triponey, Ph.D., ’79, Associate Vice President, Campus Life, Wichita State University.

October 12: Megan Olszewski is crowned Homecoming Queen.

1997
Phi Kappa Phi, international honor society, is founded.

January 25: Mindy Young, 1992 NCAA Division II Player of the Year, is the first women’s basketball team player to have her jersey retired.

February 9: Chad Dupill is crowned Mr. UPJ.

March: Eight new degree programs are offered: four Associate degrees in the allied health division; bachelor’s degrees in environmental studies, theater and communication, secondary education/social studies, and biopsychology.

March 21: The men’s basketball team receives national attention by being ranked as high as 11th in the nation and earning its first ever NCAA Division II National Tournament bid.

March 23: Academic Honors Convocation. Speaker: Andonia Cakouros ’74, Professor of Theatre, California State University.

1997 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Dr. John McGrath.

May 3: 25th Annual Commencement. The Commencement speaker is Dennis B. Roddy, ’76, Staff Writer and Editor for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

September 3: The Frank H. Blackington, III, Administration/Classroom Building, known as Blackington Hall, is dedicated. Located at the crest of the campus mall, it contains computer laboratories, lecture halls, administrative offices, and audiovisual services.

October 4: Sonya Thompson is crowned Homecoming Queen.

November 30: The installation of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Collegiate Honor Society is held. Twenty faculty and students are inducted.

1998
February 24: Chris Nix is crowned Mr. UPJ.
March 13-14: Jody Strittmatter, wrestling, wins the 118 pound, NCAA Division II championship and is named an Academic All-American. Strittmatter is the first UPJ freshman to win a national title.

March: Men’s basketball is seeded sixth in the NCAA Division II National Tournament’s East Region, losing in the second round. The team is placed 20th in the final NCAA Division II ranking.

March 22: Academic Honors Convocation. Speaker: David R. Davis, ’81, President and CEO, Lee Regional Health System.

April 9: Twelve geography majors are the first to be inducted into UPJ’s newest honor society, Gamma Theta Upsilon, International Geography Honor Society.

1998 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Catherine Kloss (English) and H. Richard Feller (Civil Engineering Technology).

1998 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to the Staff Activities and Concerns Association.


July 1: Dr. Sandra Patterson-Randles is selected as the new Vice President for Academic Affairs. She is the first woman to hold a vice presidency in the school’s history.

September 29: David Willey (Physics) makes his first guest appearance on NBC’s “Tonight Show with Jay Leno.”

October 3: Amanda DeCoske is crowned Homecoming Queen.

December 9: WUPJ-TV makes its first campus-wide television broadcast. The broadcast includes world news, campus news, and a tribute to deceased communication professor Ellen Hoffman.

1999

February 21: Jay Visniskie is crowned Mr. UPJ.

February 25: Dr. Etheridge and Advisory Board Chairman Jeanne Gleason dedicate the Engineering and Science Building’s auditorium as the Paul H. Saylor Auditorium in honor of former professor Paul H. Saylor.

March 12-13: Wrestling squad wins the NCAA Division II National championship.


March 28: The Education Club sponsors a benefit basketball game against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Proceeds are given to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

April 19: Coach Clyde Horner celebrates his 500th win when the women’s track team defeats Juniata College. This milestone occurs after 30 years coaching soccer, women’s volleyball, men and women’s basketball, and women’s track.

May 8: Commencement. Speaker is Terry L. Harter, ’74, Professor of Astronomy, Cornell University.
1999 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Dr. Daniel Santoro (Sociology).

October 2: Mindee Heidrich is crowned Homecoming Queen.

October 10: Ultimate Frisbee Club organizes its first tournament with Pitt-Oakland, Juniata College and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

November 6: The men’s rugby club wins the Allegheny Rugby Union League Division III Championship against Grove City College.

December 15: Shirley Richards, Owen Library administrative assistant, receives the first President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service. The award honors staff members who volunteer on and off campus.

2000
February 9: Brandon Newill is crowned Mr. UPJ.


October 7: Amy Carlson is crowned Homecoming Queen.

2000 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service is presented to Nancy Brunberg.

2001
February 13: Jason Scheponik is crowned Mr. UPJ.

March: Nineteen UPJ students take a mission trip to Jamaica during Spring Break to build houses, dig water holes and sewage drains, and distribute donated goods.

March 10: Coach Pat Pecora is inducted into the Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame.


2000-2001 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Dr. Florence R. Warfel.

April 18: First annual Pasquerilla Lecture Series: Stanley Crouch, author and critic.

May 5: Commencement. Speaker: W. Thomas Phizacklea, ’81, Vice President for Finance, Goucher College, Baltimore, MD.

2001 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Dr. Ronald G. Reinbold (German).

Fall: A sailing club is formed.

September 29: Stephanie Lohr is crowned Homecoming Queen.

2001 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service is presented to Victor Kohler and Sharon Wilson.
2002
March 9: Shad Benton and Brandon Newill, wrestling, both win NCAA Division II titles.

March 17: Academic Honors Convocation. Speaker: Edward A. Dobson, ’80, President and Principal Hydrogeologist of Mountain Research, Inc.

March 21: Walt Krymski is crowned Mr. UPJ.

2001-2002 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Jeffrey Campbell.

May: UPJ celebrates its 75th anniversary.

May 4: Commencement Speaker is Bill Cosby, educator, comedian, and entertainer.

2002 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Dr. Robert W. Matson (History).

Fall: Color Guard Club is organized. It wins first place in every competition entered throughout the school year.

September 28: Erin Vybiral is crowned Homecoming Queen.

November 13: Campus-wide celebration held in the Student Union honoring UPJ’s 75th anniversary.

2002 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service is presented to Betsy A. Goenner.

2003
2003 Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award is presented to Rodney Eatman (Theatre).

2003 Chancellor’s Distinguished Service Award is presented to Betsy A. Goenner. First UPJ recipient.

March 13: Coach Pat Pecora is inducted into the NCAA Division II Wrestling Hall of Fame.

March 16: Academic Honors Convocation. Speaker: Sean C. Isgan,’82, President, CME Engineering, Inc.

March: The hockey team wins the College Hockey East Championship for the first time against Slippery Rock University in a three-game series.

2002-2003 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Dr. Jon Darling.

2003 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Dr. Merrily K. Swoboda (Communication).

May 3: Commencement Speaker is James Fallon, ’77, editor of Women’s Wear Daily.

Fall: A Car and Truck Club is organized for students who share a common interest in customizing, upgrading, and repairing cars.

September 27: Stacy Magulick is crowned Homecoming Queen.

2003 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service is presented to Bruce Haselrig.
2004

Chancellor’s Award for Staff Excellence in Service to Community is presented to Bruce Haselrig.

January: The Blue and Gold Society is formed to provide opportunities for students to get involved in alumni events.

February 16: Anthony Teti is crowned Mr. UPJ.


March 21: Academic Honors Convocation Speaker is Barbara L. Parkins, ’80, Superintendent Greater Johnstown School District.

April 7: Students place their projects on public display at the first annual Symposium for Promotion of Academic and Creative Enquiry (SPACE).

2003-2004 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Ron Vickroy.

2004 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Dr. William Brice (Geology).

May 1: Commencement. Speaker: Malcolm Bremer, M.D., Chief of Staff, North East Medical Center Hospital, Humble, Texas.

October 1: Chelse Burzio is crowned Homecoming Queen.

October 21: “Worlds of UPJ”, in its fourth year, conveys ethnical and cultural diversities to freshmen residence halls. Each hall has a unique theme with dancing, music, games and food.

November: New student clubs announced, including Women’s Softball, College Republicans, College Democrats, and Astronomy.

2004 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service is presented to Robert Knipple and Beth Ann Whiteman.

2005

February 26: Wrestling team wins the NCAA East Regional tournament for the 18th time.

March: Students name the newest residence hall Willow Hall in a campus-wide vote. Housing 109 students in 24 separate apartment units, it is first occupied in the Fall 2005.


March 20: Academic Honors Convocation Speaker is Dr. Kathleen E. George, ’63, author and Professor, Theatre Arts Department, University of Pittsburgh.

March: The hockey team wins the College Hockey East Championship. They qualify for the ACHA National Tournament.

2004-2005 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Kerri Weir.
May 7: Commencement. Speaker: Joseph P. Noel, ’85, Professor, Jack Skirall Chemical Biology and Proteonics Laboratory; Adjunct Professor, Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

2005 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Robert Martinazzi (Mechanical Engineering Technology).

Fall: Three new sports teams are organized: women’s soccer (fully recognized as a NCAA Division II sport), men’s and women’s golf.

October 1: Carrie Ann Young is crowned Homecoming Queen.

November 5: The Student Senate sponsors a 12-hour Hurricane Katrina dance-a-thon, collecting more than $1,900.

December 4: Jodi Gault earns 500 career wins as women’s basketball coach.

2005 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to the Community is presented to Linus R. “Ron” Pryal.

2005 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to Pitt-Johnstown is presented to Jeanne Susko.

2006
January 18: The College Hockey East All-Star game is played in Johnstown for the first time. Six UPJ students participate.

2006 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Service to the University is presented to Andrea Leibfreid.

2006 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Service to the Community is presented to Linus R. “Ron” Pryal.

February 23: Sridhar Natarajan and Nidhi Govil win the first Iron Chef Competition, sponsored by the Diversity Working Group and Sodexho Food Services.

March 11: Thad Benton wins his second consecutive NCAA Division II wrestling title.


March 19: Academic Honors Convocation Speaker is Cheryl L. Slade, ’89, Mathematics Teacher, North Star School District.

March: The hockey team wins the College Hockey East Championship. They qualify for the ACHA National Tournament.

Men’s baseball team is selected to participate in its first NCAA tournament in school history.

April 28-29: UPJ hosts the 2006 Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition for the American Society of Civil Engineers.

2006 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to David G. Willey (Physics).

2005-2006 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Delta Sigma Chi.
May 6: Commencement. Speaker: Marlin H. Mickle, Ph.D., ’60, Professor, School of Engineering of the University of Pittsburgh.

July 1: UPJ athletics join the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) after being non-conference affiliated since 1988.

September: Abbey Hrescak, women’s volleyball, is the first UPJ athlete to be named WVIAC Player of the Week.

September 8: The Mountain Cat statue on the Mall is dedicated.

September 30: Fall Fest replaces Homecoming. Lyndsi McGinnis is crowned Fall Fest Queen.

2006 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to the Community is presented to Roxanne Blough.

2006 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to Pitt-Johnstown is presented to Andrea Leibfreid and Pamela Sabol.

2007
January 17: Jason Layman, Mike Inman, and Dan Thomas are selected to the College Hockey East All-Star Team.

February: Men’s Lacrosse Club is organized.

February 19: Staff members Beverly Walersyiak, Andrea Sadvari, and Jeanne Susko win the 2nd Iron Chef Competition.

February 22: Eric Faint is crowned Mr. UPJ.

March 6: WVIAC presents Pitt-Johnstown with the Clement H. Clower Institutional Sportsmanship Award.

March 18: Academic Honors Convocation. Speaker: Dr. Kevin J. Pearson, ’99, Postdoctoral Intramural Research Training Award Fellow, Laboratories of Experimental Gerontology and Laboratories of Cardiovascular Science, National Institute on Aging, NIH.


March 20: The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers hosts the first i-Robot competition at the Engineering and Science Building.

April: ASCE Club wins the Mid-Atlantic Regional Concrete Canoe competition. Advances to the National Competition.

2006-2007 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Andrea Sadvari.

May 5: Commencement. Speaker is Dr. Mark A. Nordenberg, J.D., Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh.

2007 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Dr. Valerie S. Grash (Fine Arts).

July 1: Dr. Jem Spectar assumes his duties as the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown’s fifth president upon Dr. Etheridge’s retirement.
September 23-30: 80th Anniversary celebration. September 26: first annual PITT-nic in the Park is held in Johnstown’s Central Park. September 29: Kristie Carozza is crowned Homecoming Queen.

September 28: Dr. Jem Spectar is inaugurated as the fifth president to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.


2007 Fall Reading Series: Lori Jakiela, Ann Pancake, and Sean Thomas Dougherty.

Fall: The Real World Experience program is initiated to encourage student participation in citizenship activities and cultivate, strengthen and support the habits of effective citizenship, from the local to the global level, focusing on four areas: Leadership, Involvement, Service, and Teamwork.

Fall: Mountain Cat Maniacs is a new organization designed to foster school pride and spirit while supporting athletic programs.

November 1: Wireless internet communications are established in the academic buildings to increase student-friendly service as well as provide accessibility and currency.

December 3: First Annual Light-Up Night is held outside Blackington Hall, featuring the illuminated Goodwill Arches.

2007 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to the Community is presented to Jeanine Lawn.

2007 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to Pitt-Johnstown is presented to Marilyn Alberter.

2008
February 21: Men’s basketball team wins the WVIAC championship.

February 27: Pawel Brzozowski is crowned Mr. UPJ.

March: Albert Miles wins the national championship at the NCAA Division II National Wrestling Tournament.

March 3: Two unnamed members of the Black Action Society win the 3rd annual Iron Chef Competition.

March 20: 5th Annual Esther Goldhaber Jacovitz Poetry Series: Terrance Hayes, Wind In a Box, Hip Logic, and Muscular Music.


2008 Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award is presented to Dr. John McGrath (Business).

April: Pitt-Johnstown’s Habitat for Humanity International Campus Chapter is officially recognized.

Dr. Spectar creates the President’s Mentorship Fund for Faculty-Student Scholarship. Initial awards are given to: Brad Watson & Dr. Bruce Robart (Biology), Compositional Change in the Forest of the Rocky
Run Nature Area; Tiffany Bumbarger & Dr. Lisa Bell-Loncella (Chemistry), How Fast Will an Electron Travel? Model Complexes to Study the Kinetics of Proton-Coupled Electron Transfer on Self-Assembled Monolayers; Andrew Klobukia & Dr. Kim Simons (Chemistry), Biochemical and Structural Analysis of the Mitotic Exit Network; Jessica Lense & Dr. Kim Simmons (Chemistry), Determination of the Antibiotic/Toxic Effects of an Ampicillin Derivative; Allen Mullen & Dr. Sharon Bertsch (Psychology), The Effect of Repetitive Behaviors on Memory Performance; Glynn Collis, Sarah Petrunak & Dr. William Kory (Geography), Johnstown’s Neighborhoods: an In-Depth Look at the City.

2008 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Dr. Andrew Rose (Civil Engineering Technology).

May 1: First-ever “Celebrating Faculty Excellence Gala” is held to recognize and fete faculty for their various achievements during 2007-2008.

2007-2008 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Brandon Quinn.

May 3: Commencement. Speaker is Martin E. Radovanic, Managing Editor, WJAC News.

May 15-18: Pitt-Johnstown hosts the 2008 NCAA Division II North Atlantic Region Baseball Tournament at Johnstown’s Point Stadium.

May 29-31, June 5-7: Pitt-Johnstown Theatre Department performs six showings of Matthew Barber’s Enchanted April in the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center’s Studio Theater.

Spring: Pitt-Johnstown Baseball Team wins the WVIAC Northern Division title with a 12-4 record.

2008 Chancellor’s Affirmative Action Award is presented to Theresa Messina Horner.

September 27: Jenna Ricci is crowned Homecoming Queen.

2008 Fall Reading Series: Kevin Stewart, Jan Beatty, and Cathy Day.

October 31: First Distinguished Alumni Award is presented at the Annual Alumni Gala to Congressman John P. Murtha ’60.

Fall: Mountain Cat Veterans Program (MVP) is created to recognize the service performed by United States military veterans and to assist them in making a successful transition into the student population.

November 3: College Democrats host former President Bill Clinton at a campaign rally for Congressman John P. Murtha in the Sports Center.

2008 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to Pitt-Johnstown is presented to Diane Lenio.

2009
A key component of the RealWorld Action Program earns Pitt-Johnstown the distinction of being recognized on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

2009 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Dr. John Thompson (Mathematics).

2009 Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Award is presented to Dr. Paul Douglas Newman (History).

February: Men’s Lacrosse team joins the National College Lacrosse League.

February 19-March 1: Pitt-Johnstown Theatre Department performs Dancing at Lughnasa and Almost, Maine.

February 24: Glocal Health Forum is the inaugural event in the new Glocal Society Series (GSS), which focuses on pressing global and local issues of our time.

March 7: Men’s Basketball wins the WVIAC Tournament Championship in double overtime (74-73) against Alderson-Broaddus (WV) College in Charleston, WV.


March 24: Kevin Coppler and Tim McGuire win the 4th Iron Chef Competition.

March 24-April 4: “Pitt-Johnstown @ Your Service Week” is launched to facilitate opportunities for members of Pitt-Johnstown to volunteer in the city in partnership with various members of the local community.

March 29: Academic Honors Convocation. Speaker: Dr. Reinhold Heinisch, Professor, Political Science, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

2009 Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to James E. Wilkes ’53, entrepreneur in the oil and gas industry.

2009 Chancellor’s Award for Staff for Excellence in Service to the Community is presented to Robert Knipple.


April 7: First STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Professions Day for local high school students is held.

April 15: Activities Awards Ceremony: top honors in the RealWorld Action Program: Alvine Ngo Biya Melone (freshman class), Erin Rebling (sophomore class), Derek Callihan (junior class), and Kelly Gregory (senior class).

April 25: Commencement. Speaker is Marci Shimoff, International Bestselling author, Chicken Soup for the Soul.

April 30: 2nd Annual Celebrating a Year of Faculty Excellence! Recognition and Awards Gala.

April: ASCE Club wins the Mid-Atlantic Regional Concrete Canoe competition. Advances to the National Competition.

May 2-4: Pitt-Johnstown and the City of Johnstown host the 2009 WVIAC Baseball Championship Tournament at Johnstown’s Point Stadium.

2008-2009 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Dr. Nancy Grove.

A new master’s level program in education, the Leadership Initiative for Transforming Schools (LIFTS) K-12 Principal Certificate, is offered in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh, School of Education.

August: First-year students attend the first four-day “Welcome Days” orientation preceding the first day of Fall classes.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is introduced. The RN to BSN program changes to an RN to MSN program. Elementary education degree program to consist of two components: Pre-K to 4th Grade Education, and Middle School Education. Professional Writing track is approved.

The Mountain Cat Club opens in the Student Union, providing a new dining and entertainment facility as well as a programming area for student activities.

New student organizations are formed: Deck Hockey Club; Schools for School; PA Council for the Social Studies; Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society; Street Hockey Club; Physics Club; Business Ethics Club; Out of Mana Guild; Alpha Phi Omega Interest Group; Students Against Drunk Driving; and Chess Club.

September 26: Miranda Dibert is crowned Homecoming Queen.

September 28-October 2: Office of International Services coordinates the first International Education Week dedicated to international education.

2009 Fall Reading Series: Gary Lutz, John Morris, and Dinty Moore.

October 29-31: Pitt-Johnstown Theatre Department performs Five Women Wearing the Same Dress.

December: Education Division creates the Student Teaching in New Zealand program, in which students complete the second portion of their student teaching requirement in Auckland, New Zealand.

2009 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to Pitt-Johnstown is presented to Beverly Walerysiak.

2009 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to the Community is presented to Joyce Radovanic.

2010
January 9: Pitt-Johnstown launches a multi-media marketing campaign that includes the first major TV commercial in five years.

February 11: Brian Gindlesberger is crowned Mr. UPJ.

March: Pitt-Johnstown’s Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter, with 111 participants, ranks 7th in the nation for the Habitat for Humanity’s alternative spring break initiative.

March 25: 7th Annual Esther Goldhaber Jacovitz Poetry Series: Mary Ann Samyn, Rooms by the Sea, Captivity Narrative, Inside the Yellow Dress, Purr, and Beauty Breaks In.

March 28: Academic Honors Convocation. Speaker: Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education.

April 7: Jake Shirk and Jeff Burtner win the 5th Iron Chef Competition.
April 10: Shane Valko is named NCAA Division II National Champion, National Tournament’s Outstanding Wrestler, and National Wrestling Coaches Association National Wrestler of the Year.


2010 Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to Chester “Chet” Thomas ’66, Co-founder and Executive Director, Proyecto Aldea Global.


April 13: The family of the late Congressman John P. Murtha chooses Pitt-Johnstown as the site of the future John P. Murtha Center for Public Service, which will house Congressman Murtha’s personal papers.


April: ASCE Club wins the Mid-Atlantic Regional Concrete Canoe competition and advances to the National Competition.

Pitt-Johnstown is named to the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for second consecutive year.

2010 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Brian L. Houston (Civil Engineering Technology).

2009-2010 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Abby Gearhart.

May 1: Commencement. Speaker: Captain Scott F. O’Grady. Mary Rademacher Rose receives the first President’s Medal of Excellence for aiding education in Africa.

May 6-9: Pitt-Johnstown and the City of Johnstown host the 2010 WVIAC Baseball Championship Tournament at Johnstown’s Point Stadium.

September 21: Gazebo on the newly constructed University Square is dedicated.

September 26: Catrina Shockey is crowned Homecoming Queen.

2010 Fall Reading Series: Kirk Nesset, Erin Murphy, and Rhoda Janzen.


December 1: Ribbon cutting ceremony and open house is held for a new Nursing Simulation Laboratory in Blackington Hall.

2010 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to Pitt-Johnstown: Carrie Owen.

2010 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to the Community: Janet Hoffman.

Four new student organizations are created: Rowing Club, Tennis Club, People United Against Poverty, and the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania.

2011
Pitt-Johnstown is named to the 2011 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

January 5: Dedication of the 40,000-square-foot, $9.7 million Wellness Center. The Center includes a 30-foot indoor climbing wall, cardiovascular area, two multipurpose courts, and an elevated running track.

January 26: Pitt-Johnstown official Facebook fan page (www.facebook.com/Pitt-Johnstown) is launched.

March 24: George Zanic is crowned Mr. UPJ.

March 27: Academic Honors Convocation. Speaker: State Representative Bryan Barbin.

March 30: Faculty Resource Center hosts its first “Celebrate Teaching Showcase.” Speakers: Brian Houston (Civil Engineering Technology), Dr. Patty Wharton-Michael (Communication), and Dr. Veronica Wilson (History).


New student organizations: ICES-International Culture Enthusiast Society, Pitt-Johnstown Players, Meet Diversity (formed by international students), and Kappa Alpha Mu Math Honor Society (reorganized).

By the end of the spring term, a total of 769 first-year students are actively engaged in at least one aspect of the RealWorld Action Program.


April 15: ASCE Club wins the Mid-Atlantic Regional Concrete Canoe competition and advances to the National Competition.


Information Technology extends Blackington Hall computer lab access for students to a 24-hour schedule (Sunday-Friday).
April 30: Commencement Speaker is Elizabeth Murray, author of *Breaking Night*.

2010-2011 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Nikki Babik.

2011 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Dr. Elena Constantin (Mathematics).

2011 President’s Medal of Excellence is presented to Elizabeth Murray.

2011 Chancellor’s Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the Community is presented to Bryan Valentine.

June: Pitt-Johnstown is the Silver Sponsor of the first annual Central PA STEM Regional Conference, “Creating STEM pathways to 21st Century careers.”

September 19: Arizona Diamondbacks draft Kaleb Fleck.

September 24: Lauren Dziagwa is crowned Homecoming Queen. First Mountain Cat 5K Run/Fun Walk is held.

September 28: Biddle Hall Open House showcases the Hall’s recent major renovation, including the new home of the Pitt-Johnstown Business Department and 11 technology-ready classrooms.

2011 Fall Reading Series: Jim Ray Daniels, Julie Kasdorf, and Barbara Hurd.

2011 Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to retired Air Force Colonel Karen Esaias ’79.

*GI Jobs* designates Pitt-Johnstown as a Military Friendly School for the third consecutive year.


November 11: Pitt-Johnstown dedicates *The Heroes Memorial*, a teachable monument in memory of the victims of September 11, 2001, as well as service personnel killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

2011 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to the Community is presented to Francine Cooper.

2011 President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to Pitt-Johnstown is presented to Andy Csikos.

**2012**

January: The Bookstore introduces textbook rentals.

February 18: Brian Ditzler, Lauren Dziagwa, and Matthew Hansen win the American Bridge Leadership Award for Engineering Technology.

February 20: Pat Pecora is the first coach in NCAA Division II Wrestling to attain 500 wins.

February 29: Pitt-Johnstown officially kicks off a dual celebration of the University of Pittsburgh’s 225th anniversary and Pitt-Johnstown’s 85th anniversary. The celebrations will continue throughout the year, culminating during Homecoming Week.

2012 Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to Martin A. Fritz ’86, Vice-President, EQT Corporation, and President, Midstream Operations.

March 14: Wireless network connectivity is extended to common areas in nine residence facilities.

March 15: Kevin McDonald is crowned Mr. UPJ.

March 21: 2nd “Annual Celebrate Teaching Showcase.” Speakers: Dr. Natalie Conrad-Barnyk (Education), Dr. John Mullenix (Psychology), and Dr. Andy Rose (Civil Engineering Technology).


March 26 - 31: Andrea Dalton (women’s basketball) is chosen by the International University Sports Federation (FISU) to attend the 11th FISU Forum in Taipei as the sole female representative of the United States.

March 30-31: First time in Pitt-Johnstown history, five members of the hockey team compete in the Division III American Collegiate Hockey Association Select Team Challenge.


2012 President’s Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to Amy Miller (Mechanical Engineering Technology).


April 28: Commencement Speaker is Heather Muir, ’06, Beauty News Editor for Allure magazine.

April 28: ASCE Club wins the Mid-Atlantic Regional Concrete Canoe competition and advances to the National Competition on June 25, placing 16th.

2011-2012 Pitt-Johnstown Service to Community Award is presented to Matt Ziance.

August 21: Pitt-Johnstown athletics program accepts an invitation to join the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) and begin competition in the PSAC during the 2013-2014 athletic season. Pitt-Johnstown will remain in the WVIAC for the 2012-2013 season.

August 27: Groundbreaking ceremony for the 26,000-square-foot, $12 million Nursing and Health Sciences Building. Designed by MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, the building will feature 11 laboratories for chemistry and biology, a nursing simulation laboratory, 6 faculty offices, and 2 classrooms. It is expected to be completed during the fall of 2013.

August 27: Grand Opening of the newly renovated Krebs Hall.

September 6: Pitt-Johnstown retains its designation as one of the “Best in the Northeast” institutions in The Princeton Review’s “2013 Best Colleges: Region by Region.”

2012 Fall Reading Series: Gary Lutz (fiction), Lori Jakiela (poetry), and Marissa Landrigan (nonfiction).