DEAN ALAN LESGOLD’S LEGACY OF INNOVATION

GETTING TO THE HEART OF EDUCATION

Dean Alan Lesgold’s Legacy of Innovation
FROM THE DEAN

Kline, Renee Rogers, Sharon Ross, and Sally Sherman, has become a national leader in research aimed at finding patterns of activity that people will adopt and that lead to improved health. Soon the Institute for Learning, housed at the Learning Research and Development Center and co-directed by Associate Dean Tony Petrosky, will expand its strong efforts in improving school districts through professional development to serve rural and challenged school districts using online technology. Mary Margaret Kerr has been a pioneer in the study of what children achievement testing of children with special challenges has been conducted at the School of Education. During the past 15 years, the Office of Child Development and its leaders, Chris Graeck and Bob McCull, have contributed to substantial change in policies and practices in orphanages around the world. Our partnerships with the Urban Education has helped students in Pittsburgh; Miliones 6-12, University Preparatory School, to improve their learning. And much more support in the communities around us locally, nationally, and even internationally is being developed. The School of Education is also among the leaders in Pitt’s efforts to stimulate entrepreneurial spin-offs of our research; over the past several years, three of the research endeavors mentioned above have spawned technology transfers to private firms.

I did not make all of this happen. I have been fortunate enough to have led the Pitt School of Education in a period of great growth, and I hope I have helped colleagues here at Pitt attract a wonderful next generation.

Before 16 years as your dean, I am retiring as of August 31, 2016. I am very happy that Lindsay Claret Matsumura, who has been a very wise and effective associate dean for the school, will be taking my role on an interim basis while the search for a long-term replacement continues. Lindsay and I have been working together for quite a while now, and it is clear that she has the values and expertise that fit well with the school’s continuing efforts to keep growing stronger in both its scholarship and the programs it offers.

Working in the University of Pittsburgh School of Education over the past 16 years has been extremely gratifying. We were able to attract a number of highly talented new colleagues, and the school’s increased status is due largely to their visibility as top young scholars and creative teachers. Moreover, the presence of so much young talent has galvanized the rest of us, too. The school produces strong research that other scholars want to read and that potentiates real educational improvements.

Consider just a few examples. Kevin Crowely is one of the most visible and productive researchers studying how out-of-school learning opportunities contribute to children’s preparation for later life. Our learning sciences and policy scholars—including Tom Alva, Heathach Bachman, Rip Correnti, Kevin Crowely, Lindsay Claret Matsumura, Jennifer Russell, Mary Koy Stien, and Ming-Te Wang, plus other researchers from outside of the School of Education—created a curriculum that has emerged as one of the top educational policy programs nationally after only nine years. Our Center for Urban Education, led by Rich Milner, is nationally very visible and covered by other education deans around the country.

Our Department of Health and Physical Activity, led by John Jakicic and including faculty members Bethang Gibbs, Chris
Alan Lesgold was an undergraduate math major at Michigan State University in the early 1960s when he realized that math was not the right major for him. He went to the school’s advising center, where advisors conducted an interest inventory to see where his professional interests lay. The results came in, and mathematician was “pretty close to the bottom, slightly under lumberjack,” Lesgold jokes.

He also had an interest in psychology, which was spurred on by his “quantitatively oriented psychologist advisor” and his curiosity about how the mind works. He saw an advertisement in the student newspaper by a researcher who needed help with computer programming and statistics, and this led to an opportunity to gain strong experience in those areas by the time he graduated.

Lesgold initially planned on attending graduate school at the University of Michigan, which was home to some of the first cognitive psychologists. His soon-to-be wife, Sharon, who grew up in Arizona, was “growing tired of Lansing winters,” so when Stanford University offered her a scholarship, their plans changed. Lesgold had already turned down a place at Stanford, but he called the school, explained the situation, and was accepted. Two weeks after getting married, the Lesgolds headed to California, where Alan Lesgold entered Stanford as a graduate student studying psychology.

At that point, Lesgold already was mulling the idea of combining research with practical, real-world applications. “My dad was an engineer, and I had always been intrigued by the notion that people ought to be doing some good in what they do,” he says. “I had in the back of my mind that I wanted to do mathematical psychology because of its rigor. I wanted to see whether it was possible to—in a relatively formal way—see how thinking and learning worked. But I also wanted to have some impact on the world, and the research questions I asked were motivated by needs I saw in education.”

A few years later, as graduation from the Stanford psychology PhD program loomed, Lesgold interviewed for faculty positions at Oklahoma State and Columbia universities. In addition, he was invited to interview at the University of Pittsburgh the day before a large research conference at which his Stanford academic advisor, Gordon Bower, was giving a presentation, and Lesgold was told he should stay for the conference. Being at the event with like-minded individuals was very exciting to him, and Lesgold accepted the faculty position at Pitt. He arrived in 1971 with an appointment in the Pitt Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC) and psychology department. Fifteen years later, he became LRDC’s associate director.

In the mid-1990s, however, Lesgold became burdened by the concern that while LRDC was “discovering relevant research information about how schooling should occur,” he wanted to have more of a practical impact on the way teachers were trained. Around the same time, he was approached about becoming a dean at Northwestern University as well as Pitt’s College of General Studies. However, both schools had fairly strict plans in place, and Lesgold wanted to be somewhere he could have more of an impact and create his own leadership path.

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So when the School of Education deanship opened up in 2000, the fact that the other school inquiries had led him to ponder becoming a dean, in addition to his desire to have an impact on schooling, meant that he quickly decided that he wanted to be considered for the position.

Lesgold threw his proverbial hat in the ring, and he was named dean of the School of Education in fall 2000. At the time, the school was “quite strong,” in Lesgold’s words, as it “cared about producing teachers and took the matter very seriously.” However, research was only a small part of the total picture. Though it took him a while to learn about the School of Education, it was clear from the beginning that the school was not keeping up with Pitt’s growing prominence in research, so he began looking for opportunities to build up the school’s capabilities in the area.

In the decades before Lesgold was named dean, the school had continually suffered from job cuts. “Part of what I saw as my job was to help the school regain its confidence,” he says. The school needed to recruit strong faculty members, and it quickly became clear to Lesgold that there were too many requirements for the positions, not enough consideration given to candidates’ research experience, inadequate financial support for faculty research (also known as a start-up package), and salary offers to new faculty members that were well below market averages for top scholars. He worked on the areas that he could, and stronger candidates began taking the school seriously. Lesgold’s first hire was John Jakicic, who not only is still with the school as a professor and chair of the Department of Health and Physical Activity but also is now nationally recognized for his research.

“The way you build a really strong research faculty is to find really smart people who are productive and then do everything you can to make this the best place in the world for them to be productive,” Lesgold says. “We are now much more competitive on the start-up packages that we offer than on the salaries that we offer. I can guarantee that almost every person we recruited got a higher salary offer, but we offered the best arrangements for starting their research, and that sends a clear signal that doing good research is a high priority.”

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Part of this support included the creation of new centers within the school, such as the Center for Urban Education (CUE), a motivation and engagement center, and the Physical Activity and Weight Management Research Center. "I knew we needed to have a center with an urban education focus. Beyond that, it has been a matter of good luck. When you have a group of smart people doing smart things, sometimes a few of them will cluster in one place, and if it looks like a socially valuable thing to do, then you support that place," he says.

It was around the time that Lesgold became dean of the school that he really started thinking about the struggles of urban education from a real-world, everyday perspective. It was a different mind-set for him, and the Physical Activity and Weight Management Research Center. "I knew we needed to have a center with an urban education focus. Beyond that, it has been a matter of good luck. When you have a group of smart people doing smart things, sometimes a few of them will cluster in one place, and if it looks like a socially valuable thing to do, then you support that place," he says.

"Stepping down has never been an issue of 'I'm tired of this,' but I do think organizations benefit from periodic turnover of leadership, and change can be an energizing event. You put a set of ideas out there and help people understand them and be comfortable with them, and eventually it is time for somebody else to put another set of ideas out there." Lesgold knew he wanted to start working on changing things around urban education in Pittsburgh. "It takes a long time and is harder than anyone would think, but I at least think with [CUE Director and Professor] Rich Milner on board, we are confronting this issue."

The difficulties surrounding what Lesgold calls a "golden age of higher education" also present another challenge. "As far as personal next steps for Lesgold, he has more than a few items on his to-do list. In the next year, he plans on writing a book exploring what has to change in schools given the world today's children are entering—a world where many of the respected roles that have produced a good living are being done by machines.

He also plans on traveling with Sharon. "Some combination of the nature of the job and an inherited sense of work ethic has kept us from traveling much except for [during] the summer. We will be in Africa in September, and there is a pretty long list of places we would like to go after that. Probably China again next year."

Lesgold says that his retirement from the dean's position will be satisfying, as the last year has been surprisingly difficult. "It is easy to say you are going to move on to something different, but the more you think about it, the more current projects you want to get finished," he says. "My last year has been a lot harder than earlier years because I keep wanting to get things done so [that] my successor does not have to deal with them. It has been fun, though."

He sums up the evolution and changing nature of education and its relationship to his role as dean in a characteristically pragmatic and generous way. "I feel pretty good. I think I have done a decent enough job that I can feel good about leaving. It seemed like maybe it was time for that," he says. "Stepping down has never been an issue of 'I'm tired of this,' but I do think organizations benefit from periodic turnover of leadership, and change can be an energizing event. You put a set of ideas out there and help people understand them and be comfortable with them, and eventually it is time for somebody else to put another set of ideas out there."
Tributes to the Dean

“ALAN LESGOLD HAS BEEN A TRANSFORMATIVE DEAN. AS HE HAS MOVED THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION FORWARD ALONG MANY DIMENSIONS. HIS COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP AS WELL AS TO THE EDUCATION OF THOSE WHO WILL ENTER AND HAVE ALREADY ENTERED THE TEACHING PROFESSION HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY. HIS OWN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS A RESEARCHER ALSO HAS GIVEN THE SCHOOL A GREAT DEAL OF VISIBILITY. HE HAS SERVED ON IMPORTANT NATIONAL AND STATE COMMISSIONS, AND HE HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN FASHIONING THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION’S ENVISIBLE SCHOLARLY PROFILE.”

—ALBERTA M. SBRAGIA
Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Professor

“From his leadership at the School of Education and the Learning Research and Development Center, his work as a scholar and teacher, and his insightful contributions to the Council of Deans, Alan’s impact on the University and the broader community has been tremendous. We will miss his humility, generosity, and sense of humor (think red nose at commencement). Thank you, Alan, for being a wonderful colleague and for all you have done for Pitt.”

—PATRICIA E. BEESON
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

“I am sincerely thankful to Dean Lesgold for allowing me the opportunity to join the faculty in the School of Education and to serve in a leadership capacity. It was clear from the beginning that we had common goals: make the School of Education special and strive for excellence. While the road ahead to achieving this lofty goal would not be easy, the journey would be exciting. On a personal note, Dr. Lesgold has inspired me to set high goals personally and professionally and to put forth the effort to make those goals a reality. Thank you, Alan, for being an inspirational leader, colleague, and friend to so many who worked closely with you during your deanship.”

—JOHN M. JARKICIC, Physical Activity and Weight Management Research Center Director and Professor

“With Alan as dean, the quality of academic programs and research produced by faculty and students increased tremendously. Beyond these accomplishments, however, Alan was remarkable in his accessibility and dedication to creating a respectful and caring community in the school. As one of his associate deans, I witnessed firsthand the many kindnesses he showed to faculty and staff on a daily basis. I am very lucky to have had him as a mentor, and all of us are lucky to have had him as our dean.”

—LINDSAY CLARE MATSUMURA
Associate Professor and Associate Dean

“Brilliant. Energetic. Competent. Caring. No nonsense. Committed. Passionate. These are the descriptors that come to mind when I think of my dean. I am eternally grateful to Dean Lesgold for all he has done for the University of Pittsburgh, School of Education, and Center for Urban Education. I have never met a leader more committed to improving the life chances of students. Dean Lesgold is a mentor who leads by example—always trying to find ways to enhance and support those around him.”

—RICH MILNER
Center for Urban Education Director and Professor

“After a five-decade hiatus, my wife and I reconnected with Pitt and the School of Education, and prior to officially reconnecting, we did some research on Alan by contacting a few individuals who had worked with him over the years. Independent of one another, these individuals used almost the exact same words to describe Alan:

• A leader respected by Pitt’s top administrators for being a positive force for change at Pitt;
• A scholar;
• Compassionate toward society, especially those who fight a daily battle to survive;
• A nice guy;
• Now that I have worked with him for three years, I must thank my colleagues for giving me a perfect description of Alan.”

—RICHARD GOLDMAN (MED ’66, PhD ’70)

“Most of my conversations with Alan have been focused on China. He is eager to expand international opportunities for the School of Education. It is impressive to see the level of respect that prestigious Chinese colleagues have for Alan and for Pitt’s School of Education. These relationships are not easy to forge; they are a result of many years of sustained work and a continuous drive for excellence. As a new senior director of international programs, I have been very fortunate to work with Alan.”

—ARIEL C. ARMONY
University Center for International Studies Director, Senior Director for International Programs, and Professor

“I first met Dean Lesgold after earning a master’s here, being in the field, and finding the courage to share my experience of an aspect of learning I believed was lacking and needed in the program. Whereas some people get defensive when critiqued, he welcomed it and immediately encouraged me into action to fill the void discussed. He proved to be the best go-to person for collaboration, support for new ideas, and belief in similar ideals. I feel quite fortunate to have had the privilege to work with and for him.”

—ERIKA GOLD KESTENBERG
(MEd ’94, PhD ’04) Center for Urban Education Associate Director of Partnerships and Practice

When I took over as the Council of Graduate Students in Education president in 2012, I had a meeting with Dean Lesgold. We talked about my goals for the organization, and Dean Lesgold showed as much care and concern for the students and our organization as I had ever witnessed from an administrator. I would argue that his genuine care for the students’ experience and policies he put in place to support that experience is one of his most important legacies.”

—AARON M. KESSLER (MAT ’06, PhD ’15)
Concordia University Chicago Assistant Professor

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—PATRICIA E. BEESON
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor
NEW Faculty

ABIOLE FARINDE-WU
Visiting Assistant Professor
Center for Urban Education

ABIOLA FARINDE-WU earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in curriculum and instruction with a focus on urban education. She received her Master of Education degree in administration from Lamar University and her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Texas A&M University. She initially worked as a secondary English, language arts, and reading teacher in an urban district in Texas and as an instructor for preservice teachers at UNC Charlotte. After earning her doctorate, she worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education’s Center for Urban Education. In this position, she managed and studied the Ready to Learn program, a tutoring and mentoring initiative that connects University of Pittsburgh college students with Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) students to provide the PPS students with experiences that support their academic and social skill development. Her research interests include the educational experiences of Black women and girls, teacher retention, and urban teacher education. Farinde-Wu is an avid runner and enjoys vacationing with her partner.

ROBERT GALLEN
Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology in Education

ROBERT GALLEN has joined the Department of Psychology in Education as an assistant professor and coordinator of the master’s program in applied developmental psychology. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in clinical psychology from the University of Kentucky in addition to a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bucknell University. Prior to joining the University of Pittsburgh, Gallen worked in various roles at Chatham University, including director of the program in infant mental health, director of the program in infant and toddler development, and associate professor of psychology. He was selected as a ZERO TO THREE fellow in 2009-10 and is active in infant mental health efforts in Pennsylvania and beyond. He also is a licensed professional psychologist and sits on several advisory boards, including the Child, Youth, and Family Advisory Board in Allegheny County; Early Head Start in the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development; and the Pennsylvania Association for Infant Mental Health. Gallen’s research interests include understanding qualities of infant-caregiver interactions and measuring the impact of reflective supervision on the early childhood workforce. In his spare time, Gallen enjoys traveling and kayaking with his wife, two daughters, and dog.

ERIN MEIKLE
Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Instruction and Learning

ERIN MEIKLE earned her PhD at the University of Delaware, her Master of Arts in Teaching at the University of Pittsburgh, and her Bachelor of Science at Pennsylvania State University. She initially worked as an instructor for undergraduate students at Immaculata University and the University of Delaware as well as a teacher at Shaler area middle and high schools. After earning her doctorate, she was a program officer in teacher development at the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation, where she supported beginning high school mathematics and science teachers as well as planned and implemented online and in-person professional development activities. She was named an Outstanding Doctoral Student in Mathematics Education at the University of Delaware. Meikle has recently been published in Mathematics Teacher Educator and Teaching Children Mathematics. Her research interests include exploring ways to support preservice and in-service teachers in facilitating class discussions in mathematics classrooms and exploring the effects of teacher preparation programs. Meikle enjoys watching movies, baking, and trying new restaurants with her husband.
NEW Faculty

SALLY SHERMAN has joined the Department of Health and Physical Activity as a visiting assistant professor for its programs. She teaches undergraduate exercise science majors and specializes in teaching students to be instructors. She recently completed her PhD in exercise physiology at the School of Education, where her research focused on studying vinyasa yoga. Her dissertation, “Energy Expenditure in Yoga versus Other Forms of Physical Activity,” was the first study of its kind and revealed that vinyasa yoga meets exercise requirements. Sherman also holds a BA in dance, an MEd in teaching, and an MS in exercise science. She is a certified Baptiste yoga instructor and has assisted in trainings for Baron Baptiste and regional yoga organizations. In addition, Sherman is a triathlete and sponsored member of the Reaction Nutrition Triathlon Team, for which she competes in long-distance cycling events, marathons, and IRONMAN triathlons.

SALLY SHERMAN
Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Health and Physical Activity

BETH SONDEL is a research assistant professor of social studies and social justice education in the Department of Instruction and Learning. She earned her PhD in curriculum theory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, her MEd in education policy at Harvard University, and her BA in cultural anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Sondel’s research partners critical theory with qualitative methods to investigate the multiple, often divergent ways in which educators and education leaders come to understand and attempt to enact social justice in policy and practice. Her dissertation on the role of Teach For America in the market-based reforms of post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans, La., won the 2014 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Critical Educators for Social Justice Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association. Her work has been published in Education Policy Analysis Archives, Critical Education, Educational Policy, The Educational Forum of Kappa Delta Pi, Rethinking Schools, Jacobin, and Theory & Research in Social Education. Outside her work, she enjoys singing, dancing, spending time with loved ones, and engaging with her community.

BETH SONDEL
Research Assistant Professor
Department of Instruction and Learning

ELIZABETH “BETSY” NAGLE has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Health and Physical Activity within the School of Education, where she serves as the undergraduate program coordinator. Nagle completed her PhD in exercise physiology at the University of Pittsburgh. She is a fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, and her research interests include development and validation of aquatic test protocols of aerobic and anaerobic capacity for shallow water running, swimming, and military performance. She holds a secondary faculty appointment with the School of Health and Rehabilitative Sciences, and is currently collaborating on the Naval Special Forces Injury Prevention & Human Performance Research Initiative investigating the combat swimmer. Her personal interests include swimming, gardening, cooking, and volunteer coaching for her son’s swimming team.

ELIZABETH NAGLE
Associate Professor
Department of Health and Physical Activity

JOHN JAKICIC, chair of the Department of Health and Physical Activity and director of the Physical Activity and Weight Management Research Center, was designated a Distinguished Professor by Chancellor Patrick Gallagher—only the second Distinguished Professor in the school’s history. In addition to this promotion, Jakicic also recently was appointed by the U.S. secretary of health and human services to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Advisory Committee and serves the National Institutes of Health in a variety of capacities. He has a national and international reputation as a leading scholar in the area of physical activity as it relates to weight control and chronic diseases. Jakicic earned his PhD at the University of Pittsburgh and both his Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. In his leisure time, he enjoys a variety of activities, including jogging, cycling, skiing, powerboating, and spending quality time with family and friends.

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FACULTY Promotions

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Department of Health and Physical Activity

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JOHN JAKICIC
Distinguished Professor
Department of Health and Physical Activity
Assistant Professor TOM AKIVA was awarded the 2016 Scholar Award by the American Educational Research Association’s Out-of-School Time Special Interest Group.

RICHARD ALTENBURGH, an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, wrote a book, The Last Children’s Police: Polio, Epilepsy, Disability and Twentieth-century American Culture. Published by Palgrave Macmillan, the book focuses on the impact of polio on victims and their families as well as how it tied into the social history of the development of the United States during the first half of the 20th century.

Professor STEPHEN J. BAGNATO JR., was invited to become a member of the national expert advisory board for the recently launched ZERO TO THREE established NC EC DT L to advise the federal government on policy implications, evidence-based practices, and effective professional development approaches for early childhood intervention programs. In addition, Bagnato served as cocreator and chair of the Pitt-Peninsula State University research summit Re-inventing Tomorrow’s Schools: Innovations in Pennsylvania Community University Partnerships, held at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, Pa., May 15–17, 2016. The partnership aims to increase networking and research opportunities by showcasing innovative initiatives among universities and their community partners.

JOHN CONROY, the school’s manager of marketing communications, was named president of the Midday Toastmasters Club and began his rate on July 1, 2015. The group, which meets every Wednesday in Oakland, is part of Toastmasters International, which was founded in 1924 as an organization dedicated to communication, leadership, and public speaking skill development. Conroy also earned a Competent Communicator award by completing all the speech projects in Toastmasters International’s Competent Communication manual.

PATRICIA CRAWFORD, associate professor in and associate chair of the Department of Instruction and Learning, received an honorable mention from the Association for Childhood Education International as part of its Distinguished Education Research Article Awards.

JORGE ENRIQUE DELGADO, an adjunct instructor in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies and a 2011 PhD graduate of the School of Education, has been elected secretary/treasurer of the Education and Education Policy Section at the Latin American Studies Association. He is also cochair of the Higher Education Special Interest Group of the Comparative and International Education Society.

Department of Instruction and Learning Chair and Professor RICK DONATO was selected as a recipient of the 2016 Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring. This award recognizes University of Pittsburgh faculty members who demonstrate outstanding mentoring of graduate students seeking a research doctoral degree.

Assistant Professor GINA GARCIA has been selected as an awardee in the Ford Foundation 2016 Postdoctoral Fellowship Competition. This fellowship is sponsored by the Ford Foundation and administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. In addition, Garcia was awarded a National Academy of Education Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, which supports early career scholars working in critical areas of education research, for the 2017–18 year.

Department of Health and Physical Activity Assistant Professor BETHANY BARONE GIBBS has been selected as a fellow of the American Heart Association.

AMANDA GODLEY, an associate professor of English education and language, literacy, and culture, has been awarded a 2016 Spencer Foundation Midcareer Grant, one of only seven recipients in the nation. The grant will fund her research into micro-level patterns of teacher and student discourse and interaction. In addition, she was named coeditor of the journal English Teaching: Practice & Critique.

KATRINA BARTOW JACOBS, a visiting assistant professor in language, literacy, and culture, was elected secretary/treasurer of one of the American Educational Research Association’s (AERA) special interest groups. Jacobs also was selected to receive this year’s Outstanding Service Award from the Journal Urban Education.

Department of Health and Physical Activity Chair and Professor JOHN JAKICIC has been appointed to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Advisory Committee by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell. As part of the advisory committee, he will collaborate with 16 other national experts—leaders in the fields of exercise science and public health—to produce the 2018 edition of its Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans; a nationally recognized resource for health professionals and policymakers. Jakicic also gave a keynote address at this year’s American College of Sports Medicine Health & Fitness Summit Exposition in Orlando, Fla.

An alumnus of the School of Education counselor education program made an annual gift to the School of Education in honor of SHERRY KINSEL, a technology support specialist in the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services. Kinsel had been helping the alumnus to complete state certifications so that he could return to rehab counseling.

Department of Psychology in Education Professor SUZANNE LANE coedited the second edition of Hand book of Test Development. Published by Routledge and coedited by Mark Raymond and Thomas Haladyna, the book was released in September 2015.

Assistant Professor MICHAEL LOVORN was elected president of the National Social Studies Supervisors Association, which is an affiliate organization of the National Council for the Social Studies and serves K-12 and Higher education social studies supervisors, leaders, and teachers across the United States.
Professor RICH MILNER has been selected as a 2016 AERA fellow. The 2016 fellows were nominated by their peers; selected by the AERA Fellows Committee; and approved by the AERA Council, the association’s elected governing body. Milner also was ranked on the list. This was Milner’s fourth year in the ranking.

Fiona Seels, the School of Education’s admissions and enrollment systems administrator, was elected the new parliamentarian of Pitt’s Staff Association Council.

Associate Professor JOHN WEIDMAN was appointed to the advisory board of the UNESCO Regional Center of Quality and Excellence in Education in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The center offers services in research and development along with technical consultation for educators, policymakers, and educational institutions to fulfill quality and excellence in the 21st-century education systems of the Arab World.

Associate Professor AMBER PABON served as executive secretary of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Black Caucus for the 2015–16 academic year. In this role, Pabon, who also is a faculty fellow in the Center for Urban Education, directed communications for the caucus, which is an advocacy group of Black English language arts educators and scholars involved in the teaching and learning of communication skills.

Research Associate Professor JILL PERRY edited a new book, The EED and the Scholarly Practitioner. The purpose of the book is to highlight the efforts of the members of the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate to prepare scholarly practitioners in the field of education leadership.

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Associate Professor MAUREEN McCLOSE was named a National Education Finance Conference Distinguished Fellow Award recipient, one of the highest recognitions in the field of education finance. She also was honored with a proclamation by the Allegheny County Council at its meeting on March 6, 2016, for the award.

Professor JENNIFER LIN RUSSELL was named to AERA’s American Educational Research Journal editorial board for a one-year term. As a board member, she will review manuscripts in her area of expertise and offer advice to the writers.

Assistant Professor LINDSAY PAGE was ranked on Education Week’s 2016 RiSEU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings. The ranking system recognizes university-based scholars in the United States who are contributing most substantially to public debates about education and after a gauge at the public influence education scholars had in 2015. A paper co-written by Page, “Compared to What? Variation in the Impact of Early Childhood Education by Alternative Care Type Settings,” was awarded the AERA Division H Outstanding Publication Award for 2016 in Category 1a: Applied Research, Advances in Methodology.

Associate Professor CYNTHIA TANANIS received a 2015 Award for Service from the Senate of the University of Pittsburgh. Members of the senate’s executive committee unanimously selected Tananis for the award, which recognizes her service as a faculty member and the roles she has taken on within the senate.

Research Associate Professor LINDSAY PAGE was ranked on Education Week’s 2016 RiSEU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings. The ranking system recognizes university-based scholars in the United States who are contributing most substantially to public debates about education and after a gauge at the public influence education scholars had in 2015. A paper co-written by Page, “Compared to What? Variation in the Impact of Early Childhood Education by Alternative Care Type Settings,” was awarded the AERA Division H Outstanding Publication Award for 2016 in Category 1a: Applied Research, Advances in Methodology.

Associate Professor AMBER PABON served as executive secretary of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Black Caucus for the 2015–16 academic year. In this role, Pabon, who also is a faculty fellow in the Center for Urban Education, directed communications for the caucus, which is an advocacy group of Black English language arts educators and scholars involved in the teaching and learning of communication skills.

Lindsay Clare Matsumura was named School of Education INTERIM DEAN

“I have great confidence that Dr. Matsumura’s leadership will guide the school through the challenges of the upcoming transition.”  

PATRICIA BEESEN
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

Lindsay Clare Matsumura, School of Education associate dean for research and faculty development, has been named interim dean of the School of Education by University of Pittsburgh Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia Beeson, beginning her role with the start of the fall 2016 term.

“We will be continuing the search for a new dean of the School of Education,” said Beeson in a letter to the school. “I have great confidence that Dr. Matsumura’s leadership will guide the school through the challenges of the upcoming transition as we continue the search for a permanent dean.”

In Matsumura’s previous role as associate dean, she supervised efforts to assist faculty in finding, competing for, and managing funding and mentored faculty toward promotion. She also is an associate professor in the Learning Sciences and Policy program and a research scientist at the Learning Research and Development Center.

Her research focuses on the implementation and effectiveness of school reform initiatives in urban schools, with a special focus on the use of technology to increase the quality of classroom practice and students’ reading and writing skills. She has received multiple grants from the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences and has published in several scholarly journals as well as practitioner-focused professional journals.

Outgoing dean Alan Lesgold wrote the following in an e-mail to the school: “Having spent 16 years as your dean, I’ve become quite committed to ensuring that the school continues to be a great place to be a professor and a great place to pursue a degree. Each of you contributes to that continued growth in important ways, and I have had a strong interest in who would be selected to support and guide your efforts. It is, therefore, a great relief to know that the school will be in good hands next year and that the search for a permanent dean will continue with the same high threshold that we saw this year.”
principal at Mt. Lebanon High School and an assistant to the principal, teacher, and coach at Keystone Oaks Middle School.

Social and comparative analysis in education PhD student GEORGE KACENGA was selected by the American International Recruitment Council to receive its 2015 Marjorie Peace Lenni Research Award. The award was given based on his research paper, titled “Economic Drivers Influencing the Agency and Structure of Applied Comparative Education in the Latter Half of the 20th Century.”

ROBIN McNEAL and MISSY SEYERLE were both accepted to the LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders) Center at the University of Pittsburgh training program, which prepares trainees from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields and teaches interdisciplinary clinical competence. The program, which is affiliated with Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, runs throughout the eight-month academic year.

K. Leroy Irvis fellow and graduate assistant IRA MURRAY’s paper, “Not as Much as It Should Be: How Community-Based School Time Programs Attend to Black Male Sociopolitical Development,” received the 2015 Doctoral Student Paper Award from the Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems.

LAURA NORTHRUP, a PhD student in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, has accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Department of Teacher Education at Cleveland State University.

SOPHY PERDOMO, a second-year PhD student in the Department of Health and Physical Activity, has been selected to participate in the 2016-17 American College of Sports Medicine’s Leadership & Diversity Training Program. Perdomo, who is a K. Leroy Irvis fellow at Pitt, attended the organization’s 2016 Annual Meeting from May 31 to June 4 in Boston, Mass.

EDb student ALLIE QUICK was invited to join the editorial board of the Journal of Education Advocacy & Policy. Quick, who is a senior executive director of principal gifts and University leadership engagement at the University of Pittsburgh, is one of more than 30 members from institutions around the world serving on the editorial board.

Doctoral student CHRISTINE SCANLON was appointed to the board of the Association of Child & Youth Care Practice, Inc., at its national meeting in 2015. Scanlon also is a graduate teaching fellow at the School of Education and works as a program developer at Cornell University. She completed her PhD from Pitt with her MS degree in applied developmental psychology in 2011.

SHANAI SLOAN was named Northgate House’s first-ever Summit on Family, a PhD student in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, was appointed to the Graduate Council for Exceptional Children Division for Research based on her CVs and descriptions of her dissertation research.

Health and physical activity undergraduates ALICIA BURGESS and MARK SPITZ was part of a team that won the Pitt Innovation Institute’s 2016 Randall Family Big Idea Competition for its portable oxygen device for people with chronic lung disease. Spitz’s team will be working on a prototype of the device in the fall and will potentially work with a medical device company upon graduating.

In 2015, Pittsburgh Public Schools STEAM coordinator and Pitt PhD student SHAUN TOMASEWSKI joined students, educators, and philanthropists from across the country for the White House’s first-ever Summit on Next-generation High Schools.

DANA WINTERS, a PhD student in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, was appointed to the review board for the Research in Brief and On the Campus sections of the Journal of College Student Development, which is the largest source of research about college students and the field of student affairs.

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ALUMNI NEWS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AWARDS

The University of Pittsburgh School of Education celebrated the recipients of its annual Alumni Awards on April 1, 2016, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland. Awards for the school’s departments and individual categories were presented at the reception and are listed below.

2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh, Rita M. Bean (MEd ’64, PhD ’74) taught at the elementary level and served as a K-12 reading supervisor. At the University, she served as associate dean for research and development and director of the Institute for Practice and Research in Education. During her career, Bean has become a nationally known expert on the role and impact of reading specialists and literacy coaches in schools.

Bean’s books include The Reading Specialists’ Leadership and Coaching for Classroom, School, and Community, a coedited volume, The Reading Specialists’ Leadership and Coaching for Classroom, School, and Community, and Cultivating Coaching Mindsets: An Action Guide for Literacy Leaders, which was released in 2016.

Currently, Bean is serving as cochair of the committee responsible for the development of the 2017 standards for literacy professionals through the International Literacy Association. Bean was president of the College Reading Association and a member of the IRA Board of Directors from 2002 to 2006. She was elected to the Reading Hall of Fame in 2009 and is currently serving as its president.

In 1965, Bean received the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award, and in 2002, she received the Chancellor’s Distinguished Service Award. Bean has also been an elementary school teacher, college instructor, education director and executive director of two Jewish community center preschools. In addition, in 1965, after two years of designing the project, Goldman and her husband, Richard, established their first entrepreneurial effort: Another Generation but saw the need for private school education in south Florida. They opened the Sagamore School, a college preparatory school in Weston, Fla.

The Goldmans went on to establish a number of other educational ventures, including the University of Miami Online High School; an online college-athlete preparatory high school; Virtual Sage, an online curriculum publishing company; and Smart at Harzonic’s Career Online High School, the world’s first accredited online school district.

Goldman, along with her husband, has been active in the success of the School of Education. In 2013, they established the Richard M. and Renee K. Goldman Educational Entrepreneurial Fund to support the development of online programming in the area of educational entrepreneurship, and they established the Renee and Richard Goldman Dean’s Chair in the School of Education.

2016 EARLY CAREER AWARD

When Susan M. Hicks (MA ’85) was first hired in 2013 as program manager at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES), her achievements, tireless energy, and innovations went far beyond the initial responsibilities of her position.

Therefore, in 2014, she was promoted to assistant director, and now for academic years at REES, part of the University Center for International Studies.

Her extensive scholarship in innovative language acquisition methods has enabled her to teach groundbreaking programs, including the Washington State University’s Advanced Oral Foreign Language Program, and her influence in the field has been evidenced by the district’s being placed #1 in the nation by the College Board’s AP District Honor Roll for Russian and East European Studies in 2016. She also has received many awards, including the Carnegie Mellon Academic Advising Award; NAMEPA Outstanding Program Administrator Award; Motorola Legacy Builders Award; and the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Award for Private School Education.

Hicks has been active in a number of professional organizations, including the National Association of School Psychologists, the Pennsylvania Association of School Psychologists, and the Pennsylvania Psychological Association. She has served as president of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association and as a director of the American Psychological Association. She has also served as a member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the Pennsylvania Board of Certification for Teachers, and the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. She has provided professional development for teachers in the areas of special education, gifted education, and academic and behavioral supports for students with disabilities. She also has received many awards, including the Carnegie Mellon Academic Advising Award; NAMEPA Outstanding Program Administrator Award; Motorola Legacy Builders Award; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the Educator of the Year Award; and Black Engineer of the Year Promotion of Education Award.
Citron is a graduate of Yale University and Yale Law School. After graduating from college in 1988, he was a journalism intern at the Pittsburgh Press and a reporter-researcher for Michael Kinsley, while he was a guest editor at The National Enquirer. As a student at Yale Law School, Citron was a senior editor of The Yale Law Journal and received the C. LaRue Hanson Prize for his most notable work. He also served as a teaching assistant in the American studies department, worked as a research assistant, taught in the street law program, and was an editor of the Yale Law & Policy Review.

After graduating from law school, Citron clerked for Thomas N. O’Neill Jr. at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Citron then worked for a large Philadelphia, Pa., law firm for two years before becoming a trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Subsequently, he worked as a director at Findlaw and was an attorney advisor at the Federal Communications Commission.

2016 EDDISSERTATION AWARD
Joshua Childs (PhD ’15) is an assistant professor of education policy in the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin. Childs received a residency in the role of interpersonal networks to address complex educational issues. Currently, he is conducting research investigating the My Brother’s Keeper initiative for the K-12 STRIVE Improvement Network (E3 Alliance) in Austin, Texas. Childs’ dissertation investigated a countywide school attendance campaign for K-12 students who were aimed at reducing chronic absenteeism in Alegheny County schools. During his time as a doctoral student, Childs was awarded a K. Leroy Irvis Fellowship selected for University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) Barbara L. Jackson scholar, named a 2014 UCEA and American Educational Research Association (AERA) David L. Clark scholar, and awarded an AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship, which he declined to accept his tenure-track position at the University of Texas at Austin.

At Pitt, he was a graduate student researcher at the University Center for Social and Urban Research, Learning Research and Development Center, and Center for Urban Education (CUE). He served as managing editor for the academic journal Urban Education while working at CUE under the guidance of its director, Rich Milner. In 2014, he was the recipient of the College’s Dissertation Student Leadership Award.
1960s

JUDITH SUMMERFIELD (BS ‘63), an emeritus professor of English at Queens College, City University of New York, published a new book, A Man Comes from Somewhere: Stories, History, Memory from a Lost Time, through Sense Publishers. Summerfield has been recipient of numerous awards and grants for teaching, scholarship, and research and has written extensively about rhetoric, composition, narrative studies, and education.

1970s

HERIBERTO DIXON (BA ’63, PhD ’75) has been named the district’s top administrator. He was named acting superintendent of schools in December 2015 following a six-month stint as substitute superintendent. He was first hired by North Allegheny in 2013 as assistant superintendent of K-12 education.

DONNA IMHOFF (PhD ’06) was named president of Cuyahoga Community College’s Western Campus in Parma, Ohio. Imhoff had spent the previous four years as president of the Allegheny Campus of the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) in Pittsburgh. She worked at CCAC for 30 years.

KURT KONDICH (MEd ’07) and his daughter, Chloe, were named finalists for the 2015 Health Care Heroes Awards, a program honoring individuals and organizations in Western Pennsylvania’s health care industry.

MACRINA C. LELEI (PhD ’02) received the 2016 Chancellor’s Staff Award for Diversity and Inclusion. Lelei is interim director of the African Studies Program within Pitt’s University Center for International Studies.

JOSEPH W. PASQUERILLA (EdD ’04) was named superintendent of the Bethel Park School District.

TROY ROSS (MEd ’08), director of housing and residence life at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, was honored with the 2016 Chancellor’s Staff Award for Community Impact.

North Allegheny School District Acting Superintendent ROBERT SCHERRER (EdD ’09) has been named the district’s top administrator. He was named acting superintendent of schools in December 2015 following a six-month stint as substitute superintendent. He was first hired by North Allegheny in 2013 as assistant superintendent of K-12 education.

TIMOTHY M. WAGNER (MS ’09, EdD ’13) was named associate high school principal for program planning and innovation by the Upper St. Clair School District on July 1, 2015. Wagner began his teaching career in fall 2007 at Upper St. Clair’s Streams Elementary School, teaching first and second grade.

ELIZABETH BISHOP (PhD ’15) had her first book, Becoming Activist: Critical Literacy and Youth Organizing, published through Peter Lang Publishing Group. Bishop currently serves as deputy director of the Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia University Law School.

MEGAN MARLEY (BS ’15) and MARK ONORATO (MEd ’16) were both recognized by the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) and the School District/University Collaborative, a consortium of Western Pennsylvania teacher preparation programs and PPS, for excellence in student teaching at PPS sites this year. Marley was at Pittsburgh Langley K-8 and Onorato was at Pittsburgh Allderidge High School.

JULIE MOORE (EdD ’15), principal of McCormick Elementary School in the Moon Area School District, had her school honored as a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School.

The school was nominated in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category.

LINDSAY PFISTER (EdD ’15) was hired by the West Jefferson Hills School District as its director of human resources. Pfister started her career as a teacher, teaching kindergarten through eighth grade for 12 years in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. She then became principal of Our Lady of Grace School before becoming director of human resources for the Penn Hills School District.

STACEY SNYDER (EdD ’14) was named school psychologist/director of pupil services by a unanimous vote of the Southmoreland School District board and began the role in October 2015.

ELIZABETH STOYLE (MS ’15), who works as a graduate administrator in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, was honored with the 2016 Chancellor’s Staff Award for Early Career Achievement.

JÖEL THOMPSON (MAT ’11) was unanimously approved as the new Unit 1 principal at Mt. Lebanon High School. He previously taught social studies at Fort Couch Middle School in the Upper St. Clair School District and at Greensburg Central Catholic High School.

JOELLEEN YERACE (MEd ’06), senior director of constituent relations at the Pitt Office of Institutional Advancement, was the recipient of the 2016 Chancellor’s Staff Award for Mentoring.*
When Namgi Park was 7 years old, he moved from his rural town in South Korea to live with his aunt in the city for a year. From age 6 on, he and his brother lived together. They cooked and cleaned without a heating system or washing machine. They had very little. It was not until he went to middle school, was taught English by Peace Corps volunteers, and he heard more about the United States that his world began to open up a bit and he saw the possibilities for his future. Park’s teachers told him that he could go to the United States and they would support him. He considered their offer and didn’t want to leave at that time but perhaps he would go “when I go to graduate school.” He was then 12 years old.

Park initially was reluctant to become involved with education. “In middle school, I hated teachers, because for a long time I bought with them. I thought I never wanted to be one,” Park says. However, he realized that they also cared about him and gave him motivation, enough so that when he graduated from high school, he went to Seoul National University’s College of Education and earned his teaching license. “Sometimes life is like that. In the end, I found out that it really fit me,” he says. And then, in graduate school, he began to focus on educational administration. “Another thing I found out was that education can change the world, because we try to change the system, but in the end, it can be successful only when we can change people.”

In 1989, at the age of 29, Park had finished his master’s degree and was working as an educational researcher at the Korean Council for University Education (KCUE). He wanted to earn his PhD and had applied to multiple universities, but he could not attend any without scholarship funding. In May of that year, the World Wide University Congress was holding a conference in Washington, D.C., at which the KCUE president was supposed to present a paper but had to back out at the last minute. KCUE looked for one member from the council’s research center to attend the conference. Park was chosen.

A friend of Park’s was already enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh and arranged an interview for Park with a faculty member while he was in the United States. After presenting at the conference, Park flew to Pittsburgh and met with Professor John Weidman, then chair of the School of Educational Policy Studies. After an hour-long interview, Park says, “[Weidman] told me I was very lucky, as he happened to have a research assistantship open and would give it to me.” Park went back to South Korea, got his paperwork in order, and returned to the United States to study at the School of Education.

At the time, Weidman was focused on German education, but at Park’s urging, he later went to South Korea for a lecturing tour. “After that, he became a specialist in Asian education. We even wrote a book together on Korean higher education,” Park says. Park ultimately earned his PhD at the School of Education in international and developmental education, taking with him many experiences. “One thing about that time is that it widened my perspectives, because if I had studied in South Korea, I would not have international friends like I do now. I learned how to study and how to do research, and I gained an interest in comparative education.”

Before coming to Pitt, I thought I was interested in higher education, but I realized that comparative education was a strong field.” Park returned home to South Korea after graduation with some new concepts and ideas. “In the 1980s, we used a strong education system; what I mean is that we were in control and sometimes hit the kids and were angry with them a lot of the time. When I went to the United States, I found it was totally different from us, and when I came back to South Korea, I told teachers soon we cannot hit kids anymore. We now have to develop classroom management skills. After 10 years, the South Korean government prohibited teachers from hitting students.”

Upon his return, he was hired as a professor at Gwangju National University of Education (GNUE) and was also invited by the South Korean Ministry of Education to work as a researcher, consultant, team leader, and advisory committee member on various policies. These policies included attempting to globalize the South Korean education system, changing the university admissions policy, and modifying the professor, K-12 teacher, and school district system performance evaluations. “He says the highlight of his career occurred when he became the youngest person ever to be elected GNUE president, a position he held from 2006 to 2010.”

Over the past five years, he has focused on training future teachers: “I spend more time with my students because if I make one future teacher better, he or she can change thousands of students.” He also is devoting his time to research to explain the Korean education phenomenon as well as writing a book on the subject of neomercantilism, which he says “reveals the shadow of mercantilism and suggests a new social and education paradigm for the coming decades.”

Park purposefully tied the line between educating and creating the policies that affect educators. “I love to teach students, but I want to know more about the government policy and want to do something for the government,” he says. “At the university, I teach classroom management and tell teachers what they should do if a student does not listen to them, and for the government, I tell it what should be done on higher education policies and the national education system.”

Despite his busy workload and the 14-hour plane flight, Park has remained in close contact with the School of Education. He not only coauthored a book with Weidman and wrote chapters for the books of school faculty, he also returned as a visiting professor three times, in 2000, 2007, and 2013. He typically has stayed for a year, teaching and conducting research with faculty members. He received the School of Education’s Departmental Alumni Award from the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies in 2009 and the University of Pittsburgh 225th Anniversary Medalion in 2013.

In 2017, he will begin his role as president of the Korean University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association and will be making a gift to help with the recruitment of fellow Korean students to the School of Education.

“Namgi is very energetic and hardworking, as is apparent by his accomplishments over the years. His management skills were apparent even as a graduate student,” says Weidman. “He helped to organize a metropolitan Pittsburgh Korean student association that included members from Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University, as well as other higher education institutions throughout the area. And after graduating, he encouraged several Korean students to come to Pitt to study with me for their doctorates, including a former deputy minister of education. He also has been helpful to Korean alumni when they return home from Pittsburgh.”

“It is important to experience various kinds of worlds that exist and most of all meet new people who have exactly the same hopes and dreams as you do,” says Park. “When I was president of the university and sent students to America, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Russia, they witnessed firsthand the similarities and the differences of education systems and the challenges of being a teacher in these countries. In America, you will acquire many ideas and build yourself a human network, as one classroom is like a globe. The United States continues to be the center of education and research of the whole world.”
In the late ’70s, John “Jack” Tomayko was a college football player, studying business administration, and working a graduate assistant while earning his master’s degree. He heard about the new PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh that focused on administration in health and physical education. The program appealed to him because it offered flexibility and opportunities to have a diverse experience throughout the University, including studying in Trees Hall as well as interacting with students in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and the School of Nursing through his coursework. He decided to apply. “What was nice about some of these classes is that they were attended by a wide range of professional people in other fields,” Tomayko says. While earning his PhD, he was placed at Point Park University as a graduate assistant and ran its health, fitness, recreation, and health services programs, staying on for a year as assistant dean of student development. He also was involved in a business called HealthWorks, Inc., that he developed with other Pitt graduate students and that focused on education and consulting around health and wellness, including organizing the educational programming for the first Pittsburgh Marathon.

A moment that truly pointed Tomayko toward his true career path was when he was hired as a consultant at UPMC Shadyside to develop a center that combined lifestyle fitness and cardiac rehabilitation. It never came to fruition due to a change in administration. “They made a decision not to make a decision,” Tomayko says. “So that moment, I decided I was not going to put myself in that situation again. I was going to lead my own professional life. It stimulated me to do what I love to do.”

In 1985, he took that stimulation and cofounded the company Cardiac Fitness, Inc., which developed and cofounded the company Cardiac Rehabilitation Inc. “It stimulated me to take a risk.” Tomayko says. “From that moment on, I was going to lead my own professional life. It stimulated me to do what I love to do.”

Over the past 30 years, Tomayko has been involved in various areas of entrepreneurship as a result of starting and running a business. So what has he enjoyed the most? “I’ve grown a lot as a business person. I’ve learned a lot about it and looking for new business opportunities,” he says.

And when asked if there’s a particular thing of which he’s most proud, Tomayko says, “Getting my company to not only be financially successful but also be recognized by the Pittsburgh Business Times as one of the best places to work and the region’s healthiest employer. Looking back, I would say that was a life-changing experience for me, as I learned that maturity has a lot to do with education. You really need to be prepared and I was so when I got into Pitt, I really at the cusp for me. I think it was the most rewarding time of my life, in a way I brought a backpack and sold my car and TV set. I was 100 percent in, and it gave me such a really good foundation. It motivated me to do something that I am proud of.”

LaTonya Renea Battease (PhD ’07), a former basketball player at the University of Pittsburgh who became a teacher and coach in the Pittsburgh Public School District, died on July 14, 2015, of colon cancer. She was 36. Battease worked as a teacher at Clayson Academy on the North Side, Pittsburgh Grandview K-5; Pittsburgh Faison K-5; and, later, Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy, 6-12. Battease also served as an assistant coach for the girls basketball team at Pittsburgh Westinghouse and passed on her basketball knowledge to a younger generation.

David Champagne (EdD ’68), a University of Pittsburgh professor emeritus, of Pittsburgh, passed away at the Bluff in Rexford on March 17, 2016. Born in Port Henry, N.Y., on May 26, 1935, he was the son of Alvin and Gertrude Mascarenas Champagne. He taught high school in New York State and Nigeria and college and postgraduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Alabama, State University of New York. He authored several books about teaching.

Joan Clark (BS ’76, MEd ’77, PhD ’86), age 62, of Pittsburgh, passed away on April 6, 2016, at her home, surrounded by her family.

Denis Donegan, 84, of Pittsburgh, a New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, N.C., with his wife, Donna, by his side. He is survived by his son, Stuart Donegan (Heidi), of Hong Kong and his daughter, Jennifer Donegan (Malt Kendall), of Syracuse, N.Y. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Donegan grew up in both New York and Germany. After serving in the military in various capacities, he settled in Syracuse, where he attended Syracuse University and graduated with a PhD from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He worked as a psychologist in Chenango County, N.Y., developing early childhood programs, as well as various elementary schools and writing grant proposals for funding many of the programs in addition to having a private practice. He relocated to Pittsburgh to join the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh in a dual capacity, he was both a full-time professor in the School of Education and the associate director of the Overseas Study Program, developed to provide educators with an opportunity to study in London and Somerset, England, the then Soviet Union, and Greece. During his tenure at the University of Pittsburgh, he also was a visiting professor at City University London and Billington House in Somerset, England, and coauthored a book on education in the Soviet Union.

Freda Ellis (MEd ’01) died on August 30, 2015, at Forbes Hospice in West Penn Hospital. She was 74. She grew up in the Hill District neighborhood of Pittsburgh that would become the setting for many of the plays written by her brother, the late August Wilson. She attended Fordham University in New York, where she majored in English, and later earned a master’s degree in education at the University of Pittsburgh. Ellis was a tireless advocate for her younger brother, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright. She never missed a Broadway opening of his plays and led tours of the Hill District neighborhood that was the setting for many of them. She played a role in helping to secure a grant from McCheyne Ministries that was given to the Daisy Wilson Artist Community to preserve Wilson’s boyhood home. Ellis was an educator, who taught computer technology, physical education, English, and writing at the former Computer Tech and then Carlow Hill College (part of what is now Carlow University) and the Community College of Allegheny County, where she spent three decades teaching and doing administrative work before retiring in 2012.

Helen S. Faison (BS ’46, MEd ’55, PhD ’75) died on July 16, 2015, at the age of 91. After graduating from college, where she worked for the Allegheny County Board of Assessment as a caseworker. In 1950, the Pittsburgh Public Schools hired her to teach at what is now Fifth Avenue High School in the Hill District. A decade later, she became the first African American high school guidance counselor, then its first female and first African American principal when she took over at Fifth Avenue High in 1968, followed by stints as assistant superintendent and deputy superintendent. Faison retired in 1993 and served as a visiting professor in the education department of what is now Chatham University. She returned to the Pittsburgh Public Schools in 1999 to serve a year as interim superintendent—becoming the first African American leader of Pittsburgh’s public school system.

Edgar Wilson, 84, of Pittsburgh, passed away at Forbes Hospice in West Penn Hospital. He was 84. He was a long-time resident of the North Side and had been an active member of the Daisy Wilson Artist Community. Wilson was the son of Wilson and Grace Wilson. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright. He was survived by his wife, Donna, by his side. He is survived by his son, Stuart Donegan (Heidi), of Hong Kong and his daughter, Jennifer Donegan (Malt Kendall), of Syracuse, N.Y. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Donegan grew up in both New York and Germany. After serving in the military in various capacities, he settled in Syracuse, where he attended Syracuse University and graduated with a PhD from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He worked as a psychologist in Chenango County, N.Y., developing early childhood programs, as well as various elementary schools and writing grant proposals for funding many of the programs in addition to having a private practice. He relocated to Pittsburgh to join the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh in a dual capacity, he was both a full-time professor in the School of Education and the associate director of the Overseas Study Program, developed to provide educators with an opportunity to study in London and Somerset, England, the then Soviet Union, and Greece. During his tenure at the University of Pittsburgh, he also was a visiting professor at City University London and Billington House in Somerset, England, and coauthored a book on education in the Soviet Union.

Freda Ellis (MEd ’01) died on August 30, 2015, at Forbes Hospice in West Penn Hospital. She was 74. She grew up in the Hill District neighborhood of Pittsburgh that would become the setting for many of the plays written by her brother, the late August Wilson. She attended Fordham University in New York, where she majored in English, and later earned a master’s degree in education at the University of Pittsburgh. Ellis was a tireless advocate for her younger brother, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright. She never missed a Broadway opening of his plays and led tours of the Hill District neighborhood that was the setting for many of them. She played a role in helping to secure a grant from McCheyne Ministries that was given to the Daisy Wilson Artist Community to preserve Wilson’s boyhood home. Ellis was an educator, who taught computer technology, physical education, English, and writing at the former Computer Tech and then Carlow Hill College (part of what is now Carlow University) and the Community College of Allegheny County, where she spent three decades teaching and doing administrative work before retiring in 2012.
IN MEMORIAM

Susan Hicks (M’05), age 34, of Pittsburgh, died on October 23, 2015. Hicks was the assistant director for academic affairs at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Russian and East European Studies. She graduated from Woodbridge Senior High School in Virginia in 1999 as the class valedictorian. She earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Pittsburgh in anthropology and English literature in 2003 and a master’s degree in administrative and policy studies in 2005. In 2011, she received a PhD in cultural anthropology from the University of British Columbia. Hicks was the beloved daughter of Stephen and Julie Hicks of Woodbridge, Va., and sister of Brian Hicks of Washington, D.C.; Michael Hicks of Oxford, Ohio; and David Hicks of Arlington, Va.

Dianne Buczynski Kasten (BS’71, 68, of Waldorf, Md., died on April 30, 2016, in Arlington, Va. Kasten was a library media specialist for 35 years with the Prince George’s County (Md.) Board of Education. She taught elementary school in Annapolis, Va., from 1971 to 1973 and then in Prince George’s County from 1974 to 2012. She was nominated for Prince George’s Teacher of the Year in 2010 and was the winner of the My Favorite Teacher Award in 2011. She was the daughter of Henry Buczynski and Sophie Gaca Buczynski.

Staff member Michael D. McDermott, 55, died on January 25, 2016. He spent his entire career at Pitt, beginning as an intern at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in 1965. From 2001 to 2004, he was a staff member in the School of Medicine’s Department of Medicine, rising from research associate on a National Institutes of Health grant to systems analyst, database manager, and finally systems programmer in the Obesity/Nutrition Research Center and the behavioral weight control program at Pitt. In 2004, he was hired by John Kacik, director of the Physical Activity and Weight Management Research Center in the School of Health and Physical Activity, as systems and data manager, handling databases and computer networking.

Harold L. North (MEd’55), 86, of Carlisle, Pa., died June 1, 2015, at Carlisle Regional Medical Center. He was born on October 16, 1928, in Burnham, Pa., to the late James E. and Lavenia McVaugh North and was the widower of Phyllis VanArt North. He died in March 2002.

Anthony Pizzuto (Med’74, PhD’82) was born on October 11, 1929, and died on August 22, 2015, at his home in the Friendship/Bootheam area of Pittsburgh. He had lived in the house most of his 85 years. During his life, he worked in public relations, training and development, and proofreading at various companies, including the United Way, West Penn Power, and Calgon Carbon Corporation (from which he retired after 27 years). He also did editing for PPG Industries, Inc., and technical writing for small businesses. He sang in the Sacred Heart Parish choir for 40 years and later researched and wrote about the choir’s history. He served as a member of the parish council in earlier years.

Masahiro Okamoto (MEd’07) passed away at his apartment in Pittsburgh on September 20, 2015. Okamoto had recently completed his course work in the PhD degree program in social and comparative analysis in education and was working on his dissertation. He also was a graduate student assistant in the School of Education’s Technology and Media Services Department. He first came to Pitt in 2005 and completed his master’s degree in social studies education in 2007.

Ralph Peabody, age 88, of Cranberry Township, Pa., died on May 23, 2016. He was born to Viola (Hanna) and Ford Peabody of Birmingham, Mich., on January 30, 1928. His education included high school in Birmingham, a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University, and master’s and doctoral degrees from Wayne State University. Following two years in the U.S. Army, he married Delores “Dot” M. Stevenson on July 4, 1954. Peabody and his wife started the first preschool exclusively for blind children in a public school in River Rouge, Mich. In 1963, Peabody started the professional preparation of teachers for the deaf and visually impaired at Wayne State University. Peabody had recently completed his PhD in education and eventually became math teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Scherrer returned to Pittsburgh to earn his PhD in learning sciences and policy at Pitt. Most recently, he was an assistant professor in the College of Education at North Carolina State University.

Barbara Rosenberg, a retired staff member in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, passed away on June 20, 2015.

Jimmy Scherrer (PhD’77) passed away on August 17, 2015, at the age of 57. Scherrer grew up in Whitehall, Pa., and graduated from North Hills High School. He went on to Indiana University of Pennsylvania to study elementary education and eventually became math teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Scherrer returned to Pittsburgh to earn his PhD in learning sciences and policy at Pitt. Most recently, he was an assistant professor in the College of Education at North Carolina State University.

Patricia Ruth Sims Westwater (BA 40, MEd’42) of Shaler Township, Pa., passed away on January 16, 2016, on her 96th birthday.

Russell Scott Riehmuller (BA 40, MEd’42) of Shaler Township, Pa., passed away on January 16, 2016, on her 96th birthday.

Kenneth L. Wissmann (MA 72), 71, of Stephens City, Va., died on September 15, 2015, at his home. Wissmann was born September 19, 1943, in Brooklyn, N.Y., son of the late Raymond Wissmann and Alice Lepere Wissmann. He was an adjunct professor in the math department at Shenandoah University. He had previously worked as a school psychologist; a professor at Finger Lakes Community College of New York and Lord Fairfax Community College in Middleburg, Va.; as the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief of information services for Canandaigua VA Medical Center in Canandaigua, N.Y.; and as chief of information services for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Wissmann was named Sally A. Robison on August 7, 1965, in Hornell, N.Y.

If you have any questions, please call 1-866-ALUM-EDU (258-6338) or 412-648-1738.
DEAN FAREWELL NOTES

WELL WISHES AND MAZEL TOV

to Dean Lesgold from Faculty and Staff!

Dear Alan,

Heartiest congratulations for all your accomplishments in the SOE. I do appreciate your expertise and leadership -- and your tremendous kindness, too. You will be missed!

Wishing you much happiness in the days ahead!

Trish

Dear Alan,

Wishing you all the best as you begin this new chapter. Thank you for all your wisdom and advice over the past 8 years when I served as Chair. I doubt how have done it without your help.

I wish you health and happiness in the years to come and a few new adventures!

Warmly,

Rick

Dear Alan,

Thank you for welcoming me into the Pitt SOE just a few years ago. This has been a wonderful place to be, in large part due to your encouragement and support. I wish you a wonderful retirement but you will be sorely missed!

With gratitude,

Lindsey

I came to Pitt six years ago and was fortunate to work with Dean Lesgold on our Development and Alumni Relations. He understood the importance of reconnecting with our alumni both professionally and philanthropically. I wish him the best of luck in retirement!

Michael Hanz

I received a call from the Provost, I was asked to join the Dean’s Search Committee. I felt that my love of the school and long history with them made me a unique candidate. It was a difficult decision but 3 can be so happy, I joined the search. We recruited a number of stellar candidates, and we chose the best. On the year since then the School of Education the former and I called inside Dean Lesgold leadership, and we will all miss him.

Jane Wernig-Bosco Emeritus University of Leeds

In a sentence to say I’ll miss you in that sentence more than the words

Tony Petrosky

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36
Dear Hesgold,

Best wishes to you (and Sharon) in this next phase of life. Thank you for your support and guidance over these past two years. You will be missed.

Sincerely,
Sharon Ross

Dear Alan,

Thanks for your leadership of the school and support of HPA. Enjoy your retirement (and sleeping in!)

—Chris Kline

Dear Alan,

I am deeply appreciative of your leadership, guidance, and encouragement which advanced the School and our professional development as well. Best wishes for a relaxing and vigorous retirement!

—Heather Baumert

Dear Alan,

Thanks for many years of wise counsel and deep support, as you fostered a powerful and cohesive mission in the School.

Carl Johnson

Dear Alan,

I wish you a life of health, happiness, and fun.

Happy Retirement

Carol Stout

Dear Alan,

You’re one of the very best people I’ve ever had the great fortune to work for. You provide space, support and encouragement to be innovative, trust people to do good work and your door is literally always open to provide guidance along the way. I feel very blessed to have had this time with you.

Thank you for being you, all you are, and all you do.

Eve E. Gold Kasten

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35
Dear Dr. Lesgold,
I will miss discussing elephants with you. Who will I go to with my elephant questions & news?
Sincerely,
Teresa

Dear Alan,
Here’s wishing you a rich and stimulating retirement you deserve! I would like you to know how much I appreciated the supportive, collegial and forward-looking climate at the School of Education as my final home at The University of Pittsburgh. Many thanks for your leadership.
Karen (VanDellen)

Dear Alan,
I hope this note finds you well, and that you’re enjoying your well-deserved retirement.

Dr. Lesgold,
Judging from the humorous tribute to you from the Spring Assembly 2016 video, I’m thinking you will continue to receive extraordinary honors going forward and for a long time to come.

Dr. Lee

Dear Alan,
In lieu of a career milestone, I am sending you my best wishes for a wonderful retirement.

Leslie L. Bruck

Dear Alan,
Congratulations on your retirement and your many accomplishments in education and your newfound relaxation and travel. Happy retirement.

Debbie Adelson

Dear Alan,
Many to you on your retirement! May you and Sharon enjoy every adventure in this new phase of your lives. I will miss our sharing special moments together.

Gretchen

Dear Alan,
Thank you for being a great dean and leader for the school.
You will be missed.

Mariana

Alan,
Thank you for your contributions to the School — your leadership and support — and for being so supportive of me.

Tedd McCarthy

Dear Alan,
Thank you so much for your contributions to OEO! You are definitely a supportive leader.

Tedd McCarthy

Dear Alan,
Just a quick note to say thank you for the way you’ve been there for me during your retirement.

Best,
John Conway

Dear Alan,
I wish you well in your retirement! It has been such a pleasure to work for and with you during the past ten years.

All the best,
Jason Steidel
“Life goes better if we don’t take ourselves too seriously too often.”

-ALAN LESGOLD