

Weekly Happenings

Quote of the Week

“Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pitt-CIRTl Certification in STEM Teaching

There are three levels of certification, varying in rigor: **Associate** (1st), **Practitioner** (2nd), and **Scholar** (3rd - elite). For more information, visit [our website](#) to see more information about the certification. Email cirtl@pitt.edu to be added to Pitt-CIRTl on CourseWeb and begin working towards your certification in STEM Teaching.

Upcoming Spring 2020 Professional Development Courses

Pitt-CIRTl Courses – Last Chance to Join!!

Preparation for an Academic Career

Thursdays, 12-1 PM, Begins January 9

312 Benedum Hall

This seminar series is designed for PhDs (within 1.5 years of graduating) and postdocs pursuing an academic career. Experienced faculty provide discussion-based seminars on how to get the desired academic position and be successful during the early years. Topics include: how to apply for academic positions, preparing for the interview, supervising graduate research, balancing service obligations, the promotion and tenure process, funding avenues, publishing and intellectual property, teaching expectations, and balancing work-life issues.

Register for graduate credit at my.pitt.edu, course ENGR 3000-1250 CRN 22535.

Register not for credit (email apila@pitt.edu).

Advanced Learning Through Evidence-Based STEM Teaching

Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:30 PM, *Begins January 9th*

318 Benedum Hall

This is the second course in a series; however, the former course (3001) is not a required prerequisite. Designed for graduate students and postdocs preparing for academic careers in the stem disciplines, the primary focus of this course is to provide an introduction to "teaching-as-research" (TAR) - defined as "the deliberate, systematic, and reflective use of research methods to develop and implement teaching practices that advance the learning experiences and outcomes of both students and teachers." Advanced active learning pedagogical techniques will also be discussed. Interested faculty are also welcome to join.

Register for graduate credit at my.pitt.edu, course:

BIOSC 3002-1340 CRN 24979

CHEM 3002-1340 CRN 24932

ENGR 3002-1340 CRN 24923

Register not for credit ([grad students](#), [postdocs](#), [faculty](#)).

MBA Courses for Postdocs

BOAH 2409 Organizational Behavior

Tuesdays, 6-8 PM, January 21 – March 12, 2020

1100ABC Scaife Hall

As organizations continue to emphasize team-based and often cross-functional approaches, learning the skills to be both an effective leader and team member are critical to be successful in organizations today. This course is designed to introduce participants to the theories, concepts and applications of behavioral sciences used by organizations. It focuses on understanding theories of human behavior and their application to strategic and operational problems in management. The course analyzes behavior from three different lenses: individual (such as personality and emotional intelligence), group (teamwork, decision making, conflict, leadership), and organizational (culture, creativity and change). At the completion of this course, you should have acquired an understanding of the many factors and dynamics which influence group behavior. In essence, this course will provide an overview of group behavior in the workplace and group dynamics, help you develop the skills needed to be effective as a team member and as a team leader, and familiarize you with organizational concepts for application to specific real-world situations. **To register**, complete the [Non-Degree Graduate Student Admission Application](#) and submit it to postdoc@hs.pitt.edu.

BOAH 2421 Human Resources for Competitive Advantage

Thursdays, 6-8 PM, January 21 – March 12, 2020

1100ABC Scaife Hall

The effective management of human resources is critical to sustained competitive advantage in an increasingly deregulated, global, and knowledge-driven corporate environment. This course identifies the key role of human resources management in the organization's effort to create value and explores its link with competitive strategy. Environmental and legal factors that affect decision-making and utilization of human resources are examined. Special emphasis is placed on effective organizational staffing, strategically directed performance management, and compensation and incentive systems that focus employees' efforts on organizational success. We will also examine programs and policies that encourage employee learning and development, facilitate the use of distributed know-how, and leverage the associated skill and knowledge for organizational advantage. **To register**, complete the [Non-Degree Graduate Student Admission Application](#) and submit it to postdoc@hs.pitt.edu.

DPCD Courses for Postdocs and Events

Introduction to Grant Writing for Postdoctoral Trainees

Mondays, 6-8 PM, January 27 – March 30, 2020

1105 Scaife Hall, UPMC Conference Center

Enroll in this one-credit, eight-week graduate course to develop the skills needed to effectively communicate your scientific discoveries and to successfully compete for research training support.

At the conclusion of this course, participants will have learned the:

(1) process of applying for external funding and the types of federal and foundation mechanisms available; (2) skills necessary to effectively communicate a hypothesis; and (3) skills necessary to complete a grant application.

To register, complete the instructions at <http://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/current-postdocs/grant-writing>

Info Session: Randall Family Big Idea Competition

Multiple Sessions Offered:

Tuesday, January 21 ; 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 23 ; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday January 29 ; 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Monday February 3 ; 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Gardner Steel Conference Center

The Randall Family Big Idea competition is our flagship student innovation competition at the Innovation Institute's Big Idea Center, with \$100,000 in prizes on the line, including a \$25,000 top prize and other cash prizes!

But it's about a lot more than the money. The competition provides access to experts and mentors and gives you the opportunity to build your idea.

Are you prepared to take your big idea to the next level? Come to an info session to learn more.

For more info: <https://www.innovation.pitt.edu/events-competitions/randall-family-big-idea-competition/>

dB-SERC

dB-SERC Lunch Discussion

Wednesday, January 22 ; 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

321 Allen Hall

During the lunch, Dr. Peter Bell, Jordan Swisher, and Ericka Huston will share about their work adapting NMR lessons for the Chemistry 0345. The nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) Organic Chemistry Laboratory curriculum is actively being expanded to prepare students for real-world data analysis in modern organic chemistry research. This week, the efforts that were implemented last term, the lessons learned, and what the next steps are will be discussed. Register [here](#), or see <http://www.dbserc.pitt.edu/> for more information.

University Center for Teaching and Learning Workshops

Better Grading and Feedback with Gradescope

Tuesday, January 21; 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

B26 Alumni Hall

Gradescope is a system to help you grade and return assignments in less time. Gradescope will help you organize and grade hand-written assignments, or other "respond in the given space" type questions by either scanning paper submissions or accepting them directly from students. With Gradescope, you build a rubric while you grade for consistent grading and easy regrading. This workshop is an introduction to Gradescope and no prior experience is necessary. Previously available only to the School of Engineering and Department of Mathematics, Gradescope is now available to everyone at the University of Pittsburgh.

Registration: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/>

Introduction to Canvas

Thursday, January 23; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

531 Alumni Hall

Welcome to Canvas, Pitt's new learning management system! This three-hour long training will get you up and running in Canvas in a single session. We will cover major Canvas tools and functions such as the Calendar and Inbox, Pages and Modules, and Assignments and Quizzes. *Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop as the trainer demonstrates each feature.*

Registration: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/>

Mentoring Academy | First Session

Tuesday, January 21 ; 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

William Pitt Union, Room 548

This session will launch the spring sessions for the Mentoring Academy. The first of four, this session will provide an opportunity to discuss the different roles which mentors and mentees play, and covers the first two competencies in the Mentoring Academy (Introduction and Communication). Participants will have an opportunity to discuss the principles of effective mentoring through interactive case studies. Participants can attend one session or choose to attend all sessions to complete all eight competencies based on the National Research Mentoring Network curriculum. Registration: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/>

360 Degree Video Workshop: The Open Lab @ Hillman

Tuesday, January 21 ; 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Hillman Library, G-7

In this hands-on workshop, participants learn to create 360° videos. Upon completing the first hour of the workshop, participants are authorized to independently borrow 360° cameras. The second hour allows participants the option to briefly film and edit their footage with help and feedback from the instructor. Laptop recommended but not necessary. Registration required.

Registration: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/>

Making Your Digital Materials Accessible & Inclusive

Wednesday, January 22 ; 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

B26 Alumni Hall

Whether you teach an in-person or online course, any course content you offer digitally must be accessible to students with disabilities. This workshop explains what accessibility looks like in the context of *Blackboard* and other methods of digital content delivery, why accessibility is important, and how accessible design can help all students, not just those with disabilities.

Registration: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/>

Teaching International Students

Thursday, January 23; 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

815 Alumni Hall

Do you have international students whom you would love to know better and engage with more in classes? Come learn about international students and the challenges they face. You will see engaging your international students takes as few as four steps. You will also have an opportunity to make a specific plan to engage your international students based on the 4-step approach.

Registration required. Registration: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/>

Laser Cutter and Adobe Illustrator with The Open Lab @ Hillman

Thursday, January 23; 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

B12 Alumni Hall

During this interactive workshop, you will learn how to:

- use Adobe Illustrator to create a 2D digital design,
- safely use the Epilog Zing laser to cut and engrave your design out of a sheet of wood or acrylic.
- This workshop will be offered periodically during the Spring Term – please visit www.teaching.pitt.edu/open-lab for dates and times. Registration is required.

Registration: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/>

Grant Writing Workshop

Friday, January 24; 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

528 Alumni Hall

Do you want to obtain funding for a project but aren't sure where to start? This workshop provides an overview of the grant-writing process as well as tips for writing an effective proposal. By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify tools for finding grants appropriate for your purposes
- Define specific, measurable outcomes
- Demonstrate your ability and plan to meet your grant's outcomes
- Identify characteristics of effective grant proposals

Registration for workshops is mandatory which ensures distribution of pre-workshop materials and accurate attendance records.

Registration: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/>

Experience Virtual Reality with The Open Lab @ Hillman

Friday, January 24; 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Hillman Library, G-7 Open Lab

Are you curious about virtual reality, how it works, what experiences are available, and how it can be used for both fun and as an educational tool? Join Open Lab @ Hillman for an overview of this exciting technology. Participants will discuss ethical concerns, experience a handful of representational VR games, and use a variety of hardware available in the new VR lab in G7 Hillman. Registration is required. Registration: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/>

Researchers' Writing Group

Friday, January 24; 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

B26 Alumni Hall

Join the Researchers' Writing Group – this voluntary writing program is open to all faculty. The program will provide a space for interested faculty to meet weekly for a three-hour block on Friday afternoons. The time will be dedicated solely to research endeavors. The hope is that the writing groups will carve out time in researchers' busy schedules for writing, and provide external accountability for those who find they need it. For more information, contact Tahirah Walker at tjw88@pitt.edu or 624-6592.

Introduction to Canvas | Part 1

Monday, January 27; 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

531 Alumni Hall

Welcome to Canvas, Pitt's new learning management system! This introductory training focuses primarily on the global functions of Canvas (the Course Dashboard, Calendar, and Inbox) as well as course settings and course user management. *Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop as the trainer demonstrates each feature.* Registration: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/>

Office of Academic Development

Reporting Guidelines: Transparent Writing Equals Better Results

Thursday, January 23; 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Scaife Hall, Falk Library, Conference Room B

Using the appropriate reporting guideline can simplify the writing process and improve chances of acceptance, whether it is a class assignment, a grant, or a journal submission. This workshop will provide a brief introduction to health research reporting guidelines.

Registration: https://hsls.pitt.edu/node/4122/register/flashclass_registration

Personal Finance Seminar: Planning for Today and Tomorrow

Thursday, January 24; 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

S100 Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower

Your immediate financial needs often drive your budgetary decisions. However, those decisions can have lasting effects on your financial future – leaving you to wonder if you could qualify for a loan or a mortgage. Professionals from the banking industry will guide you on how to: develop a personal budget, build cash reserves, identify needs versus wants, raise your credit rating, and more. Registration: https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eWhVB2D0sxOuPoF

Big Idea Blitz

Friday, January 24; 5:00 p.m. to Saturday, January 25; 5:00 p.m.

Information Sciences Building (3rd floor)

A fun way to get introduced to entrepreneurship and taking a product to the market at Pitt. At this idea generation competition, you will be able to pitch your idea, form a team, work with Entrepreneurs in Residence and win cash prizes. If you have an idea, come and pitch. If you don't have an idea, join a team! Either way, participate in a fun entrepreneurial event. If you are looking for team members or don't have an idea and wish to join a team use the Team Finder resource.

Registration: <https://go.innovation.pitt.edu/blitz>

Other

Innovative Postdoctoral Entrepreneurial Research Fellowship (I-PERF)

Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Innovative Postdoctoral Entrepreneurial Research Fellowship (I-PERF) recruits, trains, mentors, matches, and funds early-career Science and Engineering (S&E) doctoral degree recipients to participate in innovative entrepreneurial activities at some of the nation's most promising startup companies. I-PERF addresses a national need to accelerate small business innovation in support of federal government research by providing small businesses with doctoral level expertise at a reduced cost and training the next generation of S&E PhDs in high-tech entrepreneurship. I-PERF Fellows receive an annual base stipend of \$78,000 per year, optional individual health and life insurance benefits, relocation assistance to the approved host company, a professional conference travel allowance, and scripted professional development training funded by the National Science Foundation. Spaces are expected to go quickly with more than 200 NSF approved companies expected to be eligible to participate in this program. **For more information:** <https://iperf.asee.org/about/>

dB-SERC Mentor-Mentee Awards – Dietrich PhD Students only

No Deadline – awards made on a rolling basis

dB-SERC invites proposals for Mentor-Mentee Teaching Awards from the Natural Sciences faculty members in Dietrich. The awards are for mentoring doctoral students in evidence-based teaching with a focus on transforming at least a two-week segment of a course to improve student learning outcomes. Both the faculty mentor and the student will receive an award of \$1000 for course transformation.

For more information, visit

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2y2x09KHt4fWGxNaHliRW9Obms/view>.

Additional Resources:

Pitt-CIRTL website: www.cirtl.pitt.edu

CIRTL website: <http://www.cirtl.net/>

dB-SERC website: <http://www.dbserc.pitt.edu/>

UCTL (formerly CIDDE) website: www.teaching.pitt.edu

OACD website: www.oacd.health.pitt.edu

Postdoc Career Club: www.uppda.pitt.edu/postdoc-career-club-0

AME website: www.ame.pitt.edu