Dancing in the street

Dixon top earner here again in 2013

Men’s basketball head coach James P. Dixon II topped the list of Pitt’s highest-paid non-officer employees in 2013. According to the University’s recently released fiscal year 2014 IRS form 990, Dixon’s calendar year 2013 compensation totaled $5,254,937.

It was Dixon’s third year in a row and eighth year overall as Pitt’s top-paid employee since his arrival in 2003.

Dixon’s compensation was made up of $1,264,079 in base compensation, $1,672,500 in bonus and incentive compensation, $1,121,010 in other reportable compensation, $36,975 in retirement and other deferred compensation and $14,199 in non-taxable benefits.

University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute director Nancy E. Davidson earned $704,712. Her compensation was made up of $666,990 in base compensation, $5,000 in bonus and incentive compensation, $600 in other reportable compensation, $30,000 in retirement and other deferred compensation and $5,532 in non-taxable benefits.

Medical school vice dean Steven L. Kautz earned $242,703. His compensation was made up of $445,746 in base compensation, $27,929 in bonus and incentive compensation, $600 in other reportable compensation, $5,108 in retirement and other deferred compensation and $14,738 in non-taxable benefits.

The IRS requires tax-exempt organizations to disclose financial information each year, including compensation of officers, directors, trustees, key employees and the five highest compensated employees.

While the University’s most recently released IRS form 990 reports financial information based on the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014, compensation figures are reported for the 2013 calendar year.

The University reported that 1,751 people, including those named in the IRS form 990, received compensation of $100,000 or more in 2013. In 2012, the University reported that 1,776 people were above the $100,000 threshold. (For May 29, 2014, University Times.)

University officers
Nine current or former University officers were included in the report. They are:

• Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor of Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, earned $1,100,252 ($789,682 in base compensation, $186,000 in bonus and incentive compensation, $70,902 in other reportable compensation, $30,000 in retirement and other deferred compensation and $14,008 in non-taxable benefits.)

• Chancellor and CEO Mark A. Nordenberg, who stepped down from that position in 2014, earned $549,417 ($581,836 in base compensation, $125,683 in other reportable compensation, $70,602 in retirement and other deferred compensation and $69,236 in non-taxable benefits.)

• Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson earned $452,053 ($380,491 in base compensation, $133,913 in other reportable compensation, $45,990 in retirement and other deferred compensation and $12,241 in non-taxable benefits.)

• Treasurer Amy Krueger Marsh earned $476,959 ($408,703 in base compensation, $13,268 in other reportable compensation, $36,977 in retirement and other deferred compensation and $13,647 in non-taxable benefits.)

• Chief Financial Officer Arthur G. Ramicone earned $484,970 ($460,288 in base compensation, $26,683 in other reportable compensation, $32,892 in retirement and other deferred compensation)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Info science program earns award for affirmative action

For the School of Information Sciences (School) in the College of Communication at the University of Illinois, the 2013 Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award is the 13th such program at the University for the program's preeminent graduate students from underrepresented populations for graduate education in information science.

Chancellor Patrick Gallagher presented the award at the May 30 Senate Council meeting.

"This award is given to a department or program that has made a significant impact on the University's efforts to expand diversity at 50 years of age," said Chancellor Gallagher.

In making the decision, the selection committee chose the 13th recognition in a changing university that undergraduate students from underrepresented groups may have the opportunity to pursue graduate studies in the School.

Dr. Paul Landiney said: "We're honored to be recognized in this way. The program has graduated 50 students, and we've received many positive feedback. It's an honor to be selected for the award."
CRS celebrates Renny Clark's contribution

The University Senate community relations committee is pleased to announce that Renny Clark has been chosen as the winner of this year’s CRS award for outstanding community service.

Dr. Renny Clark

Renny Clark is a long-time member of the University Senate community relations committee. She has served on the committee for over 10 years and has been a driving force in many of the organization’s initiatives.

Over the years, Renny has been involved in numerous community service projects, including volunteering at local schools, hospitals, and food banks. She has also been involved in fundraising efforts to support community organizations and has been a vocal advocate for social justice issues.

Renny’s commitment to the community is evident in her tireless efforts to make a positive impact. She has consistently gone above and beyond to ensure that the needs of the community are met.

The Senate community relations committee is proud to recognize Renny Clark for her outstanding contributions to the community and the University Senate. She is a true example of what it means to be a dedicated community servant and a true role model for others to follow.

Corporate Wellness Challenge Well Underway

In a unique initiative, the University is launching a wellness challenge to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage employees to adopt healthier habits. The challenge will run from May 1st to June 30th and is open to all employees.

The challenge involves setting personal goals related to physical activity, nutrition, and stress management. Participants can track their progress using a mobile app and earn points for meeting their objectives. The employee with the highest number of points at the end of the challenge will be declared the winner.

Participants can sign up for the challenge starting today. The University is inviting all employees to participate and join in the fun.

Important Vendor Contact Information

Benefits Department

Office of Human Resources
Phone: 412-624-4595
Email: hro@pitt.edu

Pharmacy

Office of Employee Assistance

Phone: 412-624-9405
Email: oea@pitt.edu

Travel

Office of the Vice Provost for Student Life
Phone: 412-624-3180
Email: vpstudentlife@pitt.edu
Heinz Memorial Chapel has been closed since late December as workers installed a climate control system that is designed to help preserve the chapel’s woodwork and pipe organ and maintain comfortable temperatures for guests year-round.

Most of the chapel’s organ pipes (see Jan. 22 University Times) were removed temporarily while work was underway. With extra room to traverse the pipe chambers, chapel assistant director Wendy Lau took advantage of the opportunity to share some seldom-seen parts of the neo-Gothic campus landmark.

She recently guided Susan Rice, director of the Heinz Chapel Choir, and Rice’s husband, David, to view the city from the chapel’s rooftops and spire. Earlier this year, Lau led a crew from the Let-Me-See TV YouTube channel on a similar trek. The dizzying video is posted at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u-9G605ar0.

The chapel reopens June 1, with the first wedding scheduled for June 5. A grand reopening concert featuring the chapel’s resident ensemble, OvreArts, is set for 7:30 p.m. June 18. The concert will include several anthems composed by Theodore Finney, the first conductor of the Heinz Chapel Choir. The free event is open to the public.

Photos documenting the climate control project’s month-by-month progress are posted at www.heinzchapel.pitt.edu/

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Fine particles associated with childhood autism

A study of air pollution during pregnancy showed that exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) during the first trimester of pregnancy may increase the risk of childhood autism. The study, published in the journal "Environment International," is the first to link PM2.5 exposure during pregnancy to an increased risk of autism in children born later. The study followed a group of 10,000 pregnant women in the United States and found that those exposed to higher levels of PM2.5 during pregnancy were 30% more likely to have children with autism. The researchers suggested that further studies are needed to understand the mechanisms behind this association.

RESOURCES

Research notes


Bacteriophage paper z. 8693 authors

Bacteriophage viruses that infect and replicate within bacteria, and are the most abundant microorganisms on Earth. But we don't know much about their genetic architecture.

RESOURCES


Electrons "swinging dance" in pain

A research team led by Jeremy Levy, director of the Center for Neuroscience and phD and Nickolas Poulos of Pain Institute, found evidence that electrons that "swing dancing" in pain sensitive nerve fibers could lead to new families of drugs that could improve pain treatments. The team analyzed data from 1,000 patients with chronic pain and found that the "swing dancing" electrons correlated with improved pain relief. The team suggested that this finding could lead to the development of new drugs that target these pain-sensitive nerve fibers.

RESOURCES

Pitt employees enjoyed food, prizes, dancing and entertainment at the University’s inaugural year-end staff and faculty appreciation picnic.

Despite unseasonably cool temperatures, about 4,000 faculty, staff and administrators mixed and mingled over lunch at the May 20 event on Bigelow Boulevard. Sharon Malazich of the Office of Special Events said that more than 100 volunteers from across the University had a hand in ensuring the day went smoothly, helping out with everything from setting up and tearing down to handing out cotton candy, popcorn and frozen treats.

Additional photos from the event (including video of men’s basketball coach Jamie Dixon’s line-dancing moves) are posted at #PittPicnic.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Bicycle share program starts May 31

The City of Pittsburgh is expanding its bike-sharing program to include the University of Pittsburgh.

The University of Pittsburgh’s bike-sharing program, called Pittsburgh Public Bikes, will launch May 31 with 50 stations at various locations on campus. The service will be available to students, faculty and staff.

The bike-sharing program, which is a partnership between the University and the City of Pittsburgh, will offer 500 bikes across 50 stations.

The program is expected to benefit students, faculty and staff by providing a convenient and affordable way to travel around campus.

Additionally, the program aims to promote sustainability and reduce carbon emissions by providing an alternative to driving.

The program will operate from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and be available to anyone with a valid University ID.

For more information, visit pittsburghpublicbikes.com or contact the program manager at bikeinfo@pittsburghpublicbikes.com.

This July bike share system is called Verishare, and Sadie is one of the first riders.

The bike-share stations are located throughout the city, including on the Main Campus, the Soldiers & Sailors campus and in the East Liberty neighborhood.

In addition, the program is being rolled out in other parts of the city, including on the South Side and in the North Side.

Researchers estimate that if 10% of all car trips in Pittsburgh are replaced with bike-share trips, the city could save $2 million per year in traffic-related costs.

The University of Pittsburgh has committed to reducing its carbon footprint by 20% by 2030, and the bike-share program is a key component of that goal.

To promote safety, riders are encouraged to follow the rules of the road and respect the bike-share stations.

The program is expected to be popular among students, faculty and staff, and it is hoped that it will help reduce traffic congestion and improve the overall quality of life in the city.

For more information, visit pittsburghpublicbikes.com or contact the program manager at bikeinfo@pittsburghpublicbikes.com.