

# Pirate Baseball Opens Season with New Scoreboard Animation

by faculty Mike Schwab, Rick Catizone & Don Gabany

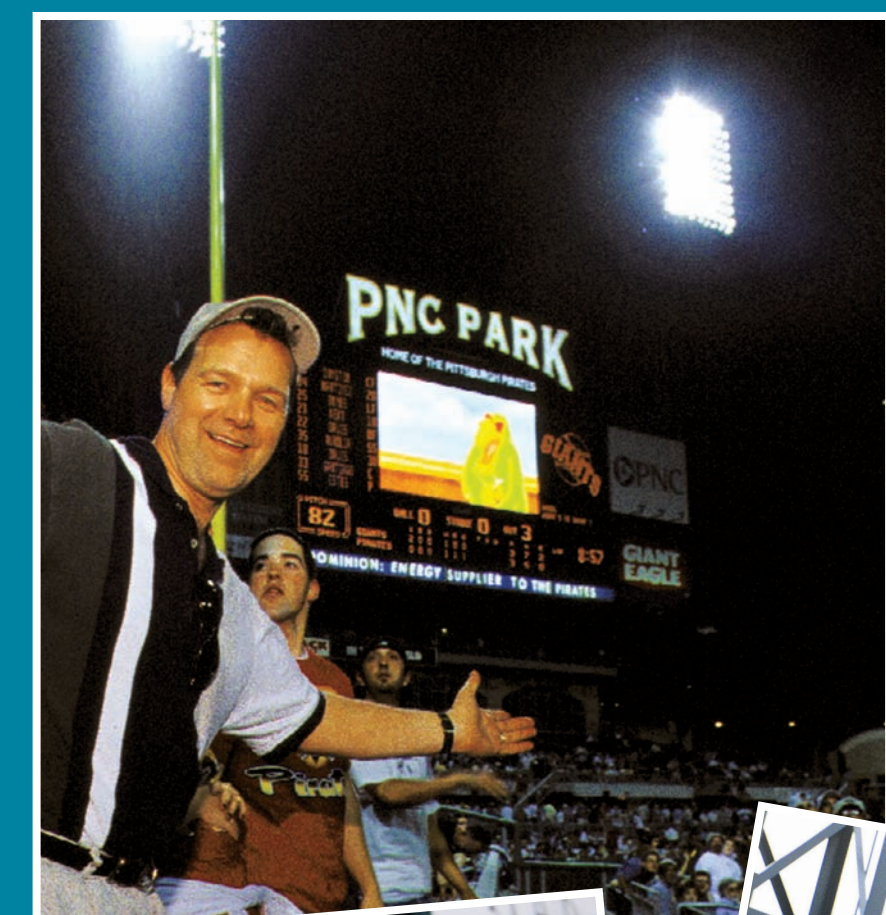


Just in time for the Pittsburgh Pirates' Home Opener on April 13, Art Institute of Pittsburgh faculty member and animator Mike Schwab put the finishing touches on a series of animations for the Pirates' scoreboard and jumbo screen. Schwab's new series features the Pirate Parrot in a variety of comical situations and are used to introduce game-day traditions like the popular free tee shirt launch, the "noise" skit to rally the crowd and baseball bloopers captured from MLB league footage. Schwab's screen animations have been a part of the game day tradition for over a decade and include the legendary train conductor and a variety of skits involving the Pirate Parrot.

A member of the Media Arts & Animation faculty since 1996, Mike Schwab is the owner of Kensington Falls Animation. Schwab has produced award-winning animation for The Pittsburgh Penguins, The Pittsburgh Pirates, MTV's Cartoon Sushi and a variety of commercial works including a cartoon short featured at the Sundance Film Festival. Faculty member Rick Catizone also contributed to the series, which consists of a series of hand-painted cels produced in the classic, 2D animation style. Faculty Member Don Gabany has also contributed to the project.

Schwab attended the Home Opener on April 13 with his entire class of students from The Art Institute of Pittsburgh. "I am proud of the work and look forward to sharing a special Pittsburgh tradition with my students," said Schwab before attending the game.

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*Mike Schwab has created scoreboard animations for the Pittsburgh Pirates since 1988*



*Rick Catizone, Don Gabany and students at the game*