**RETIREMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JAY GRAHAM**

Hello everyone and thank you all for being here to celebrate a really remarkable milestone.... Ayn Rand said, “The question isn’t, who’s going to let me, it’s who’s going to stop me?” For what seems like a lifetime, especially in the world of IT, we have been led and partnered, encouraged and challenged, and most of all, inspired by, an unstoppable and consummate professional.... someone who has demonstrated unequivocally what it looks like to innately know what has been needed and wanted and has the common sense and analytical prowess to identify issues and create solutions that have made the world, and in particular, the University of Pittsburgh, a better safer, “cyberly tuned” place to be... I know that’s not a real word, but... desperate times!!! **(If you want to make a joke, you can say...**)... but **today** is about **Jinx**... (**and wait for the laugh**).

Jinx Walton, in her tenure here at Pitt, has not only named the game, she’s changed it... she’s tuned it up... and for the past eighteen years, she’s established protocols and procedures that others didn’t even realize they needed....she’s brilliant... she’s stealth... she’s resourceful and versatile... she’s our Jinx.... and now she’s poised to conquer that hot new **frontier**.... retirement.... (**Wait for the laugh**). ... Sure... we’re .... or **I’m** chuckling now, but the truth is, I cannot imagine the IT Department here at Pitt without her... but were all gonna have to get creative, because last I checked, she and her husband, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ didn’t invite me to go with them as they explore “Life Beyond Tech...”

(**Jay... this is an idea of how I would start, and what the tone would be. Of course, once the announcement is made, we can talk again and hone in on any thoughts, plans, comments, reactions, etc... I’m keeping it somewhat nebulous waiting for further details so that what you say fits the occasion, audience, and mood. Let me know your thoughts.... Thanks, Helene**)