Pitt's Anthony Grace, Christian Schunn Named Fellows By American Association for the Advancement of Science

By B. Rose Huber

Two University of Pittsburgh professors in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences—cognition scientists Anthony Grace and Christian Schunn—have been named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for the contributions they have made toward the advancement of their respective fields. The two Pitt faculty honorees are among 559 Fellows selected in a joint faculty from such other elite institutions of higher education as Columbia University, Harvard University, and Johns Hopkins University. The Fellows will be honored Feb. 18 during the annual AAAS meeting in Washington, D.C.

Information on the new Fellows from Pitt follows.

Anthony Grace, Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience, was honored as a Fellow for his contributions to cellular and systems studies of the brain’s dopamine system (a group of crucial neurotransmitters and personality) as it relates to understanding the mechanisms of schizophrenia. Grace also serves as professor of psychiatry and psychology and is a training faculty member in Pitt’s Center for Neuroscience. Grace’s research lies at the interface of neurobiology and psychiatry. His experiments have focused on dopaminergic systems with the goal of determining how neurobiology relates to mental disorders—how psychotherapeutic drugs tie in, well. Grace’s current studies into the neurobiology of schizophrenia involve the interaction of the prefrontal cortex—the region of the brain associated with personality and social behavior—with antipsychotic drugs. He also is examining the impact of the developmental disruption this has on the function of the limbic system—a set of brain structures that support emotion, behavior, and memory—as a model for the pathophysiological changes underlying schizophrenia in humans.

Grace, who serves on Pitt’s Center for Neuroscience’s Executive and Faculty Admissions committees and on the MD and PhD Degree Supervisory Committee, serves as coprincipal investigator for five grant-related projects funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals. He has authored or coauthored 166 publications in academic journals such as Science, Nature, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. He has written book chapters and reviews for 76 publications, including Dopamine and Schizophrenia (2011) published by Blackwell Press and Dopamine Modulation of Forebrain Pathways and the Pathophysiology of Schizophrenia (2006) published by Cambridge University Press.

Christian Schunn, professor of computational psychology and the director of the Center for Computational Psychology at Pitt, is honored as a Fellow for his research on computational models of human cognition and the development of computational models of human cognition. Schunn’s research is focused on understanding, modeling, and predicting complex human cognitive behaviors. His research is interdisciplinary and considers human cognitive behavior in the context of human-machine interactions, computer security, and cognitive science.

Schunn’s research has been supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the Office of Naval Research (ONR). Schunn has received more than $2.5 million in research funding over his career. He has authored 100 publications in academic journals such as IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, the Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research, and the Journal of Machine Learning Research. Schunn’s research has been featured in the New York Times, National Geographic, and Popular Science.

Anthony Grace
Christian Schunn

In recognition of his contributions to philosophy and to German-American cooperation in this field, Nicholas Rescher, University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, was presented with the Office’s Cross of the Order of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz erster Klasse) by Buss von Alvensleben, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, during a Dec. 8 ceremony in Pitt’s University Club.

The event marked the Consul General’s first visit to Pittsburgh.

Professor Rescher is the second Pitt philosophy professor to receive this prestigious form of recognition from the German government. The honor was previously accorded in 1997 to Rescher’s friend and colleague, Gerald J. Massey, Pitt Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and former director of the Center for Philosophy of Science at Pitt.

A statement from the German Consulate also noted that Rescher is one of the most renowned and widely read philosophers in the world and that he received the award for his outstanding contribution to the dissemination and more profound understanding of German philosophy in America. The consulate also noted that Rescher’s research on Leibniz, Kant, and German Idealism have become benchmarks in the field of philosophical studies.

“We have long been the direct beneficiaries of all that Professor Rescher—a giant in the world of philosophy and one of the most committed, respected, and beloved members of our faculty—has done to elevate this University by his invaluable personal collection of original and rare materials relating to some of the world’s most renowned philosophers and their works,” said Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. “This notable recognition of his lifetime of contributions to the advancement of philosophy and the philosophy of science is a testament to his uniring devotion to furthering knowledge and fostering German-American scholarly pursuits.”

“I am very honored to receive this award and find great satisfaction in knowing that almost 100 years after my father was awarded a decoration by the German state for services rendered in war—viz., the Iron Cross for Services on the Western Front in 1916—I am awarded one for services rendered in peace,” said Rescher.

Rescher is a renowned systematic philosopher and author of a system of pragmatic idealism that weaves together threads of thought from continental idealism and American pragmatism.

—By Patricia Leonardo White

Pitt Senior Wins $7,500 Citizens Bank Scholarship

Pitt senior Noelle Newhams was named the recipient of a $7,500 Citizens Bank TruFitt Good Student Scholarship. Newhams is majoring in applied developmental psychology in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. The scholarship recognizes students whose volunteer work has made a difference in their communities. Newhams, who was one of 1,600 applicants for the scholarship, has volunteered at Three Rivers Youth for two semesters, working with homeless female adolescents. She also has volunteered for Children’s Hospital and at a Pittsburgh public program for children from low-income families. Daniel K. Fitzpatrick, president and CEO at Citizens Bank, honored Newhams.

From left, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Pitt senior Noelle Newhams, and Citizens Bank President and CEO Daniel K. Fitzpatrick.

Noelle Newhams

Nicholas Rescher Receives Prestigious Honor From German Government

From left, Daniel K. Fitzpatrick, president and CEO at Citizens Bank, honored Newhams as a winner of the Citizens Bank TruFitt Good Student Scholarship.

By Anita Srikameswaran

Four current and three former University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine faculty are among 20 world-renowned intensivists who are the first to be selected to receive the Society of Critical Care Medicine’s highest honor, the Ira S. Lecalls Professional Service Award, at its annual congress, Feb. 4-8, in Houston.

Pittsburg’s nation’s first Department of Critical Care Medicine in 2002, building on a long history of achievement in the field, noted for its S. Lecalls Senior Vice Chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at Pitt. “The Intensive Care,” who is being awarded this prestigious honorific posthumously, lives on in the exceptional physician–researchers who make up this inaugural class of inductees,” Levine said.

“Their contributions to medicine have saved countless lives and provided critical care to patients in need,” Levine said. “We are honored to have so many of these exceptional physicians and medical leaders in our ranks. We are very grateful to the Lecalls Foundation, the Lecalls Family Trust, and the many individuals and organizations that have supported this award through their financial contributions.”

Current Pitt faculty who will receive the Master of Critical Care Medicine title are: Derek C. Angus, professor and Mitchell P. Fink endowed Chair in the Department of Critical Care Medicine; Patrick M. Kochanek, Department of Critical Care Medicine; K. Vincent and vice chair and director of the Safari Center for Resuscitation Research; Michael R. Pinsky, professor and vice chair for faculty development in the critical care medicine department; and Stewart Thompson, professor and vice chair for faculty affairs in the School of Medicine.

Mitchell Fink, the founding chair of the Department of Critical Care Medicine, and Professor Emeritus Abe Grekow will also be honored.

According to the critical care medicine society, the honor recognizes medical professionals who have made important contributions to the practice of critical care medicine and education. The award is named in honor of Ira Saloff “Safari” Schulman, a Pitt anesthesiologist who developed a method of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. He became known worldwide as the “Father of CPR.” Safari also was instrumental in the 1967 creation of Pittsburgh’s first ambulance service, the Hillsboro Medic, and the Freedom House Ambulance Service. Prior to that, Pittsburghers who needed emergency medical care used to be transported to hospitals in the backs of police wagons. The Freedom House Ambulance Service’s members made history as the first ambulance unit in the country trained in advanced emergency medical care and saving lives.

According to the critical care medicine society, the honor recognizes members who have been Fellows of Critical Care Medicine for a minimum of five years and have achieved national and international professional prominence owing to personal character, contributions to critical care medicine, dedication to clinical practice, and outstanding contributions to research and education in critical care medicine—or members who have years of exemplary service to the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the American College of Critical Care Medicine, and the field of critical care medicine in its broadest sense.

Pitt Senior Wins $7,500 Citizens Bank Scholarship

Pitt senior Noelle Newhams was named the recipient of a $7,500 Citizens Bank TruFitt Good Student Scholarship.
Paul Chryst Named Pitt’s New Head Football Coach

By E.J. Borghetti

Paul Chryst, the acclaimed offensive coordinator of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Badgers, has been named the new head football coach at the University of Pittsburgh by Pitt Athletic Director Steve Pederson. The 46-year-old Chryst takes over at Pitt following an eight-year tenure at Wisconsin (2002, 2005-11) during which he won praise as one of college football’s finest offensive teachers and strategists. The Badgers compiled a 60-18 record (.769) and seven years in the professional ranks.

Annually to college football’s top assistant Award, presented prestigiously by Mark A. Nordenberg, “Clearly, Pitt will benefit from his expertise on our offensive staff, and we are grateful to Speaker Smith for making this appointment. Herb and Barbara Shear also have been committed advocates and loyal supporters of Pitt—creating, with their sons, the Shear Family Scholarship in the School of Pharmacy to honor Herb’s father and also providing major support for the Petersen Sports Complex.”

Since succeeding his father, Pitt alumnus Samuel “T” Shear (PHARM ’30), as president of GENCO in 1971, Shear has grown his Pittsburgh family business into one of the world’s largest and most-diversified third-party logistics providers and one of the top 25 third-party logistics providers in the world. Started in 1938 by Shear’s grandfather, Hyman, as the H. Shear Trucking Company, the business added warehousing and public distribution to its capabilities, and, in the 1980s, GENCO became a world leader in reverse logistics—helping clients maximize the value of returned products through recall management, testing and warranty, repair and refurbishment, and product liquidation. GENCO’s clients include, in addition to the U.S. government, Fortune 500 companies in the health care, automotive, consumer goods, and consumer electronics industries.

“His remarkable success at Wisconsin is well documented in the form of Big Ten championships and All-America performances. But beyond considering his achievements on the football field, we believed it was important to find a leader who gets the very best from his players while also developing the kind of culture that fits the University of Pittsburgh. Paul Chryst is that leader, and we are anxious for our players and fans to get to know him in the coming days and years.”

“My family and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to join the University of Pittsburgh. Pitt and Pittsburgh are absolutely the right fit for us, and we’re looking forward to getting immersed in our new hometown. We are committed to building a program on and off the field that will make people proud. The bar is set high in the ‘City of Champions,’ and that is incredibly exciting and inspiring. I can’t wait to meet our players and get to work.” —Paul Chryst

Herbert Shear Appointed Commonwealth Trustee on the Pitt Board of Trustees

By John Fedele

Herbert Shear, chair and CEO of GENCO ATC and operating partner at Cambridge Capital, has been appointed a Commonwealth Trustee on the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees by Pennsylvania Speaker of the House Samuel H. Smith.

“Through the remarkable success of GENCO, Herb Shear has emerged as one of this region’s truly accomplished business leaders and has earned an international reputation as a pioneer in the field of reverse logistics,” said Pitt President Mark A. Nordenberg.

“Since succeeding his father, Pitt alumnus Samuel “T” Shear (PHARM ’30), as president of GENCO in 1971, Shear has grown his Pittsburgh family business into one of the world’s largest and most-diversified third-party logistics providers and one of the top 25 third-party logistics providers in the world. Started in 1938 by Shear’s grandfather, Hyman, as the H. Shear Trucking Company, the business added warehousing and public distribution to its capabilities, and, in the 1980s, GENCO became a world leader in reverse logistics—helping clients maximize the value of returned products through recall management, testing and warranty, repair and refurbishment, and product liquidation. GENCO’s clients include, in addition to the U.S. government, Fortune 500 companies in the health care, automotive, consumer goods, and consumer electronics industries.

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Almost three decades later, the company is the leading provider of water treatment equipment and services in the Western Pennsylvania region, with more than 700 employees.

“In 1998, Fitzgerald worked on the campaign to change the form of government in Allegheny County, and a year later he ran for one of the district council seats in the newly formed Allegheny County Council. He represented District 11 from 2000 to 2011, serving as County Council president from 2007 until 2011, when he left office to seek the position of county executive.

In commenting on Fitzgerald’s new role, Pitt Chancellor David L. Nordenberg, who recently was named to a six-person steering committee that will help oversee the transition, said, “Rich and I have enjoyed a mutually respectful relationship for years. He understands the importance of higher education to the strength of this region, now and in the future, and since he first was elected to office, he has been in regular contact on wide-ranging matters. I not only welcome him to the Pitt Board, then, but I look forward to working with him for the good of Allegheny County.”
The holiday season now has passed, and the earliest days of 2012 are behind us. This is an important year for us, because the end of next month will bring the 225th anniversary of our founding. Pitt was chartered on Feb. 28, 1787, and began a life that now spans two complete centuries and parts of two others as a log cabin academy situated at the edge of the American wilderness. Today, of course, we are a major public research university respected for the quality and impact of our work, close to home and in far more distant locations.

Each member of today’s University community is helping to shape the current chapter in the long and proud history of Pitt. Our collective contributions over the course of recent years should be a source of special satisfaction, both because we have been able to fuel enviable levels of further progress and because we have done so in the face of historic challenges. Consider just some of the key successes of the past year.

- Looking at the undergraduate programs on the Pittsburgh campus, which are our largest programs and serve as a bellwether for the entire institution, we enrolled our strongest incoming class from our largest applicant pool ever. The academic credentials of students enrolled in these and other programs continued their dramatic rise, and the strength of our programs not only attracted students from across the country and around the world but, consistent with our public mission, retained many exceptional Pennsylvania students, increasing the likelihood that they will remain to live, work, and contribute here.

- Enrolled students continued to perform at levels that are a source of widely shared pride. To cite just a few examples, one Pitt undergraduate, from Somerset, was among only 32 Rhodes Scholars to be named nationally, and another Pitt undergraduate, from the North Hills of Pittsburgh, received a Goldwater Scholarship, the highest national honor available to undergraduates studying science, mathematics, or engineering. Pitt undergraduates also claimed six Boren Awards for International Study, a Pickering Undergraduate Fellowship for the Study of Foreign Affairs, and two Humanities in Action Fellowships, and Pitt was recognized as one of the nation’s top producers of student Fulbright Scholars. Simply put, our students continue to compete against the best students from the country’s finest colleges and universities for the highest forms of national recognition.

- Alumni continued to earn recognition for their lives of distinction. Since the dawn of the new century, Pitt graduates have received the Nobel Peace Prize, the Nobel Prize in Medicine, the National Medal of Science, the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the Fritz Medal in Engineering, and the Shaw and Albany Prizes in Medicine, among many other awards of note. During this past year, one graduate claimed the National Book Award for Poetry, another was one of just 22 MacArthur (“Genius Award”) Fellows named nationally, and two were elected to the Institute of Medicine—all extraordinary honors. Of course, hundreds of thousands of other Pitt graduates are leading lives of impact and making meaningful, though less public, contributions to their communities.

- During the last year, we shattered past records with annual research expenditures that exceeded $800 million. These funds are a widely accepted measure of institutional stature, fuel pioneering work, and support, directly and indirectly, some 28,000 local jobs.

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- Of course, none of our important work would be possible without the contributions of the dedicated members of our staff. In December, we recognized more than 900 staff members for the longevity of their service. That group included more than 70 staff members with 40 or more years of service to Pitt and six staff members who already have worked for 50 or more years at the University. Such levels of longevity say something both about the loyalty of those honored and about the quality of Pitt as an employer. In the weeks ahead, we will internially honor both faculty and staff for the excellence of their performance in their jobs and in their contributions to community.

- In athletics, the biggest news of the year came during the fall term, when we announced that we had accepted an invitation to join the Atlantic Coast Conference. Our years in the Big East Conference have been good years that produced many wonderful memories, but we needed a more stable home for our athletics programs. The ACC provides that. It also provides an especially good academic and geographic fit for Pitt.

This past year also was the year in which our fundraising efforts began a new climb, following the decline that was suffered by virtually every nonprofit organization in the wake of the Great Recession. Total voluntary support rose to $114 million—still beneath our 2008 high of $128 million, but heading in the right direction. We took our capital campaign.
As I am sure you will recall (because I suspect that few of us will ever forget), the first state budget proposal for the current fiscal year would have reduced Pitt’s appropriation by more than $100 million. After months of advocacy, that cut was trimmed to slightly more than $40 million. That obviously was a far better result in the comparative sense, but it still left us with a large gap to fill as we worked to build an operating budget for the current fiscal year.

Our successes also are the product of a culture that is disciplined, forward-looking, and selflessly committed to the greater good. Pitt always seems to have been expected to do more with less, but we never have been as good at it as we are today. Our upcoming birthday reminds us that if our University is to continue doing its important work for another 225 years, those of us in positions of responsibility today must be increasingly steward-like. And if we are truly committed to all of the wonderful work that is done here and understand that the product of work that takes many forms and that is done by countless individuals, then our march through challenging times has got to be driven by a spirit of shared sacrifice.

We have seen that spirit amongst our employees—who, looking at the realities of a stalled economy worldwide, have embraced the belief that our preferred path should be one that places a high priority on preserving jobs as opposed to providing higher levels of compensation to a reduced employment base. That approach not only has been preferable in human terms, but as a business matter, has positioned us to continue delivering the high levels of quality that have fueled the still-rising demand for our services in education and research. It also has been one of the many ways in which we have helped protect this region from the worst of the economic downturn. Whether we will be able to maintain this position, if economic woes are prolonged and we suffer further reductions to our state support, remains to be seen.

Levels of state support also play a critical role in establishing tuition rates. From the mid-1960s, Pitt was a private university with private-university tuition rates. At that point, a new relationship with the state provided increased levels of public support so that Pitt’s tuition rates could be reduced to levels more typical of public universities. Levels of state support, which had been eroding for years, now are being more readily and dramatically slashed. Put most simply, it is not possible for any university to sustain public university tuition rates if it is not supported like a public university.

As our public funding decreases and Pitt becomes less public, then, tuition comparisons to private universities of comparable quality become increasingly relevant. And that, of course, is no comparison. Pitt’s tuition is a fraction of the tuition typically charged by comparable private universities.

Even when compared to other public universities, Pitt fares well. Last week, in fact, Kiplinger’s ranked Pitt as one of the country’s best values in public higher education. The Kiplinger 100: Best Values in Public Colleges, 2011-2012, called its top 100 values “four-year institutions that deliver a stellar education at an affordable price.” The magazine’s senior editor further stated, “This year’s top 100 public schools deliver strong academics at reasonable prices. We applaud these institutions for tightening their belts without compromising quality.” Within the 100, Pitt was ranked as the top value in Pennsylvania. Nationally, we were ranked the country’s 15th best value for out-of-state students and the 29th best value for in-state students.

Delivering uncompromised levels of quality is a cornerstone of our aspirations but will become even more challenging if the effects of a troubled economy linger much longer and if public support for public higher education continues to decline. We can take some comfort from the successes crafted by our predecessors as they met their own challenges—which include economic downturns, floods, fires, and the Great Depression. We probably can take even greater comfort from our own more recent successes. Working together, we have been able to handle—effectively, if not always easily—everything that has come our way and have maintained Pitt’s momentum. Hopefully, such continuing progress, as well as an appropriate acknowledgment of 225 years of rich history, will be a hallmark of 2012.
The recently completed Chevron Science Center Annex offers a bright, modern, and Gold LEED-certified research space for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral chemistry students. Pitt Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry Peter Wipf assisted with the design of the lab—which was built with the help of state funding—keeping in mind the work of his collaborative research team. Among the priorities for the project was the creation of a functional environment for the safe coexistence of researchers and thousands of chemical reagents. In the new space, these materials are housed in separate rooms entirely—away from the student work areas. Large windows on a slanted wall replaced bricks and mortar, providing a bright, transparent workspace. Glass walls and doors allow researchers to see most of their laboratory and study space from their desks and benches. A lounge, kitchen, and conference areas provide students and staff with other opportunities to study, have discussions, and exchange ideas.

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, right, makes a point during a Pittsburgh Technology Council breakfast briefing held Dec. 6 in the Rivers Club, Downtown. Nordenberg and Jared Cohon, left, president of Carnegie Mellon University, discussed their schools’ cooperative relationship as well as the importance of Pennsylvania maintaining its funding levels for higher education. Nordenberg said that continued access to education for all is essential to the region and the nation.

**THE UNDERTAKER’S DAUGHTER**

Pitt professor of English Jo Derricotte, a nationally acclaimed poet, launched her newest book, The Undertaker’s Daughter (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011), during a Dec. 7 book signing and reading in Pitt’s University Club. Derricotte has authored four other books of poetry and has had more than a thousand of her poems published in anthologies, journals, and magazines. She is the cofounder of the Cave Canem Foundation, an organization that has been offering workshops and retreats for African American poets since 1996.

**OMEGA PSI PHI AWARDS**

The Iota Phi Foundation, an affiliate of the Pittsburgh-based Iota Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, honored three Pitt alumni with the service fraternity’s annual Exemplary Service Awards during a Nov. 19 awards ceremony at the Syria Shrine in Cheswick. Honored in the business, medicine, and education categories, respectively, were: Curtis Aiken (’87 CGS), left, president, CEO, and founder of Pro Tech Compliance Inc.; Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew (NURS ’76, MED ’94, GSPIA ’10), an assistant professor and program director for global health and reproductive science at Case Western Reserve University and a former program director in Pitt’s School of Medicine; and Aaron R. Mann (’71G, ’81G SOC WK), a professor in Pitt’s School of Social Work. The Iota Phi Foundation is operated by professional African American men who volunteer to improve the quality of life of people in the greater Pittsburgh community.

**LARRY DAVIS ACCEPTS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Larry E. Davis (below right), dean of the School of Social Work, Donald M. Henderson Professor, and director of the Center on Race and Social Problems at Pitt, received the Community Leadership Award during the Ronald H. Brown Leadership Gala hosted by the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh. The Dec. 2 event was held in the Westin Convention Center Hotel, Downtown. Also honored that evening were Don Smith (below left), the only nationally syndicated Black female talk show host until Pittsburgh-based American Urban Radio Networks cancelled her show in October, and Sister Marie Immaculee, who accepted the Special Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy. The Ronald H. Brown awards are presented annually to individuals or organizations that display superior leadership in improving the quality of life of African Americans. Event cochairs were Pitt alumni Greg Spencer (CES ’80) and Alan Trivilino (KGSB ’88).
Pitt researcher Michael Wood-Vasey, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, was elected spokesperson for the latest generation of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey III (SDSS-III). An international collaboration of 600 astronomers, the SDSS-III is mapping the Milky Way Galaxy, searching for extrasolar planets, and unearthing the mystery behind the dark matter and dark energy that determine the structure and expansion of the Universe. The SDSS-III project’s first data release used information from two previous SDSS surveys to provide the largest color image of the sky ever made, as well as a catalog of the 560 million galaxies and stars visible in that image. Wood-Vasey is responsible for promoting the project’s scientific success and serves as the point person for the public and for other scientists.

Jonathan Luck, a Pitt freshman who played the saxophone since age 8, won the 2011 Pitt-BNY Mellon Jazz Scholarship, awarded annually to a Pitt music student. Luck, an 18-year-old bioengineering major, won the $5,000 tuition prize in December. His selection was based upon a submitted tape of jazz standards that was judged by a panel of nationally recognized jazz musicians. The award marks the 25th year that Pitt and BNY Mellon have funded the scholarship.

In an effort to help advance the use of solar power, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) awarded $315,697 to a coalition of scientists. The funds were awarded to a coalition of scientists. The funds were awarded to the Center for Metropolitan Neighboring Communities (DoE) awarded $315,697 to a coalition headed by the University of Pennsylvania. The grant will support a total of 22 teams across the country to help increase the installation of solar power in homes and businesses and to reduce the administrative costs associated with solar power installation.

Awards & more

Poland’s Oldest University Honors Pitt’s Thomas Saaty, a Pioneer in Mathematical Decision Making

By Audrey M. Marks

Pitt Distinguished University Professor Thomas Saaty accepts the Doktor Honoris Causa degree from Poland’s Jagiellonian University during a special October 2011 ceremony.

Pitt Distinguished University Professor Thomas Saaty, the father of a mathematical system for decision making called the Analytic Hierarchy Process, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Jagiellonian University, Poland’s oldest, for his groundbreaking research and the application of his mathematical process in matters of weapons disarmament and economic stability.

Saaty, who teaches in Pitt’s Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration, has consulted with the governments of the United States, France, Egypt, Sudan, Kuwait, and Tanzania, as well as with many international companies that use his mathematics-based processes to make important decisions. In addition to devising the Analytic Hierarchy Process, Saaty developed two other similar decision-making models, the Analytic Network Process and the Neural Network Process.

“Theory and practice,” says Saaty, “are inseparable and go hand in hand. My theory is the foundation for the practice, and my practice is the proof of the validity of my theory.”

Saaty’s work has been translated into 30 languages, and his book, Analytic Hierarchies AND PRIORITY SCALING, has sold over 100,000 copies. It is required reading in many business and engineering curricula around the world.

Saaty was born in Poland and received his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Warsaw. He earned his graduate degrees from Columbia University and City University of New York, and is a distinguished member of many professional organizations.

Saaty has been a visiting professor at numerous universities, including the University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of California, Berkeley.

In 2008, Saaty was awarded the Institute of Management Sciences (INFORMS) coveted Festschrift, and in 2010, he received the American Mathematical Society’s Steele Prize for a lifetime of service to mathematics.

Saaty is a member of the American Mathematical Society and the Institute of Management Sciences, and is a fellow of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS).

Saaty has published over 500 articles and 40 books, and his work has been translated into 30 languages. He is a member of the editorial boards of several journals and has served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Mathematical Psychology, the Journal of Mathematical Economics, and the Journal of Risk and Uncertainty.

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Concerts


Lectures/Seminars/Readings

“Problems of Decision Under Conditions of Certainty,” Nicholas Rescher, Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy, 12:05 p.m. Jan. 10, 8TH Cathedral of Learning, Learning Labs 100, University Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittcume.pitt.edu.


“Theory and Experimental Design,” Nikolas Gavrilis, 4:30 p.m. Jan. 20, 8TH Cathedral of Learning, Learning Labs 100, University Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittcume.pitt.edu.

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Pathophysiology of Psychiatric Disorders (2009) published by Oxford University Press. Additionally, he has been invited to and presented at more than 100 conferences.

Grace received the CINP-Lilly Neuroscience Basic Research Award (2008), a Merit Award (2007) from the National Institute of Mental Health, the Dr. Paul Janssen Schizophrenia Research Award (2000) from the International Congress of Neuropsychopharmacology, the Daniel H. Efron Award (1999) from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, and a Distinguished Investigator Award (1998) from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression.

Grace earned his undergraduate degree in psychology and biology from Allegheny College and his PhD in pharmacology from Yale University. He joined the University of Pittsburgh in 1985 and was named Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience in 2010.

Christian Schunn, professor in the Department of Psychology, was honored as a Fellow for his distinguished contributions in bridging cognitive science research on reasoning and learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Schunn holds secondary appointments as professor of learning sciences and director of Pitt’s School of Education and professor of intelligent systems in the Dietrich School, as well as serving as senior scientist in Learning Research and Development Center.

More specifically, Schunn studies the processes of science and engineering teams, the Web-based peer-to-peer interaction that supports learning, and the ways in which student engagement and reasoning processes interact in the science classroom. In addition to pursuing research supported by several internal grants, Schunn serves as co-chair of the National Science Foundation’s Education and Human Resources Division (2011-2014) and his work has been featured in such journals as Computers & Education, the Journal of Mechanical Design, and NeuroImage, and he has authored numerous articles and in press, two of them forthcoming books. He has presented at more than 50 conferences and has been invited to deliver guest lectures at 25 colleges and universities.

Schunn received his undergraduate degree in psychology from McGill University in 1990 and his MS and PhD degrees in psychology from Carnegie Mellon University in 1993 and 1995, respectively. He completed postdoctoral work in psychology at Carnegie Mellon from 1995 to 1998.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal Science as well as Science Signaling.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal Science (www.sciencemag.org) as well as Science Translational Medicine (www.sciencetranslationalmedicine.org) and Science Signaling (www.sciencemag.org). AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes 262 affiliated societies and academies of science serving 10 million members. The mission of AAAS (www.aaas.org) is to "advance science and serve society" through initiatives in science policy, international programs, and science education, among other areas.

Pitt’s Anthony Grace, Christian Schunn Named Fellows by AAAS

Christian Schunn, professor in the Department of Psychology, was honored as a Fellow for his distinguished contributions in bridging cognitive science research on reasoning and learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Schunn holds secondary appointments as professor of learning sciences and director of Pitt’s School of Education and professor of intelligent systems in the Dietrich School, as well as serving as senior scientist in Learning Research and Development Center.

More specifically, Schunn studies the processes of science and engineering teams, the Web-based peer-to-peer interaction that supports learning, and the ways in which student engagement and reasoning processes interact in the science classroom. In addition to pursuing research supported by several internal grants, Schunn serves as co-chair of the National Science Foundation’s Education and Human Resources Division (2011-2014) and his work has been featured in such journals as Computers & Education, the Journal of Mechanical Design, and NeuroImage, and he has authored numerous articles and in press, two of them forthcoming books. He has presented at more than 50 conferences and has been invited to deliver guest lectures at 25 colleges and universities.

Schunn received his undergraduate degree in psychology from McGill University in 1990 and his MS and PhD degrees in psychology from Carnegie Mellon University in 1993 and 1995, respectively. He completed postdoctoral work in psychology at Carnegie Mellon from 1995 to 1998.
An exhibition featuring the work of University of Pittsburgh art students inspired by the High Plains near Rock River, Wyo., will take place from Jan. 11 to Feb. 3 in Pitt’s University Art Gallery, Frick Fine Arts Building. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays except for Monday, Jan. 16, when the gallery will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

An opening reception for the exhibition will take place in the Frick Fine Arts Building from 4 to 6 p.m. Jan. 11; the student artists will be present in the exhibition area to discuss their work at noon Jan. 25. All events are free and open to the public.

The summer of 2011 marked the third year that Pitt art students enrolled in an intensive three-credit, 16-day studio arts field study on the Cook Ranch—4,700 acres of land rich with dinosaur fossils that was donated to Pitt in 2006 by Wyoming rancher Allen Cook. The art course overlapped with a six-week Pitt paleoecology course that in 2011 included a one-week study of Western literature. All the courses were offered through Pitt’s University Honors College as part of an ongoing commitment by the University to use the land for education and research. The four student artists represented in the exhibition, all enrolled in Pitt’s Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, include:

- **Ashley Michele Bowen**, a senior from Penfield, N.Y., who is a double major in studio arts and anthropology;
- **Nicole Hall**, a senior from Lewiston, N.Y., who is a double major in studio arts and English writing;
- **Josephine Norton**, a senior from Pittsburgh who is a double major in studio arts and Japanese; and
- **Tyler Shine**, a junior from McKeesport, Pa., who is a history of art and architecture major.

The exhibition will include paintings, drawings, prints, installation art, photography, and video.