PITT
225 YEARS
OF BUILDING BETTER LIVES
1787-2012
Facing the Specter of Enormous Budget Cuts

Because of the wonderful work done by so many of you, the University of Pittsburgh is moving through what should be another banner year, building on its enviable record of impact and accomplishment in education, research, and public service. Pitt also is moving through an historical and important year, with the end of this month bringing the 225th anniversary of our founding. Unfortunately, what almost certainly will prove to be most memorable about 2012 is that an already brutal budget year has been made far worse by today’s proposal for deep and disproportionate cuts emerging from the state capitol. To put that proposal in perspective:

• It would take our cumulative two-year cuts in state support well in excess of $100 million;
• It would reduce our state support, in absolute dollars, to levels that we have not seen since the mid-1980s, more than a quarter century ago and when the state’s own budget was about one-third its current size;
• It would reduce our state support, if adjusted for inflation, to the lowest lever since Pitt became a state-related university; and
• It would reduce the percentage of our total budget provided by the state appropriation to less than 5 percent, from a high of more than 30 percent in the 1970s, shortly after Pitt became a state-related university.

In terms of proportionality, perhaps nothing is more telling than the proposed general fund budget’s bottom line. Overall state funding would be reduced by less than one-tenth of 1 percent, or $22,456 million. The cuts proposed just for Pitt are more than double that amount. What follows, then, is a somewhat longer account.

Abandoning a Focus on the Future

The act of February 28, 1787, chartering the frontier academy that would become our University began with a straightforward declaration that “the education of youth ought to be a primary object with every government.” Even in that earlier, simpler, more physically demanding time, our founder, Hugh Henry Brackenridge, saw the development of the mind as both essential to individual success and critical to our collective progress. “We all know,” he stated, “that the strength of a state greatly consists in the superior mental powers of its inhabitants.”

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More than two centuries of history clearly have established that Mr. Brackenridge, and those embracing his message, were correct. Access to higher

Annual Honors Convocation Feb. 24 Launches Observeance of the 225th Anniversary of the Founding of the University of Pittsburgh

The University of Pittsburgh will launch the celebration of the 225th anniversary of its founding on Feb. 24, 1787, with its 36th Annual Honors Convocation on Feb. 24. The convocation—which recognizes undergraduate, graduate, and professional student academic achievement; student leadership; and the accomplishments of faculty and staff—will be held at 3 p.m. Feb. 24 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland. Mark A. Nordenberg, the University’s 17th chancellor, will deliver the keynote address.

“The University’s commemoration of the 225th anniversary of our founding is an ideal time to reflect on Pitt’s accomplishments in providing individuals with abundant opportunities ‘to build better lives, for themselves and their communities,’ said Chancellor Nordenberg. “As we celebrate this special anniversary with the theme of ‘225 Years of Building Better Lives,’ it also is a time to look forward to the University—as a leader in education, a pioneer in research, and a partner in regional development—continuing its upward momentum in the years ahead.”

As the University’s chief executive, Chancellor Nordenberg heads one of the nation’s leading public research universities and one of the oldest institutions of higher learning west of the Allegheny Mountains. He joined the faculty of Pitt’s School of Law in 1977 and later served as dean of the law school and interim provost of the University. In 1994, he was elevated to the special rank of Distinguished Service Professor. The University’s Board of Trustees elected him interim chancellor in 1995 and chancellor in 1996.

The months-long anniversary celebration will involve an initiative titled “225 Acts of Caring.” It will comprise faculty, staff, students, and alumni participating in community volunteerism and outreach activities.

The University has had a longstanding commitment of outreach to Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities,” said John Wilds, Pitt’s assistant vice
Pitt Receives One of Largest Private Foundation Grants in Its History, $22 Million From Richard King Mellon Foundation

By B. Rosa Huber

The Center for Energy in the University of Pittsburgh's Swanson School of Engineering has received a $22 million grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation—one of the largest private foundation grants in Pitt's history. The gift will accelerate the research and education efforts of a center which is dedicated to improving energy technology development and sustainability through the work of more than 70 faculty members and their research teams.

“This region and its citizens have benefited from the transformational impact of the Richard King Mellon Foundation’s philanthropy for more than 60 years,” said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. “The foundation’s well-targeted investments in education, conservation, and health care, among many other areas, have strengthened Southwestern Pennsylvania’s economy and improved the quality of life in our home community. We at Pitt are deeply grateful for this most recent, and extraordinarily generous, gift from an internationally renowned philanthropic institution that continues to dedicate its support to the public good.

Finding ways to deal more effectively with a wide range of energy issues has become both a national priority and a regional opportunity. With the support of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, our Center for Energy is particularly well positioned to contribute to our shared progress in this important area.”

The majority of the Richard King Mellon grant will be used to create new faculty positions and graduate fellowships and to establish a fund for spurring innovative research. The grant—which also will support faculty research and center operations—is designed to bolster the center’s position as a powerful leader in energy research.

“The level of our investment reflects our confidence in the academic and administrative leadership of the University,” said Scott D. Izzo, director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation. “The center has tremendous potential to make an impact in Pittsburgh, as energy will be the major driver of our regional economy for years to come.”

“After graduating from Pitt’s engineering school, I immediately went to work for Westinghouse and credit much of my success over the course of a long career in the energy industry to the education I received at Pitt,” said R. R. (Rusty) Haar (ENG ’71, BUS ’77G), chair of the University’s Board of Trustees. “As President and CEO of Westinghouse, I came to more fully appreciate the broader impact of the University, both in developing a well-educated workforce and as a powerful research partner. The fact that Pitt reinvented its engineering, a field that most engineering schools had largely abandoned, was an important factor in the decision by Westinghouse to build its new corporate headquarters in Southwestern Pennsylvania rather than relocating to another part of the country. This remarkably generous grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation will position Pitt to expand its energy programs in ways that also will advance this region’s strong and growing energy industry.”

“Energy will be the defining technological, social, and political issue of the next century,” said Gerald D. Holder, U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering at Pitt. “While there are enormous pressures to reduce energy consumption, there will continue to be significant growth in the worldwide demand for energy. The gap between energy consumption and energy production must be met by advances in energy-related technologies, improvements in energy efficiencies, diversification of energy sources to reduce the impact of carbon-based fuels, and training of the scientific and engineering workforce to create the technologies that will address these issues. In that environment, the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Energy is committed to building from its current strengths to be an internationally prominent, university-based energy program, continuing the University’s and the Swanson School’s 100-year tradition of energy-related research.”

Established in 2008, Pitt’s Center for Energy is dedicated to pursuing studies in energy delivery and efficiency, advanced materials for demanding energy technologies, carbon management, and energy diversification.

“With this funding, we will be in a much better position to attract top-notch faculty and students to our region,” said Center for Energy Director Brian Gleeson, the Harry S. Tock Chair in Materials Science and a professor of mechanical engineering and materials science in the Swanson School. “This will advance our creative and productive partnerships with regional and national companies and with national laboratories, particularly our region’s National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL).”

According to NETL Director Anthony Cugini, NETL has enjoyed a particularly strong collaborative partnership with Pitt’s Center for Energy. “NETL is charged with advancing energy options to fuel our economy, strengthen our security, and improve our environment,” said Cugini. “We are a proactive supporter of educational initiatives at all levels, funding hundreds of research and development projects at U.S. universities to advance energy science and technology and to provide a trained workforce for the energy industry of the future. Pitt and the Center for Energy are among our most active collaborative partners in this effort.”

Expanding on the impact of the Richard King Mellon Foundation’s key gift, Dennis Yablonsky, CEO of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development said, “Pittsburgh is the new center of innovation in American energy. This region is implementing a new model for collaboration across business, government, and academia to maximize its competitive advantages in energy and related industries. Pitt’s Center for Energy has played a key role in these efforts, and we applaud the Richard King Mellon Foundation’s investment in enhancing the University’s capabilities.”

To date, the Swanson School and University of Pittsburgh have invested $50 million in facilities and programs, and faculty members in energy-related disciplines have attracted more than $35 million in sponsored research. Funds from the Richard King Mellon Foundation grant will be payable over three years.

Center for Energy

Established in 2008, the Center for Energy is dedicated to improving energy technology development and sustainability, including energy delivery and efficiency, advanced materials for demanding energy technologies, carbon management and utilization, and energy diversification. Joining the Center for Energy is a team of more than 70 faculty members already working in energy research from the Departments of Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Geology, and Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science for the purpose of leveraging their work and expertise. The Center for Energy’s key goals include attracting more world-class faculty to Pitt, training high-level engineers and scientists to work in key areas of energy research, facilitating technology transfer related to energy for economic development, increasing energy support, and raising the stature of our region as a leader in energy.

Richard King Mellon Foundation

For more than 60 years, the Richard King Mellon Foundation has invested in the competitive future and quality of life in Southwestern Pennsylvania and in the protection, preservation, and restoration of America’s environmental heritage. The foundation was created in 1947 by Richard King Mellon (1899–1970), president and chairman of Mellon Bank, a conservative and leading figure in the financial and civic life of Pennsylvania. With assets of more than $1.7 billion in 2009, the Richard King Mellon Foundation has built on the vision of these founders. The foundation’s current giving priorities primarily serve Southwestern Pennsylvania with a program focus on regional economic development and conservation, along with education and human services and nonprofit capacity building.

Swanson School of Engineering

The University of Pittsburgh’s Swanson School of Engineering is one of the oldest engineering programs in the United States. The Swanson School has excelled in basic and applied research during the past decade and is on the forefront of 21st-century technology, including energy systems, bioengineering, microsystems and nanosystems, computational modeling, and advanced materials development. Approximately 120 faculty members serve more than 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students in six departments, including bioengineering, chemical and petroleum engineering, civil and environmental engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, and mechanical engineering and materials science. For the two most-recently reported consecutive years, 2009 and 2010, the Swanson School has had the second-highest percentage of doctoral degrees awarded to women in North America, according to the American Society for Engineering Education.
Black History Month

Curtiss E. Porter, Penn State Greater Allegheny Chancellor, Leads Campus as It Expands Its Degree Offerings, International Scope

By Patricia Lomando White

Curtiss E. Porter taps into a number of skills he’s honed throughout his career as he handles the responsibilities of his current job: chancellor of Penn State Greater Allegheny. His shaping of that position is defined, in part, by a panoply of roles and occupations he’s held throughout his life: senior administrative leader, teacher, U.S. Air Force veteran, college and graduate student, Black activist, and son, to name a few.

Prior to joining Greater Allegheny, Porter’s career placed him in various positions, including service as an instructor in Black studies at California University at Long Beach; president and CEO of the Urban League of Southwestern Connecticut; director of various programs for Greenwich, Conn., Country Day School; vice president for affiliate development for the National Urban League; and director of the University of Connecticut’s Stamford campus.

The Pitt alumnus (A&S ’69, EDUC ’84) moved to Penn State Greater Allegheny in 1999, and as chancellor he oversees operations in McKeesport and White Oak.

The Penn State Greater Allegheny campus is continually evolving, and among the changes and developments that Porter has steered are:

• The initiation of four-year degree programs on the campus, including degrees in business, communication, English, information science technology, and psychology, among others.

• The building of the 27,000-square-foot, $6.25 million Student Community Center, as well as the $1.7 million refurbishing of the 2,000-square-foot Fitness and Cultural Center;

• The management of fundraising campaigns totaling $9.2 million;

• The school’s receipt of numerous grants, including $900,000 from the Pittsburgh Foundation for Greater Allegheny’s University Center for Community Engagement and Partnership and $550,000 annually from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for vocational education and career and training.

Porter said one of his biggest challenges is to make higher education more accessible to more people—something that has been difficult during these economic times, as public resources for higher education dwindle.

The Penn State Greater Allegheny chancellor also said he hopes to increase the number of four-year programs offered at his campus so that more graduates can make an impact on the community. The school’s STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) summer bridge program recently received the support of EQT Corporation, which will provide funding to allow the program to continue.

Porter said he also works to connect his campus to the wider world, with the school recruiting in South America, Asia, and Africa. An agreement with Duy Tan University in Vietnam allows for that Southeast Asian institution’s faculty to be taught American classroom and business techniques.

Universities have a significant role to play within their communities, Porter said. Penn State Greater Allegheny’s University Center for Community Engagement and Partnerships, for example, recently received Heinz Foundation funding for a program to work with African American males. In addition, the school teaches courses on civic and community engagement, provides a forum for ideas to be presented in a community format, and engages faculty and students in contributing to a green environment.

In addition to performing his administrative role, Porter also teaches. His course offerings at Penn State Greater Allegheny include African Americans in the 20th Century and Civic and Community Engagement.

Are today’s students different than students when he was in school? “They are different by virtue of the crucibles that have shaped them,” Porter answered. “The social issues shaped us—segregation, discrimination, and moving from accommodation to outright challenge. For them [today’s students], the context for discrimination is subtle. They still have that youthful passion and energy and approach issues of racism as not necessary. There is not the day-to-day awareness of racism for them, and when they do encounter it, the response is, ‘This is ridiculous.’”

That world view contrasts sharply with the atmosphere and burgeoning racial tensions that were sweeping college campuses, including Pitt’s, during the late 1960s and 1970s. Porter’s college career began in 1964 on the Penn State Greater Allegheny campus, then known as Penn State McKeesport. (As chancellor, Porter would be instrumental in changing the school’s name to Penn State Greater Allegheny in 2007 to more accurately reflect the campus’ expanded mission.) He enrolled as a freshman at Penn State after serving for five years in the U.S. Air Force and then working in the H.J. Heinz Company’s data processing department.

In his junior year, Porter transferred to Pitt, where he joined the Pittsburgh campus’ Black Action Society (BAS). The BAS sought major change at Pitt by seeking to connect the administration to increase the number of African American students, staff, faculty, and administrators, as well as social, academic and community-based programming. The 1969 takeover of Pitt’s computer center, in which Porter participated, was BAS’ best-known stand. University administrators negotiated with BAS members and agreed to recruit more Black students, add additional Black administrators, and create a Department of Black Studies.

Pitt’s administration negotiated with the students and ultimately asked Porter and Jack L. Daniel, a 1969 Pitt PhD student who is now a Pitt Distinguished Service Professor of Communication, to help develop a framework for the department and its curriculum. A Black studies department was created, and Porter chaired it from 1975 to 1981. It is now the Department of Africana Studies, housed in Posvar Hall.

Porter grew up in Braddock near U.S. Steel’s Edgar Thompson works, where his father worked and where, out of the family’s home, his mother operated a bistro. He describes his mother as a “strongly independent woman who was successful for her time and status.” Porter said he learned the value of working hard from both of his parents.

“My mother’s and father’s examples were of ordered perspective and outcomes,” he added.

When asked about his accomplishments, Porter said: “When there was a time for people to stand and be counted against the blatant evils of racism and discrimination, I stood. Every outcome is in the process of standing for who we are as opposed to who we are not.”

And reflecting upon his Pitt days, he noted, “The thing I cite most often is the fact that we generated the Africana Studies department. It is there. The institutional changes we fought for have become part of the institution.”
From Log House Academy to Leader in Education, Pioneer in Research, and Partner in Regional Development

The University of Pittsburgh: 225 Years of Building Better Lives

By Diane Hernon Chavis

The Formative Years

Two hundred twenty-five years ago, in 1787, delegates meeting at Philadelphia’s State House replaced the agreement creating a loose confederation of sovereign states with an enduring blueprint for democracy—the Constitution of the United States. That same year, educator, attorney, author, and distinguished member of Pennsylvania’s General Assembly Hugh Henry Brackenridge successfully urged his legislative colleagues to establish a seat of higher learning in Pittsburgh. His passionate plea—“Academies are the furnaces which melt the natural ore to real metal; the shops where the thunderbolts of the orator are forged”—engendered “An Act for the Establishment of an Academy or School in the Town of Pittsburgh” on Feb. 28, 1787.

The preamble to the act declared the legislature’s intent:

The education of youth ought to be a primary object with every government … Be it enacted … that there be erected … and established … an Academy or School for the education of youth in useful arts, sciences and literature, the … name and title of which shall be “The Pittsburgh Academy.”

Thus was chartered Pitt’s progenitor log house academy, a private school of higher learning and—in the words of founder Brackenridge—a “candle lit in the forested wilderness.” With a curriculum that included “the Learned Languages, English, and Mathematics,” and, later, astronomy, philosophy, and logic, the Academy became one of the first institutions of advanced learning west of the Allegheny Mountains.

In the 1900s, the Academy trustees used a $5,000 legislative grant to construct a two-story, three-room brick schoolhouse on a corner lot in what now is the heart of downtown Pittsburgh. It—and a second building, adjoining the first and erected in the early 19th century—replaced the original log house, according to Pitt historian Robert C. Alberts, who penned Pitt’s bicentennial commemoration volume, Pitt: The Story of the University of Pittsburgh, 1787–1987 (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1986).

From Academy to University

In much the same way that a budding nation required a new form of government that would be more responsive to its emerging needs, so, too, did the community of Pittsburgh—whose population had multiplied six times between 1794 and 1820—eventually require an academic institution with full university powers to better accommodate the region’s rising generations. Pitt historian Agnes Lynch Starrett, in her volume Through One Hundred and Fifty Years – The University of Pittsburgh (1937), reported that by 1819, “boys who became the leading men of Pittsburgh had been graduating from the Pittsburgh Academy for nearly thirty-five years” and, yet, they had to travel hundreds of miles to the east to enroll in a university.

That changed on Feb. 18, 1819, when the Pennsylvania legislature, upon the request of the Academy trustees, rechartered the school as the Western University of Pennsylvania. Its first principal, the Scottish-born Reverend Robert Bruce, supervised enlargement of the curriculum and, with a five-year legislative grant of $2,400 per annum, oversaw construction of a three-story freestone-fronted college building adjacent to the Academy on Third Street and Cherry Way. It became the University’s new home in 1830.

Fifteen years later, Pittsburgh’s Great Fire of 1845 destroyed several frame houses, along with the University’s records, books, and building. Classes met in the basement of the nearby Trinity Church during construction of a new site on downtown’s Duquesne Way. But in 1849, calamity struck a second time when fire destroyed that structure and its contents. Disheartened, the trustees temporarily suspended University operations until 1855, when the Western University reopened in a 16-room new brick building at the corner of Ross Street and Diamond (later renamed Forbes Avenue) in the city’s center.

An 1862 fire destroyed the Allegheny County Court House, and Western University sold its Ross and Diamond property to the county and relocated across the river to Allegheny City (today’s North Side), where it remained for more than 25 years. During that time, the University achieved racial integration—William Hunter Dammond earned a degree in civil engineering, with honors, in 1893 and became the University’s first African American graduate—and became coeducational, graduating its first female students, sisters Margaret and Stella Stein—in 1898 and its first Black female student, Jean Hamilton Walls, in 1910.

Building a Permanent Home

When the cornerstone for the first building on the school’s new Oak–land campus was laid in October 1908—to accommodate what was envisioned to become one of the finest institutions in the land—the Western University of Pennsylvania publicly was renamed the University of Pittsburgh.

The two-and-a-quarter-century journey that Pitt has traveled, from a private three-room frontier log academy to a nationally ranked, world-renowned public research university with a tripartite mission—leader in education, pioneer in research, and partner in regional development—includes milestones at virtually every turn. Among them are the following:

• Pitt’s School of Medicine—founded as the Western Pennsylvania Medical College in 1886—opened admission to women 100 years ago, in 1912.

• The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, one of the first regional campuses of a major U.S. university, was established 85 years ago, in 1927. A half-century ago, Pitt trustees approved the creation of regional campuses in Bradford, Greensburg, and Titusville.

Continued on page 6
From Log House Academy to Leader in Education, Pioneer In Research, and Partner in Regional Development

The University of Pittsburgh: 225 Years of Building Better Lives

Continued from page 5

35 Goldwater Scholarships.

Pitt’s high-achieving faculty regularly have won exceptional honors—including, in recent years, the National Medal of Science; the Charles S. Mott Prize, widely regarded as the highest honor in cancer research; and the MacArthur “Genius” Award, for extraordinary originality and dedication to creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction. Faculty also have been elected to membership in esteemed groups, among them the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Pitt’s annual research expenditures last year topped a record-setting $800 million, a well-acknowledged sign of institutional strength. In fact, Pitt ranks fifth among all U.S. universities in terms of the competitive grants awarded to its faculty by the National Institutes of Health and ranks in the top 10 nationally in total federal science and engineering research and development support.

Pitt was the nation’s top-ranked public “Best Neighbor” university in the 2009 edition of Saviors of Our Cities: A Survey of Best College and University Civic Partnerships. Best neighbor universities are distinguished by their longstanding efforts with community leaders to reinvigorate the cities around them, to influence community revitalization and cultural renewal, and to encourage economic expansion, urban development, and community service.

Pitt’s Building Our Future Together capital campaign—already the largest and most successful fundraising campaign in the history of Western Pennsylvania—has exceeded $1.9 billion in gifts and pledges and is well within range of its landmark $2 billion goal. The impact of that giving includes ever-growing levels of endowed scholarship, fellowships, and faculty support as well as other key investments in Pitt’s people, programs, and facilities.

Any university makes many of its most important contributions through the work of its graduates.
Pitt’s schools and colleges are at the heart of the University’s academic mission. As part of Pitt’s 225th anniversary observance, the *Pitt Chronicle* pays tribute to the schools, colleges, and regional campuses that are cornerstones of Pitt’s legacy of ‘building better lives,’ not only for their students, but also for the communities in which they reside.

The Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences was founded in 1822; the school has 92,897 alumni.

The Swanson School of Engineering was founded in 1846; the school has 26,890 alumni.

The School of Pharmacy was founded in 1878; the school has 5,128 alumni.

The School of Medicine was founded in 1886; the school has more than 11,000 alumni.

The School of Law was founded in 1895; the school has 9,622 alumni.

The School of Dental Medicine was founded in 1896; the school has 7,987 alumni.

The School of Education was founded in 1910; the school has 34,054 alumni.

The Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration was founded in 1923; the school has 27,525 alumni.

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown was founded in 1927; it has 19,465 alumni.

The College of General Studies was founded in 1932; the college has 17,912 alumni.

The School of Social Work was founded in 1934; the school has 9,821 alumni.

The School of Nursing was founded in 1939; the school has 10,718 alumni.

The Graduate School of Public Health was founded in 1946; the school has 5,992 alumni.

The Graduate School of Public and International Affairs was founded in 1957; the school has 6,974 alumni.

The School of Information Sciences was founded in 1961; the school has 12,712 alumni.

The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford was founded in 1963; it has 9,767 alumni.

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg was founded in 1963; it has 6,198 alumni.

The University of Pittsburgh at Titusville was founded in 1963; it has 807 alumni.

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences was founded in 1969; the school has 9,166 alumni.

The University Honors College was founded in 1987; students taking Honors College classes receive their degrees through Pitt’s other academic units.

Artwork by Karen Scafield Design Inc. representing each of the University’s schools, colleges, and regional campuses reprinted from the April 27, 2003, *Pitt Chronicle*. Typos modifications made by Gary Kate Covenier.
education has long been viewed as a key to individual pursuit of the American dream, and a well-educated populace is universally considered essential for national and regional prominence and prosperity. These twin beliefs drove the creation of the State System of Higher Education, labeled Pitt, Penn State, and Temple as the “Commonwealth Universities” to describe their expected contributions in the following way:

The Commonwealth Universities serve as the state’s major public research universities. Together these institutions offer a broad range of educational programs and their services and carry special responsibilities for research, advance graduate education, and for education in the professions, including law, medicine, engineering, business and agriculture. The scope and quality of their programs and their geographic distribution permit them to serve the needs of the state and nation in the fields of undergraduate, graduate and first professional education, research and public service. Along with the major independent universities in the state, the Commonwealth Universities provide the centers for research and development in Pennsylvania.

Pitt’s performance in this assigned role has been nothing short of remarkable. The strength of our educational programs at all levels has made us a magnet for ambitious, hard-working, high-potential students from across the country and around the world. However, consistent with our public mission, we have attracted particularly large numbers of Pennsylvania students, increasing the likelihood that, over the longer term, they will live, work, and contribute here. We also have become an internationally recognized research university, ranking among the top five American universities in support attracted from the National Institutes of Health and among the top 10 American universities in total federal science and engineering research and development support. During the last fiscal year, our research expenditures exceeded $500 million—expenditures that are an accepted measure of institutional strength, that fund important work, and that support, directly and indirectly, more than 28,000 local jobs.

Though our service mission takes many forms, none has been more important than the role that we play as an engine for economic development and as a generator of jobs. We sit at the heart of the education and health services “supersector”—by far, this region’s largest employment sector and a source of what has been substantial and dependable job growth, even as the economy moves through the “jobless recovery” from the Great Recession. Just last weekend, respected analyst Harold Miller wrote in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that, while a recent surge made this region the national leader in job growth, many still had been left behind. He described the situation in the following way: “Most of the new jobs were created in sectors such as health care and higher education, where we’ve become accustomed to strong growth. . . . The strong job growth in sectors such as health care and higher education is masking the fact that more than 21,000 jobs lost in manufacturing, construction, retail, and the transportation sector still haven’t returned.”

Given this impressive record of success, the Commonwealth’s current retreat from support for its public research universities may be even more surprising. It surely was in the power of education that drove the creation of that frontier academy 225 years ago. However, it is absolutely clear, both from last year’s cuts and from the state budget report proposed today, that these institutions—long exceptional contributors to the social vitality and economic strength of the Commonwealth and once again are being targeted for dramatically disproportionate budget cuts.

Successive Waves of Deep Cuts

To be fair, the budget pressures faced by our elected leaders are daunting. Dealing with them can involve painful funding decisions, with success depending upon a spirit of shared sacrifice. But to be clear, those of us at Pitt never have resisted doing our fair share. And what we must resist—not only for ourselves but for the many who depend upon us—are disproportionately deep cuts that threaten our ability to continue making critical contributions, our ability to serve individuals or to a vibrant, more productive society.

To repeat what I said earlier and what you know: We continue to believe that Pitt is a brutal budget year. This fiscal year began with a 22 percent—or $40 million—reduction to our education and general appropriation and our academic medical center support lines. As another reminder, this 22 percent reduction to our state support came during a year in which overall state spending decreased by only 4 percent. Meanwhile, we were also notified that our annual capital projects support would be cut in half, from $40 million to $20 million. Then, just last month, we were directed to put another 5 percent—or $7 million into “budgetary reserve.” This is a polite term of art for a mid-year budget cut. And to return to the issue of proportionality, the state-related universities, whose appropriations account for less than 2 percent of the state’s budget, were directed to shoulder nearly 16 percent, or about eight times that amount, of this major reduction.

To this point, then, our accumulated cuts for this fiscal year total $67 million. Without meaning to generate unnecessary anxiety but wanting to be more contextually descriptive, let me try to give that very big number more practical significance. If we had tried to deal with a $67 million cut solely through work-force reductions, that would have required us to eliminate more than 1,000 Pitt staff jobs carrying average levels of compensation and benefits. Or if we had tried to deal with a $67 million cut solely through tuition increases, that would have required an average tuition increase of about $2,600 for each of our in-state students.

Both the Governor and the Secretary of Education have personally committed to me that there will be no attempt to advance preconceived policy results through this process. And in a fair and open process, the unique contributions tied to the work done by public research universities should provide a strong case for enhanced, not reduced, support.

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After a past decade that brought cuts to our appropriation almost every year and a past year that brought the steepest cuts in our history, the budget proposal released today hits us very hard again. The Governor has proposed an additional cut of 30 percent to our education and general appropriation for the next fiscal year and a 10 percent reduction to our academic medical line items, a blended reduction of about 29 percent and totaling nearly $42 million.

After a past decade that brought cuts to our appropriation almost every year and a past year that brought the steepest cuts in our history, the budget proposal released today hits us very hard again. The Governor has proposed an additional cut of 30 percent to our education and general appropriation for the next fiscal year and a 10 percent reduction to our academic medical line items, a blended reduction of about 29 percent and totaling nearly $42 million.
In the weeks ahead, we also will need to move forward with the processes of fashioning an operating budget for the next fiscal year. Sadly, we will do so knowing that the budget almost certainly will be built on a foundation of substantially diminished state support. But we also move forward knowing that we already have built a record of successfully meeting a broad range of difficult challenges.

In today’s budget address, the Governor declared, “We cannot allow the debts of today to crowd out the debts of tomorrow.” Unfortunately, it is hard to look at the cuts proposed for Pitt and Pennsylvania’s other public universities without feeling that this is just what has happened—that dreams have been sacrificed in an effort to deal with crushing current debt. It might be said, in fact, that our basic activity is the business of building dreams. We do that through the power of higher education, as we help position tens of thousands of students, each and every day, to more effectively pursue their own goals for life. And we do it, often more dramatically, through our programs of research. Sixty years ago, all of America was desperately dreaming about a cure for polio, and that dream became a reality through work done at the University of Pittsburgh.

Pushing Forward
One can never predict how a group process ultimately will unfold, and it certainly would have been far better if the commission announced by the Governor had been at work before we were targeted for such deep and disproportionate cuts to our state funding. Still, if the commission lives up to its potential, it could shape the face of public higher education in Pennsylvania for years to come. And if returns on investment are fairly assessed, then Pitt and other public research universities should occupy an even more prominent position as we move further into the new century.

Even while that assessment process is getting under way, there are other important tasks at hand. This is just the beginning of the state’s budget-building process. We now will move through legislative hearings and will seek to advance our case in other forums as well. Knowing the daunting challenge that we now face, we need to build upon the outstanding advocacy efforts undertaken by students, faculty, staff, and alumni during the budget-building process last year. Officers of the University Senate, the Staff Association Council, the Student Government Board, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, and the Pitt Alumni Association already have stepped forward to express their desire to be advocates for Pitt. In the end, though, the success of the effort depends upon even broader participation throughout the University community.

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Panther Central is reminding Pitt faculty, staff, and students who use the Port Authority Transit (PAT) that the grace period for card-reading problems on PAT vehicles ends April 1. After that date, any commuter whose Pitt ID does not work on a PAT bus or trolley will have to pay full fare.

Panther Central “hopes to resolve any problems that Pitt commuters have with the new technology before the April 1 deadline, to help commuters avoid the inconvenience and embarrassment of having their ID denied,” said John Fedele, a Pitt spokesperson.

Any commuter who experiences a problem with his or her Pitt ID on PAT vehicles should collect the following information and bring it, along with the Pitt ID, to Panther Central’s offices in Lithfield Towers:

- The rider’s name, phone number, and Pitt ID number (located on the back of the ID above the magnetic strip);
- The four-digit bus number, located on the back and sides of the bus;
- The date and time of the occurrence;
- The route number, and whether the bus was going inbound or outbound;
- The bus stop location, or nearest cross streets; and
- The error message on the electronic fare box.

Annual Honors Convocation Feb. 24 Launches Observance of the 225th Anniversary of the Founding of the University of Pittsburgh

Continued from page 2

chancellor for Community Relations, who chairs the 225 Acts of Caring committee, “During this anniversary year celebration, our ‘225 Acts of Caring’ will help underscore Pitt’s commitment to ‘building better lives,’ not only for our students, but also for the communities in which we live.”

The University has an active Volunteer Pool, which is part of Pitt’s Office of Community and Governmental Relations, and this year’s anniversary volunteer projects vary in scope. They will include overarchi ng institutional efforts, like Pitt’s United Day of Caring and the student-led Pitt Make A Difference Day, and those conducted by student organizations and clubs, such as the Pitt Sigma Chi Fraternity’s Feb. 4 Wrap Up Pittsburgh event, in which more than 300 students participated, resulting in the donation of nearly 2,000 blankets to the Salvation Army.

Also part of the anniversary commemoration will be the 225th anniversary Web site that includes some 225 of the most notable events and accomplishments in Pitt’s storied history. The site, which will offer a steady stream of new stories and celebration highlights through the year, is meant to draw visitors back again and again into a showcase of Pitt’s tradition of ‘building better lives’ through knowledge, discovery, and service. The Web site also will serve as a repository for upcoming anniversary activities as well as a link to “225 Acts of Caring.”

The site, www.225.pitt.edu, has a 225-year timeline of the history of the University, downloadable photos, and a special feature that allows Pitt alumni and friends to share personal memories of their Pitt experiences.

Desmond King to Address Current Politics Of Race in U.S. as Pitt’s 2012 Roscoe Robinson Jr. Memorial Lecturer Feb. 16

By Audrey Marks

Despite President Barack Obama’s election as the first African American U.S. president, Desmond King, the Andrew Mellon Professor of American Government at Oxford University—a social sciences graduate college of Oxford University in the United Kingdom—argues that the role of race continues to define American politics. King will deliver the 2012 Roscoe Robinson Jr. Memorial Lecture on Diversity and Public Service at 6 p.m. Feb. 16. The lecture, titled “Race and Politics in Obama’s America,” will take place in Ballroom A of the University Club.

King will discuss how Obama’s election did not usher in a new postracial America and how race plays a role in the current presidential campaign. King is the author of Separate and Unequal: African Americans and the U.S. Federal Government (Oxford University Press, 2007) and coauthored Still a House Divided: Race and Politics in Obama’s America (Princeton Studies in American Politics, 2011) with Rogers M. Smith, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania.

King is an Emeritus Fellow of St. John’s College and a Fellow of the British Academy, the UK’s national body for the humanities and social sciences. He specializes in the study of the American state in U.S. executive politics, race, politics in American political development, comparative welfare politics and labor market policy, democratization, and immigration policy.

The third annual Roscoe Robinson Jr. Memorial Lecture on Diversity and Public Service is hosted by the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. The lecture recognizes the late Roscoe Robinson’s impact on diversity in public service and the U.S. military. A Pitt alumnus, Robinson (GSPIA ’64G) was the first African American four-star general in the U.S. Army.

For more information about the lecture, visit www.gspi.pitt.edu.
Concerts
Sean Jones Valentine’s Day: Señor Voyage O’Marr, award-winning jazz musician Sean Jones takes the audience on a musical journey through an evening of love, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Feb. 14, Cabaret at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Jazz Live at the Cabaret. Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.trust.org.


Lectures/Seminars/Readings
“Building Sustainable Neighborhoods: Powering Sustainable Development in Allegheny County,” symposium with community activists, innovators, and industry experts about Allegheny County’s potential as a leader in sustainable growth and energy development, keynote address by Mike Doyle, U.S. Congressman for the 14th District of Pennsylvania, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 12, Phipps Conservatory, One Schenley Park, Oakland. Pitt School of Law’s Innovation Practice Institute and Pittsburgh Journal of Environmental and Public Health Law, www.law.pitt.edu/events.

“Garry Street and Being-in-the-World: Human Spatiality in Berg’s ‘El Alba,’” by Richardson, professor of Spanish, The National University of Ireland in Galway, 6 p.m. Feb. 13, 602 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of Languages and Literatures, connie@pitt.edu.

“Bell Inequality and Common Causal Exploration in Allostatic Quantum Field Theory,” Gilbok Hofs-Stabo, visiting fellow and BYU/Research Associate of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 12:05 p.m. Feb. 14, 1078 Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Talk Series, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pitccp@pitt.edu.


“An Ill Wind That Blows No Good? A Reappraisal of the Bengal Famine of 1876-1878,” by Samir, 6 p.m. Feb. 14, 301 Craig Hall, Pitt Global Studies Center, Center for International Legal Education, tla@pitt.edu.

Midwinter Russian Classics, classic Russian theater, poetry, music, and refreshments with proceeds benefiting the Nationality Rooms scholarship fund, 8 p.m. Feb. 17, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, The Intercollegiate Project, http://theintercollegiateproject.blogspot.com, mrclassics@pitt.edu.

“Why We Kill: Lbenhane Fighters in Everyday Life,” Semi Henry, visiting assistant professor, Mount Holyoke College, 11:30 a.m. Feb. 17, 6105 Posvar Hall, Pitt Global Studies Center, Center for International Legal Education, tla@pitt.edu.

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Opera/Theater/Dance

Eve Ensler’s ‘The Vagina Monologues,’ a benefit production to raise funds for awareness and education of violence against women and girls, proceeds donated to Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 16-17, 7th-Floor Auditorium, Alumni Hall, V-Day University of Pittsburgh, Pitt Campus Women’s Organization, pittvaginas215@gmail.com.

Dance Works Rotterdam’s Anatomy, an exploration of danger, beauty, and consciousness of the human body by a leading modern dance company from the Netherlands, 8 p.m. Feb. 16, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.trust.org.


Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses
Kenny Xiong, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences/Department of Chemistry, “UV Resonance Raman Studies of Peptide Folding, Peptide Fibrillation and C3-H120 Charge Transfer Transition,” 1 p.m. Feb. 13, 307 Eberly Hall.

Collin Diedrich, School of Medicine’s Molecular Virology and Microbiology Graduate Program, “The Evolution of the Host Response to Infestations by Acinetobacter Baumannii through Repurposing of Cytosolic Receptors,” 10 a.m. Feb. 16, 101 Swall Hall.


More Than Half of Hookah Tobacco Web Sites Don’t Include the Word “Tobacco,” Primack-Led Study Finds

By Jennifer C. Yates

Of the growing number of businesses promoting hookah tobacco smoking on the Internet, fewer than 1 percent included a tobacco-related warning about the practice on the first page of their Web sites, according to a University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine study available online in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. The study also found that, while cigarette-related Web pages often are required to verify users’ ages, none of the hookah tobacco Web pages required any type of age verification. Researchers say the findings suggest more health education may be valuable in countering misinformation about smoking tobacco through hookahs.

Brian Primack, a professor of medicine and pediatrics in Pitt’s School of Medicine who led the study, said many Web sites stated or implied that smoking tobacco through the pipes was safer than cigarette smoking. In fact, only 26 percent of the Web sites included the word “tobacco” somewhere on their opening Web pages.

“Hookah tobacco smoking is growing in popularity in the United States, but many people are unaware of the health risks. It’s believed that one session of smoking tobacco through a hookah can deliver about 50 to 100 times the smoke volume, 40 times the tar, and twice the nicotine usually delivered by a single cigarette,” Primack said. “Hookah smoking has been linked to serious diseases like cancer and cardiovascular disease, and people should be aware of these risks.”

The researchers examined the contents of U.S.-based Web sites that promote hookah-smoking establishments. They scrutinized 144 Web sites and coded them for their content and format. Researchers found many of the hookah businesses had similar characteristics that glamorized hookah tobacco smoking as fun, social activity: 79 percent served food, 41 percent served alcohol, 53 percent offered dancing, and 37 percent offered live music. Many also had a social media presence, with 31 percent having Facebook pages and 15 percent having Twitter.

Many people seem to have the misconception there is no tar or nicotine associated with this type of tobacco use. I think we need to step up our educational efforts to help them understand what the risks may be,” Primack said.

Collaborators on the study include other researchers from Pitt’s School of Medicine; from American University in Beirut, Lebanon; and from the University of Florida.

The study was funded by the National Cancer Institute.

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The next edition of Pitt Chronicle will be published Feb. 20. Items for publication in the newspaper’s Happenings calendar (see page 31) should be received at least two weeks prior to the event date. Happenings items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to chronicle@pitt.edu or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail robinet@pitt.edu.

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