With unprecedented advances in digital technology, social media, and global travel, the world stage is more accessible than ever...to everyone. A financial scandal in London distresses international stock markets within minutes. The jailing of a Chinese dissident creates a global celebrity overnight for the cause of human rights. An outbreak of bird flu in Vietnam's Mekong Delta quickly generates anxiety in major cities worldwide. The melting of glaciers in Greenland boosts sea levels on faraway continents.

The concept of a global, intricately networked consciousness is widely accepted in areas such as economics, political science, public health, and climatology. But a similar evolution is also taking place in a not-so-expected area—the humanities. The University of Pittsburgh is at the forefront of exploring a new vision for the study and teaching of the humanities. It’s a vision that encompasses a global, multilayered perspective across time, place, and cultures.

The Wonders of Human Exchange
In 1300, when The Travels of Marco Polo was written, by hand, by an Italian author, it was originally titled A Description of the World, recounting the adventures of Venice’s Marco Polo and his brothers in Asia, Persia, China, and Indonesia. When it first appeared, it became popular among those who could read and had access to the manuscript. Today, seven centuries later, it is referred to by Barnes & Noble as the “all-time worldwide best-seller” and is now available on digital e-readers like Kindle and Nook.

A lot has changed, but essential human issues remain dynamic. Would those in the cultures visited by Marco Polo agree with the European perspective presented in The Travels of Marco Polo? How did politics and socioeconomic factors affect the lives of those he encountered? What was the status of women in the European perspective presented in The Travels of Marco Polo? How did politics and socioeconomic factors affect the lives of those he encountered? What was the status of women in the cultures visited by Marco Polo?

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Scholar, Civil Rights Activist Mary Frances Berry
To Deliver Sept. 27 School of Law Lecture

By Diane Hennon Chavis

To deliver the lecture titled “My Pitt Law education has allowed me to catapult my music career into today’s independent music business. ... It’s an honor to give back to the University by lecturing and performing a benefit concert.” —Scott R. Jablonski

Florida attorney and acoustic singer-songwriter Scott R. Jablonski, who earned his JD degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2004, will return to campus to deliver a public lecture titled “Lawyers, Music, and Money: From Dreams to Reality With a Pitt Law Degree” from noon to 2 p.m. Sept. 27 in the law school’s Barco Law Building, Room 109, 3900 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

In addition, Jablonski will appear in concert with his band at 8 p.m. Sept. 27 in the New Hazlett Theater, 6 Allegheny Square East, North Side. The concert will benefit both the School of Law’s Center for International Legal Education and Innovation Practice Institute, which are sponsoring Jablonski’s noontime lecture.

Musician-lawyer Jablonski—who also earned a master’s degree from Pitt’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs in 2004—is Of Counsel with Bernstein, Osborne-Braun, Caco & Solow, the largest immigration law firm in South Florida. In 2010, he founded Acoustic Soul Coffee: Strong Brew Edition, which he and his mentor, Ronald A. Brand—Dean and Professor of Law—denominated the only book to provide a complete explanation of the common law doctrine Forum Non Conveniens in the context of global litigation. An internationally renowned scholar and teacher, Brand is the founding director of Pitt’s Center for International Legal Education.

“My Pitt Law education has allowed me to catapult my music career into today’s independent music business. ... It’s an honor to give back to the University by lecturing and performing a benefit concert.” —Scott R. Jablonski

Association for the Study of African American Life and History Holds 97th Annual Convention Downtown Sept. 26-30
Pitt is cosponsor; Chancellor Nordenberg serves on honorary committee

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) will hold its 97th annual convention, titled Black Women in American History and Culture, Downtown Sept. 26-30.

The University of Pittsburgh is one of the event’s sponsors and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg is a member of the convention’s Honorary Committee.

The gathering at the Westin Convention Center Hotel, 1000 Penn Ave., will explore Black women’s roles in—and contributions to—the making of the nation. From Harriet Tubman, who led the Underground Railroad, and Rosa Parks, the mother of the modern civil rights movement, to contemporary novelist Toni Morrison and poet and author Rita Dove, “African American women have been the core of organized Black life, but their strivings have often escaped the gaze of the public and hence, their history is too little known,” according to the convention’s brochure.

ASALH was founded in 1915 by noted educator, historian, and civil rights leader Carter G. Woodson—the father of Black History Month—to further the understanding of African American life and culture.

Pitt Hosts Global Connections

Students and scholars enjoy a window into global economics and politics, thanks to an archive on the creation of the European Union (EU) and several special collections.

Pitt’s Hillman Library houses such special collections as the Eduardo Lozano Latin American Library Collection, a regional, national, and international resource center that serves as the sole Latin-American resource in Western Pennsylvania; and the East Asian Gateway Service, which provides research resources in China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Based on the strength of the University’s European Studies Center and European University Center of Excellence, Pitt was selected to host the EU Delegation Collection, which includes more than 16 million pages of publications and documents produced by the European Economic Community, European Community, and EU from the early 1950s through 2004.

Pitt’s University Library System is putting the entire collection online.

For more stories about Pitt’s legacy of achievement or to share your own stories about the University, visit www.225.pitt.edu.
Sept. 28 Panel Discussion Explores Life and Times of Pitt Founder Hugh Henry Brackenridge

By Sharon S. Blake

For some, the name of Hugh Henry Brackenridge conjures up images of the University of Pittsburgh’s founding or possibly Brackenridge’s literary works, which contained some of the earliest political satire writing in the United States. But a noon Sept. 28 panel discussion in Pitt’s Frick Fine Arts Auditorium will offer a fresh look at Brackenridge’s life and writings of the man who was an educator, author, lawyer, lawmaker, and a justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The event, Reading Hugh Henry Brackenridge (1748-1815), is part of the University’s yearlong celebration of the 225th anniversary of its founding. The panel discussion will offer insights and remarks from Pitt Professor Jean Ferguson Carr and Assistant Professor Courtney Weikle-Mills, both within the Department of English, and, from Pitt School of Law, Professor Bernard Hibbits.

The panelists will focus primarily on Modern Chivalry, Brackenridge’s lengthy satirical novel that was published in serial volumes in Philadelphia (1792, 1797, 1802) according to Carr, who teaches American literary traditions. One key driver of the teaching of reading, writing, grammar, and syntax in the 18th century, she said, was the demand for a Madisonian view of solidifying English as a language and source of power, both politically and culturally.

"Modern Chivalry" dramatizes that quest—pitting the unworthy hero Captain John Farrago against the rough-and-tumble Western political scene and its new institutions, such as schools, a newspaper, and the law," said Carr.

Weikle-Mills, another specialist in early American literature, said she appreciates Brackenridge’s mix of politics and humor. The frontier writer actually used storytelling and wit during the negotiations surrounding the Whiskey Rebellion, easing tension at meetings with multiple narratives and levity, she said.

"Brackenridge once attended a dinner with President George Washington and told a host of funny stories, but presidential decorum didn’t allow Washington to actually laugh," Weikle-Mills said. "However, Brackenridge slept in the room next to Washington’s, and [he] had the satisfaction of hearing the bottled-up laughter explode when the president was out of the public eye."

As a state lawmaker, Brackenridge sponsored the Pitt that created Allegheny County as well as the legislation that created the Pittsburgh Academy, which would evolve into the Western University of Pennsylvania, renamed in 1908 the University of Pittsburgh.

Hibbits says Brackenridge’s legal training helped him frame and interpret bills. "His professional experience as a courtroom lawyer helped him persuade and cajole his colleagues on the floor of the Assembly," he said. "As a lawyer, he moved in politically-oriented circles and used his connections in the legal community to both inform himself and leverage others."

Brackenridge established the Pittsburgh Gazette, the first newspaper west of the Alleghenies, which would eventually become the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. But it is Brackenridge’s own writings that give readers an idea of what it must have been like to live in Western Pennsylvania during the nation’s earliest years.

The panel discussion will conclude at 1:30 p.m. Nearby, in the Frick Fine Arts Building’s Cloister, attendees can examine, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., a number of historical items from Brackenridge’s time. These include Volumes 1 and 2 of Modern Chivalry (1804), other books published in Pittsburgh during the author’s lifetime, manuscripts from the Fort Pitt Tracing Post Papers, and the Darlington Family Papers. The exhibition was assembled by Pitt’s University Library System.

The free historical exhibition Faces to Names: 225 Years of Pitt Chancellors’ Portraits (1787-2012) continues in the adjacent University Art Gallery. It features, among all other portraits, an original watercolor of Brackenridge by Gilbert Stuart. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The exhibition runs through H omnecoma Week-end, Oct. 12-14, with special extended hours: Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Oct. 13 and 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Councl on Disability’s Jonathan M. Young to Give Thornburgh Series Lecture Oct. 4

To preregister for the lecture, visit www.law.pitt.edu/events/2012/10/beyond-budgets-from-policy-to-progress-in-disability-employment. For accessibility needs or questions, call 412-648-1418. In addition, the lecture has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for 1.5 hours of substantive credit, for which there will be a $10 fee.

The Thornburgh Family Lecture Series in Disability Law and Policy was created through the generosity of Pitt alumnus and trustee Dick Thornburgh (LAW ’57) and his wife, Ginny Thornburgh, who together received the 2003 Henry B. Betts Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities and donated the award funds to help establish the series. The fund has been supplemented by gifts from the University of Pittsburgh’s Office of the Chancellor, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, and School of Law.

Sponsored by the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy at Pitt, the lecture series attracts a diverse audience of students, advocates, and national spokespeople for the rights of people with disabilities. Previous speakers have included Iowa’s Senator Tom Harkin, the chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension, who led the fight to ensure equality for the millions of Americans with disabilities since first being elected a U.S. Congressman in 1974 and then a U.S. Senator in 1984; and I. King Jordan, the first deaf president of Gallaudet University, the world’s only university with programs and services specifically designed to accommodate students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Pitt’s United Way Campaign

Continued from page 1

raffles, flea markets, recycling programs for electronics, and snack carts. Anne Franks, Pitt’s United Way campaign manager and executive director of administrative services in Pitt’s Office of Institutional Advancement, is marking her eighth year of volunteering for the campaign. She said her goal for this year is to increase the already strong participation by faculty and staff on the Pittsburgh campus.

"Last year, we had more than 700 new donors, which shows the commitment of the Pitt community to the people in our region," said Franks. "Involvement at Pitt has always been at a high level, but every year we seek to further engage more and more faculty and staff to contribute to this worthy cause that has touched all of our lives."

—Anne Franks

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was garnered from special events held throughout the University.
The humanities offer a lens through which to understand and grapple with the entire range of human experience as expressed through disciplines such as art and architecture, language, literature, cinema, music, and philosophy—and the ways they intersect with all of the other crosscurrents of human experience everywhere.

Global Studies: Exploring Human Terrain

The Global Studies Center at Pitt, led by the distinguished film and Russian-cultural scholar Nancy Condee, stimulates interdisciplinary, cross-cultural exchanges to foster and advance global competence among faculty, students, and the community at large. The center—a joint venture of the University Center for International Studies and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs—brings together the University’s many international resources to enrich academic research, education, and scholarship around global themes. Pitt’s Global Studies program is one of only 11 nationally recognized resource centers in international studies, as designated by the U.S. Department of Education.

Unlike many such enterprises at other universities and institutions, Pitt’s Global Studies Center actively involves the humanities—principally the humanities and other nonhumanities disciplines. Typically, says Condee, when people think of Global Studies, they think of political science, international relations, and global health. But it’s rare, she notes, for a subject like the global circuitry of literature to be anywhere near the top of that list, even though that’s rich scholarly terrain.

Condee, who is a professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, is working through the Global Studies Center to forge a common language of scholarship that will be meaningful across disciplines, including those in the humanities.

“The humanities thrive on ambiguity,” says Condee, “whereas the natural and the social sciences often struggle to constrain ambiguity. Much of culture is precisely worthy of our attention because it’s ambiguous, because it manages somehow to stir the waters in creative ways.”

In her previous role as director of Cultural Studies at Pitt, she worked creatively and rigorously to find ways to connect people without the typical boundaries set by academic specialization and depth of knowledge in a discipline—and this philosophy now extends to the Global Studies Center.

For instance, says Condee, a young social worker from one of the poorest political enclaves of the world—Lesotho, South Africa—is a student at the University of Pittsburgh for the fall semester on the Carl Malmberg Fellowship in Global Studies. The social worker, Lindwe Sebotsayana, is spending a semester here in a series of interdisciplinaries involving HIV/AIDS, geriatrics, migrant refugees, troubled youth—in partnership with Pittsburgh’s Jewish Healthcare Foundation. As a 2012 Malmberg Fellow, she is also participating in Public Health courses and is a research assistant with the Departments of English and African Studies through a position as a graduate assistant who teaches Swahili and the cultures of East Africa.

“Suddenly there’s common ground,” says Condee. “There’s a potential set of common interests.” And that’s the commitment of Pitt’s Global Studies—to create connections, to bring people and avenues of scholarship together, toward new levels of global connection and synthesis. “If we could speak about the existence of global consciousness, it is a state of mind that encourages us to connect the dots in unaccustomed ways,” says Condee.

Another intriguing example of the Global Studies Center’s involvement with the humanities, education, and scholarship comes through the study-abroad venture PittMap or Multi-region Academic Program. Each spring semester, PittMap offers a globally comparative and academically rigorous study abroad experience involving three countries, each on a different continent, with students taking courses taught by Pitt faculty. Each trip varies in theme and sites.

In 2010, the theme was “State Memory, Private Memory,” which looked at the way in which the state, or national government, remembers things differently from the way private citizens remember things, particularly in times of political crisis.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, how do state memories differ from the memories of family members who lost loved ones, the Disappeared, during the Dirty War of the regime’s brutal oppression and murder of citizens? In Cape Town, South Africa, how does the state’s understanding of apartheid differ from those of the citizens who were oppressed during its imposition? In Beijing, China, how have state memory and private memory diverged around issues of the Cultural Revolution or Tiananmen Square or the government’s human rights policies?

During their PittMap journey, the students and faculty together viewed films, they read literature and poetry, they explored personal diaries, yet they also had to consider issues of political science, psychology, and economics. “The students had to synthesize these ideas through cogent writing and discussions, just as would happen during any semester of academic work.”

“Unambiguously global,” says Condee of the event, and begin thinking about ways to that these people will talk some more, after the day is over, about what they think they’re learning and how it’s different from what they thought it would be. They are part of a global community that we are creating here on Pitt’s campus that encourages us to connect the dots in unaccustomed ways.”

—Nancy Condee

The synergistic work of the Global Studies Center, the World History Center, and the Humanities Center offers an expansive way of looking at global connections through time, using a contemporary lens.
Normal studies would be heavy that also allows us to value the work of the humanities through the World History Center. Our interaction with the center's World History Center produces a research environment in which the presentism in much of global studies interacts with a newly expanded humanities, beyond a localized history of literature or art or music. The synergistic work of the Global Studies Center, the World History Center, and the Humanities Center offers an expansive way of looking at global connections through time, using a contemporary lens. “That is very productive for us,” says Condee, “and marks us as different from Global Studies centers elsewhere in the United States. It’s a very good collaboration.”

World History Center: Here, There, and Everywhere

Pitt’s World History Center draws on the University’s long and celebrated tradition of international and interdisciplinary studies to address this era’s significant need for global historical analysis. The center—directed by Patrick Manning, Pitt’s Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History—encourages worldwide collaboration in analysis of the global past, also looking for patterns and themes that remain vitally relevant to the 21st century.

The discipline of history at Pitt falls into the category of social sciences. However, it’s clear that there are few boundaries here when it comes to examining the humanities in relation to history. Indeed, Manning is a historian with a focus on Africa, but his research inevitably leads to intersections with issues involving many disciplines. “I’m more a social scientist by training and inclination,” says Manning. “On the other hand, I’m a globalist, so I’m interested in connections among places and issues. I have no interest in losing connection with the humanities.”

Among his many publications, his book The African Diaspora: A History through Culture (Columbia University Press, 2009) deals with the great migration of African peoples out of the continent over time and how those movements have transplanted and influenced cultures worldwide. The issues raised through such study include enslavement, population movement, and a full range of issues in the African experience both at home on the African continent and abroad. The book begins in the 6th century but also looks at parallels and interactions in the 17th, 19th, and 20th centuries. What influences has the African diaspora had, for instance, on American culture through the contributions of African-Americans?

“Tell stories about politics and political exclusion and civil rights and decolonization and so forth. What’s interesting to me is to be able to tell larger stories about this,” says Manning, whose stories include aspects of art and literature and other humanities while encompassing regions such as the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and India, where Black heritage carries on.

Last year, the World History Center cohosted, with several other Pittsburgh groups, the 6th International Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). The conference—titled “African Liberation and Black Power: The Challenges of Diasporic Encounters across Time, Space, and Imaginaries”—brought well-known scholars from a variety of disciplines to campus for discussion and collaborative exchange on this layered topic. Clearly, the humanities were a vital aspect of this cross-disciplinary conversation.

In addition, Manning is searching for ways to help graduate students feel more comfortable engaging with colleagues who have scholarly interests in many other fields. Not surprisingly, the World History Center actively collaborates with those in the humanities, including Pitt’s Perry Smith in the history of art and architecture department; Jonathan Arac, who leads the University’s Humanities Center; and Nancy Condee, who leads the Global Studies Center.

“In global terms,” says Manning, “we’re talking now about big changes involving governments, economics, society, even and individual psychology. Shouldn’t we use the knowledge that we have about the global past to see whether there are some recurring patterns? Shouldn’t we look at the interplay among all of these different levels?”

One particular aspect of the World History Center’s work offers broad potential for innovation in these collaborations. The center’s World-Historical Dataverse Project is creating a global data resource—through collaborations with other universities internationally—that will offer consistent historical data for all regions of the world over the past several centuries, enabling global studies over time from any number of perspectives or disciplines. The Dataverse Project aims to mine large data sets, gathered internationally, as a means to find patterns and themes that are global in scale.

One might suggest, says Manning, that it’s another way of revealing humanities’ connections to the world in ways that may not yet be obvious.
Today, an implosion in one place may well have effects in many other parts of the world. But this also involves different perspectives, different ways of being in time at the same time, says Pitt’s Terry Smith. Contemporaneity is thinking about all of these things in terms of how they move and change through time. “These are the very large questions that artists and architects deal with,” he adds.

An annual editorial meeting on campus brings together up to 30 scholars from 10 or more disciplines internationally. The most recent issue of boundary 2 offered a collection of documents from the 2011 Tunisian Revolution, gathered and largely translated by Ronald Jady, fluent in Arabic, in Pitt’s English department.

“It has always been possible to have a conversation across disciplines at Pitt,” says Arac, “but the Humanities Center is a place designed to make that possible. It’s a place that invites people to come here, physically, and exchange ideas. And that is very crucial.”

Art, Architecture, Aftermath, All of It
terry smith, a leading global thinker on art and culture, is well versed in ways of seeing. He is widely known for his innovative ideas about the world in which we live. He also is Pitt’s Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Contemporary Art History and Theory in the University’s Department of History of Art and Architecture. But Smith’s views of art history are not enmeshed in the past. In fact, they live in the present yet encompass the future and the past. This reflects the fact that the study of art and architecture at Pitt has few limits or boundaries.

Works of art, says Smith, are full of visual information that connects to all sorts of other things. “They’re the most complex and reflective forms of visual information you’ll ever get,” he says. The whole perspective is not just about the contemporary, but it has become much more global and much more to do with art from all over the world and how it connects with us all.

By the end of World War II, says Smith, many of the great value systems had either betrayed people and disillusioned them or had simply disappeared. Now, he says, the situation is even more complex because there is a sense of building an individual self, but in the context of very large, competing narratives, ideologies, or sets of beliefs, many of which are incompatible with each other, but all claiming to be universal. “Artists are constantly making artworks about the nuances of these relationships,” he says.

And sometimes a shift occurs that’s far beyond nuance. Among Smith’s many publications is the book The Architecture of Aftermath (University of Chicago Press, 2006), which
Pitt is unrivalled in its global cinematic reach, with faculty who have immersed themselves in the film cultures of many countries and regions: Mexico and Latin America, Brazil, Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, China, Japan, India, and much of Africa.

was written in the wake of 9/11—a day that changed not only Smith’s worldview but also the perceptions of many others globally. “The implosion of the World Trade Center towers had a huge effect on my thinking,” says Smith. “Architecture itself evaporated. The implosion demonstrated that even the most enduring images from our collective identity can disappear instantly.”

Today, an implosion in one place may well have effects in many other parts of the world. But this also involves different perspectives, different ways of being in time at the same time. Contemporaneity, says Smith, is thinking about all of these things in terms of how they move and change through time.

“These are the very large questions that artists and architects deal with,” says Smith. “You can’t just talk about artworks as things that are in museums or on the wall or quiet little objects over in the corner.” To fully understand art and architecture, says Smith, one must understand how it has agency, how it has energy and it changes things, how it connects to contemporaneity through time, and how it relates to things like ritual behavior. “These are all qualities that art has had forever,” says Smith. “These are the reasons why art is important in the world.”

It’s not surprising, then, that Pitt’s Department of History and Architecture is structured to encompass such big ideas, placing it at the forefront of contemporary art departments worldwide. The department is organized to ensure that faculty and graduate research occurs in a highly collaborative and interdisciplinary environment, related to six overarching “constellations” of visual knowledge, agency, identity, mobility/exchange, contemporaneity, and environment. The development of this innovative approach was led by Professor Kirk Savage.

As envisioned and implemented by the department, these constellations don’t replace the depth of specialized knowledge in individual disciplines but rather connect them in more imaginative ways. Through watching moving images in the dark of Manhattan cinema theaters and many more hours discussing film with friends and colleagues. Eventually, after teaching at a New York City high school, she turned her passion for film viewing into a career as a film scholar, beginning with a doctoral degree in cinema studies from New York University.

Today, as a Distinguished Professor of English and Film at Pitt, Fischer guides graduate students through a maze of issues related to film history, theory, and criticism. She also works to bring the complexly varied perspectives of films into the lives of undergraduates, graduate students, and the Pittsburgh community.

“Film can be extremely useful in making cultural issues more concrete,” says Fischer. And it’s particularly valuable for making such points in short-term versus long-term study. A film, for instance, can vividly express human experiences involving poverty, migration, social injustice, loneliness, the quest for self.

At Pitt, those issues are inextricably intertwined with global issues, just as cinema—arguably the first global modern art—has been since its beginnings in 1895, when the Lumière brothers projected the first moving images for a paying audience in Paris. One year later, these same images had been projected in many countries around the world.

Now, in an environment where many film studies programs look primarily at Hollywood, the University of Pittsburgh is a premier university for research and teaching across the range of cinema, experimental to popular, and in original languages. In fact, a course in world cinema for Pitt undergraduates who specialize in film studies has been a requirement since 1980, and in 2011 Pitt instituted a formal PhD degree in Film Studies with a strong international focus.

Continued from page 6

Continued on page 8
Pitt Redefines the Humanities to Encompass Contemporary Global Culture

Continued from page 7

reach, with cinema taught by faculty who have immersed themselves in the film cultures of many countries and regions: Mexico and Latin America, Brazil, Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, China, Japan, India, and much of Africa.

“The global theme is a continuation of what has long been an international focus of the University and of film studies here,” says Fischer, who emphasizes the highly interdisciplinary expertise of film-studies faculty. “The extent of our international global profile is unusual,” she says. Faculty aren’t appointed to the Film Studies Program at Pitt, but rather to individual departments within the humanities. This, however, enables the Film Studies Program to draw upon a particularly rich range of cultural knowledge and scholarship in film.

“In terms of global connections,” says Fischer, “these faculty are fluent in the languages of their disciplines, and most of them have spent time living in the cultures in which they’ve been hired to teach the language, cinema, or literature.” Drawing from this milieu of expertise, the Film Studies Program offers a number of courses that develop an understanding of human experience from multiple, global perspectives.

Each year, Pitt’s International Film Series draws students, faculty, and the public together with local ethnic communities to digest and discuss a variety of films from diverse nations, regions, and points of view. Often, the films raise transnational issues involving migration, human trafficking, and diversity. But the Films raise transnational issues involving migration, human trafficking, and much of Africa.

“Different technological devices suddenly make the world smaller, right?” says Fischer. She cites the evolution of new media from VHS, to DVD, to On Demand digital viewing on TVs, computers, and smart phones. Now, Bollywood films are available everywhere. Now, people can go to Ebay France and purchase a French film that hasn’t been distributed in the United States. Now, there are tribute sites on YouTube to little-known cult actresses. “How can we be unaware of these influences?” asks Fischer, who is the author of nine books and many other publications about film. “We can’t be unaware.”

One upcoming project in progress, still in its infancy, is the Global Cinema Project, in collaboration with Pitt’s Global Studies Center. The venture will bring together the annual film programming of several different international communities in Pittsburgh and support and promote them as they occur throughout the year. The project may also approach organizations like Amnesty International or groups like the GLBT community to participate in wider discussions that examine global themes. It’s another way to examine human experience and exchange through time.

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Music, an Expression of Culture

It’s like the opening of a door, says Professor Andrew Weintraub about how his undergraduate students respond to a fundamental understanding of music. He is an ethnomusicologist, a humanities scholar who uses the tools of social science to understand the nature and cultures of music.

As an undergraduate student, he became intrigued by Indonesian gamelan music, which originated on the island of Java. The music blends the sounds of gongs, chimes, xylophone, and drums in what has been described as haunting, chant-like melodies. “I wanted to know a lot about music, and it was my own curiosity that drove my explorations.” He was also intrigued that, as a college student majoring in music, he visited Indonesia for the first time and fell in love with the archipelago nation, which encompasses more than 300 different ethnic groups and about 700 distinct languages. Since then he has lived and studied in Indonesia for more than six years, becoming a well-known scholar of the region’s music and cultures.

In addition to gamelan, his research interests include Sundanese performing arts, Wayang puppet theater, the music of Southeast Asia, popular music across cultures, and music and cultural theory. Currently, he is involved in explorations of the social relations of power and music and the formation of nation-states, and gender and popular music.

Weintraub, a Pitt professor of music and acting chair of the music department, shares his profound understanding of music and culture with both undergraduate and graduate students. While a focus on international film has been the case at the University of Pittsburgh, study and discussion in recent decades has been influenced by the larger trends of postcolonialism, multiculturalism, race studies, and the inclusion of emerging nations and regions, not primarily developed nations. All of this, of course, has been influenced by the pervasiveness of new technologies, especially the World Wide Web.

Andrew Weintraub

“Ideally, students will see these opportunities and be able to synthesize and interpret the information that they have access to, and we can teach them how to do that. We can provide the context to think about and understand the global connections and influences reflected in humanistic ideas, beliefs, values, and practices.”

—Andrew Weintraub

Ethnomusicologists like Weintraub and other music faculty conduct fieldwork. They immerse themselves in other cultures; they participate, they observe, they interview the people involved, they analyze and write about their experiences. It doesn’t only involve music on the page or in performance; it also involves the exploration of literature, theater, art, history, anthropology, political science, sociology, and psychology.
in the global problem of piracy of music, something that involves the links between politics, economics, and culture.

All of these issues illuminate the ways in which the study of music at Pitt extends far beyond traditional views of music scholarship, instead requiring a familiarity with many forms of knowledge and exchange globally.

“Ideally, students will see these opportunities and be able to synthesize and interpret the information that they have access to, and we can teach them how to do that,” says Weintraub. “We can teach them different ways of seeing things.” That’s true in music, he adds, but it’s also true in areas such as literature, art, and philosophy. “We can provide the context to think about and understand the global connections and influences reflected in humanistic ideas, beliefs, values, and practices.”

Creating Global Citizen-Scholars

“In my classes, I’m seeing a movement toward students who are thinking more about becoming global citizens,” says Todd Reeser, a professor of French at Pitt. “They want to take courses that reflect the notion of what it is to think about their particular disciplines in dialogue with the globe.”

As the inaugural associate director of the Humanities Center, Reeser also is aware of a general movement, intellectually, toward the breakdown of disciplines. “As a scholar and teacher, you can no longer just think about French studies or French literature without putting it into dialogue with a whole bunch of other contexts from around the world and, therefore, with all kinds of other disciplines.”

This past spring, Reeser was involved—along with Jonathan Arac, Patrick Manning, and Nancy Condee—in organizing an experimental gathering of faculty to consider new ways of thinking about global study. In a one-day seminar titled “Narrating the World: Global History, Global Literature, Pedagogy,” Pitt faculty brought together by the Humanities Center, the Department of Music at Pitt also offers courses in which students learn to play and perform the music of Africa and of Eastern Europe.

The department has a long history of immersion in the music of other cultures. Professor Nathan Davis, an ethnomusicologist, jazz musician, and scholar, began exploring the relationship between American jazz and African music four decades ago. Using this example of jazz as an African American art form, Weintraub says one can’t just look at the music itself but also must consider who created the music, the conditions of their lives, where they came from, what kinds of problems or what kinds of solutions they created for themselves in various environments, and how that’s reflected in music and expression. “Those are the kinds of issues that are presented in courses and in our research agendas,” says Weintraub. “You have to collaborate with people in other fields and read the work in those fields to understand how to deal with those issues.”

Ethnomusicologists like Weintraub and other music faculty conduct fieldwork. They immerse themselves in other cultures; they participate, they observe, they interview the people involved, they analyze and write about their experiences. It doesn’t only involve music on the page or in performance; it also involves the exploration of literature, theater, art, history, anthropology, political science, sociology, psychology, and so on.

One of Weintraub’s recent books, for example, explored the popular culture of Islam—TV shows and other media, fashion and style, music, and more. Titled, Islam and Popular Culture in Indonesia and Malaysia (Routledge 2011), the book examined aspects of what it means to be a Muslim in the contemporary world. In another recent work, he grappled with music and cultural rights—how music becomes caught up in debates about human rights and social justice. In the age of the Internet and the ease of digital reproduction, he’s also interested

A university is a place where people think about the most difficult questions that humans face and seek solutions, which are most likely to come from the human impulse to share and exchange. The humanities at the University of Pittsburgh are vital in that journey.

World History Center, and the Global Studies Center grappled with similarities and differences in their approaches to global scholarship and teaching. Where are the intersections of themes over time and settings and human narratives?

Literature scholars offered perspectives on history readings, and history scholars analyzed literature readings, all spanning global studies. As the day lengthened and the discussions continued, more and more faculty found common ground and significant intersections for future dialogue.

For instance, says Reeser, in his own field of French studies, what would happen if dialogues arose where France wasn’t even involved—say, instead, between the cultures of French Indo-China and West Africa—and what issues of human experience would that raise, such as migration? And how are those things experienced, written about, thought about, put on film?

Or, in the field of translation studies, how does one deal with the notion of the “untranslatable,” concepts that simply can’t be translated from one culture to another and therefore are objects worthy of study for that very reason?

These kinds of questions reveal rich new terrain for exploring complex aspects of the human experience—and the questions are endless. A major goal of the seminar was to foster more such discussion and, ideally, stimulate faculty to begin organizing new research clusters on their own, which might then be supported by the efforts of the three Pitt centers and, potentially, by external funding sources. Such clusters might involve themes that have intriguing possibilities for wide-ranging study within a global framework, such as gender and sexuality.

Another aspect of the seminar, given the discussion about global thinking in research, was: What are the implications in the classroom? How might specific courses be given a global perspective, and what are some of the techniques that could be used to impart that approach into other humanities classes and beyond?

As it happens, Sharon Kinoshita, the Humanities Center Senior Fellow in spring 2011, offered an example from her own teaching experience at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She had her students read segments of narrative from The Travels of Marco Polo and then compare them with texts written within the cultures Marco Polo visited by people living in those cultures. Systematically, the point was to compare what Marco Polo was perceiving about his experience in Culture X versus what people from Culture X were saying about their own experiences there.

There are all kinds of ways to focus on themes that transcend time and place and culture. Those who study the Middle Ages, or the Renaissance, or the Enlightenment, or colonization, or the relation of gender to sexuality can all find valuable intersections that have the potential for discovery of new knowledge.

A university is a place where people think about the most difficult questions that humans face and then seek solutions, which are most likely to come from the human impulse to share and exchange. The humanities at the University of Pittsburgh are vital in that journey.

Continued from page 8
Pitt Team Shows How Childhood Viral Infection Leads to Increased Risk For Allergic Asthma in Adults

By Anita Srikameswaran

Researchers in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine have shown in an animal model that a common childhood virus disables the normal immune tolerance transferred from the mother to child through breast milk, leading to increased susceptibility for allergic asthma later in life. Their findings were reported in the online version of *Nature Medicine*.

Early in life, regulatory T cells, or Treg, play an important role in the establishment of immune tolerance, which can prevent the immune system from triggering an allergic reaction to antigens such as pollen and dust, explained senior authors Anuradha Ray and Prabir Ray, both professors of medicine and immunology in the Pitt School of Medicine. “We know that recurrent infections by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) that require hospitalization in early life increase the risk for asthma in adult life,” noted Anuradha Ray. “But, until now, it hasn’t been clear why this happens.”

Mice and biologic molecules that suppress the immune system are transferred from mothers to infants via breast milk, which induces protective regulatory Tregs in the infants to help block the development of allergic diseases later in life, such as asthma.

“So we went from ‘bedside to bench’ to better understand the immunologic impact of early, repeated RSV infection and to see if it affects Tregs,” explained lead author Nandini Krishnamoorthy, a postdoctoral associate in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine, Pitt School of Medicine.

First, the research team fed newborn mice with breast milk from their mothers, who in turn had been exposed to the egg-white protein ovalbumin every two weeks for 21 days, and then assessed whether the babies would develop tolerance to the protein. The newborn mice were weaned after 21 days, and then some of them were infected with RSV several times for the next three weeks to enhance the infection. In the sixth week, the young mice were challenged with ovalbumin.

“Mice that had not been infected with RSV did not have an immune response to the ovalbumin, to which they had been exposed through their mothers’ milk, indicating they had developed tolerance for it. Those that had been repeatedly infected with RSV, however, had increased immune cell infiltration in their Airways and increased mucus production when challenged with the egg protein.”

In another experiment, Treg cells were isolated from either the RSV-infected or uninfected mice and transferred into ovalbumin-exposed animals, which were then challenged with the egg protein.

“In another experiment, Treg cells were isolated from either the RSV-infected or uninfected mice and transferred into ovalbumin-exposed animals, which were then challenged with the egg protein.”

“So without the suppressive function of the Tregs, the mice developed inflammatory immune responses to the ovalbumin allergen and developed asthma-like symptoms,” said Prabir Ray, who initiated the study. “If the memory Tregs are crippled early in life, an important protective mechanism against allergens is lost, which increases susceptibility to asthma.”

“These studies suggest a link between early RSV viral infection and the development of adult allergy via direct effects of the virus infection on the very important regulatory T cell,” said Mark T. Gladwin, chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, Pitt School of Medicine and UPMC. “From a clinical standpoint, efforts to control RSV infection or to enhance activation of regulatory T cells with breastfeeding and other strategies appear to be a promising approach to reducing our current asthma and allergy epidemic.”

The project was funded by National Institutes of Health grants.

SDSS-III 3-D Map of Massive Galaxies, Distant Black Holes Offers Clues to Dark Matter and Energy

By B. Rose Huber

The Sloan Digital Sky Survey III (SDSS-III) has released the largest-ever three-dimensional map of massive galaxies and distant black holes, helping astronomers better explain the mysterious “dark matter” and “dark energy” that make up 96 percent of the universe. According to SDSS-III scientific spokesperson and University of Pittsburgh assistant professor of physics and astronomy Michael Wood-Vasey, scientists using the map—titled Data Release 9 (DR9)—can retrace the Universe’s history over the last seven billion years. Wood-Vasey cowrote the DR9 summary paper featured on the arXiv database.

“This is science at its collaborative best,” said Wood-Vasey. “SDSS-III scientists work together to address big questions extending from our own galaxy to distant reaches of the Universe, and then they share that data with the world to allow anyone to make the next big discovery.”

The new DR9 map of the Universe includes images of 200 million galaxies and spectra measurements of how much light galaxies give off at different wavelengths—of 1.35 million galaxies, including new spectra of 540,000 galaxies dating from when the universe was half its present age. Researchers at SDSS-III say that studying spectra is important because it allows scientists to figure out how much the Universe has expanded since the light left each galaxy.

“Without a doubt, the new data is helping us to understand the Universe better, and it will inform our models of dark matter and dark energy,” said Anup Shah, a postdoctoral associate in the SDSS-III team.

While all of these new images and spectra contain the promise of new discoveries about the universe, SDSS-III is only in the middle of its six-year survey and will release three times as much data by the time it has completed its work, in 2014.

All the newly released data is now available on the DR9 Web site, at www.sdss3.org/dr9. Additionally, the SkyServer Web site (http://skyserver.sdss3.org) includes lesson plans for teachers who use DR9 data to teach astronomy and other topics in science, technology, and mathematics.
Concerts

$ Live in Concert, musical performance by Pitt alumni and lawyers-musician Scott R. Jahnsmoki, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 28, New Hazlett Theater, 512 Penn Ave., Downtown, benefit concert for Pitt law school’s Center for International Legal Education and Innovation Practice Institute, 412-320-4610, www.newhaezlletttheater.org. (See page 2)


Exhibitions

Phelps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Summer Flower Show: Fantasia of Youth, through Sept. 10


University Art Gallery, Faces to Names: 225 Years of Pitt Chancellors’ Portraits (1787-2012), features official portraits of Pitt’s chief executives, some dating back to the era of Pitt’s founding in 1787; through Oct. 14, Frick Fine Arts Building, 412-648-2423, uagg@pitt.edu.


Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Portraits of a Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden Florilegium, showcases 48 American botanical artists who are reviving centuries-old tradition of the florilegium by creating an archive of watercolors and drawings of the plants growing at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, through Dec. 14, Hunt Library, Fifth Floor, Carnegie Mellon University, 4009 Frew St., 412-268-2434, huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu.


Lectures/Seminars/Readings

“Making Mental Disorders Amenable to Empirical Investigation: Beyond Natural Kinds,” Niree Tohoku, a Pitt visiting postdocdental from Doshisha University, 12:05 p.m. Sept. 25, Pitt Dreaming, Learning, Pitt’s Center for Philosophy of Science, Lamitchame Talks, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/~pittcnt.


Reading Hugh Henry Brackenridge (1748-1816), panel discussion by three Pitt professors about Brackenridge’s book, Modern Chivalry, and what it reveals about the public’s understanding and investment in law, politics, and education of the time, noon to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 28, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, also University Library System Archive Exhibit, books, manuscripts, and other materials from 18th century that relate to Brackenridge, Pitt’s history, and rise of Pitt as an industrial city, 11 a.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. Frick Fine Arts Center. Frick Fine Arts Building, 412-648-2423, uagg@pitt.edu. (See page 3).


Opera/Theater/Dance


Miscellaneous
Celtis Thunder, Cup & Chaucer Café, Sept. 28
SHOWCASING DMITRY MEDVEDEV’S GIFTS

When Dmitry Medvedev, then-President of the Russian Federation, visited Pitt on Sept. 24, 2009, he gave Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg three gifts for the University’s Russian Nationality Room. Thanks to the efforts and oversight of Joseph W. Fink, associate vice chancellor in Pitt’s Office of Facilities Management, and Park Rankin, University architect, a custom-made wooden curio cabinet was created to house the gifts, which are now displayed in the Russian Nationality Room. The presents included a samovar (a traditional Russian teapot); a matryoshka doll (a Russian nesting doll); and a plate featuring the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow, which is the tallest Orthodox church in the world.

TOP HAT SALUTE TO LOCAL FATHERS

Four members of the Pitt community were honored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority’s Pittsburgh alumni chapter, Alpha Alpha Omeg. The recent event, “12 Fathers Who Make a Difference: A Top Hat Salute to Fathers of Distinction,” was held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Downtown. From left, John Wallace, the Philip Hallen Chair in Community Health and Social Justice, Pitt School of Social Work; Rodney Jones (SHRS ’81G), chief executive officer of Kindred Healthcare’s Pittsburgh market; John M. Wilds, Pitt assistant vice chancellor for community and governmental relations; and Robert Hill, Pitt’s vice chancellor for public affairs. Alpha Alpha Omeg. said it recognized the honorees for their professional successes and for displaying exemplary moral character. Alpha Kappa Alpha is an international service organization. Founded in 1908, it is the oldest Greek-lettered organization created by African American college-educated women.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

The next edition of Pitt Chronicle will be an online issue Oct. 1. Items for publication in the newspaper’s Happenings calendar (See page 11) 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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