University and City of Pittsburgh Officials Dedicate Pitt’s New Public Safety Building

Pitt’s police, environmental health and safety departments housed at 3412 Forbes Ave.

Participants in the ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate Pitt’s new Public Safety Building were, from left: Jay Frerotte, director of the University’s Department of Environmental Health and Safety; Pitt Executive Vice Chancellor Jerome Cochran, Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato; Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg; Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl; Pitt Police Chief Nathan Harper; Pitt Police Chief Timothy Delaney; and State Senator and Pitt Trustee Jay Costa.

By John Fedele

City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and Chief of Police Nathan Harper and Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato joined Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Executive Vice Chancellor Jerome Cochran, and Police Chief Timothy Delaney in officially dedicating the University’s new Public Safety Building, at 3412 Forbes Ave., Oakland, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house April 9.

An estimated 150 people—including local government and public safety officials, business owners, and community leaders as well as members of the University community—attended the event.

“The University of Pittsburgh’s public safety operation has been a great partner that we could always rely on in our efforts to make our city safer,” Ravenstahl said. “The new facility is another example of the University’s commitment to that mission, for the students, the faculty and staff, and the Oakland community. We wish them nothing but continued success in their new home.”

“Community safety—and particularly the safety of a community where large numbers of young people study, work, and live—has been one of our University’s ongoing priorities,” said Nordenberg. “And the University’s sizeable investment in this new Public Safety Building is also another sign of Pitt’s broader commitment to its Oakland neighbors, to the City of Pittsburgh, and to the members of our own community of Pitt faculty, staff, and students.”

Cochran said, “The growth in size and scope of responsibilities of Pitt’s police force and of our environmental health and safety staff necessitated this move to the new facility. The new facility ensures that our public safety personnel have the most modern facilities and equipment to do their jobs of keeping faculty, staff, students, and residents safe.”

The $6 million, four-story building houses the University’s Police Department and Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S). The new building was needed, Pitt officials said, because the University’s Police Department has grown to more than 130 employees, including 74 commissioned officers, making it the third-largest police force in Allegheny County. The facility will serve as a command post during major emergencies, and sharing the space will assist the two departments in coordinating their activities.

The new facility not only provides the Police Department and EH&S with added space but also creates a visible police presence for visitors entering Oakland from Forbes Avenue, the primary route into Oakland from the west.

The 26,000-square-foot building includes a parking deck and surface parking to accommodate police and EH&S vehicles, as well as a secure structure for motorcycles and bicycles.

The Police Department’s areas feature a state-of-the-art campuswide security monitoring and command center with three dispatch desks and a bank of four 52-inch video screens that can be configured in multiple ways to display security camera video, dispatch and call screens, and weather information. The system is fully integrated into the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County’s 911 system. In addition, the police areas include rooms for evidence storage and protocol and interrogation and observation.

There is also a holding room, separate detective area, and ammunition safe.

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Briefly Noted

Benefits Fair Scheduled for April 17-18: Open Enrollment Period Begins This Week

Eligible Pitt faculty and staff members may change their current benefits elections during the University’s annual benefits open enrollment period, April 17 through May 9. Changes will be effective July 1, 2007.

Apart from this annual open enrollment period, the only time faculty and staff may change their benefits elections, according to IRS regulations, is when a change-in-status (i.e., the event) occurs—marriage, divorce, birth of a child, a spouse’s gain or loss of employment, etc.

Pitt’s Office of Human Resources will sponsor a benefits fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 17 and 18 in the Alumni Hall Ballroom. During the fair, faculty and staff may talk with representatives of Pitt’s benefits department and the University’s insurance carriers.

For information about open enrollment, visit www.hr.pitt.edu and click on “Open Enrollment.”

Pitt Jazz Ensemble Concert to Feature Curtis Fuller and Jimmy Owens

Jazz trombonist Curtis Fuller and trumpeter Jimmy Owens will be the featured guest performers in the Pitt Jazz Ensemble’s Spring Concert, titled “The Brass Connection,” to be held at 8 p.m. April 16 in the William Pitt Union’s Assembly Room. Tickets are $10 for general admission and $5 for students and senior citizens and can be purchased at the WPU box office. For more information, call 412-624-4187. The 25-piece student jazz ensemble will perform under the direction of Nathan Deuc, head of the Pitt Jazz Studies Program. The ensemble has served as artist-in-residence for one week every year since 1980 in Jakarta, performing for schoolchildren in rural villages, absorbing Caribbean culture, and building goodwill and friendships. Proceeds from this year’s concert will help fund the annual trip.

Curtis Fuller is regarded as one of the most distinctive trombone stylists in jazz. He emerged from the thriving Detroit music scene of the late 1940s and early ’50s, and after just eight months in New York City, the 22-year-old had recorded six albums as a leader and appeared on 14 others. He performed and recorded with John Coltrane, Bud Powell, Miles Davis, dizzy Gillespie, Lester Young, Art Blakey, and many others.

Jimmy Owens began playing the trumpet when he was 10 years old and later studied with his mentor, Donald Byrd. By his mid-20s, Owens had been a saloonian with Lionel Hampton, Hank Crawford, Charles Mingus, Herbie Mann, Gerry Mulligan, and Duke Ellington. He played on Billy Cobham’s Spectrum album in 1973 and worked extensively in Europe.

Top: Alan J. Res- sani delivered his inaugural lecture as University Professor of Surgery on April 10 in Posvar Hall. The lecture was titled “The Fertile Interface Between Chemistry, Biology, and Materials.” Front: “AIDS Risk Reduction Programs for Drug-Dependent Persons” was the title of an April 1 lecture here by Larry W. Grant, a University of Michigan social work professor. His lecture was part of the Pitt School of Social Work Speaker Series.

Pitt Alumnus Will Talk About His Experiences as a Hollywood Executive, Producer, Lawyer

During an April 19 appearance in 324 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt alumna and New Castle native John Dellaverson will talk about his experiences as a Hol- lywood executive, producer, and entertainment lawyer.

The free public event, scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., is being cosponsored by the Steelmart Entertainment Project, Pitt in Hollywood, and the University’s Film Studies program. See www.steeltown.org for more information.

Dellaverson will discuss his journey from Pitts- burgh to becoming executive vice-president of Lions Gate Entertainment and chair of its subsidiary Creagente as well as his career as an entertainment attorney and producer. Gate Entertainment is a leading independent studio that has produced and distributed such movies as Crook and Swallow such television series as Wests and Kill Pitt, an upcoming series currently filming in Pittsburgh.

From 1973 to 2000, Dellaverson was a partner at Leib & Leib, LLP, one of the world’s largest entertainment law firms. He specialized in motion picture and television financing and talent representation. His client list included film and television producers, directors, and actors. In 2001, he joined Lions Gate Entertainment as executive vice president and chair of Creagente, one of the company’s subsidiaries. In 2005, he entered into producer’s agree- ment with the company. Recently, he joined the law firm of Miller Brandes LLP.

Born and raised in New Castle, Pa., he received his Bachelor’s degree in political science from Pitt in 1968 and was the Francis Perkins Fellow at Cornell University from 1970 to 1972. In 1977, he received the J.D. degree from the Fordham University School of Law.

The event will be moderated by Carl Kafordor, visiting distinguished senior lecturer at Pitt and co-founder of the Steelmart Entertainment Project.

Partnership for Food Collecting This Month

Pitt’s annual Partnership for Food collecting contributions throughout April to benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Nonperishable foods and house- holds items that are being accepted at designated campus collection sites. The collection effort will help to replenish the food bank’s supplies, which are depleted each winter.

The most needed items are canned foods such as 10-ounce butter, tuna, meats, baby formula, chunky soups, and stews. Dry cereal, bulk goods, and household items such as paper products and cleaners also are accepted.

This year, Pitt will match every unit of food contributed with another unit of food through an arrangement with Bay Valley Foods. In the last 10 years, contributions to Pitt’s Partnership for Food have provided more than 500,000 pounds of food for distribution in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

Pitt collection sites include the Cathed- ral of Learning ground floor eleva- tor lobby; the William Pitt Union’s Fifth Avenue lobby information desk; the circulation desks at Hillman Library and all other University Library System libraries; Posvar Hall’s main floor; the Barco Law Building library and lobby; the Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower entrance lobby; the 1st-floor lobby of Parran Hall; the School of Informa- tion Sciences’ 5th-floor lobby; and the lobbies of Alumni Hall, the Biotechnology Center, Craig Hall, and the Lithfield Towers.

New Public Safety Building Dedicated

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reviews all laboratory designs and renova- tions, and conducts annual inspections in more than 1,750 University labs. In 2006, EHS&O reviewed and provided safety analysis of more than 1,600 research protocols.

With staff experienced in hazardous materials management and spill remediation, EHS&O oversees environmental compli- ance and manages the proper handling and disposal of the University’s biological and chemical waste.

The building features an emergency generator to ensure power to the campus’ safety systems, which include digital video surveillance, building access, and emergency dispatch systems connected to the Uni- versity’s data and telephone networks, all of which support 24-hour operations. In case of a campuswide emergency, the building’s phone system can be programmed to allow it to remain online as the key emergency contact center for the University.

The building was designed to be envi- ronmentally friendly and energy efficient. The carpeting and many of the products used in construction are made from recycled materials, and the heating and mechanical equipment has a high-efficiency rating.

The building’s mechanical and temperature systems are electronically controlled by a central computer, which automatically regulates temperatures.

The Public Safety Building project was funded entirely by the University. Pitt’s Office of Facilities Management was responsible for project administration and worked with the architectural firm Strada LLC and the construction manager P.J. Dick Inc.
service, his five political campaigns, and his notable legal career. Custom-designed teak study tables feature drawers to display artifacts and original documents under glass table tops. The displays will change periodically to create a living, evolving exhibition.

The room’s media center displays more than 500 photographs on a rotating basis and can be used for other visual exhibits or presentations. The Thornburgh Room has been designed to be fully compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act, reflecting Dick and Ginny Thornburgh’s lifelong commitment to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. Housed within The Dick Thornburgh Room is a seminar room named after the late Judge Jay C. Waldman, a long-time colleague of Thornburgh. That room will be officially commemorated in the fall.

The Dick Thornburgh Archive Collection, donated to Pitt in 1998, provides a comprehensive record of Thornburgh’s life, from his community participation in the early 1960s to his career that included service as governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1979-1987), attorney general of Pennsylvania (1979-1987), and under-secretary-general at the United Nations (1992-1993). Housed at the Pitt Archives Service Center, 7500 Thomas Blvd., Point Breeze, the collection comprises 1,007 boxes of documents, thousands of photographs, and many hours of video and audio. It includes Thornburgh’s personal scorecard from the 1960 World Series, the textbooks he used while a student at Pitt’s School of Law; and his well-documented experience as governor during the historic nuclear accident at Three Mile Island.

Pitt’s Digital Research Library has encoded and scanned selected materials, which are available worldwide at www.library.pitt.edu/thornburgh. A native of Pittsburgh, Thornburgh received the Bachelor of Engineering degree from Yale University and the LLB degree from Pitt’s School of Law, where he served as an editor of the University of Pittsburgh Law Review. He has been awarded honorary degrees by 31 colleges and universities.

Thornburgh is a member of the American Law Institute, the American Bar Foundation, the American Judicature Society, and the Council on Foreign Relations. In 2006, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Lawyer Magazine for “important contributions to the public life.” In 1992, he was honored by The American Legion with its highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal, for “outstanding service to the community, state, and nation.” In 2001, he was selected as a lifetime National Associate of the National Academies of Science and Engineering in recognition of his pro bono service to its programs.

Thornburgh, born July 16, 1932, is married to Ginny Judson Thornburgh. The Thornburgs were featured speakers at the Vatican Conference on Disabilities held in November 1992 and were coreipients in 2003 of the Henry B. Betts Award presented by the American Association of Persons with Disabilities, the proceeds from which were used to establish the Thornburgh Family Lecture Series on Disability Law and Policy at the University of Pittsburgh.

Thornburgh’s autobiography, Where the Evidence Leads, was published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in 2003.

Musical Performance, Pitt-Greensburg Choirs Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m., Pitt-Greensburg’s Ferguson Theater, 724-837-7040.


Lectures, “Protein Synthesis Using Tandemly Activated rRNA’s,” Sidney Hecht, John W. Mallet Professor of Chemistry, University of Virginia, 2:30 p.m.; and “Gas-phase Radical Ion Chemistry for Biomolecular Structural Characterization,” Kristina Hakansson, assistant professor of chemistry, University of Michigan, 4 p.m.; both in 12 Chevron Science Center, Pitt Department of Chemistry, www.chem.pitt.edu.

Musical Performance, Pitt Jazz Ensemble, directed by Nathan Davis, 8 p.m., William Pitt Union’s Assembly Room. (For details, see p. 2.)

Film Screening, In the Cut (2003), directed by Jane Campion, 7 p.m., Alumni Hall’s 7th-Floor Auditorium; Pitt’s Department of English, Women’s Studies Program, and School of Arts and Sciences; 412-624-6564, www.pitt.edu/~film/shorts/WomenFilmSeries/index.htm.

Awards Ceremony, Pitt Center for Latin American Honor Day, 4-6 p.m., William Pitt Union’s Lower Lounge, 412-624-7393, bravos@ucis.pitt.edu.


Film Screening, Personal Velocity: Three Portraits (2002), directed by Rebecca Miller, 7 p.m., Alumni Hall’s 7th-Floor Auditorium; Pitt’s Department of English, Women’s Studies Program, and School of Arts and Sciences; 412-624-6564, www.pitt.edu/~film/shorts/WomenFilmSeries/index.htm.

Panel Discussion, “Arts and Culture in the Metropolis,” Elizabeth Heneghan Ondaatje, associate social research analyst, RAND Corporation, 4-6:30 p.m., Benedum Center’s 2nd-Floor Studio A, 719 Liberty Ave., downtown, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, 412-391-2060, info@pghartscenter.org.

Audubon Print Exhibition, Downey Woodpecker, through April 30, Hillman Library ground floor, Pitt Department of Special Collections, 412-648-7715, www.library.pitt.edu/images/audubon.


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