

## Pitt's Gordon, Steers Named Goldwater Scholars

## Provost Awards Funding For Projects Promoting Innovation in Education

By Amanda Leff

Eleven teaching proposals have been selected for funding under the Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence's Eighth Annual Innovation in Education Awards Program.

The projects range from developing virtual hospitals to enhancing the civil engineering curriculum.

The awards, instituted in 2000 by Provost James V. Maher, encourage instructional innovation and teaching excellence. Council Chair Andrew Blair, vice provost for faculty affairs, said the council seeks to identify high-quality proposals that give promise of introducing innovative, creative approaches to teaching that can be adapted for use in other courses.

"The quality and creativity of the proposals submitted this year continued at a high level, and the submissions came again from academic units across the entire University," Blair said. "It is evident that this awards program provides faculty at this comprehensive research institution with the opportunity to think seriously about ways of demonstrating the centrality of teaching excellence." Funding for this year's awards totals \$159,577.

Winners of this year's awards and the titles and summaries of their proposals follow.

**Ahmed Amer**, assistant professor of computer science, "The Virtual Systems Laboratory."

This project aims to establish the first virtual systems laboratory, which will offer students the opportunity to use multiple dedicated computers for each project they attempt within a course, nor simply a single dedicated computer for a course. Also, by combining virtual computer emulators, the project will construct a laboratory of computers that students can use from any computer with network access as well as freely available standardized software.

**Mary Hall**, associate professor of English at Pitt's Titusville campus, "Writing Improvement Through Team Tutoring (WITT)."

In order to provide continuity in the instruction of writing composition, this project seeks to establish a non-credit program to help struggling students improve their writing skills. The program will coordinate faculty and staff efforts to improve students' writing ability across all disciplines by establishing more communication among faculty and tutors, a common analytical vocabulary, and tutorials that build on previous ones.

**Kent Harries**, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, and **Luis Vallejo**, professor of civil and environmental engineering, "Development, Construction, and Deployment of Instructional Shake Table."

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PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER CHARDON



Stanley Steers (left) and Benjamin Gordon

By Patricia Lomando White

University of Pittsburgh Honors College students Benjamin Gordon, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering in the School of Engineering, and Stanley Steers, a sophomore majoring in physics and music in the School of Arts and Sciences, have been awarded 2007 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships for their exceptional independent research in the science and engineering disciplines.

"We are very proud of the exceptional record of high achievement being built by University of Pittsburgh undergraduates," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "Earlier in the academic year, our students claimed 2007 Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships. For Benjamin Gordon and Stanley Steers to be named 2007 Goldwater Scholars extends that record of student success and is a real mark of distinction, for them and for our Honors College."

"To win a Goldwater Scholarship is the highest national honor for an undergraduate studying science or engineering," said G. Alec Stewart, Honors College dean and Pitt's Goldwater faculty representative. "It was particularly fulfilling for the University to have students win in both the applied and basic sciences."

Many of Pitt's recent Goldwater Scholars have gone on to receive prestigious postgraduate awards. For example, Pitt

2007 Rhodes Scholar Daniel Armanios won a Goldwater Scholarship in 2004, and Pitt 2006 Rhodes Scholar Justin Chalker received a 2005 Goldwater. Pitt undergraduates have won a total of 37 Goldwater Scholarships, 29 since 1995.

**"Earlier in the academic year, our students claimed 2007 Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships. For Benjamin Gordon and Stanley Steers to be named 2007 Goldwater Scholars extends that record of student success and is a real mark of distinction, for them and for our Honors College."**

**—Mark A. Nordenberg**

The Goldwater Scholarship was established in 1986 by the U.S. Congress in honor of then-Senator Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. The premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields, the Goldwater Scholarship is awarded in either a student's sophomore or junior year. It covers tuition, room and board, fees, and books—up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year—for each student recipient's remaining period of study.

Growing up in a community plagued with poverty and crime, Gordon, who at age 15 was forced to become financially independent when his mother died, said it was a struggle not to become a statistic. "My mother always stressed that one of the keys to changing the condition of our communities is through proper education," Gordon said. "As a child, she taught me about famous African American scientists such as Benjamin Banneker."

At Pitt, Gordon has worked in the

Vibration and Control Laboratory under the guidance of William Clark, a Pitt professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Under the direction of Jeffrey Viperman, an associate professor in Pitt's Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Bioengineering, Gordon now works in the Sound, Systems, and Structures Laboratory researching thermoacoustics, the conversion of sound energy into heat energy, and vice versa, with particular interest in improving the efficiency and performance of a prototype model for a thermoacoustical refrigerator.

Gordon plans to earn a Ph.D. degree in mechanical engineering and to become an engineering professor, teaching and conducting research in smart structures applications.

Steers said he inherited an immigrant spirit of honor and hard work from his family.

"My father was a small-town attorney whose grandfather had been a butcher," he said. "The daughter of a teamster, my mother is a Fulbright Scholar who went to a small college in Detroit, and I remember learning about Spanish and Mexican culture as she prepared lesson plans for her public high school students. I have also been truly fortunate to have the love and support of my mother and two sisters after the death of my father in 1995. With love and hard work, my mother managed to support herself and three children and instill in us the desire to push forward and grow as human beings."

Steers has worked with Walter Goldberg, Pitt Professor Emeritus in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, conducting fluid dynamics research concerning turbulence in two dimensional soap films. Steers' long-term career goal is to earn a Ph.D. degree in physics and to conduct research in an academic setting in the field of nonlinear dynamics and turbulence.

# Pitt Hosts "Women Filmmakers In the 21st Century" Film Series

By Audra Sorman

Since the inception of cinema in the 1890s, commercial filmmaking has seen few women in directorial roles, with the exception of such women as Lois Weber, Dorothy Arzner, and Ida Lupino. However, in recent years, this trend has changed. Pitt will host a film series titled "Women Filmmakers in the 21st Century" April 11-12 and 18-19. Screenings will be held at 7 p.m. in Alumni Hall's 7th-floor Auditorium.

The film series, hosted by Pitt's Film Studies Program, Department of English, Women's Studies Program, and School of Arts and Sciences' Graduate Dean's Office, will present films by four women. Screenings are free and open to the public.

A list of the screenings follows.



## April 11

*In the Mirror of Maya Deren* (2002), 103 minutes, directed by Martina Kudláček, Austria/Czech Republic/Switzerland/Germany.

In her documentary on American filmmaker Maya Deren, Kudláček fashions a fascinating portrait on the woman whose creations throughout the 1940s are arguably some of the most important innovations in the history of avant-garde film.

## April 12

*Chaos* (2001), 109 minutes, directed by Coline Serreau, France.

A comedic satirical thriller, *Chaos* pairs a biting look at the Paris bourgeoisie with the humiliating life of forced prostitution in the city's criminal underworld.

## April 18

*Personal Velocity: Three Portraits* (2002), 86 minutes, directed by Rebecca Miller, United States.

Daughter of the playwright Arthur

Miller, Rebecca Miller wrote and directed *Personal Velocity*, which is based on her book *Personal Velocity* (Grove Press, 2002). The film chronicles the lives of three women seeking to escape their dysfunctional relationships with men.

## April 19

*In the Cut* (2003), directed by Jane Campion, United States/United Kingdom/Australia.

*Variety's* Todd McCarthy wrote of *In the Cut*: "An intensely sexual exploration of the nature of a woman's desire in the guise of a murder mystery, this high-strung adaptation of Susanna Moore's bestselling novel is beautifully crafted and is highlighted by an arresting change-of-pace performance by Meg Ryan as an English teacher erotically awakened by a homicide detective."

For more information on the film series, contact Jennifer Florian at 412-624-6564.

# Pitt Visiting Art Lecturer Weissberger Receives 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship

University of Pittsburgh Visiting Lecturer Barbara Weissberger, whose dynamic contemporary art has been exhibited internationally, has won a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Weissberger has taught in Pitt's Department of Studio Art since 2004. The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation announced the Guggenheim awards on April 5.

Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment. The 2007 Fellowship winners include 189 artists, scholars, and scientists selected from almost 2,800 applicants for awards totaling \$7.6 million. The Guggenheim program considers applications in 78 different fields, from the natural sciences to the creative arts.

Weissberger received the Master of Fine Arts degree from the San Francisco Art Institute and the Bachelor of Art degree



Barbara Weissberger

from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Her work has been exhibited in Tokyo, Zurich, New York, Cleveland, Miami, and elsewhere. Her 2005 installation in Pittsburgh's Mattress Factory titled

"Did you find everything you were looking for today?" was said by a *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (P-G) review to lift "one into a curious realm that fires the imagination."

"Her oversized hamburger with flurry of pickle chips covers a wall, its fixings dripping onto the floor, initiating thoughts of health and environment. It's sobering that it's such an embedded cultural emblem that each component may be easily read by color and sketchy suggestion," wrote P-G reviewer Mary Thomas.

Pitt was the only institution of higher learning in Western Pennsylvania to be represented in this year's Guggenheim awards. In eastern Pennsylvania, the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University had winners.



Pitt Provost James V. Maher (right) congratulates Arthur Hellman on his installation as the Sally Ann Smenko Endowed Chair in the University's School of Law.

# A Case of a "Cowgirl" Crying Wolf?

Hellman lecture examines O'Connor's views on threats to judicial independence

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has cited three major threats to judicial independence: acts or threats of violence against federal judges, proposals to impeach federal judges, and political moves to strip them of jurisdiction over some classes of cases.

"Unfortunately, though, in describ-

ing the threats to judicial independence, [O'Connor] presented us a picture that in some respects is overstated and in others incomplete," Pitt law professor Arthur Hellman said in a March 27 lecture. "First, she painted with too broad a brush in identifying what I would call the external threats. Second, she has not adequately emphasized what I would call the internal aspects. And, finally, she hasn't said anything about the confirmation process for federal judges, which, in my view, poses a threat."

Hellman's lecture in 2501 Posvar Hall marked his formal installation as holder of the Sally Ann Smenko Endowed Chair in Pitt's School of Law. The lecture was titled "Justice O'Connor and 'The Threat to Judicial Independence': The Cowgirl Who Cried Wolf?" Hellman took the title from O'Connor's description of herself in retirement as "just an unemployed cowgirl."

## Chronicling

An ongoing series highlighting  
**University of Pittsburgh history**

**April 12, 1955—The polio vaccine developed by a Pitt research team** led by Jonas Salk (pictured) is announced as being "safe, effective, and potent." Among the participants in a 50th anniversary celebration of the Salk vaccine in April 2005 is Julius Youngner, the only surviving scientist from Salk's core research team. Youngner is Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry in Pitt's School of Medicine.

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# Undergraduate Research

Cory Tamler

*Physics Today's* "10 Most Beautiful Experiments" list inspires this Pitt student to write a play about science and reason

This is the sixth in a series of *Pitt Chronicle* articles profiling outstanding University of Pittsburgh undergraduate researchers

By Bruce Steele

Driving his car through a thunderstorm, talking distractedly on his cell phone to a detective who is investigating the alleged Murder of Reason (prime suspect: quantum science), Galileo Galilei—yes, *that* Galileo—bemoans 21st-century scientific illiteracy:

"The rational mind, pah!" he scoffs. "I've no faith in it anymore. Science has become so popularized nowadays that any fool thinks he can discourse adequately on it... When [during the 17th century] you looked into a man's eyes and explained to him the Copernican system, when you dragged him by the hand to your telescope and showed him the Medicean stars, he denied your proofs, he denounced the idea of a heliocentric system in spite of all reason, but there was a spark in his eyes that said, 'I know you're right, I'm just too terrified to believe you.'

"Not anymore. Everyone knows the Earth revolves around the Sun now, but they know it in the same way our 17th-century theologians 'knew' the Earth was the center of the...no, it's not rational, it's what they've been told...it was once a triumph of reason, now it's blind lazy habit..."

That Galilean screed appears in *Not Eureka*, a new play by Pitt undergraduate Corinne "Cory" Tamler that she hopes will help to bridge the gap in understanding ("if only a little," she modestly says) between science and art. The first public performance—a staged reading—of *Not Eureka* was held March 29 in the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre downtown at 542 Penn Ave.

The play's title refers to a quotation by Isaac Asimov: "The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not 'Eureka' but 'That's funny...'"

A junior triple-majoring in the history and philosophy of science, physics and astronomy, and English writing, Tamler began work on *Not Eureka* last summer as a Brackenridge Fellow. (The summer fellowship program, named for Pitt founder Hugh Henry Brackenridge, awards Pitt undergraduate researchers stipends of \$3,000 each, freeing them to

pursue research projects rather than having to work traditional paying jobs.) Tamler fine-tuned her play this spring in the Playwriting 2 class taught by Pitt Professor of Theatre Arts Kathleen E. George.

Tamler was inspired to write *Not Eureka* by a list, published in the September 2002 issue of *Physics Today*, of the "10 Most Beautiful Scientific Experiments of All Time" as selected by a poll of physicists. The 10 winners "were largely solo performances, involving at most a few assistants," *The New York Times* noted in its report on the *Physics Today* list. "Most of the experiments...took place on tabletops and none required more computational power than that of a slide rule or calculator."

"As someone who is deeply interested in science," Tamler says, "it's easy for me to see how an experiment can be beautiful. However, as an artist, I also understand how it can be difficult for someone who doesn't find the sciences inherently fascinating to see the beauty inherent in a scientific experiment."

"I hope my play will help people who appreciate the beauty of theater to connect also to the beauty of scientific experimentation."

In writing *Not Eureka*, Tamler was inspired by such popular science-based dramas as Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen* (about a 1941 meeting between the Danish physicist Neils Bohr and his German protégé, Werner Heisenberg) and two plays by Tom Stoppard, *Hapgood* (which combines themes of espionage and quantum physics) and *Arcadia* (in which the overhaul of a garden symbolizes the transition from a neat Newtonian universe to a disordered one).

Stoppard, with his characteristic mix of philosophy, wordplay, and physical humor, is a particular favorite of Tamler's. In February, she directed a Pitt Rep Laboratory production of his *The Real Inspector Hound* in the Cathedral of Learning's Studio Theatre.

Rather than write a traditional play with historical characters conducting the experiments described in *Physics Today*, Tamler created characters who embody

three of the experiments.

They include:

- The Magician, who represents "Foucault's pendulum," a celebrated experiment demonstrating the Earth's rotation. It was named after French physicist Jean-Ber-

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—Cory Tamler



Corinne "Cory" Tamler (left) and Paolo Palmieri in front of the Galileo statue outside The Carnegie in Oakland

nard-Léon Foucault, who in 1851 gave the most famous public demonstration of the experiment by setting in motion an iron ball suspended on a wire from the dome of the Pantheon in Paris. As an invited audience watched in amazement, the direction along which the ball-pendulum swung rotated over time, proving that the Earth was revolving on its axis;

- The Detective, a.k.a. "Millikan's oil-drop experiment." American scientist Robert Millikan devised the experiment in 1909 to measure the electrical charge of the electron. He did so by measuring the force on electrically charged droplets of oil suspended against gravity between two metal electrodes; and

- The Criminal, who embodies "Thomas Young's double-slit experiment applied to the interference of single electrons"—not a catchy title, maybe, but a dizzying illustration of quantum mechanics.

And a dangerous one, according to the

Detective, whom Tamler describes in her stage directions as being "older, rigid."

While searching the Magician's dressing room for the Criminal, the Detective warns that the latter has murdered reason by "shamelessly renouncing the virtues of logic" and "breaking the laws of physics."

DETECTIVE: *He has warped the human mind until it can no longer perceive the difference between a particle and a wave. According to everything that's logical, a thing can't be both a particle and a wave at the same time.*

MAGICIAN: *I should think not.*

DETECTIVE: *But this fellow's got everyone in such a twist that they've stopped trusting their powers of reason. He takes a beam of electrons, you see, and passes it through two tiny little slits*

*Continued on Page 7*

# Science & Technology



## Links Between Prostate Cancer Treatment, Periodontal Disease Uncovered by Pitt Researchers

By Kelli McElhinny

Androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) has become a valuable weapon in the fight against prostate cancer. As enhanced screening tools detect the cancer in its earliest stages, an increasing number of men who are otherwise healthy are receiving the therapy.

However, the growing prevalence of ADT may be cause for concern.

In the March issue of the *Journal of Urology*, researchers from Pitt's School of Dental Medicine report that prostate cancer patients receiving ADT are three times as likely to show signs of periodontal, or gum disease, as patients who do not receive the therapy.

Earlier research demonstrated links between ADT and osteoporosis and other types of bone loss in men, but this work is the first to explore ADT's relationship with periodontal disease, which itself has been connected to a variety of other conditions.

"People with periodontal disease are at greater risk for numerous negative health outcomes," said Pouran Famili, professor and interim chair of the Pitt dental school's Department of Periodontics and lead author of the study. "If we can identify populations who are more likely to develop periodontal disease, as we have in this research, we may be able to target early interventions to groups like ADT recipients."

In the study, 68 prostate cancer patients who were, on average, nearly 70 years old and had received ADT for an average of 18 months, received standard screenings for various symptoms of periodontal disease, which occurs when the inner layers of gum and bone pull away

from the teeth. That process creates pockets that give toxic bacteria the opportunity to attack and destroy the underlying bone and can ultimately result in tooth loss.

Of the study participants, 41 received ADT for an average of 18 months, and periodontal disease was evident in 80 percent of

those men. Conversely, only 4 percent of the men who did not receive ADT had periodontal disease. When adjusted for other factors that also may influence the development of periodontal disease, such as age and smoking behaviors, the statistical relationship between ADT and periodontal disease remained significant, with ADT recipients three times as likely to have periodontal disease as the men who did not undergo the therapy.

"Urologists and oncologists, in particular, should heed these findings and refer their patients for periodontal screening early in the course of their ADT," said Famili, who also noted that such a referral is standard for other at-

risk populations, such as transplant patients. "As the majority of these men were quite conscientious about their oral hygiene, the need for early intervention by a dental care provider is paramount. It could prevent the need for more extensive treatment down the road."

While this research has important implications for ADT patients and their risks for periodontal disease, it does have limitations because of its relatively small sample size and cross-sectional nature. As such, further investigation involving larger populations and longitudinal data is warranted.

This research was supported by Pitt's Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Center, which receives funding from the National Institutes of Health and the General Clinical Research Center of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

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—Pouran Famili

## Pain Control After Surgery Reduces Days of Hospitalization, According to University Study

By Michele D. Baum

Effective postoperative pain control using continuous peripheral nerve block reduces patients' hospital stays by nearly a day on average, Pitt School of Medicine physicians reported during the 81st Clinical and Scientific Congress of the International Anesthesia Research Society on March 26.

Decreasing the time that patients spend in the hospital helps to reduce their exposure to the risk of hospital-acquired infection and associated complications, and also has an overall economic benefit, said Jacques E. Chelly, professor and vice chair of the Pitt medical school's Department of Anesthesiology, who presented the study results.

"For many people, the prospect of having pain is more stressful than the surgery itself," Chelly said. "If they know that specialists in acute pain medicine can help to minimize the pain associated with surgery, these patients are less stressed and more willing to have the surgery they need."

Chelly and his colleagues analyzed the hospitalization experiences of 1,527 patients, including 495 undergoing surgery between July 1, 2001, and Aug. 30, 2002, and 1,032 who underwent surgery following the institution of a formalized postoperative pain medicine program, called the acute interventional postoperative pain service, between July 1, 2004, and Aug. 30, 2005. The study included patients who underwent total hip or total knee replacement, chest surgery, or prostate surgery.

"Prior to the implementation of our postoperative pain management program, the average length of hospital stay was about three to five days," said Chelly, who also is director of orthopaedic anesthesia and the acute interventional postoperative pain service at UPMC Shadyside Hospital. "The use of the acute interventional postoperative pain service allowed patients to recover faster, and they were discharged from the hospital an average of 0.675 days per patient earlier, for a total of 597.7 days of hospitalization saved a year."

Before the introduction of the acute

interventional postoperative pain service, postoperative pain was managed by surgeons and mostly limited, according to Chelly. "Morphine and patient-controlled analgesia were used," he said. "Now, we can do a peripheral nerve block and use other medications, making postoperative pain control more effective."

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—Jacques E. Chelly





Students and crew members working aboard the U.S. Brig *Niagara*, a replica of the U.S. flagship in the Battle of Lake Erie.



# Aye, Aye, Professor

Students to earn academic credits, learn seamanship skills aboard replica War of 1812 ship

By Kaitlin Cavanaugh and Bruce Steele

Students enrolled in a new Pitt summer course will earn four credits and a sail-training certificate while living, studying, and working aboard a replica of a wooden-hulled, square-rigged War of 1812 warship.

During the three-week course, titled *Maritime History and The Great Lakes* and offered by the Pitt School of Arts and Sciences' Department of History, students will serve as a "crew-in-training" aboard the U.S. Brig *Niagara*. Docked at the Erie Maritime Museum in Erie, Pa., the *Niagara* is the official "tall ship" of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It was built in 1988 to closely resemble the U.S. flagship in the Battle of Lake Erie.

Depending on weather and other factors, the course will include day sails, overnight passages, port visits, and tours of historic sites. In addition to studying the historical development of maritime power in the Great Lakes and their environs, students will work alongside the *Niagara's* crew of 16 professional sailors to learn seamanship skills.

The crew is U.S. Coast Guard-certified, and the ship is inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard and fully insured.

"This program is a mix of adventure and academic work," said Pitt Professor of History William Chase, who helped to develop the course. "Students are really going to understand what it was like to be a

sailor during the 1800s. I think the idea of experiencing how people in the past lived is really neat."

There are no academic prerequisites for the course, but Chase said participating students must be willing to "engage in physical labor and forego the comforts of the modern home." Students and crewmembers will sleep in hammocks and eat meals prepared in a wood-burning stove.

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Chase emphasized that both male and female students are encouraged to enroll. "We are hoping to draw a diverse group of students to participate," he said. "If you're adventurous and you've got an interest in history, this course is for you."

Maritime History and The Great Lakes will be taught by Timothy Walker, who is an adjunct faculty member in Pitt's history department as well as an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, where he teaches courses on maritime history.

The course costs \$2,892 and includes tuition, room, board, and fees. It will run from July 12 to Aug. 1 and is limited to 20 students. For more information or to register, contact the history department at 412-648-7451 or visit [www.pitt.edu/~pithist/](http://www.pitt.edu/~pithist/).

# HPS Faculty Hold Half the Seats On Governing Board of National Philosophy of Science Association

Sandra Mitchell, John Norton elected to join two Pitt faculty members and one alumnus on board



HPS faculty members—front row, from left: Edouard Machery, assistant professor; John Norton, professor; and Sandra Mitchell, professor and department chair. Middle row, from left: James Lennox, professor; the department's friendly ghost; and Paolo Palmieri, assistant professor. Back row, from left: James McGuire, professor; John Earman, University Professor; Peter Machamer, professor; and Kenneth Schaffner, University Professor. Not pictured is HPS professor Laura Ruetsche.

By Morgan Kelly

Already the top-ranked scholars of their kind in the country, faculty in the Pitt School of Arts and Science's Department of the History and Philosophy of Science (HPS) now hold four of the eight positions on the governing board of the national Philosophy of Science Association (PSA). Another PSA board member is an alumnus of Pitt's HPS program.

The PSA publishes *Philosophy of Science*, the field's premier scholarly journal; organizes conventions; awards prizes for notable work; and promotes discussion and research. In February, association members elected HPS professor and chair Sandra Mitchell and professor John Norton, director of Pitt's Center for Philosophy of Science, to the governing

**Pitt's HPS and philosophy departments were ranked jointly as the top programs among 42 philosophy of science departments in the 2006 *Philosophical Gourmet*, which conducts surveys on philosophy departments in the English-speaking world.**

board for terms expiring in December 2008.

They join HPS professors Ken Schaffner and Laura Ruetsche, whose terms on the PSA governing board will expire at the end of 2007.

Another PSA board member, Heather Douglas, an associate professor in the University of Tennessee at Knoxville's philosophy department, earned her doctorate in the history and philosophy of science at Pitt in 1998.

Such a presence in PSA governance further speaks to the favorable reputation HPS faculty members enjoy among their colleagues and the extent to which HPS faculty participate in the philosophy of science field

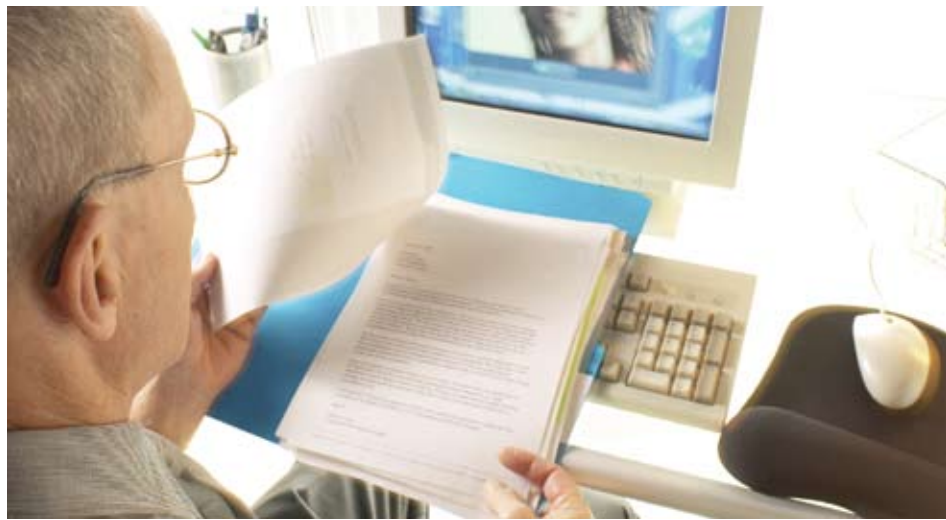
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## PARALLELS ACROSS THE BLACK GLOBE



Ali Mazrui (right), whose writings and scholarship focuses on the African diaspora, spoke March 31 at Pitt's Inaugural Pan-African Young Scholar Banquet, titled "Parallels Across the Black Globe: Reshaping Pan-African Perspective to Human Development for the 21st Century." Following the banquet, Mazrui met with members of the University's Pan-African Graduate and Professional Student Organization, including (above, to Mazrui's right) Selasi Blavo, the organization's president.

MARY JANE BERRY/CODE



## Innovation in Education Projects Funded

Continued from Page 1

Structural and soil dynamics are critical aspects of civil engineering practice; all structures are subject to dynamic loading whether it is due to earthquake, construction, or ambient vibrations ubiquitous in modern society. This project will give students more exposure to dynamics. The development of an Instructional Shake Table, a piece of experimental equipment used to investigate the dynamic behavior of building structures, earthworks, and soil bodies, will introduce undergraduate engineers to practical issues of structural dynamics and earthquake engineering and will be used at the graduate level to investigate and demonstrate more complex problems of earthquake engineering.

**Tara Gesior**, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, "Finding a Needle in a Haystack: Learning the Art of Literature Retrieval Through Use of an Interactive, Web-based Tutorial."

This project aims to teach clinicians the fundamental skills to carry out effective literature searches in order to provide successful patient outcomes. Many practitioners lack these needed skills because of the difficulty of teaching the subject in a classroom. This project proposes the incorporation of a self-paced interactive tutorial delivered online via Blackboard Academic Suite that would include an animated video and an instructional guide.

**Alexandros Labrinidis**, assistant professor of computer science, "Virtual WebDB Laboratory."

The development of new courses on design, implementation, and evolution of Web issues will provide a capstone experience for senior undergraduates in computer science and computer engineering programs by purposefully looking at the complete picture instead of isolated individual technologies. Through these courses and an establishment of an evolving, ever-increasing online repository of designs, methods, techniques, samples, and other supporting material for building Web 2.0 sites, students will become better prepared, investing themselves in building large-scale realistic projects.

**Daniel Mossé**, professor of computer science, "Can a Radically New Presentation of Old Course Materials Make a Difference?"

This project will fill the need for a new approach to teaching the first courses in the Department of Computer Science—by offering separate courses for majors and nonmajors. Because the types of students attracted to the field has changed over the last few years, reorganizing courses could help recruit a larger and more diverse group of students to the field. The project would offer a course to nonmajors that focuses on creativity. The project would also reorganize the curriculum of the first-year course for computer science majors, favoring the use of Microsoft Robot Studios instead of Java.

**Jonathan Ritz**, assistant professor of English at Pitt's Johnstown campus, "Designing and Piloting a Seminar-style Freshman Composition Course."

This project will create a new frame-

work for the first-year writing composition courses at Pitt-Johnstown. This new course, called First Year Writing, will be offered in a tutorial format, and a significant portion of the contact hours will be devoted to student/instructor conferences focusing on student writing in progress.

**Richard W. Rubin**, assistant professor in the Department of Dental Public Health, "Dr. Wizard's World of Dental Public Health."

Rapidly changing demographics and globalization have increased the importance of healthcare professionals' ability to gain a more unified view of health, including social relationships, living conditions, and neighborhood and community dynamics. This project will design a Wiki-based system to aid students in the exploration of sociocultural, biological, and physical components necessary to create a healthy community environment. By the end of the program, students should be able to more effectively evaluate a community's oral-health needs by investigating appropriate population dynamics.

**Claire Bradin Siskin**, professor of linguistics, "A Tool for Assessing Oral Proficiency in Foreign Languages."

This project will create the University of Pittsburgh Oral Proficiency Language Assessment Instrument, a software tool by which students' oral proficiency in French, German, and Spanish can be measured. This tool, crafted in accordance with guidelines set forth by the nationally recognized American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, will enable large numbers of students to be tested simultaneously and evaluated according to a fixed and objective set of criteria.

**Christinger Tomer**, associate professor of information sciences, and **Kelly Otter**, associate dean of the College of General Studies, "The Planning, Development, and Implementation of an Online Information Literacy Curriculum."

Today, successful learning depends upon the ability to skillfully manage an expansive and multifaceted world of information. The goal of this project is to create an information literacy curriculum, which will benefit students by teaching information literacy skills that will enhance the remainder of their educational experience at the University and establish a basis for lifelong learning.

**Gail A. Wolf**, professor of nursing, "The Virtual Hospital: A Business Simulation Model for Nursing Leaders."

This project identifies the recent dramatic change in the role of nurses who hold administrative positions. Typically educated as clinicians, these nurses find themselves in executive and management roles in which they must balance financial and clinical responsibilities. The development of a virtual hospital that serves as a repository for organizational, clinical, and financial information will allow students to test innovative and traditional solutions to complex problems without jeopardizing the organizational performance of an institution.

# Four Professors Honored for Mentoring Doctoral Students



Kathleen Blee



Nancy Day



Robert Drennan



Noreen Garman

By Michele Colvard

Four Pitt professors will receive the 2007 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring, which recognizes faculty for their mentoring of doctoral students. This is the second year the awards have been granted.

The awardees are Kathleen Blee, Distinguished Professor of Sociology in the School of Arts and Sciences; Nancy Day, professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine; Robert Drennan, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology in the Arts and Sciences; and Noreen Garman, professor of administrative and policy studies in the School of Education.

The four, along with other nominees for the award, will be honored at a reception at 3 p.m. April 16 in the William Pitt Union's Kurtzman Room. Each awardee will receive a cash prize of \$2,500.

"The very existence of this award underscores the high institutional priority that must be assigned to our mentoring responsibilities," said Pitt Provost James V. Maher. "The intellectual and personal leadership provided by mentors helps to support, encourage, and promote a student's personal and professional development. This year's awardees are an inspiring example of excellence in the role of graduate mentor. They have clearly touched the professional lives of many students and graduates of this University."

The awardees were selected from 37 nominations made by Pitt graduate students and faculty members.

Background on the awardees follows.

**Kathleen Blee** has contributed to the lives of graduate students as a teacher, a mentor, and as director of the Pitt Women's Studies Program, a position she held from 1996 to 2001. In her 11 years at the University, Blee has chaired 12 dissertation committees and currently is advising seven others. Her students have been very successful in securing tenure-stream faculty positions. In their nomination letter, three students wrote: "Not only is Dr. Blee a successful mentor, but she is an exemplary one... Successive generations of students bear her thoughtful, caring imprint as a mentor."

**Nancy Day** has chaired 21 doctoral committees and has advised 19 postdoctoral fellows over the past 27 years at Pitt. Her

students have been placed at outstanding universities and research institutes around the country, including the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, the National Institute for Environmental Health Science, and Duke University School of Medicine. Ten of her students have received prestigious training awards. In letters supporting her nomination, Day's students wrote that she encouraged them to present papers at national conferences and took the time to introduce students to her colleagues at conferences. Students credited these activities with opening up career opportunities for them following graduation.

**Robert Drennan** is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow

of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has chaired 30 dissertation committees and currently is advising 16 doctoral students. His doctoral students have an outstanding record of receiving funding for their dissertation research, winning 25 National Science Foundation Dissertation Grants in Archaeology and eight Wenner Gren Foundation Grants. His students have obtained tenure-track positions at universities throughout North and South America. One former student wrote that Drennan's high expectations and dedication to students' learning "propelled my colleagues and me to excel to the best of our abilities."

**Noreen Garman** has supervised 28 doctoral dissertations, and she is currently advising 11 students. She pioneered a long-standing dissertation study group that brings together current and former students as a way of enriching the dissertation process, and she has published two books on dissertation writing. Several of her students have won Outstanding Disserta-

tion Awards from the American Education Research Association, and her students have been placed in tenure-stream positions in both national and local universities. One former student wrote that she now practices mentoring techniques she learned from Garman. "Noreen's work lives on in my students and in theirs; her contribution to generations of scholars is powerful," the former student wrote.

**"The very existence of this award underscores the high institutional priority that must be assigned to our mentoring responsibilities. The intellectual and personal leadership provided by mentors helps to support, encourage, and promote a student's personal and professional development. This year's awardees are an inspiring example of excellence in the role of graduate mentor. They have clearly touched the professional lives of many students and graduates of this University."**

—James V. Maher

# Undergraduate Research

Cory Tamler

Continued from Page 3

to let it make a pattern on the other side. Now, everyone knows that electrons are particles, but when he passes them through these slits he makes them appear to interfere with one another just like waves would. So the pattern on the other side, instead of being uniformly bright, like it should be with particles, is in bands. Bright bands where the crests of the waves meet up and reinforce one another. Dark bands where a crest meets a trough and they cancel one another out. As if the particles are waves. Do you see?

MAGICIAN: I think so. But if that's the case, isn't it possible...

DETECTIVE: Wait. You haven't heard the height of his treason. What he does next is the most depraved, bloodthirsty attack on reason that you could possibly imagine.

And the Detective proceeds to describe how the Criminal (i.e., the double-slit experiment) apparently proves that an electron can, in effect, be in two places at the same time.

MAGICIAN: How does he do it?  
DETECTIVE: That I don't know. All that I know is this: It only works if you don't watch. You must set up the apparatus and let it run in blindness. If you watch an electron, it will only go through one of the slits and there will be no bright and dark bands. But if you don't watch, the trick works. It seems to go through both.

MAGICIAN: How do you know it's a trick?

DETECTIVE: What?

MAGICIAN: How do you know he isn't showing you the truth?

When the Detective finally tracks down the Criminal, the latter insists he's innocent.

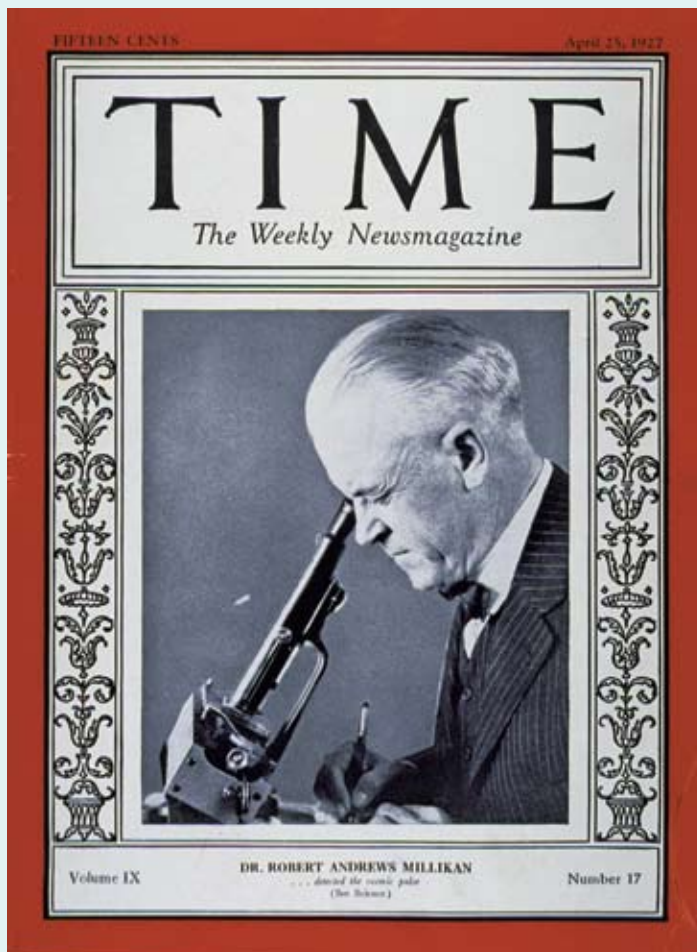
DETECTIVE: If you're innocent, why are you running?

CRIMINAL: I live by the laws of quantum physics, not your outdated classical nonsense. Just because you never know where I am doesn't mean I'm running.

To support his case, the Detective enlists an expert witness, Galileo. ("I introduced Galileo as a character because he's such an icon of reason in Western history," Tamler explains. "Also, I thought the image of Galileo driving a car and using a cell phone was pretty funny.")

But Galileo, arriving on the scene after having just attended the Magician's theatrical performance of Foucault's pendulum experiment, retracts his earlier judgment that reason is dead.

He tells the Detective, "If you'd asked anyone in that audience before the performance whether the Earth turns, they'd have told you yes, of course it does, but they wouldn't have understood what they were saying. It would be parroting. Deep down, they all still felt that the Earth is stationary—because, doesn't it seem to be?"



April 25, 1927, *Time* Magazine cover of American scientist Robert A. Millikan, whose groundbreaking "oil-drop experiment" figures into the play *Not Eureka*.

But then, Galileo watched the audience members' faces as it dawned on them that Foucault's pendulum was changing direction because the Earth itself was moving.

"If you had seen it, Detective, you would have known—that is a journey that no one could complete without reason," Galileo declares. "Reason is alive and well, if you ask me."

In applying for her summer 2006 Brackenridge fellowship, Tamler needed a faculty sponsor for her playwriting project. While theater isn't among her majors, she has plenty of contacts in the University's Department of Theatre Arts: In addition to taking department courses, Tamler is president and cofounder of the Redeye Theatre Project, a Pitt student club that writes, rehearses, and stages a series of one-act plays—all in 24 hours—each fall and spring.

But instead of seeking a Brackenridge sponsor among the theatre arts faculty, Tamler looked for one in the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science (HPS). "I'd written plays before and done research before, but not so much on straight science," she says. "I thought that if I could find a sponsor in HPS, it would help me."

Not knowing any HPS faculty members at the time, Tamler searched their individual Web sites and found the page of Assistant Professor Paolo Palmieri, whose research includes using new technology to uncover precisely how Galileo performed his experiments, and with what materials and equip-

ment. (Before modern times, scientists rarely documented such details.) Palmieri also teaches a course, Galileo and the Creation of Modern Science, that makes use of Bertolt Brecht's polemical drama, *The Life of Galileo*.

"I found Cory's project to be interesting and highly original," remembers Palmieri, who, like Galileo, was born in Italy. "The first thing I told her was, 'I'm not a native speaker of English, so I can't give you any advice in terms of style. But I can help with the science.' I ended up marking a few passages in the first draft of her script that I wasn't sure were clear. In the end, the experiments themselves were, I thought, simply but correctly represented in Cory's play."

Unlike Galileo, who studied medicine and mathematics at the University of Pisa (failing to complete an academic degree), Tamler did not set out to attend a big university. Her first choice was Oberlin College, her parents' alma mater. But then Tamler discovered Pitt's Honors College, where college dean G. Alec Stewart and others encouraged her to apply for a full-tuition Chancellor's

Scholarship.

"They were just awesome," Tamler says of the Honors College staff. "After I completed my interview for the scholarship, they gave me all of these books that showed they had read the essays I'd submitted" as part of the application process. One of the books was Tom Stoppard's

*Arcadia*.

Tamler won the Chancellor's Scholarship.

"I've never regretted my decision to come to Pitt at all," says Tamler, whose family moved to Pittsburgh from California when she was seven. She graduated from Baldwin High School, having enrolled as a sophomore after being home-schooled up to that point. "I've found that I really like being at a big, urban university. One nice thing is that there are so many different niches here. Pitt's theater community is where I've found a home, where I feel most comfortable and know lots of people, but there are plenty of other niches."

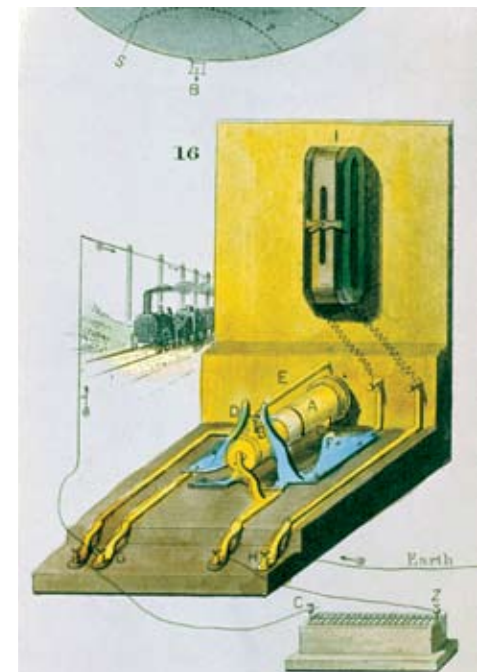
"Certainly, Pitt is not a cookie-cutter school.

People don't come here all from the same background, and they don't come out with the same stamp on them. There's tons of diversity here."

**"I found Cory's project to be interesting and highly original. The first thing I told her was, 'I'm not a native speaker of English, so I can't give you any advice in terms of style. But I can help with the science.' I ended up marking a few passages in the first draft of her script that I wasn't sure were clear. In the end, the experiments themselves were, I thought, simply but correctly represented in Cory's play."**

—Paolo Palmieri

## HPS Faculty Hold Half of The Seats on PSA Board



Rear view of Charles Wheatstone's electric railway telegraph, from John Reynolds' *Illustrations of Natural Philosophy*, published in London in 1850.

Continued from Page 5

outside of their own research, Mitchell said.

Pitt's HPS and philosophy departments were ranked jointly as the top programs among 42 philosophy of science departments in the 2006 *Philosophical Gourmet*, which conducts surveys on philosophy departments in the English-speaking world. Every other year, approximately 300 philosophers rate schools and departments by faculty and reputation. Pitt ranked fifth among the top 50 schools for philosophy in the United States in 2006.

Because some of the more highly regarded philosophers of science work in HPS, faculty members from that department naturally will end up on the PSA governing board, according to Mitchell.

"For the premier professional organization, the premier faculty is going to be involved," she said. "They're both like magnets attracting the best in the field. I take the PSA elections as a mark of our reputation."

The HPS faculty specializes in a range of subjects, including the philosophy of physics, biology, and psychiatry as well as the history of early modern science and of genetics. Additionally, faculty members focus on certain scientific theories, such as evolution, and on particular scientists, such as Galileo. Pitt's Center for Philosophy of Science hosts workshops and conferences that draw scholars from around the world.

Philosophers of science analyze research and theories in the context of the overall principles and rules of science, explained Mitchell, who is a philosopher of biology. They look at the structure of scientific arguments to determine the strength of presented evidence and highlight what may be hidden assumptions, she said.

"It's an oversight of how the science is done and the methods used in research to make scientific claims," Mitchell said. "It's an interrogation of claims in respect to logic and coherence. Philosophers of science think about how science is done and ask how it should be done."

For example, in the debate over intelligent design, a philosopher of science would determine what claims can truly be called scientific evidence and how they support the overall thesis.

"Intelligent design raises the question of 'What is science?'" Mitchell said. "We look at the assumptions that are implicit, the conditions under which those assumptions were made, and whether the evidence supports or fails to support the claims."

"Overall, philosophers of science are interested in uncovering knowledge," Mitchell added. "We want to know: What does knowledge look like?"



# Happenings

April 9-16, 2007



## April 9

**Ph.D. Dissertation Defense** by Sonia Lenk, Pitt Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, "Can Minority Languages Survive in a Situation of Sustained Bilingualism? Ethnolinguistic Vitality and Language Behavior Among Indigenous Speakers of Quichua in Ecuador," 10 a.m., 1325 Cathedral of Learning.

**Lecture**, Tom Schatz, executive director of the University of Texas Film Institute, noon, 501 Cathedral of Learning; Pitt Film Studies Program, Steeltown Entertainment Project, and Pitt in Hollywood, 412-624-6564, jrf16@pitt.edu.

**Lecture**, "A Question of Scale: Effective Field Theory in Particle Physics," Adam Leibovich, Pitt assistant professor of physics and astronomy, 4:30 p.m., 102 Thaw Hall, Pitt-Carnegie Mellon University Physics Colloquium Series, www.phyast.pitt.edu/Events.

**Art Exhibition**, *Affairs of the Art 2007*, through April 13, Pitt-Bradford's KOA Art Gallery, 814-362-0248, jmp100@exchange.upb.pitt.edu.

**Audubon Print Exhibition**, *Pileated Woodpecker*, through April 16, Hillman Library ground floor, Pitt Department of Special Collections, 412-648-7715, www.library.pitt.edu/images/audubon.

**Art Exhibition**, *Studio Arts Student Exhibition*, through April 29, Frick Fine Arts Building Auditorium, Pitt's Studio Arts Department, 412-648-2423, www.pitt.edu/~studio.

## April 10

**Theatrical Performance**, *Rachel Carson Saves the Day!* directed by Nona Gerard, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Stephen Foster Memorial's Henry Heymann Theatre, Pitt's Shake-

spare-in-the-Schools Program, 412-624-7529, www.play.pitt.edu.

**Lecture**, "Ouch! The Paradox of Pain," Christopher Hill, professor of philosophy, Brown University, 12:05 p.m., 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/~pittcentr.

**Lecture**, "The Fertile Interface Between Chemistry, Biology, and Materials," Alan J. Russell, Pitt professor of surgery, 4 p.m., 2500 Posvar Hall, Pitt's School of Medicine, www.medschool.pitt.edu.

**Lecture**, "Reconstructing Rural Lydian Life in Western Anatolia," Christopher H. Roosevelt, assistant professor of archaeology, Boston University, 4:30 p.m., 335 Cathedral of Learning; Pitt's Department of Classics and the Archaeological Institute of America, Pittsburgh Society; 412-624-4494, www.pitt.edu/~classics.

**Film Screening**, *Limonadovoy Joe [Lemonade Joe]* (1964), directed by Oldrich Lipsky, 7 p.m., 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies, 412-648-7407.

## April 11

**Theatrical Performance**, *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Holly Thuma, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Stephen Foster Memorial's Henry Heymann Theatre, Pitt's Shakespeare-in-the-Schools Program, 412-624-7529, www.play.pitt.edu.

**Lecture**, "HIV/AIDS Risk-Reduction Programs for Drug-Dependent Persons," Larry Grant, professor of social work, University of Michigan, noon, 2017 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt School of Social Work's Speaker Series, 412-624-6304, www.pitt.edu/~pittssw.

**Lecture**, "PASSPORT to Social

and Cultural Programming," noon, William Pitt Union's Dining Room A, Pitt's Office of International Services, 412-624-7120, www.ois.pitt.edu.

**Pitt Staff Association Council Meeting**, noon, 1175 Benedum Hall, www.pitt.edu/~sac.

**Lecture**, "China's Folk Dance," Yang Li, former associate professor of business and laws, Guangdong University, 7 p.m., Pitt-Greensburg Chambers Hall's Hempfield Room, 724-836-7741, mackall@pitt.edu.

**Theatrical Performances**, *The Dreamer Examines His Pillow* by John Patrick Shanley and *The Ghost in the Wire*, an ensemble-created project, 7:30 p.m., continues through April 15, Studio Theatre (B-72 Cathedral of Learning), Pitt Department of Theatre Arts' Laboratory Productions, 412-624-7529, www.pitt.edu/~play.

**Film Screenings**, *Constantly Moving: Crossovers in Experimental Film and Video Art* (2004), a survey of various artists' films, and *I Want to See How You See* (2003), directed by Pipilotti Rist, 7:30 p.m., 205 David Lawrence Hall; Pitt Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures series, *Experimental, Underground, Revolutionary: Avant-garde Films From Germany, Austria, and Switzerland*, 412-648-2614, rhalle@pitt.edu.

**Musical Performance**, University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Roger Zahab, 8 p.m., Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Concert Series, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

**Film Screening**, *Farewell China* (1990), directed by Clara Law, 8:30 p.m., 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Global Studies Program, 412-624-2918, dristas@ucis.pitt.edu.

## April 12

**Lecture**, "Human Nature, Reprogenetics, and the Future of Humankind," Lee Silver, professor of molecular biology and public affairs, Princeton University, 8 a.m., Pittsburgh Children's Hospital's McCluskey Auditorium, Pitt Center for Bioethics' Donald N. Medearis Jr. Lecture in Pediatrics, 412-647-5700, www.pitt.edu/~bioethic.

**Luncheon Discussion**, "Grants From the National Institutes of Health," noon, S100 Biomedical Science Tower 2, Pitt's Survival Skills and Ethics Program; to register, 412-578-3716, www.survival.pitt.edu.

**Lecture**, "Demystifying the Process of Attaining a Faculty Position," Alan F. Sved, chair and professor, Pitt's Department of Neuroscience, 3-5 p.m., S120 Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower, Pitt Office of Academic Career Development; registration required, www.oacd.health.pitt.edu.

**Lecture**, "Voicing History: The Essay, Documentary Film, and the Collapse of the Pittsburgh Steel Industry," James V. Catano, professor of English, Louisiana State University, 4 p.m., 501 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Department of English, www.english.pitt.edu.

**Lecture**, "Significant OH Radical Reactions in the Lower Atmosphere: A New View," Marsha Lester, chair and the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Professor in the Natural Sciences, University of Pennsylvania's Department of Chemistry, 4 p.m., 12 Chevron Science Center, Pitt Department of Chemistry, www.chem.pitt.edu.

**Lecture**, "Outsiders in a Forced Community: Dutch Jews in the Nazi Ghetto of Terezin, 1943-1945," Anna Hajkova, graduate student, Pitt's Department of History, 4 p.m., 3703 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies, 412-648-7407, crees@pitt.edu.

**Workshop**, "Andes Manta Music Workshop," Andes Manta musicians, 4:30 p.m., Pitt-Greensburg's Smith Hall Lounge, alinda@pitt.edu.

**Musical Performance**, Andes Manta musicians, 7:30 p.m., Pitt-Greensburg's Ferguson Theater, 724-836-7741, mackall@pitt.edu.

## April 13

**Workshop**, "The First Step: Mechanics of Starting a Small Business," 7:30-10 a.m., 209 Mervis Hall, Pitt Small Business Development Center; registration

required, 412-624-2182, mrwholihan@katz.pitt.edu.

**Ph.D. Dissertation Defense** by Armando Muyolema-Calle, Pitt Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, "Colonialismo y representación. Hacia una relectura de los discursos latinoamericanista, indigenista y clasista-étnico en los Andes del Siglo XX," 9 a.m., 1301 Cathedral of Learning.

**Lecture**, "Chornobyl 4-Ever: The Cultural and Health Fallout of a Nuclear Disaster," Sarah Phillips, assistant professor, Indiana University's Department of Anthropology, noon, 4217 Posvar Hall; Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies and Students Chornobyl Relief Committee; 412-648-7407, crees@pitt.edu.

**Ed.D. Dissertation Defense** by Trisha Ann Varish Craig, School of Education, "Southwestern PA Public School Districts Compliance with P.S. § 12-1205.1 et Seq (Act 48)," 3 p.m., 5901 Posvar Hall.

**Lecture**, "Aristotle on Intentionality," Victor Caston, professor, University of Michigan's Department of Philosophy, 3:30 p.m., 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science's 47th Annual Lecture Series, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/~pittcentr.

**Musical Performance**, "An Evening of Indian Classical Vocal Music by Leading Master of Khayal Gayaki Ustad Rashid Khan," 7 p.m., Synod Hall's Auditorium, 125 N. Craig St., Oakland, Pitt's Asian Studies Center, 412-257-1976, www.tabla.org.

**Musical Performance**, Pitt Women's Choral Ensemble, conducted by Lorraine Milovac, 7:30 p.m., Heinz Chapel, Pitt Concert Series, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

**Theatrical Performance**, *The Persians: Themes and Variations by Aeschylus*, 7:30 p.m., through April 15, Pitt-Bradford's Blaisdell Hall Bromeley Family Theater, 814-362-5027, jmp100@upb.pitt.edu.

**Musical Performance**, Pitt's University Gamelan Ensemble, directed by Andrew Weintraub, 8 p.m., also April 14, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Concert Series, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

## April 14

**Reading**, poet Martín Espada, 5:30 p.m., 2500 Posvar Hall, Pitt's English and history departments, Cultural Studies Program, Honors

College, and Center for Latin American Studies; 412-648-7477, marcusradiker@yahoo.com.

## April 15

**Musical Performance**, Pitt's Heinz Chapel Choir, conducted by John Goldsmith, 3 p.m., Heinz Chapel, Pitt Concert Series, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

## April 16

**Ph.D. Dissertation Defense** by Antonio Gómez, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, "El discurso latinoamericano del exilio: extraterritorialidad y novella en Argentina y Cuba desde los años 70," 9 a.m., 1301 Cathedral of Learning.

**Panel Discussion**, "China's Silent Genocide," 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Kurtzman Room; 5:30 p.m., Carnegie Mellon's University Center McConomy Auditorium; Pitt's Amnesty International and Student Anti-Genocide Coalition, Carnegie Mellon's Intersarsity Christian Fellowship; fazhen@edoors.com.

**Ph.D. Dissertation Defense** by Dana Thompson, School of Education, "An Unequal and Unlevel Playing Field: Critically Examining the Race-Conscious Affirmative Action Legal Debate Through the Eyes of the Council on Legal Educational Opportunity (CLEO)," 11:30 a.m., 5702 Posvar Hall.

**Ph.D. Dissertation Defense** by Daniel Murray, School of Education, "Teleliteracy in the Neighborhood: Seeking an Educational Pedagogical Framework and Finding an Encoded Praxis of Mutual Humanization in 'Mister Rogers Talks About Learning,'" 2 p.m., 4321 Posvar Hall.

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of the *Pitt Chronicle* will be published April 16. The deadline for submitting information is 5 p.m. April 11. Items for publication in the *Pitt Chronicle*, including information for *Happenings*, should be submitted to chron@pitt.edu. *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 also may be faxed to 412-624-4895 or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033.