Tom Ridge to Speak at Commencement April 29

Former Pennsylvania governor was also first Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

By Sharon S. Blake

Tom Ridge, the first Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Governor of Pennsylvania from 1995 to 2001, will be the featured speaker at Pitt’s 2007 Commencement on April 29. The ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. in the Petersen Events Center.

During his two terms as governor, Ridge placed a high priority on university research as a key to regional economic development, launching such initiatives as the Pittsburgh Greenhouse and the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse. Pitt was a founding member of both initiatives.

Ridge also implemented a program that continues to provide a predictable flow of state support for capital projects at Pitt and Pennsylvania-related universities, and he committed the funds that made construction of the University’s Petersen Events Center possible.

“Governor Ridge always demonstrated a real appreciation for the special role played by Pennsylvania’s public research universities. As another example, he worked together on a broad range of projects, many of them tied to technology-based economic development,” said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

“The University of Pittsburgh also benefited directly from his sense of fairness,” Nordenberg continued. “In the mid-1990s, the Penn State already had opened its Jordan Center, and the Laciocoura Center at Temple University was nearing completion. Fairly or not, Pitt’s failure to move forward with such a facility of its own come to be viewed by many as a public symbol of a stalled institution. Even before I was formally in office, then, a group of trustees and I met with the governor to press our case for state support for a similar project at Pitt. Without his commitment, the Petersen Center never could have been built. It seems particularly fitting, then, that this commencement ceremony, featuring him as our principal speaker, will be the very first event in an event that Governor Ridge has attended in the Petersen Center.”

President George W. Bush named Ridge Assistant to the President for the new Office of Homeland Security in the weeks following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. His charge was to develop and coordinate a national strategy to strengthen the United States against terrorist threats or attacks. When the U.S. Department of Homeland Security was formally created in 2003, Ridge became its first secretary. He worked with a team of 180,000 employees from a combined 22 agencies to create a department that facilitated the flow of people and goods, instituted layered security at air, land, and seaports, developed a unified national response and recovery plan; protected critical infrastructure; and integrated new technology and improved information-sharing worldwide.

Before 9/11, Ridge was twice elected governor of Pennsylvania. His aggressive technology strategy helped fuel the state’s advances in economic development, education, health, and the environment. Ridge cut taxes every year he was in office. To ensure Pennsylvania was home to the jobs of the future, Ridge created industry-led greenhouses initiatives in advanced computing technologies and the life sciences.

He signed into law the Education Empowerment Act, to help more than a quarter-million children in Pennsylvania’s lowest-performing schools. His education technology initiatives brought learning to the number of children receiving free or low-cost health care through Pennsylvania’s nationally recognized Children’s Health Insurance Program increased by 145 percent.

Governor Ridge’s Land Recycling Program is a national model. He won passage of “Growing Greener,” to make Pennsylvania’s largest environmental investment ever, nearly $650 million.

Born on Aug. 26, 1945, in Pittsburgh, Ridge was raised in a working-class family in veterans’ public housing in Erie County. He was elected to U.S. Congress in 1982, serving as the first enlisted Vietnam combat veteran in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was re-elected to that position five times.

After more than 25 years in public service, Ridge now consults on a range of issues, including security, international relations, economic development, civil institution-building, technology, and education. He serves on public and private boards and is chair of the National Organization on Disability. His nonprofit work includes service with the Council for Competitiveness, the Center for Excellence in Government, and the Center for the Study of the Presidency. He continues to contribute to matters concerning veterans, serving as U.S. Army Gen. Tommy Franks, serves as national cochair of the Flight 93 Memorial Fundraising Campaign.

Throughout his career, Ridge has received numerous awards, including the Woodrow Wilson Award, the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ Dwight D. Eisenhower Award, the John F. Kennedy National Award, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the American Bar Association’s John Marshall Award, the National Guard’s Harry S. Truman Award, the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation’s Conservationist of the Year Award, the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce’s Good Neighbor Award, the Mercey of America’s National Medal of Honor, the Mister Rogers Award, the Champion of Public Television Award, the Antipredipancy Award, and the Esperanza Leadership Award.

Ridge and his wife, Michele (SLIS ’72), the former executive director of the Erie County Library system, reside in Washington, D.C., and have two children, Lesley and Tommy.

Pitt Graduate Programs Do Well in Latest U.S. News Rankings

Nursing school leaps to 7th place, medicine to 15th in research and 18th in primary care

By Linda K. Schmitmeyer

The latest edition of the U.S. News & World Report newsletter book America’s Best Graduate Schools, which goes on sale today, contains rankings that show advances in a number of Pitt graduate programs.

Some of these rankings also will appear in the April 9 U.S. News & World Report magazine, also on sale at newsstands today.

Pitt’s School of Nursing moved to 7th in the rankings this year, up from 10th when it was last ranked, in 2003. Other nursing programs also ranking 7th this year were Oregon Health and Science University, University of Illinois—Chicago, Univer-
sity of Maryland—Baltimore, and Yale University.

In the Health Disciplines, Pitt’s Nurse Anesthesia program ranked 5th, up from 6th in 2003. In Nursing Specialties, previously ranked in 2003, Pitt’s Psychiatric/Mental Health program ranked 6th, up from 9th; the Nurse Practitioner/Adult program ranked 9th, up from 10th; and the Nurse Practitioner/Pediatric program ranked 6th, up from 11th.

Pitt’s School of Medicine moved up from 16th last year to 15th in the Schools of Medicine/Research category, tied with Cornell University and the University of Chicago. The Pitt medical school also ranked 18th, up from 33rd last year, in the Schools of Medicine/Primary Care category; other schools ranking 18th this year were Dartmouth Medical School, Michigan State University, University of California—Los Angeles, University of Iowa (Carver), University of Missouri—Columbia, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center—Dallas, Wake Forest University, and Yeshiva University. In the Medical Specialties category of Women’s Health, the Pitt School of Medicine ranked 4th, up from 5th last year.

In the School of Education, Pitt’s Education program ranked 11th in 2003, when it was last ranked, and 20th in 2003. In Nursing Specialties, previously ranked in 2003, Pitt’s Psychiatric/Mental Health program ranked 6th, up from 9th; the Nurse Practitioner/Adult program ranked 9th, up from 10th; and the Nurse Practitioner/Pediatric program ranked 6th, up from 11th.

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Pitt’s Terry Smith and Cooper Union Dean to Discuss Post-9/11 Architecture

By Sharon S. Blake

April 18, 2007

What did the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center teach us about the dark side of “spectacle architecture”? What did it mean for creating buildings inspired by ambition or profit, should architects rethink their social responsibilities?

Terry Smith, Pitt’s Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Contemporary Art History and Theory, and Anthony Vidler, dean of the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture at the Cooper Union, will explore those and other questions in “Architectures of Aftermath,” a series of free public lectures and discussions April 2 and 3.

Vidler’s lecture, titled “The Need for Utopia: Art, Architecture, and Society From Plato to Koolhaas,” is scheduled for 6:30 to 8 p.m. April 2 in Carnegie Mellon University’s Giant Eagle Auditorium, A51 Baker Hall, 5000 Forbes Ave. in Oakland.

An April 3 event titled “Contemporary Architecture After the Aftermath: Problems and Prospects” will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Pitt’s Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. Vidler will present a lecture titled “Architectures of Aftermath” and Smith will follow with a lecture titled “Currents of Contemporaneity: Dwelling on Futures.” These lectures will be followed by a discussion of these issues, which Smith explores in his book, The Architecture of Aftermath (University of Chicago Press, 2006).

Smith argues that it was no surprise that the 9/11 terrorists targeted the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the White House: Architecture has long served as a symbol of proved, disloyal power, and never more so than in the late-20th century. But after 9/11, the world was transformed. Architecture as a field and a medium is now under scrutiny.

The lectures are being cosponsored by Pitt’s Department of the History of Art and Architecture, the Pitt’s Terry Smith and Cooper Union Dean to Discuss Post-9/11 Architecture. Pitt Chronicle, April 18, 2007

Chronicling University of Pittsburgh History

By Robert Hill

April 18, 2007

An ongoing series highlighting University of Pittsburgh history.

April 18—A fire destroys Pitt’s main building, (picture) on Third Street, downtown, and with it all of the institution’s records, files, books, furniture, and scientific equipment. Some trustees propose suspending operations or relocating Pitt—then still called the Western University of Pennsylvania—to cheaper ground outside the city. Ultimately, though, the board votes to construct a new University building downtown on Duquesne Way, then least resume.

Disaster strikes again in July 1849, when the new building also burns to the ground. Students are dismissed, and the University remains closed until 1855.

Pitt Chronicle

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Pitt alumnus Paul C. Lauterbur, who shared the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his part in developing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), died March 27 of kidney disease. He was 77.

Most recently a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Lauterbur earned his Ph.D. in chemistry at Pitt in 1962. He also received the Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg in 2004 as part of the University’s 125th anniversary celebration.

“Along with the entire University community, I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Paul Lauterbur,” Nordenberg said.

“Dr. Lauterbur was not only a distinguished Nobel Laureate but a valued alumnus and friend to Pitt. His pioneering work in magnetic resonance imaging was a gift to the world and has led to its development as one of the most important diagnostic medical tools of our time. Our thoughts are with his family at this time of loss. We extend our condolences to them and hope that they will take comfort in the knowledge that he has left this world a better place."

While a doctoral student at Pitt, Lauterbur did research at Mellon Institute on nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), a technique developed and refined during the 1940s and ’50s that enabled scientists to observe atomic nuclei of different elements. Instead of detecting radio wave signals, he employed a powerful external magnet that would react with applied radio waves and thereby change the magnetic field of an atom’s nucleus to create a signal characteristic of that nucleus. Such information could help scientists determine a substance’s atomic structure.

Prior to the development of NMR, chemists used infrared and ultra-violet waves to observe atoms, a less precise method, according to Theodore Cohen, a Pitt professor emeritus of chemistry. Cohen taught an advanced organic chemistry class that Lauterbur attended and sat on the committee that reviewed Lauterbur’s dissertation.

“When NMR came along, it was a big advance because you could pinpoint individual atoms,” Cohen said.

In doing his doctoral work, Lauterbur took advantage of applying NMR to carbon-13, a heavy carbon atom. All organic substances contain carbon; thus, Lauterbur expanded the NMR field considerably, Cohen said.

In 1962, Lauterbur defended his doctoral dissertation at Pitt on carbon-13. Cohen was still an assistant professor when he served on Lauterbur’s dissertation committee. He recalls learning all he could about carbon-13 so he could ask Lauterbur tough questions and thereby impress his older colleagues.

“I was enormously impressed,” Cohen said of Lauterbur’s dissertation. “Since all molecules contain carbon, carbon-13 NMR was a breakthrough, and he was the world authority on it when he presented his dissertation. He was a pioneer in what is now a common technique used by most chemists. He was a very original and brilliant man. He could have won the Nobel Prize for his contributions to chemistry.”

It was while dining at a Big Boy restaurant in New Kensington, Pa., some years after leaving Pitt that Lauterbur first thought of applying NMR to humans as a noninvasive way of observing people’s internal organs in diagnosing health conditions. His ideas led to research essential in the development of MRI, which uses a magnet to generate images of the inside of objects. MRI, largely used in medicine, generates clear pictures of soft-tissue organs such as the brain without surgery or radiation.

“Over the next few days, I began thinking of more and better possibilities, better ways of doing these experiments,” Lauterbur said in his Pitt commencement address.

“What I didn’t know was whether the kind of radio signals that one could get from tissues from inside a person or an animal could possibly be turned into a picture… . I got to work thinking about that and using something I’d learned in a graduate course at Pitt. I thought of a variation of mathematics that might make it possible."

“I then asked myself, ‘Could you ever get a big enough signal from something as large as a human being, for example? I did some calculations that were standard textbook and figured that that was indeed possible—barely, but it was possible. And I had to ask myself, ‘Could anybody build magnets big enough to put people in?’ This was a very new sort of thing.”

After earning his Ph.D. at Pitt, Lauterbur further developed his ideas in the early 1970s as a chemistry professor at the State University of New York in Stony Brook. In his early experiments, he recalibrated the magnets used in NMR to create two-dimensional pictures of objects. Among his first images was the inside of a closed clam.

Pitt chemistry professor David Pratt saw these early pictures when Lauterbur made a speech at Pitt in the early 1970s. At the time, the now-ubiquitous process of capturing internal images through MRI seemed the stuff of science fiction, Pratt remembers.

“The pictures weren’t very good, but it was still remarkable,” Pratt recalled. “He illustrated at an early stage how this technique could be used to photograph the inside of objects. We knew you could do that with X-rays. What was surprising here was that he was not using X-rays or some other high-energy radiation, but instead was using low-energy radio waves that for all we knew at the time could penetrate nothing.”

Lauterbur’s work did not garner much attention at first. The journal Nature initially rejected his findings, then printed a revised version of his research in 1973. From that point on, as Lauterbur described in his 2004 commencement speech at Pitt, others began accepting his ideas and MRI (the ominous word “nuclear” was dropped because the process creates no radiation) evolved into a technique that today is performed approximately 60 million times per year.

“Eventually other people around the world, other universities, and industry began to pick up on the ideas, and so gradually the (MRI) field developed. It’s only because so many other people picked up on these things and decided to work with them that I am here today, because, of course, no one gets such improbable honors just for having an idea—it has to work, it has to have some effects in the world.”

Pratt remembers visiting Lauterbur at the University of Illinois in 2005, two years after Lauterbur had won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine together with Sir Peter Mansfield of England’s University of Nottingham. Lauterbur’s medal was displayed in a case on a table in his office.

“When I walked in his office, he said ‘Hi, David, how are you? Do you want to see my medal?’ I said ‘Of course,’” Pratt remembered, chuckling. “He wasn’t bragging about the prize, he just wanted to show it to me. Paul was very approachable as well as being brilliant. He’s not the only person like that I’ve known, but there haven’t been many.”

Cohen agreed with Pratt’s assessment of Lauterbur’s humility. He recalled the Pitt chemistry department event in 2000 that Lauterbur attended as a distinguished alumnus. Lauterbur was already famous for his research on MRI, and Cohen planned to seek him out at the event. But Lauterbur found him first. “I didn’t know if I would remember me,” Cohen said. “But he came over to me and said, ‘Do you remember me, Professor Cohen? You taught my organic chemistry class. Actually, I hadn’t remembered that he had taken that class.’”

Lauterbur tackled problems as they emerged, regardless of their complexity, Pratt noted.

“Paul did not set out to develop MRI. It’s just that one idea led to another,” Pratt said. “Can you imagine doing something in your lifetime that would result in something like MRI? Paul kept going when many other people threw up their hands because it was too complicated. When you see something like that, it gives you the courage to try something new, even if you don’t know what’s going to happen next.”

For the full text of Lauterbur’s 2004 Pitt commencement address, visit www.umc.pitt.edu/media/pcc040503/lauterbur_speech.html.
**Happenings**

**April 2009**

**April 2**

**Pitt Student Film Festival**
- April 2, Gateway Cinema, 1630 41st St., Pitt Student Union.
- For details, see p. 3.

**April 3**

**Film Screening**
- April 3, 12:30, 5190 Posvar Hall.
- "Diving for Diamonds," directed by Michael Cacoyannis, 1967, 100 minutes.

**April 4**

**Reader's Theater**
- April 4, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Room 728.

**April 4**

**Pitt Annual Benefit Concert Series**
- April 4, 7:30 p.m., William Pitt Union's Campus Auditorium.
- "Americana and Friends," directed by John Nance.
- "The Threepenny Opera," directed by Penn. State University's Theatre Department.

**April 4**

**Art Exhibition**
- April 4, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., William Pitt Union's Student Union Gallery.

**April 5**

**Pitt Lecture Series**
- April 5, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 6**

**Film Screening**
- April 6, 4 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 6**

**Pitt Student Film Festival**
- April 6, 5 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.
- For details, see p. 3.

**April 6**

**Art Exhibit**
- April 6, 6 p.m., 5190 Posvar Hall.

**April 7**

**Film Screening**
- April 7, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 7**

**Art Exhibit**
- April 7, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., William Pitt Union's Student Union Gallery.

**April 7**

**Lecture**
- April 7, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 8**

**Film Screening**
- April 8, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 8**

**Lecture**
- April 8, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 9**

**Film Screening**
- April 9, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 9**

**Lecture**
- April 9, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 10**

**Film Screening**
- April 10, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 10**

**Lecture**
- April 10, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 11**

**Film Screening**
- April 11, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 11**

**Lecture**
- April 11, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 12**

**Film Screening**
- April 12, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 12**

**Lecture**
- April 12, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 13**

**Film Screening**
- April 13, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 13**

**Lecture**
- April 13, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 14**

**Film Screening**
- April 14, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 14**

**Lecture**
- April 14, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 15**

**Film Screening**
- April 15, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 15**

**Lecture**
- April 15, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 16**

**Film Screening**
- April 16, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 16**

**Lecture**
- April 16, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 17**

**Film Screening**
- April 17, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 17**

**Lecture**
- April 17, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 18**

**Film Screening**
- April 18, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 18**

**Lecture**
- April 18, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 19**

**Film Screening**
- April 19, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 19**

**Lecture**
- April 19, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 20**

**Film Screening**
- April 20, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 20**

**Lecture**
- April 20, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 21**

**Film Screening**
- April 21, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 21**

**Lecture**
- April 21, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 22**

**Film Screening**
- April 22, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 22**

**Lecture**
- April 22, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 23**

**Film Screening**
- April 23, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 23**

**Lecture**
- April 23, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 24**

**Film Screening**
- April 24, 7 p.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.

**April 24**

**Lecture**
- April 24, 11 a.m., William Pitt Union's Lecture Hall.