

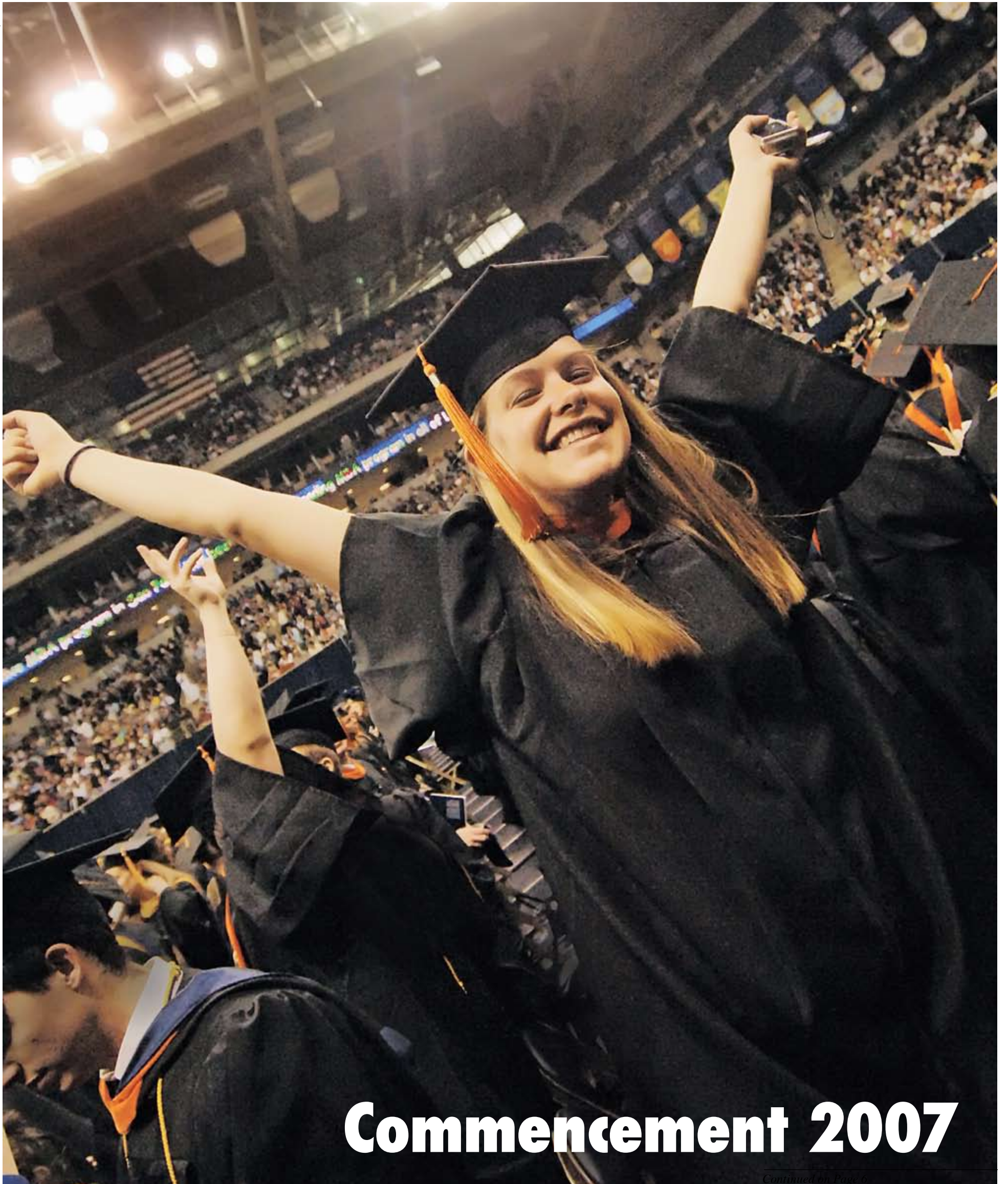
Pitt Chronicle

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Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

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Commencement 2007

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BRADEN WOLFE/CORBIS



Mark A. Nordenberg

Pitt to Hold 2007 Commencement Today in the Petersen Events Center

Tom Ridge, former Pennsylvania governor and the nation's first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, will give commencement address

By Amanda Leff

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg will welcome graduating members of the Class of 2007, faculty, trustees, alumni, staff, and invited guests, family, and friends attending Pitt's 2007 Commencement at 1 p.m. today in the Petersen Events Center.

Tom Ridge, the nation's first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and the Governor of Pennsylvania from 1995 to 2001, will deliver the University's 2007 commencement address and receive the honorary Doctor of Public and International Affairs degree from Nordenberg and Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher.

Chief University Marshal John J. Baker will open the ceremony, leading a procession of faculty, staff, the Council of Deans, trustees, administrative officers, and graduating class members in full academic regalia; Baker is a professor of oral biology in the School of Dental Medicine and president of the University Senate. Music will be provided by the University Symphonic Band, under the direction of Pitt Director of Bands Jack R. Anderson.

After Ridge receives his honorary degree, Pitt alumnus Ralph J. Cappy (CAS '65, LAW '68), chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and chair of Pitt's Board of Trustees, will present the University Citation honoring him. Ridge will then deliver the commencement address.

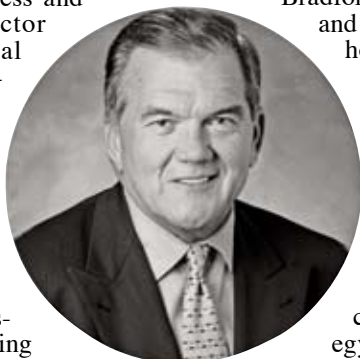
After the awarding of diplomas by Nordenberg, Maher, and the deans of the schools and colleges, Andrea E. Youngo will speak on behalf of the graduating class. Youngo, who is a recipient of the ODK Senior of the Year Award and a student in the School of Arts and Sciences and College of Business Administration, will receive the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees

during the commencement ceremony. Her talk will be followed by an address by Brian Generalovich, (CAS '66, DEN '68), president of the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association, who will welcome the graduates as Pitt's newest alumni.

Pitt is conferring approximately 6,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees this year to students on the Pittsburgh campus and approximately 1,000 undergraduate degrees to students on the Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville campuses, which hold their own commencement ceremonies.

President George W. Bush named Ridge Assistant to the President at 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 more than 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 also implemented a program that continues to provide a predictable flow of state support for capital projects at Pitt and Pennsylvania's other state-related universities, and he committed the funds that made possible the construction of Pitt's Petersen Events Center.



Tom Ridge

Feick Named UCIS Director

By Amanda Leff

Pitt professor Lawrence Feick has been named senior director of International Programs and director of Pitt's University Center for International Studies (UCIS), effective Aug. 1. Feick is a professor of business administration in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, where he teaches marketing management and international marketing.

At the Katz School, Feick served as director of the International Business Center for six years, where he oversaw a variety of international programs, including Pitt's Plus3, a joint business and engineering program that won the 2005 Andrew Heiskell Award for innovation in international education. A member of the Pitt business school faculty since 1982, Feick has served as the interim dean of the Katz School and College of Business Administration and as an associate dean.

"I have great confidence that Dr. Feick will provide thoughtful academic leadership to UCIS and insight on the University's concerted efforts on international programs," said Pitt Provost James V. Maher. "He pos-

sesses the necessary experience and integrity to build on the center's strengths and priorities and is keenly aware of the importance of global awareness and experience for our students."

Feick has served as a consultant to a number of profit and nonprofit firms and has done extensive work in executive education.

He is coauthor of *Country Manager*, an international marketing simulation game, and has published articles in a number of professional journals, including the *Journal of Consumer Research*, *Journal of Marketing Research*, *International Journal of Research in Marketing*, *Psychological Bulletin*, and *Public Opinion Quarterly*. Feick has served as president of the Association for International Business Education and Research and the Sheth Foundation.

Feick received the Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics from Pennsylvania State University and the M.S. degree in agricultural economics and B.A. degree in psychology, magna cum laude, from the University of Delaware.



Lawrence Feick

Pitt to Cosponsor Family Support Conference

By Sharon S. Blake

What does the state of a child's family, school system, and overall community have to do with that child's success in school? This and other child-related issues will be explored during the 14th Annual Family Support Conference May 16 and 17 in the Westin Convention Center Hotel, 1000 Penn Ave., downtown.

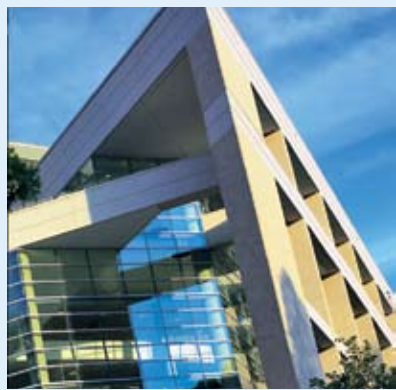
Attendees will hear presentations on national trends and challenges behind the family support movement, which encourages families to build on their own strengths,

using community resources. Speakers will include Evelyn Harris, director of New York's Department of State, Division of Community Services (speaking at 12:15 p.m. May 16 and 1 p.m. May 17); Paul Gasser, a marriage and family therapist and instructor at the University of Wisconsin at Platteville (9:30 a.m. May 17); and Lynn Amwake, program specialist at the SERVE Center, University of North Carolina at Greensboro (10:30 a.m. May 17). Afternoon discussions are scheduled May 16 on parent leadership, advocacy, and other topics. On May 17, attendees can choose among 28 workshops on topics ranging from the effect of violence on children to helping children develop social and emotional skills.

Admission for each day is \$75. To register, call 412-244-5358. Among the conference's cosponsors are Pitt's Office of Child Development, School of Education, and School of Social Work.

Chronicling

An ongoing series highlighting
University of Pittsburgh history



April 27, 2003—Pitt's 2003 commencement is celebrated in the University's new Petersen Events Center, as the annual convocation returns to the Pitt campus for the first time in 34 years. Paul H. O'Neill, former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and former CEO of Alcoa, gives the commencement address. "To put us in the context of where we are today," he says, "we can win war with munitions but we can only win the peace with ideas."



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PittChronicle

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Student Profile

(For profiles of other remarkable students receiving Pitt degrees today, see pages 4-6 and 9.)

Varia Permyashkin

Born in Kazakhstan and raised in Lewisburg, Pa., she came to Pitt to pursue her passion for learning languages

JOE KAPLEWSKI/CODICE



Varia Permyashkin

By Bruce Steele

*Please.
Thank you.
Hello.
Goodbye.*

Those were the only English words that Varia Permyashkin's parents knew when they emigrated from Kazakhstan to the United States in 1989, bringing with them Varia and her younger brother, Aleksandr.

Varia, who was 5 years old at the time, spoke no English at all.

Placed in a private school in Lewisburg, Pa., by the Pentecostal church that had sponsored her family's move first to Vienna, then Rome, and finally to the United States, Permyashkin initially felt lost. "In Lewisburg, I was the only foreigner in the entire school," she says. "I remember that I had trouble communicating with my teacher. She would try to tell me things, and I would just laugh and be comfortably clueless. It was bad. But she was kind and patient.

"Because they didn't know English yet, my parents couldn't help me with homework assignments, so I basically had to teach myself. It took me two weeks to learn enough English to keep up with the rest of my class."

Two weeks?

"Remember, learning languages comes easily to young children," says Permyashkin, who will graduate from Pitt today with a bachelor's degree in linguistics. "Some of my classes here have focused on how quickly kids, with their still-developing brains, can absorb new languages when they're surrounded by people who are speaking it and when they're reading a lot"

in the new language.

Permyashkin's parents, ethnic Russians and Pentecostal Christians who left the Soviet Union to escape religious persecution, did not allow a television in their house. So, family members learned English by conversing with their new American neighbors, classmates, and coworkers, and by reading.

"As a girl, I read a lot—a lot," recalls Permyashkin, who today speaks unaccented English but carries herself and dresses with an elegance more characteristic of Slavic women than their U.S. counterparts. "I read the entire 'Baby-Sitters Club' series" of children's books by Ann M. Martin. "I just read a lot of 'girly' things, you know? A lot of series. I really enjoyed series of books."

Permyashkin believes her current love of studying languages was inspired by her intense childhood effort to master English. In addition to being fluent in English and Russian (still spoken in the Permyashkins' Lewisburg home by Varia, her parents, and her 11 siblings), Permyashkin speaks and writes Modern Greek (she visited Greece last summer to polish her skills in that language), Spanish, and Sanskrit.

"The truth is that linguistics was not my major of choice," Permyashkin confides. "I ended up taking it because there was no such major as 'study a bunch of foreign languages.' I took linguistics as a core major, something to make my various language studies possible."

Lewisburg is the home of Bucknell University, Permyashkin points out, "and half of the students at the high school I attended

go on to Bucknell. But I wanted to get away from Lewisburg, which is small and very bland. When I first visited Pitt, I'd had no experience of city life, and it was a little intimidating. But soon, I fell in love with this University. Here, I didn't feel exotic or awkward. There are so many other foreign-born students at Pitt. I've made friends with students from all over the world here—from Korea, Brazil, France, Norway, Denmark, India...

"When I first came to Pitt, I lived in Holland Hall. It's a very quiet building, all girls, but I made my best friendships there. I'm still friends with those girls."

Today, Permyashkin shares a Shadyside apartment with a cousin named Oxanna. "We're best friends, we grew up together, and we've been roommates since our freshman year," says Permyashkin, adding that she occasionally zips over to Squirrel Hill and its three Russian food stores when she's craving home-style treats.

Not only was Pitt her first choice among universities to attend, it was the only school Permyashkin applied to. "I like to make my life complicated sometimes," she says with a laugh, preferring not to think what she would have done if Pitt had rejected her. "I wanted to go to a big, urban school, and I was looking for someplace that offered Spanish, Russian, and a lot of less commonly offered languages. And Pitt offers a crazy number of languages," including more than a dozen—Arabic, Hindi, Irish Gaelic, and Modern Greek among them—that are taught through the linguistics department's Less Commonly Taught Languages Center.

"When I first visited Pitt, I'd had no experience of city life, and it was a little intimidating. But soon, I fell in love with this University. Here, I didn't feel exotic or awkward. There are so many other foreign-born students at Pitt. I've made friends with students from all over the world here—from Korea, Brazil, France, Norway, Denmark, India... "

—Varia Permyashkin

Permyashkin studied Sanskrit through an independent-study arrangement with a professor in Pitt's Department of Classics. "I've made a lot of Indian friends since coming to Pittsburgh. I was interested in their culture, and some Indian languages still use Sanskrit script. So, I figured if I studied Sanskrit, maybe I could in the future study other Indian languages that also use that script," she explains.

Working 20 hours per week as an immigration document manager in Pitt's Office of International Services, Permyashkin helps foreign-born students with visa applications and other paperwork—complex and potentially confusing stuff in post-9/11 America. "Working in that office has been educational as well as personally rewarding for me," she says. "By talking with students from countries like Indonesia and various African countries, I'm learning about their cultures. It's also helping me to develop my ear for accents. For example, if I hear someone speaking with an Eastern European accent, I can adjust my English to sound more like theirs so they don't find it so difficult understanding me."

When she's not studying or working in the International Services office, Permyashkin volunteers to tutor fourth- and fifth-graders at Breachmenders Ministries, a nonsectarian community-development organization that serves low-income families in West Oakland and the Hill District. "It's very rewarding work," she says. "I've enjoyed tutoring, and I may pursue a career in teaching English to immigrants."

"Actually, I haven't decided on a career yet. I'm waiting to hear back from several companies I've contacted about job possibilities. I'm hoping to find work on the West Coast because it's more ethnically diverse than the Eastern United States, and I think there are more language-oriented job opportunities out there. Also, I've lived almost my whole life in the Eastern part of the country, and I'd like to make a dramatic relocation while I'm still unattached."

Permyashkin today will become the first member of her family to graduate from college. But, with 11 younger brothers and sisters, she almost certainly won't be the last, she says. Aleksandr, the oldest of her siblings, is completing his sophomore year in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences.

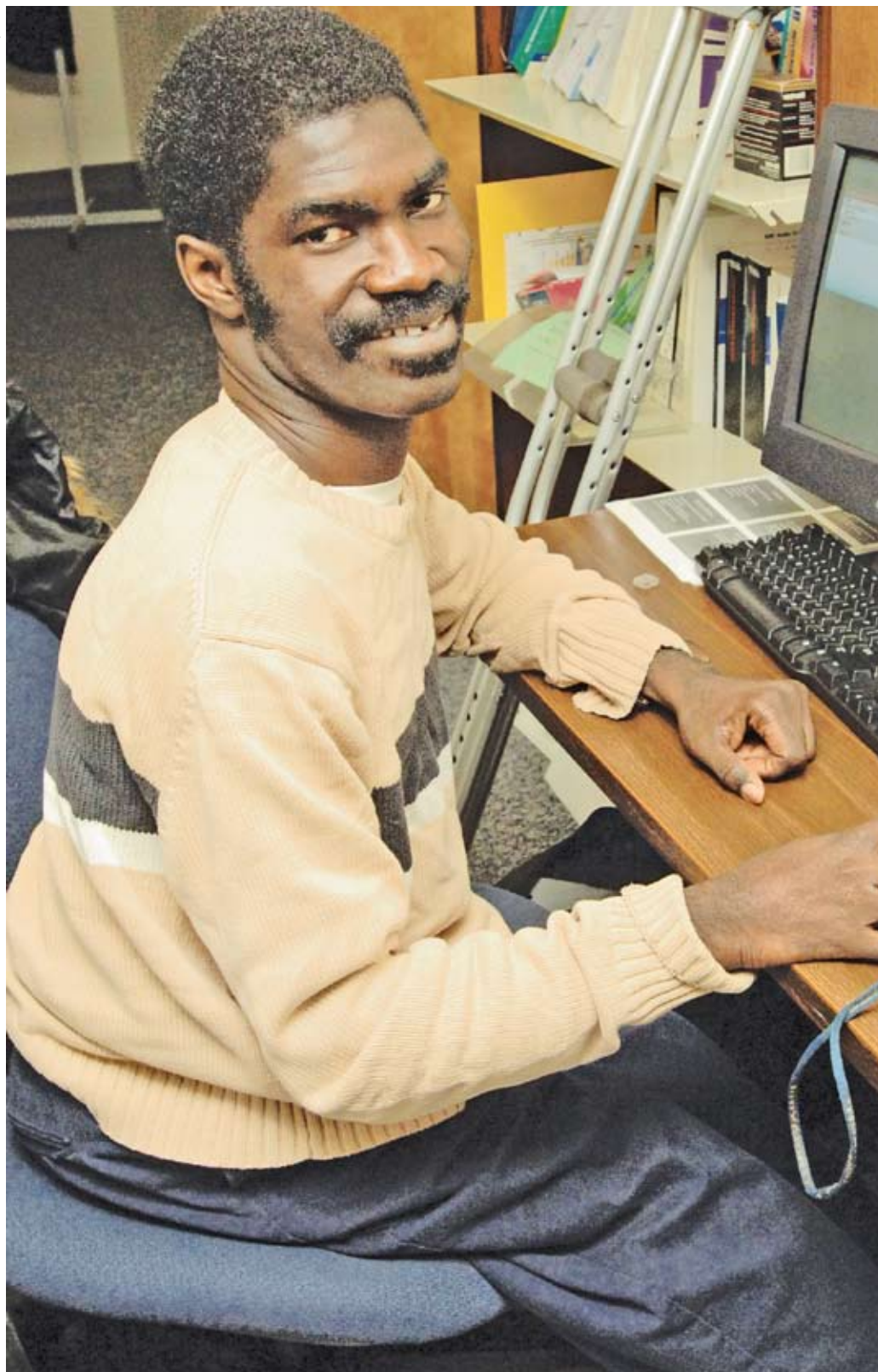
"Pitt, for me, has been an inspirational place," Permyashkin says. "I'm really glad I came here."

Student Profile

Solomon Quaynor

This biostatistics graduate student refused to allow physical disabilities and cultural prejudice to interfere with his pursuit of a health-sciences career

BRADEN WOLFE/CODE



Solomon Quaynor

By Morgan Kelly

In keeping with the culture of his native Ghana, Solomon Quaynor modestly prefers not to talk about himself. The reason he agrees to be interviewed, he says, is so he can thank the people who have helped him.

Quaynor, 34, has a condition similar to cerebral palsy that limits his movement and coordination. He gets around with the aid of crutches and a mobility scooter. In Ghana, he says, many people with physical disabilities find their options limited to learning such trades as basket weaving, or they end up as beggars.

Instead, Quaynor will receive his Master of Science degree in biostatistics from the University of Pittsburgh today. He plans to pursue his Ph.D. degree at Pitt in human genetics.

Quaynor says he has earned his academic degrees—which also include a

Bachelor of Science degree in zoology at Kent State and a Master of Arts degree in English at Oklahoma State—in order to survive. That's all. The accolades, he says, should go to his family, who supported and encouraged him, and to the instructors who have looked past his physical limitations.

"There are many people who have gotten me to where I am now. If I mentioned names, I would leave some out, and you don't have enough space to write them down anyway," Quaynor says with a deep laugh and a shy smile. "I can't call my academic career a 'great achievement' because I did what I had to do. I would rather express gratitude to the people who supported me than talk about myself."

Quaynor was born in Accra, Ghana's capital, to a family of medical professionals. He dreamed of becoming a doctor like his father. But, in Ghana, Quaynor's

intelligence and desire could not overcome societal assumptions about people with serious physical disabilities—more benignly, that they are weaklings to be sheltered and protected.

"When you have a culture that says certain people belong in certain categories, it's not easy to surmount that," he says.

Quaynor's father insisted that his son attend regular school. Aside from a rough beginning in elementary school ("Kids can be cruel, no matter what the country," Quaynor points out), Quaynor proved himself to be a good student. His instructors and the school's headmistress supported and encouraged him, and, eventually, his classmates came to know him as Solomon Quaynor, not just a kid with a disability.

But when Quaynor entered high school, he found himself excluded from activities and events in which people assumed he could not or should not participate.

"I can't speak as to why the difference between grade school and high school was so stark, but it was more painful," he recalls.

In the 10th grade, Quaynor tried out for the drama club, certain that he would be rebuffed. After all, he told himself, how many Shakespearean roles were written for kids on crutches? But the drama teacher gave him a chance. Quaynor stayed in the club for the rest of high school, exhibiting talents for soliloquy, projection (despite his otherwise reserved demeanor), and dramatic writing. Although public speaking still makes him nervous, Quaynor credits his theatrical experience with helping him to give academic presentations in college.

"The ability to command a stage is a very important skill," Quaynor says in his hushed but sturdy West African patois. "What I learned in that drama group has helped me ever since. That teacher told me much later that at first she was not sure about me. I'm glad she gave me a chance. Some others might not have."

As challenging as life was for him in Ghana, at least there Quaynor could depend on his family's support. It wasn't until 1991, when he began his studies at Kent State University—including lab courses that were extremely demanding for him, physically—that he realized just how much that support had meant. "Once I got here and was without my family, I wanted to give up," he confides. "I didn't realize how important the emotional support was until I didn't have it. If I had grown up in a different family, I probably would have given up."

"I haven't had an easy time at all since I came to the United States, but I knew others would suffer if I failed," Quaynor adds. "If I had gotten this far and failed, some people in Ghana would have said to my family, 'We told you so. What was the point of you taking him to school?'"

So, Quaynor persevered. After graduating from Kent State in 1996, he spent two years conducting postundergraduate research. In 1999, in a sharp departure from his original ambition of becoming a doctor, he enrolled at Oklahoma State to study

Quaynor, 34, has a condition similar to cerebral palsy that limits his movement and coordination. He gets around with the aid of crutches and a mobility scooter. In Ghana, he says, many people with physical disabilities find their options limited to learning such trades as basket weaving, or they end up as beggars. Instead, Quaynor will receive his Master of Science degree in biostatistics from the University of Pittsburgh today. He plans to pursue his Ph.D. degree at Pitt in human genetics.

English. An advisor had suggested that he combine his flair for science and his writing talent (honed during his drama club days) to write science textbooks.

After graduating from Oklahoma State, Quaynor discovered biostatistics. In that field, he says, he can assist in diagnosing genetic diseases by finding correlations between particular disorders and the genes and genetic flaws that might cause them.

"Let's say you start with 1,000 genes," he says, excitedly. "Someone like me can whittle that down to 25 or 50 genes, then whittle it down even further. I wish I would have thought of what I wanted to do earlier." Because it's computer-based, biostatistics gives Quaynor access to the medical field without pushing his physical limitations.

Quaynor enrolled as a biostatics graduate student in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health in 2004, spending the bulk of his days this year in a computer lab in Parran Hall. He has participated in some student activities at Pitt, most notably as an ambassador for the University's Office of International Services last year, meeting with incoming students.

After spending most of the last 16 years in school, Quaynor remains only a few years from the health-sciences career he yearned for as a child. He hopes, after completing his doctoral studies at Pitt, to work for an international health organization or teach and conduct research at a university. Quaynor is considering remaining in Pittsburgh after completing his doctoral studies. He does not want to go anywhere else, he says—unless it's back to Ghana.

Quaynor has not returned since leaving in 1991 to study in the United States. He loves his country, misses it, and shares its rich culture with non-Ghanaians when he can. But he vowed 16 years ago not to return home until he could prove wrong that element of his culture that had perceived him as helpless.

"I can't go back empty-handed," Quaynor declares. "I left Ghana a very headstrong kid who thought he could do anything. The issue of my disability *being* an issue was never okay with me. I resolved to get to the highest level of education I possibly could.

"Now, I'm *this* close."

Student Profile

Dawn Hartman

Psychology major's academic achievements defy a stereotype about foster children

By Sharon S. Blake

Dawn Hartman will receive a bachelor's degree in psychology from Pitt today with a G.P.A. of just under 3.7.

Not bad for a young woman who shouldered an unusual burden during adolescence—namely, running a household and caring for three younger siblings.

Hartman's father died suddenly when she was 14, and when her mother became too despondent to care for her children, Dawn stepped in. Shopping, cooking, cleaning, and running errands became the norm for Hartman, whose siblings were 9, 8, and 6 years old at the time. Unfortunately, Hartman's schoolwork suffered, and she entered foster care at age 16.

Suddenly, after two years of playing the role of a parent, Hartman was separated from her siblings and expected to conform to a 10 p.m. curfew. She found it difficult to surrender her independence. "When you're a foster child, you don't have the same faith in adults that other people do," says Hartman, a fast-talking, focused young woman.

Hartman's mother died the following year, but Hartman persevered, earning a 4.0 grade average at Reading (Pa.) High School. Her SAT scores were slightly below what Pitt required, but an essay she submitted as part of the application process—describing her home life—earned her admission to the University's School of Arts and Sciences.

Among her Pitt academic accomplishments was serving as a teaching assistant, rare for an undergraduate. This spring, she taught two recitations of the course Russian Fairy Tales, with a total of 40 students. This, while holding down a job as a waitress at Pamela's Restaurant in Squirrel Hill.

Simply by completing her degree here, Hartman beat the odds against foster children succeeding in higher education. Only half of all foster children complete high school, according to the National Association of Social Workers; only 11 percent pursue postsecondary education, and, of those, 4-7 percent graduate. Hartman discovered those bleak statistics for herself

while interning this year in the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, working with teens transitioning out of foster care.

"Some foster children don't have the financial resources for college," Hartman says. "Often, they've moved from foster home to foster home, which means moving to a lot of different school districts. People want them to go to college, and sometimes they get accepted, but then they realize they just can't handle it."

While Hartman was interning at the Department of Human Services, she was interviewed by a young film student producing a documentary on foster children. Only late in the interview with the filmmaker did Hartman reveal that she herself had been in foster care.

"The filmmaker was really intrigued by that and wanted to have me as part of her documentary," says Hartman. "It's me and another person she's following around."

The filmmaker has interviewed Hartman at home, in the classroom, and while conducting a workshop at The Bridge, a downtown transition organization for foster teens. Hartman says she's reluctant to talk about her experience in foster care because many people pigeonhole foster children and teens as troublesome. She's been on the receiving end of rude and misinformed comments more than once, she says.

"I forgive people for their ignorance because there's not enough known about foster care, especially in the college arena. There are not enough foster care kids here for people to develop good thoughts about," Hartman says, adding that she hasn't met one other person at Pitt who, to her knowledge, had been in foster care.

Hartman believes she has found her professional niche in community service. During her years at Pitt, she has taught and read to young children through the Jumpstart early-education project, worked at a YMCA day camp, performed community service work during an alternative spring break, and tutored Somali refugee children in language, social, and cultural skills.

"These children had only been in the United States for three years," Hartman explains. "Some of them were 12 or 13 years old before they got any kind of schooling. I was trying to bridge the gap between what they knew and what they needed to know."

Mary Lou Kline, who teaches business courses at Reading Area Community College, became Dawn's mentor when Dawn was 14 through the Mentors for Berks Youth organization.

"It was like finding your soulmate in life," Kline says of her relationship with Dawn over the past nine years. "The events leading up to her mother's passing, through the funeral and a complex foster-care situation... Dawn's composure and focus were incredibly mature." Kline and at least 20 other friends and relatives from the Reading area plan to attend Pitt's commencement ceremony today to celebrate with Dawn.

Reflecting on her four years at Pitt, Hartman says her time abroad—studying at the University of Auckland in New Zealand, with side trips to Australia, Thailand, England, and China—was the highlight. Her original purpose in traveling Down Under was to take a break from public service and waitressing work, focus on her studies, and reflect on where she wanted to go with her

life. But she found she couldn't limit herself only to academics.

"It just ate at me not to be doing any service work at all, so I actually worked for the University of Auckland's volunteer office, trying to get people to do community service around New Zealand," she recalls.

Dawn says the trip to New Zealand opened her eyes about her goals in life.

"It helped me realize my desire for service is more than breaking away from a stereotype" of foster children, she says. "It's my passion and my calling in life."

Leon Sanders III: Pursuing His Passions for Japanese Culture And Scientific Research



As a Pitt undergraduate, Leon Sanders III (left) has had the opportunity to immerse himself in two of his passions, Japanese culture and scientific research. Sanders, who recently returned from studying in Tokyo, coauthored a scientific paper titled "Neural Network for Automated System to Diagnose Blood Clots," which he presented during the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Applications in Innsbruck, Austria, in February. He is pictured with the conference's keynote speaker, Dieter Fensel, director of Austria's Digital Enterprise Research Institute.

Sanders' research focused on the development of a device to diagnose one of the 10 most life-threatening blood clot disorders. The device also provides diagnostic techniques to target a specific disorder, information a person can take to a doctor's office for verification. Sanders will graduate from Pitt today with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Japanese and a certificate in Asian studies. He plans to pursue a master's degree in biology and a Ph.D. degree in the study of viruses, with his primary focus on HIV/AIDS and Ebola research.



Dawn Hartman

Student Profile

David Totten

This former radio journalist enrolled in Pitt's GSPIA to prepare for a career in public service



David Totten poses with a glacier during a summer 2006 visit to Valdez, Alaska

By Amanda Leff

During his 10 years as a radio journalist in Alaska, David Totten reported on issues ranging from aviation safety above the rugged Alaskan landscape ("Those mountains are littered with broken planes," he notes) to the impact on indigenous Inuit people of the melting ice pack near the Arctic Circle; as the ice melts, Inuit villages literally are breaking loose and sinking into the ocean.

As news director of KENI-AM Anchorage/News 650 and in covering economic development issues for the Alaska Public Radio Network, Totten also attended many midnight sessions of the Anchorage Assembly and reported on such urban planning efforts as the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan, which sought input from Anchorage residents on how they wanted their city to develop over the next two decades.

Over time, Totten grew interested in participating in city planning and economic development projects, not just reporting on them. That interest led him to enroll in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), from which he today will receive his master's degree in public administration.

"I wanted to take part in some of the exciting projects that the people I was interviewing were doing," Totten explains. "I had covered city and state politics heavily and wanted a chance to be involved in running a city or region, bringing in some of the exciting new advances in e-government and

digital democracy."

A Tuscon, Ariz., native who grew up in California, Totten studied screenwriting at California State University at Northridge before switching his major to journalism and enrolling at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Like screenwriting, he reasoned, journalism offered the chance to tell stories.

As his interest in journalism waned and he began looking at prospective graduate schools, GSPIA rose to the top of his list because of its cross-disciplinary curriculum. "I really like that they have the international focus as well as the [focus on] public administration," he says.

According to Totten, Pittsburgh is a great place to study how cities work and how communities are built. The city is a "living laboratory on urban and regional affairs," he says. "Pittsburgh has a lot going for it, and a lot of changes ahead of it. It's a neat place to see where things are working and where they aren't working."

Totten is most interested in urbanism, regional approaches to problems, and "smart growth," which seeks to combat urban sprawl. "These are all things that Pittsburgh is striving towards," he says. "The people here get excited about new ideas and are willing to try new things."

At Pitt, Totten has indulged his appetite for urban and regional affairs through a variety of projects, including his work at the University's Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC). Totten was involved

with one of the center's main projects, the Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System, created for nonprofit and community-building organizations. The Web-based system displays such indicators as vacant properties, crime reports, liquor licenses, and erosion risk for Pittsburgh's neighborhoods. Users must complete training sessions before they can secure a password for access to the system.

Totten helped to develop a database for COPC managers that tracks those who have completed the training programs. He also assists in the marketing of new training programs to new and prospective users. In addition, he recently completed a program evaluation of COPC. Totten and his evaluation group assessed COPC based on various community-building goals, including connectedness, identity, participation, trust, and visioning/planning.

Last summer, Totten did research on how to incorporate land-use policy to revitalize an underperforming shopping center in the borough of Crafton. He confronted challenging issues, including the fact that the shopping center crosses the Crafton borough line into Ingram; also, a 17-acre parking lot made it difficult to get from one end of the shopping center to the other. In assessing the revitalization project, Totten worked with the shopping center's owners, individual store owners, and officials from Crafton and Ingram. He also conducted a survey to find out what purposes the shopping center's customers wanted it to serve. Totten recommended that the shopping center get involved with the Main Street program, a nonprofit organization that revitalizes downtown shopping districts. He also suggested that a comprehensive plan be established in cooperation with Ingram.

"The borough manager told me that my

"I wanted to take part in some of the exciting projects that the people I was interviewing were doing. I had covered city and state politics heavily and wanted a chance to be involved in running a city or region, bringing in some of the exciting new advances in e-government and digital democracy."

—David Totten

report helped push them into holding a joint borough council meeting," Totten says. "So if nothing else, we can get more cooperation between boroughs."

Totten says his journalism background has helped him at Pitt in a variety of ways. Not only has it made him a clear and concise writer of reports, term papers, and essay tests, he says, but it has taught him to take nothing at face value and to question everything. He says he also has learned the importance of looking for connections. "Whose mind do you have to change to enact a policy?" he asks himself as he goes about his work. "How will one policy connect another?"

As a reporter, Totten would report on new stories each day. He says his work in GSPIA has the same flow. "I start on a project, I finish a project, I move on to the next one. It never gets boring. There is always something new," he says.



David Totten

From Accra to Ulaanbataar, From Hungary to the Himalayas

Pitt students conduct research and immerse themselves in foreign cultures, thanks to Nationality Rooms scholarships

MARY JANE BERTY/CODE



Pitt students who were awarded summer 2007 Nationality Rooms study-abroad scholarships gathered for an orientation session last month. Seated, from left: Rachel Belloma, Lori Anne Sharpless, Suzanne Adjogah, Max Walko, Sheila Isong, Athanasios Sikolas, Timothy Dempsey, Priscilla Liu, and Caitlin Henry. Middle row, from left: Nationality Rooms Programs Director E. Maxine Bruhns, James Pesek, Teresa Nichols, Bethany Wenger, Lauren Bruce, Jenna Arment, Ross Rader, Zachary Morris, Matthew Carulli, Edward Kastenhuber, Abigail Buffington, Dana-Leigh Puzio, Tanya Keenan, and Martin Doppelt. Top row, from left: James Quinn, Katherine Philp, Rebecca Waltner-Toews, Danielle Shuttleworth, Leslie Wallace, Zachary Zator, Darmendra Ramcharran, Tarini Anand, Julia Finch, Zachary Moir, Penelope Nelson-Bissett, and Michelle Gibbons. Not pictured are Jessica Fischhoff, James Johnson, and Stephanie Wieland.

By Patricia Lomando White

University of Pittsburgh students will jet to far-off places this summer to conduct research in clinics and laboratories, participate in archaeological digs, and immerse themselves in the cultures and languages of Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America—all thanks to summer study-abroad scholarships provided by the Pitt Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs.

Among the students' research interests are Freudian epistemology, tomb reliefs from the Eastern Han Dynasty, medieval illuminated manuscripts, and the influence of environmental factors on health care.

Since 1948, Nationality Rooms committee members and their friends have raised nearly \$1.7 million to award 933 scholarships, enabling Pitt students to experience other countries through five weeks of cultural immersion and study.

Following is a list of the 37 Pitt undergraduate and graduate students who have been awarded Nationality Rooms study-abroad scholarships for summer 2007.

Undergraduate Awards

Suzanne D. Adjogah, a sophomore communication science major, has received the African Heritage Classroom/Walter C. Worthington Foundation Scholarship to study the Arabic language and Moroccan culture at the School for International Training in Rabat, Morocco.

The Savina S. Skewis Award will support **Jenna L. Arment**, a junior neuroscience major, as she takes advanced courses in Spanish language, researches healthcare issues, and participates in a community health practicum at the Pontifica Universi-

dad Catholica Madre y Maestra in Santiago, Dominican Republic.

Sophomore English writing major **Rachel E. Belloma** will study the Hebrew language and Jewish culture at the Rothberg International School of Hebrew University in Jerusalem under the Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship.

Lauren J. Bruce, a junior majoring in philosophy, will use her Helen Pool Rush Grant to study human trafficking and prostitution through the Denmark International Studies Program in Copenhagen.

The Women's International Club Award will enable **Abigail F. Buffington**, a sophomore anthropology and religious studies major, to study Arabic and participate in an archeological dig in Madaba, Jordan.

The Italian Room Committee Scholarship will support junior accounting and Italian major **Matthew D. Carulli** as he studies Italian language and culture through the Pitt-in-Italy Program in Syracuse, Sicily.

Sophomore **Timothy M. Dempsey**, a history and philosophy of science major, has received the William and Bernice McKeever Memorial Award to participate in an HIV/AIDS field school sponsored by Ohio University in Gaborone, Botswana.

English writing, psychology, and anthropology major **Martin C. Doppelt**, a junior, will use the Mary Campbell Cross Memorial/Irish Room Committee Scholarship to participate in a dig at the Deserted Village through the Achill Archaeological Field School on Achill Island, Ireland.

The Ruth Crawford Mitchell Merit Award will fund **Caitlin E. Henry**, a sophomore majoring in French and history, as she studies French language and culture through the Pitt-in-France Program in

Nantes, France.

Junior political science and philosophy major **Sheila E. Isong** has received the Pauline Hickman Memorial Grant to study African aesthetics and civilization and research the 1945 Pan African Congress in Accra, Ghana.

The Italian Room Committee Grant will enable **Edward R. Kastenhuber**, a junior bioengineering major, to study Italian language and history and participate in a writing course at the Mediterranean Center for Arts and Sciences in Syracuse, Sicily.

The Women's International Club Grant will support junior **Tanya E. Keenan**, a neuroscience and political science major, as she studies HIV/AIDS and health care, as well as clinical interventions and community development, during the Children's Family Health International in Durban, South Africa.

Priscilla Liu, a sophomore majoring in Chinese, will use the John H. Tsui Memorial Award to attend the International Chinese Language Program in Taiwan.

The David L. Lawrence Memorial Award will enable **Zachary A. Morris**, a junior majoring in urban studies, political science, and philosophy, to conduct ethnographic surveys in the *ger* districts surrounding Ulaanbataar, Mongolia.

Anthropology and history and philosophy of science major **Teresa A. Nichols** has received the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award to conduct research on the transmission of culture through museums and to participate in a museum internship in Ulaanbataar, Mongolia.

Junior **Dana-Leigh Puzio**, majoring in psychology and administrative justice, will use the Women's International Club Grant

to study Spanish language and art history at the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares in Alcalá, Spain.

Ross Y. Rader, a junior majoring in English writing and literature, has received the Savina S. Skewis Grant and will participate in an internship with a publishing company in London.

Majoring in theater arts and studio arts, junior **Lori Anne Sharpless** will use the Caryl Kline Award for Mid-Career Women to study painting and drawing at the Paris American Academy and to study French in Paris.

The Japanese Room Committee Scholarship will enable **Athanasios G. Sikolas**, a junior majoring in Japanese, to study Japanese language and culture at Waseda University in Tokyo.

Sophomore philosophy and political science major **Max B. Walko's** Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship, the Dr. S. Gomory/J. Arvay Memorial Award, will give him the opportunity to study the Hungarian language and culture through the Lexia International program in Budapest.

The Helen Pool Rush Award will enable **Bethany A. Wenger**, a junior majoring in French and communication science and disorders, to study French language and culture through the Pitt-in-France Program in Nantes, France, and attend the international Congress for the Deaf in Spain.

Stephanie Wieland, a junior majoring in German and psychology, has received the German Room Committee Scholarship to study German literature and culture at the Freie Universität Berlin.

Graduate Awards

The Indian Room Committee Scholarship will enable **Tarini Anand**, a student in Pitt's School of Medicine, to participate in healthcare activities with the Himalayan Health Exchange in rural areas in India near the Tibetan border.

Julia A. Finch, a graduate medieval art and architecture major, has received the Austrian Room Committee Scholarship to research medieval illuminated manuscripts and participate in an internship with *Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften* in Vienna.

The Herbert E. Lieberkind/Danish Room Committee Scholarship will fund research by **Jessica R. Fischhoff**, a creative nonfiction graduate student, at Christiania, a 36-year-old commune in Copenhagen that is undergoing dramatic change and possibly facing destruction.

Michelle Gibbons, a communication science and history and philosophy of science graduate student, has received the James Affleck/Scottish Room Committee Scholarship and will do research in Edinburgh on the popularization of scientific ideas.

Eugene Manasterski Memorial Award-winner **James A. Johnson**, a graduate student in anthropology, will conduct research in Kyiv and participate in an Iron Age archaeological dig in Bel'sk, Ukraine.

Graduate French literature major **Zachary A. Moir's** Marjorie Ransick Thomas Memorial Award will enable him to study the German language and will fund his research of Freudian epistemology at the Sigmund Freud Museum and Library in Vienna.

Penelope Nelson-Bissett, a human security major in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, was awarded the African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship; in Accra, Ghana, she will research security systems within Buduburam refugee camps and collect data for Pitt's Ford Institute for Human Security.

Supported by the Frances and Sully Nesta Award, Italian literature graduate student **James R. Pesek** will research the "Men on Men" series, including publication and marketing plans in Turin and Milan.

Katherine D. Philp, a student in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health majoring in infectious diseases, has received the

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ScholarAthletes

School-record 311 Pitt student-athletes earn GPAs of 3.0 or higher

A school-record 311 Pitt NCAA student-athletes who earned grade-point averages (GPAs) of 3.0 or higher in the spring or fall of 2006 were recognized at the University's annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Breakfast sponsored by the Pitt Alumni Association.

Among the 311 honorees, a Pitt-record 23 achieved perfect 4.0 GPAs and 124 were named Big East Academic All-Stars—also a school record.

The Pitt women's volleyball team won the Academic Team Award and Top Women's Team honors. The squad boasted 14 scholar-athletes, including two with 4.0 GPAs.

The Top Men's Team honor went to wrestling, which had 18 scholar-athletes and one 4.0 student. Thirteen team members were named to the Eastern Wrestling League Academic Honor Roll.

With nine scholar-athletes, the men's basketball team received the Most Improved Team honor.

Also in 2006:

- Thomas DeCato (men's soccer) and Megan McGrane (volleyball) were named Big East Scholar-Athletes of the Year;

- Nine gymnastics team members were named to the East Atlantic Gymnastics League's All-Academic Team;

- Six members of the softball team were honored as National Fast Pitch Coaches Association All-American Scholar Athletes;

- The National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches/Women named five members of the gymnastics team as All-American Scholar-Athletes;

- Three tennis team members were named to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's All-American Team;

- Two student-athletes were honored as second-team members of the 2005-06 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District Team—Maureen McCandless (women's track and field) and Amy Miteff (women's swimming and diving); and

- Both the men's and women's swimming and diving squads received Team All-American Awards from the College Swimming Coaches Association of America for their fall 2006 academic achievements.

"Tremendous discipline and dedication are required to achieve in the classroom and in the athletics arena," Pitt Athletic Director Jeff Long said at the University's Feb. 1 awards breakfast. "I am so proud of our scholar-athletes. The commitment to excellence demonstrated by these young men and women will carry them forward in serving their communities and in their careers after graduation. We are witnessing the development of the leaders of tomorrow."

Following are the award winners.

Perfect 4.0 GPA Awards

Cheer and Dance Team

Melissa Matthews, Aimee Moore

Football

Brian Bennett, Tyler Palko

Gymnastics

Nicole Drane, Robyn Marszalek



The Pitt women's volleyball team received the Academic Team Award and Top Women's Team honors during the University's annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Breakfast, shown in the top photo. Seated, from left in the inset photo: team members Kelly Campbell, Stephanie Ross, Azadeh Boroumand, Nicole Taurence, and Melissa Ferguson. Standing, from left in the inset photo: Pitt Athletic Director Jeff Long; WPXI-TV reporter Rich Walsh, who emceed the breakfast; Patty Carmen, manager of student records/graduation in Pitt's Office of the University Registrar (representing the Pitt Alumni Association); team members Melissa Stadelman, Jessica Moses, Kim Kern, Monica Macellari, Meagan Dooley, and Michelle Rossi; and Mike Farabaugh, Pitt director of academic support services.

Among the 311 honorees, a Pitt-record 23 achieved perfect 4.0 GPAs and 124 were named Big East Academic All-Stars—also a school record.

Men's Soccer

Tom DeCato, Matt Detzel

Women's Soccer

Kristy Fultz, Jamie Pelusi

Softball

Valerie Mihalik, Kim Stiles

Volleyball

Meagan Dooley, Megan McGrane

Men's Swimming and Diving

Jonathan Buchanan, Andrew Sheaff

Women's Swimming and Diving

Kristin Brown, Amy Miteff

Tennis

Becky Emmers

Women's Track and Field

Janelle Adams, Suzy Bossart, Kelly O'Connell

Volleyball

Meagan Dooley, Megan McGrane

Wrestling

Joe Ciampoli

Gold Awards (3.5-3.99 GPA)

Baseball

Chad Baker, Justin Cicatello, and Kyle Landis

Men's Basketball

Charles Small

Women's Basketball

Karlyle Lim

Cheer and Dance Team

Beth Abbott, Megan Barna, Christina Colalillo, Gina DiCicco, Verle Haines, Karen Inquartano, Nicole Kaminski, Rachel King, Shawn Lucci, Lauren McCormick, Angela Russo, Samantha Schenk, Emily Spade, Kaitlin Turnley, and Kayla Younge

Football

Justin Acierno, Vernon Botts, Steve Buches, Jovani Chappel, Mark Estermyer, Ron Idoko, Frank Kochin, Conor Lee, John Pelusi, Kevan Smith, and Lucas Stone

Gymnastics

Dani Bryan, Samantha DeBene, Cassie Minick, April Pearson, and Lindsay Swan

Men's Soccer

Tyler Bastianelli, Matt Langton, and Conor Luskin

Women's Soccer

Carli Brill, Jennifer DeLaHoz, Kendall Enmark, Kristina Francois, Jenna Greenfield, Sara Gutting, Ashley Habel, Erin McFarling, Caitlin Moore, Erin Myers, Aimee Romasco, Corina Sebasta, Katie Surma, and Kylie Veverka

Softball

Laura Belardinelli, Sheena Hellon, Morgan Howard, and Kayla Zinger

Men's Swimming and Diving

B.J. Conklyn, Andrew Kyrejko, Jared Martin, Patrick Mansfield, Andrew Natali, Jeremy Stultz, and Charlie Zettel

Women's Swimming and Diving

Kimmie Baird, Hanna Bratton, Katie Butrie, Kristin Caiazzo, Lindsay Champ, Kristin Criner, Amy He, Allie Horvath, Kelli Krallman, Erin Meehan, Beth Newell, Kelly O'Hara, Kelly Redcay, Erika Rodriguez, Kathy Siuda, Sara Sullivan, and Sarah Wagner

Men's Track and Field/

Cross Country

Eric Burnett, Steve Gonzalez, Will Grinstead, Keith Higham, Kyle Kaminski,

Tim Konoval, Curtis Larimer, Mike Long, Matt Raquet, and Brian Woods

Women's Track and Field/ Cross Country

Joelle Ambrose, Monica Bhattcharjee, Nikki Bielick, Rachel Botham, Ali Briggs, Aly Brown, Erin Byrne, Marissa Dudek, Bailey Flask, Katelyn Fleishman, Akiesha Gilcrist, Megan Heenan, Kristin Johnson, Maureen McCandless, Carron Mitchell, Hayle Ritchey, Lauren Shaffer, Kathy Siuda, and Abby Zaylor

Tennis

Anna Broverman, Annie Davies, and Carlie Smith

Women's Volleyball

Azadeh Boroumand, Madelyn Egan, Melissa Ferguson, Monica Macellari, Kim Norris, Stephanie Ross, and Nicole Taurence

Wrestling

Tim Allen, Matt Darnell, Christo-

Continued on Page 14

TrueBlue-Gold

Brown, Palko honored for representing the "student-athlete ideal" based on scholarship, athletic achievement, leadership, and citizenship



Kristin Brown

A leader in the pool and in the classroom

By Sophia Duck

Chuck Knoles, Pitt's longtime swimming and diving head coach, enjoys talking about graduating senior Kristin Brown, and he usually goes beyond using typical sports language in doing so.

"There is a well-known descriptor that has been used for many years to describe a man who is well-rounded physically, mentally, and spiritually—'Renaissance man,'" Knoles says. "Kristin has similarly brought a well-developed persona to the swim team. She is what I would call a 'millennium woman.' She is athletic, artistic, and very bright."

Four years ago, Brown joined a Pitt women's swimming and diving team that had gone 3-7 the year before. In her first season, the East Berlin, Pa., native led the squad to six wins and earned All-Big East honors as part of its freestyle relay team. She also held "top-five" times among the Panthers in the 50-, 100-, 200-, and 500-meter freestyle events, setting the tone for her career as one of Pitt's most accomplished women freestylers. *The Pitt News* named Brown its Pitt Female Athlete of the Year, a rare honor for a freshman.

In her sophomore season, Brown improved her times in all four freestyle events. She was ranked among the Taper and Shave College Quick 50 (a listing of the nation's top times in given events) and earned two All-Big East honors. After the season, Pitt swimming coaches named Brown the team's Most Valuable Swimmer.

"She performed daily in practice with the swim team and in the weight room, always striving to make the most gains she could," says Knoles. "And she did all of that day by day, week by week, and year by year. She is a tough cookie."

With two seasons behind her and her team's fortunes improving, Brown took over as the team's leader in her junior year and became just the third woman Panther to win a Big East title in the 200-meter freestyle.

She also was invited to the NCAA Championships to swim the 200- and 500-meter freestyle events and to compete as a member of the first Pitt women's swimming team invited to the NAAs in more than a decade.

Brown's senior year began at a home meet during which she recorded three first-place finishes. She went on to win another Big East title in the 200-meter freestyle; following that, she became the first Pitt woman swimmer in 20 years to earn an outright bid to the NAAs for a second consecutive year. At the national meet, Brown set Pitt records in the 200- and 500-meter freestyle events, boosting her total of school records to five. Also for the second straight year, she was named her team's Most Valuable Swimmer.

Brown is exceptional in the classroom as well as in the pool. She was honored as a 2006-07 Big East/Aeropostale Swimming and Diving Student-Athlete of the Year. She also received the Pitt School of Arts and Sciences' Dean's Award and Undergraduate Studies Award. She will graduate from Pitt today with a bachelor's degree in studio arts and art history.

"Kristin has achieved academically and performed with the best in her major," Knoles points out. "Her leadership skills grew with her social and physical development. In her senior year, she was one of the best captains, male or female, Pitt's swim team has seen. The standards she set for herself and her teammates were very high and will serve as a benchmark for future teams."

During the Pitt athletics department's Senior Awards Banquet on April 9, Brown was named the female recipient of the University's Blue-Gold Award for 2007. The awards are presented annually to male and female Pitt seniors who represent the stu-

dent-athlete ideal based on academic scholarship, athletic achievement, leadership qualities, and citizenship. Winners' names are carved into the stones along the Varsity Walk between the Cathedral of Learning and Heinz Chapel.

Brown says Pitt and its swimming program "have given me the best training, coaching, education, and tools to succeed academically and athletically. Being named a Blue-Gold Awardee is an amazing honor. There are so many great names carved into stone behind the Cathedral, and being included on that list is such an accomplishment. I love the Pitt tradition—it was something that really attracted me here."

Tyler Palko

One of the smartest—and toughest—quarterbacks in Pitt history

By E. J. Borghetti

Like many recent college graduates, Tyler Palko spent an afternoon a couple of weeks ago preparing for a job interview.

Unlike most of those other graduates, he was being interviewed by a National Football League franchise, the Baltimore Ravens.

Before heading south, Palko studied a little extra game film and talked with Pitt offensive coordinator Matt Cavanaugh, who won a Super Bowl as a Ravens assistant coach earlier this decade.

Palko's reputation for preparation and study is legendary in these parts. He never leaves anything to chance.



"I've never been around a player — college or professional — who prepares the way Tyler does," says Pitt Head Football Coach Dave Wannstedt.

When evaluating prospects, NFL teams take into account brains and heart as well as brawn. Fortunately for Palko, he scores highly in each of those categories.

For the last three autumns, Palko was Pitt's starting quarterback. He finished his collegiate career as the Panthers' third all-time leading passer, ranking just behind the legendary Dan Marino.

Palko's Pitt legacy, however, transcends statistics. Many observers agree that he will go down as one of the smartest—and toughest—quarterbacks in the school's illustrious football history.

He was twice selected to the All-Big East Conference Team for his play on the field, and twice named to the Big East's All-Academic Football Team for his excellence in the classroom. Palko completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in communication and rhetoric last May and took economics courses here last fall while quarterbacking the Panthers in his final year of NCAA eligibility.

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Science & Technology

Where the Boys Aren't

University of Pittsburgh study notes decline in male births in the United States, Japan

By Clare Collins

During the past 30 years, the number of male births has decreased each year in the United States and Japan, according to a Pitt-led study published in the April 9 online edition of *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

In a review of all births in both countries, the study found that significantly fewer boys than girls were born and that an increasing proportion of fetuses that died were male. The researchers noted that the decline in births is equivalent to 135,000 fewer White males in the United States and 127,000 fewer males in Japan over the past three decades. Environmental factors may help to explain these trends, they said.

"The pattern of decline in the ratio of male-to-female births remains largely unexplained," said Devra Lee Davis, lead investigator of the study, professor of epidemiology in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health, and director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute's Center for Environmental Oncology. "We know that men who work with some solvents, metals, and pesticides father fewer boys. We also know that nutritional factors, physical health, and chemical exposures of pregnant women affect their ability to have children and the health of their offspring. We suspect that some combination of these factors, along with the older ages of parents, may account for decreasing male births."

Davis explained that environmental factors, such as prenatal exposure to endocrine-disrupting environmental pollutants, may impact the SRY gene—a gene on the Y chromosome that determines the sex of a fertilized egg. Other factors that also may affect the viability of a male fetus include the parents' weight, nutrition, and the use of alcohol and drugs.

In the study, Davis and her colleagues reported an overall decline of 17 males per 10,000 births in the United States and a decline of 37 males per 10,000 births in Japan since 1970. They also found that while fetal death rates have generally decreased, the proportion of male fetuses that die has continued to increase. In Japan, among the fetuses that die, two-thirds are male, up from just over half in 1970.

The study also examined the ratio of African American male-to-female births to that of Whites in the U.S. The researchers found that while the number of African American male births has increased modestly over time, the ratio of male-to-female births for African Americans remains lower than that of Whites. In addition, they noted that African Americans have a higher fetal mortality rate overall and a higher proportion of male fetuses that die.

"These results are not surprising, since the Black-White ratio in terms of infant mortality has remained the same for almost 100 years," said study coinvestigator Lovell A. Jones, professor and director of the Center for Research on Minority Health at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. "Given the higher mortality rates for African American males in the United States, these results re-emphasize the need to determine all factors, including environmental contaminants, that are responsible for this continuing health disparity."

"Given the importance of reproduction for the health of any species, the trends we observed in the United States and Japan merit concern," added Davis. "In light of our findings, more detailed studies should be carried out that examine sex ratio in smaller groups with defined exposures as a potential indicator of environmental contamination."

The study was supported by the Heinz Endowments, the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, DSF Charitable Trust, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the W. Alton Jones Foundation.



Antidepressants Safe for Children And Adolescents, Pitt Analysis Finds

By Jocelyn Uhl Duffy

Antidepressants are safe and effective for treating anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and major depressive disorder in children and adolescents, according to a meta-analysis of 27 major studies.

The findings, published recently by Pitt School of Medicine researchers in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, call into question the controversial "black box" warnings placed on the drugs by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA); the warnings state that antidepressant medications pose a small but significantly increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior for children and adolescents.

"As clinicians, our first concern is for the health and safety of our patients," said Pitt Professor of Psychiatry David A. Brent. "When the FDA placed the 'black box' warning on antidepressants, it raised a great deal of concern about how we were to treat our young patients who we thought could possibly benefit from antidepressant therapy. Most clinicians, patients, and their families found themselves questioning whether or not they should be using treatments out of fear of the risks. By

combining data from most of the significant studies of antidepressant use in adolescents and children, we've been able to examine a balance of benefits and risks

of these medications.

"Antidepressants are safe and effective for treating disorders like anxiety, OCD, and depression in children and adolescents," Brent added. "While there is a small, increased risk of suicidal thoughts in those who use antidepressants, it would be much, much riskier to not treat these children and adolescents dealing with these disorders."

For the study, Pitt researchers extracted data on study characteristics, efficacy outcomes, and emergent suicidal events from 27 trials of second-generation antidepressants used to treat pediatric major depressive disorder, OCD, and anxiety in children and adolescents under the age of 19.

Researchers found that one in 100 participants in the studies included in the meta-analysis had new-onset suicidal ideation, or suicidal thoughts, while on medication. Even fewer acted on these thoughts, and there were no completed suicides.

The results showed that antidepressants were most effective in treating anxiety, moderately effective for treating OCD, and modestly effective for depression.

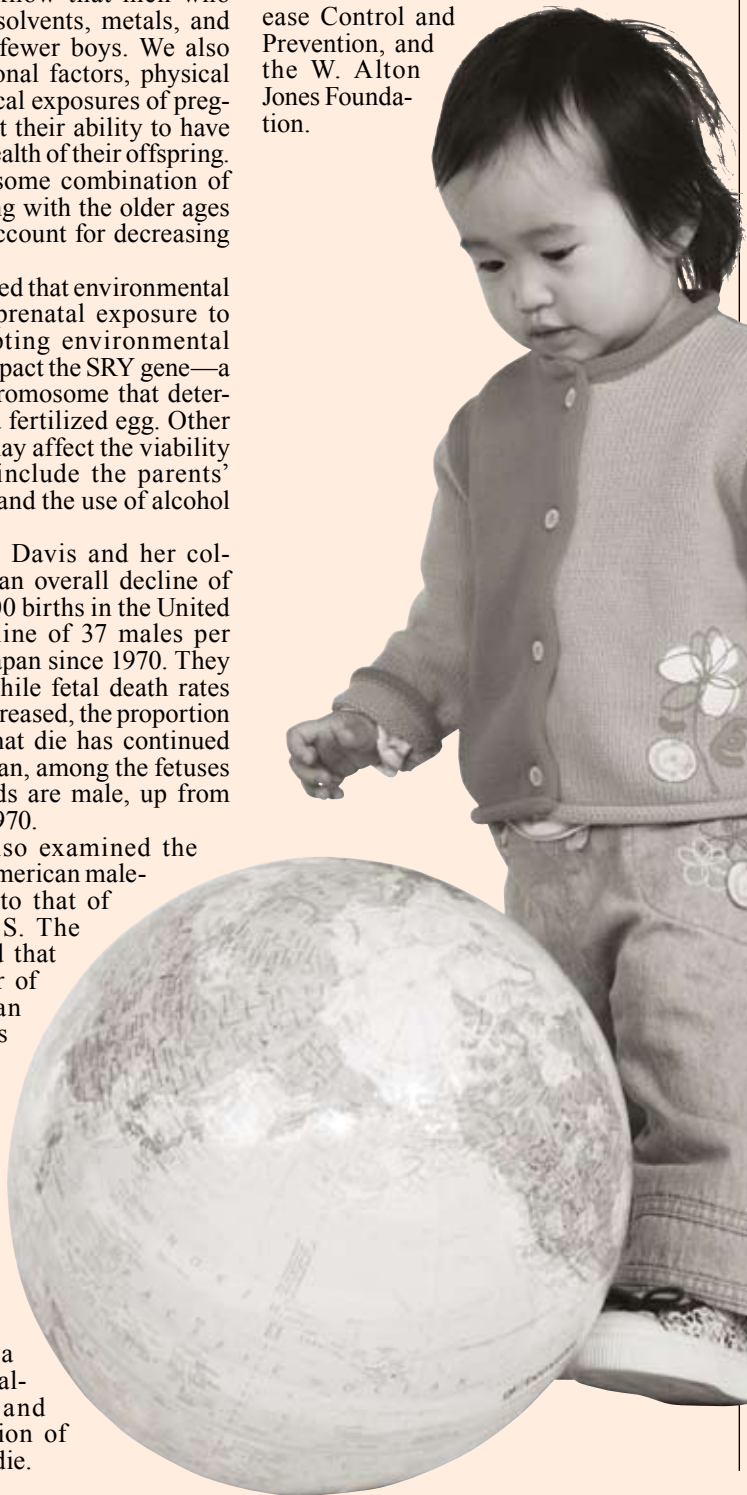
"While I support the FDA's role in monitoring the safety of medications, in this case, the FDA should reconsider the 'black box' warning on these medications," said Brent. "Our study supports the cautious and well-monitored use of antidepressant medications as a first-line treatment for anxiety,

OCD, and depression."

The Pitt study was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, one of the National Institutes of Health.

"Antidepressants are safe and effective for treating disorders like anxiety, OCD, and depression in children and adolescents."

—David A. Brent





U.S. Critical Care Delivery System in Critical Condition

Stakeholder group led by Pitt researchers calls for reorganization of critical care in the United States

By Jocelyn Uhl Duffy

The demand for critical-care services in the United States will soon outpace the supply of specialists trained in intensive care—a situation that, if not remedied, may prove fatal for critically ill patients. The solution to this problem lies not in recruiting and training more personnel but in reorganizing the critical-care system nationwide, according to a report from a group of critical-care stakeholders led by Pitt School of Medicine researchers.

The group's report was published in the April issue of the journal *Critical Care Medicine*.

"The number of Americans over the age of 65 is expected to double by 2030. In addition to nonelective medical admissions for critical illness among chronically ill elders, the growth rate in elective surgical procedures requiring intensive care unit admission, such as bypass surgery, is growing fastest among this age group," said Amber E. Barnato, an assistant professor in the Pitt medical school's Department of Medicine.

"All of this means more and more people will demand already strained intensive-care services," Barnato said. "This

anticipated mismatch between supply and demand is perhaps no different for critical-care services than for other medical care disproportionately serving elders—ranging from emergency services to long-term care services—but the opportunities for improving the efficiency of the existing system to meet demand are probably greater."

The report, developed following a September 2005 meeting of critical-care stakeholders called Prioritizing the Organization and Management of Intensive Care Services (PrOMIS) Conference, calls for the creation of a tiered, regionalized system for critical-care services in an effort to centralize expertise, equipment, and facilities. This would make the necessary critical-care services readily available to patients most in need.

"Prior conferences aimed at addressing this problem sought input only from critical-care professionals, who are a fraction of all the stakeholders," said Barnato, lead author of the PrOMIS report. "These groups often stated the need for more trained providers. Surveying a wider group of interested parties, we found that this isn't necessarily the best or only solution."

Popular Herbal Supplement Hinders Growth of Pancreatic Cancer Cells

By Clare Collins

A new study by the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) suggests that a commonly used herbal supplement, triphala, has cancer-fighting properties that prevent or slow the growth of pancreatic cancer tumors implanted in mice.

The study found that an extract of triphala—the dried and powdered fruits of the amalaki, bibhitaki, and haritaki trees—caused pancreatic cancer cells to die through a process called apoptosis—the body's normal method of disposing of damaged, unwanted, or unneeded cells. This process often is faulty in cancer cells.

Triphala, one of the world's most popular herbal preparations, is used to treat intestinal disorders. Typically taken with water, it is thought to promote appetite and digestion and to increase the number of red blood cells.

"We discovered that triphala fed orally to mice with human pancreatic tumors

was an extremely effective inhibitor of the cancer process, inducing apoptosis in cancer cells," said Sanjay K. Srivastava, the UPCI study's lead investigator and an assistant professor in the Pitt School of Medicine's Department of Pharmacology. "Triphala triggered the cancerous cells to die off and significantly reduced the size of the tumors without causing any toxic side effects.

"Our results demonstrate that triphala has strong anticancer properties given its ability to induce apoptosis in pancreatic cancer cells without damaging normal pancreatic cells," Srivastava continued. "With follow-up studies, we hope to demonstrate its potential use as a novel agent for the prevention and treatment of pancreatic cancer."

Results of the UPCI study were presented during the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, April 14-18, at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Pitt-developed Vaccine Halts Progression Of Pancreatic Cancer in Some Patients



By Clare Collins

A dendritic cell-based therapeutic vaccine for pancreatic cancer developed by researchers in Pitt's School of Medicine has stalled the disease from progressing in a handful of patients three years after vaccination.

The results, announced during the annual meeting of the American Association of Cancer Research April 14-18, provide promising evidence that the vaccine can trigger a patient's own immune system to rally against pancreatic cancer and offer new insights into how the vaccine could be made even more effective.

"Pancreatic cancer is extremely resistant to chemotherapy and radiation and, as a result, has a very high mortality rate," said Andrew Lepisto, first author of the study and a post-doctoral researcher in the Pitt medical school's Department of Immunology. "One strategy to improve the odds of survival is to help the immune system recognize the presence of pancreatic cancer cells and attack them. Our study, although small, demonstrates that this strategy can be used with some success in pancreatic cancer patients by slowing down, or even stopping, the progression of cancer."

The Pitt team created a therapeutic vaccine for pancreatic cancer made up of a synthetic version of MUC1—a tumor-associated protein that is expressed by pancreatic tumor cells—combined with the patient's own dendritic cells, which act as the quarterbacks of the immune system by coordinating its attack against foreign invaders.

The current study, the fourth in a series of MUC1 vaccine trials at the Pitt School of Medicine, included 12 patients with pancreatic cancer who received the vaccine by injection once every three weeks for a total

of three doses and were given a booster dose six months later. Four patients demonstrated a stable and continuous presence of antibodies against MUC1 and show no evidence of disease more than three years after the vaccination was completed and close to five years after diagnosis and surgery.

The research team also examined the specific immune response to the vaccine by sampling the blood of the patients involved in the study. They found that all the patients had an active immune response to the vaccine. They also learned that the number of suppressor T cells, a special type of T cell that stifles the activation of the immune system, increased following each vaccine injection, potentially limiting the greater efficacy of the vaccine.

"As we move forward in this research, we will be looking at ways to improve the vaccine by preventing the activation of suppressor T cells," said Lepisto. "One way to do this is to use additional therapies that specifically target these cells in combination with the vaccine."

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most difficult cancers to treat because it is undetectable by a physical exam, asymptomatic, and progresses quickly. Most patients die within six months of diagnosis. These factors limit the amount of data available for research, hindering significant advances in the understanding and treatment of the disease.

The Pitt study was funded by grants from the Lustgarten Foundation, the National Cancer Institute, and the Nathan Arenson Fund for Pancreatic Cancer Research.

"Pancreatic cancer is extremely resistant to chemotherapy and radiation and, as a result, has a very high mortality rate. One strategy to improve the odds of survival is to help the immune system recognize the presence of pancreatic cancer cells and attack them. Our study, although small, demonstrates that this strategy can be used with some success in pancreatic cancer patients."

—Andrew Lepisto

Girly Fish?

UPCI study finds that fish caught in Pittsburgh's rivers contain substances that mimic the actions of estrogen

By Clare Collins

A new study by the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute's (UPCI) Center for Environmental Oncology suggests that fish caught in Pittsburgh's rivers contain substances that mimic the actions of estrogen, the female hormone.

Because fish are sentinels of the environment and can concentrate chemicals from their habitat within their bodies, these results suggest that feminizing chemicals may be making their way into the region's waterways.

The study also demonstrated that the chemicals extracted from local fish can cause growth of estrogen-sensitive breast cancer cells cultured in the laboratory. Extracts of fish caught in areas heavily polluted by industrial and municipal wastes resulted in the greatest amount of cell growth.

"We decided to look at piscivorous fish, those that eat other fish, for this project because we know that they bioaccumulate contaminants from water and their prey, which may include toxic metals, farm and industrial runoff, and wastes from aging municipal sewer systems," said the study's principal investigator, Conrad D. Volz, a visiting assistant professor in the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health's (GSPH) Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. "The goals of this project are to use fish as environmental sensors of chemicals in the water and the aquatic food chain and to determine the origins of these chemical contaminants."

The study examined white bass and channel catfish caught in the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers. These fish are commonly caught as a food source by local anglers.

The experiments to determine whether estrogenic substances were present in the fish were performed in the laboratory of Patricia K. Eagon, coprincipal investigator and a Pitt professor of medicine. Eagon found that extracts from the fish acted like estrogen, a female hormone, by binding to estrogen receptors, the proteins within cells that render the



cells sensitive to estrogen.

Of six bass extracts tested for estrogenic activity, four displayed a strong or moderate ability to bind with the estrogen receptors. Of 21 catfish extracts tested, nine displayed a similar ability to bind with the estrogen receptors.

The researchers also examined whether the fish extracts could result in growth of breast cancer cells cultured in the laboratory, and found that two bass extracts produced strong-to-moderate cell growth, as did five catfish extracts.

"We know that there are hundreds, even thousands, of chemicals in the environment that can have estrogenic activity," said Eagon. "These chemicals usually come from industrial pollution, farm animals, farm chemicals, and municipal water treatment plants. What surprised us most in this study was that these estrogenic materials are present in such easily detected levels in local fish."

Volz said the next step in this research is to identify the estrogenic chemicals and their sources in the local water and fish. "These findings have significant public health implications, since we drink water from the rivers where the fish were caught," he said. "Additionally, the consumption of river-caught fish, especially by semi-subsistence anglers, may increase the risk for endocrine-mediated health endpoints like some cancers and developmental problems."

The work is part of a Community Based Participatory Research project with several partners, including Venture Outdoors and Clean Water Action as well as individual anglers who caught the fish. The members of the research team include scientists from the Pitt School of Medicine, UPCI's Center for Environmental Oncology, GSPH, and the VA Medical Center.

The DSF Charitable Trust and The Heinz Foundation supported the study.

Nutrients in Certain Vegetables May Provide Cancer-Fighting Benefit by Cutting Off a Tumor's Blood Supply

By Clare Collins

Chemicals in cruciferous vegetables such as broccoli, watercress, cabbage, and cauliflower appear not only to stop human prostate cancer cells from growing in mice but also may cut off the formation of blood vessels that "feed" tumors, according to a University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute study.

"The contribution of diet and nutrition to cancer risk, prevention, and treatment has been a major focus of research in recent years, because certain nutrients in vegetables and dietary agents appear to protect the body against diseases such as cancer," said Shivendra Singh, lead investigator of the study and a professor of pharmacology and urology in Pitt's School of Medicine. "From epidemiologic data, we know that increased consumption of vegetables reduces the risk for certain types of cancer, but now we are

beginning to understand the mechanisms by which certain vegetables like broccoli may help our bodies fight cancer and other diseases."

Singh's study is based on phytochemicals, called isothiocyanates (ITCs), found in several cruciferous vegetables and generated when vegetables are either cut or chewed. Singh's laboratory has found that phenethyl-ITC, or PEITC, is highly effective in suppressing the growth of human prostate cancer cells at concentrations achievable through dietary intake.

The current study follows previous research in which Singh's laboratory found that mice grafted with human prostate tumors that received a small amount of PEITC daily for 31 days had significantly reduced tumor size when compared to a control group of mice. Now the researchers have shown that treating cells in culture with

Natural Antioxidant Found in Many Foods and Red Wine Kills Leukemia Cells While Sparing Healthy Cells

By Jim Swyers

A naturally occurring compound found in many fruits and vegetables as well as in red wine selectively kills leukemia cells in culture while showing no discernible toxicity against healthy cells, according to a study by researchers in Pitt's School of Medicine.

These findings, published online March 20 in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and scheduled to be published in the print version of the journal May 4, offer hope for a more selective, less toxic therapy for leukemia.

"Current treatments for leukemia, such as chemotherapy and radiation, often damage healthy cells and tissues and can produce unwanted side effects for many years afterward. So, there is an intensive search for more targeted therapies for leukemia worldwide," said corresponding author Xiao-Ming Yin, a Pitt professor of pathology.

Leukemia is not a single disease but a number of related cancers that start in the blood-forming cells of the bone marrow. Meaning literally "white blood" in Greek, leukemia occurs when there is an excess of abnormal white blood cells. There are both acute and chronic forms of leukemia, each with many

subtypes that vary in their responses to treatment. According to the National Cancer Institute, about 44,000 new leukemia cases will be diagnosed in the United States in 2007, and there will be about 22,000 leukemia-related deaths.

Based on previous reports that anthocyanidins—a group of naturally occurring compounds widely available in fruits and vegetables as well as in red wine—possess chemopreventive properties, Yin and his collaborators studied the effects and mechanisms of the most common type of a naturally modified anthocyanidin, known as cyanidin-3-rutinoside, or C-3-R (which was extracted and purified from black raspberries) in several leukemia and lymphoma cell lines.

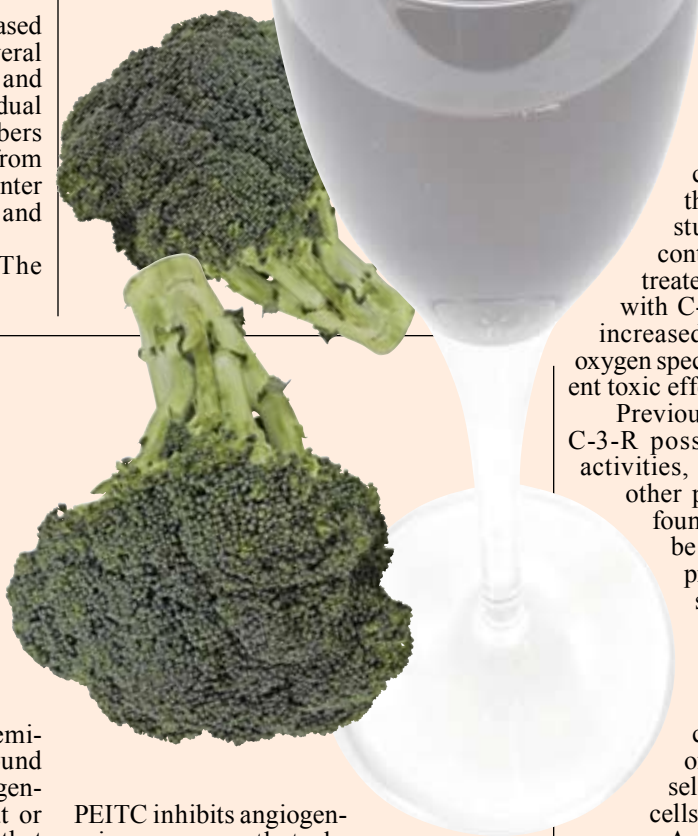
They found that C-3-R caused about 50 percent of a human leukemia cell line known as HL-60 to undergo programmed cell death, or apoptosis, within about 18 hours of treatment at low doses. When they more than doubled the concentration of C-3-R, virtually all

of the leukemia cells died. C-3-R also induced apoptosis in other human leukemia and lymphoma cell lines.

When the investigators studied the mechanism of cell death in the leukemia cells, they found that C-3-R induced the accumulation of peroxides, a highly reactive form of oxygen, which, in turn, activated a mitochondria-mediated apoptotic pathway. Mitochondria are specialized structures located within all cells in the body that contain enzymes needed by the cell to metabolize food-stuffs into energy sources. In contrast, when the researchers treated normal human blood cells with C-3-R, they did not find any increased accumulation of reactive oxygen species and there were no apparent toxic effects on these cells.

Previous studies have shown that C-3-R possesses strong antioxidant activities, a characteristic shared by other polyphenols, such as those found in green tea, which could be responsible for their chemoprevention effects. Yin's work suggests that although C-3-R demonstrates antioxidant effects in normal cells, it paradoxically induces an oxidative "stress" in tumor cells. This differential effect of C-3-R may account for its selective toxicity in the tumor cells.

According to Yin, these results indicate that C-3-R has the promising potential to be used in leukemia therapy with the advantages of being highly selective against cancer cells. "Because this compound is widely available in foods, it is very likely that it is not toxic even in purified form," he said. "Therefore, if we can reproduce these anticancer effects in animal studies, this will present a very promising approach for treating a variety of human leukemias and, perhaps, lymphomas as well."



PEITC inhibits angiogenesis, a process that plays an important role in the growth and spread of cancer by forming new blood vessels that pass oxygen and nutrients to tumor cells.

"Angiogenesis is a major issue in cancer metastases," said Singh. "Our results provide promising preliminary evidence that constituents of many edible cruciferous vegetables may slow down, or even halt, this process."

The study was supported by a grant from the National Cancer Institute.

2007 Laureate Lectures to Feature Distinguished Biomedical Scientists

By Stephen Byers

Four distinguished biomedical scientists, including one who shared a Nobel Prize for research on the complexities of the human olfactory system, will be featured in the 2007 Senior Vice Chancellor's Laureate Lecture Series.

Following is this year's lineup of lecturers.

May 2—"New Opportunities at the Interface of Chemistry and Biology" by **Peter G. Schultz**, Scripps Professor of Chemistry at the Scripps Research Institute.

Upon being elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1993, Schultz was recognized for such pioneering contributions at the interface of chemistry and biology as generating catalytic antibodies, developing and applying combinatorial methods in chemistry and biology, and developing biosynthetic ways to introduce unnatural amino acids site-specifically into proteins. This last initiative, which has effectively expanded the genetic code beyond the 20 common amino acids on which all proteins are built, holds the potential to create a new generation of proteins that work as novel catalysts and drugs and that are unrestricted by the properties of naturally occurring amino acids.

June 4—"Comparing the Roles of Protein Kinases Using High Throughput Functional Screens" by **Edward E. Harlow**, professor and chair of Harvard Medical School's Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology.

Harlow, a leading cancer researcher best known for his work on cell-cycle control in mammalian cells, focuses on new approaches for functional analysis of cells,



Peter G. Schultz



Edward E. Harlow



Linda Buck



Carl F. Nathan

including high throughput and unbiased screens for genes that affect key properties of cancer biology. In 1988, Harlow and his lab discovered how small DNA tumor viruses alter cell cycle control by synthesizing viral proteins that interact with and inactivate negative regulators of proliferation. Loss of these controls leads to cell proliferation in inappropriate conditions. This model is widely applicable to cancer, as the pathways targeted by these viruses are frequently mutated in human cancer. Discovering how these viruses subvert cell regulation also provided new insights into how mammalian cells control cell division.

Sept. 27—"Unraveling the Sense of Smell" by Nobel laureate **Linda Buck**, member and associate director of the Division of Basic Sciences and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

The underlying molecular mechanisms of the olfactory system—its ability to detect 10,000 or more distinct odors and translate them into what the brain perceives and remembers as specific smells—is the focus of Buck's research. Her studies extend to an exploration of how smells affect reproductive physiology and behavior. While work-

ing as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Richard Axel at Columbia University, Buck identified a family of genes that encodes odor receptors in the lining of the nose. They went on to independently study the organization of the olfactory system in both the nose and the brain and eventually shared the 2004 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their findings. In conjunction with her Laureate Lecture, Buck will receive the 2007 Albert C. Muse Prize for Excellence in Otolaryngology from the Eye and Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh and the Eye and Ear Institute of Pittsburgh.

Nov. 7—"Can Immunology Contribute to Chemotherapy? Challenges of Tuberculosis" by **Carl F. Nathan**, professor and chair of microbiology and immunology, R.A. Rees Pritchett Professor of Microbiology, and professor of medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

Nathan's research is focused on the molecular mechanisms of innate immunity and host-pathogen interactions. His interests include the workings of macrophages and neutrophils, the role of inflammation in immunity, and the function of nitric oxide as

Continued on Page 14

TrueBlue-Gold

Continued from Page 9

You can almost see NFL teams marking off the boxes on their evaluation sheets.

Productive QB? Check.

Accomplished student? Check.

Perhaps the ultimate testament to Palko's academic and athletic careers can be found on the Varsity Walk between the Cathedral of Learning and Heinz Chapel.

Carved into the Varsity Walk's stones are the names of former Pitt student-athletes who have promoted the University in a highly distinguished manner. Palko's name recently joined that select group when he was named the male recipient of Pitt's Blue-Gold Award for 2007. Blue-Gold Awards are presented annually to male and female seniors who represent the student-athlete ideal based on academic scholarship, athletic achievement, leadership qualities, and citizenship.

It's the kind of honor that jumps off a résumé, whether one is applying for a job with the NFL or IBM.

The NFL is putting a renewed emphasis on what the league calls "intangibles," traits that can't be measured by a stopwatch or the number of touchdowns scored. In the wake of several high-profile disciplinary incidents off the field, league commissioner Roger Goodell has reiterated that character does indeed count.

Put another positive check down for Palko. In March, he was selected a Coca-Cola "Community All-American." Sponsored by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, the award is designed to help institutions recognize, celebrate, and applaud collegiate student-athletes who are making a difference in their communities.

As this year's honoree, Palko was able to select a charitable cause to be the recipient of a \$5,000 donation by the Coca-Cola Company. The donation will go to the TC House Foundation, an organization Palko helped establish to raise funds for the construction of a group home for individuals with Down Syndrome in his hometown of Imperial, Pa.

Palko teamed up with lifelong friend Chris McGough, a student at West Allegheny High who was born with Down Syndrome, to form the TC House Foundation.

This was the second time Palko has been honored for his community service. Last fall, he was one of 11 football players named to the American Football Coaches Association "Good Works Team."

"You don't have to be a football fan to appreciate Tyler," Wannstedt declares. "Whether it has been as a student, an athlete, or member of our community, Tyler has made our University incredibly proud. He leaves a great legacy at Pitt, and we know he will continue to do great things."

Says Pitt Athletic Director Jeff Long, "Tyler truly embodies what is great about collegiate athletics."

Someday, Palko will hang up his helmet for the final time. When that day comes, armed with Pitt degree in hand, Palko will be well prepared for the next chapter of his life.

Many have predicted a brilliant coaching career for him should he choose that path. Football has been Palko's lifelong passion, and he often says how much the game has taught him about life, about a person's own character.

"I love this game," Palko says. "I love the euphoria a victory brings, the sense of accomplishment you get in the locker room with your teammates. Chasing that feeling is the reason a lot of us keep getting up after we've been knocked down."

New Alumni: Stay Connected

Just four blocks from the Petersen Events Center, where more than 3,000 Pitt students will conclude their undergraduate careers today, is Alumni Hall. This historic building was named in honor of the devotion, support, and esteem of University of Pittsburgh alumni. In recognition of these traits, the Pitt Alumni Association seeks to preserve student involvement in the University community through far-reaching communication and educational programs.

The alumni association, which acts as the voice of more than 255,000 alumni worldwide, provides an opportunity for graduating students to benefit from and further the goal of generating and maintaining support for Pitt. The resulting relationship between alumni and the association is a synergistic one that benefits alumni and the University.

Alumni association members are able to stay informed and in contact with each other through a variety of means, including publications, online services, and coordinated alumni events.

Alumni Connections and an annual electronic Alumni Impact Report are filled with news and information about the achievements and successes of Pitt people, departments, schools, and programs. Pitt Alumni Online Services makes it possible for alumni association members to contact other alumni all over the world. In addition, more than 70,000 alumni receive the *Pitt Connection*, an e-newsletter, each month.

The newest online service, the Pitt Career Network, allows students and alumni to network with alumni volunteers. By fostering beneficial partnerships within the alumni community, the association is able to further support the University as an institution of higher learning. Cultivating and inspiring financial generosity are an integral part of the responsibilities the association assumes, while the rewards of these efforts are evident throughout campus for both students and the University.

The Alumni Legislative Network promotes higher education in Harrisburg. In addition, the association cosponsors or plays key roles in such Pitt functions as Lantern Night, Panther Sendoff, job fairs, and networking receptions.

Members of the Blue and Gold Society act as student ambassadors for the association. They also oversee the new Student Alumni Association (SAA). More than 700 students strong in its inaugural year, the SAA is designed to help students build lifelong relationships with Pitt. The SAA provides exclusive events, programs, and networking opportunities that become a variety of ways for students to get involved.

Proceeds from the association's total efforts

have funded such programs as the Alumni Scholarship Endowment Fund, which awards more than \$100,000 in scholarships annually.

The Pitt Alumni Association congratulates the Class of 2007 and encourages its members to stay connected with Pitt by joining the alumni association. New graduates can join for the discounted fee of \$20. The association has more than 100 alumni constituent organizations and area representatives worldwide to keep Pitt alumni connected to Pitt and to one another.

New members can take advantage of valuable benefits and services, including complimentary subscriptions to *Alumni Connections*; savings on graduate test courses; access to online services; discounts on insurance, continuing education, car rentals, and hotels across the country; and discounts at the Pitt Shop and The Book Center. Perhaps most importantly, membership keeps graduates informed about and connected to their alma mater.

For more information, stop by the Pitt Alumni Association at Alumni Hall, call 800-ALU-PITT, or visit www.alumni.pitt.edu.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

From Accra to Ulaanbataar

Continued from Page 7

Stanley Prostednik Grant to work with the Kakamega Environmental Education Program to develop infectious disease health-education programs for primary grade students in Kakamega, Kenya.

The Stanley Prostednik Award will fund **James E. Quinn IV**, an international human rights law student in Pitt's School of Law, in a United Nations internship in the Office on Drugs and Crime in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

With the James W. Knox Merit Award, **Darmendra Ramcharran**, an epidemiology major in Pitt's School of Medicine, will conduct research in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on treatment methodologies for HIV/AIDS in combination with various hepatitis strains.

Danielle S. Shuttleworth, an occupational therapy major in Pitt's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, has received the Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Award and will examine the effects

of natural and man-made disasters on the indigenous population of Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, and assess the need there for occupational-therapy-related services.

The John H. Tsui Memorial Award will support graduate student **Leslie V. Wallace**, an Early Chinese art history graduate student, as she examines tomb reliefs from the Eastern Han dynasty (20-225 C.E.) that depict hunting scenes and consults with Chinese scholars in Shaanxi.

Medical student **Rebecca Waltner-Toews**' Stanley Prostednik Grant will make it possible for her to do research on infectious diseases in both clinical and laboratory settings at the Hospital Nacional Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru.

James W. Knox Memorial Award recipient **Zachary A. Zator**, a student in Pitt's School of Medicine, will conduct research on environmental factors that promote and impede access to health care in Hyderabad, India.

Three Pitt Law Students Named Inaugural Nordenberg Fellows



Alberta Sbragia

By Patricia Lomando White

Three second-year Pitt School of Law students—J. Katherine Drabecki, Claudia Garman, and David Willey—are the recipients of the inaugural Nordenberg Fellowships, funded by Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair Alberta Sbragia, the first recipient of the professorship. The Nordenberg Fellows will study in Europe this summer.

"My fervent desire is to involve our students further in international studies and increase their passion for knowledge of the world," said Sbragia, Pitt professor of political science and director of Pitt's European Union (EU) Center of Excellence and European Studies Center. "I am delighted that these three outstanding law students will gain what I had hoped for—a deeper knowledge of Europe, which will help them in their future careers."

Drabecki will intern at the Institute for European Studies in Brussels; Garman will work in the Human Rights Division of the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin; and Willey will conduct research at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg.

"The connections with the Max Planck Institute in Hamburg and the Institute

for European Studies in Brussels as well as placement with the German Foreign Ministry present opportunities for our students that simply do not exist at other U.S. law schools," said Ronald Brand, Pitt professor of law and director of the law school's Center for International Legal Education (CILE). "We very much appreciate the support of Dr. Sbragia through the Nordenberg Professorship that has made this initiative possible."

The Nordenberg Fellowships, awarded through CILE in cooperation with the EU Center of Excellence, will fulfill Sbragia's wish. Each Nordenberg Fellow will receive \$5,000 to support his or her internship.

Drabecki has served as president of the Pitt Law Women's Society and as a legal analysis and writing teaching assistant. She was a member of the Pitt team that competed at the 2007 William C. Vis International Moot Court Competition in Vienna. During the summer of 2006, she interned with the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo in the Legal Policy Division. She is the recipient of a 2007-08 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, which she will use to study Polish in conjunction with her legal studies.

Garman has received the Truxall Fund Scholarship and a Nationality Room Scholarship while at the School of Law. In 2006, Garman spent the summer as an intern at the European Roma Rights Center in Budapest. She has served as vice president of the International Law Society at the Pitt School of Law and is an associate editor of the *Journal of Law and Commerce*.

Willey has studied at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and the Federal Armed Forces Academy in Munich. In summer 2006, he interned in the chambers of Judge John A. Zottola in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Willey was a member of the School of Law's 2007 Niagara International Moot Court team.

School-Record 311 Pitt Student-Athletes

Continued from Page 8

pher DeSanctis, Francis Iorfido, Dave Kapetanovich, and Brandon Skonieczky

Blue Awards (3.0-3.49 GPA)

Baseball

Mike Bassage, Rob Brant, Seth Button, Sean Conley, Daniel Ford, Dan Gardo, Ben Knuth, Billy Muldowney, Nick Mullins, Paul Nardozi, Brendan Schubert, Jeff Stevens, Matthew Tokarczyk, Dan Williams, and Max Zingle

Men's Basketball

Marcus Bowman, Aaron Gray, Doyle Hudson, Levon Kendall, Maurice Polen, Ronald Ramon, Geoff Rizk, and Sam Young

Women's Basketball

Danielle Taylor, Sylvie Tafen, and Mallorie Winn

Cheer and Dance Team

Leanne Aurich, Brittany Austin, Christie Bonk, Christie Blondek, Amanda Burger, Rachel Collins, Tiffany Golonka, Jaime Hohn, Katelynn Jackson, Adam Jones, Erin Lageman, Kesa Mayanja, Lauren McPherson, Jessica Myers, Lori Steranchak, Mary Sweeney, Chris Watkinson, Megan Worbs, and Jodie Zangaro

Football

Calvin Allen, John Bachman, Aaron Berry, Shawn Besong, Jemeel Brady, John Brown, Martin Coleman, Mike DeLuca, Kelvin Drewery, Matt Flaus, Eric Fritz, Ricky Gary, Adam Gunn, Kashif Henderson, Francis Johns, Frank Kochin, Dan Loheyde, John Malecki, Mark Mares, Brandon Mason, Scott McKillop, Gus Mustakas, Mike Phillips, Austin Ransom, LaRod Stephens-Howling, Tyler Tkach, Neal Tracey, Chris Vangas, Ross Ventrone, Joe Villani, Dustin Walters, Dave Weber, and Dale Williams

Gymnastics

Andrea Arlotta, Pamela Bender, Alix Croop, Melissa Davidson, Jessica Garber, Jennifer Jones, Andrea Konesky, Nicole Kujawski, Shannon McConnell, Victoria McGuigan-Carl, and Sarah Thompson

Men's Soccer

Samuli Ahola, Matt Baker, Chris Bastidas, Steve Cavalier, Chris Franczkowski, Matthew Grove, Justin Grubisha, Eric Jaeger, Pat Kerr, E.J. McCormick, Sean Ryan, Brendon Smith, Adam Walkowiak, Chris Wilcox, and Gregory Wilcox

Women's Soccer

Stephanie Davis, Lauren Engel, Erin Hills, Lailah Issac, Jennifer Kritch, Niki Walters, Megan Watson, and Eric Wright

Softball

Megan Bostick, Heather Connor, Jessica Dignon, April Ghiroli, Mary Hecker, Christa Hunter, Leanne McCarron, Kelly Murphy, Kaitlyn Schuster, Kelly Stiles,



MICHAEL DRABZINSKI/CIDE

Brian Generalovich (CAS '66, DEN '68), president of the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association, congratulates Rande Stottlemeyer (left), head coach of the Pitt wrestling team, which had 19 members with GPAs of 3.0 or higher in spring or fall 2006.

Rebecca Stottlemeyer, and Jessica Thomas

Men's Swimming and Diving

Michael Bernardi, Tommy Bird, Christopher Gallagher, Steve Jackson, Jason Miller, Adam Plutecki, and Chad White

Women's Swimming and Diving

Shannon Barr, Sophie Cross, Kendra Decelle, Caitlyn Harrington, Ryann Kishbaugh, Collen Kristobak, Agnes Mago, Tiffany Malatesta, Megan McCandless, Erin Meehan, Stacie Safritt, Ruth Seiffert, Andrea Shoust, and Brittany Stevens

Tennis

Kristy Borza, Christie D'Achille, Marie Eanes-Fennelly, Leah Friedman, Sarah Macausland, Jenna Suffoletto, and Sabrina Visram

Men's Track and Field/

Cross Country

Chris Anderson, Sam Bair, Dave Donahoe, Eric Fleming, Kevin Gilpatrick, A.J. Kielinski, Jeff Kiss, Ed Ruiz, Christian Schmidt, Andy Tomaswick, and Josh Zueger

Women's Track and Field/

Cross Country

Nicki Angstadt, Ali Brown, Kendall Butch, Mycaiah Clemons, Candice Coholich, Leah Coveleski, Krystal Epps, Catie Hare, Kari Hedderick, Carolyn Kitchens, Erinn McMahon, Janessa Murphy, Astrid Pilgrim, Nicole Pitchford, Julianna Reed, Kim Rorabaugh, Jenn Seitz, Danielle Tuccio, and Sossena Wood

Women's Volleyball

Kelly Campbell, Kim Kern, Jessica Moses, Michelle Rossi, and Melissa Stadelman

Wrestling

Kyle Deliere, Joey Eckloff, Brad Gentzle, Mike Heist, Justin Nestor, Nick Orio, Sean Richmond, Zach Sheaffer, John Sutika, Ryan Tomei, and Julian Warshaw

2007 Laureate Lectures

Continued from Page 13

a product of the immune system involved in host defense. Some of Nathan's most recent work concerns the development of new approaches to discovery of drugs to treat antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis. For this and other neglected diseases, he advocates the pursuit of novel partnerships between university and industrial scientists.

All of the lectures, which are free and open to the public, will be presented in Auditorium 6 of Scaife Hall. Buck's lecture will begin at 3:30 p.m.; the others are scheduled for noon.

"When I developed the Laureate Lec-

ture Series several years ago, my purpose was to bring some of the most gifted, creative, and innovative scientists of our day to campus on a regular basis," said Arthur S. Levine, Pitt senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine. "We continue to achieve that purpose with another outstanding panel of speakers this year, and I'm delighted to welcome them, not only for the benefit of our many scientists throughout the University but also because these visits provide a wonderful opportunity for the speakers themselves to discover what a dynamic research environment we have here."

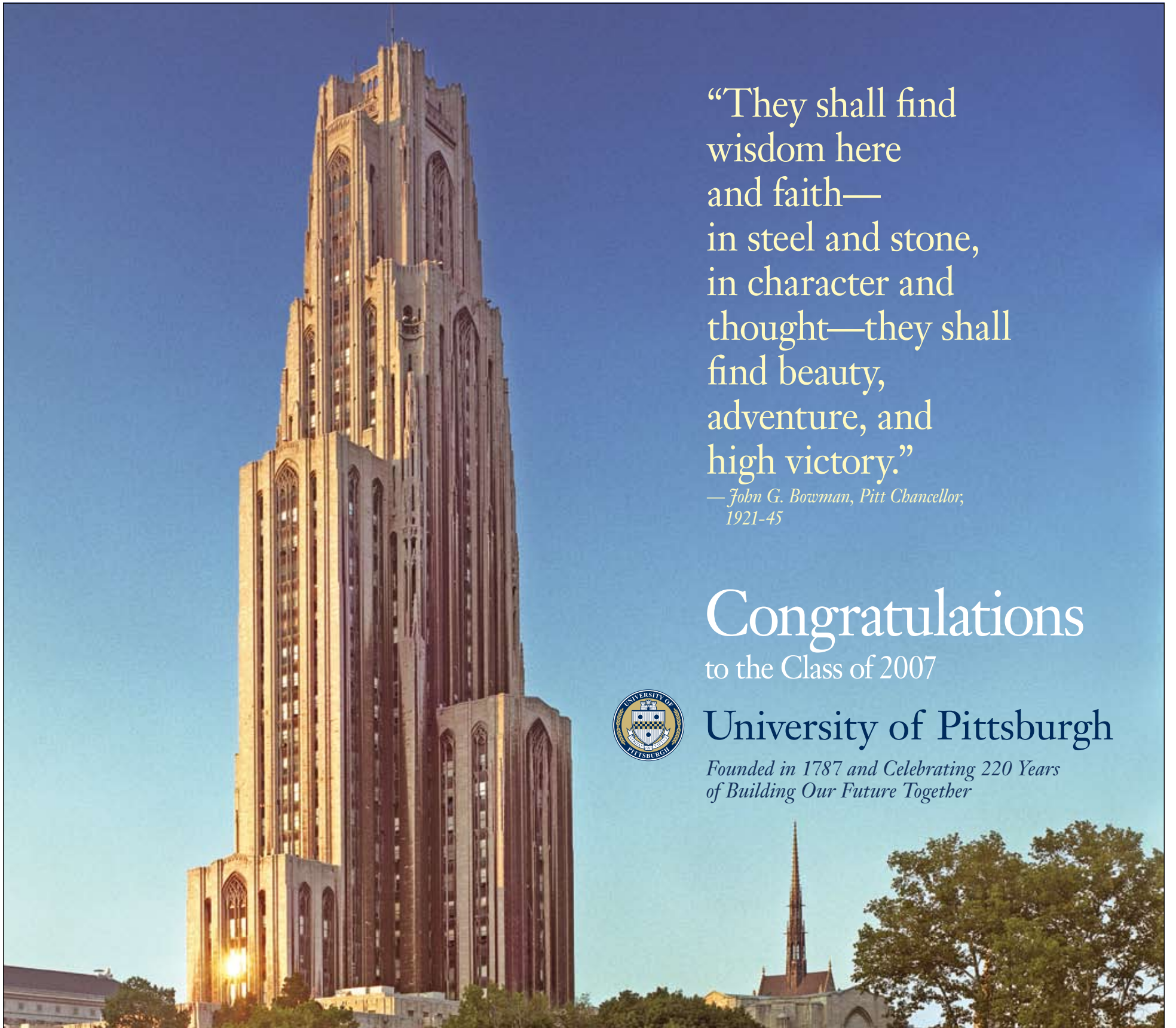


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“They shall find
wisdom here
and faith—
in steel and stone,
in character and
thought—they shall
find beauty,
adventure, and
high victory.”

—John G. Bowman, Pitt Chancellor,
1921-45

Congratulations
to the Class of 2007



University of Pittsburgh

*Founded in 1787 and Celebrating 220 Years
of Building Our Future Together*

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