# Pitt Chronicle

Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

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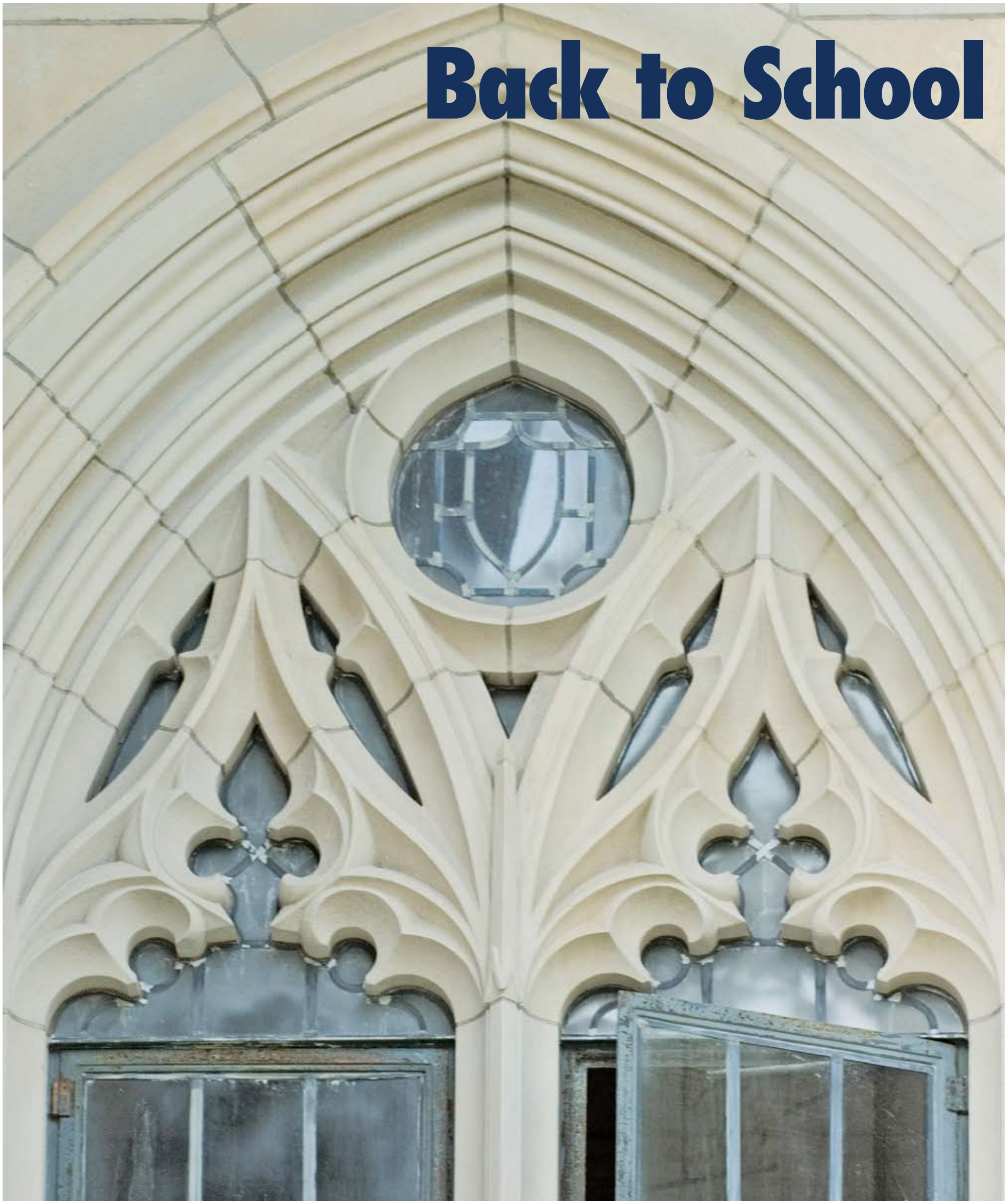
INSIDE



# Back to School



JIM BURKE/CIDDE

# Pitt Maintains Elite Ranking in *U.S. News & World Report* Listings

JIM BURKE/CIDDE

By John Harvith

In the 2008 edition of *U.S. News & World Report*'s annual "America's Best Colleges" listings, out on newsstands this week, Pitt has maintained its top 20 ranking among the elite U.S. public national universities while posting solid numbers in other categories.

The Great Schools, Great Prices ranking determines which colleges and universities offer the best value, relating a school's academic quality as rated by *U.S. News*, "to the net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of need-based financial aid." In this ranking, Pitt placed 6th among public universities, 37th among universities overall. Also, in a newly named Best Baccalaureate Colleges category, Pitt's Johnstown and Bradford campuses were ranked 6th and 7th, respectively, among public institutions in the northern region, and 26th and 30th, respectively, among all institutions in the northern region.

The 2008 guidebook version of "America's Best Colleges" features a two-page photo spread of Pitt School of Arts and Sciences senior Matthew Shaffer in the Cathedral of Learning's Commons Room; the photo serves as the introductory illustration for Chapter 3 of the guidebook, "How to Get In: 5 Keys to an Awesome Application." Shaffer, above, posed in the same location earlier this week for CIDDE photographer Jim Burke.

# Maddy Ross to Assume Leadership of UMC as Michelle Garraux Leaves for UPMC Health Plan

After 14 years at Pitt, Assistant Vice Chancellor for University Marketing Communications (UMC) Michelle Garraux will be leaving the University, effective Sept. 5, to become UPMC Health Plan's director of social marketing and strategic planning, health promotions.

Madelyn A. "Maddy" Ross, Pitt associate vice chancellor for national media relations since August 2005, will add leadership of UMC to her portfolio of responsibilities, effective Sept. 6, announced Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill. "Maddy brings more than 30 years of senior managerial responsibility to her new assignment, having served as managing editor of both *The Pittsburgh Press* and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*," Hill said. "Of course, I have every confidence that she will ably guide UMC in its continuously improving delivery of superb communications products and services."

Madelyn A. Ross

Michelle Garraux

The largest department in Pitt's Public Affairs office, UMC produces more than 5,000 print, advertising, video, and Web projects annually, working out of Craig Hall, Forbes Pavilion, and the Cathedral of Learning print shop.

Hill lauded Garraux for her service during the last 14 years, seven of them under his leadership, noting in particular that she effected the smooth merger of the former units that came together to form UMC, led the effort to establish the University of Pittsburgh Manual of Writing Style, established UMC's Web Communications unit, and implemented full-color printing technology in the UMC print shop.

"I will miss Michelle, but know that her best professional triumphs are still to come," the vice chancellor said.

Garraux came to Pitt in May 1993 as director of marketing for the offices of business and finance, supervising one employee and the production of a few hundred printed publications per year. She went on to be promoted to positions of increasing significance at the University. Garraux earned her Master of Education degree at Pitt in 1980, graduating with a 4.0 GPA. In 1975, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Duke University, graduating magna cum laude.

"It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work side by side with so many talented and dedicated people, both within the Office of Public Affairs and throughout the University," Garraux said. "I am looking forward to the exciting challenges my new position brings, and I am delighted to assist with transitioning UMC into Maddy's exceptionally capable hands."

Ross worked at *The Pittsburgh Press*, then the nation's 12th-largest newspaper, from 1970 through 1993; she was one of the first women managing editors in the United States, serving in that position at *The Press* from 1983 to 1993. She became the *Post-Gazette*'s managing editor in 1993, after an eight-month strike resulted in the merger of the two newspapers. Projects within her domain won every major national journalistic award, including three Pulitzer Prizes.

Ross earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Arts degree in international affairs at The Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany.

"Helping Pitt's family of faculty, students, staff, and administrators convey vital information—and thereby transmit news of their achievements and aspirations for our University—through carefully conceived, well-written, and beautifully designed communications projects is a communicator's dream," Ross said. "I'm eager to team up with the very talented UMC staff that has been so capably performing this function for years under Michelle's direction."

# The Journey Begins for Pitt's Class of 2011

## New Student Orientation to be held today through Aug. 26

By Anthony Moore

Pitt's 2007 New Student Orientation will officially begin the college careers of an estimated 3,500 new and transfer students. From today through Aug. 26, the University will host a variety of events geared toward helping members of the Class of 2011 make the transition to college life. Events include informational sessions, campus and city tours, social gatherings, and ceremonies.

Presentations and seminars will be held on numerous aspects of campus life, including student organizations, health services, and campus safety, among others. Highlighting these informational events will be "Student Life: The Importance of Getting Involved," today from 3 to 4 p.m.; "Ultimate Money Skills: Scholars, Dollars, Budgets, and Bills," today from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; and "Student Health Services: When, Where, and How to Get Help," from 9 to 10 a.m. Aug. 24. All events will be held in the William Pitt Union.

Multiple guided tours are being planned to give parents and incoming students a better understanding of the University and its history. Tours will include such campus landmarks as Pitt's Nationality Rooms, Heinz Memorial Chapel, and Petersen Events Center. There also will be opportunities to learn more about the city of Pittsburgh. A Gateway Clipper cruise will be available and offers views of the city from Pittsburgh's three rivers.

Among scheduled entertainment activities will be student-produced plays, movie viewings, and a luau. The culmination of the social gatherings will be a Game and Carnival night from 10:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Aug. 24 and a Music and Dance Extravaganza from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Aug. 25. Both events will be held in the William Pitt Union.

The formal Freshman Convocation Ceremony will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. Aug. 23 in the Petersen Events Center. Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and other distinguished members of the University will officially welcome the incoming class. This will be followed by the Chancellors Welcome Reception, from 4 to 5 p.m. Aug. 23 in the Petersen Events Center.

Other Pitt events include Pathway to Your Success, from 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 23 in the Soldiers and Sailors Auditorium, and the traditional Lantern Night Ceremony, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 26 in Heinz Memorial Chapel.

There will be a number of activities specifically designed to help parents adjust to the many lifestyle changes of college freshman. These activities include an interactive panel discussion and seminars to inform parents and guardians of health care, safety, and financial initiatives implemented for the benefit of Pitt students.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, call 412-648-1074 or visit www.orientation.pitt.edu/.

## Chronicling

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

**Aug. 23, 1966—Some 100 people, most of them from Pittsburgh, crowd into Gov. William Scranton's office in Harrisburg for the ceremonial signing of a Pennsylvania House of Representatives bill making Pitt a state-related university.** Among the state legislators instrumental in passing the bill is Rep. K. Leroy Irvis, a Pitt alumnus (LAW '54) who would go on to be elected Pennsylvania's Speaker of the House—the first African American speaker of a state house in the nation since Reconstruction.

Under the terms of the agreement (still in effect), Pitt remains legally a private institution, the Commonwealth increases its contributions to the University's annual budgets, and Pitt becomes eligible for General State Authority (GSA) construction grants in addition to gaining the power to issue tax-exempt bonds to finance new construction ineligible for GSA support.

In return, the Commonwealth gains a minority representation on Pitt's Board of Trustees as well as "the services of a state university in educating its young people…without the huge capital investment that would have been required to build such an institution, as had once been contemplated," according to Robert C. Alberts' *Pitt: The Story of the University of Pittsburgh 1787-1987* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1986).



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# Shuttle Diplomacy: Pitt's OIS Greets International Students With New Airport Hospitality Service

By Patricia Lomando White

Just about anyone who's entered Pittsburgh for the first time through the Fort Pitt Tunnels mentions the fantastic panoramic view of the city. Pitt graduate student Bok-Gyo Jeong, of South Korea, was no exception.

Riding from the airport on the Pitt Office of International Services' (OIS) new airport shuttle service recently, Jeong exited the tunnels exclaiming, "It's beautiful! Oh, the rivers!" Even though his driver had prepared him for the spectacle, Jeong said he was overwhelmed.

Pitt last month began offering personalized shuttle service from the Pittsburgh International Airport for its incoming international students, complete with airport volunteers greeting new arrivals at the gate and Pitt staff and volunteers waiting in the baggage area with snacks and bottled water.

OIS director David Bryan Clubb proposed the idea for the service to Janine S. Fisher, OIS assistant director for international programming and public relations; she coordinates the program with the help of George F. Kacenga, OIS assistant director for international admissions.

Last year, Clubb and his wife drove to the airport to greet a graduate student and her husband coming in from their native Lebanon. Clubb had been instrumental in helping the couple, who had been caught in a web of bureaucratic red tape and literally dodged bombs while traveling to get their papers in order and obtaining clearance to enter the United States. Clubb said it was gratifying to meet them at the airport and bring them to Oakland after their long ordeal.

That trip inspired the new shuttle service.

"It's unusual for a school as large as Pitt to provide this service," Clubb said. "We hope this will help to put students at ease and they will realize they can come to us when issues arise and ask for our advice."

Pitt will welcome more than 400 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 50 foreign countries this fall. Not only can the international students take the shuttle, their family members also are welcome.

"One of our goals is to give students the best collegiate experience possible," said Kacenga, who previously worked at a smaller school that had a similar service. "We want students to rely on OIS."

Top photo: Pitt's Elizabeth Leibach (left) greets Mohit Juneja from India, after his arrival at the Pittsburgh International Airport. Bottom photo: Bok-Gyo Jeong from South Korea (left) with Pitt's Janine Fisher.

While most international students coming to the University speak English well, arriving in Pittsburgh sometimes marks the first time they will be conversing with native English speakers, making that airport encounter so important.

Airport volunteers are the point people meeting newcomers at the gate.

"The airport personnel have been wonderful," said Fisher. "They have provided us with volunteers who have worked with internationals before."

Sattha Kohpisalsukwattana of Thailand was one of the first Pitt students to use the OIS shuttle service, in late July. He had been to Japan and China, but this was his first visit to the United States. After an 11-hour flight from Japan to Chicago, a three-hour layover, and a ride on what he called "a very small plane" from Chicago to Pittsburgh, Kohpisalsukwattana said, "It was a good feeling to have someone meet me at the gate."

A graduate of Chulalongkorn University in Thailand with an undergraduate degree in engineering, Kohpisalsukwattana is pursuing an MBA from Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business

Most international students arriving in Pittsburgh have already been through U.S. Customs at their point of entry, typically a larger city such as New York or Los Angeles.

According to Clubb, the shuttle service has required an enormous logistical effort. Fisher sends her airport contact an e-mail providing arrival times for the students. She sends the students a confirmation e-mail and a contact phone number, telling students where the airport volunteer will be waiting. She also coordinates all the volunteer schedules.

Fisher said that the program has run smoothly and students have been very appreciative.

"I've never seen anyone more excited to get a bottle of water," said Fisher of Kohpisalsukwattana.

As the central point of contact for the University's international students, OIS works with Pitt student organizations as it seeks to connect newcomers with other international students who might offer assistance.

Among those student groups are Pitt's Chinese Student and Scholar Association and ANKUR, the Indian graduate student group, which can arrange temporary housing for students in some instances. Some foreign students already have family or friends living here.

OIS expects that about 25 percent of Pitt's new international students will use its shuttle service this fall.

Jeong, a student in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, praised the service.

"It was moving and touching and they [Janine Fisher and George Kacenga] made me feel comfortable," said Jeong, adding that Pittsburgh's rivers, buildings, and hills remind him of those in Seoul.

Jeong said, "I want to give a special thanks to Janine and George and OIS"—so much so, that he plans to serve as an OIS volunteer himself next year.

# Pitt Gets $8 Million From the NIH to Lead Largest-Ever Study of Myositis

By Michele D. Baum

Researchers from the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology in Pitt's School of Medicine are leading a worldwide effort to study a treatment for a rare autoimmune disorder called myositis, thanks to a five-year, $8 million contract from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Pitt Professor of Medicine Chester V. Oddis is principal investigator for the effort, which involves 36 other scientists from 18 states and five countries, including Canada, the Czech Republic, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Myositis is a general term for several conditions, including dermatomyositis, polymyositis, inclusion-body myositis, and juvenile forms of myositis.

Also known as inflammatory myopathies, they are musculoskeletal disorders characterized by muscle weakness thought to be autoimmune diseases. This means that the body's immune system, which normally fights infections and viruses, for reasons unknown turns on itself and attacks the muscle tissue and sometimes skin, joints, and lungs, causing rashes, arthritis, and shortness of breath.

The Pitt-led study will evaluate the effectiveness of a drug called rituximab in adults and children diagnosed with dermatomyositis (a disease that causes muscle weakness and rash) and adults diagnosed with polymyositis, which is not associated with a rash. The study investigators want to know whether rituximab improves symptoms of these diseases.

Rituximab is a monoclonal antibody used and approved since 1997 by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. It was approved in February 2006 for adult rheumatoid arthritis patients with an inadequate response to anti-TNF (tumor necrosis factor) agents. In the Pitt-led study, rituximab is considered to be experimental because it is not FDA-approved for the treatment of dermatomyositis or polymyositis.

Chester V. Oddis

The investigators believe that the symptoms of myositis are related to the presence of B cells in the blood, and rituximab is being given to reduce the number of blood B cells. This drug has been used in other research studies in patients with other rheumatologic and autoimmune diseases.

A total of 202 participants will be included in the study, including 152 adults and 50 children at 36 centers across North America and Europe, in a randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled, phase 2 trial.

# New Pitt Faculty: Pioneering Scholars, Innovative Teachers

## A sampling of new senior and junior professors

While there are never enough column inches to introduce all of the faculty members joining Pitt in a given academic year, the following sampling provides some sense of the range and depth of excellence of new faculty colleagues in 2007-08.

**Guillermo A. Calero,** Department of Structural Biology, School of Medicine.

Guillermo A. Calero

Calero, who was recruited from Stanford University, joins Pitt as an assistant professor of structural biology. He received his MD degree from the Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico in Mexico City, and his PhD degree from Cornell University. Calero's postdoctoral work in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Roger Kornberg resulted in a patent application on the identification of components of mammalian biochemical networks as targets for therapeutic agents. His research investigates the mechanics underlying complex biological processes like signaling networks and transcription.

Soldano Ferrone

**Sherae L. Daniel,** Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business (KGSB).

Sherae L. Daniel

Daniel received her PhD degree in information systems with a minor in econometrics from the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business. She joins KGSB as an assistant professor of business administration. Daniel's research interests include open-source software development, online communities, electronic commerce, and statistics and econometrics.

She has worked in software development and analysis at the AT&T Research Laboratory and at the Computational Sciences and Mathematics Research Department at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, Calif., a government owned/contractor-operated facility that develops science-based technologies to support the national security of the United States.

Daniel knows Pitt well through her uncle, Jack L. Daniel, a Pitt professor of communication, former vice provost, and former dean of undergraduate students here.

Erika Fanselow

David A. Harris

**Erika Fanselow,** Department of Neurobiology, School of Medicine.

Fanselow, an assistant professor of neurobiology, was recruited from Brown University, where she worked as a postdoctoral associate with Barry Connors, professor and chair of Brown's neuroscience department. Her research involves electrophysiolgical analysis of inhibitory interneurons in the neocortex to examine neuronal dynamics. Fanselow received her PhD degree from Duke University. Her graduate work resulted in a number of publications and a pending patent for real-time monitoring and control of epileptic seizures.

**Soldano Ferrone,** Department of Surgery, School of Medicine.

Ferrone, who is a member of the Department of Immunology at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y., and professor of microbiology at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, will join Pitt as a professor of surgery.

His research focuses on tumor antigens, why they may not be recognized by the immune system, and how this recognition could be promoted therapeutically. Ferrone has more than 800 publications and two patents to his credit. He has twice received the Alexander Von Humboldt Award for a Senior Distinguished U.S. Scientist.

Ferrone serves as associate editor for *Melanoma Research* and on the editorial boards of several other journals. He received his MD and PhD degrees from Italy's University of Milan.

**Brian Gleeson,** Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science, School of Engineering.

Gleeson, former Renken Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Iowa State University, will serve as the Harry S. Tack Chair and Professor of Materials Engineering at Pitt.

He earned his PhD degree at UCLA and was a postdoctoral fellow and faculty member at the University of New South Wales, Australia. Gleeson also served as director of the Materials and Engineering Physics Program at the U.S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory.

His research interests include the high-temperature degradation behavior of metallic alloys and coatings, phase equilibria and transformations, deposition and characterization of metallic coatings, and diffusion and thermodynamic treatments of both gas/solid and solid/solid interactions.

Gleeson is associate editor of the international journal *Oxidation of Metals* and chaired the 2005 Gordon Research Conference on High Temperature Corrosion. He serves on the International Advisory Board of the journals *Advanced Engineering Materials* (2000-present) and *Materials and Corrosion* (2006-present).

**David A. Harris,** School of Law.

Harris will join Pitt in January as a professor of law. Currently, he is the Balk Professor of Law and Values at the University of Toledo College of Law. Harris studies, writes about, and teaches police behavior and regulation, law enforcement, and national security issues and the law. Harris received his JD degree from the Yale Law School and his LLM degree from the Georgetown Law Center.

A leading national authority on racial profiling, he has worked extensively with the Pittsburgh Police Bureau and Pittsburgh's Citizen Police Review Board. His book *Profiles in Injustice: Why Racial Profiling Cannot Work* (The New Press, 2002) and his scholarly articles have had a major influence on the national debate on profiling. His work led to federal efforts as well as legislation and voluntary efforts in more than half the states and in hundreds of police departments. He has testified three times before the U.S. Senate and before many state legislative bodies. In 1996, he served as a member of the Civil Liberties Advisory Board to the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security.

**Geoffrey Hutchison,** Department of Chemistry, School of Arts and Sciences.

Hutchison's work as a postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University focused on the design, synthesis, theory, and characterization of molecular electronic devices. He comes to Pitt as an assistant professor of chemistry, with research interests in nanoscience focused on the development of novel organometallic electron transfer devices and molecular piezoelectric materials.

Hutchinson earned his PhD degree at Northwestern University. He has received the American Chemical Society's IBM Computational Chemistry Award.

**John T.S. Keeler,** Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA).

Keeler—a widely recognized scholar of European politics, comparative public policy, and transatlantic relations—became dean of GSPIA and a professor in the school in July. He is the elected chair of the European Union Studies Association, the premier scholarly and professional association focusing on the European Union.

Before coming to Pitt, Keeler had been a professor of political science, director of the Center for West European Studies and European Union Center, and chair of the Division of French and Italian Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Keeler earned his PhD degree at Harvard University. He has authored or coauthored such notable books as *Defending Europe: NATO and the Quest for European Autonomy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003), *Chirac's Challenge: Liberalization, Europeanization and Malaise in France* (St. Martin's Press and Macmillan, 1996), *The Politics of Neocorporatism in France: Farmers, the State and Agricultural Policy-making in the Fifth Republic* (Oxford University Press, 1987), and *Réformer: Les Conditions du Changement Politique* (Presses Universitaires de France, 1994).

His articles have been published in numerous professional journals, including *Comparative Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *West European Politics*, and *French Politics and Society*. Keeler is currently working on a book examining terrorism and transatlantic relations.

He has received the American Political Science Association's Gabriel A. Almond Award and awards from three different French ministries, including the *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* from the French Ministry of Higher Education.

Prashant Kumta

John T.S. Keeler

Amy Landis

Mitchell B. Max

**Prashant Kumta,** Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science, School of Engineering.

Kumta, formerly a professor of engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, will be joining Pitt's School of Engineering as Edward R. Weidlein Chair and professor with appointments in mechanical engineering and materials science, bioengineering, and chemical and petroleum engineering. He earned his PhD degree at the University of Arizona.

Kumta's research focuses on oxide, nonoxide ceramics, biodegradable polymers, and noble metals. He has been involved in developing novel economic sol-gel approaches not involving metal alkoxide and conventional metal salts to synthesize lithiated transition metal oxides, as well as developing novel sol-gel based strategies for the synthesis of nanostructured nonoxide sulfide and nitride ceramics.

Active in research societies, including the Materials Research Society, the American Ceramic Society (on which he is the chair of the membership committee), and the Electrochemical Society, Kumta holds six patents and is the U.S. editor of the international journal *Materials Science and Engineering B Solid-State Materials for Advanced Technology*.

**Amy Landis,** Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, School of Engineering.

A Fulbright Scholar and Environmental Protection Agency Scholar, Landis brings expertise in sustainable engineering to her Pitt position as assistant professor in civil and environmental engineering. She earned her PhD degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Her recent research has been highlighted in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*. Her novel analysis of the environmental implications of biobased production has shown that renewable bioproducts can mitigate climate change but also exhibit deleterious environmental trade-offs. Landis has an exceptional track record of collaborations in sustainable engineering, alternative fuels and bioproducts, and life-cycle assessment.

**Mitchell B. Max,** Department of Anesthesiology, School of Medicine.

Max, a captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, joins Pitt as a professor and director of the Molecular Epidemiology of Pain Program in the anesthesiology department.

*Continued on Page 6*

# Pitt's Campus Improvements 2007

The following is a summary of ongoing and recently completed construction and renovation projects on the Pittsburgh campus, based on information provided by Pitt's Office of Facilities Management.

**Classroom Upgrades:** This year, the University's annual classroom improvement program provided physical renovations, technology upgrades, and new furnishings in classrooms in the Cathedral of Learning and in Allen, Clapp, Langley, and Salk halls.

Project Cost: $951,219.

**Cathedral of Learning Exterior Preservation:** Easily the most visible recent improvement to the campus, this project includes cleaning 70 years' worth of soot and grime from the exterior of the 42-story Gothic Revival tower, as well as replacing and restoring damaged stones and deteriorated mortar joints. The project, scheduled for completion in September, required an unprecedented coordination of effort between Facilities Management custodial staff members, trades staff, and the contractor in order to minimize inconvenience to students, faculty, staff, and even the peregrine falcons that nest atop the building.

Project cost: $4.8 million.

JIM BURKE/CIDDE

**Darragh Street Housing:** Set to be completed in September, the 184-bed facility on Oakland's Darragh Street will include one- and two-bedroom efficiency apartments for Pitt medical students.

Project cost: $18.2 million.

**Hillman Library—Interior Upgrades:** These included new lighting, painting, and carpeting as well as new and improved light fixtures in stairwells and lobbies.

Project cost: $835,200.

**Hillman Library—Plaza Renovation:** The existing plaza is being replaced with textured and multicolored pavers, updated landscaping material, and refurbished furniture. The resulting plaza will allow students and faculty to freely use this outdoor space; access previously had been restricted because of deteriorated conditions. This project is scheduled to be completed in mid-September.

Project cost: $2.5 million.

**Hillman Library—Thornburgh Center:** Construction of the Thornburgh Resource Center in Hillman Library has been completed.

Project cost: $776,099.

**Litchfield Towers Food Court:** The comprehensive renovation of the Litchfield Towers' food service area included upgrades of seven food court facilities as well as the introduction of more modern and aesthetically pleasing dining areas with "window to the outside" skylights and other lighting improvements. Other improvements include wood furnishings and decorative fabrics.

Project cost $9.78 million.

**Petersen Events Center Pathways:** The current dirt/mulch pathways and temporary wooden staircase linking Pitt's upper-campus residence halls with the Petersen Events Center will be replaced with concrete walkways. Also, the plaza outside the second-level entrance will be expanded to accommodate outdoor seating. This project is scheduled to be completed in mid-September.

Project cost: $564,000.

**Sutherland Hall Coffee Bar:** Interior renovations of Sutherland Hall's lobby included reconfigurations of the computer center and mailroom as well as the addition of a coffee bar serving breakfast and lunch to student residents. Adjacent to the coffee bar is a new lounge that includes café seating as well as "soft seating" (couches, cushions, etc.) and a TV area.

Project cost: $800,000.

**Trees Hall Gym and Pool:** This project involved installing a new wooden floor in the large gym as well as painting the gym's ceiling and the floor of the pool.

Project Cost: $369,677.

**Trees Hall HVAC Work:** Construction has begun on new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems serving the weight room, band room, multipurpose room, and dance studio. The work is set to be completed in October.

Project cost: $499,910.

**William Pitt Union:** The union's sixth and eighth floors and basement are being renovated to provide Pitt student organization offices, food service facilities, and recreation space. The project is scheduled for completion in mid-September.

Project Cost: $2.75 million.

Above: The Cathedral of Learning before and after this year's exterior preservation. Left: A worker in the midst of the renovation. Below and on page 1: Cathedral details.

JIM BURKE/CIDDE

Clockwise from above, left: Trees Hall's large gym before and after its floor was replaced and ceiling painted, and the newly renovated Litchfield Towers food service area.

# Hillman Library Exhibition Honors Anne X. Alpern, Pitt Alumnus and State's First Female Attorney General

## Materials highlighting her career and accomplishments called invaluable resource for students, scholars


ANNE X. ALPERN PAPERS, ARCHIVES SERVICE CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Anne X. Alpern shakes hands with Governor David L. Lawrence, who appointed her Pennsylvania attorney general in 1959.

By Sharon S. Blake

Anne X. Alpern—a renowned Pittsburgh jurist who paved the way for women in law—is the focus of an exhibition on the ground floor of Pitt's Hillman Library.

The sampling of letters, papers, photographs, and political cartoons, which will be on display through Oct. 31, provide insight into Alpern's career and personal life as well as political and public events in Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania from the 1920s to the '70s.

Alpern was noted for her brilliance in the courtroom and her commitment to public service in city, county, and state government. Born in Russia, she moved as a child to Pittsburgh with her family. She earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1923 and a law degree in 1927, both at Pitt.

As the first woman to serve as city solicitor, in 1942, Alpern championed clean air as well as affordable transit and utilities. She fought against government corruption, and her sharp wit and dedication won her the admiration of public action groups. She continued to aspire to offices in county and state government that were traditionally held by men.

In 1953, she was elected a judge on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. In 1959, Pennsylvania Governor David Lawrence appointed her the first female state attorney general. In that role, she regulated milk prices and enforced food sanitation laws. She also worked to ensure better use of charitable funds. After a brief appointment to the State Supreme Court in 1961, Alpern returned to the Allegheny County common pleas court, where she stayed until retiring in 1974. She died in Pittsburgh in 1981.

The Hillman Library collection's photographs document Alpern's meetings with prominent figures in state and U.S. history, including Governor Lawrence, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Genevieve Blatt, the first woman elected to a statewide office in Pennsylvania (auditor general) and a Commonwealth Court judge from 1971 to 1993. A wide range of newspaper articles traces Alpern's political decisions and public interactions.

In 1961, Governor Lawrence appointed Alpern a justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, filling a vacancy that opened upon the sudden retirement of Chief Justice Charles A. Jones. In this photograph, Alpern's daughter, Marsha, helps her mother don a Supreme Court Justice robe.

Michael Dabrishus, assistant University librarian for archives, special collections, and preservation, said, "Our work with Ms. Alpern's papers was supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, for which we are very grateful. That support in itself is a clear indication that the collection has significant historical merit, as our students, faculty, and other researchers will see—now that they have access to it."

# New University of Pittsburgh Faculty

*Continued from Page 4*

He has served as chief of the Clinical Pain Research Section at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) and medical director of NIDCR's Pain Research Clinic in the Pain and Neurosensory Mechanisms Branch.

Max's research interests include the mechanisms and treatment of neuropathic pain as well as the genetics of chronic pain. He is a fellow of the American Neurological Association and has received the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director's Award, the U.S. Public Health Service Citation Award, and the American Pain Society Fordyce Medal.

He serves on the editorial boards of several journals and contributes to committees within professional societies and the NIH. Max received his MD degree from Harvard Medical School.

Sara B. Moeller

Larry W. Moreland

Yoel Sadovsky

Jonathan Woon

**Sara B. Moeller,** KGSB, Department of Finance.

Formerly on the faculty of Wake Forest University's Babcock Graduate School of Management and Southern Methodist University, Moeller has worked extensively in the areas of corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, and risk management, publishing papers in the *Journal of Financial Economics*, *The Journal of Finance*, the *Journal of Banking & Finance*, and *The Review of Financial Studies*. She joins KGSB's finance faculty as an associate professor of business administration.

Moeller earned her PhD degree in finance in the Fisher School at Ohio State University. As a doctoral student, she served as the copy editor for *The Journal of Finance* and as a lecturer in corporate finance.

Before entering academia, Moeller was director of special projects at AJC International, a leader in the marketing of frozen and refrigerated food products. She also was a district commodity trader for Cargill, Inc., an international provider of food, agricultural, and risk-management products and services.

**Larry W. Moreland,** Department of Medicine, School of Medicine.

Moreland joins Pitt as a professor of medicine and chief of the medical school's Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology. He also will hold the Margaret Jane Miller Chair in Arthritis Research. Moreland formerly served as professor of medicine, Anna Lois Waters Professor of Medicine in Rheumatology, and associate dean for clinical research in the School of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). In addition, Moreland directed UAB's Pittman General Clinical Research Center, Arthritis Clinical Intervention Program, and Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

His research focuses on novel therapeutic approaches for osteoarthritis and autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, systemic lupus erythematosus, and vasculitis.

A member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, Moreland has received the Max Cooper Award for Research Excellence from UAB and the West Virginia University School of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is the associate editor of *Arthritis and Rheumatism* and serves on a number of editorial boards.

**Yoel Sadovsky,** Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, School of Medicine.

Sadovsky is the new scientific director of the Magee-Womens Research Institute and, as such, will hold Pitt's Elsie Hilliard Hillman Chair in Women's and Infants' Health Research. He will also serve as professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences. Sadovsky comes to Pitt from the Washington University School of Medicine, where he was director of the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine and Ultrasound and professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of cell biology and physiology.

His research focuses on reproductive development and function, including placental differentiation and gonadal function.

Sadovsky's work has been recognized with the Society of Gynecological Investigation President's Achievement Award. Sadovsky received his MD degree from the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem.

**Jonathan Woon,** Department of Political Science, School of Arts and Sciences.

Woon, who received his PhD degree from Stanford University, comes to Pitt as an assistant professor of political science. Woon has a strong interest in American politics. His dissertation research examined the legislative bargaining process to determine which issues obtain agenda attention within Congress. He is doing research examining the role of party "brand names" and party reputations associated with legislators.

# Pitt's Natural Resource

## Reborn and thriving, the Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology offers students and faculty researchers a taste of the wild life

JIM BURKE/CIDDE

Stories by Morgan Kelly

At the University of Pittsburgh's Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology (PLE) this summer, Pitt professor Rick Relyea and his students followed up on Relyea's earlier research that exposed Roundup®, the world's most popular pesticide, as an unmitigated killer of amphibians—much to the manufacturer's publicized dismay.

In his cabin at the PLE's housing site, Duke University biologist Steve Nowicki plucked globs of baby swamp sparrow excrement from a makeshift nest on his kitchen table, pausing every 30 minutes to ladle food into the young birds' insistent mouths. A few hours later, he drove through the night, sparrows in tow, back to his North Carolina lab where he studies the function, meaning, and evolution of bird songs. He started this project at the PLE in 1998 and continues it there with professors from other universities.

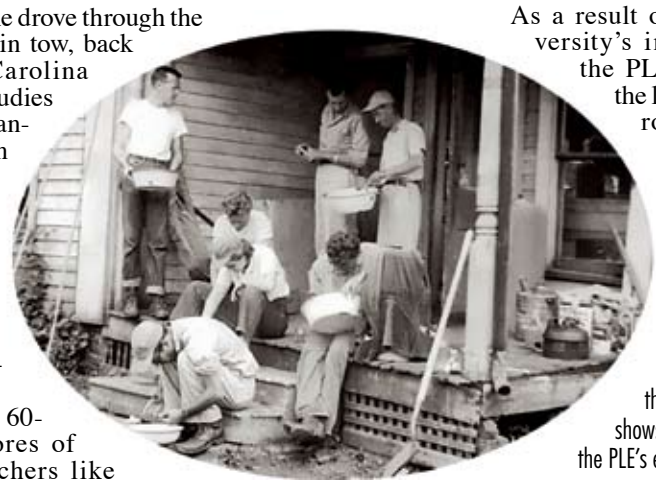
In the PLE's 60-plus years, scores of ecology researchers like Relyea and Nowicki—as well as generations of students—have been drawn to the unspoiled setting. The 370-acre outpost is two hours north of Pittsburgh and deep within the 21,000-acre Pymatuning State Park, surrounded by a variety of local ecosystems, ranging from forests to marshes and from lakes to swamps.

For fledgling and established ecologists alike, the PLE boasts research potential in every field and pond. Plus, students and professors have access to the neighboring state-run gamelands, fish hatcheries, and other reserves.

Pitt has spent more than $1 million in the last decade buttressing PLE's natural bounty with well-equipped laboratories and housing that a researcher could comfortably live in for weeks on end. This infusion of funding followed a mid-1990s program evaluation that found the PLE had changed little since 1949, when the University established it along the Pymatuning Reservoir on land leased from the state.

"Let's just say it had been neglected for a long time," said W. Richard Howe, associate dean for administration and planning in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences.

As a result of the University's investment, the PLE today is the largest year-round ecology laboratory in the Northeast and the centerpiece of Pitt's ecology and evolutionary biology program, part of the biological sciences department in the School of Arts and Sciences.



This photograph from the mid-1950s shows researchers in the PLE's early days.

Nowicki first visited the PLE in 1995 to study sparrows with then-Pitt professor William Searcy, now at the University of Miami. (Searcy still conducts research at the PLE.)

Impressed by the abundance of natural habitats, Nowicki decided to base his own research at the PLE. Unlike some other universities' ecology labs, Pymatuning welcomed guest researchers, he said. Over the years, Nowicki brought students and colleagues with him and they, in turn, rooted their research at the PLE, perpetuating the lab's good reputation.

Melissa Hughes, today an associate professor at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, was a postdoctoral student in Nowicki's research group from 1994 to 1996. She has since established her own research on bird songs at the PLE, specializing in song sparrows. She brings undergraduate students from her university with her. At the PLE, students experience ecology in its purest form, she said.

> Pitt funneled more than $1 million into the PLE in the last decade to buttress its natural bounty with well-equipped laboratories and housing that a researcher could comfortably live in for weeks on end. As a result of that investment, the PLE is the largest year-round ecology laboratory in the Northeast and the centerpiece of Pitt's ecology and evolutionary biology program, part of the biological sciences department in the University's School of Arts and Sciences.

"It's total immersion," Hughes declared. "This is an intense research atmosphere, and it helps students make decisions about graduate school, to decide if this is what they want."

Through the years, improvements to the PLE have included Pitt's construction of six new buildings—cabins and a seven-apartment dormitory that replaced weathered boathouse residences—and the restoration of 19 more. The buildings were insulated and their windows, roofs, and plumbing renovated. Five labs, field kits, newer computers, and a library rounded out the upgrade.

Most importantly, the University bought an additional 227 acres of research property and secured access to the adjoining state land.

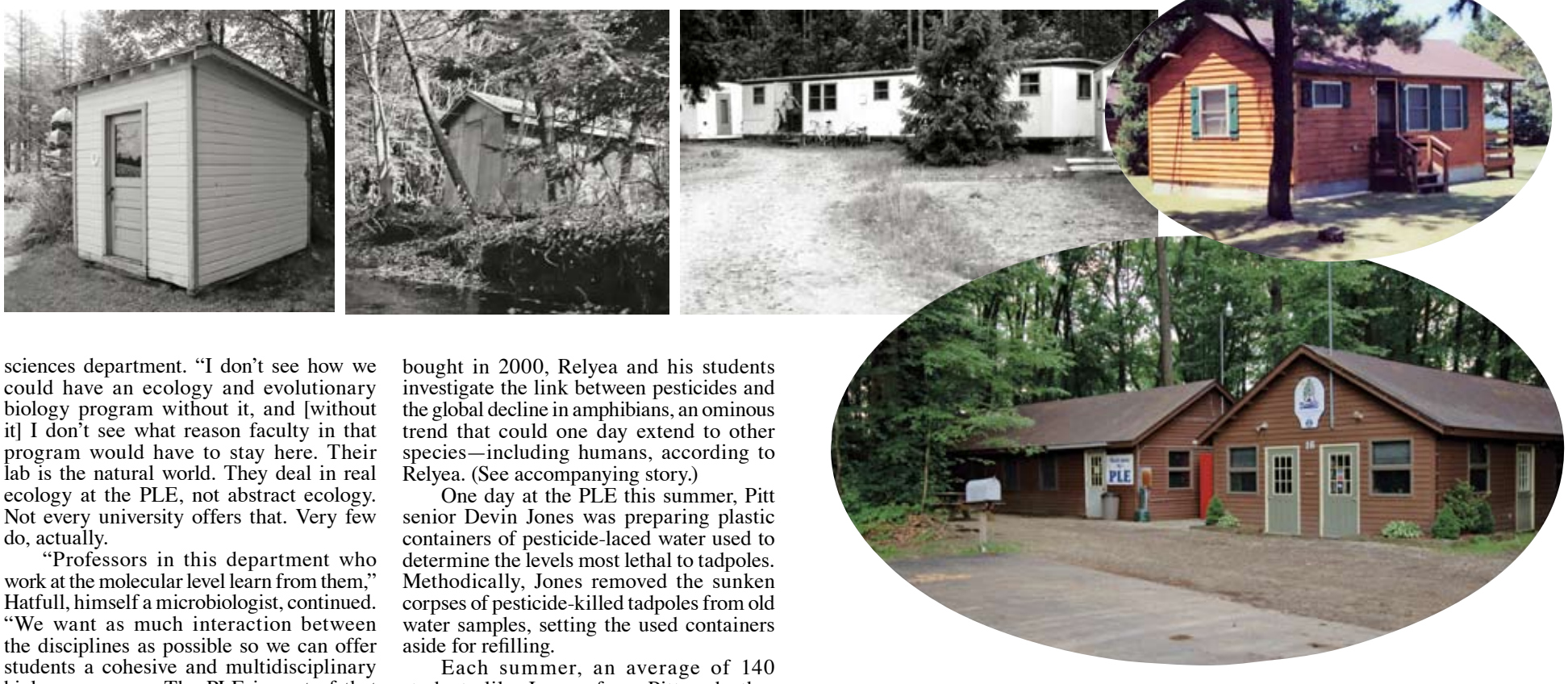
"I've worked in various places, but this place is my bread-and-butter," said Duke's Nowicki. "And the improvements have kept me coming."

"It's an onsite facility where people do cutting-edge work," said Graham Hatfull, who is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor and the Eberly Family Professor of Biotechnology and chair in Pitt's biological

*Continued on Page 8*

# Pitt's Natural Resource

*Continued from Page 7*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PLE

JIM BURKE/CIDDE

An old boat house (from far left), a wooden shack, and trailers that once served as labs and housing at the PLE have been replaced by newer buildings with insulation and modern windows, roofs, and plumbing. At bottom, the PLE's main offices await visitors on the shore of Sanctuary Lake.

sciences department. "I don't see how we could have an ecology and evolutionary biology program without it, and [without it] I don't see what reason faculty in that program would have to stay here. Their lab is the natural world. They deal in real ecology at the PLE, not abstract ecology. Not every university offers that. Very few do, actually.

"Professors in this department who work at the molecular level learn from them," Hatfull, himself a microbiologist, continued. "We want as much interaction between the disciplines as possible so we can offer students a cohesive and multidisciplinary biology program. The PLE is part of that mission—it's not just an appendage."

Despite its name, the PLE has always served Pitt as a teaching facility as well as a laboratory, said Relyea, who is PLE's interim director and a Pitt biological sciences professor.

At his lab on a 134-acre farm that Pitt bought in 2000, Relyea and his students investigate the link between pesticides and the global decline in amphibians, an ominous trend that could one day extend to other species—including humans, according to Relyea. (See accompanying story.)

One day at the PLE this summer, Pitt senior Devin Jones was preparing plastic containers of pesticide-laced water used to determine the levels most lethal to tadpoles. Methodically, Jones removed the sunken corpses of pesticide-killed tadpoles from old water samples, setting the used containers aside for refilling.

Each summer, an average of 140 students like Jones—from Pitt and other universities—take courses and conduct experiments in the field at the PLE, practicing ecology rather than just learning about it in classrooms.

Some students who work and study at the PLE, even undergraduates, see their work published in peer-reviewed journals.

"This just couldn't be done in Oakland," Relyea noted. "We couldn't collect animals in nature or observe them in their natural habitat there. Here, students learn ecology hands-on and outdoors. They're conducting top-tier research that has publishable results. This facility is a real treasure."

## Last Roundup? Pitt's Rick Relyea Studies Deadly Effects of Pesticides on Amphibians

MORGAN KELLY

When Pitt ecologist Rick Relyea talks about croaking frogs, he's not referring to the rhythmic baritone sounds they make on summer nights.

Instead, Relyea is describing the worldwide annihilation of amphibian populations caused by commonly used pesticides.

The deaths of these often-overlooked animals may foreshadow the poisoning of other, less environmentally sensitive species—including humans, according to Relyea, a professor in the School of Arts and Sciences' biological sciences department and interim director of Pitt's Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology (PLE).

For the last eight years, Relyea has sought to link declining frog populations with the routine use of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides. Based on research he conducted at PLE, Relyea published papers in 2005 on four studies suggesting that the popular weed-killer Roundup® is "extremely lethal" to amphibians, and that even low doses of it can kill frogs and tadpoles alike. Roundup® manufacturer Monsanto disputes his findings.

In Relyea's lab at the PLE's 134-acre Farm Site, small plastic containers line the shelves; in each container are 10 tadpoles, swimming—and, in most cases, dying—in toxic soups containing concentrations of Roundup® ranging from zero (no Roundup®) to five. Level three represents the amount of Roundup® found in natural ponds sprayed directly through aerial crop dusting. Tadpoles in the level-three containers survive for only two days.

In a nearby field, Relyea's research takes an even bleaker turn for frogkind. Relyea and his student researchers have converted 50 300-gallon circular cattle troughs into simulated ponds, full of water with Roundup® concentrations in the zero-to-three range. An extension of Relyea's 2005 research, this experiment tests how different levels of Roundup® affect tadpoles at different stages of development.

"Most of them died the first day," says Relyea, who is currently writing papers on his findings.

Another of Relyea's projects suggests that the widespread spraying of the mosquito-repellent malathion—used to combat malaria and West Nile Virus—kills frogs by altering their food supply.

In a wild setting, the insecticide's destruction can encompass an entire ecosystem. Doses too low to kill tadpoles wipe out water fleas, which feast on surface algae. The now-thriving surface algae, in turn, crowd the surface and keep nutrients from reaching the bottom-dwelling algae that tadpoles eat.

If the tadpoles don't starve to death as a result, their development can be stunted, leaving them more vulnerable to diseases and predators as well as the normal rigors of survival.

In Relyea's malathion study, 43 percent of adult leopard frogs in ecosystems exposed to malathion perished, even though the doses were not high enough to kill them outright.

"What doesn't kill them directly still kills them like crazy," Relyea observes. "It [malathion] affects them through the food web and indirectly kills half the animals."

Furthermore, the insecticide may weaken frogs' immune systems, particularly against a fungus called chytrid. In the late 1990s, scientists discovered the deadly infection in frog populations, many living in pesticide-sprayed areas.

"Frogs now cannot fight an infection that they could have survived decades ago," Relyea points out.

"Traditional toxicology has it wrong on how to evaluate pesticide doses that are safe for amphibians," he adds. While scientists have established pesticide safety standards for humans, mammals, birds, fish, and even zooplankton like water fleas, no such standards exist for the more than 6,000 species of amphibians, Relyea says.

Regulations forbid spraying most pesticides over lakes, but that doesn't help most amphibians, which thrive in small, fish-free wetlands. Deep in a meadow along the road to Relyea's PLE lab, a puddle might host four or five species of amphibians.

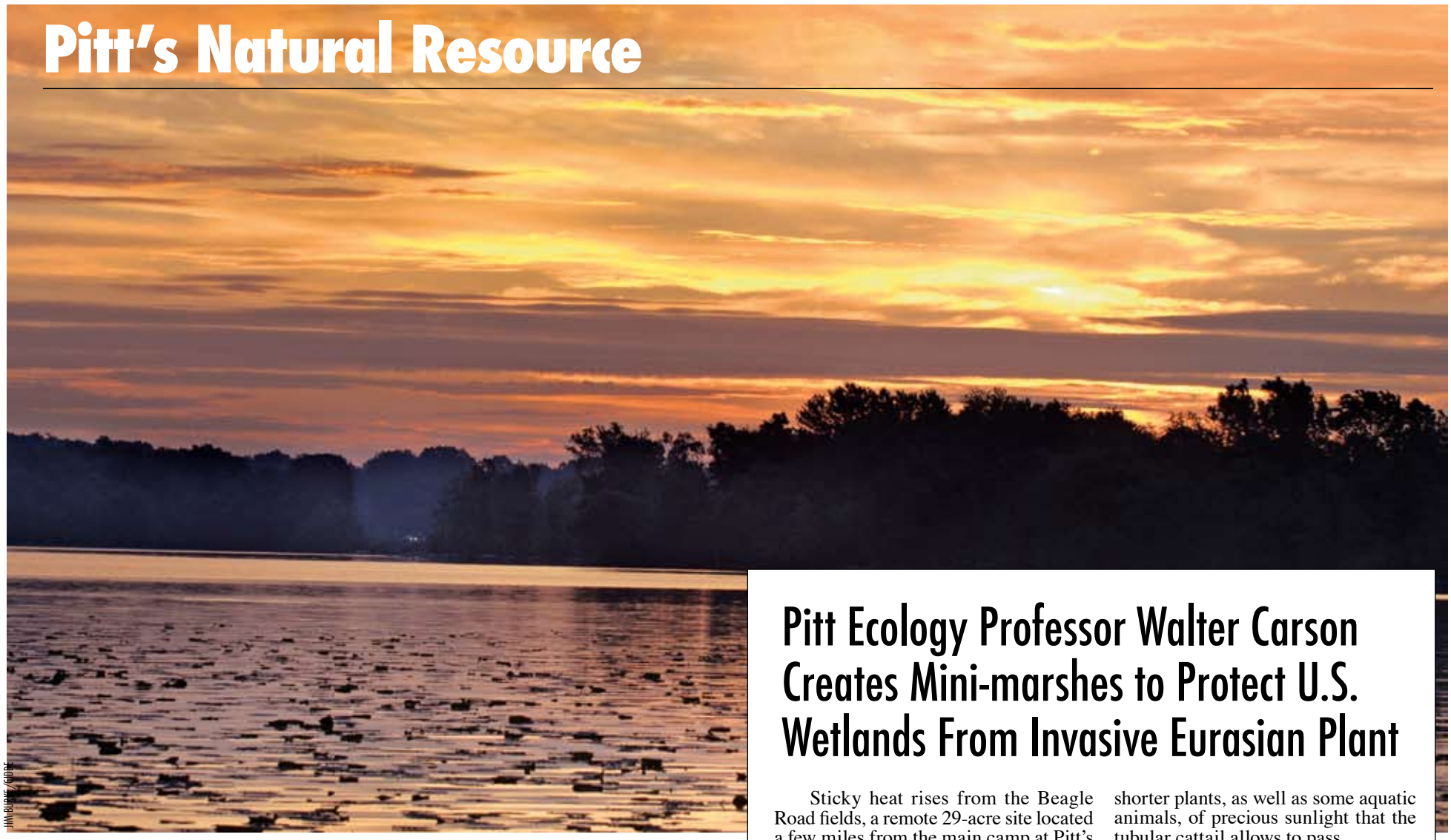
Even if a single pesticide spraying spares those puddle dwellers, poisons add up.

A recent experiment in Relyea's lab combined 10 of the most commonly applied pesticides into a chemical cocktail. Each of the individual doses was at or below safe drinking water standards, and most killed no frogs. But, when combined, the 10-pesticide brew killed 99 percent of exposed frogs. Relyea plans to submit these results to a journal for review.

Relyea's research makes him wonder whether amphibian deaths represent only the beginning of pesticide-related casualties, and that less sensitive creatures will eventually succumb to the increasing buildup of pesticides in the natural world.

"If amphibians are the canary in the coal mine," Relyea says, rumbling away from the Farm Site in his truck, "we're in trouble."

# Pitt's Natural Resource



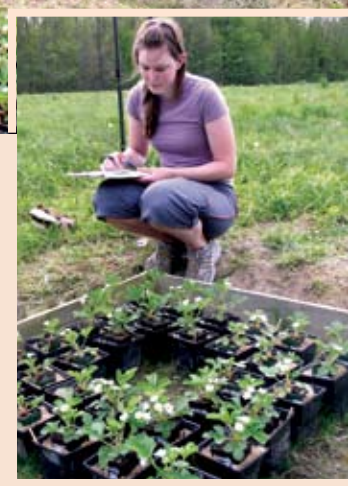
JIM BURG/PITT

## Wild Strawberries: How Do Hermaphroditic Plants Evolve Into Happy Couples?

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TIA-LYNN ASHMAN

One of the more intriguing mysteries of evolutionary biology centers on how plants that are initially hermaphroditic develop flowers with separate genders, an arguably less titillating condition known as dioecy.

Plant evolutionary ecologist Tia-Lynn Ashman, a professor in the Pitt School of Arts and Sciences' biological sciences department, is seeking to unravel this mystery by studying the sexual evolution of wild strawberries. Her experiments at the University's Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology (PLE) test and monitor various factors—from pollinators like birds and bees to soil nutrients—that might contribute to plants metamorphosing from self-service status to needing a better half.



Pitt sophomore Jing Liu and postdoctoral fellow Laurent Penet(top) and Pitt junior Mimi Jenkins (bottom) note the growth of flowers and activity of pollinators in Tia-Lynn Ashman's experimental strawberry garden.

## Pitt Ecology Professor Walter Carson Creates Mini-marshes to Protect U.S. Wetlands From Invasive Eurasian Plant

Sticky heat rises from the Beagle Road fields, a remote 29-acre site located a few miles from the main camp at Pitt's Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology (PLE). Horseflies prowl for blood here. Overheated spittlebugs touch up their frothy coats.

Great place for an intercontinental fight to the death.

In each of the 250 cattle troughs laid out here (each trough holding 500 gallons), the American cattail resists annihilation at the hands of a ruthless Eurasian invader called purple loosestrife.

Pitt ecologist Walter Carson created these battle zones in an effort to help save the millions of acres of North American wetlands currently choked with purple loosestrife. A professor in the School of Arts and Sciences' biological sciences department, Carson studies competition in plant communities.

His troughs simulate the purple loosestrife's onslaught on U.S. wetlands in 47 states, including at least 50,000 acres in Pennsylvania, Carson explains.

Purple loosestrife debuted in North America as an ornamental plant adored for its towering lavender blooms. Sans a natural enemy on this continent, the voracious perennial invaded marshes, snuffing out native plants such as the cattail and altering ecosystems. Ducks, cranes, and other birds prefer not to nest in purple loosestrife thickets. The broad-leaved plant starves shorter plants, as well as some aquatic animals, of precious sunlight that the tubular cattail allows to pass.

To control purple loosestrife, the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1993 released in several states—including Pennsylvania—two species of leaf-beetles that eat the plant. When purple loosestrife growth declined in some areas, the USDA ruled the release a success. Yet, no thorough follow-up ever occurred, Carson notes.

His own research found that many marshes lack sufficient numbers of beetles to curb purple loosestrife. Carson surveyed 50 wetlands in Pennsylvania and found only five with enough beetles to control the plant.

Beetle-mania also fizzled in many areas of the Northeast and Midwest, Carson found. Plus, he says, the USDA failed to consider other factors such as soil nutrients in different wetlands—the plant thrives in some soils despite the beetles—and natural enemies of the cattails that the effort was intended to save. For example, some wetlands host a butterfly that eats cattails and hinders that plant's reclamation of its habitat.

Carson and a student researcher began the minimarshes project in 1999 with funding from a USDA grant. Each trough contains a different concentration of beetles. Carson also filled each minimarsh with a different soil fertility to recreate the various soil types found in natural wetlands.

The Pitt professor hopes to determine the beetle "dose" that best allows cattails to hold their own in the particular soil they call home. A paper detailing the project so far is in the peer-review stage.

"Ecology is easy," Carson says, "until you try to prove something."

Pitt plant ecologist Walter Carson (left). Above, the American cattail tries to resist vibrantly colored thickets of purple loosestrife, an invasive species from Eurasia.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WALTER CARSON

## BLUE & GOLD & REDDING UP

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PITT ATHLETICS DEPT.

Pitt Panthers football players and coaches teamed up with Redd Up Pittsburgh campaign workers last month to tear down rusted fences, remove garbage and weeds, repaint walls, and rake grass at Dan Marino Field, located on Frazier and Dawson streets in Oakland.

Players who live nearby have used the field for softball games. "Last year, a couple of times, we came out here and played softball, and we saw how it was and that it needed to be touched up a little bit," said senior defensive back Mike Phillips.

The Marino Field "redd up" was the football team's annual community-service project.

Pictured, clockwise from top, left: sophomore tight end John Pelusi, senior tight end Darrell Strong, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl meeting with the Panthers, and junior wide receiver Austin Ransom.

# People With Asthma Could Breathe Easier With Pitt Hand-Held Nano-Sensor That Detects Oncoming Attacks, Monitors Symptoms

### Team led by Alexander Star develops portable, affordable nanotube sensor that detects spikes in nitric oxide before an attack

By Morgan Kelly

A sensor developed at Pitt could strip the element of surprise from some asthma attacks by detecting them before they strike. Fitted in a hand-held device, the tiny sensor provides people who have asthma with a simple and affordable means of keeping tabs on their condition by measuring their breath for high levels of a gas associated with asthma inflammation.

Researchers led by Alexander Star, a chemistry professor in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, created a sensor that detects even minute amounts of nitric oxide, a gas prevalent in the breath of asthmatics, as the researchers describe in the Aug. 22 online edition of the journal *Nanotechnology*.

Alexander Star

The sensor consists of a carbon nanotube—a rolled, one-atom-thick sheet of graphite 100,000 times smaller than a human hair—coated with a polyethylene imine polymer.

Star cased the sensor in a hand-held device that people blow into to determine the nitric oxide content of their breath. The nitric oxide level in the breath of a person with asthma spikes as the airways grow more inflamed. High levels—perhaps two-thirds over normal—may precede an attack by one to three weeks, but possibly earlier depending on the asthma's severity, said Jigme Sethi, an assistant professor in the Pitt School of Medicine's Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine and a clinician at UPMC Montefiore, who plans to clinically test Star's sensor.

Besides detecting attacks early on, Star's device provides an easy, portable method for patients and their doctors to regularly monitor their symptoms and tailor treatment accordingly, Sethi said.

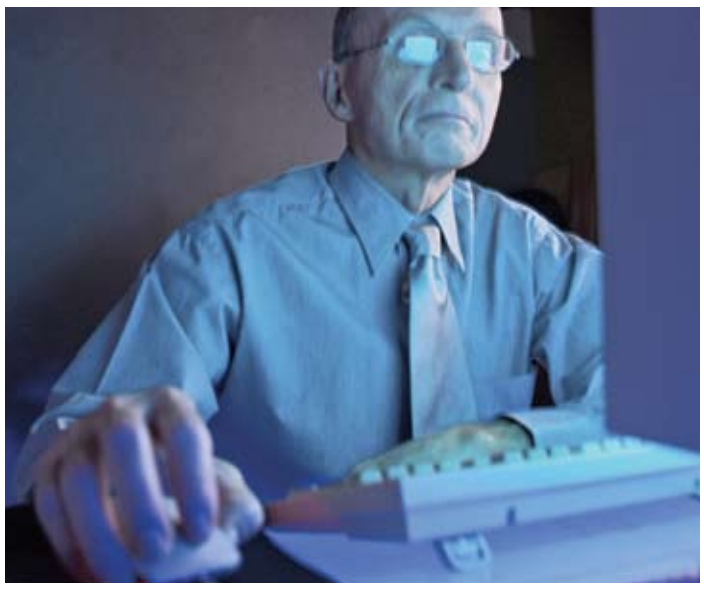
Physicians use nitric oxide readings to help diagnose and gauge the severity of asthma, he added, but the current method of measuring it requires expensive machines available only in outpatient clinics.

Star's invention could allow people with asthma to watch their nitric oxide levels as easily as people with diabetes check their blood sugar with hand-held glucose monitors, Sethi said.

Star specializes in using carbon nanotubes—which were widely introduced to science in the early 1990s—as chemical sensors and in hydrogen fuel cells.

In the case of sensors, a nanotube's extreme thinness renders it extremely sensitive to small changes in their chemical environment, which makes for an excellent detector, Star said.

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Receives a $1 Million Endowment



By Sharon S. Blake

Pitt's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)—which offers a wide array of courses to adults 55 and older—has received a $1 million endowment from the San Francisco-based Bernard Osher Foundation.

The gift will allow OLLI, which operates within the University's College of General Studies, to continue to offer noncredit courses to its more than 700 members. OLLI members also have the opportunity to audit two Pitt undergraduate courses a term.

Members pay $100 a term (or $180 for an annual membership) and may take as many OLLI classes as they like. Most courses meet for two hours a week for five weeks. Members receive an OLLI photo ID card for admission to Pitt libraries and shuttles as well as a Pitt computer account.

More than 50 OLLI courses are being offered this fall—including four at the Monroeville ExpoMart, directly in front of The Monroeville Mall, on Business Route 22. It's the first time OLLI is offering courses in Monroeville.

OLLI course subjects range from Brazilian music and Irish culture to the history of Pittsburgh streetcars and the appreciation of fine wine. A complete course catalog is available at www.cgs.pitt.edu/osher.

In granting the endowment, the Osher Foundation praised OLLI director Judith Bobenage for making "remarkable progress" since the program's inception in January 2005.

For more information, call 412-624-7308 or visit www.cgs.pitt.edu/osher.

## GREAT LAKES SYMPOSIUM

WADE H. MASSIE

Megan Klamerus (A&S '05), laboratory technician in the University's School of Pharmacy, explains her thesis research to poster judge Robert Gibbs, a Pitt professor of pharmaceutical sciences, during the third annual Great Lakes Symposium, hosted by Pitt pharmacy graduate students July 27-29 in Salk Hall.

Nearly 100 pharmacy students from Pitt and eight universities in the Great Lakes region attended the symposium, which promoted career networking and exchanges of research findings. Also attending were postdoctoral fellows, faculty members, and scientists from the Federal Drug Administration and private industry.

The symposium was sponsored by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pitt's Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, the Pitt pharmacy school's Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Eli Lilly and Company.

# No Geek Myth: Computer Science Department Reprograms Its Mission to Stress Creativity in Today's Diverse World

Daniel Mossé (center) with students Craig McDaniel (left) and Joshua Stachel

By Morgan Kelly

Daniel Mossé presses his hand flat on his desk, an inch from an empty bottle.

"Tell me how to pick up that bottle," the Pitt computer science professor challenges an office visitor.

"Lift your hand," his puzzled guest ventures. Mossé raises his hand high above his head.

"Not that far," the visitor corrects Mossé. "About two inches above the desk."

Mossé obediently lowers his hand—but to the left of the bottle, not in a position to grab it.

Directed to turn his hand to the right, Mossé unhelpfully swivels to the right in his chair.

"I meant twist your hand at the wrist," says the frustrated visitor, who has just learned a cardinal principle of programming computers: Be *very* specific.

Just as interactive learning figured into Mossé's impromptu lesson, it's a key ingredient in his department's larger effort to increase and diversify its enrollments while better preparing Pitt students to meet the growing demand for computer-savvy workers.

For example, for this fall Mossé has revamped a section of his department's Introduction to Computer Programming course to include a different kind of hands-on exercise: Creating and directing animated films using a program called "Alice."

"Alice" includes thousands of preprogrammed moves for some 100 characters in various action scenarios such as ice-skating. Students will dictate camera angles, their characters' movements, and their films' plots. As they direct, students will learn that computers need precise instructions, Mossé points out. For example, if you instruct a computer-animated character to run, it will run…and run…and run, like Forrest Gump, until you tell it when, where, and how to stop.

The bottom-line goal, says Mossé, is for students to learn not only computer code, but also the logic behind computer communication, as well as the fact that computer programs consist of minute steps seamlessly sewn together.

Intro to Computer Programming fulfills a portion of the general education requirements for students in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, and Mossé overhauled the course in the hope of luring undecided freshmen into computer science by making their first foray into the field fun and creative.

Computer science and information technology (IT) are undergoing unprecedented growth and need new blood, says Pitt computer science chair and professor Rami Melhem.

"Computer science is everywhere now," he observes. "You have computers in your cellular phone, your refrigerator, and your car. If you look at who employs our students now, it's not limited to Microsoft, Intel, and IBM. It's Wall Street, banks, and pharmaceutical companies. UPS and Federal Express track deliveries by computer. Every major company has a huge IT department, even [fashion retailer] American Eagle."

> "Computer science is everywhere now: You have computers in your cellular phone, your refrigerator, and your car. If you look at who employs our students now, it's not limited to Microsoft, Intel, and IBM. It's Wall Street, banks, and pharmaceutical companies.
> —*Rami Melhem*

Melhem says his department will design specific study tracks for some of these career paths in the coming years.

"The old general curriculum of programming and system building is not enough now," he maintains. "Computer science students will need different skills in banking than in retail. The options are too many, and we can't have all our students learning the same thing."

In that vein, Alexandros Labrinidis, an assistant professor in the department, recently received an Innovation in Education Award from the Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence to design what's called the Virtual WebDB Laboratory (DB=database).

Through this lab and two new department courses, upper-level Pitt computer science students will learn to design and build user-friendly, interactive, data-intensive Web sites. (Think of Facebook or a Web site of restaurant reviews for the Oakland area).

Students in the virtual lab also will create successful data "mashups," wherein features and data from existing Web sites are combined to forge a new site with an original function. An example of a "mashup" Web site is Housingmaps.com, which lists available properties by various criteria drawn from craigslist.com and also plots their locations through Google Maps.

For Mossé, increasing his department's enrollments requires shedding computer science's reputation as a haven for techno-hermits who pore over lines of computer code during all-night Mountain Dew binges.

"Many students think being a computer science major is being a geek," Mossé says. "People think you sit in front of a computer all day and never talk to your friends. You *do* spend a lot of time in front of a computer, but you're always talking to people and working on group projects. In computer science, there is always interaction."

In addition to reconfiguring a section of Intro to Computer Programming, Mossé helped to create a computer science learning community at Pitt called Virtual Worlds. With a target membership of 20 students, the community will combine computer science education with a less technical subject of a student's choice.

"When we diversify [computer science] courses and present information in a fun way instead of a tedious way, it will appeal to a larger segment of the population," Mossé says.

Last year, 120 of Pitt's 155 undergraduate computer science majors were White and 137 were men, according to Mossé. Among the department's graduate students, he says, men outnumbered women 62 to 18. (Of the 68 men, 25 identified themselves as White and 24 as Asian/Pacific Islander. Of the 18 female graduate students, 12 were self-identified as Asian/Pacific Islander and four as White.)

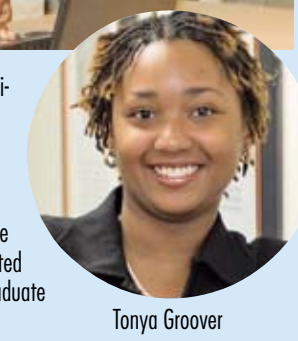
Those numbers are consistent with national averages among computer science students, Mossé notes. According to National Science Foundation figures for 2003 (the most recent year for which such numbers were available) 70 percent of the 1.8 million people working in the United States as computer scientists and IT professionals were White and just over half were White males.

Among the Pitt programs aimed at diversifying computer science is the Technology Leadership Institute. Founded by Pitt computer science student Tonya Groover, the six-week summer institute offers area high school students academic and career-success workshops as well as more than 90 hours of course work in mathematics and computer science.

With the U.S. Department of Labor predicting strong demand for employees in computer-related fields, more people and different perspectives are needed to satisfy the variety of jobs available, says Melhem.

"There will be a shortage of computer scientists in the near future, and advancement in many sectors relies on having enough IT workers," he says. "As a university, we need to provide these professionals, but we can't, for instance, overlook women and miss 50 percent of the population. People of different backgrounds pursue fields [of interest] that vary widely, and have ideas based on their experiences."

MIKE DRAZDZINSKI/CIDDE



Pitt's Technology Leadership Institute (TLI) held its 2007 Student Recognition and Exhibition in the William Pitt Union Aug. 2. The event recognized achievements of area high school students who participated this summer in TLI, a six-week program aimed at teaching them the knowledge and skills necessary to gain admission into competitive college programs in computer science and information science. Among the speakers at the Aug. 2 event was TLI director and founder Tonya Groover. Having completed her BS degree in computer science here last spring, Groover is beginning graduate study in the department this fall.

Tonya Groover

# Science&Technology

## Rollman, Reynolds Receive Funding To Recognize, Treat Depression in Patients With Congestive Heart Failure

By Maureen McGaffin

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has awarded researchers in Pitt's School of Medicine a three-year, $500,000 grant to develop a novel intervention strategy for simultaneously treating congestive heart failure and major depression.

The study is designed to obtain the necessary feasibility and clinical data required to plan a large-scale trial, which will compare the impact of "blended" depression/heart failure care management programs versus traditional heart failure care management programs on cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, health-related quality of life, mood symptoms, health care costs, and a variety of other outcomes.

Bruce L. Rollman

Heart failure strikes five million Americans annually, with more than 550,000 newly diagnosed cases, 287,000 deaths, and $30 billion in direct and indirect costs each year. It also is the leading cause for hospitalization, and its five-year mortality rate following first hospital admission exceeds that of most cancers.

Charles F. Reynolds

Depression is present in an estimated 20 to 50 percent of heart failure patients, and compelling evidence links it to increased morbidity and mortality and reduced quality of life. Yet, although the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and several other integrated health care delivery systems across the United States have implemented outpatient care management programs for heart failure, none routinely screens for and treats depression.

Researching the connections between mental health and cardiovascular disease is not new to the study's principal investigator, Bruce L. Rollman, a Pitt professor of medicine and psychiatry. Since 2004, he, coprincipal investigator Charles F. Reynolds—Pitt's UPMC Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry—and their research team have been recruiting patients from several Pittsburgh-area hospitals, including UPMC Presbyterian and UPMC Passavant, into a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded clinical trial titled "Bypassing the Blues"; it's the first trial designed to examine the impact of treating depressive symptoms following coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery.

In this latest study, Rollman and Reynolds—with the help of coinvestigators Dennis McNamara, a Pitt professor of medicine and director of UPMC Heart Failure Transplantation, and Rene Alvarez, a Pitt professor of medicine and director of UPMC Heart Failure/Pulmonary Hypertension Network—will modify their "Bypassing the Blues" protocol for treating post-CABG depression.

They will employ the UPMC outpatient guidelines for treating heart failure and then pilot their "blended" treatment strategy for treating depressed heart failure patients. They will recruit from UPMC Presbyterian, UPMC St. Margaret, UPMC Braddock, and UPMC McKeesport hospitals approximately 500 patients admitted for an acute episode of heart failure and then conduct followup telephone assessments at one, three, and six months to estimate suitably sensitive and specific cutoff scores for treating depression by gender and severity of heart failure.

"The subject of depression and congestive heart failure has received little attention until recently," Rollman said. "We need to look at these two conditions differently than in the past, as depression is seldom diagnosed and often untreated in patients with congestive heart failure. We also hope to learn through the cohort study how to better determine the severity of depressive symptoms that merit further attention from heart failure specialists."

McNamara commented, "Cardiologists can help their patients if they are provided with the knowledge of depression's devastating effects on heart disease. Early studies have demonstrated that if patients are treated for depression after heart surgery or any invasive heart procedure, they are more likely to stick to their scheduled treatments and have a better, more positive outlook toward recovery."

"Depression is a complex disease with many symptoms similar to heart failure," Reynolds added. "If we can develop a better clinical model in recognizing and detecting depression, we hope to be able to gather enough data to support the need for a large-scale trial to test the effectiveness of a combined depression and heart failure treatment over the current standard of care for heart failure which does not address depression."

For more information about this project, contact Rollman at 412-692-2659.

## Iverson's Study Explores Early Indicators for Autism in Infants

NIH-funded research will develop checklist of early warning signs

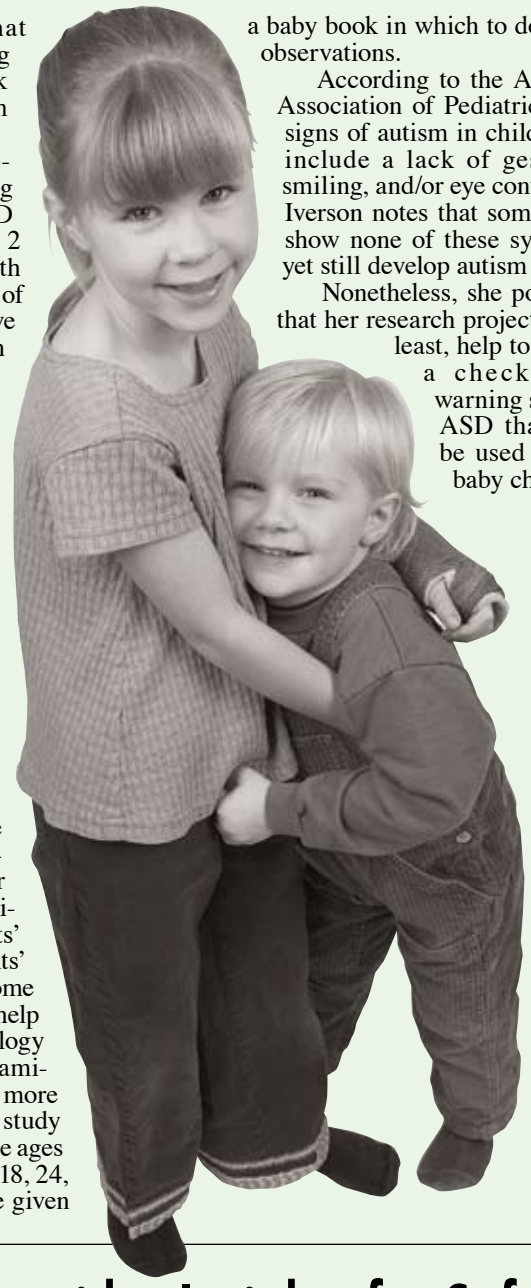
By Sharon S. Blake

Research has proven that babies who have an older sibling with autism have an elevated risk of developing an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) themselves.

Now, Pitt psychology professor Jana Iverson is looking for early identifiers for ASD in infants younger than age 2 who have an older sibling with autism. She will look at patterns of vocal, motor, and communicative skills and how they may vary in infants with ASD over a five-year period.

"We currently lack reliable methods for diagnosing autism spectrum disorders in children younger than 2 years of age," said Iverson. "Our goal is to distinguish prospectively between infants eventually diagnosed with ASD, infants eventually diagnosed with other developmental delays but not ASD, and those with no apparent ASD symptoms."

Supported by a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, Iverson is recruiting 150 babies for the study, in which she will audio- and videotape the babies at their homes. This differs from previous methods of viewing parents' home movies or relying on parents' memories. Iverson's one-hour home visits, which she conducts with help from Pitt undergraduate psychology majors, are convenient for the families and allow the babies to be more comfortable. Researchers will study each infant every month from the ages of 5 to 14 months, then again at 18, 24, and 36 months. The parents are given a baby book in which to document observations.



According to the American Association of Pediatrics, early signs of autism in children can include a lack of gesturing, smiling, and/or eye contact. But Iverson notes that some babies show none of these symptoms yet still develop autism later.

Nonetheless, she points out that her research project will, at least, help to develop a checklist of warning signs for ASD that could be used at well-baby checkups.

## Lovell's Team Provides Insights for Safe Return-to-play Decisions in Young Athletes

By Susan Manko

Concussions are common in young athletes, but the underlying changes in brain function that occur have been poorly understood. A Pitt School of Medicine study is the first to link changes in brain function directly to the recovery of the athlete.

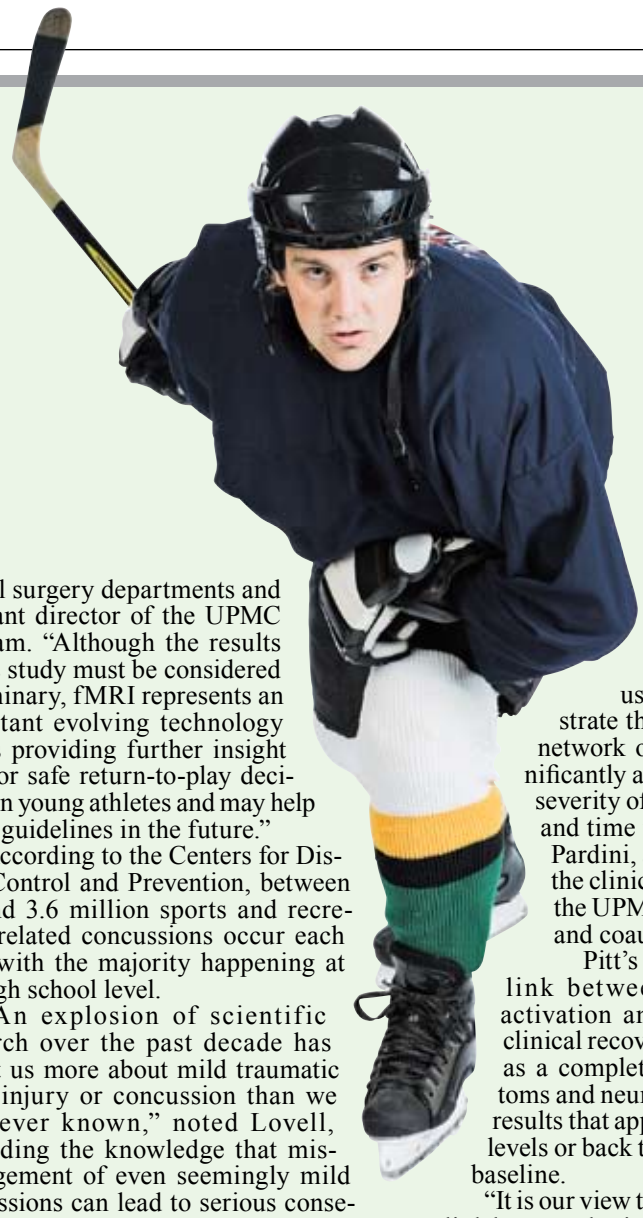
Results of the five-year study, funded by a $3 million National Institutes of Health grant, are published in the August issue of *Neurosurgery*, the official, peer-reviewed journal of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Mark Lovell

"We found that abnormal brain activity in children and adolescents on functional MRI (fMRI) was clearly related to their performance on neuropsychological tests of attention and memory and to their report of symptoms such as headaches," said principal investigator Mark Lovell, a professor in the medical school's orthopaedic surgery and neurological surgery departments.

"These results confirm crucial objective information that is commonly obtained by neuropsychological testing to help team doctors and athletic trainers make critical decisions about concussion management and safe return to play," added Lovell, who is founding director of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Sports Medicine Concussion Program, a clinical service and research program focused on the management of sports-related concussions.

"Our findings have several implications for understanding the recovery process after sports-related concussions," said study coauthor Michael "Micky" Collins, an assistant professor in the Pitt orthopaedic surgery and neuro-



logical surgery departments and assistant director of the UPMC program. "Although the results of this study must be considered preliminary, fMRI represents an important evolving technology that is providing further insight now for safe return-to-play decisions in young athletes and may help shape guidelines in the future."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between 1.4 and 3.6 million sports and recreation-related concussions occur each year, with the majority happening at the high school level.

"An explosion of scientific research over the past decade has taught us more about mild traumatic brain injury or concussion than we have ever known," noted Lovell, "including the knowledge that mismanagement of even seemingly mild concussions can lead to serious consequences in young athletes."

A concussion can occur when an athlete receives a traumatic force to the head or upper body that causes the brain to shake inside of the skull. Injury is defined as a concussion when it causes a change in mental status such as loss of consciousness, amnesia, disorientation, confusion, or mental fogginess. The severity, effects, and recovery of concussion are difficult to determine because no two concussions are alike, and symptoms are not always straightforward.

In recent years, research has shown that until a concussed brain is completely healed, the brain may be vulnerable to further injury, which has led to published studies that have raised public awareness and significantly changed the way sports concussions are managed.

Importantly, much of this research has included data that proves the usefulness of objective neuropsychological test data as part of the comprehensive clinical evaluation to determine clinical recovery following concussion. In fact, recent international concussion management guidelines have emphasized player symptoms and neuropsychological test results as "cornerstones" of the injury evaluation and management process.

While neuropsychological testing has become an increasingly useful tool, no published studies have examined the relationship between changes in computerized neuropsychological testing completed in a medical clinic and brain function as measured by fMRI. The lack of studies using fMRI may be because studies of this nature are very expensive and the equipment necessary to undertake this research is not readily available outside of a handful of academic medical centers, UPMC among them.

fMRI is one of the few brain scanning tools that can show brain activity, not just the anatomy. Traditional brain scanning techniques such as MRI and CT are helpful in viewing changes to the brain anatomy in more severe cases, but cannot identify subtle brain-related changes that are believed to occur on a metabolic rather than an anatomic level. fMRI can determine, through measurement of cerebral blood flow and metabolic changes, which parts of the brain are activated in response to different cognitive activities.

"In our study, using fMRI, we demonstrate that the functioning of a network of brain regions is significantly associated with both the severity of concussion symptoms and time to recover," said Jamie Pardini, a neuropsychologist on the clinical and research staff of the UPMC concussion program and coauthor of the study.

Pitt's study documented the link between changes in brain activation and concussed athletes clinical recovery, which was defined as a complete resolution of symptoms and neuropsychological testing results that appeared within expected levels or back to the athlete's personal baseline.

"It is our view that studies establishing a link between brain physiology and neuropsychological testing help demonstrate the utility of neuropsychological testing as a proxy for direct measurement of brain functioning after concussion," Pardini added.

The research project involved 28 concussed high school athletes and 13 age-matched controls. The concussed athletes underwent fMRI evaluation within approximately one week of injury and then again when they met criteria for clinical recovery. During their fMRI exams, the athletes were given working memory tasks to complete while the brain's activity was observed and recorded. As a group, athletes who demonstrated the greatest degree of hyperactivation at the time of their first fMRI scans also demonstrated a more prolonged clinical recovery than did athletes who demonstrated less hyperactivation during their first fMRI scans.

"We identified networks of brain regions where changes in functional activation were associated with performance on computerized neuropsychological testing and certain postconcussion symptoms," reported Pardini. "Also, our study confirms previous research suggesting that there are neurophysiological abnormalities that can be measured even after a seemingly mild concussion."

The study utilized a computer-based neuropsychological test called ImPACT™ (Immediate Post-Concussion and Cognitive Testing), which measures cognitive functions such as attention, memory, speed of response, and decision making. ImPACT was developed by Lovell and colleagues over the past decade and has been extensively researched by Pitt and other academic institutions throughout the world. Lovell and Collins have a proprietary interest in the ImPACT test, as does UPMC. ImPACT Applications, Inc., is a Pittsburgh-based company that owns and licenses the ImPACT tool.

"Recent years have marked exciting and important discoveries in sports concussion research, but there are still many unanswered questions," said Lovell. "Continued research designed to evaluate multiple parameters of concussion effects and recovery will further help structure return-to-play guidelines."

# Older Women With High Probability of Lifetime Exposure to HIV Have Little Interest in Being Tested, Study Finds

By Michele D. Baum

Few older women were interested in being tested for the virus that causes AIDS despite having significant risk factors for lifetime exposure, according to a study published in the July/August edition of the *Journal of Women's Health*.

The risk is especially great among African American women, who represent 73 percent of new HIV cases in women older than 50.

"Older people largely have been overlooked in HIV prevention and testing programs and consistently have lower HIV testing rates as compared with younger adults," said Aletha Akers, an assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences in Pitt's School of Medicine and the study's lead author. "Those who are tested tend to do so late in their disease, when they are more likely to have overt symptoms such as opportunistic infections. Often, they progress more rapidly to AIDS and die within a year of HIV diagnosis, which leaves little opportunity for treatment or secondary prevention for their partners."

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> —*Aletha Akers*

For this investigation, Akers and colleagues from Emory University and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, analyzed data collected from 514 women ranging in age from 50 to 95. The women visited a general internal medicine clinic at a large, inner-city hospital in Atlanta over a period of 11 months in 2001 and 2002.

To evaluate attitudes concerning lifetime HIV infection risk and interest in HIV testing, trained research assistants administered a 68-item questionnaire in a private room over the course of a single, face-to-face interview with study participants, most of whom said they were not currently sexually active.

More than 60 percent of the participants had never been tested for HIV, although more than half of them could be described as moderate- to high-risk for lifetime exposure to the virus based on sexual history and other factors. Only 115, or 22 percent of participants, said they would be interested in HIV testing.

Their most-often cited reasons were curiosity and concern about a current or past sexual partner's behaviors. About a third of the women had already been tested. Previously tested women were more likely to be younger, sexually active, better educated about HIV, and tested at the suggestion of a health care provider.

Most women, however, felt little need for testing. "Those who lacked interest were more likely to be older, African American and not sexually active," said Akers, who also is an assistant investigator at the Pitt-affiliated Magee-Womens Research Institute. "These women had a low perceived risk, which was not always accurate based on their histories. A third of all the women who were not interested in HIV testing reported lifetime risk factors for the disease, but we found that they tended to point to 'those people' when talking about the danger of HIV rather than at themselves or their partners."

In short, women with little HIV knowledge and low perceived personal risk were less interested in HIV testing, a finding that is consistent with attitudes in much younger, high-risk adults, the study found. Fewer than 25 percent of the participants could recall ever receiving counsel to get a test for HIV from a provider, despite their risk factors.

"Yet, in part because of a lack of education and prevention efforts targeted at older populations, older women appear to be less capable of accurately assessing their lifetime risk of HIV even when they have significant risk factors and live in communities with high rates of infection," Akers said. "We need to design prevention strategies and AIDS education for this vulnerable population and help providers to incorporate HIV-risk screening into the services offered to older women from high-prevalence communities."

The study was funded by the Emory Medical Care Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Foundation.

# Awards&More

Pitt communication professor **Ronald J. Zboray** and **Mary S. Zboray,** a visiting scholar in communication here, have received the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's (AEJMC) award for Best Journalism and Mass Communication History Book of 2006.

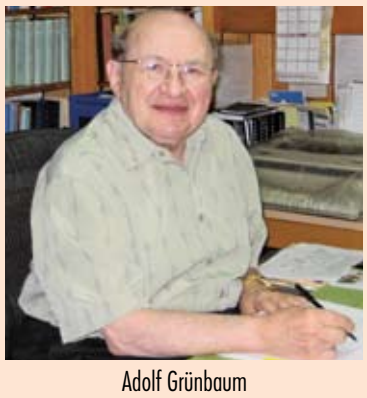
The award-winning book, *Everyday Ideas: Socioliterary Experience Among Antebellum New Englanders* (University of Tennessee Press), spans the late 1820s to the beginning of the Civil War; its central theme is the impact literature had in molding the American Renaissance.

To write *Everyday Ideas*, the Zborays gathered information from more than 4,000 manuscript letters and diaries of factory workers, farmers, clerks, storekeepers, domestics, and teachers. The book addresses a wide range of issues, from political campaigns and religious controversies to the personal challenges of maintaining ties with separated loved ones.

"The results of this vast archival work is a rich picture of what New Englanders were thinking and how they were acting," wrote Ray B. Browne in the March 2007 edition of the *Journal of American Culture*. "The book is rich in the detail of everybody's everyday life in New England, and as such those of our ancestors. It is a rich thesaurus indeed and should be owned, read, and treasured by everyone."

Katherine L. Wisner

The annual award was presented to the Zborays during the AEJMC conference Aug. 9-12 in Washington, D.C. The AEJMC is an international nonprofit, educational association made up of more than 3,500 journalism and mass communication faculty, administrators, students, and media professionals.



Adolf Grünbaum

Pitt professor **Adolf Grünbaum,** president of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS), delivered his presidential address during the IUHPS' quadrennial world congress in Beijing early this month. IUHPS is the worldwide umbrella organization of various national associations of philosophy of science as well as national societies of the history of science and technology.

Next month, Grünbaum will present an invited plenary paper in Prague during an international congress titled "Rethinking Karl Popper." Also next month, Grünbaum is scheduled to be interviewed in Cologne (where he was born) by German radio and TV personality Arnd Henze.

Grünbaum is Pitt's Andrew Mellon Professor of Philosophy of Science, primary research professor of history and philosophy of science, research professor of psychiatry, and chair of the Center for Philosophy of Science.

**Isaum Sando,** professor emeritus in the Pitt School of Medicine's otolaryngology department, was awarded The Order of the Sacred Treasures medal, including Gold Ray with Neck Ribbon, for his long and meritorious services both to Japanese and non-Japanese people. Sando received the decoration May 11 in Tokyo. The award ceremony was followed by a visit to the Imperial Palace, where Sando was greeted by the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

**Katherine L. Wisner,** a Pitt professor of psychiatry and director of Women's Behavioral HealthCARE at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, received a Service Award from the Pennsylvania Perinatal Partnership during the Pennsylvania Leadership Summit on Depression During and After Pregnancy, held in Harrisburg in June. The award was given "in recognition of outstanding contributions to pioneering research and service delivery on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of perinatal depression."

Wisner is the principal investigator of the first large-scale National Institute of Mental Health-funded trial of methods to identify and treat postpartum depression.

**Kathy S. Magdic,** coordinator of the acute care nurse practitioner program and an instructor in the Pitt School of Nursing's Department of Acute and Tertiary Care, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) last month during the academy's national conference in Indianapolis.

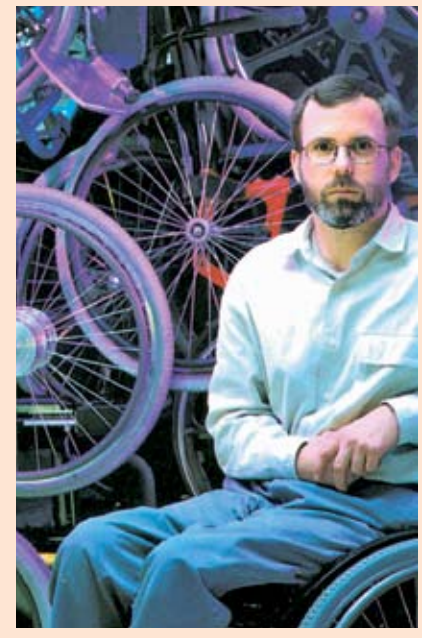
**Judith Klein-Seetharaman,** an assistant professor of structural biology in the Pitt School of Medicine, has been named the winner of the 2007 Margaret Oakley Dayhoff Award by the Biophysical Society. The award, which is presented each year during the annual meeting of the Biophysical Society and includes a $2,000 prize, honors the memory of Margaret Dayhoff, former president of the Biophysical Society, professor of biophysics at Georgetown University, and director of research at the National Biomedical Research Foundation. It is given to a "woman of very high promise who has not yet reached a position of high recognition within the structures of academic society, or to a woman who has begun to achieve prominence in spite of obtaining her degree recently."

Felicia Wu

**Felicia Wu,** an assistant professor of environmental and occupational health in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health, has been awarded the 2007 Chauncey Starr Award by the Society for Risk Analysis, which each year honors an individual age 40 or younger who has made the most exceptional contributions to the field of risk analysis.

Wu specializes in the use of risk and economic analysis in environmental health and policy. One of Wu's main research areas is indoor air quality, particularly factors that affect childhood asthma. She also studies mycotoxins—toxic and carcinogenic chemicals produced by fungi—and has developed models to estimate the economic impacts of mycotoxins in several areas, including human health, animal health, and the benefits of genetically modified Bt corn in lowering mycotoxin levels.

**Rory Cooper,** director of the University's Human Engineering Research Laboratories and professor in Pitt's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, has been selected to receive the 2007 da Vinci Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Michigan Chapter. The award will be presented in September in Dearborn, Mich. The da Vinci Awards recognize individuals, organizations, and corporations in the engineering, construction, and technical fields whose design innovations have exceeded legally mandated requirements, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, to further empower people with disabilities.



Rory Cooper


## Pitt Launching System To Provide Emergency Alerts Via Cellphones, Other Mobile Devices

By John Fedele

Soon, Pitt Police Chief Tim Delaney will be able to alert the University's more than 42,000 students, faculty, and staff about campus emergencies via their cellphones, Blackberries, or other mobile devices in a matter of minutes, thanks to the newest piece of Pitt's emergency notification system.

Earlier this month, the University reached an agreement with Verizon Notification Services (VNS) to provide Pitt with support technology to relay emergency notices via mobile devices. The new system complements Pitt's existing means of emergency communications, including voicemail, Web postings, and fire alarms.

Pitt officials began last fall to explore developing a University emergency-notification system for mobile devices, said Jinx Walton, director of Pitt's Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD). This spring's shootings at Virginia Tech reinforced the administration's desire to get such a system in place, she said.

"Students, parents, faculty, and staff began calling, asking what types of instant emergency communications systems we had in place," Walton recalled.

This week, CSSD introduced the online sign-up form on the my.pitt.edu portal. Walton said her department will stress the importance of full participation in the program while spreading the word through campus organization meetings, information tables at events, and University publications.

"The system will only be effective if as many people as possible sign up," she said.

Members of the University's Pittsburgh, Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville campuses can designate as many as three mobile devices through which Pitt may contact them via voice mail or text messaging. The system is tied into the University's central directory, which means that students who have graduated and faculty and staff who have left Pitt will automatically be purged from the system.

The VNS system will not be linked with the campus phone system.

In a campus emergency, Delaney, in consultation with Pitt senior administrators, would activate the system, which can be customized by the nature of a specific emergency—for example, alerting only individuals in certain buildings if an emergency is limited to those buildings.

Walton said Pitt chose Verizon's system over a number of competitors' systems because of its track record of reliability in delivering emergency communications, the system's redundancy and resilience, and its high capacity; also, the system will require very little manpower support from the University, she said. VNS claims to have the capability to deliver more than 400,000, 30-second voicemail messages and 500,000 text messages per hour. The company also says it delivered more than 230 million messages in 2006 with greater than a 99 percent rate of delivery success.

Details remain to be worked out, but Walton said she hopes that enough people will sign up for the new system to run a test of it later in the academic year.

# Happenings

## Concerts

**Opek,** 5 p.m. **Aug. 29,** Agnes R. Katz Plaza, Theatre Square (655 Penn Ave. between Sixth and Seventh streets), downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's JazzLive series, www.pgharts.org.

**Colter Harper,** 7 p.m. **Aug. 29,** Backstage Bar, Theater Square (655 Penn Ave. between Sixth and Seventh streets), downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's JazzLive series, www.pgharts.org.

***In Good Company with Stephen Schwartz and Lee Lessack,*** 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. **Aug. 31,** Pittsburgh Renaissance Hotel, 107 Sixth St., downtown, Cabaret Pittsburgh Riverview Series, 412-394-3353, www.cabaretpgh.org.

**Nonpareil Wind Band,** 7 p.m. **Sept. 7,** Frick Art and Historical Center, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, First Fridays at the Frick series, 412-371-0600, www.frickart.org.

**Michael Feinstein** with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. **Sept. 7,** Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., downtown, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

**Storytelling Jam** featuring the music of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, 5 p.m. **Sept. 9,** Hill House Association's Blakey Program Center, 1908 Wylie Ave., Hill District, Hill House's "Live at the Hurricane" series, 412-392-3148, www.hillhouse.org.

**Pittsburgh Symphony Gala: Four Singular Sensations,** featuring stage and screen star Kristen Chenoweth, Metropolitan Opera tenor Dimitri Pittas, and conductors Sir Andrew Davis and Marvin Hamlisch; 8 p.m. **Sept. 15,** Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., downtown, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

***A Glittering Return,*** featuring music by Beethoven, Mozart, and Stravinsky; Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Andres Cardenes, 8 p.m. **Sept. 18,** Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

***Island Party*** featuring Caribbean percussion group Resonance Percussion, 3 p.m. **Sept. 23,** Pitt-Johnstown's Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center mainstage, 1-800-846-ARTS (2787), upjarts@pitt.edu.

***Direct From the Algonquin: Karen Akers,*** 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. **Sept. 28,** Pittsburgh Renaissance Hotel, 107 Sixth St., downtown, Cabaret Pittsburgh Riverview series, 412-394-3353, www.cabaretpgh.org.

## Exhibitions

**Andy Warhol Museum,** *Personal Jesus...The Religious Art of Keith Haring & Andy Warhol* and *Lou Reed: New York,* **both through Sept. 2;** 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, www.warhol.org.

**Frick Art and Historical Center,** *Through the Back Door,* a tour of Henry Clay Frick's Clayton emphasizing the role of domestic servants in the household's operation, **through Sept. 9,** *In the Studios of Paris: William Bouguereau and His American Students*, **through Oct. 14,** 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-697-0938, http://frickart.org.

**Children's Museum of Pittsburgh,** *Adventures with Clifford the Big Red Dog,* **through Sept. 23,** Allegheny Square, North Side, 412-322-5058, www.pittsburghkids.org.

**Carnegie Museum of Art,** *Viva Vetro! Glass Alive! Venice and America*, **through Sept. 16;** *Masters of American Drawings and Watercolors: Foundations of the Collection, 1904-22,* **through Oct. 7;** *Forum 60: Rivane Neuenschwander,* **through Oct. 28;** *Design to Be Lit,* **through Feb. 10;** 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-441-9786 ext. 224, www.cmoa.org.

**Pittsburgh Glass Center,** *Allure of Japanese Glass,* **through Sept. 19,** 5472 Penn Ave., East Liberty, 412-365-2145, www.pittsburghglasscenter.org.

**Mattress Factory,** *India: New Installations Part 1,* **through Oct. 25,** 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, 412-231-3169, www.mattress.org.

**Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens,** *Chihuly at Phipps: Gardens and Glass,* **through Nov. 11,** *Tropical Forest: Thailand,* **through Dec. 9;** One Schenley Park, Oakland, ww.phipps.conservatory.org.

**Andy Warhol Museum,** *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race,* **through Dec. 31,** 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, www.warhol.org.

**Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center,** *Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era,* **through Oct. 31;** *Points in Time,* **through Dec. 31;** *Glass: Shattering Notions,* **through Dec. 31;** and *Discovery Place,* **through Dec. 31;** 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, www.pgh-history.org.

## Film/Theater

***Happy Feet,*** directed by George Miller, **tonight,** dusk, Schenley Park's Flagstaff Hill, CitiParks' Cinema in the Park series, 412-937-3939.

***What's He Building in There?*** by Joshua Hansen, 8:30 p.m. **Aug. 23-25,** Cathedral of Learning's Studio Theatre, Pitt Department of Theatre Arts' New Play Practicum, 412-624-0933.

***Le Grand Meaulnes (The Lost Domain)*** based on the novel by Alain Fournier, **through Aug. 26,** Hartwood Acres stables, 215 Saxonburg Blvd., Indiana Twp., Quantum Theatre, 412-394-3353, www.proartstickets.org.

***Private Lives,*** by Noël Coward, **through Sept. 9,** Stephen Foster Memorial's Henry Heymann Theatre, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre, 412-394-3353, www.picttheatre.org.

***Always...Patsy Cline,*** by Ted Swindley, **through Oct. 31,** Theater Square (655 Penn Ave. between Sixth and Seventh streets), downtown, Pittsburgh CLO's Cabaret at Theater Square series, 412-456-6666.

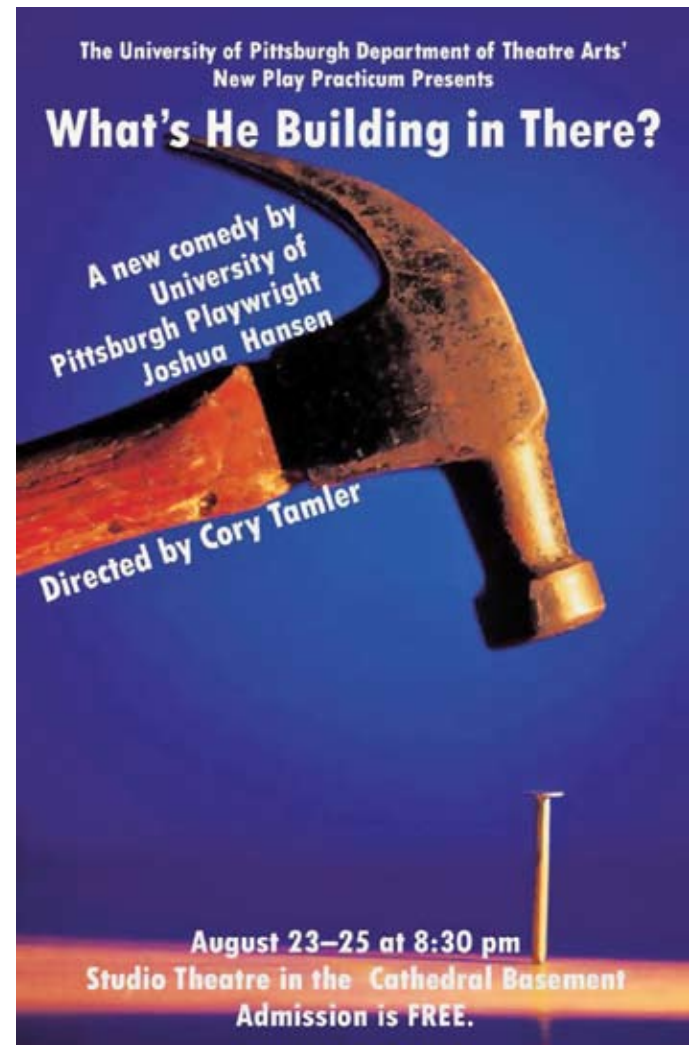
***My Fair Lady,*** by Frederick Loewe and Alan Jay Lerner, **Sept. 18-23,** Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., downtown, PNC Broadway Across America series, 412-456-1390, www.pgharts.org.

***The Chief***, by Rob Zellers and Gene Collier, **Sept. 18-23,** O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-361-6100, www.ppt.org.

**Singular Sensations/ Pittsburgh Symphony Sept. 15**

## Lectures/ Seminars

**"Assessing Online Issue Networks: 'Women, Peace, and Security' in Real and Cyberspace,"** Charli Carpenter, assistant professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, and a Women's Studies Faculty Research Grant awardee, noon **Sept. 5,** 2201 Posvar Hall, Pitt Women's Studies Program, 412-624-6485, www.pitt.edu/~wstudies.




**"Mental Health Risk Factors in Nonwhite Population,"** Carl C. Bell, president and CEO, Community Mental Health Council, Inc., of Chicago, noon **Sept. 12,** 2017 Cathedral of Learning, part of the Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems' Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney 2007 Speaker Series, 412-624-7382, crsp@pitt.edu.

**"Lessons for the United States From Social Security Reform in Latin America,"** Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Pitt Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics and Latin American Studies, 4 p.m. **Sept. 18,** Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, cohosted by Pitt's Department of Economics and Center for Latin American Studies, 412-648-7073, PaulaR@pitt.edu.

**"Prolotherapy Encourages Natural Healing,"** Ron Glick, medical director of the UPMC Center for Integrative Medicine (CIM) and Pitt assistant professor of psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and family medicine; 5:30 p.m. **Sept. 20,** CIM's Shadyside Place location, Suite 310, 580 S. Aiken Ave., 412-623-3023.

## Miscellaneous

**Freshman Friday,** featuring festivities, dining, shopping discounts, and more, hosted by the central Oakland business district, 3-7 p.m. **Aug. 31,** Oakland Business Improvement District's Oakland Fridays series, www.onlyinoakland.org.

**Pittsburgh Irish Festival, Sept. 7-9,** Sandcastle, 1000 Sandcastle Dr., West Homestead, 412-422-1113, www.pghirishfest.org.

**Mexican War Streets House and Garden Tour, Sept. 9,** North Side's Mexican War Streets historic district, 412-323-9030, www.mexicanwarstreets.org.

**Macy's Elephant Day,** celebrating elephant babies' birthdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., **Sept. 16,** Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, Highland Park, 412-665-2640, www.pittsburghzoo.org.

**Farmers' Market,** 3:30-6:30 p.m. **every Friday through Nov. 16,** Sennott Street between Atwood Street and Meyran Avenue, Oakland Business Improvement District, 412-683-6243, www.onlyinoakland.org.

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Brent F. Fedorko,** Department of Healthy and Physical Activity, "The Effects of Continuous Compression as a Therapeutic Intervention on Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness Following Eccentric Exercise," 9 a.m. **today,** Petersen Conference Room.

**Kang Sun,** Department of Biostatistics, "Mediational Models with Multiple Outcomes in Cross-sectional and Longitudinal Models," 1 p.m. **Aug. 23,** A622 Crabtree Hall.

**Guillermo Rodriguez,** Department of Linguistics, "Second Language Sentence Processing: Is It Fundamentally Different?" 10 a.m. **Aug. 27,** 2809 Cathedral of Learning.

**Aimee Morewood,** Department of Instruction and Learning, "The Impact of School-wide Professional Development on Teacher Practices and Student Learning: A Case Study," 1 p.m. **Aug. 29,** 5152 Posvar Hall.

**Laura L. Liebenauer Schott,** Department of Epidemiology, "Subclinical Cardiovascular Disease, Vascular Health, and Markers of Risk," 10:30 a.m. **Aug. 30,** 109 Parran Hall.

**Jeff Jozwiak,** Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, "Significance on Health and Behavior Factors Related to Aging Among American Adults," 2:30 p.m. **Aug. 30,** 226 Parran Hall.

**Erika D. Molloseau,** Department of Communication, "Exhibiting Racism: The Cultural Politics of Lynching Photography Re-presentations," 1 p.m. **Aug. 31,** 1128 Cathedral of Learning.

**Anthony M. Harrison,** Department of Psychology, "Online or Offline? Exploring Working Memory Constraints in Spatial Updating," noon **Sept. 14,** LRDC's 2nd-floor auditorium.

## University Special Events/Meetings

**New Student Orientation,** including informational sessions, campus and city tours, social gatherings, and ceremonies; **today through Aug. 26,** 412-648-1074, www.orientation.pitt.edu/. (For details, see p. 2.)

**Staff Association Council,** 12:15 p.m. **Sept. 19,** 1175 Benedum Hall, www.pitt.edu/~sac.

## Workshops/Fairs

**"Hiring and Firing,"** covering employment law, 8-10 a.m. **Sept. 12,** Comfort Inn Hotel, 237 Meadowlands Blvd., Washington, Pa., Pitt's Small Business Development Center; to register, 412-627-9054.

**"The First Step: Mechanics of Starting a Small Business,"** 7:30-10 a.m. **Sept. 14,** Mervis Hall, Pitt's Small Business Development Center; to register, 412-648-1542.

**Field Education Agency Fair,** featuring information about internship and employment opportunities at Pittsburgh human service agencies, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. **Sept. 18,** William Pitt Union's Assembly Room, sponsored by Pitt's School of Social Work, 412-624-5969.

**"The Second Step: Business Planning Workshop,"** 7:30-10 a.m. **Sept. 28,** Mervis Hall, Pitt's Small Business Development Center; to register, 412-648-1542.

## ENDURING HEARTS

MARY JANE BENT/CIDDE

Photographer and Hill District native Armand Wright shot 36 portraits of local African Americans ages 90 and older during the 2006 Lemington Community Services Senior Center's annual spring luncheon. Those portraits are featured in an exhibition titled *Enduring Hearts,* running through Sept. 2 at Pittsburgh Filmmakers Gallery, 477 Melwood St. in Oakland.

Hosting the Aug. 3 public reception for the exhibition were—pictured at right, from left—Wright; Thomas Starzl, Distinguished Service Professor of Surgery in Pitt's School of Medicine; Lemington center executive director Joy Starzl (SOC WK '97); and Robert Hill, Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs. Also attending were a number of the men and women Wright photographed, including John Tronnell, top photo.

Pitt, The Pittsburgh Foundation, and the Falk Foundation provided funding for the exhibition.

University of Pittsburgh

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# The Pitter Patter of Little Feet May Keep Parents' Feet From Doing the Same

Prospective Parents: Think you'll be more active once you have a toddler to chase around?

Pitt PhD candidate Ethan Hull has got news for you.

Hull's research has found that once a baby enters the picture, the time his or her parents spend on physical activity dwindles.

His first-of-its-kind study is part of a 17-year longitudinal study led by his adviser, Deborah Aaron, a professor in the Pitt School of Education's health and physical activity department. Aaron's study—the longest of its kind in the United States—began in 1990 with a group of 1,245 adolescents; it is examining physical activity during the transition from adolescence to young adulthood.

Tracking 525 study participants over two years, Hull found that married individuals who remained childless lost only a half hour of physical activity per week, on average, while those who had children lost an average of three-and-a-half hours.

Hull's study was covered by *The New York Times, WebMD, Forbes.com,* and other media outlets worldwide in May.

*Pitt Chronicle* staff writer Patricia Lomando White interviewed Hull recently.

BRADEN WOLFE/CIDDE

Ethan Hull

***PITT CHRONICLE:* What is the goal of your research?**

**HULL:** We thought that when people married, physical activity would increase because they might start up an activity that the other person does. But our initial results showed that physical activity does not appreciably change with marriage.

Knowing that physical activity decreases over time, what we needed to do was target those factors that decrease it the most. One of the big changes is becoming a parent.

We also know that when your physical activity decreases or stops, it is hard to start it up again. I'm interested in examining how we can keep people physically active even in the midst of life changes such as having a child.

***The New York Times'* report on your study noted that many people have an all-or-nothing attitude about exercise. Did you find that to be the case?**

Dealing with behavior-change programs and being in the health and physical activity realm for about five years now, I know that there are individuals out there who feel it's all or nothing—"If I don't get to exercise for 45 minutes, then I've failed and I'm not going to do *anything*."

We have enough research to suggest a 10 to 15-minute bout of exercise several times a day is just as effective as a 30 to 45-minute bout at one time. Take the stairs. A little bit of exercise is better than quitting.

**Do you think people are using parenthood as an excuse for not exercising, or don't they know how to adjust to the change?**

Well, that's become a subsequent question. We didn't know what was going to happen. We figured that a person's focus in life would change, that priorities would change. It's more about the child and the fact that [child-rearing] responsibility outweighs everything else.

After realizing that parenthood has a big impact on physical activity, we have to ask questions about thought processes. Are parents using the child as an excuse because they don't really like physical activity in the first place? What is really behind this?

We've opened up a little box that shows that we have plenty more looking to do.

**How can couples with children find time to exercise?**

The first thing is, new parents need to be aware that they are at risk of decreasing their own activity level and health status as a result becoming a parent. Once aware, they have a better chance of preparing to stay active.

However, a new parent can't just go out for a half hour and let the baby sleep. If you can't take the child with you while you are physically active, then you need a support network—family members or friends or a nanny who can watch the child while you try to stay healthy. Once the child is old enough, there are baby wraps, bike carriers, and jogging strollers that can enable you to take the child with you as you exercise.

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of the *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Sept. 10. The deadline for submitting information is 5 p.m. Sept. 5. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* events calendar (see page 15) should be submitted to chron@pitt.edu. *Happenings* items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items also may be faxed to 412-624-4895 or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033.