$83.5 Million NIH Grant to Pitt Establishes Institute for Clinical And Translational Research

By Lisa Rossi

Pitt, UPMC, Carnegie Mellon, and Urban League of Pittsburgh will collaborate on transformation of clinical research to enhance patient care

The award means that Pitt will receive a total of $83.5 million over five years to establish the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), which will foster the development of clinical and translational research as a distinct field and promote the application of biomedical research advances into clinical practice. The award is one of the largest NIH grants the University has received.

The CTSI will be led by Steven E. Reis, Pitt associate vice chancellor for the development of the polio vaccine, one of our most critical strengths we bring to a new institute focused on translational science is rooted in a culture that values and consolidates their existing resources with new initiatives, foster new research, training and community-focused programs that ensure patients, especially minority and the underserved, have greater access to clinical trials, and promote collaborations among departments, schools, other local institutions and industry to enable the adoption of new medical therapies into clinical practice.

In response, Pitt proposed establishing an institute that, in its broadest sense, would catalyze changes in the scientific enterprise.

“The University of Pittsburgh is committed to this endeavor,” Reiss said, “and we fully understand that to be successful, we must lead and facilitate a transformation that will result in fundamental changes within our own institution, in how scientists are trained and perform research, and in the practice of medicine in Western Pennsylvania. We have to change existing paradigms and break down barriers; otherwise, we will have failed to achieve the ultimate goal of the NIH-led consortium, which is to ensure that advances in biomedical research quickly find their way into clinical practice.”

Within the first few years of funding, the CTSI will:

• Begin training a new cadre of clinical scientists, starting with programs at the high-school level;
• Address minority and health disparities in the region through new initiatives, including the establishment of the CTSI Braddock Minority Health Clinical and Translational Research Center at UPMC Braddock; and
• Improve access to and increase participation in clinical trials through a novel institutional research subject registry to be embedded in UPMC’s electronic health record system and implemented at UPMC’s 350 outpatient practice locations and 19 hospitals. The registry will enable patients who have given prior consent to receive comprehensive health information and educational materials and to be offered opportunities to improve their health through participation in clinical research.

The CTSI also will enable the launch of novel methodologies. One application will evaluate breast lesions depicted on mammograms and pathology slides based on an open-source software system jointly created by Intel Research and Carnegie Mellon University, Called Diamond, it allows rapid scanning and searching of large volumes of images. Funding to develop other innovative clinical and translational methodologies will be available to investigators through the CTSI.

Arthur S. Levine, Pitt senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the medical school, said, “While we have a rich history of translating innovative biomedical discoveries, beginning with the development of the polio vaccine, one of our most critical strengths we bring to a new institute focused on translational science is rooted in a culture that values and promotes clinical research advances reaching the people who need them.”

Institutions competing for the awards were required to “build academic homes for clinical and translational science” through an infrastructure that would

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Wangari Maathai

Nobel Laureate, Pitt Alumna

Wangari Maathai To Speak at Pitt

By Maddy Ross

Wangari Muta Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner and a Pitt alumna, will speak in the University’s Alumni Hall at 6 p.m. Oct. 26 about her 30-year effort to reforest her native Kenya by planting 30 million trees and the seeds of change for the future of women. Her lifetime of triumphant accomplishments on the international stage has made Maathai one of the most effective and powerful women leaders in the world. To recognize her outstanding achievements, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg will confer on her on honorary doctoral degree.

“In the 1960s, the University of Pittsburgh helped nurture the intellect and curiosity of a very bright young biologist,” Nordenberg said. “Wangari Muta Maathai has made a significant contribution to make profound contributions to improving the natural environment, the economic status of women, and democratic ideals. Insofar as Pitt helped lay the foundation for those achievements, we have educated well and wisely.”

Following her speech in Alumni Hall’s Connolly Ballroom, Maathai will sign copies of her autobiography, Unbowed (Random House, 2006), at a reception in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning. Both events are free and open to the public.

Maathai’s visit to Pittsburgh is cosponsored by Pitt, the Heinz Endowments, and Carnegie Museum of Natural History. After receiving her B.S. degree in biology from Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kan., Maathai came to Pitt to continue her studies. Here she earned the Master of Science degree in 1965, intending to teach and conduct research when she returned home to the Nyeri district in Central Kenya. In 1971, she received her Ph.D. in anatomy from the University of Nairobi—the first woman to earn a doctorate in east or central Africa—and became chair of that university’s Department of Veterinary Anatomy.

Motivated by the economic plight of women in Kenya and by the deforestation of her once-lush homeland as a result of timber raiders and poor crop management, Maathai established the Green Belt Movement, which has succeeded in reforesting 50,000 square miles of Kenya. In 1977, she directed the movement with the establishment of the Nairobi Women’s Peace and Human Rights Organization. In 1985, she founded the Kenya Forum for the Environment, a non-governmental organization that promotes environmental protection.

In 1989, when the Kenya government imposed a ban on deforestation, she began the work that won her the Nobel Peace Prize. The project combined the economic empowerment of women with the reforestation of Kenya, and was recognized as the world’s largest environmental demonstration project.

The story of her work and the life of Wangari Muta Maathai is told in both her autobiography, Unbowed, and her most recent book, Daring to Lead: Wangari Muta Maathai on the Art and Practice of Leadership. Maathai has received many honors and awards, including the 2004 Goldman Environmental Prize. She was named Time magazine’s third most important woman of the 20th century.

See MAATHAI, page 7
University Sponsoring America on the Move Walk

Pitt will again host America on the Move in an effort to get Pittsburghers up and moving. The second in a series, this free event will take place, rain or shine, at noon Oct. 11, beginning and ending at the Schenley Plaza Tent in Pittsburgh. The walk is expected to take 20-25 minutes. The first 1,000 participants will receive free America on the Move in Pittsburgh long-sleeved T-shirts.

Pitt Chancellor Mark Nordenberg and UPMC Health Plan President Diane Holder will address participants prior to the walk. It will begin at 12:15 p.m., led by Leslie Sansom, "In-Home Walking," Department of Health and Physical Activity, and new executive director of promotions, marketing, and multimedia for Sansom.

Pittsburghers can register for America on the Move at www.americanonthemove.org or by calling 1-888-553-8762.

UPMC Health Plan members may receive additional benefits for participating. These individuals should enter the code "UPMC" as the Group Registration Code on the registration pages, and then enter the UPMC Health Plan ID number from their health plan card when prompted.

For more information, contact the director of America on the Move in Pittsburgh, John M. Jakicic, chair of Pitt’s Kinesiology Department, at 412-488-4182 or jJakicic@pitt.edu.

—Audra Sorman

Pitt Seven-Week Course Will Foster Research Entrepreneurship

The University’s Office of the Provost and Office of Technology Management, in conjunction with the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and its Center for Executive Education, are hosting a seven-week course titled “Academic Entrepreneurship: The Business of Commercial Innovation.”

The event is sponsored by Pitt’s Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) and the University of Pittsburgh Press. For more information, contact CLAS at 412-648-7392 or clas@ucis.pitt.edu.

The University’s Office of the Provost and Office of Technology Management, in conjunction with the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and its Center for Executive Education, are hosting a seven-week course titled “Academic Entrepreneurship: The Business of Commercial Innovation.”

Described as fostering the development of research endeavors with commercially viable innovations, the course begins Oct. 16. It will be held every Monday through Nov. 20, in Bellefield Hall.

The program will culminate Dec. 1, with an all-day program, including an innovation-application workshop, graduation ceremony, and reception.

The course will expose research faculty and their graduate assistants to the environment of entrepreneurship and commercial innovation. The course will show how academic entrepreneurship can lead to a better understanding of market challenges and solutions, marketability, collaboration, and—ultimately—successful technology transfer.

The course begins with the root of entrepreneurship—idea conception—and extends through lateral thinking techniques, intellectual property protection, early-stage market research, strategic people-network development, and marketing and communication. Lively guest instructors will encourage application of solid business principles to the attendee’s own innovation ideas.

Participants’ fees will be paid for by Pitt’s Office of the Provost. To register, contact Dan Bates at 412-624-4474 or dbates@provost.pitt.edu.

—Mary Zangrilli

STAFF WRITERS

Sallie Hughes, author of Newsroom in Conflict: Journalism and the Democratization of Mexico (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1998), will deliver a lecture at Pitt about changes in the Mexican media during that country’s transition to democracy. Hughes has been giving a lecture today in 4130 Posvar Hall. Hughes received the Goldsmith Research Award from the Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics, and Public Policy at Harvard University for research used in the preparation of this book.

Hughes is an assistant professor of journalism and photography at the University of Miami.

Prior to receiving her Ph.D. in Latin American Studies from Tulane University in 2001, she worked as a reporter for the The Miami Herald and The Washington Post, among other publications.

—Amanda Leff

Pitt Festival Will Screen Turkmen, Kazakh Films

Pitt’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Center for Russian and East European Studies, and Film Studies Program will present “Cine-stantial: Turkmen and Kazakh Films,” a festival of contemporary films from Turkmenistan, all of which are U.S. premieres, Oct. 12-26.

As part of the festival, Martha Brill Olcott, a senior associate with the Russian and Eurasian Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C., will give a talk titled “Central Asia: Strategic Ally or Security Risk?” at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 2 in 4150 Posvar Hall.

“Filmmaking in Turkmenistan has been virtually banned since Saparmurat Niyazov consolidated power after the collapse of the Soviet Union,” said Vladimír Pavlín, associate director of Pitt’s Film Studies Program. “All filmmakers fled the country in the years leading up to 1997, the year the last feature film was made at Turkmen Film Studios and also the year Niyazov built a new highway where the film studio once stood.”


All films will be shown at 8 p.m. in Bellefield Hall’s screening room. Admission is free.

Screening dates, the films, and their directors follow:


Oct. 13—Murark (1990), directed by Khodjakuli Narlije;

Oct. 19—the Education of a Man (1982), directed by Usman Saparov and Lazgeldy Seidov;

Oct. 20—the Son (1989), directed by Khalmamed Kakhabze;

Oct. 26—Short films: Aura (1987), directed by Murad Alije (which was shelved and later destroyed in Turkmenistan); Summer Heat (1988), directed by Darezhan Omirbaev; and Toro (1986), directed by Talgat Temenov.

For more information, visit: www.pitt.edu/film/events/TurkmenFilmSeries/index.html.

—Mary Zangrilli

Tomorrow Is Deadline for Registering to Vote Nov. 7

Tomorrow at 5 p.m. is the deadline for new voters to register to vote in the Nov. 7 general election.

Individuals who have never registered before, who have changed names or addresses since registering, or who wish to change political party affiliation must submit voter registration forms to the Allegheny County Board of Elections at 604 County Office Building, 542 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh 15219; 412-350-4510. Forms for voter registration are available at Pitt’s Office of Community and Governmental Relations (710 Alumni Hall) as well as at state driver’s license centers, state liquor stores, libraries, municipal buildings, post offices, some banks, and the Board of Elections. Forms may be obtained online at www.dos.state.pa.us. Applications for absentee ballots for the Nov. 7 general election must be received by the county Board of Elections by Nov. 3 at 5 p.m.
Curious to see what grandpa looked like when he was a student at the University of Pittsburgh? Wondering what courses Pitt offered in the 1800s? A new Web site being launched today by Pitt’s University Library System (ULS) is providing quick and easy online access to a treasuretrove of materials stored in the University Archives.

Called Documenting Pitt: Historical Publications and Images of the University of Pittsburgh (http://digital.library.pitt.edu/d/documentingpitt), the site enables users to search and browse through assorted athletic media guides, chancellors’ reports, commencement programs, fact books, University catalogs, yearbooks, and other Pitt-produced publications. The ULS Digital Research Library, with financial support from the Office of the Provost, digitized more than 70,000 pages of text and images in creating the new site.

University archivist Marianne Kasica says Documenting Pitt will make it easier for her to respond to frequent requests for issues of The Owl, the yearbook published by Pitt from 1907 to 1980. (Since then, Panther Prints has been the Pitt yearbook’s title.) “It seems that not a day goes by in the archives without someone requesting a yearbook page or material about the University,” Kasica said.

“Now that this corpus of Pitt history is available online, our patrons can search and discover important sources of institutional history they may have overlooked before,” added University Librarian Rush Miller, director of ULS.

Visitors to the site can search and browse through more than seven decades worth of The Owl yearbooks as well as issues of the University Courier, a lesser-known periodical featuring poems and essays written by students, faculty, and administrators, published by Pitt in the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

The text collections also contain materials written about Pitt, ranging from a 1901 speech by Chancellor William J. Holland to the more recent Pitt: The Story of the University of Pittsburgh by Robert C. Alberts (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1986). The site includes many images that were already digitized as part of Pitt’s Historic Pittsburgh Image Collections Web site (http://images.library.pitt.edu/phphotos) but are now accessible through the Documenting Pitt site.

By Sharon S. Blake

New Pitt Web site offers access to 70,000 pages of text, photos, yearbooks, dating back to 19th century

Hill to be honored during Oct. 26 Golden Triangle Awards program in Oakland

Robert Hill, Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs, will receive the 2006 Business Communicator of the Year Award from the Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). “With so many outstanding communicators in Pittsburgh, I feel truly honored to be named IABC/Pittsburgh’s Business Communicator of the Year,” Hill said. “This selection is ironic in that my superb staff, whom I drive to near-collapse on every project, would reinforce that mansard behavior by nominating me for this award.”

IABC/Pittsburgh created its Business Communicator of the Year Award in 2004 to recognize individuals for outstanding contributions in practicing, promoting, and enhancing professional business communications in Western Pennsylvania. “In this age of information overload, strategic communication leadership is more important than ever,” said Tina Jerzyk, copresident of IABC/Pittsburgh. “The Business Communicator of the Year award celebrates one individual’s ability to create and implement strategies that shape actions, opinions, and attitudes.”

Hill will be presented with the 3rd annual Business Communicator of the Year Award Oct. 26 during IABC/Pittsburgh’s 27th annual Golden Triangle Awards program at the Twentieth Century Club in Oakland. Also during the program, members of Hill’s Office of Public Affairs staff will receive 27 awards for writing, publications and Web design, media relations, and other communications work. Reservations are available at www.iabcpittsburgh.com.

A spokesperson for the independent panel of senior IABC/Pittsburgh communicators who reviewed 2006 Business Communicator of the Year Award nominees stated, “Through- out Robert’s communications career, he has consistently been driven to excellence. This drive has been accompanied by a strong desire to mentor young professionals. In fact, several previous students were among the many who nominated him for this year’s honor.”

“As vice chancellor and the University’s chief spokesperson, Robert has fostered greater understanding of Pitt’s ever-broadening range of accomplishments and its growing reputation,” the selection panel’s spokesperson continued. “Robert has done this by building a multitalented staff whose expertise is evidenced by the more than 450 awards and recognitions garnered for publications and other initiatives. One contribution of particular note is the multi-institutional taskforce that Robert assembled [in 2001] to provide and promote measles vaccinations for young children. Few communications professionals have been able to realize the success that Robert has enjoyed. Robert’s dedication to his community, his university, and his profession make him a most deserving recipient of this honor from IABC.”

Hill has led Pitt’s Office of Public Affairs since 1999, and has served as vice chancellor for public affairs since 2001. He is responsible for the University’s overall communications strategy, news and information, national media relations, publications, marketing communications, Web site development and administration, institutional advertising, video communications, chancellor’s communications, printing services, and University spokesperson duties.

Hill is credited with expanding and reorganizing the University’s public affairs office, establishing Pitt’s first official weekly newspaper, supervising the redesign of the University’s Web presence, and leading an unprecedented rise in the standards of news, writing, design, publications, and video productions.

In addition to his official duties, Hill has shared his communications expertise with community organizations including the Urban League of Pittsburgh, Three Rivers Youth, the Greater PittsburghYWCA, and the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education.

An alumnus of New York University’s Stern School of Business, Hill holds a Master of Science in Management with Honors from Harvard University, Three Rivers Youth, the Greater PittsburghYWCA, and a Certificate in Management from Harvard University.

Prior to joining Pitt, he served as Syracuse University’s vice president for public relations for 10 years, during which his department won the prestigious Gold Medal for Overall Institutional Relations Programs from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the highest public relations award in American higher education.
Sepsis is among the top causes of death in the United States, affecting 750,000 Americans each year, 20 percent of whom die. It also is one of the most expensive diseases, with a cost to U.S. hospitals of $17 billion each year. To investigate and determine the best methods for treating sepsis, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), one of the National Institutes of Health, has awarded an $8.4 million, five-year grant to Pitt’s School of Medicine to head a multidisciplinary, multicenter consortium.

The Protocolized Care for Early Septic Shock (ProCESS) study will attempt to determine if there is a “golden hour” in the management of sepsis and septic shock when a prompt, rigorous, standardized treatment regimen can be used to improve clinical outcomes and halt the progression of events that often lead to organ failure and death. The study takes a cue from coronary care, which has significantly reduced mortality from acute coronary diseases and dramatically lowered the costs of care by determining such best practices.

The investigators, led by Derek C. Angus, professor and vice chair of research in the Pitt medical school’s Department of Critical Care Medicine, share a sense of urgency about their research. They hope that the protocol will generate useful and comprehensive data on the clinical and biological aspects of standardized treatment for septic shock — data that can have an immediate impact on, and improve care of, the critically ill.

“While we have quite an extensive understanding of the causes and course of sepsis, we have very little empirical data telling us how and when to treat this terrible disease,” said Angus. “Sepsis has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, taking as many lives as heart attacks do. It is essential that we conduct this kind of study to identify the ideal way to stop the rampant inflammation before it reaches the point where it becomes so severe and aggressive that it cannot be stopped.”

“This project will examine whether specific treatments, if given early enough, can stop sepsis in its tracks,” said NIGMS Director Jeremy M. Berg. “The goal is to speed recovery, increase survival rates, and improve the long-term quality of life for those who have had sepsis.”

Sepsis occurs when the body’s inflammatory response overreacts to an infection, resulting in a cascade of events throughout the body. The cascade begins with septic shock, then vital organs become compromised, and the syndrome progresses to multiple organ failure and death. The trial to be conducted at several leading hospitals around the country, will enroll up to 2,000 participants who come to emergency departments with septic shock. Participants will be randomized to receive alternative treatment protocols involving intravenous fluids, drugs that reverse the shock, and hemodynamic monitoring during the first six hours of care. The protocols will be evaluated on three measures: clinical effectiveness as evidenced by improved mortality rates; effectiveness in reducing concentrations of biological markers that are associated with the four fundamental pathways of sepsis-related organ dysfunction — cellular hypoxia, oxidative stress, inflammation and coagulation/thrombosis; and cost effectiveness.

Collaborations with emergency medicine experts is critical. The researchers note that getting septic patients the correct care the moment they enter the hospital is essential to the success of the treatment.

“ProCESS will expand our understanding of emergency department sepsis care and could revolutionize the way we treat septic patients,” said Donald M. Yealy, professor and vice chair in the Pitt medical school’s Department of Emergency Medicine and co-principal investigator of the study. “We will be able to better understand what type of care works and why, and improve the link between emergency and ICU care. We hope to save lives, starting at the ‘front door.’”

“This collaborative model is one that the University of Pittsburgh has championed for years. Carrying out this clinical works and study to the mission of the department of critical care medicine, the first such department in the country,” added Mitchell P. Fink, professor and chair of critical care medicine and Watson Professor of Surgery in the Pitt medical school. “Bringing this model to sites across the country could profoundly impact critical care at the national level.”

“By improving the treatment of those critically ill with sepsis, the consortium’s work will have enormous implications for the thousands of patients who suffer from this infection,” said NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni.
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Petersen Institute Nanofabrication Facility Opens

Pitt unveiled its new $6.1 million NanoScale Fabrication and Characterization Facility at a Sept. 29 dedication ceremony in the foyer of Benedum Hall. The 4,000-square-foot facility serves the University’s Gertrude E. and John M. Petersen Institute for NanoScience and Engineering. (For details on the nanofabrication facility, see Sept. 25 Pitt Chronicle at www.unc.pitt.edu/media/pcc/)

Pictured from left: Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg; N. John Cooper; dean of Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences; Hong Koo Kim, professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Hrvoje Petek, professor of physics and astronomy; codirectors of the Petersen Institute; Gertrude E. and John M. Petersen; U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering Gerald D. Holder; and Provost James V. Maher.

Entrepreneurial Roller Coaster

Ten years ago, astounded by a lucrative offer from a major company, Andy Quinn decided to sell Kennywood amusement park.

But as Quinn weighed his business options and prepared to sell the park that had been in his family for four generations, he also talked with relatives who convinced him that Kennywood was more than just a financial asset; family ownership, he realized, was as important to Kennywood’s success as the park was to his family. He ended up declining the outside offer.

“You’ll learn more from your failures than you ever will from your successes,” Quinn advised the more than 50 Pitt students, faculty members, and staff who gathered in the Pittsburgh Athletic Association Sept. 28 to hear Quinn, Kennywood’s director of community relations, describe how innovation, risk, and continuous growth have kept the traditional amusement park competitive throughout its 108-year existence.

Absorbing lessons from mistakes (and near-mistakes like almost selling Kennywood) can help prevent bigger blunders in the future, Quinn pointed out.

His presentation was sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Entrepreneur’s Society, a student group supported by the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business’ Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence.

—Elizabeth Strohm

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

John C. “Jack” Mascaro (ENGR ’66, ’80G), at left, founder and CEO of Mascaro Construction Co. L.P., was presented with a medallion in honor of his extensive contributions to the School of Engineering’s Mascaro Sustainability Initiative (MSI). The medal, made of lead-free “green” steel developed by Pitt engineering faculty members Anthony J. DeArdo and Isaac Garcia, was presented by Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (above right) and U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering Gerald D. Holder during an Oct. 3 reception celebrating the completion of the newly renovated MSI office suite in 1140 Benedum Hall and the arrival of the first class of students recruited to participate in Pitt’s $3.2 million National Science Foundation-funded Integrated Graduate Education and Research Training Program.

EDUCATION THROUGH COMPUTATION

Brenda Atkins-Lockley, executive director of Melting Pot Ministries, supervises children using computers that were donated to the organization by Pitt’s Office of Public Affairs. Melting Pot Ministries is a coalition of five churches in Pittsburgh’s South Hills that helps families and children in South Hills neighborhoods.

ROLE MODEL

From left: Kiera Perry, Radie Kreutzer (partially visible), Christine Maier, Shaheen Shafagh, Victoria Jacobs, and Ashli Jones, all students in the School of Dental Medicine’s dental hygiene program, talk with Margaret Green (far right), a Pitt dental school alumna who is president of American Dental Hygienist Association, following Green’s Oct. 2 presentation in the dental school. Green, who earned certificates in dental assisting and oral hygiene at Pitt in 1968, spoke about the future of the profession and the need for collaboration among dental hygiene practitioners.

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Pitt Creates Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science Department

New department, largest in the engineering school, will strengthen University’s multiscale manufacturing

By Karen Hoffmann

Pitt’s School of Engineering has created a new department by combining the Departments of Mechanical Engineering (ME) and Materials Science and Engineering (MSE).

The new department, to be known as the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science (MEMS), will be the largest in the school in terms of both students and faculty.

An extensive planning process, which included consultation with faculty, students, alumni, and local industry, facilitated the transition, according to Gerald D. Holder, the U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering.

“With the goal of increasing competitiveness and introducing new or improved steel products or processing, BAMPRI will continue to be the epicenter of metallurgical education and research in the region,” said BAMPRI Director and William Kepler Whitford Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Anthony DeArdo. “We will offer short courses to companies and technical societies around the world.”

The new department will enhance the impact of the Basic Metals Processing Research Institute (BAMPRI) through key investments in research infrastructure and new opportunities for collaboration. BAMPRI, for 30 years a mainstay of the ME department, conducts focused research programs for the steel production, fabrication, and end-user industries with the goal of increasing competitiveness and introducing new or improved steel products or processing.

“BAMPRI continues to develop for the U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering,” said Holder.

Minking Chyu, the Leighton E. and Mary N. Orr Chair in Engineering and current ME chair, chairs the combined department, and current MSE Professor and Chair John Barnard directs the department’s Materials Science and Engineering program.

Strengths of the new department include the following:

Research and industrial expertise

The department will develop nanomanufacturing as an area of research excellence, complementing existing University-wide research in nanoscale fabrication and characterization conducted at Pitt’s Gertrude E. and John M. Petersen Institute for NanoScience and Engineering. A new Shared Nano-Manufacturing Laboratory will be established in support of this innovative research.

“It is widely recognized that effective manufacturing is critical for nanotechnology to emerge as commercially viable and to enable new industrial technologies,” Chyu said.

The new department will enhance the impact of the Basic Metals Processing Research Institute (BAMPRI) through new courses designed to provide the practical experience necessary for new programs, including a collaboration with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in Pitt’s School of Medicine and the recently developed nuclear engineering program in the engineering school, which will be housed in the new department and take on more of a materials science component. “These are new and exciting programs for which the new MEMS department is ideally suited,” said Barnard.

The restructuring effort was driven by the unique specialties of the Materials and Mechanical Engineering departments, which historically have had some overlap.

$83.5M NIH Grant to University Establishes Institute for Clinical And Translational Research

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encourages collaboration. As a university and medical center, we have both benefited from our decades-long relationship with colleagues at Carnegie Mellon University, and through our extremely close affiliation with UPMC, we support and share a common commitment to excellence in research, education, and clinical care.

The CTSI will consist of four main areas:

- Education and career development, which will be headed by Wisnva N. Kapoor, Falk Professor of Medicine, professor of health policy and management, and chief of the Pitt medical school’s Division of General Internal Medicine;
- Translational research, headed by Robert A. Branch, professor of medicine and pharmacology, director of Pitt’s Center for Clinical Pharmacology, and chief of the medical school’s Division of Clinical Pharmacology;
- Clinical research, which Reis will direct; and
- Clinical and translational bioinformatics, directed by Michael Becich, professor of pathology and director of Pitt’s Center for Pathology Informatics.

Innovative interdisciplinary research initiatives will be developed through CTSI resource cores and translated to clinical practice through a community partnership program that involves UPMC’s extensive clinical networks and the Urban League of Pittsburgh, which likely will house a CTSI satellite office and clinic. The community partnership program will be led by Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, dean of Pitt’s School of Nursing.

The Clinical and Translational Science Award initiative was established by the NIH as a commitment to re-engineer the clinical research enterprise, one of the key objectives of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research. When fully implemented in 2012, the initiative will include 60 academic medical centers.

Pitt Combining Tiny Science, Tech in Multidisciplinary NSF-Funded Course

University’s Nanotechnology Undergraduate Grant one of only 10 in United States

By Karen Hoffmann

Minhee Yun, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) in Pitt’s School of Engineering, and his co-principal investigators have been awarded a National Science Foundation Nanotechnology Undergraduate Education grant, one of only 10 such awards in the United States and the first such grant Pitt has received. The two-year, $200,000 grant will allow the University to develop a course on integrated nanoscale science and engineering.

Yun’s co-principal investigators are Alexander Star, assistant professor of chemistry in Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences, and Noreen Garman, professor in Pitt’s School of Education. Yun and Star also are researchers in the University’s Gertrude E. and John M. Petersen Institute of NanoScience and Engineering. Pitt recently was ranked second in the nation in nano- and microscale research by Small Times.

“Nanotechnology is booming, and the National Science Foundation is encouraging professors to develop nanotechnology educational programs,” said Yun. “Not many of these programs exist yet in undergraduate curricula.”

The hands-on, research-oriented course will introduce nanoscale devices and their applications created from a range of nanomaterials, including carbon nanotubes, nanoparticles, and nanowires.

The class will be divided into teams,

See TINY SCIENCE page 7
University Senate's October 19 Plenary Session to Focus on Mentoring Staff, Faculty, Students

Department of Family Medicine Chair Jeannette South-Paul will be session’s keynote speaker

By Bruce Steele

“Fostering Mentoring for Sustaining Organizational Vitality” will be the theme of the University Senate’s Fall Plenary Session, 2:50 p.m. Oct. 19 in the William Pitt Union’s Assembly Room.

Jeannette South-Paul, chair of the Pitt School of Medicine’s Department of Family Medicine, will be the session’s keynote speaker. Other speakers will include Patricia Beeson, Pitt vice provost for graduate and undergraduate studies; Cecil Blake, chair of the Department of Africana Studies in the University’s School of Arts and Sciences; and John Weidman, professor of higher education management in the Pitt School of Education. Consuela Lewis, an assistant professor of higher education management, will moderate the session.

A series of workshops on mentoring, led by Pitt faculty members and administrators, will be held throughout the academic year. Each workshop will be held in 4127 Sennott Square from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Following is the schedule of workshops:

Oct. 14: “An Example of an Ongoing Mentoring Relationship at Pitt” (target audience: faculty)

Ellen Olshanksy, professor in the School of Nursing, and Ellen Frank, professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine

March 28: “Planning Your Career at the University of Pittsburgh” (target audience: staff)

Sheere Miller Brown, director of Pitt’s McCShort Center for Nontraditional Students

April 5: “Mentoring Students and Leaders” (target audience: faculty and staff)

Audrey Morrrell, a professor in Pitt’s Katz Graduate School of Business, and two winners of the 2006 Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring, Cella Brownell, a professor of psychology in the School of Arts and Sciences, and Allen Swed, professor of neuroscience in Arts and Sciences and codirector of the University’s Center for Neuroscience

University Awarded $1M for Program in Security Assured Information Systems

New program will train professionals to protect cyberspace community

By Kelly Shaffer

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will fund a $1-million, four-year scholarship program for the Security Assured Information Systems (SAIS) track of study in Pitt’s School of Information Sciences (SIS).

The scholarship program will support three cohorts of four graduate students pursuing their Masters and Ph.D. degrees in information science or telecommunications and networking with the SAIS track option.

The NSF wants to ensure a pool of qualified information assurance (IA) professionals to protect the global cyberspace community. Pitt has been designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Scholarship recipients are expected to benefit from SIS’s multidisciplinary educational environment combined with an IA curriculum that is one of only eight in the nation to be certified in all five national IA educational standards set by the Committee on National Systems Security.

The IA curriculum emphasizes development of critical thinking, teamwork within a multidisciplinary environment, oral and written communication, and leadership skills. Students are challenged in their courses with projects that allow them to engage in hands-on applications of the latest IA technologies.

The NSF grant was awarded to a team of SIS educators including the program’s principal investigator, James Joshi, and coprincipal investigators Prashant Krishnamurthy, Michael Spring, and David Tipper. In 2004, Joshi and the other members of the SIS faculty received a $286,000 NSF Federal Cyber Service-Scholarship for Service grant to create a curriculum in Security Assured Information Systems.

The new scholarship program’s diversity goal is that at least 30 percent of program graduates will be women, minorities, and/or students with disabilities—groups that have been underrepresented in the IA profession.

For more information on the SAIS program in SIS, visit www.sis.pitt.edu/~lersas.

MAATHAL, continued from page 1

she interrupted her academic career to run for Parliament. She lost that race and, because of her activism, lost her position at the university.

Her response was to launch a now-legendary grassroots organization, the Green Belt Movement, which mobilized the women whose lives were relegated to working the land to plant millions of trees throughout Kenya, restoring both the earth and the livelihoods of the women and their families.

At the same time, she was unwavering in her activism to promote democracy, the end of political corruption, and tribal politics.

Her commitment to the environment, the empowerment of women, and democracy often put her at risk. She was arrested several times, beaten unconscious by police during a protest, and led a hunger strike.

But her enduring passion for her causes has been rewarded since by international recognition and the emulation of her movement elsewhere in Africa. She has addressed the United Nations on several occasions and served on the U.N. Commission for Global Governance and the Commission on the Future.

In 2004, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for “her contribution to sustainable development, democracy, and peace.”

Among her numerous other awards is France’s highest honor, the Legion d’Honneur, presented this year. She is listed in the United Nations Environment Programme Global 500 Hall of Fame and was named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

In 2002, Maathai was elected to Kenya’s Parliament and appointed by Kenya’s president as assistant minister for environment and natural resources. Last year, she was elected presiding officer of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union.

Pitt Combining Tiny Science, Tech in Multidisciplinary NSF-Funded Course

TINY SCIENCE, continued from page 6

one of which will be selected to do its proposed research at a related laboratory in the Petersen Institute of NanoScience and Engineering with a paid summer research stipend. The ultimate goal is for the students to publish their research in refereed journals.

The course, scheduled to begin in fall 2007, will be administered through ECE but will be open to sophomore-level-and-above engineering students, chemistry and physics students in Arts and Sciences, and students in other related specializations, including medicine.
Oct. 9

Lecture, "Newsmakers in Conflict: Journalism and the Democratization of Mexico," Sallie Hughes, assistant professor, University of Miami’s School of Communication, noon. (For details, see page 2)


Oct. 10


Theatrical Performance, Nocturnal Wanderer, directed by Paul Wilson, 8 p.m., (For details, see p.2)

Oct. 11

America on the Move Walk to get Pittsburghers up and moving, noon, Schenley Plaza tent. (For details, see page 2)


Oct. 12

Professional Development Programs, “You Only Get What You Negotiate: A Negotiations Workshop for Faculty” (Oct. 12, 8-10 a.m.), “Managing Academic Careers: A Life Cycle Model to Sustain Faculty Vitality” (Nov. 9, 8-10 a.m.), “Building Work-Life Balance in Busy Times” (Dec. 5, 3-5 p.m.).

Film Screening, Manuk, directed by Khodzhakuli Narliev, 8 p.m., Bellefond Hall Auditorium, Pitt’s Center for Armenian and East European Studies 412-648-7407 or cece@uic.pitt.edu.

Oct. 13


Lecture, “What Did George Washington Really Look Like?: The First Forensic Reconstruction of Our First President,” Jeffrey H. Schwartz, professor, Pitt Department of Anthropology and History and Philosophy of Science, 3 p.m., Anthropology Lounge, 3106 Posvar Hall.

Lecture, “Rational Belief and Reasonable Belief, A Ramseyean Distinction,” James Joyce, University of Michigan’s Department of Philosophy, 3:30 p.m., STH Cathedral of Learning, part of the Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science’s “Bayesianism, Fundamentally” workshop, www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr, 412-624-0592.

Lecture, “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly,” Madeline Caviness, professor, Tufts University’s Department of History, 4 p.m., STH Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 412-624-2020.

Good Friday at the Warhol Museum, 5-10 p.m., special late hours and cash bar, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, www.walh.org.


Film Screening, Manuk, directed by Khodzhakuli Narliev, 8 p.m., Bellefond Hall Auditorium, Pitt’s Center for Armenian and East European Studies 412-648-7407 or cece@uic.pitt.edu.

Oct. 14


“Bayesianism, Fundamentally” Workshop, 9 a.m.-6:15 p.m., R178 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt’s Center for Philosophy of Science, www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr, 412-648-1052.

October Festival, including raffles, baked goods, flea market, and musical performances, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton St., Highland Park, Tuesday Musical Group, 412-682-0439.


Musical Performance, guitarists Sergei and Ondar Asaad, 8 p.m., Sydell Hall, Fifth Avenue and N. Craig Street, Oakland, Guitar Society of Fine Art Concert Series, 412-396-5486, www.gsalpittsburgh.org.


Musical Performance, Heinz Chapel Choir’s Fall Concert, 3 p.m., Heinz Chapel, Pitt’s Department of Music, 412-394-3533, www.pitt.edu/~concerts/calendar/index.html.


Oct. 15

Film Screening, Twain Man, directed by Shoucke Murakami, 7 p.m., Carnegie Mellon University’s McConaughy Auditorium, part of the Japanese Film Series “Pop Culture Comes to the Screen: Contemporary Youth Comedy,” Pitt’s Asian Studies Center, 412-624-4923.


Oct. 16


Lecture, Sen. Arlen Specter, on the importance of involvement in the political process and how he became involved in politics, 7:45 p.m., Graduate School of Public Health Auditorium, Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh and Pitt’s Pi Sigma Alpha, College Republicans, and Panthers for Israel, Sarah Horowitz, 215-817-5202, shj@pitt.edu.


Reading, novelist Dan Chaon, 8:30 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pittsburgh Conference of Temporary Writers Series, 412-624-6506, www.writing.pitt.edu.


Publication Notice: The next edition of the Pitt Chronicle will be published Oct. 16. The deadline for submitting information is 5 p.m. Oct. 11. Items for publication in the Pitt Chronicle, including information for Happenings, should be submitted to chron@pitt.edu. Happenings items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items also may be faxed to 412-624-4895 or sent by campus mail to 425 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033.