Pitt, 22 Partners Get $30 Million Gift for Huge Telescope Project

The University of Pittsburgh and 22 partner institutions made a major advance this month in a nearly 14-year project to develop the world’s most powerful survey telescope and provide an unprecedented view of deep space.

The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) Project received $30 million, respectively, from computer mogul and Microsoft founder Bill Gates and the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, established by Microsoft executive Charles Simonyi. The donations will enable the construction of the telescope’s three large mirrors, which will take five years to complete.

The LSST is a massive public-private venture under development since 2000 and directed by University of California at Davis Professor J. Anthony Tyson. Estimated for completion in 2014, the powerful telescope will capture and record the movement and development of space in a multi-color, movie-like format.

At 3 billion pixels, the LSST will be the largest digital camera ever built and will generate 30 petabytes of data per night from its perch on Cerro Pachón, a mountain in northern Chile. The detailed foot- print will provide a unique opportunity to study the dark matter that constitutes much of the visible sky and the mysterious dark energy causing the universe’s expansion.

All information will be made available as it is observed on one of the largest public databases ever created. Pitt joined the project as a partner institution in July 2007. Several faculty members from Pitt’s Department of Physics and Astronomy in the School of Arts and Sciences are involved in developing the LSST and the preliminary logistics of surveying a swath of the universe.

Pitt assistant professor Jeffrey Newman, a nationally recognized expert on large survey astronomy, works closely with LSST director Tyson on developing new measurement techniques for determining how fast back in the universe’s history the telescope is looking. By measuring how much a source’s brightness changes over time, LSST will help in determining the makeup and strength of dark energy. Newman and Tyson are using existing telescope observations to develop and test time-distance scales for the LSST.

Pitt astronomy professor Arthur Kosowsky and assistant professor Andrew Zentner will help conduct the theoretical work behind interpreting data the LSST will collect. “LSST is the next big step in measuring the expansion of the universe and the influence of dark energy,” Kosowsky said. The shape of a galaxy as seen from Earth is slightly distorted because of the gravity of seen and unseen masses.
Pitt's Delanie Jenkins Draws From the Physical, Emotional Realms to Engage Audiences

By Sharon S. Blake

Entering Delanie Jenkins' art studio is a bit like stepping through Alice's Looking Glass. As enchanting as fairy dust ... as curious as a Greenwich Village boutique ... the tiny room is crammed with bizarre treasures and collections.

From pumpkin stems to radish roots ... avocado skins to rose petals ... this is the stuff of which Jenkins' art is made.

"There may be a day three years from now where I'll have an 'Aha!' moment about something I've been collecting for 15 years," said Jenkins, surrounded by shelves of glass bins filled with everything from used tea bags to clam shells. "Even if there is no moment like that, there is still something intrinsically interesting about these things, enough so that I am still compelled to collect it.

The Dallas native came to Pitt in 1996 when she accepted a post on the University's Studio Arts faculty. She is now chair of the department.

And while Jenkins' pace is generally frenetic, it became more so last year when the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts named her its 2007 Artist of the Year. Jenkins filled seven of the center's galleries with her newest work. It marked the first time in the Artist of the Year exhibition's 58-year history that performance art was featured. Performance art refers to exhibitions where the artist is engaged in some type of activity as an integral part of the presentation.

"Among the works displayed by Jenkins was "11,280 Strands and Counting..." which featured 10-foot-tall digital prints of Jenkins' own thick auburn hair. Her hair stylist had handed her three fat ponytails following a haircut. And although Jenkins swore she would not make art from them, she reconsidered.

I was surprised by the weight of them," she recalled. "I felt like I was holding an organ from my body." She began wondering how many strands there were and, inspired by the cliché—"How far could she go on her beauty?"—she began to calculate the literal distance. Visitors to the exhibition found Jenkins seated at a table, measuring and counting. To date, she's counted more than 14,000 strands, totaling more than two miles.

"Traces of Absorption" paid homage to the quilted texture patterns of paper towels. It included a series of white-on-white etchings, a video installation, and eight "towels" cast in white chocolate, two on a shelf leaning against the gallery wall and the remaining six in a glass case.

"I wanted to make an impact less directly, not so in-your-face," she explained. "Because the works are so subtle, the viewer had to be interested enough to move closer, to discover the work." Some art viewers smelled the chocolate as soon as they walked in to the room, but couldn't figure out its location.

Less subtle was "The Clementine Series," huge ink-jet prints of the interior and exterior skins of peeled Clementines. Jenkins enlarged one print of the inside of a peel to eleven feet and placed it on the floor with low lights hovering above. Others were reimagined as etchings. And some of the prints were enlarged, cut out, and reassembled with stitching into giant soft sculptures.

That idea stemmed from a solemn antiwar protest that Jenkins and her young daughter, Lila, had taken part in on a dark grey winter day. When Jenkins pulled a bright orange Clementine from her pocket, she said "the contrast of color and form of that object in that dark and foreboding environment seemed somehow hopeful and emblematic of my world at that moment—and because of that, worth exploring." "That work came from such a serious place," she said. "It's really about death and decay. So I was surprised at how fun, and even awkwardly funny, that body of work became.

Jenkins' art comes from a very personal place—motherhood, childhood memories, and the like. Process is crucial to her explorations, as is a physical engagement for the viewer.

For example, thousands of Pittsburghers saw Jenkins' work on a routine basis in 2003, when she created a live Honeyuckle Room in Frank Curto Park along-side busy Bigelow Boulevard. It was part of the Persephone Project's Art Gardens of Pittsburgh.

The "room," one component of the garden, had windows in it—one for adults and one for children. Participants could walk in and look out at a view of the Allegheny River and the Northside. Jenkins also planted loofah sponge and cotton plants to harvest for another body of work. She said that in June, when the honeyuckle was blooming, the room and the scented herb bed below the windows could be "intoxicating."".

Jenkins' art comes from a very personal place—motherhood, childhood memories, and the like. Process is crucial to her explorations, as is a physical engagement for the viewer.

Motors would get off at the access road and stop to have lunch there or chat with Jenkins as she tended the garden. She recalled with a smile a visit she had with two hipster men who stopped by out of curiosity. "Egyptian cotton is some of the finest cotton. These men knew all about the history of cotton in their country, but had never seen an actual cotton plant," she said.

Jenkins credits her interest in installation art to her background in designing amusement parks and entertainment facilities as a young woman in Dallas. The design team would come up with a layout that took people from the roller coaster to the corn dogs, then to a live show, then the funnel cakes—moving the crowd at a leisurely pace that allows them to spend the most money. After five years and realizing that she was "controlling the landscape for the sake of commerce," she returned to art school. Now with her installations, no money changes hands, but people are still enticed to slow down and take it all in.

"With installation, as soon as you cross that threshold into a space, you are physically engaged and responding on a number of levels. You can be uncomfortable. You can luxuriate. You can say 'I hate this and I'm leaving.' But you're still having a complex response physically, perhaps emotionally, psychologically, and intellectually," she said.

Jenkins is digging into her role as department head, helping to guide 130 studio arts majors and 11 faculty members whom she calls "amazing artists." Pitt's studio arts majors make the most money after graduation, thanks to exhibitions and film festivals, getting their work shown, and winning awards.

She and her husband, who works at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, and Lila, reside in Point Breeze. They enjoy Pittsburgh, although—coming from Dallas and Boulder, Colo.—the grey overcast days of winter still take some getting used to. "There is the small blue spectrum lamp on Jenkins' desk in her basement studio office.

And Jenkins herself, as a student, a devotee of yoga for the past 13 years. "It's really helped me be a better teacher and have great compassion for my students," she said. "'It's good to be humbled every day.'"
Elana Schlenker knows a side of Pittsburgh that she believes far too few people see. For this Pitt alumnus, the vision of the Steel City™ conjures up such names as August Wilson and Andy Warhol, as well as a host of less-well-known members of Pittsburgh’s vibrant artistic community. It is that less famous face that is showcased in The Original, a biannual magazine founded in 2006 by Schlenker when she was a student at the University.

The student-run publication dedicates itself to highlighting the creative talents within the Pitt community and Western Pennsylvania. “If you look in and around Pitt, you’ll see quite a few people doing interesting and exciting things. Unfortunately, very few of those people receive the recognition they deserve,” said Schlenker, who graduated from the School of Arts and Sciences in 2007 and currently serves as the magazine’s publisher. “The idea [behind The Original] is to promote the creative activities of students in a way that is accessible to the broadest of audiences.”

Accessibility is key to the success of The Original. Schlenker’s vision of the magazine includes content that can be appreciated by anyone, not just art lovers. She and the magazine’s staff have made producing a broadly inclusive publication a high priority.

According to Schlenker, The Original puts special emphasis on creative writing methods and innovative design techniques. The magazine’s voice is an informal one that talks to—not at—the reader. Its language is a vernacular that is more familiar to a youthful audience. And The Original’s editorial design, including its cover and table of contents pages, has won design awards from the nonprofit organization College Media Advisers.

Its content is broad and features an array of local artists and musicians, including Eric Moe, a professor in Pitt’s Department of Music; Julie Sokolow, a songwriter and Pitt fiction writing and psychology major; and Barbara Weissberger, a Pitt faculty member and a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship awardee.

The Original staff makes no claim that the magazine is the last word on the local arts scene. Instead, the writers have worked hard to remain true to the original goal of giving exposure to local artists and musicians. Ben Filio, a Pitt student majoring in sociology and political science and the editor-in-chief of The Original, said readers should think of the magazine as just a small part of what Pittsburgh has to offer to the arts world. “We view The Original as providing an entry point to the local arts community,” said Filio. “It is our hope that the magazine widens our regional arts audience and inspires readers to increase their level of involvement at our University and beyond.”

The future appears bright for The Original. With the latest edition being distributed to more than 5,000 people, the magazine has roots firmly planted in the Pitt community. It also has gained financial support from a recent Sprout Fund Seed Program and the studio arts department, Arts and Sciences’ Undergraduate Studies and the Student Government Board. Within a relatively short time, The Original has evolved from one woman’s desire to draw attention to a named area of the city’s culture to a labor of love for more than 50 dedicated Pitt students. Their only compensation has been the thrill of publishing a professional magazine.

Schlenker said the magazine’s greatest strength has been its ability to attract “a group of incredibly talented and dedicated staff members to the project.” As The Original continues, its heart—and backbone—will be that staff of volunteers.

“I think our staff really points to an amazing base of talent that exists within Pitt,” said Schlenker. “We’ve been fortunate to be in the center of this network of talented people who have contributed their skills to this magazine,” said Schlenker. “When you look at The Original you’re looking at a team effort in every sense of the word.”

The magazine’s Web site, www.originalmag.com, has digital versions of the current and back issues, as well as more information about the publication.

Pittsburgh Has Long History of Urban Planning
Pitt Professor Edward K. Muller’s book details city’s efforts
By Patricia Lomando White

Pittsburgh is going through a transformation—residential units are springing up all over downtown. Steel mills have been replaced with booming shopping districts on the South Side and in Homestead, a subway tunnel is being excavated to connect Downtown and the Northside, which is undergoing its own resurgence. Soon there will be a new casino and parking garage on the North Shore’s evolving landscape. Riverfront development seems to be taking hold.

But Edward K. Muller, University of Pittsburgh professor of history, will tell you that this is nothing new.

In his book Before Renaissance: Planning Pittsburgh, 1889-1943 (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006), Muller and coauthor John Bauman recount Pittsburgh’s long and storied history of urban planning. They reveal that Pittsburgh’s former forerunners in urban planning, long before it became a professionalized discipline in the early 20th century.

“The city was engaged in urban planning from the 1890s to World War II and was among the leading cities in urban planning for the first decades of the 2000s,” said Muller. “By 1920, we were the fifth or sixth largest metropolitan area in the country. At that time, to be engaged in urban planning was forward thinking. We were in the forefront with New York, Boston, and the other
**January**


8. **The 13th of Paris**
   - Music by Ernest McCarty,


**February**

1. **Sosseta, composer of gendal bokag** (contemporary traditional music), colloquium, 4 p.m., 122 Music Building, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.


6. **University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**, featuring Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 1, Ian Chau, soloist, Mahler’s Symphony No. 6, first move-
The Drowsy Chaperone
February 26
10
Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!
thrreaclional performance, 7 p.m., Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, www.ppt.org.
14
Ball Night, 7-11 p.m., William Pitt Union assembly room, part of Chinese Culture Exhibition Month, Pitt Chinese Students and Scholars Association, 412-648-9233.
Lecture, Mimi Terano, Pitt graduate student in the School of Education, noon, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, 412-648-7370.
March
1
George and Martha, theatrical performance, 2 p.m., Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org.
Lecture, Mimi Terano, Pitt graduate student in the School of Education, noon, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, 412-648-7370.
Writing and Social Responsibility, panel discus sion, 6 p.m., 501 Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series, 412-642-6505, www.pitt.edu.
Starring a Cellar Wine Tasting Theater Square Cabaret March 5
Winces of Span Theater Square Cabaret April 2
The American Clock
April 3
March 15, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, conducted by Stephane Deneve, 8 p.m., through 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh, Dianne Reeves, 8 p.m., April 18, 14th Street Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.


Lecture, Yujie Li, Heinz Fellow, Pitt Global Studies Program, noon, 4305 Pooie Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, 412-664-7730.


April


Paul Taylor Dance Pasquellera Performing Arts Center

April 1

April 5

April 10

April 15

April 20

April 25

April 30

May 5
Pitt Professor Cauley Finds Bone Mineral Density Test Helps Predict ‘Silent’ Spinal Fractures

By Clare Collins

A single bone mineral density (BMD) test given 15 years earlier predicted a woman’s risk of developing fractures to her spine over time, according to the largest and longest prospective study of osteoporosis. The study, published in the Dec. 19 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and led by investigators in the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH), also found that women who had a spinal fracture at the start of the study were four times more likely to have another fracture. In fact, more than half of the women with low BMD and existing spinal fractures developed new fractures over the 15-year study period, raising concerns about the impact of so-called “silent” fractures to the spine.

“Spinal fractures are the hallmark of osteoporosis, but one of the problems with diagnosing them is that they often have no symptoms,” said Jane Cauley, professor of epidemiology in GSPH. “Many women may be walking around with multiple fractures and not even know it. Our study raises concerns about the impact of these fractures on quality of life by putting women at risk for subsequent fractures, but it also provides evidence that a simple and noninvasive bone density test can help identify those at risk.”

The findings are based on 2,300 women over the age of 65 enrolled in the Study of Osteoporotic Fractures (SOF), a longitudinal, multisite study initiated in 1986 to learn more about the risk factors and causes of osteoporosis. For the current study, investigators from five institutions took lateral radiographs of the thoracic and lumbar spines of research participants and measured their BMD and body weight. Researchers found that by year 15 of the study, 15 percent of the women had experienced spinal fractures. They also found that 25 percent of women who began the study with low BMD developed spine fractures, compared to only nine percent of women with normal BMD.

According to Cauley, the study’s results demonstrate the importance of BMD testing for women over the age of 50. About 700,000 spinal fractures occur each year in women in this age group, and 75 percent of these fractures occur without symptoms. Spinal fractures result in chronic back pain and increased risk of other fractures, including those in the hip.

“Women don’t have to end up with dowager’s hump, the hallmark of osteoporosis,” said Cauley. Dowager’s hump indicates that a woman has endured multiple spine fractures. “Osteoporosis is not an inevitable consequence of aging. Under-diagnosis remains a major problem. There are several effective treatments for osteoporosis that can prevent subsequent fractures, so it is vitally important to recognize these fractures with repeat spine films over time.”

Based on the results of the study, Cauley and colleagues are developing a risk model to help physicians better identify women who are more likely to have a silent spine fracture and who may benefit from treatment. Osteoporosis is the most common type of bone disease, affecting an estimated 10 million Americans. Researchers estimate that about one out of five American women over the age of 50 have osteoporosis.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Pitt Study Finds Bright Light Therapy Eases Bipolar Depression in Some

By Michele Baum

Bright light therapy can ease bipolar depression in some patients, according to a study published in the journal Bipolar Disorders. Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine’s studied nine women with bipolar disorder to examine the effects of light therapy in the morning or at midday on mood symptoms.

“There are limited effective treatments for the depressive phase of bipolar disorder,” said Dorothy Sit, assistant professor of psychiatry and the study’s first author. “While there are treatments that are effective for mania, the major problem is the depression, which can linger so long that it never really goes away.”

In the study, women with bipolar depression were given light boxes and instructed on how to use them at home. The women used the boxes daily for two-week stretches of 15, 30, and 45 minutes. Some patients responded extremely well to the light therapy, and their symptoms of depression disappeared. The responders to light therapy stayed on the light therapy for an additional three or four months. Four patients received morning light, and five used their light boxes at midday. Participants also continued to take their prescribed medications throughout the study period.

“Three of the women who received morning light initially developed what we call a mixed state, with symptoms of depression and mania that occur all at once—racing thoughts, irritability, sleeplessness, anxiety, and low mood,” said Sit. “But when another group began with midday light therapy, we found a much more stable response.”

Of the nine women treated, six achieved some degree of response, with several reaching full recovery from depressive symptoms. While most attained their best recovery with midday light, a few responded more fully to a final adjustment to morning light.

“People with bipolar disorder are exquisitely sensitive to morning light, so this profound effect of morning treatment leading to mixed states is very informative and forces us to ask more questions,” said Sit. “Did we introduce light too early and disrupt circadian rhythms and sleep patterns?”

People with bipolar disorder are known to be sensitive to changes in outdoor ambient light and to seasonal changes. Researchers are asking whether the risk of suicide in patients with bipolar disorder could be linked to changes in light exposure.

“In our study, 44 percent of patients were full responders, and 22 percent were partial responders,” Sit and her colleagues write. “Light therapy, therefore, is an attractive and possibly effective augmentation strategy to improve the likelihood of full-treatment response.”

Optimal response was observed with midday light therapy for 45 or 60 minutes daily, noted Sit.

Other study authors are Katherine L. Wisner, Barbara H. Hamusa, and Stacy D. Stull, all of the Women’s Behavioral HealthCARE program at Pitt’s Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic; and Michael Terman, Columbia University.
The University of Pittsburgh’s Office of Cross-Cultural and Leadership Development has coordinated The Power of You, a series of events to celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Beginning today, The Power of You offers a variety of activities.

Mon., Jan. 14
The University Library System (ULS) will display various works about King in the Cup and Chaucer Cafe, Hillman Library ground floor.

1-3 p.m.
Hillman Library’s Dick Thornburgh Room ULS presents Eyes on the Prize No Easy Walk (1961-1963), an acclaimed civil rights video series depicting King, the March on Washington, and other key events of the Civil Rights movement.

Tues., Jan. 15
1-4 p.m.
Litchfield Towers Lobby Join the Residence Life Diversity Team for a birthday celebration for King.

8 p.m.
Nordy’s Place, William Pitt Union (WPU), lower level
Express your feelings for King and the Civil Rights Movement. Neo-soul band Hambone Jenkins will play while painter Monique Luck does live art-making. A blank canvas will be available for students to express themselves, celebrate, and consider the contributions and struggles to get where they are today. Presented by PITT ARTS, the College of Urban and Public Affairs, the Department of Africana Studies, and the Department of African American Studies.

Wed., Jan. 16
Noon
4300 Posvar Hall
Mike-Frank G. Epitropoulos in Pitt’s Department of Sociology presents a discussion on King and his impact on international relations. Presented by the Global Studies Program.

6-9:30 p.m.
630 WPU
One in Christ/Uno en Cristo presents The Power of Truth Through Film. The film Crash will be shown. Discussion will follow on how race can be transcended. Soul food will be provided.

Thurs., Jan. 17
1-3 p.m.
630 WPU
Watch the documentary From Jim Crow to Swastika. A discussion on Jewish and Black relationships during the Civil Rights Era will follow. Presented by the Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh and the Anti-Defamation League.

Fri., Jan. 18
3-5 p.m.
630 WPU
The Office of Cross-Cultural and Leadership Development and Community of Reconciliation Church (COR) present the film, The Last King of Scotland, and a facilitated discussion with COR’s Denise Mason.

Mon., Jan. 21
8 a.m.
Sixth floor, WPU
Community service projects at the Center for Creative Play and the Jubilee Soup Kitchen. Meet at 8 a.m. to choose your site. There are a limited number of placements. Refreshments and transportation will be provided. Presented by the Black Action Society.

6-7:30 p.m.
Cathedral of Learning
The ninth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Vigil and March: “A Walk to End Violence” from the Cathedral of Learning to the WPU Ballroom. The march will be followed by a panel discussion, moderated by WMJO 106.7 FM’s Brian Cook, an American Urban Radio Network reporter. Presented by the men of the Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Wed., Jan. 23
8:45 p.m.
WPU Ballroom
Cornell West, professor of religion and African American studies at Princeton University, will speak. Presented by the Black Action Society. Doors open at 8 p.m.

In addition to the sponsors listed above, additional sponsors of The Power of You are the Alumni Association’s African American Alumni Council and the Department of Africana Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Two Pitt Professors to Study Genesis of Innovative Ideas

By Morgan Kelly

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded two University of Pittsburgh professors a grant to study the source of the innovative spark that separates great products from good ones. Researchers Christian Schunn, a psychology professor and research scientist at Pitt’s Learning Research and Development Center, and Mike Lovell, an industrial engineering professor and the associate dean of research at Pitt’s Swanson School of Engineering, received a two-year grant of nearly $400,000 from the NSF. The grant, awarded Jan. 1, will allow the researchers to launch the study, which could take at least 10 years to complete. The NSF awarded the pair a $160,000 grant last year to support preliminary work on the project.

The latest NSF grant applies primarily to determining the influence of design software and the laboratory environment on innovative thinking with an eye for developing better design tools, Schunn said. The researcher— and more complicated—objective is to enhance innovation in engineering by identifying the factors that most often foster creative thought and design. The project stems from an initiative within the Swanson School to stress innovation in U.S. engineering education and help offset the declining popularity of American products that is largely attributed to inferior design and functionality when compared to European and Asian products.

“Companies always want better products, but nobody knows how to guarantee a great outcome,” Schunn said. Sometimes engineers fail and sometimes they are so clever to exceed expectations—no one knows exactly what circumstances and tools make that difference. Product design is slow and done in groups, so it’s difficult to study.”

Schunn and Lovell will collect and analyze data on 60 teams of engineering students enrolled in the Swanson School’s Product Realization class, wherein students work with industrial sponsors to develop working products that address a real need. Some past student teams have patented the devices and methods created in the class. Students in the study will work in an up-to-date lab space with access to the latest tools and software available to working engineers.

During the data collection phase, the students will be videotaped as they work through the problem-solving and design processes toward a working prototype—an expected 3,000 hours of video all together. The students also will keep logbooks of their ideas, progress, and setbacks—records of the entire process. Schunn said that he and Lovell have already collected data on about 30 teams and begun analyzing it.

Once the students complete their projects, Schunn and Lovell will compare the respective logbooks and videos of the outstanding projects to those from the good-but-not-revolutionary ventures. They hope to determine the areas of the problem-solving process that are most related to innovative thinking among the students and disseminate those findings as guides for designers and educators. For example, one pattern noticed so far, Schunn said, is that when students create a physical model early on their thinking becomes centered on that object and less exploratory. Thus, a possible design strategy might be to reserve physical models for later stages.

Several other Swanson School faculty members also are analyzing— and hope to improve—engineering education, which is the time when students form their basic approach to product development and problem solving.

In September, the NSF awarded $2 million to a multi-institutional project spearheaded by Pitt Engineering faculty members to extend the use of open-ended case studies known as model-eliciting activities, which focus on difficult technical and ethical questions. The researchers will identify the areas of the problem-solving process educators should focus on most and present the results to teachers at all educational levels. Information on that project is available on Pitt’s Web site.

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Pittsburgh Has Long History of Urban Planning

Continued from Page 4

large cities."

Before Renaissance traces the origins of urban planning to the Progressive movement of the late 19th century. Planning was a means to restore democracy, civic virtue, and moral order to the city. But the authors note, the focus shifted from special-purpose planning to urban planning as a scientific, complex process.

Planning visionary Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. (whose father designed Central Park in New York) played a key role in Pittsburgh’s planning history along with Pittsburgh’s own Frederick Bigger. The book also stresses the importance of private and public partnerships as a major mover behind Pittsburgh planning, citing the partnership between Andrew Carnegie and Edward Bigelow, the city’s public works director.

Known as the “Father of the Parks,” Bigelow, who was assembling parcels of land above the Allegheny River to create Highland Park, persuaded Mary Elizabeth Schenley to donate 300 acres of the family’s estate with the option of purchasing another 100 acres for $125,000. The city council accepted the Schenley offer in 1890 and Schenley Park became a reality.

In 1909, the Pittsburgh Civic Commission (PCC) invited Olmsted to visit the city and create a complete plan for the whole Pittsburgh industrial district.” Olmsted’s plan, “Pittsburgh: Main Thoroughfares and the Inner 25th District: Improvements Necessary to Meet the City’s Present and Future Needs,” completed in 1911, included widened streets, a new central park, and boulevards linking the East End and South Hills suburbs to Downtown.

According to Muller, some of the things Olmsted proposed had already been under discussion when he came to Pittsburgh. For one, the South Hills Tunnel and Bridge project.

“Olmsted put forth the plan for a high-level parkway along the Monongahela hillside, which is now the Boulevard of the Allies,” noted Muller. “He also was responsible for a plan for Schenley Plaza. One of the more interesting things proposed in his plan that didn’t come about was a Downtown promenade with vehicular and pedestrian traffic above the Monongahela wharf.”

Muller said that same year, Mayor William Magee got the state legislature to create the Pittsburgh Planning Commission, which he staffed with the Department of Planning and Development.

The foundation was laid,” Muller said. “Planning as a profession took hold. Important ideas were kept alive, like Point Park.”

Many things also changed, he noted. The city was a manufacturing center, the first floor. Before Renaissance also details the fraternal movement, exemplified by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, during the 1920s. There were a lot of things planned for the city, Muller explained, but Pittsburgh became concerned about the automobile, so it rethought much of its plan. There were few gas stations and no one wanted a gas station in their neighborhood.

According to Muller, Allegheny County became involved in planning in the early 1920s. A major highway project was advanced in 1925 and several plans came to fruition, including Allegheny River Boulevard, Saw Mill Run Boulevard, Ohio River Boulevard, and the Liberty Bridge that was talked about in 1911.

“In the 1930s, Robert Moses, the greatest urban builder of the 20th century in America, came to Pittsburgh,” said Muller. “Howard Heinz, H. J. Heinz’s son, attracted him here. Moses didn’t come up with anything particularly, but he grabbed the attention of the civic leaders. His visit galvanized interest and became a critical moment in the future steps of the Renaissance.”

By participating in LSST,” Newman said, “Pitt researchers will both influence the shape of this next-generation, revolution- ary astronomical dataset and have premier access to it.”

Pitt, 22 Partners Get $30 Million Gift for Huge Telescope Project

Continued from Page 4

Pitt is not the only Pittsburgh institution involved in LSST. Carnegie Mellon University became a partner institution Jan. 2, and plans to work with Pitt and the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center—a joint effort of the two universities and Westinghouse Electric Company—to contribute to managing LSST data. Google Inc. also is a partner and plans to provide expertise on rapid and robust handling of large databases. Google’s Pittsburgh office has worked closely with Pitt astronomers in the past. Newman worked directly with the office for the October release of color images and data catalogs documenting the past 30 billion years of galactic evolution onto Google Sky. The images were products of the All-wavelength Extended Groth Strip International Survey, or AEGIS, a massive project involving nearly 100 researchers to map the Extended Groth Strip—an area the width of four full moons near the “handle” of the Big Dipper constellation—using all available wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum from X-rays to ultraviolet, visible, infrared, and radio waves.

EQUIPOISE RECEPTION

Equipoise held its annual reception on Dec. 11 to welcome 44 new Black faculty, administrators, and staff to Pitt. About 150 people attended the function at the William Pitt Union, where Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and Provost James V. Molle participated in a community in which each new employee received a University Equipoise pin. Equipoise comprises Black faculty, administrators, and staff and seeks to facilitate their goals and objectives. The reception was given on behalf of the Office of Provost and hosted by Kathy W. Humphrey, vice provost and dean of students; Larry Davis, dean of the school of Social Work; Robert Hill, vice chancellor for public affairs; Clyde Jones, vice chancellor for health sciences development and senior vice president of the Maternal and Child Health Sciences Foundation; and Joanerte SouthPaul, chair of the Department of Family Medicine. In photo, from left, Jones, Humphrey, and Molle converse during the reception.
**Happenings**

**Lectures/Seminars/Readings**

- "The Erasure of Civil Rights and Community Responses," by Kerry O’Donnell, president of the Meadville Folk Fund, noon to 1:30 p.m. today, School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt’s Center on Race and Social Problems.

**Exhibitions**

- Disney’s The Lion King, Benedum Center through February 17

**PITT ARTS Nights Remain**

Program offers discounted tickets for Pittsburgh cultural events

- Pitt Nights program, which offers discounted tickets to Pitt students, faculty, and staff, is aimed at connecting the Oakland campus with Pittsburgh’s cultural life. The tickets cover the performance and include a pre-show dessert reception as well as the opportunity to meet the performing artists. PITT ARTS also offers bus transportation from Oakland to participants who need it. The three events are:
  - Sat., Jan. 26, Amadeus, Pittsburg Public Theater
  - One of the big successes of modern theater, Amadeus brings the legend and music of Mozart to life. Part biography, part murder mystery, the show pits the envious composer Salieri against the young, hot-tempered Mozart. In 18th century Austria as the backdrop.
  - Tickets are $16 for students, $28 for faculty and staff, and include optional transportation, a pre-show dessert reception, and a chance to meet with Artistic Director Pappas and performing cast members. Pittsburgh Public Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown.
  - Sat., Feb. 9, Urban Bush Women/Compagnie Jant-Bi, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
  - The show features Brooklyn’s all-female dance company, Urban Bush Women, and Senegal’s all-male dance company, Compagnie Jant-Bi. Their combined work, The Rebellions of This Island, is rich with West African movements, rhythms and styles. Tickets start at $19. Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown.

- Thurs., Feb. 28, The Big Bang, CLO Cabaret
  - Jed and Boyle have a dream—to tell the story of the world, from Adam and Eve through today, via a full-scale Broadway musical. This dream comes complete with 1,400 wigs, 6,428 costumes, a cast of 318, and $83 million budget. The production takes a 13-hour-long musical and performs in a breathless 80 minutes. Tickets are $17 for students and $19 for faculty and staff. CLO Cabaret Theater, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown.

- Pitt Nights tickets can be purchased at PITT ARTS, 929 William Pitt Union, or by calling 412-624-4498. Visit www.pittarts.pitt.edu for more information.

- PITT ARTS began in 1997 and is funded by the University's Provost’s Office. The program sponsors more than 110 free student outings for Pitt undergraduates each year. PITT ARTS also provides off-campus art experiences as well as discounted cultural opportunities for staff, faculty, and undergraduate and graduate students.
Pitt Dental School Names Director of Center For People with Special Needs

By Jane-ellen Robinet

Erik Scheifele has set ambitious goals for the new Center for People with Special Needs, a pediatric and adult dental center to be opened this spring by Pitt's School of Dental Medicine.

The school named Scheifele director of the center, which will be housed in Falk Hall, near where the dental school currently operates a weekly dental clinic for patients with special needs. The center will serve both children and adults with special needs ranging from physical limitations from birth defects, injury, or disease to intellectual disabilities, neurological and behavioral disorders, and developmental disabilities.

"Patients with special needs have a difficult time finding dental providers who are willing to treat them," Scheifele said. "In some instances, the clinician may not feel comfortable or properly trained to treat patients with special needs. The new center will allow us to provide comprehensive, quality dental care to these patients while training future and established clinicians in special-care dentistry. This will help to improve access to care for these patients."

Scheifele is the former director of pediatric dentistry in Temple University's Kornberg School of Dentistry, as well as a former assistant professor in Pitt's dental school. It was Scheifele's residency in pediatric dentistry that sparked his interest in working with patients with special needs. "I trained at a children's hospital in Colorado and we were the only children's hospital in a 500-mile area. We saw a fair amount of special-needs patients," he said.

The reason that a lot of dentists don’t see patients with special needs is because they may not have been exposed to them in dental school. … It depends on their degree of exposure. Our goal is to increase that exposure," he said.

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Children and adults with special needs often face significant access-to-care barriers. For example, many such patients are insured through the federal- and state-funded Medicaid program and a number of providers do not accept that insurance. Another barrier is that some dentists may not be willing to treat a patient with a disability because they feel inadequately trained or don’t have the additional staff to help. In addition, simple physical barriers like steps and small examining rooms may make a treatment session impossible.

The Department of Pediatric Dentistry has been running a special-needs clinic every Wednesday for about 12 years, Scheifele said. Both children and adults are seen in the clinic. "We have 600 active patients within the clinic, and our intention is to increase that. We have two main goals for this center: to educate and train future clinicians as well as existing clinicians in private practice and to provide quality comprehensive care," he said.

What are the rewards of working with this special group of patients? Scheifele said that while the actual dental work being done may be small, the effect on patients and their families can be huge. “An adult patient may have had a broken front tooth for years. Just to be able to restore that tooth—and his smile—helps build self-esteem and can make a family so happy. Or a patient may have endured serious tooth pain and to be able to relieve that is such a rewarding thing,” he said.

Scheifele added, however, that there are also a number of dentists in the area who donate their time to treat patients with special needs.

Pitt's School of Dental Medicine has been treating patients with special needs for more than 40 years. The Department of Pediatric Dentistry has been running a special-needs clinic every Wednesday for about 12 years, Scheifele said. Both children and adults are seen in the clinic. "We have 600 active patients within the clinic, and our intention is to increase that. We have two main goals for this center: to educate and train future clinicians as well as existing clinicians in private practice and to provide quality comprehensive care," he said.

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