

## Pitt-sponsored *Fly Boys* Has World Premiere Screening Feb. 1

By John Harvith

The world premiere screening of the WQED-produced video documentary *Fly Boys: Western Pennsylvania's Tuskegee Airmen*—which was made possible through major funding from the University of Pittsburgh with additional support from the Alcoa Foundation and the Pittsburgh Foundation—will be Pitt's inaugural event in the K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month Program. The by-invitation event, cohosted by Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and WQED Multimedia President and CEO and Pitt Trustee George L. Miles Jr., will be held on Feb. 1 in the Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial in Oakland.

*Fly Boys* will have its broadcast premiere on WQED-TV at 8 p.m. Feb. 7 and also will be streamed live at that time on WQED Interact at [www.wqed.org](http://www.wqed.org).

The documentary takes viewers back to early 1941, during the Jim Crow "separate but equal" days prior to America's entry in World War II, when the Roosevelt Administration established an all-Black flight training program at Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama. Tuskegee was a logical location for the pioneering venture, because it had previously started its own civilian pilot training program under the direction of Charles Alfred "Chief" Anderson (1907-1996), a native of Bryn Mawr, Pa., who was known as the father of Black aviation. He was the first African American to earn a commercial pilot's license; he and Albert E. Forsythe made the first round-trip transcontinental flight by Black pilots, flying from Atlantic City to Los Angeles and back without the aid of



landing lights, parachutes, radios, or blind-flying instruments; and he would train the Tuskegee Airmen.

Because studies commissioned earlier by the Army War College concluded that Blacks were unfit for military leadership roles and incapable of piloting aircraft, the Tuskegee Airmen training program went forward on the assumption by the military establishment that the experiment would prove African Americans incapable of operating complex combat planes.

But Eleanor Roosevelt knew better.

On April 19, 1941, the First Lady visited Tuskegee Army Air Field and, against the advice of the Secret Service, asked Charles Anderson to take her up in a plane. That flight over Alabama lasted more than an hour and proved to Mrs. Roosevelt that Blacks could indeed fly aircraft. She had a photograph of herself taken with Anderson, showed it to FDR, and became a staunch champion of the Tuskegee Airmen, who distinguished themselves as the best escort plane service in the U.S. military during World War II, ensuring that bomb-

ing missions in North Africa and Europe succeeded. It was not for nothing that the Germans, who called the Airmen "Black Birdmen," avoided the Tuskegee pilots with their distinctive red-tailed aircraft whenever possible.

Between 1941 and 1946, more than 2,000 African Americans completed training at Tuskegee, nearly 1,000 of them qualifying as pilots and the rest trained to fill positions of navigators, mechanics, radio

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## UPCI Researchers Discover Virus Linked to Deadly Skin Cancer

By Michele D. Baum

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI), employing a new strategy to hunt for human viruses, have discovered a previously unknown virus strongly associated with a rare but deadly skin cancer called Merkel cell carcinoma.

The strategy was described in a recent issue of the journal *Science* by UPCI's Yuan Chang, Patrick Moore, Huichen Feng, and Masahiro Shuda. This is the second tumor-associated virus discovered by Moore and Chang, a husband-and-wife research team who also discovered the cause of Kaposi's sarcoma, another rare and deadly skin cancer.

The *Science* article explains a nearly decade-long effort to harness the sequencing technology to identify the new virus, which the researchers call Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCV). While the research team emphasizes that its work does not prove MCV to be the cause of Merkel cell carcinoma, if the findings are confirmed, they may lead to new cancer treatment and prevention options.



Yuan Chang



Patrick Moore

"This is the first polyomavirus to be strongly associated with a particular type of human tumor," said Moore, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics in Pitt's School of Medicine and leader of the molecular virology program at UPCI. "Although polyomaviruses have been studied in relation to cancer development for years, the weight of scientific evidence had been leaning toward the view that these viruses do not cause human cancers."

Polyomaviruses are a group of viruses that have been shown to cause cancers in animals for more than 50 years. But Moore noted that additional research is needed to determine what role, if any, MCV plays in human cancer development.

A rare but extremely aggressive cancer that spreads rapidly into other tissues and organs, Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) develops from specialized nerve cells that respond to touch or pressure. The incidence of MCC has tripled over the past 20 years to about 1,500 cases a year, especially among people whose immune systems are compromised by AIDS or transplant-related immunosup-

pressant drugs. About half of patients with advanced MCC live nine months or less, and some two-thirds of MCC patients die within five years.

"If these findings are confirmed, we can look at how this new virus contributes to a very bad cancer with high mortality, and, just as importantly, use it as a model to understand how cancers occur and the cell pathways that are targeted," added Moore. "Information that we gain could possibly lead to a blood test or vaccine that improves disease management and aids in prevention."

For example, vaccines are now available against human papillomavirus (HPV) to prevent cervical cancer, noted Chang, professor of pathology. "MCV is another

model that may increase our understanding of how cancers arise, possibly with important implications for nonviral cancers like prostate or breast cancer."

MCV has additional similarities to HPV since both viruses integrate into the tumor cell genome but not the genome of healthy cells. This integration destroys the virus's ability to replicate normally and may be the first critical step in MCC development.

The Pittsburgh team analyzed nearly 400,000 messenger RNA genetic sequences from four samples of MCC tumor tissue using a technique refined in their lab called digital transcriptome subtraction. Comparing the sequences expressed by the tumor genome to gene sequences mapped by the Human Genome Project, the researchers systematically subtracted known human sequences, leaving a

**"If these findings are confirmed, we can look at how this new virus contributes to a very bad cancer with high mortality, and, just as importantly, use it as a model to understand how cancers occur and the cell pathways that are targeted. Information that we gain could possibly lead to a blood test or vaccine that improves disease management and aids in prevention."**

—Patrick Moore

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# Briefly Noted



## Global Studies Program Sponsors Lecture on Burma

Pitt's Global Studies Program will host Maureen Aung-Thwin, director of the Burma Project/Southeast Asia Initiative of the Open Society Institute, in a lecture titled "Musings on the Saffron Revolution: Is There Hope for Burma?"

The talk will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 5 in 4130 Posvar Hall. The free and public lecture is part of the Global Issues Lecture Series.

Burma, also known as Myanmar, has been ruled by secretive, xenophobic military juntas since 1962, said Aung-Thwin. In 1988, a nationwide uprising against military rule was crushed and thousands of protestors were killed. Some reforms were promised, including an election that was won overwhelmingly by the democratic opposition, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi—but the results were ignored.

In August and September 2007, an overnight rise in fuel prices of as much as 500 percent again caused citizens to take to the streets, said Aung-Thwin. When the protestors were arrested, thousands of Buddhist monks demanded that the government address the country's ills, but their demands were met with violence. Aung-Thwin's lecture will examine the fall-out of this so-called "Saffron Revolution" and the prospects for a genuine political transformation in Burma.

Aung-Thwin is on the Asia Advisory Board of Human Rights Watch and a trustee of the Burma Studies Foundation. Pitt's Global Studies Program is part of the University Center for International Studies.

—By Amanda Leff

## Drue Heinz Literature Prize Awarded to Writer of Pitt Press Collection

Anthony Varallo was named the winner of the 28th annual Drue Heinz Literature Prize, one of the nation's most prestigious awards for a book of short stories. Varallo's manuscript, *Out Loud*, was selected by best-selling author Scott Turow from a field of nearly 300 entries. The collection will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press this fall.

Turow said, "The stories in *Out Loud* are just awfully damn good. They are the work of a very talented and accomplished writer."

Varallo, who resides in Charleston, S.C., said the stories in his collection are driven by "a love of the ordinary life. Disappointment, loss, and longing appear in the periphery of these stories, but each is essentially hopeful, rendered with a light touch, humor, and grace."

Varallo was born in Media, Pa., on June 12, 1970, and was raised in Yorklyn, Del. He received

his bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware, his MFA degree from the University of Iowa, and a doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Varallo is an assistant professor of English at the College of Charleston and the fiction editor for *Crazyhorse*, an influential magazine of fiction, poetry, and essays published by the college.

Varallo's first collection of short stories, *This Day in History* (University of Iowa Press, 2005), won the 2005 John Simmons Short Fiction Award and was also a finalist for the 2006 Paterson Fiction Prize. His stories have appeared in *Epoch*, *Story Quarterly*, *New England Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Mid-American Review*, and *Shenandoah*, among others. He also received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Literature.

## Pitt Law Professor to Debate Immigration on NPR

David Harris, University of Pittsburgh professor of law, will debate the issue of immigration with Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch in Washington, D.C., on National Public Radio's (NPR) *Justice Talking*.

The show, hosted by Margot Adler and titled "The Federal Round-Up of Illegal Workers," will begin airing today on NPR stations and will be available at [www.justicetalking.org](http://www.justicetalking.org). Pittsburgh listeners can hear the show on WDUQ FM radio at 3 p.m. Feb. 3.

With the crackdown on hiring illegal immigrants, what happens to workers caught without papers? The *Justice Talking* discussion will center on the country's work rules and what they mean for illegal workers.

Harris studies, writes, and teaches about police behavior and regulation, law enforcement, and national security issues and the law. He is the leading national authority on racial profiling. His book, *Profiles in Injustice: Why Racial Profiling Cannot Work* (The New Press, 2002), and his scholarly articles in the field of traffic stops of non-White motorists influenced the national debate on profiling and related topics. Harris has testified three times in the U.S. Senate and before many state legislative bodies.

His book, *Good Cops: The Case for Preventive Policing* (The New Press, 2005), uses case studies from around the country to suggest that citizens need not trade liberty for safety. He argues that they can be safe from criminals and terrorists without sacrificing their civil rights if law enforcement uses strategies based on prevention.

Harris has appeared on *The Today Show* and *Dateline NBC* and has been interviewed by the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Los Angeles Times*, among others. He served as a member of the Civil Liberties Advisory Board to the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security.

—By Patricia Lomando White



David Harris

## University of Pittsburgh Press, Partners Get \$390,000 Mellon Grant

By Maria Sticco

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a five-year grant to the University of Pittsburgh Press for a publishing initiative in Russian, East European, and Central Asian studies. The \$390,000 grant will be pursued in a unique partnership with the University of Wisconsin Press and Northwestern University Press.

The grant will support publication of first books in the humanities by providing resources to improve and promote them to the widest possible audience. The University of Pittsburgh Press and its partners will cooperate in the selection, development, and publication of these monographs. Grant funds can be used, for example, for the editorial development of manuscripts, to include more illustrations, and to produce reasonably priced editions, including paperbacks where appropriate. Funds are also available for additional marketing and advertising and lecture tours by the authors.

The three presses developed the joint

**"Pitt's long-standing commitment to international scholarship is reflected in the strength of our area studies programs."**

—James V. Maher

initiative in response to a call for proposals from the Mellon Foundation to the entire membership of American Association of University Presses last year. Mellon was seeking projects that would encourage cooperation among university presses and promote the publication of new scholarship in underserved fields. Of the 30 joint proposals received from university presses across the

United States, only four were selected for grant awards, including the joint Pittsburgh-Wisconsin-Northwestern project. (The other three proposals were for American literature, South Asian studies, and ethnomusicology.)

James V. Maher, Pitt provost and senior vice chancellor, said, "Pitt's long-standing commitment to international scholarship is reflected in

the strength of our area studies programs—and in the efforts of our Press to increase its profile in these subject areas."

In their grant proposal, the University of Pittsburgh Press and its partners argued that the study of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia is redefining itself following the dramatic transformations of the post-Soviet period. But many university presses have reduced their publication of books on this important part of the world.

"We consider this area of scholarship vitally significant and rich in possibilities," said Peter Kracht, editorial director of the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Jonathan Harris, Pitt professor of political science in the School of Arts and Sciences and editor of the Russian and East European Series published by the Press, said the grant "will enable us to publish the works of a new generation of scholars, foster research that cuts across the traditional disciplinary boundaries, and help scholars in Russia and Eastern Europe to make their own work more accessible to the English-speaking world."

Cynthia Miller, director of the University of Pittsburgh Press, emphasized the long-term strategic and scholarly value of the effort. "We hope that this cooperative effort will help Pittsburgh to make substantial strides not only in our own mission as a press, but to make a significant contribution to the study of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. We are grateful to the Mellon Foundation for allowing us that opportunity," she said.

## Chronicling

An ongoing series highlighting University of Pittsburgh history

**On Jan. 29, 1948, Pitt Trustee Adolph W. Schmidt and two colleagues submitted a proposal to Pitt Chancellor Rufus H. Fitzgerald to establish a school of public health.**

According to Robert C. Albert's *Pitt: The Story of the University of Pittsburgh 1787-1987*, one of Pittsburgh's most pressing needs was the development of a stronger health services system, an issue that had been long neglected statewide. The Commission on Public Health and Preventive Medicine had ranked Pennsylvania 42nd among the 48 states in the quality of its public health services.

During this same time, five medical schools in Philadelphia were also discussing the creation of a center of public health in that city. Pitt acted swiftly, not only because of intercity rivalry but also because there was talk that the American Public Health Association intended to accredit only one school of public health in Pennsylvania.

A University nominating committee unanimously chose Thomas Parran, who was retiring from the position of surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service, as the school's first dean. Also, the A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust provided a grant of \$13.6 million toward faculty salaries, equipment, and developmental expenses. The school opened in 1950 as the nation's 13th public health school.

Today, Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health is one of the nation's leaders and ranks third among schools of public health in its amount of funding from the National Institutes of Health.



## PittChronicle

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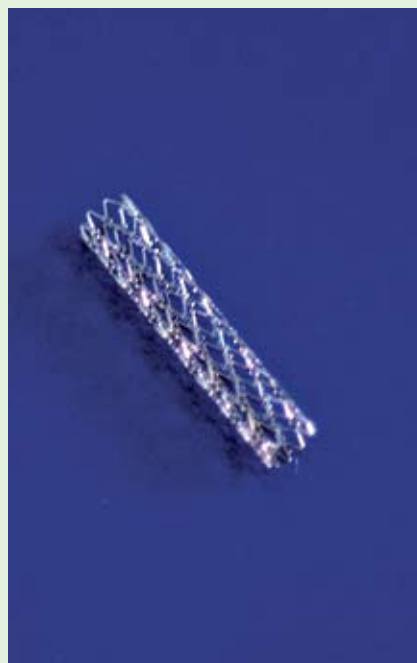
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# Science & Technology

## Drug-coated Stents Better Than Bare Stents For High-risk Heart Patients, Pitt Study Finds



By Maureen McGaffin

The use of drug-coated stents in patients with complex heart disease is associated with a lower rate of repeat procedures without an increased risk of death or heart attacks compared to bare metal stents, according to a study by University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine researchers.

The findings were reported in the Jan. 24 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The study is the largest and most detailed analysis comparing the safety and efficacy of drug-coated and bare metal stents for off-label indications, that is, when used for patients with complex disease.

"This study shows that drug-coated stents, even when used for patients with complex disease (off-label fashion), is a more effective strategy in reducing re-narrowing of the coronary arteries, without an increased risk of heart attacks or death at one year compared to bare metal stents," said the study's lead author, Oscar C. Marroquin, Pitt assistant professor of medicine, and director of the Center for Interventional Cardiology Research at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Cardiovascular Institute. "Furthermore, we feel that our study supports the continued use of drug-coated stents for patients with these complex heart issues."

Stents are tiny metal mesh tubes used to treat blocked heart arteries caused by atherosclerosis—the buildup of cholesterol plaque in the arterial wall, which causes the arteries to harden and eventually become blocked. Stents, which are implanted during cardiac catheterization procedures, prop open blocked arteries. The wire mesh is

used as a scaffolding device to keep an artery open. Even when the procedure is successful, the stented area can suffer re-narrowing over time caused by excess scar tissue formation

that the body forms in response to the stent. It is accepted knowledge that when these stents are used in higher risk patients, the risk of re-narrowing is greater than when they are used in patients with fewer medical complications. The drug-coated stents, often preferred by cardiologists, reduce the amount of scar

tissue formation, resulting in a lower likelihood of artery re-narrowing over time, compared to bare metal stents.

This study was conducted in response to an FDA call for more data on what has become common practice by cardiologists worldwide—using stents, particularly drug-eluting stents, in high-risk patients with complex conditions.

Using data from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Dynamic Registry, which is managed by the Epidemiology Data Center at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Marroquin and colleagues analyzed records from 6,551 patients who were treated with either drug-coated stents or bare metal stents and whether the use was standard or off-label. Patients were followed for adverse cardiac events and death for one year after their procedures. Off-label use occurred in 55 percent of all bare metal stent patients and

49 percent of drug-coated stent patients. Compared to bare metal stent patients, drug-coated stent patients had a higher prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, renal disease, prior percutaneous coronary intervention and coronary artery bypass graft, and multi-vessel coronary artery disease. At one-year, however, there were no significant differences in the adjusted risk of death and heart attack in drug-coated stents compared to bare metal stent patients. Repeat procedures to restore blood flow also were significantly lower in drug-coated stent patients. The research findings support the use of

drug-coated stents for off-label indications.

This study was funded by the NHLBI.

In addition to Marroquin, collaborators on the study included: Helen A. Vlachos, Faith Selzer, and Sheryl F. Kelsey, all from Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health; Elizabeth M. Holper, University of Texas Southwest Medical Center, Dallas; J. Dawn Abbott and David O. Williams, both from the Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, R.I.; William D. Anderson,

Joon Sup Lee, Suresh R. Mulukutla, and A. Conrad Smith, all from UPMC's Cardiovascular Institute; Jean-Francois Tanguay, Montreal Heart Institute; Robert L. Wilensky, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; and Kevin E. Kip, University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.

**"This study shows that drug-coated stents, even when used for patients with complex disease (off-label fashion), is a more effective strategy in reducing re-narrowing of the coronary arteries, without an increased risk of heart attacks or death at one year compared to bare metal stents."**

—Oscar C. Marroquin



Oscar C. Marroquin

## Martin Luther King Jr. Week on Pitt's Campus



JIM BURKE/CDDC

Scholar **Cornel West** spoke to a standing-room-only audience in the William Pitt Union. The Jan. 23 lecture was part of the Black Action Society's "Black Week 2008" and was one of several campus events held to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Currently a professor of religion and African American studies at Princeton University, West is a provocative intellectual and a champion for racial justice. He urged audience members to seek truth, question long-held assumptions, and fight for group success, not solely personal success.

### EXPRESS YOURSELF



PHOTOS/MICHAEL HEATLEY/PITT NEWS



**Anire Mosley** (top), a prominent local artist, created live art during a Jan. 15 event to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. The evening was held on the William Pitt Union's lower level and participants were encouraged to express their feelings about King and the Civil Rights Movement. Music was provided by the Neo-Soul band Hambone Jenkins and lead singer Chassity Cheatham (bottom). The event was sponsored by PITT ARTS, August Wilson Center for African American Culture, and Pitt's Office of Cross-Cultural and Leadership Development.



# Pitt-sponsored *Fly Boys* Has World Premiere Screening Feb. 1

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repairmen, armament specialists, parachute riggers, control tower operators, and all other specializations required to comprise a fully functional Air Corps unit.

Although White pilots were not allowed to fly more than 52 missions, the Tuskegee Airmen often flew up to 100 missions because of lack of replacements. By the end of World War II, the 332nd Fighter Group of Tuskegee Airmen—which would become the largest fighter unit in the 15th Air Force—was made up of the original 99th Pursuit Squadron as well as the 101st and 103rd Pursuit Squadrons. The 332nd had flown 15,553 combat sorties on 1,578 missions and racked up 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, eight Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, and three Distinguished Unit Citations. And the airmen would go on to pursue stellar careers in an array of fields, from law and medicine to engineering, dentistry, pharmacy, education, the military, and politics.

The total number of Tuskegee Airmen known to have ties to Western Pennsylvania is 71; of those 71—who came from such communities as the Hill District, Sewickley, Belzhoover, and Homewood—26 are Pitt alumni, and six of the alumni are still living. They are:

- **Lee Archer**, who completed a Pitt finance certificate program, flew 169 missions and is the only confirmed ace of the Tuskegee Airmen, with five confirmed aerial victories against German Messerschmitt Bf 109 fighters. Also credited with destroying six enemy aircraft on the ground, Archer was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 18 Clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation, and many other service medals. He retired from the military in 1970 as a lieutenant colonel;

- **William Bailey**, College of Arts and Sciences '52, who first taught, then became a high school principal, and went on to serve as assistant superintendent for the Los Angeles School District;

- **Ed Harris**, College of Arts and Sciences '55, who carried his training as a bomber pilot with him during a military career that included 127 missions in the Korean War, receipt of the Distinguished Flying Cross, and retirement from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel;

- **Robert Higginbotham**, School of Medicine '57, who was called back by the military during the Korean War and ended his service as a first lieutenant, went on to become the first African American intern and resident at Sewickley Valley Hospital and then was a leading orthopedic surgeon in Los Angeles. Now retired and living in Rancho Mirage, Calif., he is part of a distinguished family. His brother, Mitchell,



The late Lt. Robert Nelson (center), a Pitt alumnus, with fellow airmen



Lt. Col. Edward Harris (right) steps up to enter an aircraft.

also a Tuskegee Airman, was commissioned as a second lieutenant, and now serves as an Ambassador of Goodwill for the Tuskegee Airmen. Robert Higginbotham's niece is Monique Higginbotham, an assistant professor of pediatrics in Pitt's School of Medicine and part of the Child Advocacy Center within Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. Another relative is NASA astronaut Joan Higginbotham. And the brothers' cousin was prominent author, civil rights advocate, and federal judge A. Leon Higginbotham (1928-1998), the first Black judge and youngest person ever appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; the first Black trustee of Yale University; the first African American appointed to any federal regulatory commission when President Kennedy appointed him to be a commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission; a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit through appointment by President Carter in 1977 and chief judge of that court from 1990 to 1991; and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton in 1995.



The late Lt. William Morgan (top), and Lt. R. Maurice Moss Jr., both Pitt alumni

- **Lynn V. Hooe**, College of Arts and Sciences '51, who went on to graduate from Wayne State University law school, became a member of the Michigan bar, pursued a career as a successful lawyer in Detroit, and served as a district magistrate in Detroit; and

- **Henry McCullough**, College of Business Administration '36, of Pittsburgh. In addition to the six alumni, former Pitt Trustee Wendell Freeland, a leading Pittsburgh attorney and civil rights activist who has been a member of the Pitt School of Social Work Board of Visitors since 1994, was a Tuskegee Airman.

*Fly Boys* includes the commentary of Archer, Harris, Robert and Mitchell Higginbotham, and Freeland.

"Let's get this clear," Robert Higginbotham says toward the beginning of the documentary. "It was an experiment. They didn't believe you could fly. They didn't believe you were smart enough to handle complicated machinery. Now who am I supposed to believe? Those people? Or am I supposed to believe me? Don't listen to what they think you can do. Do what you know you can do."

And that can-do attitude fostered by Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington is what the Tuskegee Airmen venture was all about, according to *Fly Boys* producer and host Chris Moore.

"The documentary starts with Tuskegee and the spirit of Booker T. Washington, proponent of making a person as self-reliant as possible," says Moore. "There are

buildings still in use on [the Tuskegee] campus today that were made from lumber students cut down, bricks they made, nails they made. Part of his self-reliant spirit was instilled in the Tuskegee Airmen: 'Yes, we can!'

"They [the airmen] were disciplined, trained, and trained, and over-trained, because no general really wanted them in the combat theater. But that's probably what made them so good when they finally got into combat. With all the discrimination that kept them back, they were trained so much better than the other [White] pilots that were rushed into combat. They [the airmen] weren't allowed in combat until April 1943, serving in North Africa. At first, they were used to fly close air cover support for ground combat groups, then to support bomber pilots in the reinvasion of Italy. By the end of 1943 and 1944, they were escorting bombers from Italy to Berlin.

"The Tuskegee Airmen made an original contribution to the Civil Rights Movement long before Dr. King," Moore adds. The first portion of *Fly Boys* details the background of the Tuskegee program, the discrimination the airmen had to endure, and their sterling combat record—including testimonials from White pilots whose lives they saved. The rest of the documentary concerns itself with the discrimination that persisted after the war, how the airmen dealt with it, and their contribution to the Civil Rights Movement.

In the documentary, the Western Pennsylvania Tuskegee Airmen explain "why they fought for the United States and are still very proud of what they did," Moore says. "These are very proud Americans who did what they had to do at a time when Fascism threatened to take over the world and, at the same time, they found discrimination at home. As a [Vietnam] veteran, I'm very proud of them and all that they did for this country."

*Fly Boys* concludes with the March 29, 2007, ceremony during which President Bush awarded the airmen gold medals on behalf of Congress, acknowledging the nation's debt to them and saying that "your story will be told and honored for generations to come."

The airmen also will be honored at "A Gathering of Eagles," a by-invitation luncheon to be held Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Senator John Heinz History Center. The event is being organized by Regis Bobonis Sr., vice president of the Daniel B. Matthews Historical Society in Sewickley, Pa. Bobonis has done extensive research on the Tuskegee Airmen, including those who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, and he served as historical consultant and an expert



The late Lt. James Wiley (left), a Pitt alumnus, is greeted by the Urban League of Pittsburgh Executive Director, Maurice Moss Sr. (Photo by Charles "Teenie" Harris, 1945, courtesy of Carnegie Museum of Art, Teenie Harris Archive.)



Benjamin O. Davis Jr., commander of the Tuskegee Airmen 332nd Fighter Group, stands next to a Republic P-47 Thunderbolt fighter plane. Davis was later promoted to general, the first African American Air Force general. His father was the first Black general in the U. S. Army.



Eleanor Roosevelt with Charles Alfred "Chief" Anderson

PHOTOS COURTESY OF REGIS BOBONIS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF REGIS BOBONIS

on-camera commentator for the *Fly Boys* documentary.

The program of Black History Month observances that the University of Pittsburgh inaugurated in 2004 was recently established as the K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month Program to honor the memory of the legendary Pennsylvania legislative leader and Pitt alumnus and former trustee. Irvis, who in 1977 became the first African American speaker of the House in Pennsylvania and the first Black speaker of any state house since Reconstruction, sponsored in 1966 the bill that made Pitt a state-related institution of higher education, thus saving the University from economic ruin.



# Awards & More

**Robert Hill**, Pitt's vice chancellor for public affairs, has been selected to participate in the final judging session for the MERCURY 2007/08 Awards, an international competition honoring outstanding achievement in corporate communications and public relations. The judging will take place Feb. 7 at the Ritz-Carlton Battery Park Hotel in New York City.



Robert Hill

**Savio Woo**, a University Professor of bioengineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, received the inaugural Diamond Award for Distinguished Achievement in Academia from the University of Washington's (UW) College of Engineering for his research in bioengineering. Woo received a master's degree in mechanical engineering and his doctoral degree in bioengineering from UW in 1966 and 1971, respectively.

Established in 2006, the Diamond Award honors outstanding alumni in industry in five categories. This year, the award was extended to recognize an outstanding alumnus for significant contributions to the field of engineering in academia. Woo and the four other Diamond Award recipients will be recognized at an event at UW May 30.

Throughout his career, Woo has focused on knee ligament healing and repair, particularly medial collateral and anterior cruciate ligaments (ACL), two of the knee's four major ligaments. More recently, his work has centered on functional tissue engineer-

ing of ligament healing and regeneration by examining the processes from molecular and cellular to tissue and organ levels, as well as the use of robotic technology to examine the function of the ACL replacement grafts.

He founded and directs Pitt's Musculoskeletal Research Center, a multidisciplinary research and educational center that has hosted more than 450 orthopaedic surgeons, bioengineering students, and staff. In 1990, Woo joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in Pitt's School of Medicine as the inaugural A. B. Ferguson Professor after 20 years at the University of California at San Diego. In 2004, Woo moved to Pitt's School of Engineering as a senior faculty member in the bioengineering department. Last year, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg appointed him University Professor, which is given in recognition of eminence in several fields of study, transcending accomplishment in, and contributions to, a single discipline.

**George A. Huber**, a professor of public health practice in the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH), has been appointed associate dean for public policy. In his new role, Huber will work to develop collaborations between GSPH and business, government, and nonprofit organizations to increase the school's impact on public health policy and practice.



George A. Huber

At GSPH, Huber is leading a team to address complex public health policy issues to speed improvements and innovations in the management and delivery of public services at the local, state, and national levels. He also will assist in the translation of research findings to help improve public health.

Prior to joining GSPH, Huber retired from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where he was a senior vice president and general counsel for more than 30 years. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, master's degrees in industrial engineering and systems management from Pitt and the

University of Southern California, respectively, and a juris doctorate degree from Duquesne University School of Law.

**Dennis Curran**, Distinguished Service Professor of Chemistry and Bayer Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, won the 2007 Harry and Carol Mosher Award. The Mosher award is given annually by the Santa Clara Valley (California) section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). The award is given to those who recognize and encourage outstanding work in chemistry, advance chemistry as a profession, and provide service to ACS. Curran's research focuses on natural products total synthesis, new synthetic methods, and stereochemistry.

The award is named for the late Harry S. Mosher of Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., and his wife, Carol W. Mosher of SRI International, Menlo Park, Calif., charter members and long-time supporters of the ACS Santa Clara Valley section.

The Modern Language Association of America (MLA) presented an award to the University of Toronto Press, the publisher of Pitt professor **Lina N. Insana's** book, *Arduous Tasks: Primo Levi, Translation, and the Transmission of Holocaust Testimony*.

The MLA's 10th Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Series carries an \$8,000 cash award. Insana, an assistant professor of Italian, received a check for \$2,000 and a certificate.

The citation by the MLA selection committee said Insana's *Arduous Tasks* "constitutes a significant contribution both to our understanding of Primo Levi's work and to the study of the Holocaust."

Insana received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Pitt and her doctorate degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Patricia D. Kroboth**, dean of the University's School of Pharmacy, has been elected

the 2008 Council of Deans chair for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), the national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators comprising all 105 U.S. colleges and schools of pharmacy. AACP was founded in 1900 and is committed to excellence in pharmacy education.



Patricia D. Kroboth

**Ellen Frank**, professor of psychiatry and psychology in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, has been selected by the American College of Psychiatrists to receive the 2008 Award for Research in Mood Disorders. The award is given to an individual who has advanced the understanding and treatment of mood disorders. Frank has pursued a program of clinically relevant research on the psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy of recurrent mood disorders, resulting in significant changes in the treatment of depression and bipolar disorder.



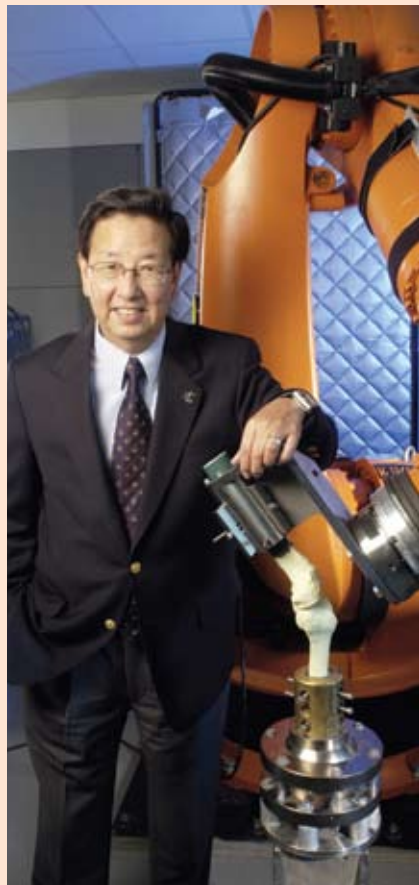
Ellen Frank

**Janice Pringle**, research assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics in Pitt's School of Pharmacy, was an invited clinical expert in a studio-taped roundtable debate for the program *The Physician's Role in Guiding Patients to Improved Medication Adherence*, hosted by AstraZeneca and Advogent.

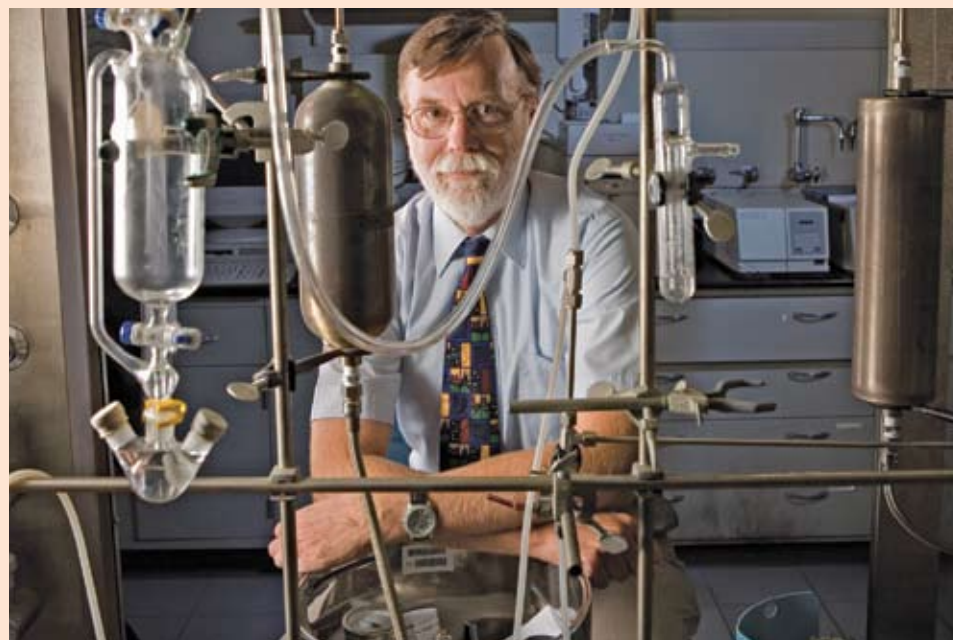
**Baily's Beads**, the literary magazine of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, has been recognized by the prestigious Columbia (University) Scholastic Press Association as one of the 12 best college literary magazines in the United States.

The international student press association will announce whether *Baily's Beads* has won a Gold (for the top six magazines) or Silver Crown Award during the association's awards convocation March 16 in New York City. The 12 finalists were chosen from among 1,882 newspapers, magazines, and yearbooks published in the 2008 Crown Awards Program.

It is the second time *Baily's Beads*, edited by Lance Maybury in 2007, has been so honored. The magazine earned a Silver Crown in 2005.



Savio Woo



Dennis Curran



# UPCI Researchers Discover Virus Linked to Skin Cancer

Continued from Page 1

group of genetic transcripts that might be from a foreign organism.

One sequence was similar to but distinct from all known viruses. The team went on to show that this sequence belonged to a new polyomavirus present in eight of 10 (80 percent) Merkel cell tumors they tested but only five of 59 (8 percent) control tissues from various body sites and four of 25 (16 percent) control skin tissues.

Although MCV is most commonly found in Merkel cell tumors, it also can be found in healthy people. The most important distinguishing feature is that MCV integrates into tumor cells in what is known as a monoclonal pattern, indicating that it infects the cell before the cell becomes cancerous. Tests on six of the eight MCV-positive tumors confirmed that viral DNA was integrated within the tumor genome in this monoclonal pattern, suggesting that infection with MCV could be a trigger for tumor formation. The Pittsburgh team subsequently has confirmed these results with additional tumor specimens.

Clues from elsewhere in the biomedical

**Moore and Chang discovered Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) in 1993. KSHV, which causes Kaposi's sarcoma, is the most common malignancy in AIDS patients and the most common cancer in Africa. To find KSHV, Moore and Chang used a different method to physically subtract human genetic sequences from Kaposi's sarcoma tumors, leaving fragments of viral DNA.**

literature point to the existence of MCV, which has a genetic structure that is closely related to an African green monkey virus found in Germany in the 1970s. Researchers have found antibody evidence from blood tests that indicates some 15 to 25 percent of adults are infected with the still undiscovered human relative of this monkey virus. If MCV turns out to be this long-sought infection, then more than 1 billion people worldwide could already be infected.

"But again, look to the example of HPV," said Moore. "Although up to 50 percent of sexually active young women are infected with HPV, a small proportion may actually get cervical cancer."

Even if MCV is proven to play a role in MCC, Chang also cautioned that the virus is likely to be just a part of a much larger picture.

"Now we need to find out how it works," she said. "Once the virus integrates, it could express an oncoprotein, or it could knock out a

gene that suppresses tumor growth. Either way, the results are bound to be interesting."

Moore and Chang discovered Kaposi's



sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) in 1993. KSHV, which causes Kaposi's sarcoma, is the most common malignancy in AIDS patients and the most common cancer in Africa. To find KSHV, Moore and Chang used a different method to physically subtract human genetic sequences from Kaposi's sarcoma tumors, leaving fragments of viral DNA.

Viruses, and some bacteria and parasites, are estimated to cause at least 20 percent of cancers worldwide. Over the past 40 years, few cancer-causing viruses have been confirmed in humans, including KSHV. Most of these viruses express cancer-causing proteins, called oncoproteins, in infected cells. Polyomaviruses, including MCV, possess an oncoprotein that has been shown to cause cancer after infection in animals. If MCV is confirmed to play a role in human cancer, it will be the eighth human tumor virus discovered.

Funding for the study was provided by the National Institutes of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

## Kuntu Presents Journey of the Spirits: A Celebration of Gospel Music

Journey of the  
Spirits:  
A Celebration of Gospel Music

By Ernest McCarty  
Directed by Herb Newsome  
January 24-February 9, 2008



University of Pittsburgh • Alumni Hall  
4227 Fifth Avenue (Between Lytton and Tennyson avenues)  
Seventh Floor Auditorium  
412-624-7298 • www.kuntu.org

By Sharon S. Blake

The University-based Kuntu Repertory Theatre continues its 2007-08 season with *Journey of the Spirits: A Celebration of Gospel Music*, written by Ernest McCarty.

Performances continue through Feb. 9, running Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 4 p.m. and a Saturday, Feb. 2, matinee at 1 p.m.

They are held in the Seventh-Floor Auditorium of Alumni Hall.

McCarty, a Chicago native, has authored more than 25 plays in a writing career that spans 30 years. McCarty is the recipient of two Onyx Awards—Best Director for *Purlie Victorious* and Best Producer for Charles Randolph Wright's *Blue*. He was named the 1998 Prolific Playwright by *In Pittsburgh*. His play *Recollection Rag (The Exchange)* received the Hoyt W. Fuller One-Act Play Festival Award, and his play *Madame Hortense* received a Joseph Jefferson Award.

Multifaceted performer Herb Newsome will serve as director of *Journey of the Spirits*. Newsome's directorial credits include *In Devil's Heaven* at the Manhattan Theatre Source; *Forgivable Sins*, which was a finalist in the Samuel French One-Act Festival; and a national tour of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* for the National Theatre of Arts and Education. He also appeared in the film *The Brother From Another Planet* and had a role on the daily CBS serial *Guiding Light*. Newsome made his Kuntu directing debut with *Sing Black Hammer* in 2006.

*Journey of the Spirits* musicians will include McCarty and Patrick Sousoff, keyboards; Dwayne Dolphin, bass; Carlos Johnson, guitar; and William Jevon Rushton, drums. The cast includes actors Ben Blakey, Joseph Edgars, Marcia L. Jones, Katrina Bello, Teri Bridgett, Dante Snooks, Lamar "Quest" Fields, Stevie Akers, Jada Ginyard, Ashley Coney, Terri Smith, Tasha Michelle, Jacen Morris, Delana Flowers, and Twyla Glasgow.

Kuntu is celebrating 33 years of Black theater with a season of new plays and old favorites. Admission is \$20 for adults; \$14 for Pitt staff and faculty; \$13 for senior citizens, students, and children ages 4-18; and \$5 for Pitt students with a valid ID. Groups of 10 or more receive 25 percent off the single-ticket price. For more information, call 412-624-7298.

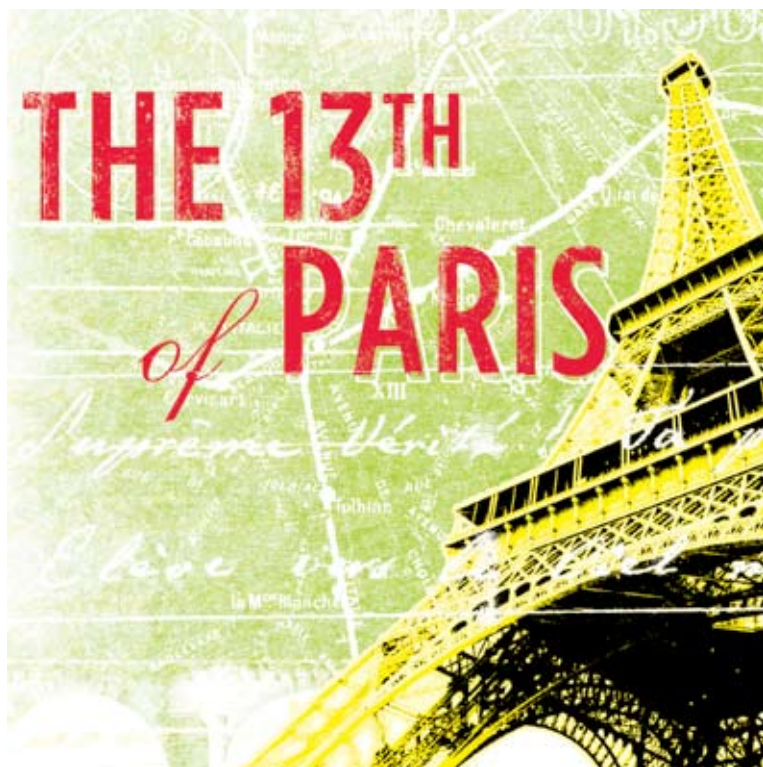
## Portraits of Local Influential Women at Heinz Center



Portraits of E. Maxine Bruhns (left), director of Pitt's Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs, and Arcangela Balest (right), a graduate of Pitt's School of Medicine and chair of Pitt's Italian Nationality Room, are part of the *Pittsburgh Recast* exhibition at the Senator John Heinz History Center. The show, which runs through the end of March, features artwork by members of the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators. The exhibition is part of a year of festivities to celebrate the City of Pittsburgh's 250-year history. Balest is a neonatologist at Allegheny General Hospital. Artist Gina Antognoli Scanlon said of her entries, "I chose to paint a series of influential women representing various fields of accomplishment." (Photos courtesy of Gina Antognoli Scanlon)



# Happenings



The 13th of Paris, City Theater, through February 17

## Concerts

**Sweeney Todd**, Jan. 29-Feb. 3, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-394-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

**Christina Farrell**, *Opera American Style*, 7 p.m. Jan. 30, Ferguson Theater, Pitt-Greensburg, Greensburg American Opera, 724-972-1031, www.upg.pitt.edu.

**The Baltimore Consort**, Adew Dundee, early and traditional music of Scotland, 8 p.m. Feb. 2, Synod Hall, 125 N. Craig St., Oakland, Renaissance and Baroque Society of Pittsburgh, 412-361-2048, www.rbps.org.

**Band of Coldstream Guards**, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-394-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

## Exhibitions

**Olympic Exhibition and Tea House**, 3-9 p.m. today, William Pitt Union Ballroom, part of Chinese Culture Exhibition Month, Pitt Chinese Students and Scholars Association, 412-648-9523.

**Hillman Library**, Audubon print, *The American Robin*, through today; *Three-toed Woodpecker*, Jan. 29-Feb. 11, 412-648-7715.

**Silver Eye Center for Photography**, *Fellowship 2007*, through Feb. 2, 1015 E. Carson St., South Side, 412-431-1810, www.silvereye.org.

**Carnegie Museum of Art**, *Design to Be Lit*, through Feb. 10; *Forum 61: Lowry Burgess*, through March 23; *Great British Art: 200 Years of Watercolors, Drawings, and Prints From the Bank of New York Mellon Collection*, through May 18, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

**709 Penn Gallery**, *Celebrating Life and Death in West Africa*, through Feb. 22, 709 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

**Society for Contemporary Craft**, *Nick Cave*, through Feb. 23, 2100 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-261-7003, www.contemporarycraft.org.

**Phipps Conservatory**, *Chihuly at*

*Phipps: Garden and Glass*, through Feb. 24, 1 Schenley Park, Oakland, 412-622-6914, www.phipps.conservatory.org.

**KOA Art Gallery**, *A Boundless Journey* by Dennis Driscoll, through Feb. 29, Blaisdell Hall, Pitt-Bradford, 814-362-0248, www.upb.pitt.edu.

**707 Penn Gallery**, *Totally Maybe*, through March 1, 707 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

**SPACE Gallery**, *Hot Metal*, through March 15, 812 Liberty Ave., Downtown, 412-325-7723, www.spacepittsburgh.org.

**Andy Warhol Museum**, *Ron Mueck at the Andy Warhol Museum*, through March 30; *Canis Major: Andy Warhol's Cats and Dogs (and Other Party Animals)* through May 4, 117 Sandusky St., Northside, 412-237-8300, www.warhol.org.

**Manchester Craftsmen's Guild**, *One Potter's Touch Affects a Generation of Artists and Their Communities*, Kerr Gallery, through April 4, 1815 Metropolitan St., North Side, 412-322-1773, www.manchesterguild.org.

**Wood Street Gallery**, *Urban Living*, through April 5, 601 Wood St., Downtown, 412-471-5605, www.woodstreetgalleries.org.

**Mattress Factory**, *Gestures: Illustrations of Catastrophe and Remote Times*, through May 11, 500 Sampsonia Way, Northside, 412-231-3169, www.mattress.org.

**Carnegie Science Center**, *Bodies: The Exhibition*, through May 31, 1 Allegheny Ave., North Shore, 412-237-3400, www.carnegiesciencecenter.org.

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**"Understanding China: Five Essential Themes,"** Diana Wood, coordinator for the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia, 7-8:30 p.m. today, Winchester Thurston School, City Campus, 555 Morewood Ave., Shadyside, 412-578-7523, www.winchesthursston.org.

**Roddy Doyle**, author, 7 p.m. today, Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Drue Heinz Lectures, 412-622-8866, www.pittsburghlectures.org.

**"Buddhism in Contemporary Chinese Society,"** Hongyu Wu, Pitt PhD candidate in religious studies, 8 p.m. Jan. 29, Sutherland Hall, Pitt Global Studies Program, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**"A Geophysical Perspective Regarding Russian Gas and Oil Deposits and European Energy Requirements,"** William Harbert, Pitt professor of geophysics, noon Jan. 30, 4217 Posvar Hall, Pitt Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies, 412-648-7407, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**"Bringing Europe to Pittsburgh,"** Ronald Brand, Pitt law professor, noon Jan. 30, Alcoa Room, Law School, Pitt Center for International Legal Education, 412-383-6754, cile@pitt.edu.

**Terrance Hayes**, Pushcart Prize winner, 8 p.m. Jan. 30, Carnegie Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, International Poetry Forum, 412-621-9893, www.thepoetryforum.org.

**Forum on Global Warming Solutions**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 31, Student Union Cambria Room, Pitt-Johnstown, 814-269-2992, mlavine@pitt.edu.

**"Making the Fullest Use of Japanese Databases: How to Get Articles, How to Find Information,"** Hiro Good, Pitt's East Asian Library, noon Jan. 31, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, 412-648-7370, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**"The European Union: The Empire of Good Intentions,"** Derk Jan Eppink, former cabinet member of the European Commission, noon Jan. 31, 4217 Posvar Hall, Pitt European Studies Center, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**"Influence of Land Use, Climate Variability, and Stream Restoration on Nitrogen Dynamics in Watersheds,"** Sujay Kaushal, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory at the University of Maryland, 4 p.m. Jan. 31, 203 Thaw Hall, Pitt Department of Geology and Planetary Science, 412-624-8780, www.geology.pitt.edu.

**"Music of the Caribbean,"** two lectures, Matthew Smith, professor of history at the University of the West-Indies Mona, Jorge Giovanetti, professor at the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Pedras, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Jan. 31, 837 William Pitt Union, Pitt Center for Latin American Studies, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**Merle Collins**, poet and author, 8 p.m. Jan. 31, Kurtzman Room, William Pitt Union, Pitt Global Studies Program, 412-624-2824, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**"How Null Hypothesis Testing Obscures Progress in Psychology,"** Edouard Machery, Pitt professor of history and philosophy of science, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 1, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr.

**Somei Satoh**, composer of gendai hogaku (contemporary traditional music), 4 p.m. Feb. 1, 132 Music Building, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

**Nineteenth-annual African American Read-In Chain**, 3 p.m. Feb. 3, First Baptist Church library, 159 N. Bellefield Ave., Oakland. Free and open to the public. For more information, e-mail ogleduff@pitt.edu.

**Jonas T. Johnson**, the Dr. Eugene N. Myers Chair in Otolaryngology for Medicine, 4:30 p.m., Feb. 5, 2500 Posvar Hall, Provost's Inaugural Lectures, www.provost.pitt.edu.

**"Musings on the Saffron Revolution: Is There Hope for Burma?"** Aung Thwin, director of the Burma Project/Southeast Asia Initiative of the Open Society Institute, 7 p.m. Feb. 5, 4130 Posvar Hall, Global Issues Lecture Series, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**Dan Savage**, advice columnist, 8:45 p.m. Feb. 5, 121 David Lawrence Hall, Pitt Rainbow Alliance, 412-648-2105, rainbowofficeadmin@gmail.com.

## Miscellaneous

**Who Killed the Electric Car?** film screening, 7 p.m. Jan. 31, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Global Studies Program, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**My Life in Pink**, film screening, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31, G24 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Women's Studies Program, www.pitt.edu/~wstudies.

**Umm Kulthum: A Voice Like Egypt**, film screening, 7 p.m. Feb. 1, Frick Fine Arts Building, Pitt Global Studies Program, Reel Voices From the Middle East film series, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**Girls and Women in Sports Festival**, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 2, Petersen Events Center, Magee Womens Hospital of UPMC, 412-624-7488.

**Spring Festival Stage Show and Tea House**, from 3 p.m. on Feb. 3, part of Chinese Culture Exhibition Month, William Pitt Union, Pitt Chinese Students and Scholars Association, register at 412-648-9523.

**Pittsburgh Nonprofit Job and Internship Fair**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 5, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Pitt Career Services, 412-648-7130, www.careers.pitt.edu.

**Film Screenings**, 7 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays, through Feb. 29, Swanson School of Engineering Auditorium, part of Chinese Culture Exhibition Month, Pitt Chinese Students and Scholars Association, 412-648-9523, film listings at www.pittcssa.net.

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**The Truth-Teller** by Joyce Carol Oates and **Phaedra's Love** by Sarah Kane, Jan. 30-Feb. 3, Studio Theatre, B-72 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Repertory Theatre, 412-624-7529, www.play.pitt.edu.

**Preserve and Pursue**, Feb. 1-6, New Hazlett Theater, 6 Allegheny Square East, Downtown, Attack Theatre, 412-320-4160, www.newhazletttheater.org.

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, through Feb. 3, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, 412-539-0900, www.pittsburghmusicals.com.

**Flight**, through Feb. 3, CAPA Theater, 111 9th Street, Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-281-0912, www.pittsburghopera.org.

**Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death**, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5-6, Theater Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Classical Theatre of Harlem, 212-564-9983, www.classicaltheatreofharlem.org.

**Journey of the Spirit: A History of Gospel Music** by Ernest McCarty, through Feb. 9, Kuntu Repertory Theatre, Seventh Floor Auditorium, Alumni Hall, 412-624-7298, www.kuntu.org.

**The 13th of Paris** by Mat Smart, through Feb. 17, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

**Disney's The Lion King**, through Feb. 17, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty

Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America Series, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

**Vagina Monologues** by Eve Ensler, through Feb. 17, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

**Amadeus**, through Feb. 24, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org.

**The Big Bang**, through April 27, Theater Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, CLO Cabaret Theater, 412-281-2822, www.clocabaret.com.

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Samar R. El Khoudary**, Department of Epidemiology, "New Therapeutic Option and Insights Into the Impact of Symptom Severity on Quality of Life in Women With Interstitial Cystitis," 2-4 p.m. today, A523 Graduate School of Public Health.

**Dev Chandra**, School of Medicine/Molecular Pharmacology, "Extrasynaptic GABA-A Receptors in the Mechanism of Action of Ethanol," 2 p.m. Jan. 29, 1395 Biomedical Science Tower.

**Jeffrey Jacobson**, School of Information Sciences, "Ancient Architecture in Virtual Reality: Does Immersion Really Aid Learning?" 3:30-5:30 p.m. Jan. 29, Earth Theater, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

**Anne-Elizabeth McGeary**, Graduate School of Public Health, "One Thing Leads to Another," 1 p.m. Jan. 31, 226 Parran Hall.

**Yong He**, Department of Bioengineering, "Regulation of Arterial Gap Junctions by Mechanical Factors: An Ex Vivo Study," 12:15 p.m. Feb. 1, Conference Room A, 229 Bridgeside Point Building, 100 Technology Dr., Hazelwood.

**Suely Hiromi Tuboi**, Department of Epidemiology, "Effectiveness of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy in HIV Patients in Resource-Limited Settings," 1:30-4:30 p.m. Feb. 1, A523 Epidemiology Room, Graduate School of Public Health.

**Jonas Johnson**, School of Medicine, "Medical Advances and the Challenge for Continuing Self-improvement," 4:30 p.m. Feb. 5, 2500 Posvar Hall.

## Workshops

**"High-Risk Student Alcohol Use,"** Faculty Lunch and Learn Workshop, noon-1 p.m. Jan. 29, Lower Lounge, William Pitt Union, Pitt Student Health Services, register at 412-383-1830.

**K24: Midcareer Investigator Awards in Patient-Oriented Research**, Clayton Wiley, Pitt professor of neuropathology, and Michael Fine, Pitt professor of medicine, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 30, S100 Biomedical Science Tower, Pitt Office of Academic Career Development, www.oacd.health.pitt.edu.

**Job Searching for Chemical Pro-**





## Colin MacCabe's Film, *Derek*, to Show in Berlin After Sundance Premiere

By Patricia Lomando White

*Derek*, a documentary film produced by University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Professor of English and Film Colin MacCabe, will be screened at the Berlin International Film Festival in February. The film premiered Jan. 19 in the world documentary category at the Sundance Film Festival, held annually in Park City, Utah.

A tribute to British independent filmmaker Derek Jarman, the film was written and is narrated by internationally acclaimed actress Tilda Swinton; directed by Isaac Julien, a 2006 visiting Andrew Mellon Professor in Pitt's Department of English in the School of Arts and Sciences; and produced, in addition to MacCabe, by Julien and Eliza Mellor.

The description from the Sundance Web site reads: "*Derek* is a glorious, yet fitting remembrance of one of independent film's greatest treasures, Derek Jarman. It is lovingly crafted by filmmaker and friend Isaac Julien, who assembles a moving collage of rare home movies, film clips, and interviews, and a cinematic love letter from actress Tilda Swinton. Her input serves as the poetic overlay telling the whole truth about the life Jarman led, and the cultural abyss left by his absence."

In 2006, Swinton visited Pitt for a screening and discussion of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (2005), in which she starred as the witch. During her appearance, she, MacCabe, and Julien also participated in a dialogue and Pitt's Film Studies Program screened Jarman's *Edward II* (1991). The visit was a crucial part of the planning of *Derek*, said MacCabe.

Swinton began working with Jarman after a stint with the prestigious Royal Shakespeare Company in 1983 and had a starring role in his film *Caravaggio*, in 1986, which MacCabe executive produced. She worked for Jarman for the next seven years, concluding with her role in *Edward II*. Following Jarman's death in 1994 and the birth of her children, Swinton withdrew from acting, but returned to the screen in 1998 in *Love Is the Devil*, directed by John



Colin MacCabe

Maybury. In 2005, Swinton played Penny in Jim Jarmusch's *Broken Flowers* and housewife Audrey Cobb in the Mike Mills film adaptation of the novel *Thumbsucker*, in addition to her role in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. This year, her role as Karen Crowder in *Michael Clayton* earned her nominations for best supporting actress in the Golden Globes, the Oscars, and the British Academy of Film and Television.

MacCabe teaches literature and film at Pitt. His research interests include a history of English since 1500, psychoanalysis, James Joyce, and linguistics. MacCabe is the author of *James Joyce and the Revolution of the Word* (Palgrave, 2002, 2nd edition), *Godard: Portrait of the Artist at 70* (Bloomsbury, 2002), and *Diary of a Young Soul Rebel* (British Film Institute, 1991) with Julien. MacCabe also edits the journal *Critical Quarterly*. His most recent books are *T.S. Eliot* (The British Council, 2006) and *The Butcher Boy* (Irish Film Institute, 2007).

A former head of research at the British Film Institute in London, MacCabe worked with Jarman on his award-winning *Caravaggio*. MacCabe's *A Personal Journey With Martin Scorsese Through American Movies*, a 1995 documentary on the history of American cinema, was the centerpiece of a 16-part history of world cinema titled *100 Years of Cinema*. In 2005, MacCabe co-organized and coproduced a world

premiere media installation of the latest work by French filmmaker Chris Marker at The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

MacCabe worked with Julien on the Cannes prize-winning *Young Soul Rebels* (1991), and when MacCabe set up his own production company, Minerva Pictures, in 1998, one of his major ambitions was to get Julien working for the cinema again. The first result of this was the hit *Baadasssss Cinema* (Independent Film Channel, 2002).

During Julien's visit to Pitt for the James Snead Conference in March 2003, MacCabe showed Julien footage from a daylong interview that he had recorded with Jarman in October 1990, to be used after Jarman's death. According to MacCabe, Julien was entranced by the possibilities that the project offered. "It combined art and film, television and cinema, and it demanded a fine and detailed construction of a mosaic, which would also be the simple story of a life," said Julien. "I felt that this film was what I had been moving towards for 20 years. I could use all my artistic investigations of color and form in this bricolage of formats. But I could also use my experiments in documentary and fiction to tell a story."

MacCabe received a grant of \$1,060,000 in 2007 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the United Kingdom to fund his research project, "Colonial Film: Moving Images of the British Empire." With the award, MacCabe will catalogue a collection of more than 6,000 British films from pre-1900 productions to television-era programming.

**A tribute to British independent filmmaker Derek Jarman, the film was written and is narrated by internationally acclaimed actress Tilda Swinton; directed by Isaac Julien, a 2006 visiting Andrew Mellon Professor in Pitt's Department of English; and produced, in addition to MacCabe, by Julien and Eliza Mellor.**

Julien was born in London, where he lives and works. A 1984 graduate of St Martin's School of Art, Julien studied painting and fine art film. He founded Sankofa Film and Video Collective, and was a founding member of Normal Films in 1999.

Julien was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2001 for his films *The Long Road to Mazatlán* (1999), made in collaboration with Javier de Frutos, and *Vagabondia* (2000), choreographed by de Frutos. Earlier works include *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask* (1996), the acclaimed poetic documentary

*Looking for Langston* (1989), and *Young Soul Rebels*. In 2001, he received the prestigious MIT Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts and in 2003 won the Grand Jury Prize at the Kunstfilm Biennale in Cologne for his single screen version of *Baltimore*.

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Feb. 4. **Items for publication in the newspaper's Happenings calendar (see page 7) should be received six working days prior to the desired publication date.** *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 may be e-mailed to [chron@pitt.edu](mailto:chron@pitt.edu), faxed to 412-624-4895, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail [robinet@pitt.edu](mailto:robinet@pitt.edu).