

## Maxwell King Is Pitt's Honors Convocation Speaker

32nd annual event to be held Feb. 29 at Carnegie Music Hall

By Linda K. Schmitmeyer

Maxwell King, who served as president of The Heinz Endowments from 1999 to Jan. 15, 2008, will be the keynote speaker at the University of Pittsburgh's 32nd annual Honors Convocation on Feb. 29.

The event will be held at 2 p.m. in Carnegie Music Hall. King's address is titled "Hard Times on Planet Earth: How Human Ingenuity Has Gotten Us in Trouble With the Natural World and How It Can Help Us Build a Model of Stewardship for the Future."

Prior to his address, King will have an honorary doctoral degree conferred upon him by Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, who will preside over the event, which recognizes undergraduate, graduate, and professional student academic achievement; student leadership; and faculty accomplishments.

During King's tenure, the Endowments awarded about \$500 million in grants to projects, organizations, and initiatives, most of them in Western Pennsylvania. His tenure was marked by strong leadership on environmental issues and in advocating for more economic opportunities for the disadvantaged—especially for women and underrepresented groups that have had limited access to the most influential positions in regional life. Other areas in which he made significant contributions were in



Maxwell King

the promotion of literacy, civic design, early childhood education, and academic reform in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

King served on the executive committee of the Riverlife Task Force, which has for the first time in Pittsburgh's history set development standards and underwritten signature projects along the city's three rivers. He led a collaboration with two other

foundations that suspended funding for the Pittsburgh Public Schools, spurring creation of a community-reform process that would improve governance and management and lead to an academic reform plan.

King is board chair of the national Council on Foundations and past chair of the council's Ethics and Practices Committee. Locally, he has served on the Committee to Enhance Efficiency and Effectiveness of County and City Government, the Mayor's Commission on Public Education, the Pittsburgh Public Service Fund Board, the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics Board of Fellows, and the board of the Senator John Heinz History Center. He also has been a board member of The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse.

King is the recipient of the inaugural Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award,

presented by the Coro Fellows Program for young professionals, and the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics' Coleman

Award, presented for excellence in leadership service to Western Pennsylvania.

From 1990 to 1998, King was editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He served as chair of the Values and Ethics Committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and is a founding member of the Committee of Concerned Journalists.

King received his Bachelor of Arts cum laude from Harvard University in 1967, and he attended the Stanford Executive Program at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

As just-retired president, King will serve in an advisory role at the foundation through May. Robert F. Vagt, formerly president of Davidson College in North Carolina, succeeded him on Jan. 15.

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## Mellon Foundation Grant to Support "Cyberscholarship" Program

By Jasmine Hoffman

The University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences (SIS) has received a five-year, \$782,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the development of a graduate research program designed to understand and influence the emergence of digital communication and research in academia, known as cyberscholarship.

The grant also provides resources to hire a professor who will work within SIS and Pitt's University Library System to explore how disciplines are re-examining scholarly priorities, reshaping methodologies, and redefining evidence bases as a result of new media and new tools, according to SIS Dean and Professor Ronald L. Larsen, who will lead the program.

"This work will help to determine what information professionals need to know about individual disciplines, and specifically their use and management of information, in order to be more effective partners in the scholarly process of advancing knowledge," Larsen

said. "This grant will position SIS and Pitt to be leaders in understanding advances in scholarly communication resulting from new media and the influence of data-intensive scholarship on society."

SIS is one of the nation's pioneering schools for information professionals with a history that dates back more than 100 years. SIS is nationally recognized as a leading school in scholarly research and communication and is a founding member of the iSchool Consortium which comprises 19 leading information sciences institutions, including the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Michigan.

Since 1979, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has donated more than \$10 million to Pitt in support of research in the arts and sciences. This grant is part of the University's Building Our Future Together capital campaign, the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of both Pitt and Southwestern Pennsylvania. To date, the campaign has raised more than \$1.2 billion.

**SIS Dean Ronald L. Larsen, who will lead the program, says, "The grant will position SIS and Pitt to be leaders in understanding advances in scholarly communication resulting from new media and the influence of data-intensive scholarship on society."**

## New Law Class Focuses on Climate Change



By Patricia Lomando White

Google "climate change" and you'll get more than 24 million hits, from a Wikipedia definition to a *New York Times* story on global warming to YouTube's "The Most Terrifying Video You'll Ever See." The world is taking notice and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law is no exception. This term, from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Pitt is offering a new law course, Climate Change and the Law.

Jennifer Smokelin—a 1992 summa cum laude Pitt law alumna and an attorney at Reed Smith, Downtown—developed Pitt's multidisciplinary course, which offers students a three-pronged approach to the issue, making the course appropriate for law, business, and engineering students. The course is designed to help students understand the

science, law, and business of climate change by exploring the problems of global warming and climate change, law and policy, and corporate environmental strategy.

"Only by understanding these three areas can this budding legal community adequately grasp the magnitude of this issue and begin to address it," said Smokelin, who earned her bachelor's of science degree in engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.

To accomplish this goal, Smokelin has recruited the help of two guest lecturers: M. Granger Morgan and John Fillo. Morgan is the Carnegie Mellon University Lord Chair Professor in Engineering, professor

*Continued on Page 6*

# Briefly Noted



Vernell A. Lillie

## Kuntu Treasures Displayed Downtown This Month

An extraordinary collection of treasures from Pitt's Kuntu Repertory Theatre will be on display weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 6-29 in the lobby of the City-County Building, 414 Grant St., Downtown.

The exhibition, titled "Telling Our Stories," is part of the Citiparks 2008 celebration of Black History Month.

Photographs, historic posters, costumes, props, and pieces of sets from past Kuntu productions will be featured throughout the lobby. Since its founding in 1974, Kuntu has produced more than 80 plays by African American writers, including the works of Rob Penny, August Wilson, and Kathleen Collins.

As part of the overall Pittsburgh 250 celebration, the materials will represent four plays with distinct ties to Pittsburgh: *Among the Best: Pittsburgh Crawfords and the Homestead Grays*; *Sweet Thunder: The Billy Strayhorn Story*; *Crawford Grill Presents Billie Holiday!*; and *Clean Drums*. A brief video, produced by Pittsburgh Filmmakers and City Channel Pittsburgh, will provide an overview of the display as well as the history of Kuntu—the oldest and largest continuing African American performing arts organization in Pittsburgh.

To kick off the exhibition's opening, a free public reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 5 in the City-County Building lobby. Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and Vernell A. Lillie, Kuntu's founder, producing artistic director, and a Pitt professor emerita of Africana Studies, are scheduled to make remarks.

The cast of the current Kuntu production, *Journey of the Spirits*, will be on hand to perform Gospel music, and attendees will receive refreshments, a souvenir booklet, and a commemorative poster.

—By Sharon S. Blake

## National Security Expert to Address Government Secrecy Today

Government secrecy is necessary in many matters of national security, but classifying information often is misused to shield incompetence and evade accountability, says Steven Aftergood, a senior research analyst at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), a nonprofit national organization of scientists and engineers concerned with national security policy.

Aftergood presents his lecture, "The Challenge of Government Secrecy," today at 4:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Frick Fine Arts Building. The free public lecture is hosted by the University of

Pittsburgh's Institute for Information Ethics and Policy in the School of Information Sciences in partnership with the Johnson Institute for Responsible Government in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

Aftergood will discuss both the just and wrongful classification of information in such current controversies as domestic surveillance and the detention and interrogation of suspected enemy combatants. He will focus on the friction between impulsive government secrecy and such societal values as freedom of the press, democratic decision-making, and government accountability.

Aftergood specializes in national security information and intelligence policies at FAS and directs the FAS Project on Government Secrecy, which works to reduce the scope of official secrecy and reform governmental security practices. He is an electrical engineer by training and has published research in solid-state physics. He joined FAS in 1989.

In 1997, Aftergood was the plaintiff in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the Central Intelligence Agency that led to the declassification and publication of the total intelligence budget—\$26.6 billion in 1997—for the first time in 50 years. In 2006, he won a ruling against the National Reconnaissance Office requiring that agency to disclose unclassified budget records.

Aftergood writes and edits *Secrecy News*, an e-mail newsletter and blog read by more than 10,000 subscribers in the media, government, and general public.

—By Morgan Kelly

## Pitt Hosts Poet Ellen Bass for Reading Feb. 6



Ellen Bass

Poet Ellen Bass will give a reading at 8:30 p.m. in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. The event is part of the 2007-08 Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series season.

Bass' poetry has appeared in hundreds of journals and anthologies, including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Ms.*, *The American Poetry Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *Field*. She was awarded the Ellison Book Award for Poetry from the University of Cincinnati, the Nimrod/Hardmans Pablo Neruda Prize, The Missouri Reviews' Larry Levis Award, the Greensboro Poetry Prize, the New Letters Poetry Prize, The Chautauqua Poetry Prize, a Pushcart Prize, and a Fellowship from the California Arts Council.

Her nonfiction books include *Free Your Mind: The Book for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth* (Harper Collins, 1996) and *I Never Told Anyone: Writings by Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse* (Harper Collins, 1988), which sold more than a million copies and has been translated into 10 languages.

Bass has taught poetry and creative writing in Santa Cruz, Calif., and other locations nationally and internationally, since 1974.

Her fourth book of poems, *The Human Line* (Copper Canyon Press, 2007), was published in June 2007.

The Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series, which runs through April 2, is cosponsored by Pitt's Book Center, Women's Studies Program, and the University of Pittsburgh Press. All events in the Writers Series are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jeff Oaks at oaks@pitt.edu.

—By Anthony M. Moore

## Noted Linguist George Lakoff to Speak at Pitt Law Seminar Feb. 8

By Patricia Lomando White

George Lakoff, a noted linguist and a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, will deliver the keynote lecture during a daylong University of Pittsburgh School of Law seminar.

The seminar, from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., will be held in the Barco Law Building's Teplitz Memorial Courtroom. Lakoff will speak from noon to 1:15 p.m. and his talk is titled "The 21st-Century Brain: Why It Matters for the Academic and Political Worlds."

Academically, Lakoff is known for his research in cognitive theory and, in particular, the way the mind works by means of metaphors. His recent work is on "framing"—using practical applications of cognitive linguistics to help social advocates reframe social and political issues.



George Lakoff

Lakoff is the author of numerous books, including *Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think*, second edition, (University of Chicago Press, 2006); *Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things: What Categories Reveal About the Mind* (University of Chicago Press, 1987); *Don't Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate* (Chelsea Green, 2004); *Whose Freedom?: The Battle Over America's Most Important Idea* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006); and, with Rockridge Institute, *Thinking Points: Communicating Our American*

*Values and Vision* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006).

In addition to teaching at Berkeley, Lakoff is the cofounder and a senior fellow at Rockridge Institute, whose mission is to deepen and broaden the public's understanding of the political world. He has frequently been interviewed by the media and has appeared on such radio shows as *Talk of the Nation*, *Bridges*, *To the Best of Our Knowledge*, and *Forum*.

The law school seminar also will feature two panel discussions. Panelists participating in the morning session, from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m., are Barbara Johnstone, professor of rhetoric and linguistics at Carnegie Mellon University; Scott F. Kiesling, chair and professor of linguistics in Pitt's Department of Linguistics; Edward L. Rubin, dean and John Wade-Kent Syverud Professor of Law at Vanderbilt University Law School; and Steven L. Winter, Walter S. Gibbs Professor of Constitutional Law at Wayne State University. The afternoon panel, from 2:45 to 4:15 p.m., will include Pascual Masullo, a professor of linguistics in Pitt's Department of Linguistics; Andreea Deciu Ritivoi, a Carnegie Mellon professor of English and rhetoric; George H. Taylor, a Pitt law professor; and Robert L. Tsai, professor of law at the University of Oregon.

This symposium has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board for four (4.0) hours of substantive credit. The cost for credit is \$50, payable when registering at the door in cash or by a check made out to the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. For further information regarding CLE, call 412-648-1305. For information concerning the conference, contact George Taylor at 412-648-8134 or gtaylor@pitt.edu.

## Chronicling

An ongoing series highlighting

### University of Pittsburgh history

**On Feb. 12, 1924, Pitt Chancellor John Bowman traveled to Philadelphia to retain the services of architect Charles Z. Klauder to build the Cathedral of Learning.**

According to Robert C. Albert's *Pitt: The Story of the University of Pittsburgh 1787-1987*, Klauder had never designed a skyscraper, but he was considered by many to be one of America's foremost Gothic designers. He constructed a number of well-known buildings at Ivy League universities, including Yale, Princeton, Cornell, and Brown, and he designed an entire complex of Gothic buildings at Duke University.

Klauder set out immediately to realize Bowman's dream of a building that would serve as, "an inspiration, a witness to the spirit of hope and achievement of Pittsburgh, both to itself and to the world," Albert wrote.

That dream was not easily achieved. The idea of a skyscraper with a Gothic architectural theme was unheard of at the time. Also, the concept faced fierce opposition from alumni, trustees, and many in the local community, who felt the structure would be impractical, unacademic, and too dangerous to construct. Still, with Bowman's insistence, Klauder continued working, taking more than two years to complete a design that met Bowman's expectations.

Today, the Cathedral of Learning stands as the centerpiece of the University's campus. The internationally renowned landmark is the tallest educational building in the western hemisphere and the second tallest in the world.



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<b>EXECUTIVE EDITOR</b>	Linda K. Schmitmeyer
<b>EDITOR</b>	Jane-Ellen Robinet
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<b>STAFF WRITERS</b>	Sharon S. Blake John Fedele Morgan Kelly Amanda Leff Anthony M. Moore Patricia Lomando White
<b>CONTRIBUTING WRITERS</b>	Michele D. Baum Clare Collins Jasmine Hoffman Tearsa Brown
<b>HAPPENINGS EDITOR</b>	Tearsa Brown

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# Black History Month

Lori Hunter

## Sweet Success

Lori Hunter blazed trails in engineering and academia; now she oversees a thriving catering business



Lori Hunter

By Jane-Ellen Robinet

Lori Hunter's career has traversed a broad path since she earned her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh in 1980. She started out as a computer systems engineer at Alcoa in Pittsburgh, transitioned 14 years later to become an academic dean, and is now an entrepreneur with a successful catering business. Along the way, she picked up a master's degree in education at Harvard University and a PhD in education at Syracuse University.

Say what?

Yes, at 49 years old, Hunter is the creative force behind Sweet and Savory Creations LLC, a catering business in Glastonbury, Conn., just east of Hartford. Like Hunter, the business is thriving and running at full-speed. She expects revenues of \$540,000 this year and hopes to hit the \$1 million mark in 2009.

But how does a 12-year stint as an engineer and 12 years in academia lead to a career that caters to the tasty side of life? In Hunter's case, the recipe for success has been methodical planning, excellent networking, and the determination to give 100 percent every day to every task.

"People looked at me like I was crazy," she said, when she decided to

"retire" in 2006 from her position of associate dean of Continuing Studies and director of the Graduate Liberal Studies Program at Wesleyan University in Connecticut and to do catering full-time. "All that education. Why would you leave to cook for people?" friends would say," Hunter recalled with a laugh.

"I told them that 'It's my own business and no one can take my degrees and experience away.' ... All I can say is that I've not had a chance to look back," she said.

"This is a business that uses my engineering degree," said Hunter. "Catering is manufacturing a process and figuring out how to manage all the details. The deadline is the deadline. I don't care if it's raining or snowing or the oven breaks, the lunch is at noon. There is no give. I'm managing a process and the product is food."

Indeed. Sweet and Savory Creations has fine-tuned the art of food as a business. Its corporate clients read like a list of who's who. It offers cooking classes as well as a Dine by Design program that prepares, freezes, and ships two weeks of meals for people who don't want to—or can't—cook. It sells its own cookbook and has bottled the tasty spice used on one of the company's most popular dishes: pan-seared herb crusted chicken.

Hunter began the catering business in 2000 when a friend's company needed a

caterer for boardroom functions. Always fond of cooking, Hunter incorporated Sweet and Savory Creations and used a local church's kitchen. Before long, people were asking her to cater church functions, graduation parties, anniversary parties, and weddings. By 2005, business was so plentiful that she built a 1,000-square-foot kitchen in a nearby mall, where the company is headquartered today. She employs three full-time and two part-time employees, and calls upon a wait staff of about 25 people, depending upon her needs.

Her energy infuses all that she does, including teaching many of the cooking classes. Brian Ambrose, a professional photographer based in Glastonbury, attended one of the classes to get some shots of Hunter for a lifestyle article in a local newspaper.

"She was incredible! I was supposed to be there for one hour but ended up staying for three. The food was unbelievable," Ambrose said.

Called "The Warden" by her colleagues, Hunter exudes a total can-do attitude, which she says she inherited from her mother. The second of four children in a family raised in the Bronx, N.Y., Hunter said her mother stressed education—and the importance of staying busy so as to stay out of trouble.

All of her life, Hunter recalled, her mother dished out plenty of loving encouragement, no matter what the circumstances. "I'd sometimes say to my Mom, 'I don't know if I can do this.' And my mother would always say, 'I know you can do that.' It was always, 'I know you can.'"

Hunter said she received similar encouragement from a key mentor within Pitt's School of Engineering, James T. Cain, an electrical engineering professor. "There were some difficult semesters but he was fantastic. He was my senior project advisor and he made all the difference," she said. In addition, Pitt's Engineering Impact Program helped enormously, Hunter said. The program, aimed at increasing the number of engineers from underrepresented populations, brings students on campus six weeks before the start of freshman year to help them acclimate to the University. It also provides support and guidance during a student's four years.

After graduating from Pitt, Alcoa hired Hunter as a computer systems engineer. "I loved the opportunity. Alcoa, like many companies, had few, if any, people of color or women working as engineers. I was blazing some trails, and there were some people who tried to run me over a couple of times.

But that was interesting and challenging and, thankfully, something I was prepared to deal with," she said.

That experience—of being the only Black woman in some corporate settings—is something she describes to young engineering students today. Hunter said that wherever she has worked, she's always connected with a local college or engineering society to help mentor underrepresented students. "I like being able to tell them that as a woman and person of color, this is what happens when you walk into a new

environment and people look at you as though you're incapable or that you're the first of your kind they've seen.

You have to figure out how to rise above that so you don't react to other people's issues," she said.

At Pitt, Hunter was an active member in the National Technical Association, an organization for underrepresented students in engineering and technology. During her time at Syracuse University, she served as an outside advisor to the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Engineers, and the Society of Women Engineers.

Dedication to helping under-

represented students achieve is a legacy she left at Syracuse University. Hired by the school in 1995 as an assistant dean responsible for retaining and supporting women and other underrepresented students in engineering, Hunter was handed a program called the Minority Engineering Program. The title itself was offensive to Hunter—"it conjures up remediation, segregation," she said.

Hunter

and her staff renamed the program PRIDE, Programs Rooted in Developing Excellence, created a program logo, organized dinners to recognize students' academic achievement, and created Academic Excellence Workshops. The workshops provided weekly study sessions in calculus, using small groups with an upperclass engineering student facilitator. "We developed these programs based on academic excellence,

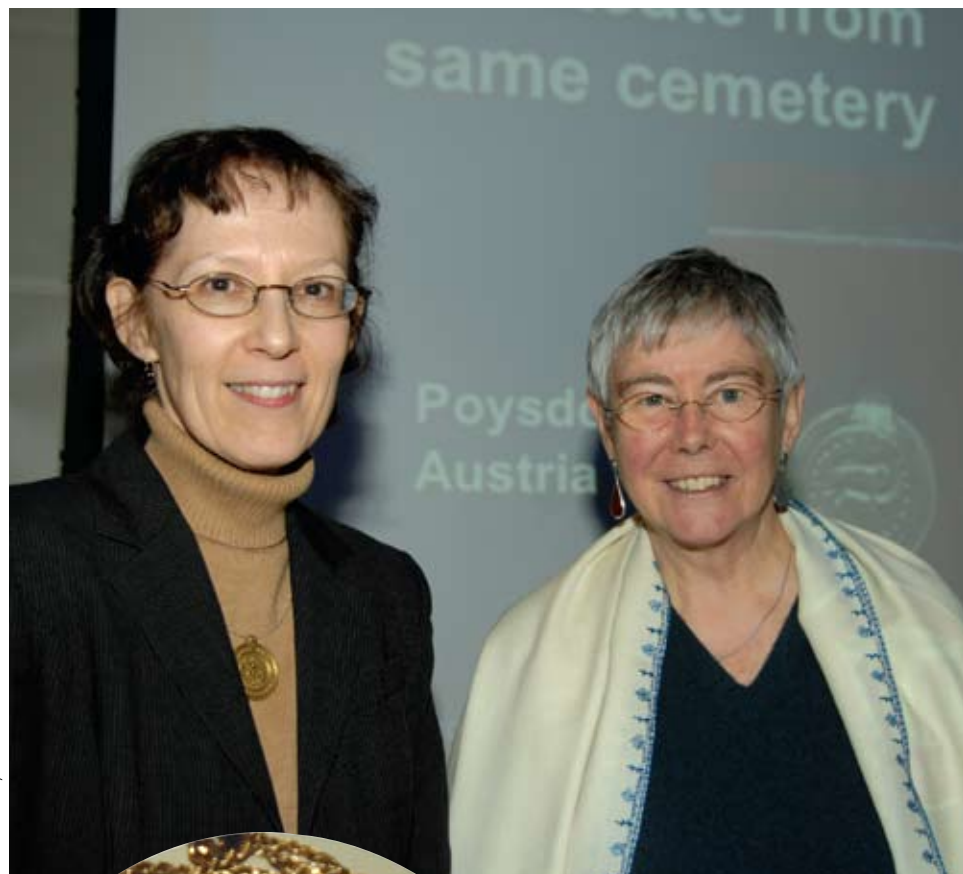
Lori Hunter in Pitt's 1980 yearbook, *The Owl*

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—Lori Hunter

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**ANCIENT ART AND ARCHEOLOGY**



MARY JANE BENT/CODE



Scandinavian pre-Viking jewelry was the topic of a presentation made by Nancy L. Wicker (left), chair of the University of Mississippi's Department of Art, at the Frick Fine Arts building on Jan. 25. Wicker was hosted by M. Alison Stones (right), a professor of medieval art in Pitt's Department of the History of Art and Architecture, which sponsored the event. Wicker's research traces ethnicity and gender through Scandinavian pre-Viking jewelry. She displayed several pieces of jewelry, including museum replicas and a piece made by modern goldsmiths who were experimenting to understand the early medieval techniques (inset). Wicker has assisted at archaeological excavations in Sweden and Germany, and in 1992 she held an international scholarship to excavate at the Viking Age trading site of Birka in Sweden.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD**



MARY JANE BENT/CODE

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg stands with the recently elected Pitt Student Government Board (SGB). Sumter Link, a senior majoring in civil and environmental engineering at the Swanson School, is the new SGB president. He and eight board members were installed during the ceremony on Jan. 10 at the William Pitt Union. The SGB represents the needs and interests of all Pitt students; it also allocates the student activity fee, which funds more than 350 student organizations at the University. Shown in the back row (from left) are Gary Sanderson, Perry Servedio, Link, Nordenberg, Ryan Haddad, and Ryan Very. Seated (from left) are Francee Varner, Nila Devanath, Lacey Ecker, and Amanda Reed.

**NATIONALITY ROOM PLAQUE**



JIM BURKE/CODE

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and E. Maxine Bruhns, director of the University's Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs, stand in front of a new granite plaque commemorating Pitt's 26 Nationality Rooms. A gift to the University from the Nationality Rooms Program, the plaque is located in the corridor leading from the Cathedral of Learning's Fifth Avenue entrance to Forbes Avenue. The columns list each room's dedication date and name, the name of the nation in its native language, as well as the room's period and architectural style. The Nationality Rooms Program celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2006.

**ONE MAN'S CRUSADE**



MARY JANE BENT/CODE

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg hosted Pitt Trustee William E. Strickland at a reception to celebrate Strickland's new autobiographical book, *Make the Impossible Possible: One Man's Crusade to Inspire Others to Dream Bigger and Achieve the Extraordinary*. The book focuses on Strickland's belief that each person has the potential for remarkable achievement. Strickland graduated cum laude from the University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He is chief executive officer of the Manchester Bidwell Corp. and its subsidiaries, Bidwell Training Center and Manchester Craftmen's Guild on the Northside. The reception was held Jan. 11 in Alumni Hall's J.W. Connolly Ballroom.

# Science & Technology

## Pitt Researchers Test New Vaccine Against Deadliest Strain of Avian Flu



By Clare Collins

A vaccine against the most common and deadliest strain of avian flu, H5N1, has been engineered and tested by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Vaccine Research (CVR) and Novavax Inc. The vaccine produced a strong immune response in mice and protected them from death following infection with the H5N1 virus, according to a study published in the Jan. 30 issue of *PLoS ONE*. The vaccine is being tested in humans in an early-phase clinical trial.

Recent outbreaks of avian flu around the world have prompted health officials to warn of its continued threat to global health and potential to trigger a flu pandemic. "While worldwide avian flu control efforts have been mostly successful, avian flu, like sea-

sonal influenza, mutates year to year, creating new subtypes and strains that could easily and quickly spread among humans," said Ted M. Ross, lead author of the study and an assistant professor at CVR. "To stem the spread of a potential pandemic, we need stockpiles of vaccines available that can be readily adapted to enhance the immune system's response to new strains."

A future flu pandemic is inevitable because of the virus' ability to continually reinvent itself and the lack of broad immunity in humans, Ross said. Influenza pandemics have occurred three times throughout modern history with deadly consequences. The first, the Spanish Flu of 1918, caused

more deaths than World War I. Unlike other avian flu vaccines, which are partially developed from live viruses, the vaccine uses a virus-like particle, or VLP, that is recognized by the immune system as a real virus but lacks genetic information to reproduce, making it a potentially safer alternative for a human vaccine.

more deaths than World War I.

Unlike other avian flu vaccines, which are partially developed from live viruses, the vaccine uses a virus-like particle, or VLP, that is recognized by the immune system as a real virus but lacks genetic information to reproduce, making it a potentially safer alternative for a human vaccine. Given the evolving nature of H5N1, the vaccine was engineered to encode genes for three influenza viral proteins to offer enhanced protection against possible new strains of the virus.

To test the vaccine, researchers administered it to mice in one-dose and two-dose regimens. Mice immunized twice with the vaccine developed protective antibodies against H5N1 and were protected from disease and death when directly exposed to the virus. The researchers also compared modes of vaccine administration by delivering the vaccine to the muscle or the nose. Both methods of vaccine administration were equally effective. However, mice injected with the vaccine through the muscle developed more antibodies in the blood, while mice that received the nasal administration had more antibodies in their lungs.

"VLPs may be advantageous over other vaccine strategies because they are easy to develop, produce, and manufacture," Ross said. "Using recombinant technologies, within 10 weeks, we could generate a vaccine most effective toward the current circulating strain of virus, making it a cost-effective counter-measure to the threat of an avian influenza pandemic."

The study was funded by Novavax, located in Rockville, Md. Coauthors at CVR include Donald M. Carter, Corey J. Crevar, Franklin R. Toapanta, Jonathan D. Steckbeck, and Kelly Cole.

Pitt's CVR houses both the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory and the Vaccine Research Laboratory. Researchers at the CVR—directed by Donald S. Burke, dean of the University's Graduate School of Public Health and UPMC Jonas Salk Professor of Global Health—develop new methods and strategies to prevent and treat infectious diseases, potentially improving and protecting global health.



Ted M. Ross

## Pitt Study Links Genetic Mutations to Preterm Birth Risk

By Michele D. Baum

Genetic mutations in an enzyme and a coagulation protein appear to have significant association with blood clots and tissue injury to the placenta and developing baby, according to researchers from the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences.

Hyagriv Simhan, an assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences in Pitt's School of Medicine, presented the findings at the 28th annual meeting of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine in Dallas.

"This indicates a possible genetic predisposition to a condition of real clinical consequence in terms of intrauterine growth restriction, preeclampsia, and spontaneous preterm birth," said Simhan. "These are conditions that can have lifelong consequences for those affected."

Preterm birth, defined as any birth prior to 37 weeks gestation, affects some 12 percent of pregnancies in the United States. Costs have been estimated at \$26 billion, or \$52,000 per infant, in medical care and lost productivity as of 2005, according to The Institute of Medicine. A recent study from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that preterm birth contributed to more than a third of infant deaths—twice as many as previously thought and making it the leading cause of infant deaths—yet the underlying causes of premature birth remain poorly understood.

The enzyme, methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR), is related to amino acid metabolism. Intrauterine growth restriction results in malnutrition of the developing fetus and babies of low birth weight and can be related to a host of factors usually reflective of the mother's health, including infection, high blood pressure, use of tobacco, alcohol, or illicit drugs.

For the study, researchers analyzed DNA from placental tissue samples and cord blood from 111 women and their babies, finding that one fetal single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in MTHFR (rs17421462) and one fetal SNP in the coagulation protein Factor V (rs10489185) demonstrated a "highly significant association with thrombotic and inflammatory lesions," irrespective of adjustment for maternal race, smoking, and lower genital tract infection, all of which can contribute to genetic mutation. Women and babies with MTHFR mutation were 4.2 times more likely to exhibit blood clots and injury to placental tissue than those without the mutation, Simhan noted. For those with Factor V mutation, the association was less pronounced, but still elevated.

"These are different mutations than those that have been previously described in MTHFR and Factor V," Simhan said. "Being aware of these genetic mutations may lead to better screening efforts."

More than 500,000 babies are born too soon each year nationwide, and the preterm birth rate has increased more than 30 percent since 1981. Babies who do survive face risks of lifelong challenges related to cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and

# Awards & More



Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences recently awarded **George Bandik**, director of undergraduate studies in the chemistry department, the 2007-08 Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize for Excellence in Advising. The \$4,000 prize recognizes Bandik's outstanding record of academic advising and the many contributions that he has made to help students maximize their educational experience, particularly through outreach and chemistry tutoring programs. Among his roles, Bandik serves as faculty advisor to Pitt's award-winning American Chemical Society-Student Affiliates, a nationally recognized undergraduate organization that promotes knowledge and appreciation of chemistry.

Bandik also received the Bellet Teaching Award in 2001, the Carnegie Science Center Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1998, and the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1993.

He received his doctoral degree from Pitt in 1992 and currently teaches organic chemistry, honors organic lab, and chemistry for health-related professions. He also teaches the writing course for senior chemistry majors.

**Marilyn Alberter and Jeanine Lawn** were awarded the President's Staff Awards for Excellence in Service at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Alberter, UPJ registrar, received the President's Staff Award for Excellence in Service to UPJ. A driving force behind the successful implementation of PeopleSoft on campus, Alberter was commended for her consistent efforts to serve students, faculty, and staff.

"Her 'can-do' attitude has transformed the Registrar's Office into one that is student centered and always cheerful," said UPJ President Jem Spectar.

Lawn, director of financial aid, received the President's Staff Award for Excellence in Service to the Community. She was recognized for her involvement in numerous service projects, including Habitat for Humanity, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Arthritis Foundation, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

"Through her volunteerism, Mrs. Lawn has shown the high value placed on community service as she serves as an inspiration to those around her," Spectar said.

## Pitt Global Studies Program Runs "Reel Voices From the Middle East" Film Series

By Amanda Leff

Throughout February, the University of Pittsburgh's Global Studies Program is presenting a film series titled "Reel Voices From the Middle East."

The series was developed to emphasize contemporary issues in the foreground of Middle East culture. It coincides with Visiting Pitt Professor Mazyar Lotfalian's teaching courses on the interaction of Islam and science and technology and the relationship between Islam and cinema. Lotfalian, who holds the Visiting Professorship in Contemporary International Issues in Pitt's University Center for International Studies, was a resident scholar at the University of California at Santa Cruz's Center for Cultural Studies prior to coming to Pitt.

The films highlight the diverse perspectives of Middle Eastern culture and examine questions of gender, war, religion, and culture. Many of the films explore the relationship between tradition and modernism, the formation of identity, the breaking of stereotypes, and the poetic and musical trends in the Middle East.

Showings include discussions led by Pitt

School of Arts and Sciences faculty members Mohammed Bamyeh, Department of Sociology; Amani Attia, Less-Commonly-Taught Languages (LCTL) Center in the Department of Linguistics; and Lotfalian.

Film showings begin at 7 p.m. and are held in the Frick Fine Art Auditorium. The schedule follows.

**Feb. 7** *Four Women of Egypt* (Tahani Rached, 1997)

**Feb. 8** *Mahmoud Darwich: As the Land Is the Language* (Simone Bitton, 1997)

**Feb. 14** *20 Fingers* (Mania Akbari, 2004)

**Feb. 15** *Under the Moonlight* (Seyyed Reza Mir-Karimi, 2002)

**Feb. 21** *Turtles Can Fly* (Bahman Ghobadi, 2005)

**Feb. 22** *Forget Baghdad* (Samir, 2002)

The event is cosponsored by the University of Pittsburgh's Global Studies Program, University Center for International Studies, Film Studies Program, LCTL Center,

## BlackHistoryMonth

# Sweet Success



BRIAN AMBROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

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and when you do that, everyone wants to be a part of it," Hunter said, adding that the number of Calculus I students going on to Calculus II rose from 65 to 85 percent the first year. Her success with the creation of PRIDE resulted in a promotion to associate dean and responsibility for a broad range of undergraduate and academic activities.

What began in 1995 as a program with five facilitators and 24 participants now has 50 facilitators and 300 students. It became so popular that it now is offered to all students, not just underrepresented and women students, said Kathryn Pynn, who worked with Hunter and now directs PRIDE.

"She was very dedicated," Pynn said of Hunter. "I cannot tell you how many late nights we spent trying to get our programs going. From her background and corporate contacts, she was also instrumental in helping us gain corporate sponsors for some of our programs."

Meanwhile, the cooking continues at Sweet and Savory Creations. Hunter said the business is a perfect fit for her and that she is blessed to have a dedicated staff and mentors. She turns 50

this November, and while she said she learned long ago to celebrate every day, she is planning a major celebration for August, when the catering business hits a summer lull. The exact time and place are to be determined, but the caterer has been chosen.



BRIAN AMBROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

## New Law Class Focuses on Climate Change

Continued from Page 1

and department head in the Department of Engineering and Public Policy, and professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering as well as the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management. He was recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences for his work related to climate change. Fillo is a certified professional environmental auditor at Environmental Resources Management, a global environmental consulting services company that helps businesses identify risks and opportunities related to greenhouse gas emission constraints and new carbon trading regimes.

Topics to be discussed in the new law

class include "What Science Can Tell Us About the Climate Change Problem," "Fundamental Legal Concepts of Air Pollution Control," "Evolution of Kyoto Protocol," "What Lawyers Need to Know About Emission Trading Programs," and "Business Impacts of a Carbon-constrained Economy."

At Reed Smith, Smokelin represents clients in a broad range of environmental issues, including environmental civil enforcement and litigation matters, as well as regulatory and transactional issues. In the area of climate change, Smokelin helps clients understand the potential impact of greenhouse gas legislation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative states and the European Union.



# Happenings



**Terrance Simien, Pitt-Johnstown, February 7**

**"Translating the Music of Poetry,"** Alexis Levitin, distinguished translator of Portuguese and Brazilian poetry and fiction, 4 p.m. **Feb. 5**, Living/Learning Center Heritage Hall, Pitt-Johnstown, 814-269-2080, www.upj.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.

**"Profanations of Cuban Identity in José Lezama Lima,"** Juan Duchesne-Winter, Pitt professor of Latin American literature, noon **Feb. 6**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Center for Latin American Studies, 412-648-7392, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**"Building a Profession for Social Justice or Picking Up the Scraps? Whither Social Work in the 21st Century?"** Mark Courtney, executive director of Partners for Our Children at the University of Washington, noon **Feb. 6**, 2017 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt School of Social Work, 412-624-6337, www.socialwork.pitt.edu.

**"Portraits of Barbarians in Roman Art,"** Elizabeth Bartman, president of the New York Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, 4:30 p.m. **Feb. 6**, 313 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of Classics, 412-624-4483, www.classics.pitt.edu.

**Ellen Bass**, poetry reading, 8:30 p.m. **Feb. 6**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series, 412-624-6506, www.english.pitt.edu.

**"Youth Perceptions of HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Kiribati and Social Projects to Educate People About the Virus,"** Mike Roman, Pitt doctoral candidate of anthropology, noon **Feb. 7**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, 412-648-7763, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**"Caring for Organs or for Patients? Ethical Concerns About the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (2006),"** Michael DeVita, Pitt professor of critical care and internal medicine, 1 p.m. **Feb. 7**, 113 Barco Law Building, Pitt Center for Bioethics and Health Law Grand Rounds, 412-647-5700, www.pitt.edu/~bioethic.

**"Fjords and Ice Sheet Dynamics: Lessons Learned From Applying Cosmogenic Radionuclides to the Northeastern Canadian Shield,"** Jason Briner, professor of geology at the University of Buffalo, 3:45 p.m. **Feb. 7**, 203 Thaw Hall, Pitt Department of Geology and Planetary Sciences, www.geology.pitt.edu.

**"The 21st Century Brain: Why It Matters for the Academic and Political Worlds,"** George Lakoff, professor of linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley, noon **Feb. 8**, Barco Law Library, Pitt School of Law, 412-648-8134, www.law.pitt.edu.

**"Self-Assessment, Self-Direction, Self-Regulation, and Other Myths: Implications for the Professional Maintenance of Competence,"** Glenn Regehr, professor of surgery at the University of Toronto, noon-1 p.m. **Feb. 8**, Lecture Room 3, Fourth Floor, Scaife Hall, Pitt Medical Education Grand Rounds, 412-648-9000, www.medschool.pitt.edu.

**"The Movement of Air, the Breath of Meaning: Aural and Multimodal Composing,"** Cynthia Selfe, professor of humanities at Ohio State University, 3:15 p.m. **Feb. 8**, 501 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Colloquium on Electronic and Interactive Texts, www.english.pitt.edu.

**"The Development of China and India: Implications for the United States,"** Siddharth Chandra, Pitt professor of economics, 7 p.m. **Feb. 11**, Winchester Thurston School, City Campus, 555 Morewood Ave., Shadyside, registration required, 412-578-7523, www.winchesterthurston.org.

**"Talking to Terrorists: Political Violence and Peace Process in the Contemporary World,"** Aaron Edwards, professor of history at the University of Ulster, 1 p.m. **Feb. 12**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Department of History and the Global Studies Program, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

## Miscellaneous

**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.

**Pitt Spring Job/Internship Fair—All Non-Tech Majors**, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Feb. 6**, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Pitt Career Services, 412-648-7130, www.careers.pitt.edu.

**Pitt Spring Job/Internship Fair—Engineering, Science, and Tech Majors**, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Feb. 7**, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Pitt Career Services, 412-648-7130, www.careers.pitt.edu.

**Brian Regan**, comedic performance, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 7**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

**Design to Be Lit Carnegie Museum of Art through February 10**



**Four Women of Egypt**, 7 p.m. **Feb. 7**; **Mahmoud Darwish: As the Land is the Language**, 7 p.m. **Feb. 8**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Reel Voices from the Middle East Film Series, Pitt Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**Tea for Two: Special Mother-Daughter Valentine's Tea**, 1-4 p.m. **Feb. 9**, Lexington Education Center, Frick Art and Historical Center, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, advance registration required, 412-371-0600, www.frickart.org.

**Karaoke**, 7-11 p.m. **Feb. 9**, Dining Room A, William Pitt Union, part of the Chinese Culture Exhibition Month, Pitt Chinese Students and Scholars Association, 412-648-9523.

**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.pittessa.net.

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**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.

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

**Little Women—The Broadway Musical**, produced by Windwood Theatricals of New York, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 7**, Bromley Family Theatre, Pitt-Bradford, www.upb.pitt.edu.

**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.

**Urban Bush Women/Compagnie Jan-Bi**, 8 p.m. **Feb. 9**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Dance Council, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

**Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!** 2 p.m. **Feb. 10**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Big Wooden Horse Theatre Company, 412-321-5520, www.pghkids.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

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

**James Coyle**, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, "Mitigation of Oropharyngeal Swallowing Impairments and Sequelae: Two Meta-Analyses and an Experiment Using Surface Electromyographic Biofeedback," 8 a.m. **Feb. 7**, 5068 Forbes Tower.

**Neven Abou Gazala**, Department of Computer Science, "Power Management Techniques for Conserving Energy in Multiple System Components," 10:30 a.m. **Feb. 7**, 6106 Sennott Square Building.

## Concerts

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

**University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**, featuring Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1 op. 19, Ian Chow, soloist; Mahler's Symphony No. 6 first movement, 8 p.m. **Feb. 6**, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

**Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience**, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 7**, Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, Pitt-Johnstown, 800-846-2787, www.upj.pitt.edu.

**Johnstown Symphony Orchestra**, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 9**, Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, Pitt-Johnstown, 814-535-6738, www.johnstownsymphony.org.

**Music of Love and War: A Collaboration With the Pittsburgh Opera Center**, 8 p.m. **Feb. 9**, Hillman Center for Performing Arts, Shady Side Academy, Senior School Campus, Shadyside, 412-687-1788, www.chathambaroque.org.

**Sarah Chang-The Four Seasons**, featuring works by Beethoven and Vivaldi, 2:30 p.m. **Feb. 10**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-394-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

**Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh**, featuring pieces from Danzi, 7 p.m. **Feb. 10**, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 935 Pine Ave., Castle Shannon, 412-531-1080, www.aeolianwinds.com.

## Exhibitions

**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.

**Hillman Library**, Audubon print, *Three-toed Woodpecker*, through **Feb. 11**, 412-648-7715.

**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.phippsconservatory.org.

**Kuntu Repertory Theatre**, *Telling Our Stories*, exhibition, through **Feb. 29**, City-County Building lobby, 414 Grant St., Downtown, 412-255-2493, www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/parks

**KOA Art Gallery**, *The 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

**"The Challenge of Government Secrecy,"** Steven Aftergood, senior research analyst at the Federation of American Scientists, 4:30 p.m. **today**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt School of Information Sciences Institute for Information Ethics and Policy, 412-624-2677, www.sis.pitt.edu.



## Swanson School Engineers a Recycling Plan as Part of Name Change



By Morgan Kelly

What's in a name? For Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, the answer is a lot of extra paper.

The school donned a new name in December in honor of a \$41.3 million gift from engineering alumnus and Pitt trustee John A. Swanson, the most generous individual donor in the University's history. Now, as the Swanson School stocks up on stationery featuring its new name, offices and departments no longer need the envelopes, business cards, and other paper products with the old moniker.

But instead of those jettisoned cards and letterhead heading for the trash heap, the School's Mascaro Sustainability Initiative (MSI) will collect them. As Pitt's center for green engineering and design, MSI will use

the old stationery to create building products for the two-story addition to Benedum Hall slated to begin construction later this year. The extension will connect Benedum Hall tower to the auditorium and serve, along with the tower's second floor, as MSI's new home.

Engineering students in the ENGR 1610 Product Realization Global Opportunity course are currently exploring ideas for the collected paper, but the concept is not new to MSI. The center's current offices features countertops and ceiling and floor tiles that are at least 50 percent recycled paper.

MSI students will collect discarded stationery in the morning during the first week of February and March by the following schedule:

- Administrative offices: Feb. 4 and March 3
- Bioengineering: Feb. 4 and March 3
- Chemical and Petroleum Engineering: Feb. 5 and March 4
- Civil and Environmental Engineering: Feb. 6 and March 5
- Computer Engineering: Feb. 7 and March 6
- Electrical Engineering: Feb. 7 and March 6
- Industrial Engineering: Feb. 8 and March 7
- Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science: Feb. 8 and March 7

Fittingly, Swanson's gift will partly support the construction project for which the discarded stationery is destined. For the overall project, the University is committing approximately \$60 million and an additional \$30 million will be raised in private support.

The two-phase transformation of Benedum Hall begins this spring with the construction of the building that will connect the tower to the auditorium and also will house MSI's new offices. Then, work will start in the summer on converting the auditorium's current 500-seat open space into five individual classrooms.

Later this year, a new mezzanine will be constructed in the tower's sub-basement level, creating an entirely new floor. By early 2009, construction will begin on the complete restructuring of the tower's basement level into a Lower Plaza Level with 10 new classrooms, a new home for the Bevier Engineering Library, a café, offices for student organizations and clubs, and a 3,600-square-foot student computer lab.

In mid-2009, the first floor of Benedum Hall tower will be transformed into the school's new administrative center, housing the dean's office, freshman programs, academic affairs, and the offices of diversity, research, and development and alumni relations. By early 2010, work will begin on restructuring the fourth and fifth floors,

with one becoming a complex of research labs and offices for bioengineering research, and the other for nanoengineering.

The second phase, to commence after 2010, involves the renovation of the tower floors six through 12, which house the Swanson School's academic departments.

For questions about the recycling plan, contact Kim Wisniewski in the MSI office at 412-624-6718 or kaw54@pitt.edu.

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**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Feb. 11. **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, 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.