Maxwell King Is Pitt’s Honors Convocation Speaker

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

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 Expenditure at 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.

Cyberscholarship Program

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.”

Cyberscholarship Program

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.”

Cyberscholarship Program

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.”

Cyberscholarship Program

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.”

Cyberscholarship Program

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.”

Cyberscholarship Program

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.”
Pittsburgh's Kuntu Repertory Theatre will be on display Downtown This Month

On Feb. 5 in the City-County Building lobby. Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and Vernell A. Little, Kuntu's founder, producing artistic director, and a Pitt professor emeritus of African Studies, are scheduled to make remarks.

The cast of the current Kuntu production, Journey of the Spirit, 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 and the School of Information Sciences in partnership with the Johnstown 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 detection 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 and practices at 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 1995.

In 1997, Aftergood was the plaintiff in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the Central Intelligence Agency that led to the classification and publication of the total intelligence budget—$26 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-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

Poet Ellen Bass will give a reading at 6 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 Elton Book Award for Poetry from the University of Cincinnati, the Nimrod/HardPress Pablo Neruda Prize, the Missouri Review’s Larry Levis Award, the Greensboro Poetry Prize, the New Letters Poetry Prize, the Chautauqua Poetry Prize, a Pochta 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 Gold Anyone: Writings by Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse (Harper Collins, 1988), which sold more than 2 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.


The Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series, which runs through April 2, is cosponsored by Pitt’s Kuntu Project, Women’s Studies Program, and the University of Pittsburgh’s Institute for Information Ethics and Policy.

For more information, contact Jeff Ecks at 268-6055.

—By Anthony M. Moore

Chronicle

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 and a Pittsburg 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, 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 refame social and political issues.


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 J. 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 1:45 to 4:15 p.m., will include Pascual Masullo, a professor of linguistics in Pitt’s Department of Linguistics; Andrea Deciu Ritrovì, 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) 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 412-648-1015. For information concerning the conference, contact George Taylor at 412-648-8134 or gtyaylor@pitt.edu.
Black History Month

Lori Hunter

Sweet Success

Lori Hunter blazed trails in engineering and academic, now she oversees a thriving catering business.

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 1985. 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 company's most popular dishes: pan-seared herb crusted chicken.

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

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.”

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.”

Hunted by the society of engineering students at the University of Pittsburgh in 1985.

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 underrepresented students achieve is a legacy she left at Syracuse University. Hired by the school in 1995 as an assistant principal, she worked with students in engineering and, Hunter was hired by the City Engineer—“it conjures up the idea that segregation,” she said.

If Hunter and her staff renamed the program PRIDE. Programs Rooted in Development Excellence, created a program logo, organized dinners to recognize students’ academic achievements, and supported Academic Excellence Workshops. The workshops provided weekly study sessions in calculus, using small groups with upperclass engineering and student facilitators. “We developed these programs based on academic excellence, Continued on Page 6
STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD

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

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 Craftsmen’s Guild on the Northside. The reception was held Jan. 11 in Alumni Hall’s J.W. Connolly Ballroom.

ANCIENT ART AND ARCHEOLOGY

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.

NATIONALITY ROOM PLAQUE

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 Francine Vorster, Nila Devanath, Lacee Ecker, and Amanda Reed.
Pitt Researchers Test New Vaccine Against Deadliest Strain of Avian Flu

Unlike other avian flu vaccines, which are partially developed from live viruses, the vaccine uses a virus-like particle 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.

Pitt Study Links Genetic Mutations to Preterm Birth Risk

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 smoking, 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 (rs1049398) demonstrated a “highly significant association with thrombocytopenic and inflammatory lesions,” irrespective of adjustment for maternal race, smoking, and lower gestational age at birth, all of which can contribute to genetic mutation. Women and babies with MTHFR mutation were 4.2 times more likely to develop 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...
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 cinema. Lotfalian, and science and technology and the relationship between Islam and cinema. Lotfalian, a nationally recognized scholar, received the President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to the University of Pittsburgh’s Global Studies Program, 2002.)

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 Specter.

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,” Specter said.

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 affairs.

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.

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**

**February 4, 2008 • University of Pittsburgh • 7**

**Concerts**

- **University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**, featuring Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1 by Itzhak Perlman, soloist; Mahler's Symphony No. 6 first movement, 8 p.m. Feb. 6, Belfry Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

**Exhibitions**

- **Kunst Repertoire Theatre**, Telling Our Stories Through Feb. 29, City-County Building Lobby, 414 Grant St., Downtown, 412-255-2489, www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/parks

**Miscellaneous**

- **Pittsburgh iPod Job and Internship Fair**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 5, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Pitt Career Services, 412-624-7130, www.careers.pitt.edu.

**Opera/Theater/Dance**

- **Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!** Through Feb. 6, 7 p.m., 11 p.m. Feb. 7, Byham Theater, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pitt-Bradford, www.upb.pitt.edu.
- **University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**, 7:30 p.m. today, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-394-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.
- **Lectures/Seminars/Readings**
- **“The Movement of Air, the Breath of Meaning: Aurality and Multimodal Composing,”** Cynthia Selph, professor of humanities at Ohio State University, 3:15 p.m. Feb. 8, 501 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Compositions on Electronic and Interactive Texts, www/english.pitt.edu.

- **Ellen Bass**, poetry reading, 8:30 p.m. Feb. 6, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series, 412-624-6056, www.english.pitt.edu.**
Swanson School Engineers a Recycling Plan as Part of Name Change

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.

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.

By Morgan Kelly