

## Pitt Wins Big East Championship

Four consecutive victories at Madison Square Garden move Pitt to NCAA Tournament



HARRY BLOMBERG

### On a Roll

The Pitt men's basketball team continued its string of victories, trouncing Oral Roberts University 82-63 in Denver on March 20. The win follows the Panthers' four victories in four days when they claimed the school's second Big East Tournament championship: 74-65, Georgetown, March 15; 68-61, Marquette, March 14; 76-69, Louisville, March 13; and 70-64, Cincinnati, March 12. Those four victories sent the Panthers into the NCAA Tournament for the seventh straight year. Junior Sam Young (top) was named the Big East Tournament's Most Outstanding Player and junior Levance Fields was awarded All-Tournament honors. Photo at right, from left: seniors Ronald Ramon, Mike Cook, and Keith Benjamin celebrate the Big East Championship victory. (Additional photos on Page 4.)



HARRY BLOMBERG

## Pitt Gets \$11.4 Million From Gates Foundation to Research Tuberculosis Treatments

By Clare Collins

The University of Pittsburgh Center for Vaccine Research has received an \$11.4 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop new strategies to control tuberculosis (TB), a contagious disease that infects one-third of the world's population and kills almost two million people every year.

The grant will enable Pitt researchers to use new imaging technologies to study TB to shorten and simplify its course of treatment, potentially improving survival and curtailing the global TB epidemic.

"One of the most challenging issues in treating TB and stopping its spread is the length of time it takes to adequately stem the infection," said JoAnne Flynn, principal investigator of the grant and professor of microbiology and molecular genetics in the Pitt School of Medicine. "Current drugs are available, but we don't fully understand how or why they work. TB treatment must be continued for at least six months to be effective, placing an undue burden on those who are infected—often from the poorest and most disadvantaged countries."

Flynn said TB is difficult to control

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## Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, WVU Consortium Receives Funding For Fossil Energy Research

A consortium of three universities—Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, and West Virginia University (WVU)—will receive up to \$26 million in funding over the next two years to develop clean and efficient technologies for the use of fossil fuels. The results of the consortium's work could reduce regional as well as national dependence on foreign oil.

The partnership, called CWP Inc., will receive the funding through a subcontract with RDS Inc., an onsite contractor at the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL). NETL is the national laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy with facilities in five states, including Pennsylvania and West Virginia. More than 75 scientists—with student researchers—at the three universities will work with more than 150 NETL scientists and researchers to address key areas of fossil fuel research.

Speaking on behalf of CWP Inc., Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, who also chairs the group's board, said, "The three university members of this consortium have distinguished records of research, as well as a proud tradition of effective partnering. We are excited by the opportunities presented by the work to be done through this consortium. Our researchers are positioned to have a significant and positive impact on the economy, the environment, and national security, while further establishing our home region as a leader in energy research. We also are proud to have formalized this new relationship with NETL, which is a national

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# Briefly Noted

PHOTO: U.S. TREASURY DEPT.



Paul H. O'Neill

## Honors College to Present Panel of Experts on "America's Looming Fiscal Crisis"

The University of Pittsburgh Honors College will present a panel discussion titled "America's Looming Fiscal Crisis: An Election Year Wake-Up Call" at 8 p.m. March 25 in the Twentieth Century Club, Oakland.

The presentation, part of the Honors College's American Experience Lecture Series, will be held in collaboration with The Concord Coalition, a nationwide, nonpartisan grassroots organization that advocates responsible fiscal policy.

The panel will be moderated by Paul H. O'Neill, former U.S. treasury secretary and the former chair and chief executive officer of Alcoa. The panel will feature David M. Walker, U.S. comptroller general from 1998 until his resignation earlier this month; Robert L. Bixby, executive director of The Concord Coalition; Alice M. Rivlin, senior fellow at The Brookings Institution; and Brian M. Riedl, senior policy analyst of The Heritage Foundation.

The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Those interested in attending must RSVP by noon March 25 with name, phone number, and the names of additional attendees to [uhcevent@pitt.edu](mailto:uhcevent@pitt.edu) or 412-624-6880.

—Anthony M. Moore

## Pitt Wellness Fair Set For March 25

Pitt will host its 2008 Wellness Fair from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 25 in the William Pitt Union.

More than 35 booths will be on display to promote good health and fitness. Fred Goss, codirector of Pitt's Wellness Program, said the fair is a great opportunity to raise awareness of health issues within the University community.

Many interactive activities will be available, including health screenings for body composition, blood pressure, cholesterol, hand strength, nutrition, and hearing. There also will be professional demonstrations of pilates, yoga, aerobics, and kickboxing, among others.

The Wellness Fair is part of the Wellness Program's education outreach activities. Pitt's Benefits Department and UPMC Health Plan are sponsoring the event.

More information is available at [www.pitt.edu/~wellpgm](http://www.pitt.edu/~wellpgm).

—By Anthony M. Moore

## Pitt School of Law Lecture To Feature Death Penalty Opponent

Bryan Stevenson, known as one of the nation's most powerful speakers against the death penalty, will deliver a lecture titled "Race, Death, and Psychic Harm: The Continuing History of No Truth and No Reconciliation."

Stevenson, a New York University School of Law professor and founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Alabama, will deliver the talk at noon March 27 in the Barco Law Building's Teplitz Moot Court Room. The event—a University of Pittsburgh School of Law Lawyering for Social Change Lecture—is free and open to the public.

Stevenson graduated from Harvard University in 1985 with a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government and a J.D. degree from the School of Law. He became a staff attorney with the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, where he represented capital punishment defendants and death row prisoners. In 1989, he began his work with the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit organization that defends the rights of the poor and people of color. Stevenson and his colleagues have successfully reduced or overturned death sentences in more than 65 cases in Alabama.

—Patricia Lomando White

## Hollingsworth to Discuss Variation in Discovery Rates at Research Institutions

J. Rogers Hollingsworth, professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an active researcher and lecturer, will present a lecture at the University of Pittsburgh analyzing why the biomedical research institutions vary widely in their capacity to produce major discoveries.

Hollingsworth, whose talk is titled "Evaluating Performance of Biomedical Research Organizations," will speak at noon March 27 in Scarife Hall's Auditorium Six. His presentation is a Senior Vice Chancellor's Special Lecture.

"I find (Hollingsworth's) research fascinating and thought-provoking, particularly in light of his insights about successful biomedical research," said Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of Pitt's School of Medicine.

Hollingsworth has identified several key factors that influence the rate at which major discoveries in biomedical science occur.

Institutions that are structured to adapt quickly to the fast pace of scientific and technological changes have an advantage, he said. Institutions making numerous major discoveries also have visionary leaders who foster a high degree of interdisciplinary activity across diverse fields of science.

—Megan Grote Quatrini

# Pitt to Host "Crossroads of the World: 250 Years of African American History in Greater Pittsburgh"

By Sharon S. Blake

The role African Americans played in shaping the Pittsburgh region will be the focus of the 31st Annual Conference on Black History in Pennsylvania, to be held April 3-5 on the University of Pittsburgh campus in Oakland.

This year, the annual conference, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), is titled "Crossroads of the World: 250 Years of African American History in Greater Pittsburgh."

Scholars, government leaders, preservationists, students, tourism professionals, and many others from across the state will convene at Pitt to explore this region's Black history—from local connections to the Civil War to how Pittsburgh musicians contributed to jazz from its early years to the present. The registration fee is \$65, but some conference events are at a lower cost or free. For complete information and a conference registration form, visit [www.phmc.state.pa.us](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us) or call the PHMC at 717-783-9871.

Selected conference highlights follow; many conference sessions run concurrently.

### April 3

4-6:30 p.m.

Twentieth Century Club

Reception and dedication ceremony for a Pennsylvania State Historical Marker in honor of the late K. Leroy Irvis (LAW '54), legendary Pennsylvania legislative leader, Pitt Law School alumnus, and Pitt emeritus 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. The marker will be on display, and it will be permanently erected at a later date at the site of Irvis' first legislative office, on Wylie Avenue in the Hill District.

### April 4

10-11:30 a.m.

William Pitt Union

Screening of the film *K. Leroy Irvis: The Lion of Pennsylvania*.

Presenters: Robert Hill, Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs; Catherine L. Edwards Irvis, the widow of K. Leroy Irvis; and Laurence Glasco, a history professor at Pitt.

10-11:30 a.m.

William Pitt Union

"Preserving the Past: Major Collections on African American History in Pittsburgh"

Moderator: Samuel Black, curator of African American Collections, the Senator John Heinz History Center.

Panelists: Michael Dabrishus, Pitt's assistant University librarian for archives and special collections; Kerin Shellenbarger, archivist of the Charles "Teenie" Harris Collection at the Carnegie Museum of Art.

Noon-2 p.m.

William Pitt Union

Luncheon, with keynote address by Mary Frances Berry, Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought and professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania and former chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

2:30-4 p.m.

William Pitt Union

"Pittsburgh's Jazz: An International Legacy"

Moderator: Kenan Foley, instructor, Department of African and African American Studies, Indiana State University

Panelists: Nelson Harrison, trombonist, composer, arranger, adjunct professor of Africana and ethnic studies, Community College of Allegheny County; James Johnson Jr., director, Afro-American Music Institute in Pittsburgh; Hosea Taylor, saxophonist and instructor, Homewood Jazz Workshop.

### April 5

10:30 a.m.-noon

William Pitt

Union

Screening of the WQED Pittsburgh-produced documentary *Fly Boys: Western Pennsylvania's Tuskegee Airmen*, sponsored by Pitt and supported by the Alcoa and Pittsburgh foundations.

Presenters: Robert Hill, Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs;

Regis Bobonis Sr., vice

president of the Daniel B. Matthews Historical Society.

Noon-2 p.m.

Wesley Center African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, 2701 Centre Ave., Hill District.

Pittsburgh Awards Luncheon:

"Honoring the Unsung Heroes of the African American Communities in Western Pennsylvania"

Honorees: Aurora Reading Club; The Frogs Club; William Pryor, owner of Pryor Furs, a 60-year-old Hill District business; Bill Nunn Jr., former sports editor for the *New Pittsburgh Courier* and longtime scout for the Pittsburgh Steelers; and physician William Miller, whose medical practice was on The Hill.

In addition to Pitt, conference partners include the Senator John Heinz History Center, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Carnegie Mellon Center for African American Urban Studies and the Economy, Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial, and VisitPittsburgh.

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**PUBLISHER** Robert Hill  
**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER** John Harvith  
**EXECUTIVE EDITOR** Linda K. Schmitmeyer  
**EDITOR** Jane-Ellen Robinet  
**ART DIRECTOR** Gary Cravener  
**STAFF WRITERS** Sharon S. Blake  
 John Fedele  
 Morgan Kelly  
 Amanda Leff  
 Anthony M. Moore  
 Patricia Lomando White  
**CONTRIBUTING WRITER** Clare Collins  
 Megan Grote Quatrini

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# Women's History Month

Paula Davis

## The Change Maker

By John Fedele

Paula Davis' ties to the University of Pittsburgh are deep, both academically and professionally. Not only did she receive her bachelor's and master's degrees from Pitt, but she also has worked at the University for all but five of the past 20 years. Her newest responsibility: to ensure that Pitt's schools of the health sciences keep up with the changing face of the United States.

In an ideal world, that means students, faculty, and trainees in Pitt's six schools of the health sciences—including the School of Medicine—will reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of the patients whom they treat in clinics, medical offices, community-based programs, and hospitals across the country.

"Pitt is committed to ensuring the face of the health sciences reflects the face of the country, and that regardless of a student's background, he or she will be prepared to deal with any cultural differences with their patients," says Davis, who until January was the assistant dean of admissions, financial aid, and diversity in the University's School of Medicine. Davis made consistent and strong progress in recruiting top underrepresented students: 50 percent of the current medical students are female and 14 percent of this past year's entering class are from underrepresented groups.

Those successes resulted in Davis being promoted to assistant vice chancellor for diversity for the schools of the health sciences. In her new role, she oversees programs to replicate the medical school's diversity successes in the other five health sciences schools: dental medicine, nursing, pharmacy, health and rehabilitation sciences, and the Graduate School of Public Health.

Some people might call Davis a change maker. Others might call her "Mom," mentor, or friend. Throughout her career at Pitt, she has earned a reputation for being a "doer" and a shepherd of sorts—to underrepresented students and others as well—in trying to ease the rough edges of a medical student's first year and beyond. One of her most recent projects is coordinating Pitt's role in a pilot program called AspiringDocs.org. Sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges, the program seeks to encourage more

well-prepared African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American students to pursue careers in medicine. AspiringDocs.org kicked off its outreach program at four universities across the United States, including Pitt.

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Paula Davis

In announcing Davis' appointment in January, Arthur S. Levine, dean of the medical school and senior vice chancellor for the health sciences, said "Given Paula's consistent, outstanding performance in addressing issues of diversity in the School of Medicine and the clear regard our medical students have for her and her team, I have asked Paula

to extend her services to the other five health sciences schools. I am certain that, under Ms. Davis' leadership, all six schools of the health sciences will have success in identifying, attracting, and retaining diverse student and faculty populations."

Davis' ties to Pitt go back to the late 1970s. She earned a bachelor's degree in English writing in 1981 and began working as a counselor and program manager at Pitt while working on a master's degree in speech, rhetoric, and communication. She received her master's degree in 1985. After a five-year post at Carnegie Mellon University's H. John Heinz III School

of Public Policy and Management, Davis rejoined Pitt in 1994 as a program director in the School of Medicine. She was promoted to assistant dean of student affairs and director

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### "AspiringDocs" Day to Be Held March 25 on Pittsburgh Campus

**A**spiringDocs.org, a pilot program to attract more medical students from underrepresented communities, will hold "AspiringDocs Day" on the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland campus from 4 to 6 p.m. March 25. The event at the William Pitt Union Assembly Room will give students the opportunity to learn more about careers in medicine from Pitt School of Medicine staff, faculty, and students.

Pitt is one of four universities participating in the AspiringDocs.org campaign, a pilot program of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) designed to attract more diverse physicians who can serve the growing health needs of culturally diverse communities.

U.S. medical schools have a decades-long commitment to building diversity in medicine. But while African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans make up 25 percent of the U.S. population, they account for only 12 percent of U.S. medical school graduates. To complement efforts to increase the number of prospective students, the AspiringDocs.org campaign has taken a new approach to reach an untapped market of potential underrepresented students who may be interested in the field of medicine. AspiringDocs.org provides a comprehensive online resource for students interested in medicine, as well as parents, teachers, and advisers who are critical in guiding students to pursue careers in the medical field.

AspiringDocs.org is a two-year pilot outreach program being conducted at Pitt, Rutgers University, California State University in Fresno, and the University of Arizona. Each school has a large percentage of underrepresented undergraduate biology majors with fewer-than-expected students applying to and attending medical school. At the end of the two-year period, AAMC will use marketing techniques such as benchmark polls, Web tracking, and applicant data analyses to assess whether the campaigns have inspired more students to consider medicine as a career—and helped to increase the number of underrepresented students who apply to and enroll in medical school.

The campaign's centerpiece is its Web site, containing comprehensive information from the AAMC and other resources about key topics that students deemed important in focus groups. The site also creates a new online community for aspiring doctors where they can ask questions and receive advice from the AAMC, as well as other experts in the undergraduate and medical school community such as financial aid counselors, medical school students, and practicing physicians. Another feature allows students who register for the site to share their opinions and experiences with other students on a variety of issues in the medical field.

In addition to providing extensive online resources, the campaign is designed to inspire students with real-life stories of practicing physicians and medical students from underrepresented populations who overcame challenges and barriers on their road to medical school.

Additional information about the campaign and a full summary of its resources are available at [www.AspiringDocs.org](http://www.AspiringDocs.org).

—By Megan Grote Quatrini

# Pitt Wins Big East Championship



HARRY BLOOMBERG

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, upper left, celebrates the Panthers' Big East Championship victory with the team and its coaches. In the back row, Pitt Athletics Director Steve Pederson stands to Nordenberg's left and next to Panther Coach Jamie Dixon.



Levance Fields



Ronald Ramon

HARRY BLOOMBERG

## Women's Team Earns Appearance In NCAA Tournament for 2nd Year

The Pitt women's basketball team earned its second consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament and, as of press time, was heading to Albuquerque, N.M., to play The University of Wyoming on March 22. Photo at right: Pitt senior center Mercedes Walker and Panthers Coach Agnus Berenato. Walker is the Panthers' all-time leader in rebounds, breaking a 29-year-old Pitt record. Photo inset: Guard Mallorie Winn, senior.



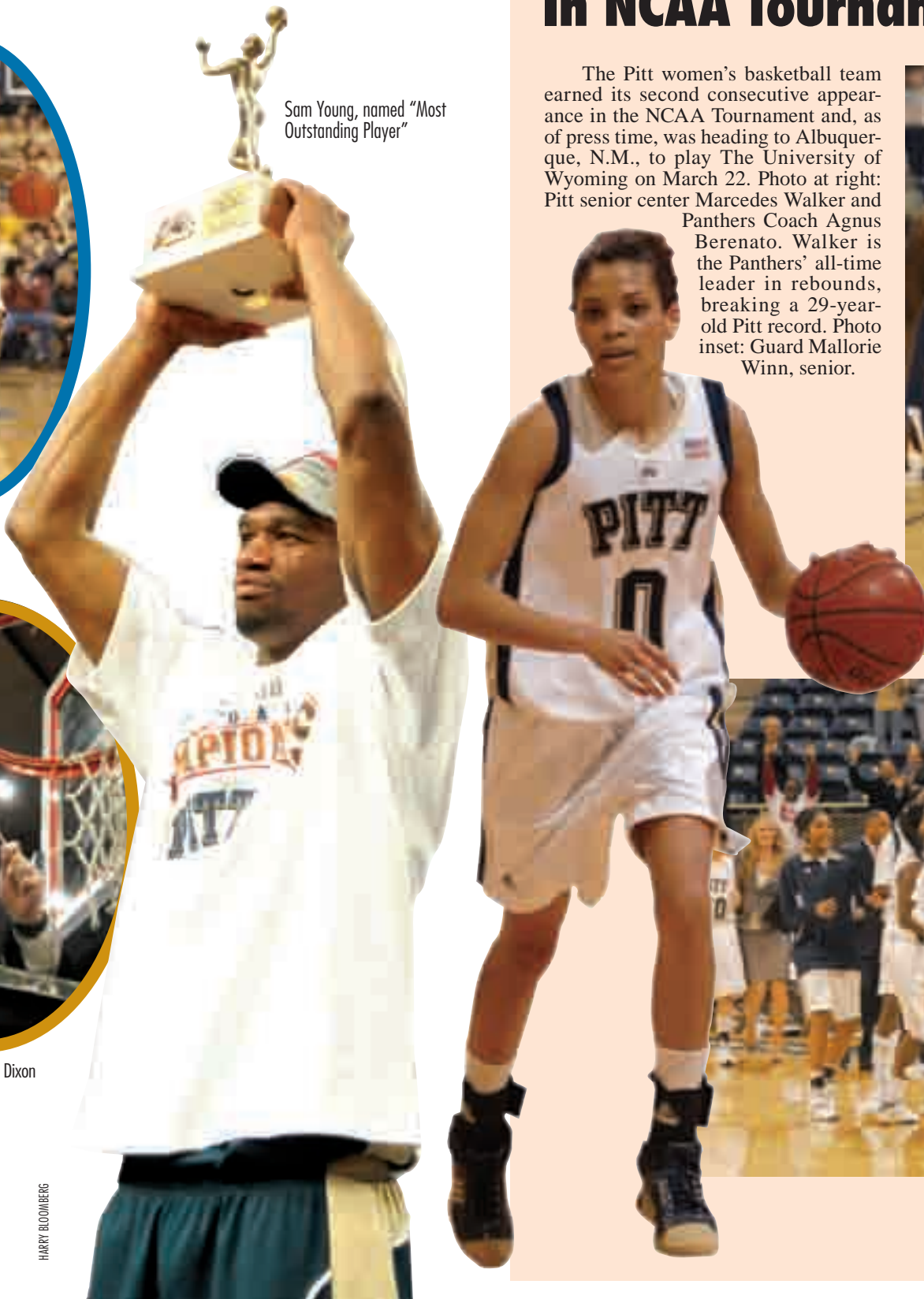
Sam Young, named "Most Outstanding Player"



Tyrell Biggs



Coach Jamie Dixon



HARRY BLOOMBERG



MIKE DRAZDZINSKI/CODE

## Women's History Month Paula Davis

of minority programs in 1997. It was in this role that Davis became, in 2003, the first individual to win the Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award, an honor normally bestowed upon campus organizations or programs.

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg lauded her programmatic achievements in creating the first "Minority Weekend" at the school and her successful work for the Summer Pre-medical Academic Enrichment Program for high school students and the Student National Medical Association.

Nordenberg also praised Davis for her role in implementing the Education in Cultural Competence Opportunity program. The pilot program taught second-year medical school students how to be sensitive to cultural and racial differences in health behaviors and belief systems. That pilot spawned some changes in the medical school's curriculum and was presented at the 2001 national meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

In his comments, Nordenberg also took special note of the interpersonal aspects of her work: "It is significant that a medical school student took the time to nominate Ms. Davis," he said. "In his letter, Mr. McCrea (then-third-year medical student Leon McCrea) praised Ms. Davis as an advisor, mentor, friend, and confidant to the minority medical school students. He said that Davis has 'created a space within the hallowed walls of the medical school, where it feels like home.'"

That feeling of home, Davis says, is one of the keys to recruitment at Pitt.

"We want to set up a situation where we can provide comfortable roots and be as welcoming an institution as possible," she said. "We have students coming to the health professions schools—which are rigorous enough in their academic demands—and leaving behind their undergraduate mentors and family, the people they trust to look out for their well-being. At the same time, they're interacting with patients for the first time and deciding on a course of study to determine the best fit for their clinical or professional practice.

"That's a lot of stressors all at the same time," Davis pointed out.

Both she and the students take the "home" analogy seriously: Davis refers to the students as her "kids," just as more than one has referred to her as "Mom."

"Paula was able to give you a pat on the back or hug and words of support when they were needed," said McCrea, now a resident physician in family medicine at the Crozer-Keystone Health System in Upland, Pa., south of Philadelphia. "Even more importantly, though, she was comfort-

able letting you know when you weren't on the right track and gave the tough love that was required."

One of the biggest obstacles Davis faces in getting students to choose Pitt as their new "home" is a financial one.

The Pitt health sciences schools' rise to international prominence means that they now compete for students with health sciences schools at Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Johns Hopkins, Columbia, and Duke universities, among others. For the most part, those schools have substantially larger endowments and/or far more state aid than Pitt has.

For medical, dental, and other health sciences students—who can graduate with substantial debt—student aid is crucial and is one of the major factors when a student, underrepresented or not, chooses another school. As a result of those financial pressures, a crucial part of Davis' job is visiting potential donors, including philanthropies and alumni.

Frequently, alumni remark about the changes in the health professions schools, all of which have transformed themselves from regional schools to international powerhouses devoted to health professions education and research.

"Some of the alums lament the change," she said. "But most are proud of the changes, as proud as I am to carry the Pitt banner."

**"I am certain that, under Ms. Davis' leadership, all six Schools of the Health Sciences will have success in identifying, attracting, and retaining diverse student and faculty populations."**

—Arthur S. Levine



MARY JANE BERRY/CODE

## Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, WVU Consortium Receives Funding for Fossil Energy Research

Continued from page 1

resource and which has been an important research partner for all three of our universities for many years."

Carnegie Mellon President Jared L. Cohon and WVU President Mike Garrison also are members of the board.

Carnegie Mellon Chemical Engineering Professor Andrew Gellman has been appointed research director for the consortium. Under his direction, the university team will engage in a portfolio of research programs aimed at developing new technologies for fossil fuel utilization, reducing the environmental impact of fossil energy use, and optimizing the efficiency of energy production from fossil fuel sources. The combined capabilities and resources of the three universities and NETL create an energy research enterprise with unique capabilities and breadth of scope, Gellman said.

Pennsylvania and West Virginia hold millions of tons of coal, a fuel that can meet the country's energy needs far into the future. Policymakers are calling on the region and the nation to use more of its plentiful coal reserves to increase the nation's energy security. Scientists can advance research into better ways to use coal and convert it into cleaner-burning fuels, Gellman said.

"We need to develop improved turbine

generators and new fuel cell technologies that use coal-derived synthetic fuels, along with new ways to capture and store greenhouse gases instead of releasing them into the atmosphere," Gellman said.

"The National Energy Technology Laboratory is encouraged and proud to work with researchers from Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, and West Virginia University," said NETL Director Carl Bauer. "By advancing science and technology in the region and the nation, this collaboration will provide clean, affordable energy for many generations of Americans and help secure national energy security."

The consortium will address these needs by focusing its research within eight program areas:

- Materials for energy technologies;
- Process and dynamic systems modeling;
- Catalyst and reactor development;
- Carbon management;
- Sensor systems and diagnostics;
- Energy conversion devices;
- Gas hydrates; and
- Ultradeep and unconventional oil and gas production technology.



## Pitt Gets \$11.4 Million From Gates Foundation To Research Tuberculosis Treatments



responses to particular drugs. They will be using three imaging technologies—radionuclides, fluorescence, and mass spectrometry—in combination to develop imaging probes and techniques to precisely locate bacteria associated with TB and to explore the underlying factors responsible for slow drug metabolism.

"By applying the tools of modern medicine to TB, we hope to lay the groundwork for real-time measurements of TB drug efficacy in clinical trials and develop new targeted therapies that will considerably shorten the length of treatment," Flynn said.

Tuberculosis is a bacterial disease usually affecting the lungs. Called pulmonary TB, the disease is characterized by a persistent cough, shortness of breath, weight loss, and chest pain. Left untreated, one person with active pulmonary TB will infect on average between 10 and 15 other people every year. The bacteria associated with the disease also can infect nearly any part of the body, such as the lymph nodes, the spine, or bones. TB is deadly if left untreated.

Other co-investigators on the grant include researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Vanderbilt University, Cornell University, The Scripps Research Institute, Oxford University, and Novartis Institute of Tropical Diseases.

The Center for Vaccine Research (CVR) at the University of Pittsburgh houses both the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory and the Vaccine Research Laboratory. Researchers at the CVR, directed by Donald S. Burke, dean of the University of Pittsburgh 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.

Continued from page 1

because the germs that cause the infection hide from the immune system in small tissue nodules called granulomas, enabling the infection to reactivate years, and even decades, later. Although for the most part TB is a curable disease, patients must adhere to treatment long after symptoms have faded. This proves challenging in many regions of the world where medication is not readily accessible. Indeed, an inadequate or incomplete course of treatment is the major factor that causes drug-resistant TB strains to develop. These strains are alarmingly high in many countries around the world.

"Current medications for TB were developed more than three decades ago," Flynn said. "To create significantly shorter and simplified approaches to treatment, we must improve our understanding of this disease and how current drugs are localized at the site of infection."

To understand more about the basic biology of TB, Flynn and her colleagues are using the grant to develop positron emission tomography (PET) and computed tomography (CT) imaging studies in non-human primates. By using combined PET/CT, the researchers will be able to follow the progression of the disease in animals over time and analyze changes in tissue and

# Awards & More



The University of Pittsburgh's Swanson School of Engineering and its departments honored seven alumni at its 2008 Distinguished Alumni Banquet March 20. The honorees are widely regarded as the top experts in their respective fields and hail from across the nation and the world.

**Mahmoud K. Dabbous**, who received the Distinguished Alumni Award, is an international authority on techniques to maximize extraction from oil fields. The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, the International Energy Agency, the Society of Petroleum Engineers, and other organizations routinely call upon Dabbous to speak about improved oil recovery technology. Dabbous is president and CEO of the Dallas-based Improved Petroleum Recovery Group of Companies. He earned his master's degree in petroleum engineering and his doctoral degree in chemical engineering at Pitt in 1969 and 1971, respectively.

**Alka Patel** received the Distinguished Young Alumni Award. Patel, of the Intellectual Property Counsel for Allegheny Technologies, Inc., in Pittsburgh, is regarded as an accomplished woman in a field dominated by men. After completing her bachelor's degree in materials science at Pitt in 1996, Patel worked as a metallurgical engineer at Timken Latrobe Steel Company and was one of two women at the plant at the time. She was responsible for quality assurance, process reliability, and managing 20 employees. In 2001, she earned her master's degree in business administration and her law degree at Duquesne University. Combining these with her Pitt engineering education, Patel focused on patents in the areas of materials science, chemicals, nanotechnology, medical devices, software, and business methods.

The following were named Distinguished Alumni within their respective departments in the Swanson School:

**Marlin H. Mickle**, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Mickle is Pitt's Nickolas A. DeCecco Professor of electrical and computer engineering and telecommunications. He earned all of his degrees at Pitt: bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering in 1961 and 1963, respectively, and a PhD degree in 1967.

**Raymond P. Niro**, Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. Niro is founder and senior partner of Niro, Scavone, Haller and Niro, a nationally recognized intellectual property law firm based in Chicago. He graduated from Pitt with his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1964 and from George Washington University Law School in 1969.

**James J. Lombardi**, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Lombardi is executive vice president of SAI Consulting Engineers Inc., a Pittsburgh-based, employee-owned transportation design and construction management firm with more than 150 employees. Lombardi earned his bachelor's degree at Pitt in civil engineering in 1972.

**Barbara Shelton**, Department of Industrial Engineering. Shelton is the principal representative of the U.S. General Services Administration for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Shelton earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering at Pitt in 1979 and a master's degree in business administration at Columbia University.

**Edward F. Sobota**, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science. Sobota is founder of Derry, Pa.-based Tech Spec, Inc., a nationally acclaimed manufacturer and supplier of titanium bar and forging products for the aerospace, medical, chemical, and industrial product industries. Sobota graduated from Pitt with a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering in 1967.

Information on awardees from elsewhere at Pitt follows.

**Leigh Hoffman** is the recipient of the 2007-08 President's Distinguished Service Award for Staff at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Hoffman is the assistant dean of student services, the director of orientation and cocurricular programs, and the judicial coordinator who oversees student disciplinary actions. In presenting the award, Sharon P. Smith, Pitt-Greensburg president, said Hoffman "never sits back to rest on past success but rather is always envisioning improvements to programs and innovations that will take us in new and exciting directions. Her impact is extraordinary."

Hoffman has worked at Pitt-Greensburg since 2003. She was promoted to her current position in 2006. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology/education from Juniata College and a master's degree in counseling from the University of Scranton."

**Tao Cheng**, a professor in the Pitt School of Medicine's biochemistry and molecular genetics program, received the Scholar Award from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The grant includes \$550,000 over five years and is given to highly qualified investigators who have shown a capacity for independent, sustained original investigation in the field of leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

**James Menegazzi**, research associate professor of emergency medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine, won two awards from the National Association of EMS Physicians. He won Best Scientific Presentation and Best Cardiac Arrest Presentation. In addition, **Jon Rittenberger**, a research fellow instructor of emergency medicine within Pitt's medical school, won the Best Fellow Presentation. The awards were presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of EMS Physicians held recently in Phoenix.



## German Cinema on the Edge Film Series to Begin March 28

By Anthony M. Moore

The University of Pittsburgh's Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures will present the film series German Cinema on the Edge on March 28 and 29 and April 4 and 5.

All screenings will be held at 7 p.m. in the Bellefield Hall auditorium.

The series will feature five recent German films, among them *Rhythm Is It*, which won the 2005 Bavarian Film Award for Best Documentary. Screenings are free and open to the public, and all films have English subtitles.

A list of the screenings follows.

**March 28—Kebab Connection** (2005), 96 minutes, directed by Anno Saul.

Synopsis: *Kebab Connection* humorously explores the contemporary clash of cultures and generations. This film follows the life of Ibo, a young Turkish-German aspiring filmmaker, who has just shot his first film—a commercial for his uncle's fast-food restaurant. His uncle is unhappy about Ibo's use of ninjas to sell kebab. Ibo also has just found out that his girlfriend is pregnant. He struggles with his own doubts about impending fatherhood and his family's disappointment—until the customers start streaming in.

**March 29—Rhythm Is It** (2004), 104 minutes, directed by Thomas Grube.

Synopsis: This documentary records the first big educational project of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle. The film features 250 underprivileged German students as they train to dance to Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* with the world-renowned orchestra. Seen through the eyes of three protagonists, *Rhythm Is It* follows the teenagers' perseverance during three months of rehearsals and the development of a professional performance.

**April 4—Vier Minuten [Four Minutes]** (2006), 112 minutes, directed by Chris Kraus.

Synopsis: This film follows Traude, a piano teacher, who has been giving piano lessons in a women's prison for decades. She meets Jenny, a reserved young woman convicted of murder, who was once considered a child musical prodigy. Traude's attempt to guide her pupil to victory in a music competition leads to a difficult, contradictory relationship between the two women.

**April 5—Wohnkomplex [Residential Complex]** (2005), 29 minutes, directed by Rita Bakacs.

Synopsis: This film provides a glance into Halle-Neustadt, a city in the former German Democratic Republic, after German reunification. In the midst of urban ruins, mass unemployment, and empty buildings vacated by those who went elsewhere for jobs and a better life, former GDR citizens find themselves living next to asylum seekers from all over the world. The film shows how the city that was once designed as a socialist model town has become a shrinking metropolis.

**Yella** (2007), 88 minutes, directed by Christian Petzold.

Synopsis: This film follows Yella, who flees her failed marriage and broken dreams to begin again in Hanover. She finds work with a determined young executive and enters a ruthless world of big business. Seemingly helped by her looks, quick wits, and icy demeanor and just when she is poised to realize her ambitions, she finds herself haunted by truths from the past that threaten to destroy her new life.

# Happenings



Brahms x 6: The Sextet, March 27

**"Deconstructing Place: Objectivity and the Theory of Lived-Space From Husserl to Casey,"** Edward Slowik, professor of philosophy at Winona State University, 12:05 p.m. **March 25**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, www.pitt.edu/~pittcentr.

**Joshua Cohen**, literary reading of his book *A Heaven of Others*, 7:30 p.m. **March 25**, Kiva Han Café, 420 S. Craig St., Oakland, Pitt Cultural Studies Program, 412-624-7232.

**"From Vienna to Budapest: World's Fairs and Croatian Art,"** Rachel Rossner, a Fulbright-Hays Fellow at the University of Chicago, noon **March 26**, 4217 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies, 412-648-7407.

**"The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery,"** Vince Brown, a professor in Harvard University's Department of African and African American Studies, 4 p.m. **March 26**, 3703 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Graduate Program Speaker Series and Atlantic History Seminar, www.pitt.edu/~pitthist/news/lectures/index.html.

**"Dancing on Drugs: Normalization, Culture, and Adolescent Recreational Drug Use in Hong Kong,"** Nicole W.T. Cheung, sociology professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, noon **March 27**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Asian Studies Center, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, asia@ucis.pitt.edu.

**"Book Symposium: Managing the Dragon,"** Jack Perkowski, chair and CEO of ASIMCO Technologies, 3:30 p.m. **March 27**, 117 Mervis Hall, Pitt's Asian Studies Center and International Business Center and the Society for International Business, www.ucis.pitt.edu/main/events-one-month.shtml.

**"Was Jesus' Foster-Father a Martyr? Constructing the Death of Joseph the Carpenter"** Pamela Sheingorn, professor emerita of history at the City University of New York, 4 p.m. **March 27**, Room 501 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Departments of History and Religious Studies, 412-624-5220, aaloe@pitt.edu.

**"Head Injury and Your Brain,"** featuring three speakers from Pitt's Departments of Neurosurgery and Orthopedic Surgery, 7-9 p.m. **March 27**, Room A221, Langley Hall, Brain Awareness Forum 2008, Pitt's School of Medicine, School of Arts and Sciences, and Center for Neuroscience, 412-648-3585, Cnup.neurobio.pitt.edu/.

**"What Appeals to Chinese Customers? International Advertising of Global Brands in China,"** Kun Tian, a graduate student in Pitt's East Asian Studies program, 2 p.m. **March 28**, 4130 Posvar Hall, East Asian Languages and Literatures Colloquium Series, 412-624-5568.

**"All Frills: Girlie Taste and Japanese Consumer Culture,"** Tomiko Yoda, professor in Duke University's Department of Asian and African Languages and Literatures, 2 p.m. **March 28**, 3106 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Asian Studies Center, www.ucis.pitt.edu/main/events-one-month.shtml.

**"NASA's Future Lunar Exploration Program: What Can We Learn About Earth Processes From the Lunar Surface?"** Mike Ramsey, professor in Pitt's Department of Geology and Planetary Science, 3:45 p.m. **March 28**, 203 Thaw Hall, Department of Geology and Planetary Science Spring 2008 Colloquium Series, www.geology.pitt.edu/colloquium.html.

**"Improvisation, Creativity, Collaboration: Fueling Innovation in the 21st Century,"** free symposium featuring speakers and performers who will address improvisation, collaboration, and innovation, 4:30 p.m. **March 28**, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Music Hall, U.S. Japan Innovators Network, reservations required, 412-322-0800, www.mcgjazz.org.

**"Do You Consider Yourself a Jewish Writer?"** Dara Horn, author of *The World to Come*, 7:30 p.m. **March 30**, 1501 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Jewish Studies Program, orbach@pitt.edu.

## Miscellaneous

**2008 Pitt-Greensburg Writers Festival**, featuring nationally acclaimed poets and visual artists, **today through March 28**, campus coffee house, Pitt-Greensburg writing program, schedule available at www.upg.pitt.edu.

**University of Pittsburgh Wellness Fair**, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **March 25**, William Pitt Union, Pitt Wellness Program, 412-648-8251.

**"Careers Over Lunch,"** discussion, noon-1:30 p.m. **March 25**, Room S100, Biomedical Science Tower 2, Brown Bag Lunch Series, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, www.survival.pitt.edu.

**"On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us,"** featuring author and performer Kate Bornstein in an evening of slapstick, personal monologue, and slam poetry, 8:45 p.m. **March 26**, G8 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Women Studies Program,

412-624-6485, www.pitt.edu/~studies.

**Desire**, 2005 film, 7:30 p.m. **March 27**, G24 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Women's Studies Film Series, www.pitt.edu/~wstudies/.

**School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Spring Open House**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **March 29**, Forbes Tower, 412-383-6556, www.shrs.pitt.edu.

**"Grants Over Lunch,"** discussion, noon-1:30 p.m. **March 31**, Room 260, Victoria Building, Brown Bag Lunch Series, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, www.survival.pitt.edu.

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**Aida** by Verdi, **March 29-April 6**, Benedum Center, 801 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-281-0912, www.pittsburghopera.com.

**Fiddler on the Roof**, **March 27-April 6**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, 412-539-0999, www.pittsburghmusicals.com.

**Late Night Catechism**, **March 27-April 20**, City Theatre's Hamburg Studio, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

**Lavender Lizards and Lilac Landmines: Layla's Dream**, directed by Linwood Sloan, **through April 5**, Kuntu Repertory Theatre, Seventh-Floor Auditorium, Alumni Hall, 412-624-7298, www.kuntu.org.

**A Number**, **through April 6**, 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

**Daniel Handley**, Department of Human Genetics, "Systems Approach to Analyzing the TGFbeta/SMAD3 Gene Regulatory Pathway in A549 Cells," 4 p.m. **today**, PACCM Conference Room, NW 628, Montefiore Hospital.

**Adriana Lopez**, Department of Statistics, "Markov Models for Longitudinal Course of Youth Bipolar Disorder," 9 a.m. **March 28**, Room 230, Cathedral of Learning.

**Philip Murphy**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, "Self, Group, and Society: Emergence of New Political Identities in the Republic of Macedonia," 10 a.m. **March 28**, 3200 Posvar Hall.

**Mark Abbott**, Department of Anthropology, "Bread, Sweat, and Tears? The Ascendance of Capitalist Accumulation Strategies in the Russian Republic of Karelia, 2001-2002," noon **March 28**, 3106 Posvar Hall.

**Kate Dimitrova**, Department of the History of Art and Architecture, "Unraveling Christ's Passion: Archbishop

Dalmau de Mur's Patronage and Franco-Flemish Tapestries in Fifteenth-Century Spain," 1 p.m. **March 28**, Room 104, Frick Fine Arts Building.

**Ava Puccio**, School of Nursing, "Effect of Short Periods of Normobaric Hyperoxia on Local Brain Tissue Oxygenation and Cerebrospinal Fluid Oxidative Stress Markers in Severe Traumatic Brain Injury," 9 a.m. **March 31**, Room 331 Victoria Building.

**John R. Shaffer**, Department of Human Genetics, "Genetic Epidemiology of Longitudinal Change in Bone Mineral Density in Mexican Americans," 11 a.m. **March 31**, Room A312 Crabtree Hall.

**Jean A. Grace**, Department of English, "Working Knowledge: Composition and the Teaching of Professional Writing," 2 p.m. **March 31**, Room 527 Cathedral of Learning.

**Molly Stitt-Fischer**, Department of Environment and Occupational Health, "Nitric Oxide-Mediated Signaling in Pulmonary Endothelial Cells," 2 p.m. **March 31**, Fifth-Floor Conference Room, Bridgeside Point.

**Ning Zhang**, Department of Anthropology, "Donkey Friends: Travel, Voluntary Associations, and the Public Sphere in Urban China," 1 p.m. **April 1**, 3106 Posvar Hall.

## Concerts

**Spring College/Community Choir Concert**, features Mozart's *Vesperae de Dominica* and Haydn's *Missa in Angustiis*, 7:30 p.m. **March 26**, Bromley Family Theater, Pitt-Bradford, 814-362-0248, www.upb.pitt.edu.

**University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**, featuring new music by Benjamin Harris, 8 p.m. **March 26**, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

**Brahms x 6: The Sextet**, with Andres Cardenes conducting and as violinist, 8 p.m. **March 27**, Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Pittsburgh Symphony Chamber Orchestra, 412-392-4900 www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

**An Evening with Bebe Neuwirth**, **March 27-30**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, PNC Pittsburgh Symphony Pops, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

**SHANGHAI, CHINA: Shanghai Quartet**, **March 31**, Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society, New Hazlett Theatre, 6 Allegheny Square East, includes music by Zhou Long and Bright Sheng, survivors of Mao's Cultural Revolution, 412-624-4129, www.pittsburghchambermusic.org.

## Exhibitions

**Carnegie Museum of Art**, *Great British Art: 200 Years of Watercolors, Drawings, and Prints From the Bank of New York Mellon Collection*, **through May 18**; *Ecology.Design.Synergy*, **through June 1**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

**Hillman Library**, Audubon Print, *Blackburnian Warbler*, **through today**, 412-648-7715.

**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**; *Neke Carson: Eyeball Portraits and Beyond + Neke Paints Andy '72*, **through June 1**, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 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.

**707 Penn Gallery**, *Suggestion/Submission*, **through April 5**, 707 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-7017, www.pgharts.org.

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

**KOA Art Gallery**, *Affairs of the Art 2008*, **through April 11**, Blaisdell Hall, Pitt-Bradford, 814-362-0248, www.upb.pitt.edu.

**Silver Eye Center for Photography**, *In Search of America*, photographs by David Graham, **through April 12**, 1015 E. Carson St., South Side, 412-431-1810, www.silvereye.org.

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

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**Ed Ochester**, Pitt Poetry Series editor, informal talk at 3:30 p.m., poetry reading at 7 p.m., both **today**, campus coffeehouse, Pitt-Greensburg, 2008 Pitt-Greensburg Writers Festival, 724-836-7481, www.upg.pitt.edu.

**"She Said: Women's Words,"** poetry reading featuring poet Naomi Shihab Nye, Pitt English Professor Dawn Lundy Martin and others, 7:30 p.m. **today**, Cabaret at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Women's History Month, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

**"Careers in Biotech,"** Kenneth Giuliano, principal scientist at Cellumen Inc., noon-1:30 p.m. **March 25**, S100 Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower, Pitt Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, www.survival.pitt.edu.



Blackburnian Warbler, Hillman Library, through today



Late Night Catechism, City Theatre March 27-April 20



# Etch A Sketch™ Toy Inspires Pitt Team in Nanotechnology Discovery

New technology may lead to more powerful, compact information technologies



By Morgan Kelly

A University of Pittsburgh-led research team developed a process in which the ability to conduct electricity can be turned on and off at nanoscale dimensions. This capability holds promise for more powerful and compact information technologies, including ultrahigh density information storage, reconfigurable logic devices, single-electron

devices, and quantum computers.

The findings were published online March 2 in *Nature Materials* with the print version scheduled for April.

Led by Jeremy Levy, a professor of physics and astronomy in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, the researchers discovered how to switch, at will, the interface of

two readily formed insulating materials from an electrical conductor to an insulator and back. The research's considerable technological applications stem from this adjustability, Levy said.

The process works like a microscopic Etch A Sketch™, Levy explained, referencing the drawing toy of his youth that inspired his idea. The interface lies between a crystal of strontium titanate and a 1.2 nanometer-thick layer of lanthanum aluminate, both of which are insulators. Using the sharp conducting probe of an atomic-force microscope, the team created wires less than four nanometers wide at the interface of the two materials. These conducting nanostructures can subsequently be erased with a reverse voltage or with light, rendering the interface an insulator once more.

"This work is not only potentially useful for technological applications, but also fascinating from a fundamental perspective," Levy said. "The prospect of making both logic and memory devices with the same material is very intriguing, and at this small a scale it's almost unheard of."

The physical model still needs tested in crucial ways, but provides an important framework for future research directions, Levy said.

The idea originated from a visit Levy made to the University of Augsburg in Germany, where coauthors Jochen Mannhart and his student Stefan Thiel showed Levy how the entire interface could be switched between a conducting and insulating state. Levy thought of adapting the process to

nanoscale dimensions, and his student Cheng Cen, the paper's first author, brought the idea to fruition. Research by C. Stephen Hellberg from the Naval Research Laboratory contributed to the theoretical understanding of the project. The work was supported by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the National Science Foundation.

Levy has worked in the field of oxide electronics for the last decade and has been recognized by Pitt with the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2007 and the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award in 2004.



Jeremy Levy

**"The prospect of making both logic and memory devices with the same material is very intriguing, and at this small a scale it's almost unheard of."**

—Jeremy Levy

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published March 31. **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).