

Pitt Alumnus, Football Hall of Famer Dan Marino To Deliver Pitt's 2008 Commencement Speech

By John Fedele

University of Pittsburgh alumnus Dan Marino will be the featured speaker at Pitt's 2008 Commencement at 1 p.m. April 27 in the Petersen Events Center.

Marino, a member of both the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame, is currently an in-studio host of CBS-TV's *The NFL Today* and a former cohost of HBO's award-winning football show *Inside the NFL*. He and his wife, Claire, are two of the nation's leading advocates and philanthropists for the care of children with autism and special needs through the Dan Marino Foundation.

"Over the course of the years, the University of Pittsburgh has been represented by an amazingly talented, accomplished, and committed group of individuals, on and off the field," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "Dan Marino, saluted by many as the greatest quarterback in football history, is a champion—both in sport and in life. He also is an extraordinary human being. The people of Pitt—and Pittsburgh—will enthusiastically open their arms to welcome back a genuine hometown hero."

A Pittsburgh native who grew up in the shadow of Pitt's Cathedral of Learning in Oakland, Marino already was a nationally acclaimed athlete when he came to Pitt in the fall of 1978. He was named a *Parade* magazine High School All American for his performance as quarterback for Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh; he also was drafted to play baseball for the Kansas City Royals.

During one of the most accomplished college football careers in the sport's history, Marino established several National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) season and career records for pass attempts and completions, yardage, and touchdowns. Named a first-team All-American his junior



Dan Marino

year, he led the Panthers to victory in three of the four national bowl games in which he played, as well as to No. 1 ranking for parts of the 1980 and 1981 seasons (with final-season ranking of No. 4 and No. 10, respectively, and a No. 2 final ranking in 1980). His uniform number, 13, was retired by Pitt in 1982, and in 2003, Marino was honored for his outstanding NCAA career with induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Marino earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in communication science at Pitt in 1983 and was drafted in the first round by the NFL's Miami Dolphins.

He continued his athletic success as a

professional, setting more than 20 individual-season and career passing records during his 17-year NFL career that culminated in his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2005. Marino was named Most Valuable Player in 1984 by the Pro Football Writers of America, the Newspaper Enterprise Corporation, and the NFL, which also named him 1984 Offensive Player of the Year. In 1994, United Press International named Marino the AFL-AFC Player of the Year, and the NFL named him Comeback Player of the Year. He was selected to the Pro Bowl nine times during his career and was named an All-Pro eight times.

Off the field, Marino served as the Dolphins' United Way representative and performed in dozens of television shows and such movies as *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, starring Jim Carrey; *Holy Man*, starring Eddie Murphy; and *Little Nicky*, starring Adam Sandler.

The Dolphins retired Marino's jersey number, which also was 13, and inducted him into the team's honor roll in a halftime ceremony during a game in 2000. In a year of accolades from the franchise he led so long and so well, the Dolphins also installed a life-size bronze statue of him at Pro Player Stadium and renamed Stadium Street as Dan Marino Boulevard.

Motivated by experiences in raising the second of their six children, Michael, who has autism, the Marinos created the Dan Marino Foundation in 1992 to meet the need for comprehensive and integrated treatment programs for children with developmental disabilities and chronic medical problems.

Six years later, the Marinos, with Miami Children's Hospital, created the Dan Marino Center in Weston, Fla., a freestanding pediatric medical center that provides the most comprehensive and integrated

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Pitt's Bellet Teaching Awards To Be Endowed in Perpetuity

Bellets give Pitt \$1.5 million for award program

By Serafina Ginley and John Harvith

University of Pittsburgh alumnus David Bellet (CAS '67) and his wife, Tina, have given the University \$1.5 million to endow in perpetuity the Tina and David Bellet Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award. Established by the Bellets in 1998, the Bellet Award program, which heretofore had been funded on an annual basis, recognizes outstanding and innovative undergraduate teaching in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences. Each award recipient receives a prize of \$5,000.

"The commitment to provide our students with rich opportunities to learn and to grow is what drives our University," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "At the very heart of that enterprise are talented and dedicated teachers whose impact, though often not measurable, can be extraordinary. David and Tina Bellet, longtime and passionate advocates for teaching of the highest quality, know the difference a great teacher can make. We are immensely grateful to them for endowing their excellence-in-teaching award and for creating a perpetual link between themselves and Pitt."

Since the inception of the award program, there have been 28 Pitt faculty members honored with the Bellet Award. The 2008 awardees are Melanie Dreyer-Lude, an assistant professor in the Department of Theatre Arts, and Jeff Oaks, a lecturer in the Department of English.

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Tina and David Bellet

BRADEN WOLFE/CODE

Pitt Launches Center for Energy to Develop Better Fuel Sources

By Morgan Kelly

The University of Pittsburgh has created a new Center for Energy as part of what Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg referred to as "the increasing need to address the complex energy challenges of our time, which call for more reliable, efficient, and environmentally friendly energy sources."

The Center for Energy, housed in the Swanson School of Engineering, comprises more than 40 world-class faculty members and their research teams, who will apply deep and diverse expertise across a broad spectrum of energy-related projects as well as education and outreach activities. The center's five areas of research are energy diversification, renewable energy, clean coal technologies, hydrogen, and environmental solutions.

"Energy will be a defining social issue for the next generation," said Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher.

"We want to accelerate our research in order to be positioned to have a significant and positive impact on the environment as well as the economy while further establishing our home region as a leader in energy research."



Brian Gleeson



Laura Schaefer

Energy research at Pitt already ranges from areas as diverse as harnessing solar energy and creating clean coal technologies to developing synthetic and biomass-derived fuels, gas hydrates, high-temperature coatings, and fuel cells. Participating in the new center are faculty members from the Departments of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Chemistry, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Geology and Planetary Science, Physics, and Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science.

Pitt's U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering

Gerald Holder said the Center for Energy's mission extends beyond research to include partnering with industry, government, and other universities. "We have already developed an educational program in nuclear engineering," Holder said. "We expect to develop partnerships in other areas, including power transmission and mining engineering."

Brian Gleeson, Harry S. Tack Chair in Materials Science and a professor of mechanical engineering and materials science, serves as the director of the center; Laura Schaefer, a mechanical engineering and materials science professor, is the assistant director.

The new center also will be linked to the Pitt-Bradford energy initiative, which has the mission to facilitate education and outreach programs in energy, particularly the regional resources of petroleum and renewables.

More information is available at the Center for Energy Web site, www.energy.pitt.edu.

Briefly Noted



Michael Mossman

Fuller, Mossman Are Featured Horn Players at Pitt Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert

Internationally renowned horn players Curtis Fuller and Michael Mossman will be the featured guests at the annual Pitt Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert at 8 p.m. April 18.

The concert will be held in the William Pitt Union's Assembly Room. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and senior citizens and can be purchased at the WPU box office. More information is available by calling 412-624-4187.

The 25 students who comprise the Pitt Jazz Ensemble have served as artists-in-residence in Jamaica for one week every year, performing for schoolchildren in rural villages, absorbing Caribbean culture, and building goodwill and friendships. Proceeds from this year's concert will help fund the annual trip.

Fuller, of Millbury, Mass., is regarded as one of the most distinctive trombone stylists in jazz. He emerged from the thriving Detroit music scene of the late 1940s and early 50s, and after just eight months in New York City, the then-22-year-old had made six albums as a leader and appeared on 15 others. He has performed and recorded with John Coltrane, Bud Powell, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, and many others.

Philadelphia-born trumpeter Michael Mossman has been active on the international scene since the age of 17. His group, *Metaphysical Mambos*, features Ray Barretto, Paquito D'Rivera, Patato Valdez, and many others. He is much sought after for his expertise as a composer and arranger of Afro-Cuban and Brazilian jazz.

Local musicians—Greg Humphries on drums, Dwayne Dolphin on bass, James Johnson on piano, and Cecil "Valdez" Washington on Latin percussion—will accompany Fuller and Mossman.

—By Sharon S. Blake

Pitt's United Way Giving Surpasses 2006 Total by 8 Percent

University of Pittsburgh faculty, staff, and retirees have raised more than \$600,000 for the 2007 United Way Campaign, surpassing last year's total by 8 percent. Faculty and staff donated \$565,112 and retirees \$28,355; \$8,058 was garnered from various special events. This year's total is \$601,525.

"Pitt's United Way campaign has exceeded our expectations this year," said Anne Franks, manager of Pitt's campaign and manager of human resources administration in Pitt's Office of Institutional Advancement. "The United Way campaign truly impacts Southwestern Pennsylvania, and these funds from Pitt faculty and staff will make a world of difference in changing people's lives

right here in Pittsburgh."

This year's campaign reflected an increase in the number of donors with more than 250 new donors participating in the campaign, including 11 new leadership gifts. The leadership gift dollar amount increased by 10 percent, bringing the total to \$337,638. Pitt's 1,629 donors gave a total of \$259,860 to the United Way Impact Fund.

—By Patricia Lomando White

Pitt Open Enrollment Period for Benefits to Start April 21

The University of Pittsburgh will hold its annual open enrollment season April 21 through May 14—and the good news is that the University's overall increase in health plan costs for the 2008-09 year is significantly lower than the national average.

During Open Enrollment, Pitt staff and faculty will have the opportunity to make changes in their benefit selections. The period is the only time during the benefit year that IRS regulations allow such changes. Otherwise, benefit selection changes are permitted only if there is a qualified life event. The most common qualifying life events include marriage, divorce, birth/adoption of a child, and a significant change in or loss of a spouse's/partner's benefit coverage.



Curtis Fuller

John Kozar, Pitt director of benefits, said the University's overall increase in health plan costs for the 2008-09 fiscal year will be 1.5 percent—and will not include any benefit changes. It marks the third consecutive year that the University's increase in health care costs has fallen significantly below the national average

increases.

According to Mercer Consulting, the national increase in health care costs in 2008 is expected to be 7.9 percent before changes and 5.7 percent after a cutback on benefits.

Pitt's Medical Advisory Committee, consisting of members from both faculty and staff, reviewed the Mercer survey data as well as information obtained through the Association of American Universities (AAU). The AAU information indicated that on key measures such as copayments for wellness visits as well as physician, specialist, and emergency room visits, the University, on all accounts, provides a more attractive benefits offering than most universities.

For an individual, Kozar said, the 1.5 percent increase for this benefit year translates into a monthly increase of \$1 for single coverage and \$3 for family coverage within the Panther Gold HMO program.

The University's contract with United Concordia for dental coverage has been reviewed and extended for an additional three years. Based on claims experience, members will see an overall increase of 3.5 percent each year, which is consistent with dental-cost inflation. Members in the Concordia Plus dental program will experience the larger percentage of the overall increase, but those increases are based on its lower premiums.

As it has in the past, the University will absorb 80 percent of staff and faculty's overall benefit costs.

The benefits department will conduct an Open Enrollment Fair on each campus during the open enrollment period. The schedule is listed below. The fairs provide an opportunity to meet directly with representatives from each of the insurance carriers.

Oakland: April 28 and 29, noon–3 p.m., William Pitt Union Lower Lounge

Greensburg: May 1, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Rooms 101 and 118 Village Hall

Bradford: May 5, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Frame-Westerberg Commons, Mukaiyama University Room

Titusville: May 6, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Haskell Memorial Library

Johnstown: May 8, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Student Union, Cambria Room

Pitt Research Professor Isabel Beck Elected to National Academy of Education



Isabel L. Beck with then-student Dexter Miller (A&S '07) at the Pitt Learning Research and Development Center

By Patricia Lomando White

Isabel L. Beck, emeritus professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Education and senior scientist in Pitt's Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC), has been elected to the National Academy of Education (NAEd).

"The academy is the highest-level body devoted to supporting and maintaining the very best educational research," said Alan Lesgold, School of Education dean. "This is truly U. S. education's highest honor, and we are extremely fortunate to have it bestowed on one of our best and dearest colleagues. Among the approximately 200 members of the academy are Pitt colleagues Bob Glaser, Jim Greeno, Lauren Resnick, and now Isabel."

Beck was an elementary school teacher before beginning her distinguished academic career. Internationally known for her research in reading, Beck has engaged in extensive research on decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension and has published more than 100 articles and several books. *Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction* (The Guilford Press, 2002), with Margaret G. McKeown and Linda Kucan, has become a best seller.

Among Beck's publications are *Making Sense of Phonics: The Hows and Whys* (The Guilford Press, 2005); *Improving Comprehension With Questioning the Author: A Fresh and Expanded View of a Powerful Approach* (Theory and Practice, 2006), with McKeown; and *Creating Robust Vocabulary: Frequently Asked Questions and Extended Examples* (The Guilford Press, May 2008), with McKeown and Kucan, which responds to readers' feedback and interest by providing more examples and day-to-day strategies.

Her numerous awards include the National Reading Conference's 1988 Oscar S. Causey Award for outstanding research and the 2000 Contributing Researcher Award from the American Federation of Teachers

"This is truly U. S. education's highest honor, and we are extremely fortunate to have it bestowed on one of our best and dearest colleagues. Among the approximately 200 members of the academy are Pitt colleagues Bob Glaser, Jim Greeno, Lauren Resnick, and now Isabel."

—Alan Lesgold

for "bridging the gap between research and practice," which is Beck's hallmark. In 1995, she was inducted into the International Reading Association's Reading Hall of Fame and received its William S. Gray Award in 2002.

Beck earned her degrees in education—the Bachelor of Science in 1953, the Master of Science in 1963, and the Ph.D. in 1973—all at the University of Pittsburgh.

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Pitt's Bellet Teaching Awards to Be Endowed in Perpetuity



BRADEN WOLFE/CIDDE

From left: Arts and Sciences Dean N. John Cooper; Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher; Tina Bellet; awardees Melanie Dreyer-Lude and Jeffrey Oaks; David Bellet; Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg; and Arts and Sciences Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies Juan J. Manfredi

Continued from page 1

"The distinctive feature of the Bellet Award is the way the program builds a culture of teaching excellence through recognizing the contributions of individuals, building community through the celebration of teaching excellence, and promoting a dialogue about what constitutes teaching excellence," said N. John Cooper, the Bettye J. and Ralph E. Bailey Dean of Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences.

David Bellet, the retired chair and founder of global investment firm Crown Advisors, earned his 1967 Pitt Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and his MBA at Columbia University. He is a member of the Pitt School of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors, was selected for inclusion in the inaugural class of Pitt's Legacy Laureates in 2000, and was named a Pitt Distinguished Alumni Fellow in 2001. Tina Bellet, a former teacher, serves on the Lesley University Board of Trustees. She is a trustee emeritus of the Horace Mann School—an independent, coeducational, pre-K-12 school in Riverdale, N.Y.—where she continues to serve as a member of the board of trustees' education committee.

The Bellets' gift is part of the University of Pittsburgh's Building Our Future Together capital campaign, the most successful fundraising campaign in the history both of the University and of Southwestern Pennsylvania. To date, the University of Pittsburgh's \$2 billion capital

campaign has raised more than \$1.228 billion in support of the University.

Bellet awardees Melanie Dreyer-Lude and Jeffrey Oaks



BRADEN WOLFE/CIDDE

PITT HOSTS PANEL ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS



BRADEN WOLFE/CIDDE

Pitt hosted a panel discussion, "U.S.-China Relationship and Its Implications for Pennsylvania," on March 19 at the Barco Law Building. U.S. Sen. Robert P. Casey Jr. moderated the event, which was sponsored by the University's Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security and others. From left: Thomas Rawski, professor of economics in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences; William Keller, the Wesley W. Posvar Chair in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) and director of the Ridgway Center; Sasha Gong, a former China expert for the AFL-CIO and a professor of sociology at George Washington University and UCLA; and Casey.

Pitt Global Studies Program Announces 3 Global Academic Partnership Grants

By Amanda Leff

Three \$20,000 Global Academic Partnership (GAP) grants have been awarded to fund three international conferences/workshops. The grants are intended to strengthen interdisciplinary research and curriculum development on critical global issues while enhancing international scholarly ties and raising the international profile of the University of Pittsburgh. The titles and a brief synopsis of the grants follow.

"The Arts, Human Development, and Human Rights: 21st Century Intersections and Ramifications"

Awarded to Kathleen DeWalt (professor of anthropology in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Anthropology and director of the Center for Latin American Studies in the University Center of International Studies); David Barnard (professor of medicine and director of palliative care education in Pitt's School of Medicine and Center for Bioethics and Health Law); the Andy Warhol Museum; and foreign partners from the University of Fluminense, Brazil.

The grant will support a March 2009 international conference bringing together artists, scholars, educators, and activists from the United States and Brazil. The event will facilitate intellectual exchange and planning for future collaboration in the fields of art history and art in society, law, medicine, public health, education, political science, and Latin American studies. The conference is sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Global Studies Program, and the University Center for International Studies (UCIS).

"Islam and Popular Culture in Indonesia and Malaysia"

Awarded to Andrew Weintraub (a professor in the Pitt School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Music); Bambang Parmanto (a professor of health information management and biomedical informatics in the Pitt School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences' Department of Health Information Management); and foreign partners from the

University of Melbourne, Australia, and the University of Malaya, Malaysia.

The grant will support an international conference in October 2008. The conference will explore the relationship between Islam and popular culture in the Malay world—analyzing the forms and practices of production, circulation, marketing, and consumption of Islam. The conference is sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Global Studies Program, and UCIS.

"A New Rational Approach to Resolving Conflicts; the Case of the Middle East"

Awarded to Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business faculty members Thomas Saaty (University Professor of Business Administration) and H.J. Zoffer (Dean Emeritus and professor of business administration); Kevin Kearns (professor of public and urban affairs in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs); and foreign partners from King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia, and Osmangazi University, Turkey.

The grant will support an October 2009 international workshop on conflict resolution, analyzing conflict in Israel through the framework of the Analytic Network Process. The workshop is sponsored by the International Business Center within the Katz Business School and the Global Studies Program.

GAP, first launched in the fall of 2001, is an initiative of Pitt's Global Studies Program within UCIS and the Office of the Provost. The Global Studies Program is jointly sponsored by UCIS and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

The GAP grants support international research conferences and workshops that result in publications and curricular enhancement. Projects must be related to one of the six global issues targeted by Pitt's Global Studies Program: sustainable development; global economy and global governance; changing identities in a global world; conflict and conflict resolution; communication, technology, and society; and global health.



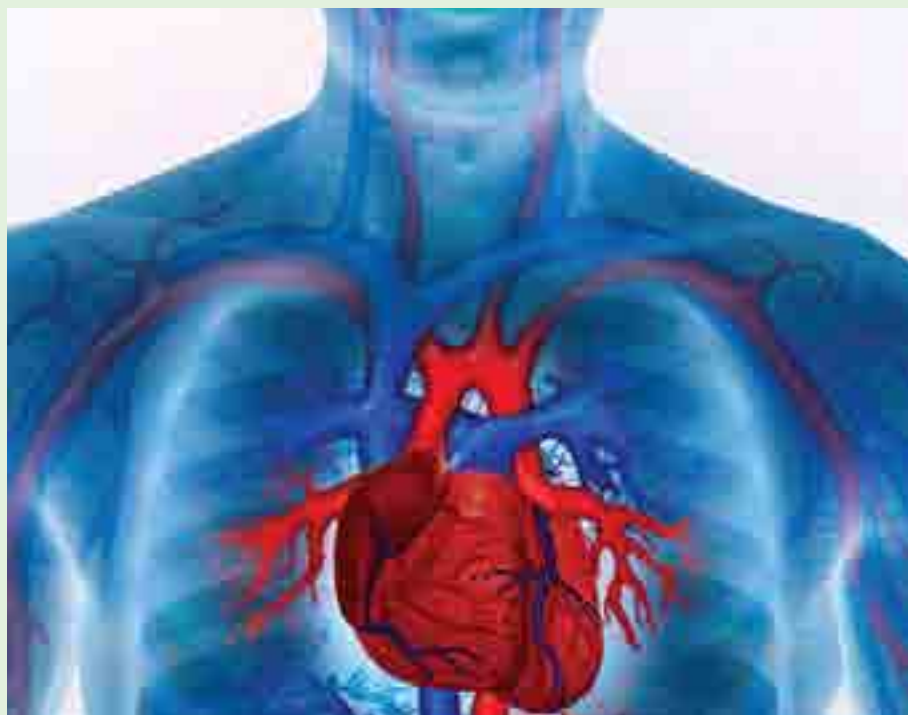
NEW CCAC PRESIDENT WELCOMED



MARY JANE BENT/CIDDE

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and NAACP Pittsburgh President M. Gayle Moss hosted a March 5 reception at the Concordia Club to welcome Alex Johnson, the eighth president of The Community College of Allegheny County, and his wife, Daphne King-Johnson. Johnson, who began his duties at CCAC last month, was previously president of Delgado Community College in New Orleans, Louisiana's largest community college. From left: Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato, King-Johnson, Johnson, and Nordenberg.

Science & Technology



Pitt, University of Chicago Researchers Uncover Novel Process Behind Heart Muscle Contraction

By Morgan Kelly

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Chicago were able to control heart muscle function in a new way after discovering the previously unknown role of two enzymes in heart muscle contraction. Although in the early stages, the research provides fresh knowledge of how heart muscle functions and also holds potential as a treatment for various heart diseases—including congestive heart failure—that is possibly less taxing on the heart than current regimens.

The research is detailed in a cover story of the April 11 *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

Experiments on slivers of heart muscle revealed that heart muscle contractions can be regulated by the enzymes histone acetyltransferases (HATs) and histone deacetylases (HDACs), explained Pitt professor Sanjeev Shroff, the Gerald McGinnis Chair of Bioengineering in the Swanson School of Engineering. Shroff and Pitt research associate Stephen Smith collaborated with Mahesh Gupta, a professor of surgery at the University of Chicago, and his research associate Sadhana Samant. The project was funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The team found that HATs and HDACs influence acetylation of certain heart muscle proteins, a process wherein a radical cluster of atoms called an acetyl group attach to a protein and change its function. HATs facilitate acetylation, and HDACs remove the acetyl group. The team discovered that acetylation renders the muscle fiber more sensitive to calcium, which causes the muscle to contract.

“This is a completely new process in the area of heart muscle contraction,” Shroff said. “Acetylation is widely known to regulate such events inside

the cell nucleus as gene regulation, but it’s never before been associated with heart muscle contraction.”

Furthermore, Shroff and his colleagues could intervene in this microscopic process to control heart muscle contraction. By inhibiting HDACs, they increased the calcium sensitivity of the muscle fibers and strengthened contraction.

As a possible treatment for such conditions as congestive heart failure, this technique could present an alternative to current therapies that counteract heart muscle weakness by boosting cellular calcium content, Shroff said. The heightened calcium improves muscle contraction but also results in more energy consumption in hearts that often are energy-starved to begin with.

In contrast, inhibiting HDAC alters a natural process to make heart muscle more sensitive to the prevailing level of calcium, he said.

“We did not create this process—we are just manipulating what is already there,” Shroff explained. “The physiology to block HDAC is already there, and we just took advantage of that. This perturbation does not require greater mobilization of calcium, so we won’t end up with increased cardiac energy consumption. That’s been the Achilles heel of treatment so far.”

The team’s next step involves examining HAT- and HDAC-driven regulation of cardiac contraction in the whole animal rather than just muscle samples. Then it can better determine the overall significance of the newly discovered process to the intact heart function and its therapeutic potential.

“We want to see how much protein acetylation matters when operating alongside all the other processes in the heart and the body,” Shroff said. “If this process is shown to be significant under these conditions, it will be an exciting finding.”

The entire paper is available at the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* Web site, www.jbc.org/cgi/content/full/283/15/10135.

Community-based Programs Can Cut Risk of Diabetes, Pitt Researchers Find

By Megan Grote Quatrini

Adults in urban, medically underserved communities can decrease their risk for Type II diabetes and cardiovascular disease by participating in community-based group programs focused on moderate weight loss and increased physical activity, according to a study by University of Pittsburgh Diabetes Institute (UPDI) researchers published in this month’s issue of *Diabetes Care*.

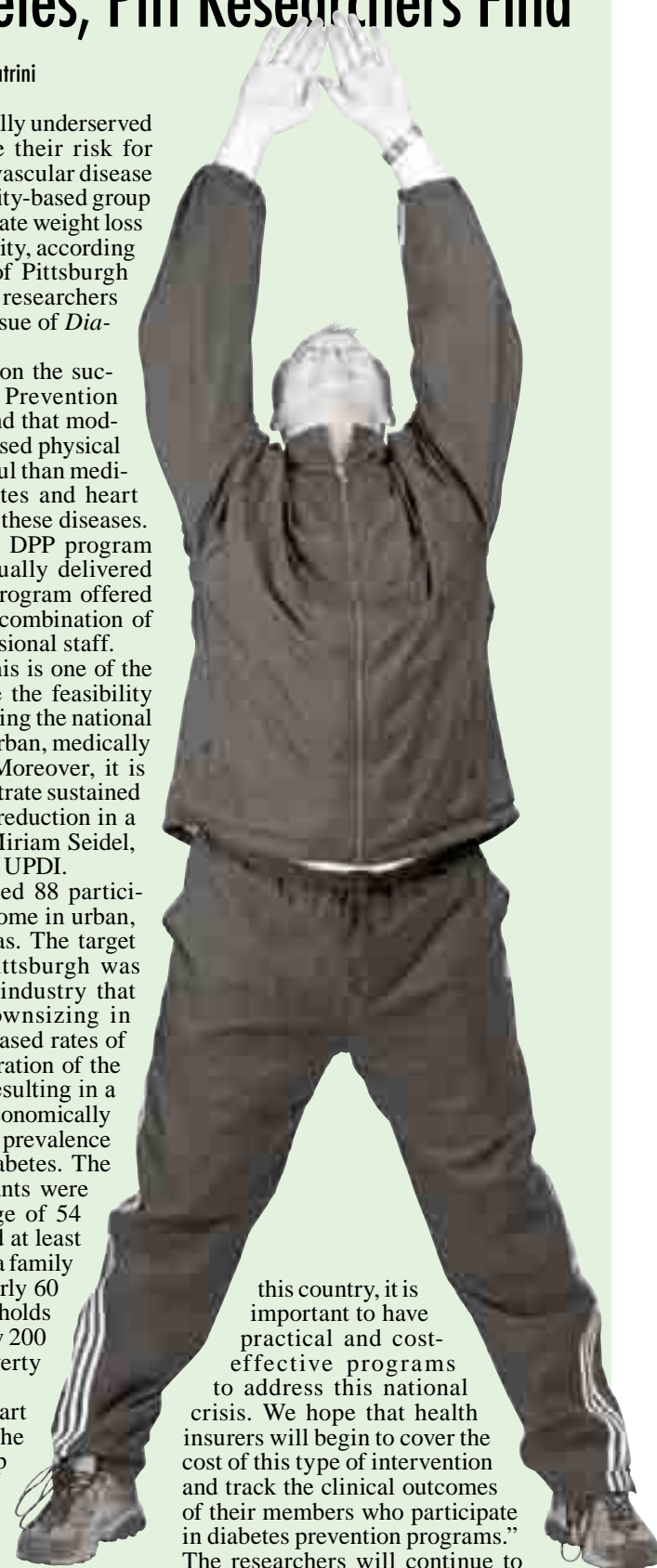
The study was based on the successful national Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), which found that moderate weight loss and increased physical activity were more successful than medication in preventing diabetes and heart disease in people at risk for these diseases. Researchers translated the DPP program from an intensive, individually delivered intervention into a group program offered in the community using a combination of professional and paraprofessional staff.

“To our knowledge, this is one of the few studies to demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of translating the national DPP into a program for an urban, medically underserved community. Moreover, it is one of very few that demonstrate sustained weight loss and risk factor reduction in a community setting,” said Miriam Seidel, diabetes project manager at UPDI.

The researchers studied 88 participants with metabolic syndrome in urban, medically underserved areas. The target urban community near Pittsburgh was a former hub of the steel industry that experienced industrial downsizing in the 1980s. This led to increased rates of unemployment and outmigration of the young and more affluent, resulting in a predominately older, socioeconomically depressed area with a high prevalence of chronic diseases like diabetes. The majority of study participants were female with an average age of 54 years. About 75 percent had at least a high school education and a family history of diabetes, and nearly 60 percent of the study households had an annual income below 200 percent of the national poverty level.

The participants took part in 12 weekly sessions of the community-based Group Lifestyle Balance intervention program, focusing on safe weight loss, healthy food choices, and physical activity. Nearly half of the subjects lost at least 5 percent of their body weight, and approximately one-quarter lost at least 7 percent. Significant improvements also occurred in waist circumference and blood pressure levels following the intervention, and most of the changes were sustained after six months.

“These preliminary results suggest that adults in urban, medically underserved areas can decrease their risk for Type II diabetes and cardiovascular disease through participation in community-based group programs,” noted Seidel. “As the incidence of obesity and diabetes continues to rise in



this country, it is important to have practical and cost-effective programs to address this national crisis. We hope that health insurers will begin to cover the cost of this type of intervention and track the clinical outcomes of their members who participate in diabetes prevention programs.” The researchers will continue to follow the original study participants for up to two years and will report the results at a later date.

Coauthors of the study include Robert O. Powell, UPMC Braddock; Janice C. Zgibor, director of evaluation at UPDI and a professor in the Department of Epidemiology within Pitt’s Graduate School of Public Health (GSPIA); Linda M. Siminerio, a professor of medicine in the Pitt School of Medicine’s Department of Endocrinology and UPDI executive director; and Gretchen A. Piatt, a doctoral candidate in GSPIA’s Department of Epidemiology.

Awards & More



Pradeep Fulay has been appointed program director for the Electronic, Photonic, and Devices Technology Program (EPDT) at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Fulay is a professor in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering's Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science.

As a program director at NSF, Fulay will have primary areas of responsibility, including micro/nanoelectronics, molecular electronics, spin electronics, organic electronics, power electronics, and micromagnetics.

Susan Gillis Kruman, a faculty member in Pitt's Department of Health and Physical Activity, has been named Teacher of the Year/University Level by the Eastern District Association of the Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

Gillis Kruman, a Point Breeze resident, heads the dance minor program at the University and directs the University Dance Ensemble. She has danced professionally in New York City and with Dance Alloy, a Pittsburgh professional contemporary dance company.

Her degrees include a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance performance from the University of Utah and a master's degree in education from Pitt.

Mario C. Browne, project director for the Center for Minority Health in the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH), has completed the prestigious Emerging Leaders in Public Health Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Only 25 out of more than 200 applicants were accepted into the 2007-08 Emerging Leaders Program. Designed to prepare the next generation of public health leaders, the nine-month program added new skills to Browne's extensive

background in planning and implementing culturally appropriate public health programs in African American communities in Pittsburgh.

Browne completed his master's degree in public health in behavioral and community health sciences at GSPH in 2005.

Paul Wood has been appointed to the newly created role of vice president for public relations at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC).

Wood will lead all of UPMC's global media relations and internal communications activities, reporting to Sandra Danoff, senior vice president and chief communications officer. Wood spent more than 17 years at Ford Motor Co. where he was responsible for developing and executing communications strategies supporting a variety of Ford's operations. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in statistics at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He also holds an Accreditation in Public Relations from the Public Relations Society of America.

Pitt School of Medicine Professor **L. Dade Lunsford** was selected by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. to receive a Physician of the Year Award in Clinical Excellence.

The prestigious award honors a select group of physicians who have made notable contributions to the field of medicine. Honorees are selected from more than 600,000 physicians currently practicing medicine in the United States.

Lunsford, Pitt's Lars Leksell Professor of Neurological Surgery, a neurosurgeon at UPMC, and the codirector of the UPMC Center for Image-Guided Neurosurgery, has achieved international acclaim as an expert in stereotactic surgery. Under Lunsford's leadership, UPMC, in 1987, became the first hospital in the United States to use the Gamma Knife, a device for performing brain surgery without an incision. Today, UPMC has three such devices and remains the world leader in radiosurgery experience, with more than

8,600 patients treated to date.

In 2007, Lunsford was named Distinguished Professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

Hans-Christoph Pape, a professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, has won the Kappa Delta Award, the highest honor given to scientific and clinical researchers by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS). Pape also is chief of orthopaedic trauma surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

The award marks the fourth time in five years that a Pitt Department of Orthopaedic Surgery doctor has won a Kappa Delta Award.

Pape is honored for his groundbreaking clinical research introducing optimal methods of managing orthopaedic injuries of multiple-injury trauma patients. The concept of his work is known worldwide as "damage-control orthopaedics," whereby seriously injured patients are stabilized and organ and system functions are restored as fully as possible before surgical repair of orthopaedic injuries begins.

Donna Armstrong has been named the new director of teacher education at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. She will oversee scheduling for each semester and will keep abreast of changes in state teacher certification standards, including a major change in the state requirements for elementary teacher certification that will begin next year. Currently, UPB's education program has 180 students in nine majors—

biology education, business education, chemistry education, elementary education, English education, environmental studies education, health and physical education, math education, and social studies education.

Armstrong earned a Doctor of Education degree in curriculum and instruction at Marshall University Graduate College. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in leadership studies and an educational specialist degree as a supervisor of instruction from Marshall; a Master of Arts degree in elementary education from West Virginia University; and a Bachelor of Science degree in early/middle education from Bluefield State College.

Christian Stumpf, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown assistant vice president of auxiliaries and director of the conference center, was the recipient of the 2008 Jack Thornton Distinguished Service Award, the most prestigious individual honor given by the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors-International (ACCED-I).

The award recognizes Stumpf for distinguished service to the collegiate conference profession and ACCED-I. Nominees must demonstrate service to the association through two or more of the following: service as an officer or board member at the national level; service as a regional director; service as a committee chair/project team leader; or service to an associated professional organization whose focus/mission is related to ACCED-I.

David Geller, the Richard L. Simmons Professor of Surgery in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and codirector of the UPMC Liver Cancer Center, has been chosen president-elect of the Society of University Surgeons (SUS).

As the nation's premier organization for surgeon investigators, the SUS is dedicated to advancing the art and science of surgery by encouraging members to pursue original investigations in both the clinic and the laboratory and by developing innovative methods for teaching surgery.

As a hepatobiliary surgical oncologist, Geller has clinical interests in the evaluation and management of patients with liver cancers. He has pioneered minimally invasive liver resection surgery, performing more than 200 such procedures, and specializes in laparoscopic radio-frequency ablations of liver tumors.

Geller's one-year term begins in February 2009. His duties will include overseeing the SUS executive council and committees for the growth of educational and political agendas, directing meetings and retreats, developing long-range strategic planning for the organization's growth, and delivering the presidential address in 2010.

Geller received his medical degree from Northwestern University Medical School in 1988 and completed his general surgery residency in 1996 at UPMC, followed by a liver transplantation fellowship at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute in 1998.



David Geller



L. Dade Lunsford



Donna Armstrong

E. J. Dionne to Be Featured Speaker At GSPIA's Graduation Ceremony

By Amanda Leff

Washington Post op-ed columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. will deliver the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) graduation ceremony address on April 26.

The 12:30 p.m. address will be given in the 20th Century Club auditorium.

From the mid-1970s until the early 1990s, Dionne was a reporter for *The New York Times*, serving in Paris, Rome, Albany, and Washington, D.C.; he was bureau chief in both Albany and Rome. In 1993, he left the *Times* to become an op-ed columnist for *The Washington Post*; his syndicated columns now appear in several hundred papers



E. J. Dionne Jr.

around the country, including the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. In addition, Dionne has been a senior fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution since the early 1990s. He also holds an appointment as University Professor in the Foundations of Democracy and Culture at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute and is a regular political analyst on National Public Radio.

Dionne is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard University and was a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford University; he received his PhD degree from Oxford in 1982.

Pitt Alumnus, Hall of Famer Dan Marino to Deliver Pitt's 2008 Commencement Speech



Dan Marino

Continued from page 1

diagnostics and treatments for children with developmental disabilities, autism, and chronic medical problems. The center, which now serves 25,000 children annually, is recognized internationally for providing the finest integrative care for children with autism.

Other projects of the foundation include:

Childnet.tv, a 24-hour free Web TV channel dedicated to the subject of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders;

The Marino Autism Research Institute, which sponsors cross-university collaborative research in the understanding, treatment, and prevention of autism; and

Summer STEPS

(Supported Training and Employment Program for Special Needs), which gives young adults work experience in a supported environment that teaches communication, social, and teamwork skills. The foundation

In November 2007, the Marinos received the Public Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Health, one of the International Health and Medical Media Awards presented by MediMedia.

also is developing after-school programs to reinforce those skills.

In November 2007, the Marinos received the Public Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Health, one of the International Health and Medical Media Awards presented by MediMedia;

and in January 2008, they were recognized by Nova Southwestern university with the President's Community Award for their outstanding contributions to the university and the South Florida community.

Last month, Florida Governor Charlie Crist named Marino cochair of the Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders, which will deliver, by March 2009, recommendations on ways to address the growing health crisis autism presents.

Dan and Claire Marino live in Weston, Fla., with their sons Daniel, Michael, and Joey and daughters Alexandra, Lia, and Niki.



Pitt School-specific Graduation Events and Ceremonies

In addition to the Universitywide commencement ceremony, individual schools will host graduate recognition events.

College of Business Administration will host a graduate recognition ceremony on Saturday, April 26, at 11 a.m. at Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown. Contact LeeAnn Falcon, 412-383-7409, lfalcon@katz.pitt.edu.

College of General Studies will host a graduate recognition ceremony and reception on Friday, April 25, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Ave. Contact Jennifer Maynard, 412-624-6608, maynard@cgs.pitt.edu.

School of Arts and Sciences graduation receptions will be held during commencement weekend to honor graduates. Contact individual departments within the School of Arts and Sciences to determine their graduation reception plans.

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs will host a graduation ceremony on Saturday, April 26, at 12:30 p.m. at the Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd. Contact Barbara Porter, 412-648-7632, porter@gspia.pitt.edu.

Graduate School of Public Health will host a convocation ceremony and alumni dinner. The convocation will be held Sunday, April 27, at 5 p.m. at Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland. A reception follows the ceremony. The alumni dinner will be held Saturday, April 26, at 4 p.m. at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Ave. Contact Mary Derkach, 412-624-3004, derkach@pitt.edu.

School of Dental Medicine will host a dental medicine diploma ceremony on Saturday, May 17, at 1 p.m. at Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown. Contact Rhonda Matthews, 412-648-8422, rlm33@pitt.edu.

School of Education will host a graduation ceremony on Sunday, April 27, at 9 a.m. at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial, 4141 Fifth Ave. Contact Jere Gallagher, 412-648-1774, gal@pitt.edu. Speaker will be Lauren Resnick, University Professor and director of Pitt's Learning Research and Development Center and the Institute for Learning.

Swanson School of Engineering will host a senior recognition night on Saturday, April 26, at 7 p.m. in the David Lawrence Hall Auditorium, followed by a reception in the Wesley W. Posvar Hall Galleria. Contact Marcia Lasky, 412-624-9815, mlasky@pitt.edu.

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences will host a recognition ceremony and reception on Saturday, April 26. The ceremony is at 11 a.m. at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial, 4141 Fifth Ave., and will be immediately followed by a reception in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. Contact Mindy L. Columbus, 412-383-6554, mlc34@pitt.edu.

School of Information Sciences will host a spring graduation ceremony and breakfast. The ceremony is on Sunday, April 27, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Alumni Hall 7th-floor Auditorium. The breakfast will be held immediately following the completion of the morning ceremony in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. Contact Wes Lipschultz, 412-624-9749, wpl4@pitt.edu.

School of Law commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 24, at 11 a.m. at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial, 4141 Fifth Ave. Contact Susan McGregor, 412-648-1373, mcgregor@law.pitt.edu. Speaker will be Debra M. Todd (LAW '82), Supreme Court of Pennsylvania justice.

School of Medicine will host a Diploma Day ceremony on Monday, May 19, at 10 a.m. in the Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave. Contact Joanne K. Colligan, 412-648-8935, joanne@medschool.pitt.edu.

School of Nursing will host a pinning ceremony on Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial, 4141 Fifth Ave. There will be a reception immediately following in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. Contact Jennifer Fellows, 412-624-5328, jmw100@pitt.edu.

School of Pharmacy will host a graduation dinner on Sunday, April 27, immediately following the University commencement, at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel, 300 West Station Square Dr., South Side. Contact Lori Schmotzer, 412-648-1014, schmotze@pitt.edu.

School of Social Work will host an afternoon of recognition on Sunday, April 27, at 4 p.m. at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial, 4141 Fifth Ave., with a reception immediately following at Alumni Hall. Contact Colleen Scholl, 412-624-6327, scholl@pitt.edu.

Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business will host a Katz graduation on Friday, April 25, at 1:30 p.m. at Alumni Hall. Contact G. Gee Chin, 412-648-1569, geechin@katz.pitt.edu.

Happenings



Five by Design in Club Swing, Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, Pitt-Johnstown, April 24

Concerts

Enigma Variations, conducted by Sir Andrew Davis, featuring violinist Leonidas Kavakos, 8 p.m. **April 18**; 2:30 p.m. **April 20**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Pitt Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert, featuring Curtis Fuller and Michael Mossman, 8 p.m. **April 18**, William Pitt Union's Assembly Room, 412-624-4187.

Bayer Audience of the Future & Student Side-by-Side, conducted by Lawrence Loh, 7:30 p.m. **April 22**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

SoundByte, featuring violinist Chee-Yun, 6 p.m. **April 24**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-392-6070, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Cardenes Conducts, conducted by Andres Cardenes, featuring violinist Chee-Yun, 8 p.m. **April 25-26**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Five by Design in Club Swing, swing-era inspired vocal performance, 7:30 p.m. **April 24**, Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, Pitt-Johnstown, 814-269-7200, www.upj.pitt.edu/ArtsCenter.

An Indian Classical Music Concert, sitar maestro Irshad Khan, 6 p.m. **April 26**, Bellefield Hall, Association for India's Development-Pittsburgh and Silk Screen, www.pittsburgh.aidindia.org.

Exhibitions

University Art Gallery, Studio Arts Student Exhibition, through **April 27**, Frick Fine Arts Building, Pitt's Department of Studio Arts, 412-648-2430.

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

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**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

Andy Warhol Museum, 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.

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

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

"Doing Business in the Middle East: Knowing Your Client," Dalia Mogahed, coauthor of *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think*, noon **today**, 115 Mervis Hall, Pitt's International Business Center, Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies, Global Studies Program, 412-648-2113.

"Class Composition and Struggle on European Wars, 1789-1802," Niklas Frykman, professor in Pitt's Department of History, 4 p.m. **today**, 3703 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Department of History and the European Studies Center, 412-648-7487.

"Principles for Good Practice in International Social Work," Alberto Godenzi, dean and professor in Boston College's Graduate School of Social Work, noon **April 15**, 2017 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's School of Social Work, 412-624-6304, www.socialwork.pitt.edu/.

"Problems of Validity of Psychiatric Disorders," Kenneth Schaffner, Pitt professor of history and philosophy of science, philosophy, and psychiatry;

Soundbyte
Heinz Hall
April 24

12:05 p.m. **April 15**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, www.pitt.edu/~hpsdept/.

"German or Jewish: The German Scholars in Turkey, 1933-1950," Izzet Bahar, graduate student in Pitt's Department of Religious Studies, noon **April 16**, 2628 Cathedral of Learning, www.religiousstudies.pitt.edu/events.

"The Armenian Economy: An Overview," Davit Sahakyan, professor of business administration in Russian-Armenian State University, noon **April 16**, 4217 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies, 412-648-7407.

Carol Moseley Braun, former U.S. Senator and ambassador to New Zealand, 8:45 p.m. **April 16**, Benedum Hall, Pitt Black Action Society, 412-648-7880, programming.bas@gmail.com.

"The Sepoy Mutiny: India 1857," Marvin Thomas, professor of history at Pitt-Bradford, 8 p.m. **April 16**, Mukaiyama University Room of the Frame-Westerberg Commons, Pitt-Bradford Spectrum Series, www.upb.pitt.edu.

"Pennsylvania's Pyramids: Exploring the History and Geology of the Charcoal Iron Industry in Western Pennsylvania," Hank Edenborn, research microbiologist in the U.S. Department of Energy, 3:45 p.m. **April 17**, 203 Thaw Hall, Pitt's Department of Geology and Planetary Science Spring 2007 Colloquium Series, www.geology.pitt.edu/colloquium.html.

"Breath—The Doorway to Well-Being," Alicja Walczak, movement therapy and biofeedback practitioner at Center for Integrative Medicine,

5:30 p.m. **April 17**, Shadyside Place, Suite 310, 580 S. Aiken Ave., Shadyside, 412-623-3023, www.integrativemedicine.upmc.com.

"The Allegheny County Courthouse in Context," public symposium with architects from the United States and Canada, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. **April 18**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, sponsored by Pitt's Architectural Studies Program, www.haa.pitt.edu/, 412-648-2400.

"Nanostructural Design of Photocatalysts and Photoelectrochemical Cells," Thomas Mallouk, Pennsylvania State University professor of chemistry, 1:45 p.m. **April 18**, Kresge Conference Center, 1175 Benedum Hall, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr/, 412-624-1052.

Galileo Colloquium, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **April 19**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, peg1@pitt.edu, 412-624-1052.

"A Conversation with Paul O'Neill and Cokie Roberts," Paul O'Neill, former U.S. Treasury Secretary, and Cokie Roberts, ABC News Political Analyst, 8 p.m. **April 21**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, proceeds benefit Gilda's Club, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

"Aristotle and Living Matter," Alan Code, professor of philosophy, Rutgers University, 3:30 p.m. **April 25**, 244A Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Ancient Studies, 412-624-4494, www.classics.pitt.edu/events.

Miscellaneous

Should the Mon-Fayette Expressway Be Completed? Public debate, 6 p.m. **today**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, William Pitt Debating Union, 412-624-2887, red20@pitt.edu.

Onibus 174 (Bus 174), 2002 film directed by Jose Padilha, 8:30 p.m. **April 17**, Frick Fine Arts Building Auditorium, New Millennium Film Series, Center for Latin American Studies, www.amigosdelcinelatinoamericano2008.blogspot.com.

Opening of Pitt's Center for Energy, government and industry panelists discuss sustainable ways to solve the world's energy challenges, 1:30-3:30 p.m. **April 15**, Alumni Hall 5th Floor; Center's faculty, postdocs, and graduate students showcase their energy research, 4-5 p.m., www.energy.pitt.edu.

Grant Writing, workshop, 9:30 a.m. **April 19**, 4th Floor Scaife Hall, Lecture Room 2, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, survival@pitt.edu.

Careers Over Lunch, Survival Skills and Ethics Workshop, noon **April 22**, S100 Biomedical Science Tower 2, Pitt Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, www.survival.pitt.edu.

Asian Studies Center Graduation Ceremony, 3 p.m. **April 24**, Lower Lounge, William Pitt Student Union, www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc.

Madame Sata, 2002 film directed by Karim Ainouz, 8:30 p.m. **April 24**, William Pitt Union, New Millennium Film Series, sponsored by Pitt's Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, Center for Latin American Studies, and Eduardo Lozano Latin American Library Collection, amigoscinelatinoamericano08@gmail.com.

Opera/Theater/Dance

The Melting Bridge, 7:30 p.m. **April 15**, world premiere of the third and final part of "The American Trilogy," Bromley Family Theatre, Pitt-Bradford, 814-362-5113.

Late Night Catechism, through **May 11**, City Theatre's Hamburg Studio, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.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

Gisela Gonzalez-Dieter, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, "Entre la Habana y la Sabana: Limites de la Topografia Cultural Dentro de la Revolucion Cubana Como un Evento Regido por la Modernidad," 2 p.m. **today**, 1309A Cathedral of Learning.

Worasiit Choochaiwattana, School of Information Sciences, "Using Social Annotations to Improve Web Search Committee List," 10 a.m. **April 17**, 502 Information Sciences Building.

Lance G. Hampton, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, "Justifications for the Iraq War: An Analysis of the Government's Public Case for War, 2001 to 2003," 10 a.m. **April 18**, 3200 Posvar Hall.

Uwe Schumacher, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, "Literarische Imagination und Soziologische Zeitdiagnose im Wiedervereinigten Deutschland. Untersuchungen zur Funktion von 'Welthaltigkeit' im Deutschsprachigen Gegenwartroman am Beispiel von Ingo Schulze's *Simple Story*," 10 a.m. **April 18**, 1218 Cathedral of Learning.

Jianhua Zhao, Department of Anthropology, "The Cultural Economy of Fashion Design in China," noon **April 18**, 3106 Posvar Hall.

Paul Carlson Jr., School of Medicine's Molecular Virology and Microbiology Graduate Program, "Recognition of Environmental Conditions Influences *Francisella*-macrophage Interactions," 1 p.m. **April 18**, 1095 Biomedical Science Tower.

Jlyeon Choi, School of Nursing, "Exhaled Nitric Oxide in Patients With Interstitial Lung Disease: A Pilot Study," 3:30 p.m. **April 18**, 331 Victoria Building.

Nandini Krishnamoorthy, School of Medicine's Immunology Graduate Program, "Mechanisms in Dendritic Cells That Promote Th2 and Th17 but Not Th1 Responses in the Lung," 1 p.m. **April 21**, S123 Biomedical Science Tower.

Mariana Zinni, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, "El Descubrimiento de America y la Invention de un Nuevo Espacio Hermeneutico: Las Alternativas de la Mimesis y el Surgimiento de una Modernidad Contaminada," 12:30 p.m. **April 22**, 1325 Cathedral of Learning.

Gregory K. Allen, Department of English, "The Word Made Cinematic: The Representation of Jesus in Cinema," 11 a.m. **April 24**, 527 Cathedral of Learning.

Robert J. Tomko, Jr., School of Medicine's Molecular Pharmacology Graduate Program, "Cellular and Biochemical Regulation of Cdc25A by Nitrosative Insult," 2 p.m. **April 24**, 1295 Biomedical Science Tower.

Xin He, School of Medicine's Cellular and Molecular Pathology Graduate Program, "Role of PIK3IP1, a Negative PI3K Regulator, in Hepatic Tumorigenesis and Metabolism," 3 p.m. **April 24**, 1105C Scaife Conference Center.

Razan Hamed, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, "Task Performance of Older Women With Major Depression," 9 a.m. **April 25**, 4065 Forbes Tower.



University Art Gallery, Studio Arts Student Exhibition, through April 27



Cathedral of Learning to Be Featured April 16 on Travel Channel's *Made In America*



A camera crew from John Ratzenberger's *Made in America* films Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (far right) explaining the Cathedral of Learning's history to Ratzenberger (second from right).

By Amanda Leff

The Cathedral of Learning, the University of Pittsburgh's renowned and architecturally stunning landmark, will be featured at 9:30 p.m. April 16 on the Travel Channel's *John Ratzenberger's Made In America* program. This season of the program will feature behind-the-scenes tours of some of the country's most fascinating American-made wonders, including the Cathedral of Learning.

In November, a Travel Channel crew filmed the interior and exterior of the Cathe-

dral. Led by E. Maxine Bruhns, director of Pitt's Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs, the film crew toured the Cathedral's nooks and crannies and more than a dozen of the Cathedral's 26 Nationality Rooms. The crew also took footage of American master artisan Samuel Yellin's iron gates in the Commons Room and ventured to the 40th floor's Babcock Room to see peregrine falcons Erie and Dorothy, who nested on a ledge outside a window. (Erie has since



been replaced by another male falcon, and his whereabouts are unknown.)

Also interviewed for the segment was Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, who explained to Ratzenberger how the Cathedral owes its existence to the vision and persistence of the late John G. Bowman, Pitt's chancellor from 1921 to 1945. Bowman is credited with saying of the Cathedral, "They shall find wisdom here and faith—in steel and stone, in character and thought—they shall find beauty, adventure, and moments of high victory."

To fund the cost of the 1924-37 construction project, a \$10 million public fundraising campaign was launched. More than 97,000 schoolchildren each contributed a dime in exchange for a certificate testifying that they were "Builders of the Cathedral of Learning." That campaign is considered to have been one of the first modern fundraising drives.

Alice Sapienza Donnelly, an 87-year-old surviving "builder" with longstanding connections to Pitt, told the Travel Channel host how she gave a dime at the age of 7 or 8 years. Sapienza Donnelly earned her B.A. degree in English literature in 1974 and the M.A. degree in communication in 1983, both at the University of Pittsburgh. She also taught public speaking and parliamentary rhetoric at Pitt in the evenings for 28 years.

For a history lesson on the architecture of the symbolic structure, Ratzenberger interviewed University Architect Park Rankin. Designed by Philadelphia architect Charles Zeller Klauder, the Cathedral was the world's tallest educational building at

the time it was built—now surpassed only by the tower of Russia's Moscow State University. The Cathedral was designated a National Landmark by the National Park Service on Nov. 3, 1975, and designated by the Pittsburgh City Council as a Historic Structure on Feb. 22, 1977.

Designed by Philadelphia architect Charles Zeller Klauder, the Cathedral was the world's tallest educational building at the time it was built—now surpassed only by the tower of Russia's Moscow State University.

A profile of the Cathedral wouldn't be complete without highlighting the recently completed \$4.8 million exterior preservation project, which Nordenberg discussed with the television host. As part of the project, years of soot and grime were removed from the 42-story, 535-foot Gothic Revival tower. Video footage also was shot of the courtyard where several stones remain uncleaned—preserving the history of the steeltown's effect on the city of Pittsburgh's most visible landmark.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published April 27. **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.