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INSIDE

Commencement '08

JIM BURKE/CIDDE

Pitt, UPMC, U.S. Navy Unveil Center to Enhance Navy SEALs' Performance, Lives

By Susan Manko

Sports medicine and training advances developed for elite athletes now are being used to protect and enhance the performance and lives of the elite U.S. Navy SEALs.

Top officials from the University of Pittsburgh and Naval Special Warfare unveiled on April 19 a new Human Performance Research Laboratory, the first facility of its kind within the U.S. Navy, to be applied specifically to Naval Special Warfare Group TWO's East Coast-based Navy SEALs. The laboratory is located at the U.S. Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Norfolk, Va.

Designed by sports medicine researchers at Pitt and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), the new Human Performance Research Laboratory will study injuries and training techniques of the SEALs to optimize their tactical readiness. Researchers aim to reduce the incidence of preventable musculoskeletal injuries during training, combat, and recreation; enhance force readiness by maximizing the effects of training to reduce fatigue and optimize performance; and prolong the operational life as well as enhance quality of life after service. The lab uniquely combines important advances in sports medicine science with the traditional excellence of the Navy's most elite warriors.

With a $2.1 million U.S. Department of Defense grant, awarded to the Pitt research team over 2.5 years, the 2,200-square-foot laboratory employs state-of-the-art biomechanical and physiological instrumentation and techniques currently used for elite athletes. The new laboratory is modeled after Pitt's Neuromuscular Research Laboratory, a world-renowned facility for sports injury prevention and performance enhancement, located at the UPMC Center for Sports Medicine in Pittsburgh. Since 1990, the center's scientists have studied and published research findings involving athletes' body positioning and neuromuscular control as they relate to injury and performance.

Scott Lephart

"The operator himself is the most important weapons system of Naval Special Warfare," said Captain Chaz Heron, commander of Naval Special Warfare Group TWO. "We are always seeking ways to improve our operators' success on the battlefield. The last thing I want as a leader is for my men to be engaged in a *fair* fight. I want every advantage possible to give my operators a better chance for success on the battlefield. We're optimistic the research and practical applications from our Human Performance Research Laboratory will achieve just that, while improving the quality of life for our SEALs after their service."

Physical training and conditioning are the greatest cumulative source of acute and chronic injuries in this group, according to Pitt's Scott Lephart, the grant's principal investigator and director of the new lab. Lephart is a professor in the Department of Sports Medicine and Nutrition in Pitt's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS) and in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in Pitt's School of Medicine, and founding director of Pitt's Neuromuscular Research Laboratory, located in the UPMC Center for Sports Medicine.

"As with an elite athletic team, musculoskeletal injuries significantly limit the war-fighting capability and readiness of the Naval Special Warfare combatant force. Optimal physical training and conditioning are the cornerstones of the maintenance of the weapons platform of the Navy SEAL operator," Lephart said.

"Collaborating with Dr. Lephart's research team will enable us to identify potential gaps in current programs and develop a coordinated physical training continuum that is specific to Naval Special Warfare to prepare for their unique missions. This will achieve a critical doctrinal change in human performance strategies," Heron said. "The new laboratory will provide the impetus and vehicle to deliver Naval Special Warfare Group TWO SEALs with the next level of individual operator performance and overall musculoskeletal longevity," he added.

Under Lephart's direction, the lab is staffed by exercise physiologist Greg Hovey and certified athletic trainer Anthony Zimmer, both from Pitt. Lephart's coprincipal investigators are John Abt and Timothy Sell, both professors in the Department of Sports Medicine and Nutrition in Pitt's SHRS.

The first SEAL (Sea, Air, Land) teams were commissioned in 1962. Because of the dangers inherent in Naval Special Warfare, prospective SEALs go through what is considered by many military experts to be among the toughest training in the world. The most important trait that distinguishes Navy SEALs from all other military forces is that SEALs are maritime special forces—they strike from and return to the sea. Their stealth and clandestine methods of operation allow them to conduct multiple missions against targets that larger forces cannot approach undetected. There are approximately 2,600 SEALs in the Navy today, supporting at least six geographic combatant regions around the world on any given day. Only men can serve as Navy SEALs.

McGowan Institute Gets Key Role in Program to Use Regenerative Medicine to Help Wounded Soldiers

By Michele D. Baum

The McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, a collaboration between the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC, has been selected as one of the leaders of a national $85 million program to use the science of regenerative medicine to develop new treatments for wounded soldiers.

A new federally funded institution—the Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine (AFIRM)—will be made up of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and consortia involving one team led by McGowan and the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C., and another led by Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., and the Cleveland Clinic. Each group was awarded $42.5 million. The McGowan-Wake Forest team includes collaborators from 15 other institutions.

Alan J. Russell

AFIRM will be codirected by Alan J. Russell, director of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and Anthony Atala, director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine. The massive project will be dedicated to repairing battlefield injuries through the use of regenerative medicine—science that takes advantage of the body's natural healing powers to restore or replace damaged tissue and organs. Therapies developed by AFIRM also will benefit people in the civilian population with burns or severe trauma as a result of illness or injury.

"For the first time in the history of regenerative medicine, we have the opportunity to bring transformational technologies to wounded soldiers, and to do so in partnership with the armed services," Russell said. "This field of science has the potential to significantly impact our ability to successfully treat major trauma."

The McGowan team has committed to develop clinical therapies over the next five years that will focus on:

Burn repair;
Wound healing without scarring;
Craniofacial reconstruction;
Limb reconstruction, regeneration, or transplantation; and
Compartment syndrome, a condition related to inflammation after surgery or injury that can lead to increased pressure, impaired blood flow, nerve damage, and muscle death.

AFIRM will have multiple research teams working in each area. For example, in the area of burns, researchers will pursue treatments including engineered skin products, bioprinting of skin in the field, and repairs using stem cells derived from amniotic fluid.

Russell notes that the team's ability to deliver 11 new treatments is based on a four-year history of working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense on regenerative medicine projects.

"Our goal is to use our position as the international leader in developing restorative therapies for battlefield trauma to improve the outcomes for our wounded," added Russell, who is founding president of the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society. "Our ability to provide these treatments is in part because of our team's long experience in this field and our broad pipeline of technologies."

Twenty-nine McGowan research teams in Pittsburgh will be joined by 16 at Wake Forest and 33 more research teams at 15 other institutions and companies focusing on regenerative medicine. Several developed treatments are now being evaluated in patients. More than 50 technologies from these researchers already have had an impact on treatments for illness and injury.

Researchers associated with McGowan have launched more than 10 clinical trials (three with the Army) using tissue-engineered products that have now been implanted in more than a million patients.

In addition to receiving the announced government funding, the universities and the other partners will provide more than $180 million from academic institutions, industry, and state and federal agencies for the projects—for a total of more than $250 million available for soldier regeneration research.

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	Robert Knipple
	Gloria Kreps
	Gina Scozzaro
	Susan Manko

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Phone: 412-624-1033, Fax: 412-624-4895,
E-mail: chron@pitt.edu Web: www.chronicle.pitt.edu

Awards

William E. Klunk (left) and Chester A. Mathis

Klunk and Mathis Win Prestigious Potamkin Prize For Alzheimer's Research

By Gloria Kreps

University of Pittsburgh researchers William E. Klunk and Chester A. Mathis were awarded the 2008 Potamkin Prize for their work in Alzheimer's disease research.

The Potamkin Prize is a memorial award given to researchers who have made outstanding contributions to the study of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Over the years, this award has been given to some of the most recognized scientists in the field and has become known as the "Nobel Prize of Neurology."

The prize was awarded to Klunk, a professor of psychiatry in Pitt's School of Medicine, and Mathis, a professor of radiology in the medical school, in recognition of their invention and development of the amyloid plaque imaging compound, Pittsburgh Compound B (PiB). This radioactive compound, when coupled with positron emission tomography (PET) imaging, can be injected into the bloodstream to enable researchers to visualize the brains of people with the memory-stealing illness and see the location and distribution of the beta-amyloid plaque deposits associated with Alzheimer's. These plaques, which are thought to kill brain cells, distinguish Alzheimer's disease from other dementias.

"Pittsburgh Compound B offers the first definitive way to detect Alzheimer's disease in living patients and—as soon as it's cleared for clinical use—will expand early diagnostic and potential treatment options for people with this complex and devastating illness. I applaud Bill and Chet on this well-deserved honor and join with the entire research community here at Pitt in congratulating them," said Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at Pitt.

"Bill Klunk and Chet Mathis are two of the best examples of the superb researchers at the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center who are fighting this dread disease," said Steven T. DeKosky, chair of the Department of Neurology and director of the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

The $100,000 prize is to be used toward continuing Alzheimer's research and will be shared equally among Klunk, Mathis, and Alzheimer's researcher Clifford R. Jack Jr. of the Mayo Clinic.

UPJ's Newman Named History Channel's Teacher of the Year

By Robert Knipple

Paul Douglas Newman, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown professor of history, is the recipient of the History Channel's 2008 "Save Our History" Teacher of the Year Award. He will be recognized at a ceremony Friday, May 2, in Washington, D.C.

"I am both honored and humbled to have been nominated for this prestigious national award by my colleagues who teach history at the secondary school and college levels. And I am thrilled to accept it on behalf of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Northern Cambria High School, and the high school's outstanding students and teachers," Newman said. He also expressed gratitude to "all of my wonderful teachers throughout the years, and especially the thousands of pupils it has been my great pleasure to teach and learn from over the last decade and a half."

In 2007, Newman coauthored, with Anne Staples of the Coal Country Youth Hangout in Northern Cambria, Pa., a $10,000 "Save Our History" grant from the History Channel to fund a local research project for select Northern Cambria High School students. In September, he and 15 students began conceptualizing, researching, producing, filming, and editing a one-hour video documentary about Cambria County Vietnam War veterans. The project was coordinated with Karen Bowman, Northern Cambria High School social studies teacher, who helped with scheduling and running four regional Vietnam Veteran Documentation Days. Her help was integral to the project's success, said Newman.

Paul Douglas Newman

October 2007 marked the 50th anniversary of the first U.S. combat death in Vietnam, Captain Harry Griffith Cramer Jr. of Johnstown. The 50th anniversary came and went without fanfare, Newman said.

"Our film gives local Vietnam Vets a venue for their voices to reflect upon this anniversary. It is our hope that it will spark a national remembrance and conversation about the Vietnam experience as we approach the 50th anniversary of President Johnson's 1965 escalation of hostilities. The students have collected hours of interviews from more than 20 local vets, including U.S. Representative John Murtha of Pennsylvania."

The team filmed at locations in Johnstown, Ebensburg, Northern Cambria, and Windber, all in Cambria County, Pa., and in Washington, D.C. The film will premiere on June 15 in Northern Cambria, Newman said, adding that he hopes to show the film publicly in Johnstown and Ebensburg as well.

Newman earned his bachelor's degree at York College of Pennsylvania and master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Kentucky. He is the editor of *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies* and has published the book *Fries's Rebellion: The Enduring Struggle for the American Revolution* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004). He began his career at UPJ in 1995 and teaches courses in early American history.

Pitt Trustees' Property and Facilities Committee Approves Projects Valued at $120 Million

By John Fedele

The Property and Facilities Committee of the University of Pittsburgh's Board of Trustees approved 12 construction and renovation projects totaling more than $120 million and a sublease from Magee Women's Research Institute and Foundation for the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute at its April 14 meeting. The construction and renovation projects are expected to create 629 construction and 252 construction-support jobs, and the University will pay business privilege taxes of $188,436 on the construction.

The largest project is a $64,300,000 upgrade of Benedum Hall, home of the Swanson School of Engineering. The project will add 27,000 square feet of space with the addition of a mezzanine level. It will involve creating new, state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories as well as upgrades to the infrastructure and power and ventilation systems.

The committee also approved $21,111,000 to construct a 38,000-square-foot academic wing for the Falk Laboratory School. The new wing will contain 14 classrooms for kindergarten through the eighth grade, a new computer classroom, art room, library, cafeteria, science room, and support areas. In addition, the project will renovate more than 26,000 square feet in the existing facility for language arts, social studies, music, physical education, theater arts, and administration. The outdoor play area will be relocated to the west side of the building, which will be renovated for that purpose, and a new play area will be constructed on the gym roof.

Artist's rendering of the proposed addition to the Swanson School of Engineering

The largest project is a $64,300,000 upgrade of Benedum Hall, home of the Swanson School of Engineering. The project will add 27,000 square feet of space with the addition of a mezzanine level.

Other projects approved at the meeting were:

$6,000,000 for upgrades to the chilled water plant in the Thomas Starzl Biomedical Science Tower;

$1,239,800 for installation of fire-suppression sprinklers on floors 12-23 of the Cathedral of Learning;

$5,370,000 for renovations to the 14th floor of Chevron Science Center to create an organic chemistry research laboratory;

$1,418,900 for Fitzgerald Field House court and seating renovation, including the creation of an National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)-regulation volleyball court and upgrades to the other courts;

$8,978,000 for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing infrastructure upgrades for Langley Hall, including energy conservation upgrades and complete renovation of the third floor into bioscience research laboratories;

$2,334,700 to renovate the third floor of Mervis Hall, creating new suites for administration and information technology services, as well as a new suite for the Master of Business Administration program that will house the placement, admissions, and career services departments;

$3,251,800 to renovate the Sutherland Hall food service area, the primary dining venue for students on Pitt's upper campus, into an area similar to the popular Market Central in Litchfield Towers;

$1,753,000 to replace a steam line on Thackeray Street that will serve the new University Club and Benedum Hall;

$2,607,200 to renovate the sixth-floor inpatient unit of Thomas Detre Hall. The renovations will increase the bed capacity from 24 to 32 while increasing the number of single rooms. Upgrades to the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire-suppression systems also are planned; and

$1,920,000 to upgrade the Trees Hall Natatorium (pool) to comply with NCAA regulations. The project also will install a new diving board platform and railings and upgrades to the circulation, drainage, and heating systems.

The committee also approved a four-year lease of 8,600 square feet from Magee Women's Research Institute and Foundation to provide laboratory space for researchers from the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Center. The annual rental cost is $476,135, and the lease runs from June 1, 2008, through May 31, 2012.

GraduatingSeniorProfile

At Home in the World

Mothupi, Pitt's inaugural Mandela Scholar and a Phi Beta Kappa inductee, ready to return to South Africa

MARY JANE BENT/CIDDE

Mamothena Carol Mothupi

By Patricia Lomando White

Mamothena Carol Mothupi, a graduating senior from South Africa, had never dreamed of studying in America. But her past four years at the University of Pittsburgh have put her one step closer to achieving her life's dream of becoming a doctor, and they have even changed her perception of her home.

Mothupi is the inaugural recipient of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh. Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this spring, she is receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology with a concentration in premedicine.

Mothupi had just enrolled in a South African college to study biochemistry when she received the Mandela Scholarship offer in 2004. Torn about what to do, she had hoped that her mother, a widow who had raised Mothupi and her two brothers alone, would help her make the decision. But her mother would not, leaving Mothupi, who said she knew nothing about Pitt and had never thought about studying in America, to make her choice.

"In South Africa, you either major in science or in the arts," she said. "It's almost like being in professional school right away. When I realized that I could have a more liberal education in the United States, it helped me to decide to come to Pitt."

Her education was, indeed, very broad. Not only did Mothupi dig into anthropology and premed subjects, she blossomed into a theater star at Pitt's Kuntu Repertory Theatre. Her internships and volunteer activities exposed her to public health issues, the intricacies of poverty in America, and the educational needs of children from disadvantaged families. Blessed with a social ease and the ability to make friends quickly, Mothupi has created social circles that include homes away from home here in America and even a friend with whom she will work upon returning to South Africa.

She describes her experience in America and at Pitt as being "rich in so many ways"—academically, by broadening her horizons; culturally, by exposing her to theater; and socially, by giving her the chance to form friendships.

Vernell Lillie, founder of Pitt's Kuntu Repertory Theatre and an emeritus professor in the Department of Africana Studies, says she remembers seeing Mothupi step off an elevator one day. Lillie took one look and said to Mothupi: "You're my Sarafina!"

"She didn't see herself as an actress, but as a scientist or a social scientist," Lillie revealed. "I remember her worrying about it. I told her, 'Think about it; if you can't act, you can assist us in interpretation and pronounciation of the Zulu traditions, history, and language.'"

Mothupi starred in Kuntu's 2007 production of *Sarafina!*, a musical depicting students involved in the 1976 antiapartheid riots of Soweto. She played to rave reviews, including one from Pittsburgh's *City Paper* that said: "Kuntu's *Sarafina!* has plenty to offer an audience, not the least of which is Mamothena Carol Mothupi as Sarafina. This kid's got talent to burn."

Mothupi enjoyed the role. "Because it is a South African play, it's as if I got to tell my story," she said, adding that some things mentioned about South Africa in the play were unknown to her. As a result, she learned more about her own country while playing the role.

"She does her own research," said Lillie, including researching her most recent role of Kuka, the best friend of the main character in *Lavender Lizards and Lilac Landmines: Layla's Dream.*

At one point, Mothupi considered majoring in theater arts. But she decided to continue with her anthropology and premed majors and hopes instead to help establish a community theater in her hometown.

"I wish I had grown up around theater, and I would love to make it popular in my hometown," she said. "In the cities in South Africa, there is a lot of theater, but none in the rural towns."

Mothupi's life at Pitt has been varied and busy. Along with a demanding course load, she volunteered and worked for a number of organizations. She interned for two years with Pitt's Center for Minority Health, which exposed her to the public health field and took her into the heart of Pittsburgh neighborhoods, including East Liberty and Homewood. She also participated in Pitt's Student Volunteer Outreach Alternative Spring Break, helping to feed the underprivileged in Chicago through Northwestern University's Campus Kitchen Project in 2005. The following year, she helped a family in West Virginia rehabilitate its home through the Appalachian South Folklife Center.

"I expected the American environment to be urban," said Mothupi, who is from a rural village. "It was refreshing and surprising to see West Virginia and the rural areas."

Mothupi continued her volunteer work throughout the school term by tutoring high school students in physics, chemistry, mathematics, and English through the Job Links School 2 Career Program in Oakland.

Mothupi also saw Africa in a different light as she met more Africans from other African countries. She is part of Pitt's African Student Organization, whose members are from Kenya, Nigeria, Congo, and other African nations.

"At home in South Africa, we're somehow separated from other African cultures," said Mothupi. "I am much more interested in Africa than I ever was, and I learned that from living here."

Mothupi said she will always be appreciative of the monetary and social support she received during her time at Pitt. "Some students struggle to get housing, and, even in America, people struggle to pay their tuition fees. I am blessed to have received the Mandela Scholarship.

"When I first arrived, I was homesick a lot of the time, even though I had so much support," she said. Mary Beth Favorite, her academic advisor, helped Mothupi understand how the Pitt system worked. The chancellor's office made sure her meal plans were in order.

Mothupi developed a close friendship with Monique Thompkins, an administrative assistant in Pitt's Department of Africana Studies, and her family. Other Pitt administrators, staff, faculty, and students also have reached out and become an important part of Mothupi's American family. None of this comes as a surprise to Lillie, who says Mothupi makes friends very quickly.

"She has a profound internal love for herself and an awareness of her strengths and weaknesses. She is able to carve out her own world," said Lillie. "You can see in her eyes that she's always been a wise old soul."

Mothupi has applied to medical school and she is preparing to return to Africa in May. With the time remaining, she hopes to spend as much time with friends as possible, even if it means sleeping less.

"I am really happy that after all of the experiences I've had here, I still want to go into medicine," said Mothupi, who may specialize in obstetrics and gynecology. "My experience growing up was that women's health, health in general, but women's health in particular, is more neglected. When I go to medical school, I will determine what interests me the most."

Before starting medical school in January at either the University of Cape Town or the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, where she has applied, Mothupi will be involved in several projects. In June and July, she will work with the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Project in Johannesburg, preparing for Mandela's birthday celebration in July. The organization funds agencies that work with children who are disadvantaged and predominantly orphans. Mandela spends his birthday every year with the children who benefit from the organization's work.

In August, Mothupi will work on a business-oriented project at a community center in Lesotho, a landlocked nation within the borders of South Africa where most of her ethnic group is from. Nathan Emery, a Pitt friend and a current student in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, is returning to South Africa to run the project, which involves marketing indigenous herbs that have been turned into ointments and medicines. The project, which will help to create jobs for the local people, is particularly important to Mothupi.

"I've never done any developmental work, and it is interesting to me, since it is an African project," she said.

What Mothupi is really looking forward to is spending Christmas with her family. She plans to spend the whole month of December in her hometown.

"As long as I'm in my environment, I'll be happy," she said.

Reflecting, Mothupi said, "I still remember the day I came here. I am very grateful for my American experience. Hopefully, someone else from my country can get the Mandela Scholarship and have these wonderful experiences."

MARY JANE BENT/CIDDE

Mothupi tutors Sean Thomas, an 11th grader, during an after-school session at the Job Links School 2 Career Program in Oakland. Called "Teenie" by the students, Mothupi was a favorite tutor for many.

GraduatingSeniorProfile

Documenting the Nooks and Crannies

Gabriel Henschel photographs North Side neighborhoods before slots parlor opens

MIKE DRAZDZINSKI/CIDDE

Gabriel Henschel in front of the construction site for the Majestic Star slots parlor on the North Side.

By Sharon S. Blake

Graduating Pitt senior Gabriel Henschel knows the layout of a couple of neighborhoods on the city's North Side almost better than his own . . . down to the back alleys, fire hydrants, graffiti-covered walls, and manhole covers.

To complete his Brackenridge Fellowship—an undergraduate research project through Pitt's University Honors College—Henschel, 21, set out to capture a photographic portrait of Allegheny West and Manchester, the two North Side neighborhoods that will be a stone's throw away from Pittsburgh's controversial Majestic Star slots parlor, scheduled to open in May 2009.

Henschel's 75-page study, "Gambling and Pittsburgh's North Side: A Baseline Study of Neighborhoods Surrounding the Majestic Star," comprises an extensive photographic catalogue, an interview catalogue, and a neighborhood statistical analysis, all of which will assist future researchers as they study the impact of the casino on its environs.

"There's no substitute for a photograph," said Henschel, a native of Cabot, Pa., who graduates today after earning a Bachelor of Philosophy with a double major in urban studies and politics and philosophy. He spent last summer walking through Manchester and Allegheny West with a Canon S3IS camera, snapping photos of buildings, alleys, churches, and row houses. Frequently, he stood in the middle of an intersection and slowly rotated 360 degrees while snapping 24 shots. The result is a huge archive of accurate streetscapes—many of them panoramic—that capture "moments in time."

Henschel amassed close to 4,000 photos that show a variety of detail.

"Notice the construction under way on this building," he said, pointing to one image. "Or the bars on these windows. It makes you wonder if these neighbors trust one another."

Henschel said the photo-taking presented its own set of challenges. One construction worker asked Henschel whether he was with a workers' compensation committee. Someone else wanted to know whether he was with the IRS. A truck nearly ran him down at an intersection, and still another person indignantly demanded to know why he was taking pictures in the park where children were playing.

Once the photography was complete, Henschel taped one-on-one interviews with eight key players in the slots parlor story—among them local and state politicians, community representatives, and the head of No Dice, an antigambling initiative. Each was asked the same series of four questions on their opinion of the casino and speculation about its impact. The comments ran the gamut from those who criticize the slots business as "a tax on poor people" to those who envisioned tourists streaming to the region. The third archive is census data on the residents' age, race, employment, education, and income.

"The thing about this data is that you can easily shift it to whatever you want to do in the community," said Henschel excitedly. "It could aid historic preservationists, or people who study street or pedestrian conditions, or those who evaluate housing stock. Or the Majestic Star could use this data years from now to point out what could be community improvements. The great part is that the study itself is neither progambling or antigambling."

"It's one of the best baselines on both the physical nature and the demographics of the area surrounding the casino," said Morton Coleman, director emeritus of Pitt's Institute of Politics, professor emeritus of social work, and Henschel's thesis advisor. "It's a baseline not tampered with by speculation of the authors. Gabe has taken a balanced look at things; he's very thoughtful and careful."

GABRIEL HENSCHEL

A photo of two homes on Page Street in Manchester, just one of 3,800 original photos in Gabriel Henschel's archive. The pictures are part of a baseline "portrait" that Henschel made of the Manchester and Allegheny West neighborhoods prior to the scheduled May 2009 opening of the North Shore's Majestic Star casino.

Henschel admits that what once was a casual interest in the North Side casino has now become a passion. Henschel plans to pursue a Master of Science degree in public policy administration at Carnegie Mellon University, and he envisions himself one day working with this same topic, perhaps from the perspective of the Pennsylvania Gaming Board and regulation. "The interesting part is how we're going to interact—as a government and a people—to make things like this work. And coordinating that is something I'd like to do in the future," he said.

Henschel's involvement in the Brackenridge Fellowship stands out as his favorite Pitt experience. "Every Thursday, all these undergraduate researchers from different disciplines got together and we heard what everyone else was doing. We shared our triumphs and tragedies . . . It was like being in on 50 different research projects," he said enthusiastically.

Another high point was his three-year role as lead advisor for the Youth and Government Program at Pittsburgh's Taylor Allderdice and Schenley high schools. The teenagers convened in mock sessions to run campaigns, elect a governor and lawmakers, and appoint lobbyists. They also meet each year in the State Capitol to learn how laws are passed.

"They exercised a lot of talent," Henschel said.

While at Pitt, Henschel was the recipient of the Wilma Binder Zeder Scholarship, which is awarded through the School of Arts and Sciences and recognizes outstanding academic achievement. He consistently made the Dean's List and earned a Pitt Emerging Leaders Certificate. He completed internships with representatives of Pittsburgh City Council, the state legislature, and a Butler County child support office. Overall, Henschel's Pitt education has prepared him for a career in urban government and planning. His courses took him on walks through blighted neighborhoods, where he and his classmates discussed housing, transportation, and economic development.

"Pittsburgh is the perfect urban studies classroom," he noted.

For now, he's busy mounting his extensive photo archive on the University server so it can be available for researchers. But even urban studies scholars need a break. Henschel is looking forward to an annual canoe trip with his father along Buffalo Creek in northern Butler County.

But thanks to his Pitt education, his heart is in the region's urban core.

"This is a pivotal moment for Pittsburgh," he said. "The city has its problems, but it also has the potential of being one of the greatest small urban centers of America. And I would definitely like to be a part of making that happen."

GraduatingSeniorProfile

Going Weightless for NASA

Bennewitz, Bernardo, Chrin, and Wick to test research at NASA

By Morgan Kelly

The video is so familiar to them that John Bennewitz, José Bernardo, Michael Chrin, and Adam Wick talk excitedly about their favorite part long before it comes.

On Bernardo's laptop screen, a group of undergraduate college students soar above the Gulf of Mexico in a NASA aircraft. The plane banks into a sharp nosedive and the students rise from the plane's bare metal floor as inertia cancels out gravity.

Bernardo cuts to *the* scene. The four shush each other. A girl somersaults in midair for five seconds. "That's so cool," Bernardo says, smiling. The others agree. They will get their turn—soon.

Bennewitz, Bernardo, Chrin, and Wick graduate from Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering today, three with bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering, and one, Chrin, in electrical engineering. But their last project as Pitt students is still two months off and several miles straight up.

They are the first Pitt team to participate in NASA's Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities Program, or Microgravity University, wherein undergraduate teams propose and test in zero gravity research of value to NASA. Forty teams were invited this year to Houston's Johnson Space Center to test their ideas aboard a reduced gravity aircraft—a C-9 airplane plummeting toward Earth, resulting in about 30 seconds of weightlessness.

The Pitt team, called Phoenix, flies in June with an experiment of their design that could improve the onboard thruster system that keeps a satellite in orbit. Pressurized helium used to regulate the flow of thruster fuel creates bubbles that plug the satellite's fuel lines and interfere with the navigational thrusters. The problem could stem from the fuel tubes on modern satellites being either straight or sharply bent, Bennewitz explained. The team proposed using curved tubes to prevent the blockage. NASA called the proposal "technically strong," Wick said. Now they will see if it works.

MORGAN KELLY/PC

From left: John Bennewitz, José Bernardo, Michael Chrin, and Adam Wick update a virtual design of their experiment in Pitt's Benedum Hall machine shop.

Space Dreams

Four guys with a lifelong fascination with space can't help but smile excitedly when talking about their upcoming flight, no matter how seriously they take the science end.

"That's why we applied," Bennewitz admitted. "We wanted to know what it's like to be an astronaut."

As a kid growing up in Easton, Pa., Bennewitz built model rockets with his father, a mechanical engineer. Now he plans to build real ones. Bennewitz will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology in the fall to pursue a PhD degree in aerospace engineering with a concentration on rocket propulsion.

Chrin, of West Chester, Pa., also plans for a life behind the machines that go into space. A robotics enthusiast in high school, Chrin knew after the 2004 landing of the NASA Mars rover *Spirit* that he wanted to build robots that explore space. Unfortunately, the robots get all the fun.

"Our flight in June is the closest I'll get to going into outer space," lamented Chrin, who will go to work for a local power conversion company after graduation.

"This is my last chance, really."

Zero Gravity Test

Finals, graduation, and plotting life's next step means the four scrounge for time in the Benedum Hall machine shop to assemble their experiment.

They designed a box with one straight tube and three tubes with varying degrees of bend, two pumps, and two bladders of water and a water-ethanol solution to simulate thruster fuel. But NASA limits each experiment's size to 300 pounds and 24-by-60-by-60 inches, a lab in a box. The team must squeeze the pumps, tubes, and mechanisms into a box roughly the size of a pet store aquarium.

Once in Houston, the team will conduct 40 trials in zero gravity over two days. As the plane dives, the tubes—one per trial—will be flooded with the faux fuel until a bubble plug forms. Once the team knows how much fluid must pass through a certain tube before it becomes blocked, it can determine which bend degree is the least susceptible to obstruction, Bernardo said.

A testament to the caliber of the team's experiment is that many of the other teams in the NASA program come from universities with an aerospace focus, including Purdue University, one of the world's premier aerospace institutions, said the team's advisor, Jeffrey Vipperman, a professor in the Swanson School's Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science.

The Swanson School does not have a formal aerospace program.

"They were accepted to a program that draws largely from formal aerospace programs, and it's a really elite group of undergraduates who are accepted," he said.

"These four found a problem somewhat outside of their expertise, they researched it, and put together a comprehensive approach to solving it. For them to participate says that they are natural scientists and engineers, but it also means that Pitt students can successfully compete in this program," Vipperman added.

"The Right Stuff"

Bernardo owns two copies of the movie *Apollo 13* and casually admits to watching it at least a dozen times. Born in Perú and raised in Pittsburgh since age 5, Bernardo saw the film when he was 10, and he's never thought of being anything but an astronaut since.

"My driving force is to be an astronaut," said Bernardo, who also will attend Georgia Tech in the fall. After the team applied for the NASA program, Bernardo nervously awaited the verdict. The whole team wanted it, but Bernardo depended on it.

"This program is a big step for me," Bernardo continued. "I'll be able to experience space, meet astronauts, network, and get a glimpse of the life I hope to have. I want to say that I've been through training, to know how I'll react, to say that I've been in microgravity and didn't throw up. I want to know if…"

"…if he has the right stuff," Wick interrupted, referencing the iconic book about the American space program.

The team's most intense personality, Wick, of Karns City, Pa., is as quick with a wisecrack as he is intent on not wasting time. He'll head to the University of California at Los Angeles in the fall to study astronautics.

"I grew up on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and was making Lego spaceships when I was knee-high," he said with a mixture of sincerity and self-mockery. "People should explore space. Limiting our existence to this half-green, half-blue ball of dust is narrow-minded. As a species, we need to want more if we're going to progress."

The Real Thing

Constructing a functional experiment turned out to be more educational and difficult than the team expected, Chrin said.

"There's a big difference between designing something in class and producing it," he said. "This project has changed drastically since we first designed it. When we started to build it, we found that many of our original ideas wouldn't work."

To manifest an idea, to be hampered by good concepts that don't work in reality, or to ditch an entire design and start over—these define life as a working engineer.

"In school, we are told the difficulties of building something, but we don't experience it," Bernardo said. "In college, you produce the project to get the grade—no one has to use it or live in it. The experience here is invaluable. We've learned the importance of details, the little things that matter when building a real object."

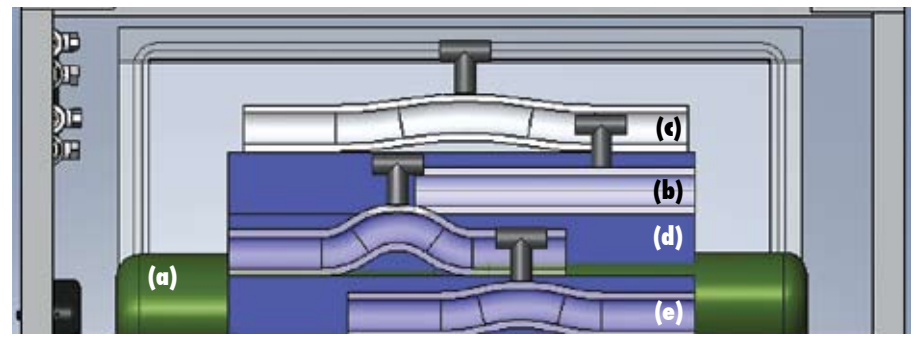
Looking Up

The teammates are part excited, part nervous, part curious about the June flight.

"We still don't know what to expect," Bernardo said. He's asked about the somersaults from the video.

"Oh, we're all going to do those," he said. "I'm sure."

The team writes a blog about its ongoing work and plans to post dispatches from Houston at adam.lylix.net/microgravity



Once weightless, the team will pump a water/water-ethanol solution from the bladder (a) and into four tubes—one at a time—until a bubble plug forms. The straight tube (b) represents those currently on satellites. The experiment is to see whether the curved tubes (c,d,e) better prevent bubble plug formation.

GraduatingSeniorProfile

A Tale of Two Passions

Ciampoli is a gentleman, scholar, athlete...and nurse

By Amanda Leff

Whether he's wearing his wrestling uniform or nursing scrubs, Joe Ciampoli is always on top of his game.

He is a star Division I wrestler who, as of last semester, holds a 3.917 cumulative GPA—including 4.0s in five of his seven terms at Pitt. As a student, Ciampoli was named to the Pitt Director of Athletics' high honor roll each year, and he is the winner of the 2008 Emma W. Locke Award, which recognizes graduating seniors for high scholarship, character, and devotion to the ideals of the University. The listings could go on.

Ciampoli will graduate today from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. He will leave the John M. and Gertrude E. Petersen Events Center armed with a Bachelor of Science degree, impressive academic and athletic records, a love of volunteering, and a hopeful vision for his future. But if his résumé exudes success, his passions scream contradictions.

Ciampoli is a compactly built, 149-pound wrestler who sometimes shows up for wrestling practice in his nursing scrubs. He is as comfortable pinning a wrestling opponent to the mat as he is gently placing an I.V. into a patient's arm. And while he has received ribbing for the nursing garb at practices, Ciampoli said he looks forward to beginning his career. "Nursing allows you to implement a strong knowledge, based on science, while helping people at the same time. It is the humanistic aspect of the profession," he says.

A wrestler since he was 5 years old, Ciampoli seriously began considering Pitt as he was being recruited for its wrestling team. He describes his decision to come to the University as a "no-brainer."

"Pitt's nursing program is nationally ranked," he says. The school's "curriculum offers a lot of opportunities that many other nursing schools don't offer—like simulation training and the clinical opportunities with UPMC."

Pitt professor Susan Albrecht, School of Nursing associate dean for Student/Alumni Services and Development, calls Ciampoli one of the school's top students and a role model for student athletes. "He carries one of the highest GPAs in his class," says Albrecht. "He's very committed to becoming an excellent professional nurse. He's received excellent reviews from his clinical instructors commending him on his professionalism and critical thinking skills when providing nursing care to others."

His wrestling record exemplifies similar excellence. For the majority of the past season, Ciampoli was a starter on Pitt's wrestling team. He contributed to the team's 23rd national ranking in the final regular season. The team went on to finish 16th at the NCAA Championships on March 22, with 33.5 points.

Though he concedes it wasn't easy, Ciampoli managed to juggle his schooling with 20 hours of weekly strength and conditioning sessions, intense afternoon wrestling practices, and personal training and travel for competitions. As part of the nursing school's curriculum, he completed 270 hours of clinical time, sometimes working 12-hour shifts, all the while maintaining excellent grades. Because the nursing school sets its students' course schedules, Ciampoli had to cross his fingers that his courses wouldn't conflict with wrestling practices. Inevitably, there were some conflicts, he said, but with his coaches' cooperation, he made up missed practices on his own time.

JOE KAPELEWSKI/CIDDE

Joe Ciampoli works in the School of Nursing's Human Simulation Lab, a state-of-the-art facility designed to replicate an actual clinical setting, complete with a responsive and talking mannequin (behind on bed).

"It was pretty hectic," he says.

Ciampoli somehow finds time to do community service between his grueling conditioning and academic schedule. As a sophomore, he was awarded the Tony and Mildred Sherry Savino Scholarship in recognition of his academic standing and community service. "When there is an opportunity to do community service and I have an opening in my schedule, I like to take advantage of it," he says.

In particular, he enjoys volunteering at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where he says he can tell that "I'm making an impact on the kids. I can tell that they look up to college athletes and are excited to meet us. By making the children smile, I know that I am taking the focus away from their illnesses."

He also has volunteered his time to encourage males to enter the nursing profession and has assisted the School of Nursing in recruiting prospective students. "It makes sense to help attract people to a school that is such a great place to get an education in nursing," he says.

Ciampoli hopes to continue his education at Pitt in the fall of 2009 in the nurse anesthesia program. Because the competitive program requires candidates to complete one year in the field before being admitted, he already has accepted a position in the cardiothoracic intensive care unit at Altoona Regional Hospital. Ciampoli would like to be a volunteer coach for his former high school's wrestling team if his work schedule allows.

"I'm excited—with the understanding that there is a lot to learn and there will be difficult times," he says. "I know I'll need to rely on the more experienced faculty around me for information and direction."

Ciampoli acknowledges that experienced nurses have already taught him a great deal about the profession, and he hopes he can one day give back by doing the same for novice nurses.

He says that although his time at Pitt has been a challenge, it also has been rewarding.

"We're very proud of him at the School of Nursing," says Albrecht. "I know he's going to be successful at nurse anesthesia and whatever else he decides to do."

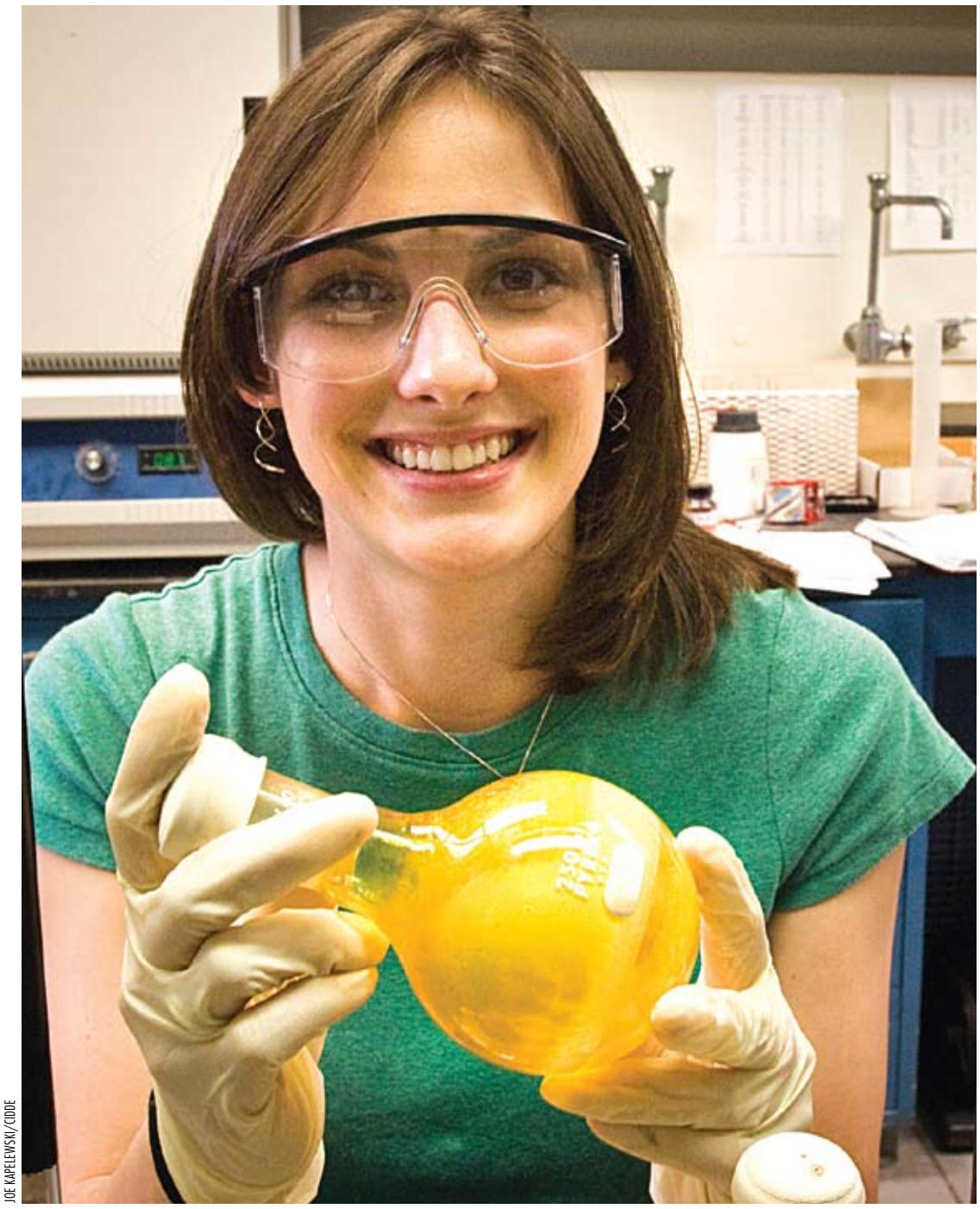
PITT ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Ciampoli (top) has been a key player on the wrestling team during his tenure at Pitt. He was a starter for most of this past season and, as a student, was named to the Pitt Director of Athletics' high honor roll each year.

Graduating Senior Profile

A Realistic Idealist

Phi Beta Kappa member Czaicki sees world's problems, seeks to be part of solution



JOE KAPELEWSKI/CIDDE

Nancy Czaicki

By Anthony M. Moore

For many college students, the summer before their senior year is viewed as significant for a number of reasons. Some use the time to garner valuable internship experience. Others indulge in carefree activities before facing a world that will be anything but. Pitt School of Arts and Sciences graduate Nancy Czaicki chose a different path for her summer of 2007: She traveled to the city of Arusha in the Republic of Tanzania to work with AIDS patients and to teach small children.

"Part of me was drawn to the social issues and things that were going on there. I wanted to see what that part of the world was like for myself," said the St. Louis, Mo., native, who was pleased by her reception upon arriving in the East African country. "It was a new culture and a new country, and I didn't speak very much of the language. But everyone was very welcoming and warm towards all of the volunteers."

The decision to travel to a foreign land and assist with humanitarian efforts speaks to everything Czaicki stands for. As a realist, she said she knows she cannot solve all of the world's problems, but she is a firm believer in being a part of as many social solutions as possible. And she wants to do that *now*.

So Czaicki, who was accepted into four of the country's top graduate programs of public health, including Pitt, decided to defer graduate school for two years. Instead, she will be spending that time working in Chicago with Teach for America, a national organization of recent college graduates and young professionals teaching in urban and rural public schools. She said she views the nation's inner-city school systems as a pool of potential that has never been tapped, and she feels a social obligation to give them the same opportunities that she's had. While Czaicki does not plan to become a teacher, she said she looks forward to the experience.

It was a decision spurred by her summer in Africa as well as other social service activities in which she has been involved.

As a high school student, Czaicki volunteered with Rainbows for Kids, a St. Louis organization that sponsors events for children with cancer and their families. She assisted in event planning and fundraising, as well as other activities with the children.

"It was our objective to provide support for the parents as well as the kids," Czaicki said. "We would have spa days for the moms, and we would go to hospitals and put on parties for the kids as a break from hospitals and stress."

As a student at Pitt, Czaicki has been active in a number of campus organizations, including the Blue and Gold Society, an organization of student leaders who have been chosen to act as liaisons between the student community and the Pitt Alumni Association; and the Pitt chapter of the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society. She is a Beckman Scholar, one of the nation's foremost fellowships supporting undergraduate research in biochemistry, chemistry, and the biological and medical sciences. She also was a recent Phi Beta Kappa inductee and will graduate from Pitt today with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a 3.9 GPA, as of last semester.

While Czaicki said her work with Rainbows for Kids was rewarding, she called her time in Arusha a perspective-changing experience. Through Cross-Cultural Solutions (CCS), a nonprofit international volunteer organization, Czaicki said she gained a life experience that cannot be found in a classroom. In Africa, she confronted a health epidemic that took the lives of more than 160,000 Tanzanians in 2007 and has left more than 12 million children orphaned across the continent.

With CCS, she and other volunteers were in daily contact with terminally ill persons, making door-to-door visits to counsel patients on medical and mental health issues. Because AIDS patients' fears of public ostracism were so high, the volunteers would sometimes make their rounds under the guise of missionary workers to protect the health status of those hiding their illness. The group also worked with the general public dispelling the many HIV myths within the noninfected community.

"One of the most eye-opening moments was when I realized how widespread the myths about contracting and spreading AIDS still were," said Czaicki, who recalled a number of them. "*If you have sex with a virgin, you'll be cured. You shouldn't use condoms, because they're bad.* I knew a lot of these beliefs had been culturally prevalent in the past, but I thought a lot of the information would have been a little more cleared up than I actually found it to be."

One of the most refreshing aspects of Czaicki's time in Africa was seeing the always smiling faces of her young students. In one school, she taught English to students from the local orphanage.

As a student at Pitt, Czaicki has been active in a number of campus organizations, including the Blue and Gold Society, an organization of student leaders who have been chosen to act as liaisons between the student community and the Pitt Alumni Association; and the Pitt chapter of the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society.

"They were the most eager students I have ever encountered. If you asked a question, every hand would literally fly up, and that's something you never see here [in American schools]," said Czaicki. In Tanzania, "education is stressed as the way out of poverty: 'This is your way to grow up and make a success of yourself.' It was very inspiring."

Looking ahead to Chicago, she hoped to be able to inspire her American students —and be inspired by them.

"I've put a lot of thought into what I want to teach my students. When they leave my classroom, what do I want them to know?" said Czaiki, who plans to attend Emory University in the fall semester of 2010. "I hope that they retain scientific literacy, being able to read the science section in the newspaper and understand how it pertains to their lives. Also, I want them to grasp the scientific process, and even if they are no longer working with science, they can take that same problem-solving process and apply it to everyday situations in life."

Czaicki holds Nashipae, one of her female students at a Tanzanian orphanage where the Pitt graduate taught English. "They were the most eager students I have ever encountered in my life," Czaicki recalled.

The Art of Mentoring

Training tomorrow's professors requires passion, people skills, and time

This is the fifth article in a series about the University of Pittsburgh's programs in graduate and professional education.

BRADEN WOLFE/CIDDE

Kenneth Jordan, Pitt Distinguished Professor of Computational Chemistry, talks with a former mentee, Jan Steckel, at the Provost's Awards for Excellence in Mentoring reception April 15. Steckel, who earned her doctoral degree in 2001 at Pitt, is a research scientist in the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory.

By Jane-Ellen Robinet

By the time Andrea Cuéllar received her bachelor's degree in anthropology from the Universidad de Los Andes in Colombia, she knew her next stop would be graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh. Hers was an easy decision based upon the prominence and reputation of one faculty member: Robert Drennan, a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Anthropology within Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences.

It wasn't only that Drennan, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, is internationally renowned for his archeological work and findings in China, Mesoamerica, and northern South America, it was also because Drennan has a stellar reputation as a mentor of doctoral candidates.

"As for what propelled me to … Pittsburgh, it was Professor Drennan himself. My undergraduate mentor had been his student, and by the time I got my undergraduate degree, I was already familiar with his work. The depth of his influence on generations of students is remarkable," said Cuéllar, who is now a professor of anthropology at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada. Cuéllar's dissertation focused on the role of economic specialization in the development of complex societies. Her fieldwork was done in Eastern Ecuador.

A Balancing Act

In his 30 years at Pitt, Drennan has served as either principal advisor or co-advisor to 30 doctoral students. His students have been extremely successful in landing prestigious grants, including many from the National Science Foundation, to fund their dissertation research. Many of his former students, or "mentees," rave about him, but Drennan makes no claims of having perfected the mentoring process. Far from it.

"Mentoring is a continual process of trial and error, a balancing act. When you sit down and talk about mentoring, it's really easy to start pontificating and sound like God up there, tweaking a puppet's strings. None of us are God, and you hardly ever know if you're doing the right thing," said Drennan, a winner of the 2007 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

The most effective mentor-doctoral student relationships involve a healthy amount of tension between what the student needs and how much the mentor should give. Students begin a doctoral program and face a bevy of challenges: defining a thesis, learning how to write grant proposals to fund research, and fine-tuning their critical thinking, to name a few.

The mentors walk a tightrope between pushing their students to overcome hurdles independently, and, at the same time, ensuring that those hurdles don't derail a project. They must strike a balance between too-gentle encouragement and setting the research bar too high.

Doctoral mentoring at Pitt varies from school to school, department to department, professor to professor, and student to student. To the outsider, it is very much behind the scenes. But to the doctoral student, the relationship with a mentor is very much at the forefront of his or her agenda. The nature of that relationship can make all the difference between academic success or failure, personal happiness or agony.

"I honestly believe that (mentoring) is the most crucial element to graduate studies," said Mikael Haller, another Drennan mentee, who earned his PhD degree in archaeology/anthropology at Pitt in 2004. He now holds a tenure-track position in the Department of Anthropology at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. In addition, the Canadian government has funded his archeological investigations for the next three years.

The most effective mentor-doctoral student relationships involve a healthy amount of tension between what the student needs and how much the mentor should give. Students begin a doctoral program and face a bevy of challenges: defining a thesis, learning how to write grant proposals to fund research, and fine-tuning their critical thinking, to name a few.

Coming in Green

There is a common misperception among non-academicians that doctoral students hit the ground running, armed with their dissertation topics and the research skills to complete them. That is not, however, generally the case. In fact, probably most doctoral students enter a program with only a vague idea of dissertation topics, little insight into how much work the doctoral process requires, and little experience with original thinking and designing research projects.

Jeff Bridge acknowledged his inexperience in many of those areas when he began pursuing his doctorate in psychiatric epidemiology at Pitt in 1993. While earning bachelor's degrees in psychology and English literature at Pitt, he also worked at Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic (WPIC). Bridge researched risk factors for teen suicide and worked closely with David A. Brent, academic chief of child and adolescent psychiatry at WPIC and a professor of psychiatry, pediatrics, and epidemiology in Pitt's School of Medicine.

The experience "piqued my interest in doing research as a career," he said. When Bridge decided to explore earning a doctorate in psychiatric epidemiology within Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health, Brent suggested that he talk with Nancy Day, head of the psychiatric epidemiology program. A winner of the 2007 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring, Day has mentored about 30 Pitt students since 1980. She is a national expert on the long-term effects of fetal alcohol exposure.

"I knew someone else who had started in the psychiatric epidemiology training program before me, and I asked him some questions about Dr. Day. He said, 'Just be prepared. She will get the most out of you, but she can be intimidating until you know her. She does not suffer fools gladly,'" recalled Bridge with amusement. Bridge's doctoral dissertation focused on the risk of major depressive disorder in teens exposed to a friend's suicide. He is now an investigator in the Center for Innovation in Pediatric Practice, part of The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and continues to research teen suicide.

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The Art of Mentoring

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He said that while he believed his previous experience at WPIC had trained him to do research and original thinking, he quickly learned that wasn't true. "I was very much 'a newbie.' … Most of us got into the program because we were good students and someone recognized our potential. But we were just clay molds, and we needed years—and years after our dissertation—to develop a shape."

JOE KAPELEWSKI/CIDDE

Nancy Day, head of the psychiatric epidemiology program in the Graduate School of Public Health, has mentored about 30 Pitt students since 1980. "I tell my students, 'I know you have facts, but I want to know if you can think,'" she says.

A Mentor's Mission

The mentoring relationship is key to that molding.

The mentor's role is to teach the inexperienced graduate student how to think originally, how to design research projects, and how to implement that research. "I tell my students that 'I know you have facts, but I want to know if you can think,'" Day said. "I could assign them a (dissertation) topic, and it would be helping me with *my* research. But that's not what it's all about."

Mentors train their students how to ask the right questions—and how to answer them—so that the students move their respective fields of study forward. In other words, the mentoring process is crucial to creating the next generation of scholars and professors.

Bridge remembers Day telling him exactly that during their first meeting. "Initially, she told me what her expectations were, and that they were very high," he said. "She made it very clear that she didn't want her students to be 'lifers.' 'Make your mark in the field,' she said. 'Sure, do well in the classroom, too, but go out in the field and make an impact.'"

Tools of the Trade

Successful mentoring requires the mentor to have fine-tuned people skills, a considerable amount of time available for consults, an open mind, a nurturing instinct, and a passion for training the next generation's scholars.

Leon Gleser, professor of statistics in the School of Arts and Sciences, said he—like most mentors—works hard to find the delicate balance between helping a student too much and too little.

One of the easiest mistakes to make as a mentor, he said, is to overdirect students. "This is easy to do with some students, because they want you to tell them what to do at every step, and some are so timid that you feel like you're taking over. But real growth comes with making your own mistakes, so I try to suggest steps to try and then let them choose what they will do," said Gleser, a winner of the 2008 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring. Gleser is graduate director for the Department of Statistics and has supervised a total of 23 doctoral dissertations, including 10 at Pitt. His students have received tenure-track or postdoctorate positions at Harvard University, the Cleveland Clinic, and Vanderbilt University, among others.

"On the other hand, it is also easy to neglect the students who seem to know what they're doing and makes advising too easy for you. Sometimes they have problems that they don't tell you about until it is almost too late to fix them," he added.

To determine the difference, Professor Kenneth Jordan is known for walking casually past students' desks to check in with them. Jordan, a winner of the 2008 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring, is Distinguished Professor of Computational Chemistry at Pitt. He also is director of the University's Center for Molecular and Materials Simulations as well as a member of Pitt's Petersen Institute for Nanoscience and Engineering. He has mentored 23 doctoral students at Pitt and is currently advising six others.

Jan Steckel, a mentee of Jordan's, said if her work was going well when Jordan would make a walk-by, "our interaction was limited to a quick greeting or perhaps a short progress report. If I happened to be having some kind of difficulty, his casual visit or short e-mail provided an easy opportunity for me to mention the problem to him," she said.

Mentors train their students how to ask the right questions—and how to answer them—so that the students move forward their respective fields of study. In other words, the mentoring process is crucial to creating the next generation of scholars and professors.

She added that Jordan would also encourage students to form study groups. "If I or another student expressed frustration or confusion about anything, he would often reappear a few minutes later with a book or an article. … If more than one student was interested in the concept, he often suggested that we form a study group. He would suggest an introductory-level problem that we could all work on and then meet to discuss."

Steckel is currently a research scientist working in the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory.

Another key role for the mentor is to introduce students to professional contacts and to encourage them to publish their research. Katheryn M. Linduff, who holds a joint appointment in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture and the Department of Anthropology, has helped a number of her doctoral students win fellowships and internationally competitive grants. She is an expert on ancient Chinese art and archaeology, and her doctoral students have a record of obtaining fellowships, including from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Science Foundation, and National Gallery of Art and 10 Chancellor's fellowships in Chinese studies.

To help her students obtain grant funding and land field-research positions, Linduff taps her extensive network of peers, which she has developed over the past 25 years. She said that placing a doctoral student in a field-research position, for example, more often than not requires that she personally know the person in charge and visit the site. It takes years to solidify such academic relationships—something that Linduff concentrates on to the benefit of her students.

In addition, Linduff is praised by a number of mentees for encouraging students to publish research papers and then to present them at various national conferences she chairs.

Finally, another key tool for mentors is the simple red pen. Mentors use it in the seemingly endless revisions of students' dissertation descriptions, grant proposals, job applications, and other documents. Linduff's red pen is legendary. It is not uncommon for her to critique six or more drafts of students' papers and grant proposals.

When It Doesn't Work

Not every mentoring relationship is successful, of course.

"It's not terribly uncommon for the relationship to not work out effectively," Drennan said. "If it's not working or it looks like the student would work better with other people, then the student needs to shift. Students have shifted both to and from working with me when it seems someone else might guide them better. It often coincides with a student's shift in academic interest … or it's related to the personal relationship."

Sometimes, it's just a difference of

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A Pitt team traveled to Inner Mongolia in 2001 to do fieldwork. Standing, from left, are Richard Drennan, Pitt Distinguished Professor in the Department of Anthropology; Christian Peterson, who earned a PhD degree in anthropology at Pitt in 2007; and four of the research team's Chinese colleagues. Sitting, from left, are Katheryn M. Linduff, a Pitt professor of anthropology as well as the history of art and architecture, and Gideon Shelach, who received a PhD in anthropology from Pitt in 1996.

The Art of Mentoring

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approach.

Gleser said he has had "difficulty diplomatically telling students that they are not succeeding at what they are trying to do, and then helping them to find a different path."

He recalled a situation before he came to Pitt where his mentee "had a fixed idea of what a 'successful' research solution must be, but the problem he was attempting was not suitable for a solution of this kind. I could not get him to change his outlook, and he thought I should help him find a solution of the type he was seeking."

The student eventually completed his doctorate with another advisor.

"I'm glad he achieved his goal, but I know that I could have handled the situation better," Gleser said.

The Personal Side

But when the relationships do work, they often result in lifelong academic and personal relationships. Networking and grant proposal revisions aside, mentors also play key roles in students' and their families' personal lives. Linduff, for example, recalled the story of one of her students, a young, pregnant woman from the People's Republic of China whose family was restricted by the U.S. government from entering the United States to help with the delivery. Linduff remembered coaching the young student on breathing exercises in her office and then sending one of the student's classmates as her coach into the delivery room.

Many of Linduff's students are from China, and a number of them face language struggles as well as daily life struggles once they arrive in Pittsburgh. Linduff frequently picks these students up at the airport upon their arrival in the United States; helps them find apartments and roommates; aids them in establishing both social and academic networks; and holds an annual Thanksgiving dinner that all current and former mentees, called "Thanksgiving Alums," can attend.

Christian Peterson, whose coadvisors were Linduff and Drennan, recalled how, after he was injured during field work in Eastern Inner Mongolia, Drennan allowed him to recover in his home.

Learning Goes Both Ways

Doctoral students aren't the only ones who gain something from the mentoring relationship. The professors do, too, and they cite their continued learning as one of the reasons they love to mentor.

Jordan recalled talking with a former doctoral student about potential dissertation topics. "He proposed a problem very different from anything that I was working on at that time. Fortunately, I agreed to let him pursue this project rather than trying to convince him to work on a project already under way in the group. This now has evolved into one of the main areas of research in my group," he said.

Linduff said she, too, finds it exciting to watch a student develop into a researcher. She also enjoys the learning she does as part of getting up to speed on the specifics of a doctoral student's dissertation topic.

"The process is very stimulating intellectually, and I like learning new ways to think or to solve a problem," Linduff said.

It's not surprising that mentors and their students develop close personal and professional friendships that literally last a lifetime. After the students receive their doctorates and begin their careers, the phone calls go both ways—they call their mentors for advice and their mentors call them with questions. Finally, they have become peers—and friends—at the same time.

The doctoral process "was a long one, and I am still amazed at how much I matured as an investigator and a person during my time at Pitt," said Haller, who completed his doctorate in archaeology under the guidance of Drennan.

"Overall, the best testament to how influential Dr. Drennan's mentoring is the fact that I have implemented the same strategies in my own teaching, research, and mentoring. … Therefore, not only did Dr. Drennan have a great impact on my academic life, he has indirectly influenced the success of students here at St. Francis Xavier University, and many more to come in the future," Haller said.

Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring

2008 Winners

Louise Comfort, professor of public and urban affairs in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Donald DeFranco, professor of pharmacology and chemical biology in the School of Medicine, member of the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases

Leon Gleser, professor of statistics in the School of Arts and Sciences

Kenneth Jordan, Distinguished Professor of Computational Chemistry in the School of Arts and Sciences, director of the Center for Molecular and Materials Simulations

2007 Winners

Kathleen M. Blee, Distinguished Professor of Sociology in the School of Arts and Sciences

Nancy Day, professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine

Robert Drennan, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology in the School of Arts and Sciences

Noreen Garman, professor of administrative and policy studies in the School of Education

2006 Winners

Celia Brownell, professor of psychology in the School of Arts and Sciences

Katheryn Linduff, professor in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture in the School of Arts and Sciences

Esther Sales, professor in the School of Social Work

Alan Sved, professor of neuroscience in the School of Arts and Sciences, codirector of the Center for Neuroscience

BRADEN WOLFE/CIDDE

The winners of the 2008 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring were recognized at an April 15 reception in the William Pitt Union. From left, Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher, Louise Comfort, Leon Gleser, Donald DeFranco, Kenneth Jordan, and Vice Provost for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Patricia Beeson.

Four Pitt Faculty Members Win 2008 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring

Four members of the University of Pittsburgh faculty are recipients of the 2008 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring, an honor that recognizes faculty for their mentoring of doctoral students. This is the third year the awards have been granted.

The awardees were selected from 31 nominations made by Pitt doctoral students and faculty.

The honorees are Louise Comfort, professor of public and urban affairs in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Donald DeFranco, professor of pharmacology in the School of Medicine; Leon Gleser, professor of statistics in the School of Arts and Sciences; and Kenneth Jordan, Distinguished Professor of Computational Chemistry in the School of Arts and Sciences. Each of the four winners will receive a cash prize of $2,500.

"Fundamental to the success of our doctoral training programs are the faculty members who serve as mentors to our graduate students," said Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher. "Our faculty mentors provide intellectual and professional guidance that helps support, encourage, and promote the growth of our students. The faculty selected for these awards exemplify our commitment to the excellence of graduate education at the University of Pittsburgh."

Brief biographies of the recipients follow.

Louise Comfort is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a Fulbright Senior Scholar. Comfort has chaired 16 doctoral dissertations, served on 22 doctoral dissertation committees, and is currently advising 11 additional students. Her students have participated in a variety of research projects, including the Interactive, Intelligent Spatial Information System (IISIS), which is computational software that helps community leaders manage risk during disasters and better link communities together when public safety is at risk. Comfort, who directs the operation, and the IISIS team have spent several years researching and compiling data and are now conducting field demonstrations in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region. Alumni who have studied under Comfort have gone on to hold both academic positions and high-level policy-setting administrative positions throughout the world.

Donald DeFranco has made significant contributions to the graduate experience of all pharmacology students as the current graduate director. A number of projects in his laboratory are focused on examining the molecular basis of neuronal cell death. He has implemented a student journal club where students sponsor the presentation of a paper by the weekly invited visiting seminar speaker and later meet with the visiting scientist to discuss the paper. Throughout the past 23 years, DeFranco has advised 17 doctoral students and is currently advising three others. His students have been very successful in securing tenure-stream or postdoctoral positions at distinguished medical schools.

Leon Gleser has, since the inception of the Department of Statistics in 1997, advised all incoming students in his role as graduate director. He has enjoyed a distinguished research career and was the executive editor of *Statistical Science*. Gleser has supervised a total of 23 doctoral dissertations, 10 of which have been at Pitt. He is currently advising three other students. His students have been placed in tenure-stream or postdoctoral positions at Harvard University, the Cleveland Clinic, and Vanderbilt University, among others.

Kenneth Jordan is the director of the University's Center for Molecular and Materials Simulations and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also is a member of Pitt's Petersen Institute for Nanoscience and Engineering and an associate faculty member in the Department of Computational Biology. Jordan is an expert in the use of theoretical and computational methods for understanding the properties of molecules, clusters, and surfaces. In recent years, he has been especially interested in hydrogen bonding and how excess electrons and protons localize in clusters of water. Jordan's research on water was included in *Science* magazine's top 10 scientific breakthroughs of 2004. During the past 30 years at Pitt, Jordan has advised 23 doctoral students and is currently advising six others. His former students maintain successful research careers at both research universities and national laboratories.

—By Amanda Leff

Pitt Honors College Mock Trial Team Places Fifth in National Competition

By Patricia Lomando White

The University of Pittsburgh Honors College Mock Trial Team recently competed in the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) National Championship, finishing third in the 32-team division and fifth overall out of the 64 teams at the championship.

The competition was held earlier this month in Minneapolis, Minn.

The competing teams represent the 64 best teams out of more than 700 teams that began the 2007-08 AMTA season.

"The qualifying process to be among that field is almost as challenging as the championship itself," said Jennifer Satler (LAW, '00), Pitt's Mock Trial Team coach. "This was our highest finish in our nine years in the program and will almost certainly move our national ranking up to the single digits."

In the AMTA competition, the Pitt team beat Northwestern University, Villanova University, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the University of Virginia (U.Va.), the back-to-back returning national champions. This was U.Va.'s first loss at the championship tournament since 2005.

Among other schools, Pitt finished ahead of Columbia, Cornell, Duke, George Washington, Georgetown, New York, Pennsylvania State, Princeton, Stanford, Washington and Lee, and Yale universities and the Universities of California-Los Angeles, Chicago, Michigan, Notre Dame, Southern California, and Texas.

The Honors College Pitt Mock Trial Team was founded in 1998 with six members, the minimum number of students required to field a competing team in the AMTA. During the 1998-99 season, Pitt's team attended one tournament, the minimum number required to maintain membership in AMTA, finishing with a record of 1-7 and no program or individual awards. Pitt was unranked out of a total of approximately 500 teams that competed that year.

This season, Pitt's team fielded a record 25 competing members on three separate squads and attended 10 tournaments prior to the AMTA National Championship. In the 10 qualifying tournaments, Pitt's team won nine program awards, including one First Place finish and two Third Place finishes at the two most competitive invitational tournaments in the country. In addition, Pitt students have won a total of 13 individual awards, three All-Region Attorney awards, one All-Region Witness award, and one All-American Attorney award.

At the beginning of the 2007-08 season, Pitt's Honors College Mock Trial Team was ranked 29th out of more than 700 teams in AMTA. Pitt is the highest-ranked team coached by a woman that does not offer a credited course as part of the program. Before this month's AMTA National Championship, Pitt's team had moved up in the rankings to seventh in the country.

Of the 25 current members, five are graduating. Three will attend law school, one will attend medical school, and one will join Pitt as a staff member.

Pitt's Windows on the World

JOE KAPELEWSKI/CIDDE

On behalf of the University of Pittsburgh, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg formally received the entire European Union delegation library, the most extensive collection of public EU documents and publications in North America. John Bruton, ambassador of the European Commission to the United States, and Samuel Zbogar, Republic of Slovenia ambassador to the United States and Mexico, made the presentation to Pitt's University Library System (ULS) during an April 9 ceremony in the Thornburgh Room of Hillman Library. From left, Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher, Nordenberg, Bruton, Zbogar, and University Librarian Rush Miller, ULS director.

JIM BURKE/CIDDE

Jean-Claude Juncker, the prime minister of Luxembourg, presented a distinguished lecture at Pitt on April 10. In introductory remarks, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg said Juncker is the longest-serving head of government in the European Union and "a highly respected leader." Juncker has strongly supported research collaborations involving Pitt faculty and scholars in Luxembourg.

Engineering, Business Program Immerses Students in India's Growing Economy

By Morgan Kelly

As India's rapid economic growth propels its companies, products, and employees into the global market, the University of Pittsburgh's business and engineering schools have developed a strategy to prepare their students for the subcontinent's competitive presence—take them there.

For the inaugural trip of Pitt's newly established Engineering and Business Collaborations in India program, nine students from the Swanson School of Engineering and Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business will travel to the Indian economic hub of Bangalore from May 4 to 17 to get acquainted with their Indian colleagues—and competitors.

Led by Pitt's Bopaya Bidanda, department chair and Ernest E. Roth Professor of Industrial Engineering in the Swanson School, and G.G. Hegde, a business administration professor in the Katz School, the course shifts the business and engineering curriculum to India at a time when many institutions focus on China. Students will explore the industries and the schools fueling India's expanding economy, a market that American students will inevitably work with or compete against upon entering the job market. The course is organized in collaboration with the R.V. College of Engineering in Bangalore with support from Pitt's International Business Center in the Katz School.

Pitt students will delve into the daily operations of companies from a software developer to an aircraft manufacturing plant to a coffee plantation. The group will visit Indian-owned businesses—such as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Asia's largest aerospace company—and such American-owned operations in Bangalore as those of Pittsburgh-area companies Kennametal, a metalworking corporation, and technology firm iGATE Corporation.

"We want the students to observe how the American and Indian economies are intertwined, to trace how a coffee bean goes from a plantation in Kodagu, India, to a cup of Starbucks coffee bought in Pittsburgh," Bidanda said. "I want them to see the strong, positive energy in such cities as Bangalore. Every day, Indian newspapers are full of stories about companies adding 500 jobs here and 200 jobs there that is such a stark contrast to many cities in the United States, including Pittsburgh. We want Pitt students to bring their knowledge of India back home and use it to attract and work with Indian companies."

The Pitt group also will meet students and attend classes at R.V. College to gain a sense of the Indian educational system as well as an understanding of the aspirations and backgrounds of Indian students, Hegde added.

"In business, we say 'know your customer' and 'know your partner,'" he said. "The United States and India will be doing a lot of business, and if our students study and learn firsthand the principles and techniques Indian businesses employ, their education will be even more complete."

Pittsburgh is a natural economic partner for India, Bidanda said. The city's transition from a 20th-century center of manufacturing and heavy industry to a modern hub for health care, higher education, technology, and research has attracted a large Indian community to its many universities, hospitals, and hi-tech firms.

"Indians have deep roots in Pittsburgh," Bidanda said. "When these growing companies in India look to invest, expand, relocate, and recruit, they hopefully will look first at Pittsburgh."

India is among many nations in which the Swanson and Katz schools maintain business and engineering programs designed to bolster students' technical education with cross-cultural savvy. Last year, Pitt's industrial engineering department was among the first such departments in the nation to require that students travel internationally, Bidanda said. The global market gives students with cross-cultural experience some advantage.

The Katz School was among the first American business schools to host international programs in Eastern Europe in the early 1990s and, later, in Brazil, Hegde said. India is now ripe for such programs, given its burgeoning economy and a much-improved transportation infrastructure long plagued by congestion and age, Hegde added.

> "The Katz School was among the first American business schools to host international programs in Eastern Europe in the early 1990s and, later, in Brazil. India is now ripe for such programs, given its burgeoning economy and a much-improved transportation infrastructure long plagued by congestion and age."
> *–G.G. Hegde*

Pitt Phi Beta Kappa Inducts 70 Members

By Anthony M. Moore

The University of Pittsburgh chapter of Phi Beta Kappa inducted 70 Pitt students into its 2008 class.

The ceremony was held April 26 in the Teplitz Memorial Moot Courtroom in the Barco Law Building.

Founded in 1776 at the College of William & Mary, Phi Beta Kappa is America's oldest college honor society. Election to Phi Beta Kappa is considered by many to be the most prestigious honor of academic excellence that can be conferred upon students majoring in one of the liberal arts and sciences. Among the organization's membership are 17 U.S. presidents, seven of the nine current U.S. Supreme Court justices, and 131 Nobel Laureates.

Local chapters work within the organization's national guidelines to establish their own criteria for admission. At Pitt, eligibility requirements include, among others, proficiency in a foreign language as well as the completion of a demanding, broadly distributed program of course work spanning the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Completing a well-distributed program of course work is more important than a 4.0 grade point average. Grade point requirements range from a 3.5 to 3.9, with the lower criterion applying to students who have earned at least 90 liberal arts credits at Pitt and the higher criterion applying to those who have earned only 60 liberal arts credits at Pitt.

The following students comprise the 2008 class of Pitt Phi Beta Kappa inductees.

Lindsey Abigail Bailet
Karli Joan Baumgardner
Randall John Bendis
Megan Justine Block
Amy Lynn Bolstein
Cassidy A. Budd
Solange Rishona McIntosh Clarke
Damian Patrick Clossin
William Mitchell Cowardin
Robert Mitchell Culik
Nancy Lynn Czaicki
Joseph Dragovich
Jessica Lynn Ehresman
Lucas S. Elbaum
Jeffery J. Ernsthausen
Kandi Lee Felmet
Rebecca Foster
Sarah Elizabeth Foster
Leah Acker Fow
Christine Marie Gallagher
Samuel Ellis Ginsburg
Kelly A. Grout
Kenneth Michael Guida
Rashed Harun
Matthew A. Hawk
Alexander K. Heitman
Shady S. Henien

Joshua J. Hill
Jonathan M. Hoffmann
Meredith Ann Hutchison
Rachel J. Jones
Branka Karan
Kristin Lee Keating
Tanya Elizabeth Keenan
Jessica Lynn Kocian
Toby Rebecca Liss
Deeba Fatima Mahmood
Melissa J. Masnovi
Francis Greco Massaro
Gregory Steven McWhirter
Mamothena Carol Mothupi
Brett Alan Postal
Yelena Pristyazhnyuk
Jeanette C. Rabatsky
Nathan Matko Riley
Catherine Lynn Roberts
Benjamin Charles Rosko
Emily Marlene Russell
Michael Arthur Santos
Stephan Paul Sapienza
Anne Elizabeth Seiler
Deborah Ann Seiple
Margarita Shulkina
Joshua Alexander Shulman
Mallory J. Simon
Jacob B. Slyder
Jonathan Michael Spring
Tara Victoria Squitiro
Erin M. Stacy
Joseph Louis Stauffer
Steven D. Stockton, Jr.
Christina Beth Tasevoli
Jonathan David Taylor
Taylor Anne Tisa
Nicole A. Toney
Alison Michele Trude
Andrew J. Wilkins
Eric Michael Wise
Kyle D. Yakopovich
Nicki Zevola

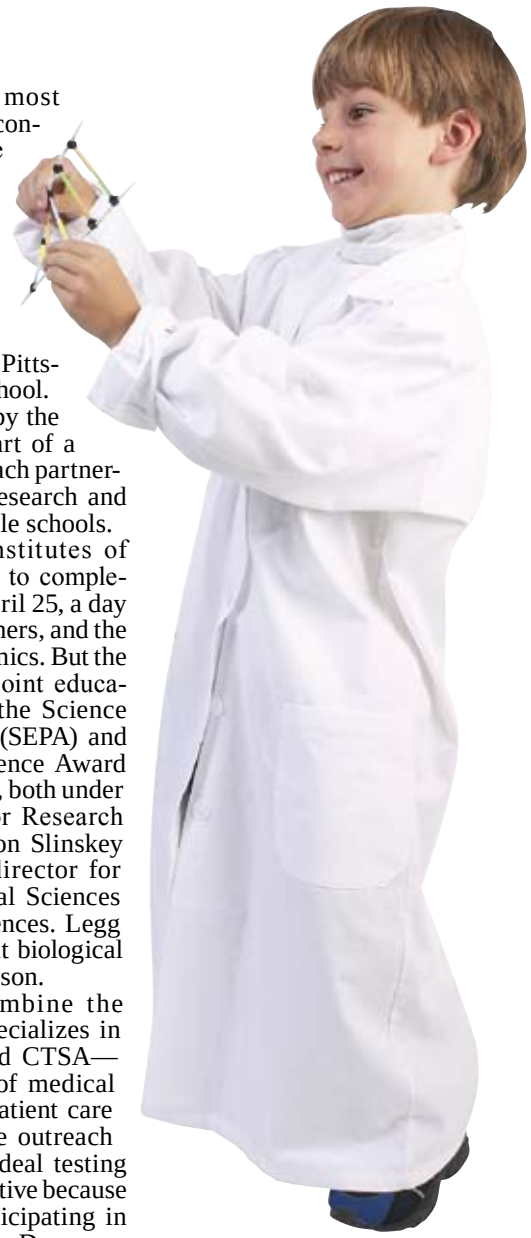
GOLDEN KEY

MICHAEL HEATER

Officers of the University of Pittsburgh's Golden Key International Honour Society gathered April 19 at Joe Mama's Italian Deluxe in Oakland for their final meeting of the school year. The organization recognizes and encourages academic achievement and excellence among college and university students from all academic disciplines. From left: Steve Hawley, Samantha Phillips, Katie Fritzdixon, Arianne Gallagher, Brett Powers, Hai Do, and Ric Fera.

Pitt Event Marked Launch of Federal Outreach Partnership for Middle School Research

By Morgan Kelly



Middle school students most likely won't be called upon to contain a viral epidemic or figure out why a strain of bacteria causing ear infections across a school district isn't responding to antibiotics. But more than 120 students from 12 area middle schools got an idea of how to solve these and other microbial mysteries April 21 at Pittsburgh's Dorseyville Middle School.

The event was organized by the University of Pittsburgh as part of a novel federal educational outreach partnership that will bring medical research and college-level biology into middle schools.

Pitt and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) planned the day to complement National DNA Day on April 25, a day meant to educate students, teachers, and the public about genetics and genomics. But the activities also mark the first joint education outreach event between the Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) and Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) federal grant programs, both under the NIH's National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), said Alison Slinskey Legg, educational outreach director for Pitt's Department of Biological Sciences in the School of Arts and Sciences. Legg orchestrated the event with Pitt biological sciences professor Lewis Jacobson.

The NCRR aims to combine the resources of SEPA—which specializes in K-12 education outreach—and CTSA—which promotes the transfer of medical research from the lab to the patient care setting—into a comprehensive outreach partnership. Pittsburgh is an ideal testing ground for the outreach cooperative because the city hosts institutions participating in both programs, Legg said. Pitt, Duquesne University, and the Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative, Inc. (PTEI), all support SEPA programs. Furthermore, Pitt's Clinical and Translational Science Institute is one of only 24 (of a planned 60) CTSA-funded programs in the country; Pitt was among the first 12 CTSA institutions, receiving an $83.5 million grant in 2006.

"Our goal is to see how a research university such as Pitt can help educate children in science and biology," Legg said. "Through cooperation, the university-based outreach programs and the medical centers can link the latest scientific research with the lessons being taught in the classroom."

The students' activities included the *Outbreak!* Program in Pitt's mobile lab, in which students were presented with the scenario of a potential viral outbreak. The students tried to determine the extent of the infection, the source, and the best method for containment. Researchers from Duquesne and PTEI hosted sessions on tissue regeneration that included hands-on activities. Boston University also contribued its mobile City Lab, a 40-foot state-of-the-art traveling lab designed for students and teachers to participate in hands-on investigations.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BLACK STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

MIKE DRAZDZINSKI/CIDDE

Carol Moseley Braun delivered a lecture in Benedum Hall on April 16, addressing the importance of Black student organizations and the necessity of students being involved in an ever-changing world. The talk commemorated the 40th anniversary of the founding of Pitt's Black Action Society. To date, Moseley Braun has been the only African American woman elected to the U.S. Senate, representing Illinois from 1993 to 1999. In 2004, she sought the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

Chancellor's Scholar Keenan Receives HIA Fellowship

Third consecutive year that Pitt competed successfully in Humanity in Action program

By Patricia Lomando White

Tanya E. Keenan, a Chancellor's Scholar in the University of Pittsburgh Honors College, has been selected to receive a 2008 Humanity in Action (HIA) summer fellowship. Keenan, a political science and neuroscience major in the University's School of Arts and Sciences, is among only 59 undergraduate students chosen from American colleges and universities. This summer, she will participate in the Dutch Program in Amsterdam.

CHRISTOPHER CHRDON

Tanya E. Keenan

This is the third consecutive year that Pitt has competed successfully in the HIA Fellowship program.

American fellows join European fellows for five weeks in Denmark, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland, and the United States for intensive study of contemporary minority and human rights issues.

A Phoenixville, Pa., native, Keenan received a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship in 2006 for exceptional independent research in the science and engineering disciplines. Under the direction of Anthony Grace, a Pitt professor in the Department of Neuroscience, Keenan has performed a variety of neurophysiological techniques to understand the role of neural circuitry in such psychiatric disorders as schizophrenia, addiction, and depression. Keenan's particular interest is the basolateral amygdala (BLA) area of the brain's involvement in heightened emotional states. She has completed experiments that probe the circuitry between the prefrontal cortex and the BLA.

Keenan presented her BLA research at the Society of Neuroscience annual meeting in fall 2006. Keenan's long-term career goal is to be a neuroscientist who is both a committed investigator at a major research institution and an active participant in the global scientific community.

During the 2006-07 academic year, Keenan took part in the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Undergraduate Fellowship Program in Mental Health Research, which provides NIMH support to students from Pitt and Carnegie Mellon to conduct supervised research in clinical and educational activities.

In addition to pursuing her research, Keenan spent four weeks in the summer of 2006 studying in the People's Republic of China through the Pitt-in-China program. Last summer, Keenan received the Women's International Club Grant from the University's Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Program. She studied HIV/AIDS, health care, clinical interventions, and community development with Children's Family Health International in Durban, South Africa.

Participation in the HIA's core programs provides the foundation for further involvement with HIA. Upon completion of summer fellowships, participants may proceed to international internships to continue their training in human rights issues. Past fellows have used their experiences with HIA to further careers in such fields as education, civil service, journalism, law, and art.

HIA was founded in 1997 to guide student leaders in the study of human rights. Fellows are selected on the basis of high academic achievement, evidence of leadership ability, and demonstrated commitment to human rights issues.

PITT ARTS' 10th Anniversary Sees Big Rise in Participation

By Sharon S. Blake

The number of participants in the PITT ARTS program rose 14 percent this year from a year earlier.

PITT ARTS director Annabelle Clippinger said the program—which just concluded its 10th anniversary—introduced 32,545 Pitt students, faculty, and staff to one or more cultural events, from September through March.

More than 15,500 students took advantage of PITT ARTS' Free Museum Visits Program. And a new milestone was reached—10,000 tickets sold from the PITT ARTS office this year—in the Cheap Seats Program, which offers Pitt faculty, staff, and students discounted tickets to the symphony, ballet, theater, and other performances.

Clippinger attributed the overall increase to students' interest in the *Chihuly at Phipps: Gardens and Glass* exhibition at Phipps Conservatory, and to the increased number of participants in the Cheap Seats Program.

She also cited the five programs that PITT ARTS planned and implemented around the *Bodies* exhibition, including two at the Carnegie Science Center, and one each at the Andy Warhol Museum, the Carnegie Museum of Art, and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. In addition, Clippinger said, "the six independent films that we added to our lineup this year made our 10th anniversary very special indeed. Our dedication to diversifying PITT ARTS offerings is ongoing and reaching new heights."

PITT ARTS remains committed to exposing students to a variety of talent. This year's performances included poet Terrance Hayes, the dance group Urban Bushwomen, the band The Carolina Chocolate Drops, and Ballet Folklorico. There were 116 on- and off-campus performances, with more than one-third of them multicultural offerings.

Some of these were through PITT ARTS' Free Arts Encounter program, which provides an expanded experience at a symphony, opera, ballet, theater, concert, art gallery, or film event. Students receive free transportation, event tickets, attendance at a catered reception, and an educational component that could include e-mailed essays, discussions with artists, or hands-on workshops. Students also participated in Artful Wednesdays in the lower level of the William Pitt Union to hear a poet or a musician and enjoy a free lunch.

PITT ARTS, founded in 1997, is funded through various grants and support from the Office of the Provost.

Happenings

The Capulets & The Montagues, Benedum Center, May 3-11

Concerts

Bowfire, fiddle and violin virtuosos, 7:30 p.m. **April 28,** Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Emporer Concerto, Yan Pascal Tortellier, conductor; Horatio Gutierrez, piano, **May 1-3,** Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra, 2 p.m. **May 3,** Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-392-4872, www.pyso.us.

High Strung, featuring the Barrage Fiddlers, 7:30 p.m. **May 3,** Bromeley Family Theater, Blaisdell Hall, Pitt-Bradford, Pitt-Bradford Arts Endowment Fund, 814-362-5113, www.barrage.org.

Have You Seen Her? featuring The Chi-Lites, 7:30 p.m. **May 3,** Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave., East Liberty, 412-363-3000, www.kelly-strayhorn.org.

The Lira Ensemble of Chicago: A Polish Musical Celebration, 3:30 p.m. **May 4,** Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Manfred Honeck, conductor, with Michael Rusinek, clarinet, 8 p.m. **May 9-10**; 2:30 p.m. **May 11**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Exhibitions

Space 101 Gallery, *Bare IV*, **May 2-31**, The Brew House, 2100 Mary St., South Side, 412-381-7767, www.brew-house.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art, *55th Carnegie International*, **May 3-Jan. 11, 2009;** *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.

Silver Eye, benefit auction for gallery, 10 a.m. **May 10**, auction photographs exhibited through May 9, 1015 E. Carson St., South Side, reservations recommended, www.silvereye.org, 412-431-1810.

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

Trinity Gallery, *HIE (High Speed Infrared Film)*, **through May 31,** 4747 Hatfield St., Lawrenceville, 412-687-2458.

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

SPACE, *Pittsburgh NOW*, **through June 13**, 812 Liberty Ave., Downtown, www.SpacePittsburgh.org, 412-325-7723.

Lectures/ Seminars/Readings

"Careers Over Lunch," noon-1:30 p.m. **May 6,** S120 Biomedical Science Tower 2, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, www.survival.pitt.edu.

"Grants Over Lunch," noon-1:30 p.m. **May 7,** S120 Biomedical Science Tower 2, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, www.survival.pitt.edu.

"The Stepfamily Journey: Not for Wimps," Elizabeth Einstein, marriage and family therapist, 6:30 p.m. **May 8**, 2017 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's School of Social Work, 412-624-6902.

Miscellaneous

American Liver Foundation Quarterly Information Session, support group and discussion session, 6-8 p.m. **April 29,** 1103 Scaife Conference Center, American Liver Foundation, 1-866-434-7044, www.liverfoundation.org/chapters/westernpa.

Third Annual Postdoctoral Data and Dine Symposium, 5-9 p.m. **May 7,** William Pitt Union Assembly Room and Ballroom, University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association, Office of the Provost, Office of Academic Career Development, Health Sciences, www.oacd.health.pitt.edu.

Opera/Theater/ Dance

The Capulets & The Montagues, by Bellini, Antony Walker, conductor, **through May 11**, Benedum Center, 801 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-456-6666, www.pittsburghopera.org.

Rabbit Hole, by David Lindsay-Abaire, winner of 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, **through May 18,** Pittsburgh Public Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org.

A Marriage Minuet by David Wiltse, **through May 25,** City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-4400, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde, **through May 31,** Henry Heymann Theatre, Stephen Foster Memorial, Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre, www.picttheatre.org.

Pitt Oral Thesis Defenses

Meera D. Ramsooksingh, Department of Neuroscience, "Modulation of Locus Coerulear Neuronal Activity by the Central Nucleus of the Amygdala," 10 a.m. **May 5**, A219 B Langley Hall.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Priya Ramaswami, Department of Bioengineering, "Controlled Release From a Biodegradable Elastomer for Applications in Cardiovascular Regenerative Medicine," 3 p.m. **April 28,** Conference Room A, Bridgeside Point Building.

Stephen Greene, Department of Music, "Good Music, Democracy, and Class: Visions of a 'Musical America' in the Radio Age," 1 p.m. **April 30,** 302 Music Building.

Tiffany Sellaro, Department of Bioengineering, "Maintenance of Primary Human Hepatocyte Functions in Vitro by Extracellular Matrix Scaffolds," 1 p.m. **April 30,** 540 Thermofisher Building, Bridgeside Point.

Markos Valaris, Department of Philosophy, "A Priori Knowledge," 2 p.m. **April 30,** 1001B Cathedral of Learning.

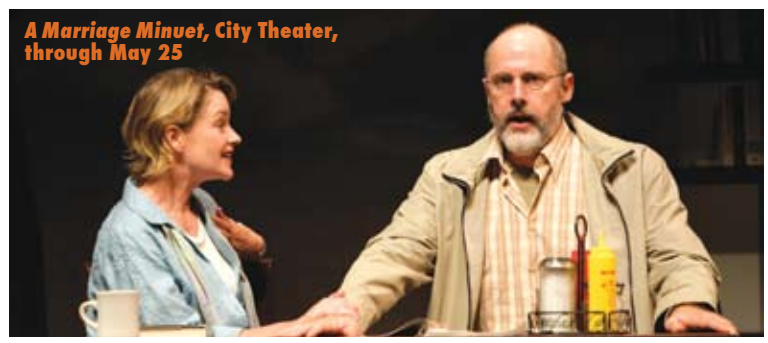
Endre Begby, Department of Philosophy, "On the Structure of Communicative Understanding," 2 p.m. **May 1,** 1001B Cathedral of Learning.

Huan Xie, Department of Economics, "Three Essays on Microeconomic Theory and Experiment," 2 p.m. **May 1,** 4716 Posvar Hall.

Susan Zitterbart, Department of History of Art and Architecture, "Kumano Mandara: In and Out of Time and Space," 10 a.m. **May 6,** 104 Frick Fine Arts.

Dan Debrah, Center for Biotechnology, "Relaxin Regulates Systemic Hemodynamics and Arterial Mechanical Properties," 9 a.m. **May 12,** 2nd Floor Multipurpose Room, Center for Biotechnology, 300 Technology Dr.

Monica Tomaszewski-Flick, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, "Functional Analysis and Characterization of Epstein Barr Virus Latent Membrane Protein 2b," 10 a.m. **May 12,** 437 Parran Hall.



A Marriage Minuet, City Theater, through May 25

The Ideological Occult: Russian Cinema Under Putin

By Anthony M. Moore

The University of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Filmmakers will present the 10th annual Russian Film Symposium, titled *The Ideological Occult: Russian Cinema Under Putin*, May 5-10 on Pitt's Oakland campus and at the Pittsburgh Filmmakers' Melwood Screening Room, 477 Melwood Ave., Oakland.

The film symposium will address the relationship between film and former Russian President Vladimir Putin's legacy. In its celebration of a decade at Pitt, the 2008 symposium will feature the largest collection of leading scholars and critics of Russian films it has ever presented. Notable speakers will include Marina Drozdova, chief editor of the documentary department at Russia's *Culture* television channel; Aleksandr Kiselev, a regular contributor to the Russian journals *Film* and *Kinobiznes*; Aleksandr Kolbovskiy, who edits one of the most popular Russian television programs devoted to cinema, *Dobroe Utro* on Russia's First Channel; and Victor Matizen, president of the Guild of Film Scholars and Critics of Russia.

Film specialists will introduce each film, and discussion sessions will be held after screenings. Pitt-campus screenings, which will be presented in Room 106 David Lawrence Hall, are free and open to the public. Admission to Pittsburgh Filmmakers' Melwood Screening Room is $5. All screened films will contain English subtitles. The film symposium screening schedule follows.

Soar (2007, Aleksandr Mindadze), 10 a.m., **May 5,** 106 David Lawrence Hall.

Mermaid (2007, Anna Melikian), 2 p.m., **May 5,** 106 David Lawrence Hall.

Traveling With Pets (2007, Vera Storozheva), 10 a.m., **May 6,** 106 David Lawrence Hall.

The Island (2006, Pavel Lungin), 2 p.m., **May 6,** 106 David Lawrence Hall.

1612 (2007, Vladimir Khotinenko), 10 a.m., **May 7,** 106 David Lawrence Hall.

Cargo 200 (2007, Aleksei Balabanov), 7:30 p.m., **May 7,** Melwood Screening Room.

Nothing Personal (2007, Larisa Sadilova), 10 a.m., **May 8,** 106 David Lawrence Hall.

A Kiss—Not for the Press (2008, Ol'ga Zhulina), 2 p.m., **May 8,** 106 David Lawrence Hall.

Hard Hearted, (2007, Aleksei Mizgirev), 7:30 p.m., **May 8,** Melwood Screening.

Alexandra (2007, Aleksandr Sokurov), 10 a.m., **May 9,** 106 David Lawrence Hall.

Day Watch (2006, Timur Bekmambetov), 2 p.m., **May 9,** 106 David Lawrence Hall.

Cruelty (2007, Marina Liubakova), 7:30 p.m., **May 9,** Melwood Screening Room.

Simple Things (2007, Aleksei Popogrebskii), 7:30 p.m., **May 10,** Melwood Screening Room.

More information is available at www.rusfilm.pitt.edu.

University of Pittsburgh

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400 Craig Hall
200 South Craig Street
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What's in a Name?

The story behind how Nordy's Place got its moniker

Mark Nordenberg—Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia—**Mark A. Nordenberg** *(aka **Nordy** to the students)* is a lawyer and the seventeenth Chancellor (1995-present) of the University of Pittsburgh.

JOE KAPELEWSKI/CIDDE

Gina Scozzaro

By Gina Scozzaro

When I began my freshman year at Pitt in 2004, I didn't know much about Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, let alone the history of the University's chancellors. I quickly realized, however, that the buildings I visited every day were mapping that history for me. I resided in the Litchfield Towers (Edward H. Litchfield, 1956-65), had biology in Crawford Hall (Stanton Crawford, 1965-66), and would meet my friends for lunch in Posvar Hall (Wesley W. Posvar, 1967-91) after class.

As I became more involved in student activities, I heard stories from my peers about campus events and festivities in which "Nordy" participated. Finally realizing that the famous "Nordy" was, in fact, Chancellor Nordenberg, I couldn't help but continue to reference our chancellor by this student-coined nickname. And if you don't believe me, just check the first line of his Wikipedia entry: "Mark A. Nordenberg (aka Nordy to the students) is a lawyer and the seventeenth Chancellor (1995-present) of the University of Pittsburgh."

Fast forward to the summer of 2007, when the University had completed multiple renovation projects within the William Pitt Union, including its Lower Level Recreation Center. Student Life administrators, acknowledging that the center would be used primarily for student events and functions, wanted Pitt students to have "naming rights." The Student Government Board stepped up and sponsored a naming contest—the winner would be announced at the center's grand opening. After seeing information about the contest on the popular student Web site, www.facebook.com, I began thinking of different names that students would associate with a cool, fun, and friendly atmosphere. I battled between "Pitt this" and "Panther that," but I knew that to be the "chosen one," my name had to be original.

> In my three-and-a-half years at Pitt, I have witnessed the chancellor toss a T-shirt on over his blue-suited shoulder while shaking the hands of numerous students, attend multiple student functions, and simply take walks down Fifth Avenue with a friendly and welcoming smile.

One afternoon, I found myself wondering why our student-friendly chancellor didn't have a room or building named for him. (I had not yet realized that the honor is usually reserved for chancellors who have either died or retired!) In my three-and-a-half years at Pitt, I have witnessed the chancellor toss a T-shirt over his blue-suited shoulder while shaking the hands of numerous students, attend multiple student functions, and simply take walks down Fifth Avenue with a friendly and welcoming smile. It just seemed like the perfect fit: Nordy's Place. I quickly sent my e-mail entry to the William Pitt Union Recreation Center account and anxiously awaited the results.

The process for determining the winner was long and arduous. The Student Government Board members, along with Director of Student Life Kenyon Bonner, reviewed all entries, debated their appropriateness and catchiness, and submitted their final choice—Nordy's Place—to Pitt Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kathy W. Humphrey.

It wasn't until the end of the fall semester, though, that I learned a "Nordy's Place" sign would soon be hanging outside the recreation center. When it was announced, I could hardly believe it. Not only was I surprised, but I was excited that I would be able to tell my children that I was instrumental in naming a part of the University of Pittsburgh campus! I've always taken great pride in my school, and I now know that this small but insightful contribution will go down in the history books… along with all the chancellors.

(Gina Scozzaro, a Pitt senior majoring in mathematics, expects to graduate in December 2008.)

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published May 12. **Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar** (see page 15) **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.