Pitt Students Win Goldwater Scholarships

At Pitt, as elsewhere, the Goldwater Scholarship is a harbinger of future success. Many of the recipients go on to receive prestigious graduate study awards: Pitt's 2007 Rhodes Scholar—Matthew S. Mager—attended the Oxford University in England. His thesis research focused on ferroelectric thin films for use in quantum computing architectures. He is coauthor of a paper to be submitted to Nature magazine for his work on ferroelectric measurements of strontium titanate grown on silicon.

Mager's most recent research is on ferroelectric thin films for use in quantum computing architectures. He is coauthor of a paper to be submitted to Nature magazine for his work on ferroelectric measurements of strontium titanate grown on silicon.

Most of Sleasman's experience and expertise is in quantum computing and condensed matter physics. Focused by group theory and its application to physics, as in quantum mechanics, he is studying the connections between group theory and physics at the University of Oxford in England this term.

Sleasman aspires to make a career in conducting physics research and possibly teaching at the university level. Along with pursuing physics research, Sleasman would like to use or even create new mathematical ideas for solving physical problems.

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg's mission should be to open new windows that allow students to explore opportunities and meet challenges, Pitt-Greensburg President Sharon P. Smith said at her installation ceremony April 2.

"Education enables each person to realize the opportunities available in a free society, and, at the same time, it helps to sustain the institutions that promote those freedoms," Smith said during her inaugural address in Ferguson Theater. "What kind of people do we want our students to become in the 21st century? I believe we want our students to be able to discern value in both the experiences of the past and the prospects in the present. We want them prepared to face the challenges of the future, equipped with the skills they will need to embrace the opportunities that await them."

"Renny" Clark, vice chancellor for community and economic development; and William Trueheart and E. Jeanne Gleason, both Pitt Board of Trustees members.

"A native of New Jersey, Smith received her A.B. degree, summa cum laude, in 1970; her A.M. degree, summa cum laude, in 1972; master's degree in 1972; and doctoral degree in 1974, all in economics from Rutgers University. She received a distinguished alumni award from Rutgers in 1998.

Continued on page 6
Briefly Noted

EU Officials to Present Its Delegation Library to Pitt

John Bruton, ambassador of the European Commission to the United States, and Samuel Zbigor, Regional Director of Slovenian Ambassador to the United States and Mexico, will formally present the entire European Union (EU) delegation library to Pitt’s University Library System at 1:30 p.m. April 9. The EU delegation library holds the most extensive collection of public EU documents and publications in North America.

Zbigor is accompanying Bruton because Slovenian current holds the presidency of the Council of the EU.

The EU delegation’s unique collection contains a complete set of EU institutions’ and agencies’ publications that was established in 1951, soon after the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community. It also contains parallel publications from such international organizations as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Council of Europe, and European trade associations. The collection was moved from Washington, D.C., to Pitt last May.

The byinvitation ceremony marking the formal presentation of the library to the University will be held in the William Library’s Thornton Room. Bruton will say a few words, followed by Zbigor, who will present the library catalog.

By Amanda Leff

Noted Human Rights Advocate to Speak April 10

Deborah LaBelle, attorney, professor, writer, and human-rights advocate, will deliver the annual Norman J. and Alice Chapman Rubash Distinguished Lecture in Law and Social Policy at 1 p.m. April 10 in Alumni Hall’s Tenenbaum Conference Room.

LaBelle, who advocates for the rights of people in detention, is a senior Soros Justice Fellow. In addition to maintaining her private practice, she is director of the Barco Law Building’s Tenenbaum Memorial Conference Room.

The free public lecture, “Bringing Human Rights Home,” will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in the Barco Law Building’s Tenenbaum Memorial Conference Room.

The lecture also includes a responding panel discussion. Panelists include Maureen V. Henton, chair of the Arts and Crimes Police Review Board; Gary L. Lauter, U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania; and Jules Lobel, professor of law—constitutional law and civil and human rights—of Pitt’s School of Law. Jeffrey Shook, a professor in Pitt’s School of Social Work, will moderate.

LaBelle, who advocates for the rights of people in detention, is a senior Soros Justice Fellow. In addition to maintaining her private practice, she is director of the ACLU’s Juvenile Life Without Parole Initiative. As part of this project, LaBelle authored Second Chances: Juvenile Serving Life Without Parole in Allenthown’s Phoenix, a report that fully documented this practice and has served as a model for advocates nationwide.

LaBelle has been lead counsel in more than a dozen class actions that have successfully challenged policies affecting treatment of incarcerated men, women, and juveniles, as well as their families. Several of these cases have been argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and in international forums.

For her work on behalf of women prisoners and domestic use of international standards, LaBelle was the first American to be designated a human-rights monitor by the Human Rights Watch.

The Rubash Distinguished Lecture Series was established through gifts from Norman J. Rubash, a 1957 graduate of Pitt’s School of Law, and his wife, Alice Chapman Rubash, a 1956 graduate of Pitt’s School of Social Work. Each year a distinguished individual in the fields of law and social work is invited to the University to present a public lecture.

By Patricia Lomando White

Pitt’s Peregrine Paterfamilies Presumed Departed, New Male Falcon Thought to Control Nest

Observers of the peregrine falcons nesting on the 40th floor of the University of Pittsburgh’s Cathedral of Learning suspect that another male falcon has replaced longtime patriarch Eric. The presumed new bird’s identity is unknown, but photographs and the suspect male’s behavior suggest that he is not Eric, who has raised 22 chicks with the female Dorothy since they occupied the nest in 2002. Because Dorothy has laid her eggs for this year, the falcons’ caretakers cannot safely access the nest to confirm the new bird’s identity.

Although Eric’s fate remains a mystery, observers suppose that the new male did not violently overthrow the nest, which could provide significant clues about the turnover of peregrine falcon nests, said Tony Bledsoe, a lecturer of biological sciences in Pitt’s School of Law and Sciences who helps monitor the falcons. Nests often change control when a young peregrine falcon (male or female) defeats an older bird.

Last year, Eric depredated a younger male from the Cleveland area and took over a nest that attempted to claim the nest and Eric’s female companion, Dorothy.

In the case of this new male, observers on the ground noted that one male was present throughout October of last year. The supposed new male arrived in mid-to-late November. Todd Katzner, a Pitt adjunct professor of biological sciences and the National Aviary’s director of conservation and field research, said that falcons stay in their home territory year-round. It is unlikely that either bird would remain absent for a long period of time, she said, or that they would remain absent for a long period of time then suddenly reappear, particularly when the nest has been a successful breeding ground.

Therefore, Bledsoe said, Dorothy’s prolonged solitude and the new male’s sudden presence suggest that he did not seize the Cathedral nest—he found it.

“We have examples of falcons taking over a nest, but this appears to have been a case of an individual leaving or, most likely, dying and another taking its place,” Bledsoe said. “It’s a single example, but a contribution to the developing story of how peregrines interact and establish pair bonds. Also, the new bird, depending on where he is from, could provide an idea of the patterns peregrine falcons follow when breeding and seeking nests.”

Nest turnovers also can aid in conservation efforts, Katzner said. When fallen or missing mates are replaced (or not replaced), that can help researchers estimate a species’ mortality rate and overall population.

Kate St. John, a volunteer for the National Aviary who monitors and maintains a blog about the Pitt falcons, first suspected that Eric was no more. She noticed in February that the male falcon’s ankle bands—used to track and identify the birds—were of different colors than those Eric wore. She spent six weeks comparing 4,500 photos of Eric and the suspect male. She noticed not only a difference in the bands but in the color and pattern of the birds’ feathers.

These observations corresponded with the male falcon’s overly enthusiastic courting behavior in late November, which was unusual for Eric in his later years, St. John said. “Eric was excited his first year, but later on he was ho-hum. Actually, that’s how we knew he won the fight last year—everything was business as usual between him and Dorothy.”

At nine years of age, Eric was in the twilight of a busy life that no doubt weakened him, Bledsoe said. During breeding season, he would hunt to win Dorothy’s favor with fresh prey, he fed her as the eggs developed inside her; and, once the eggs hatched, Eric provided for himself, Dorothy, and the chicks. For at least 50 days out of the year, year after year, he hunted for as many as six months, Bledsoe said.

“It was not an insignificant job to be Eric,” he said. “I suspect that Eric took a big hit last breeding season when he fought off a rival then raised four more young. His chances of surviving into another breeding season were probably significantly lowered.”

For more information, visit St. John’s blog, “Outside My Window,” at www.wqed.org/birdblog/2008/04/02/who-is-he-new-male-peregrine-at-univ-of-pittsburgh/
The Next Great Thinkers
What does it take to create a new generation of the professoriate?

By Reid Frazier

They come to Pitt hungry, eager to read, write, and debate. They train with professors who have spent their careers pushing the boundaries of human understanding. They live on Indian food and coffee and spend copious amounts of time in the library. And when it is over, they are ready to train the next generation of scholars.

They are Pitt’s PhD students, a group whose achievements and sheer numbers have grown in recent years, as Pitt has sur

aced near the top of the 400-plus schools in the nation that offer doctoral education.

Across the nation, PhD education has received increased attention, including a recent study by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, an independent policy and research center. Three Pitt entities—the Departments of Chemistry and English, and the Center for Neuroscience—were among 84 nationwide asked to participate in the study because of their achievements in doctoral education.

“We were really impressed by the energy at Pitt,” says Chris Golde, associate vice provost for graduate education at Stanford University and research director for the study.

“The faculty we worked with showed a lot of energy and enthusiasm in doing the really hard work at looking at their own practices.

“Doctoral education is vitally important,” adds Golde. “It’s the crown jewel of all higher education systems. It’s where the best minds are honed and trained and prepared. It’s these folks who advance societies and civilizations.”

A Leader in Doctoral Education

At Pitt, the numbers of PhDs bestowed by the University have risen by 30 percent since 1995, to more than 400 per year. That ranks Pitt 18th among public institutions and 29th among all universities and colleges in the number of PhDs it produces.

Perhaps more impressive is where those PhDs end up—more than half obtain faculty positions at other colleges and universities and most of the others receive postdoctoral fellowships, often the initial step on a path toward tenure or key positions in government or industry.

“The University is clearly a major player on the national stage in terms of doctoral education, and I see only continued improvement in the years to come,” says Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher.

“That’s what great universities do: They produce the next generation of the professoriate for other universities, and, as a great institution, Pitt is committed to producing the next generation of thinkers and scholars.”

To make it all work, University officials say, Pitt adopts a stem-to-stern approach to attracting and training young scholars. “This doesn’t happen by accident,” says Maher. “We begin by recruiting the best students in the country and setting the bar high. Then we give our students the chance to work closely with some of the best faculty in their fields and make sure the students have all the support they need to become strong, independent thinkers.”

“Good mentorship isn’t just holding students’ hands and walking them through the process,” says Nicole Constable, associate dean of graduate studies for the School of Arts and Sciences, the school that produces Pitt PhDs Awarded Since 1995

Pitt ranks 18th among U. S. public schools in the number of PhDs it produces.

Continued on page 4
The Next Great Thinkers

Continued from page 3

the largest number of the University's PhDs. “It’s teaching them to be independent scholars, individuals who, when they’re finished, are prepared to be full-fledged academics.”

Supporting Pitt education is expensive, but Pitt provides competitive support packages to its doctoral students because it’s fundamental to the University’s mission, says Constable. “We are investing in the future of the professoriate. Getting a PhD is a full-time, all-consuming pursuit. You’re basically saying, ‘I’m going to fully understand my discipline.’ It’s academia as a way of life.”

Two areas where the University has consistently excelled in doctoral education are the Department of Philosophy and its sibling program, the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (HPS). Their faculties are consistently given “Top Five” rankings by rating services like The Philosophical Gourmet Report, and both departments attract some of the best students in the country. Their approach to recruiting and training as well as placing PhD students are good examples of best practices in doctoral education at Pitt.

Looking for a Special Imagination

The excellence of the graduate program in the Department of Philosophy starts with finding and attracting the best students. But how do you find hidden talent amidst the sea of applications every year?

Robert Brandom, Pitt Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, says he and his colleagues look for students with “a special imagina-"..." |

Clear and concise, the report provides a comprehensive overview of the University's philosophical education program, highlighting its commitment to producing original, high-quality scholars. The Next Great Thinkers, now in its second year of the PhD program, has taken courses on Wittgenstein, Kant, and Aristotle with some of the most highly regarded scholars in the country. He’s also become involved in the University’s philosophical community: This spring, he helped organize a graduate student conference run by students in philosophy, HPS, and Carnegie Mellon University’s philosophy department.

Pitt’s philosophy department hosts a prospective students’ weekend—a kind of show-and-tell where faculty interact with the applicants who’ve been accepted. Students also get to hear a faculty member give a work-in-progress talk. This year’s presenter was University Professor of Philosophy John McDowell, whose work in linking the analytic and humanistic strains of philosophy has made him a major figure in contemporary scholarship.

"Having the works-in-progress lecture goes a long way in building a philosophy community here," says Standefer.

Matthew Boyle, one of three Pitt philosophy alumni now on the faculty at Harvard, says he first became interested in Pitt while reading McDowell’s work. Boyle, who received his doctorate from Pitt in 2004 and accepted a position as an assistant professor at Harvard, says his own work is in the role of the self-conscious in rational thought. For his dissertation, Boyle studied the philosophy of mind and the work of Immanuel Kant, both strengths of the department’s faculty.

"That’s arrived at Pitt, Boyle found a fertile milieu for philosophical thought. Conversations that began in seminars, on topics like ethics or the essence of knowledge, lasted well past the classroom. “The place seemed like a real community to me,” says Boyle. “After night seminars, we’d often go out for a drink and continue the conversation. There was a lot of talk about philosophy in a communal way. It wasn’t just a job that ended for people at 5 o’clock.”

This kind of running dialogue between students and faculty is key in any intellectual enterprise, says Sasha Newton, a fifth-year PhD student in the program. “It’s very difficult to do philosophy alone. You need counterarguments; you need other points of view. It’s helpful to have other people with different areas of expertise to talk to. In philosophy, you can’t just specialize in one area. You need to know it all because it’s all interconnected.”

In addition to seminars and research, teaching is an important element in getting students ready to become faculty. Newton says teaching has helped her distill complicated subjects into concise lessons, a skill she will need once she joins a faculty. “I like the challenge of having to present things very clearly for beginners.”

The Job’s Not Over Until Students Get Jobs

Once students complete their coursework, they move on to writing a dissertation prospectus. Brandon likens the prospectus to applying for a hunting license: “We ask, ‘What kind of game are you going to be hunting? Where are you going to look for it? What makes you think it’s going to be there? What new directions are you going to pursue?’ How will we know when you’ve bagged it?”

The student’s prospectus is so important because of its impact on the quality of the dissertation he or she will write, says Ruetsche. This, in turn, has a direct impact on students’ job prospects after graduate school.

“Academia, people don’t ask in a job interview about a paper you wrote for a seminar your second year in graduate school. They ask about your dissertation,” Ruetsche says. “It’s the credential that’s most central to your appointment on a faculty.”

As they finish their dissertations, students begin looking for a job. To support that effort, Pitt faculty put the students through mock interviews and mock job presentations. “The faculty’s job isn’t over until each student has a job,” Brandon says.

For alumni like Boyle, the intellectual atmosphere and the opportunity to engage with renowned faculty have been key factors in their success. As they move on to new roles, they carry with them the lessons learned at Pitt, the friendships formed, and the passion for inquiry that defines the University’s philosophy program.

The Next Great Thinkers are among the brightest minds in contemporary philosophy. Their work not only advances the field but also inspires the next generation of thinkers. As they continue their journey, Pitt faculty and graduate students alike look forward to seeing where their curiosity and ingenuity will lead them next.
vocational training, access to great faculty thinkers and researchers, participation in an intellectual community, and detailed preparation for the academic job market. But it all starts with having great students.

As in the philosophy department, this approach is embodied in Pitt’s Department of the History and Philosophy of Science’s PhD program, which attracts some of the country’s top young scholars.

When Yoichi Ishida was deciding on a possible school for obtaining a PhD degree in philosophy of science, he knew Pitt’s HPS department had an excellent reputation. It wasn’t until his campus visit, though, that he knew he’d choose Pitt over the other schools on his shortlist, which included Oxford University.

“Everybody knows the department has a world-renowned faculty, but the thing that really convinced me, having visited different places, was the intellectual community. They were people I wanted to work with,” says Roberts, who completed bachelor’s degrees in math and philosophy at the University of Washington-Seattle and is now a second-year PhD student at Pitt. “Here you’re surrounded by people thinking hard about really interesting questions.

HPS is regarded as one of the best of its kind in the English-speaking world, says Sandra Mitchell, chair of HPS. In 2006, the program had an unprecedented “10 for 10” — all 10 of its graduating students received either a tenure-track faculty position or a prestigious fellowship. "Everybody knows the department has a world-renowned faculty, but the thing that really convinced me, having visited different places, was the intellectual community. They were people I wanted to work with," says Roberts, who completed bachelor’s degrees in math and philosophy at the University of Washington-Seattle and is now a second-year PhD student at Pitt. “Here you’re surrounded by people thinking hard about really interesting questions.

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“Comps’ are probably the main reason why some HPS students don’t finish their degrees, says Mitchell. In the “publish or perish” world of academia, the process ensures each graduate of the program is ready for what lies ahead. “Comprehensive exams are big hurdles,” says Mitchell, whose own work focuses on the growing field of the philosophy of biology. “If they pass those, that’s a training for what it’s like to be in the profession.

You need to show you have the ability to do independent work and that you can work through an argument. It’s better for them to find out sooner rather than later whether they have what it takes to make it in the profession.”

Like their counterparts in the philosophy department, HPS students finishing their dissertations prepare to “hit the market” by participating in mock interviews and giving mock job talks. “The practice interview is designed to be much more brutal than the actual job interview ever will be,” says Tabery, who is now an assistant professor in the University of Utah’s Department of Philosophy.

Tabery says he uses some of the same techniques that helped him land a position to prepare his students for entering the job market. “They’re training you to look for a job from the time you walk in the door. Publishing papers and teaching courses puts you in a position to hit the ground running when you’re finished. By the time that sixth or seventh year rolls around, you’re already doing what professional philosophers do.”

Proof of the University’s accomplishments in doctoral education lies in what alumni like Tabery and others do every day, says Maher. Pitt PhDs include a Nobel Laureate, Guggenheim fellows, members of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and dozens of university presidents, deans, and named professors.

“When we produce PhDs,” Maher says, “we want them to generate the new ideas that will drive the contributions of that discipline or profession. These are people we’re counting on to further human understanding.”
Pitt-Greensburg Installs Sharon P. Smith as President

Two Pitt Researchers to Get $2.7 Million For Department of Defense Work

By Morgan Kelly

High-density electronics of the future and more effective diplomacy are among the possible outcomes of a combined $2.7 million that two University of Pittsburgh researchers will receive as part of collaborative projects for the U.S. Department of Defense. The Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) program—which supports basic research of interest to the defense department—will devote $200 million over the next five years to 34 multi-institutional projects, three of which involve Pitt.

Pitt professor Jeremy Levy in the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the School of Arts and Sciences was awarded $1.1 million as part of a five-year, $6.5 million project to investigate future applications of electron spin, which may allow for faster and less power-consuming information technology. Michael Lewis, a professor in the School of Information Sciences, will receive a total of nearly $1.5 million for two MURI projects totaling $13.75 million: One will evaluate the feasibility of a decentralized military communication system; another is meant to help military negotiators better cooperate with people of different cultures.

Levy will collaborate with researchers from four other universities to apply electron spin to organic semiconductors and other materials in an attempt to create devices that can store and transfer information with more density but by using less power. Electron spin—the interaction between spinning electrons and magnetic materials—is used in today’s computer hard drives and allows highly sensitive sensors to probe the world’s magnetic domains. As a result, hard drives are smaller and maintain higher information density.

Levy and his colleagues want to extend these spin-based electronic effects in new ways and with new materials. Levy will use state-of-the-art optical and scanning probe techniques to investigate the properties of materials fabricated by his colleagues at the University of Iowa, the University of California at Berkeley, and New York University. Theoretical support will come from researchers at Iowa and the University of Missouri at Columbia. Lewis will receive almost $600,000 from MURI to create methods for observing how cultural differences influence negotiation. Lewis specializes in human interaction with and through computers and machines, including virtual environments, human error, negotiation, and e-commerce. His work for MURI is part of a $6.25 million project to understand the dynamics of cooperation and negotiation—and the factors that lead to success or disaster. He will work with researchers from Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Michigan, Georgetown University, and the University of Southern California.

Lewis also will receive nearly $1 million as part of a $7.5 million project involving researchers from Carnegie Mellon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University, and George Mason University to study the benefits and pitfalls of a decentralized military information network.

The competitive MURI program received 104 proposals in 18 topics. The selected projects—which involve Pitt researchers whose work will span the next five years to 34 multi-institutional projects, three of which involve Pitt.

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“Higher education has three important responsibilities: investing in people, enriching lives, and informing citizens. Pitt-Greensburg fulfills those roles by drawing on the resources of one of the world’s great research universities while, at the same time, remaining small enough to give students individual attention and unique opportunities.”

—Sharon P. Smith

At Princeton University, Smith was a Visiting Senior Research Economist in the Department of Economics and associate director of the Project on Faculty Retirement. Outside of academia, Smith was a senior economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. She is the coauthor of Finding the Best School for You: Looking Past the Rankings (Praeger Publishers, 2006) and Faculty Retirement in the Arts and Sciences (Princeton University Press, 1999).

In her inaugural address, Smith said higher education has three important responsibilities: investing in people, enriching lives, and informing citizens. Pitt-Greensburg meets those responsibilities by drawing on the resources of one of the world’s great research universities while, at the same time, remaining small enough to give students individual attention and unique opportunities.

“In meeting the (be) challenges for the 21st century,” Smith said, “Pitt-Greensburg has special strengths. It is a place where students are known and nurtured as individuals by their faculty. Students can open new windows and explore the panoramas they offer with the encouragement and support of faculty and staff. This environment can be transformational in its impact on everyone’s lives—especially the students, but also the faculty and, indeed, all members of the University community.”

Smith described a world where the pace of acquiring knowledge is accelerating and where success is linked to one’s own skills. “This suggests a society dedicated to the idea of continuous learning and ready to reinvent itself to keep pace with change,” she said. “Education is more important than ever before to equip people for increasingly complex jobs at the beginning of their careers, but it is equally important to facilitate their lifelong learning as they maintain their employability.”

As an institution committed to providing a liberal arts education, Smith said, Pitt-Greensburg also enriches the lives of its students by exposing them to “the breadth and depth of subjects—from archaeology to philosophy, from art to physics, from literature to mathematics—that expand their understanding of the world around them and awaken their imagination to what it might be.”

As a liberal arts college, Smith said, Pitt-Greensburg is uniquely suited to provide just the sort of education that an ever-changing world requires. She quoted former Princeton University President Harold Shapiro, who said that “the philosophy of a liberal arts education presumes learning experiences that enable citizens to understand their interrelated social, moral, and professional responsibilities. A liberal education is directly connected to the nature of the society we wish to sustain. ... It is not simply what we teach, or even what our students learn, but what kind of persons they become that really matters.”

Founded in 1963 as a two-year institution in downtown Greensburg, Pitt-Greensburg now offers to some 1,700 students 20 degree programs and 19 minors, in addition to numerous pre-professional programs. The campus’ commitment to the academic experience of the student is evident in the 12 UPGC faculty members who have received the Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Teaching.

From left: Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Knobel, OUP President Sharon P. Smith, and Chancellor Rock A. Nordenberg.

Continued from page 1

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Audrey Murrell received the inaugural Iris Marion Young Award for Political Engagement on March 6 during a reception at the William Pitt Union. Murrell is a Pitt professor of business administration in the Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration. The award honors Iris Marion Young, a philosopher, human rights activist, and social theorist of international renown, who was a professor in Pitt’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) during the 1990s. She died of cancer in 2006. The award, intended to pay tribute to Young’s work in promoting social justice and democracy, is sponsored by GSPIA and Pitt’s Women’s Studies Program. From left: David Miller, associate dean in GSPIA; Murrell; and Jean Ferguson Carr, director of the Women’s Studies Program.
**Happenings**


**Concerts**


University Art Gallery, Studio Arts Student Exhibition, through April 27, Frick Fine Arts Building. Pitt's Department of Studio Arts, 6-428-2450.

Carnegie Museum of Art, Great Brit Art: 200 Years of Watercolors, Drawings, and Prints From the Bank of New York Mellon Collection, through April 15, Black Art, 6-428-2450.


Lectures/ Seminars/Readings


"The Magic of Art and Writing in Anthropology," Teo Cheng, professor in Brown University's Department of Anthropology, through April 7, 385 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Department of Classics, 6-428-2450.


"Bringing Human Rights Home," Deborah LaBelle, attorney, author and advocate for prisoners' rights, noon to 2 p.m. April 10, Barco Law Building's Twelveth Memorial Courtroom, lecture is followed by panel discussion, the Annual Norman J. and Alice Chapman Rubash Distinguished Lecture in Law and Social Work, 6-428-7800, www.pitt.edu/newsview.html.


"The Trusting the Media in a Presidential Election," 11 a.m. April 10, Room 905 Biological Science Tower 2, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 6-428-37-179, www.iev.pitt.edu/

Two Million Minutes, a film documentary about U.S. education by Broken Pencil Production. April 7, 5:00, Room 4716 Posvar Hall, a reception follows the screening, Pitt Learning Policy Institute, www.learningpolicycenter.org, 6-428-70-70.

"Celebrating the Outstanding Achievements of Women Faculty in Medicine & Science," 4-6 p.m. April 9, Room 801 Biomedical Science Tower 2, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 6-428-37-179, www.iev.pitt.edu/


Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Veronico Giriotti, Department of Italian, "La Verona del Baroncelli e una tecnica di andamento e verità nel Cinquecento," April 10, 1528 Cathedral of Learning.

"Rotein" Kim, Graduate School of Public Policy, "Service Provision in the United States Government," 3 p.m. April 10, 3020 Posvar Hall.

Katherine Flores, Department of Political Science, "Of by, for and about Multilingual Students: A Study of Single County Metropolitan Areas," 11 a.m. April 11, 4106 Posvar Hall.

Mohammed El-Kurdi, Swanson School of Design's Bioengineering, "Insect-Scale Robotic Bees," 4:30 p.m. April 11, Confere- nce Room 201, Second Floor Bridgehead Point Building.

"The Last of the Mohicans," 2 p.m. April 12, 1309A Cathedral of Learning.

Nordenberg-led Panel Reports on Local Government Efficiency

The Citizens Advisory Committee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of City-County Government—created by Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato and City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl in October 2006—released its report, making three recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government and to promote regional growth in a highly competitive and fast-moving global economy.

The report, released April 3 at an on-campus news conference, is titled “Government for Growth: Forging a Bright Future—Built on Unity, Efficiency, Equity, and Equality—for the People of Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.”

In it, the Citizens Advisory Committee, chaired by University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, calls for intensified efforts by city and county leadership to pursue cooperative ventures, the formalization of the current commitment to cooperate through a “cooperation compact,” and an early opportunity for city and county residents to vote on the desirability of consolidating the two governments.

Successful cooperative initiatives already undertaken by Mayor Ravenstahl and County Chief Executive Onorato, their appointment of the advisory committee on cooperation, and the rich body of other recent work—such as the reports of the ComPAC 21 and the Competitive Pittsburgh committees—make this an opportunity time to forge further progress in city-county efficiency and effectiveness, Nordenberg said in his opening message of the report.

Particularly given the fiscal challenges faced by both the city and the county, the report embraced the ComPAC21 goal of “zero tolerance for service duplication.” The region’s troubling economic trajectory—characterized by substantial population losses, low job growth, and average wages that significantly trail those paid in benchmarked communities—also led the committee to stress the benefits of unified leadership and a common vision for the future.

But, the report cautions, in order to promote equity and equality in the implementation of the recommendations, deliberate consideration must be given to the continuing needs of the urban center, the assurance of adequate minority representation, the equitable treatment of current city and county employees, and the continuing segregation of legacy debt.

The 13 members of the Citizens Advisory Committee met on a twice-monthly basis, solicited presentations from more than 40 individuals with relevant expertise, went on a fact-finding mission to the consolidated “Metro Louisville” region, and commissioned a RAND study on economic development. While the committee was created by the county chief executive and the mayor, it deliberated and reached conclusions independent of them. All expenses of the committee’s work were paid by local foundations.

The report notes that the advisory committee’s recommendations are “offered pragmatically—as achievable steps that can facilitate higher levels of efficiency and effectiveness in local government, while promoting regional unity in an increasingly competitive world…”

The entire report may be read at www.pitt.edu/news/citycountyreport.pdf.