UPB Announces $1 Million Gift for Chapel

By Kimberley Marcott Weinberg

The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford has received in honor of Harriett B. Wick a $1 million gift from anonymous donors to build on campus an interfaith chapel. The announcement was made at a campus luncheon, where the design of the chapel was unveiled.

“We are delighted and honored to receive this gift,” said Pitt-Bradford president Livingston Alexander. “This lead gift will assist us in securing the balance of funds needed to build this chapel.”

Part of Pitt-Bradford’s master plan for several years, the chapel will provide a site for religious services, weddings, memorial services, receptions, and small choral and musical performances. The chapel also will be used on those special occasions when there is a need to call the campus community together for significant moments in the life of the college or individuals within it. In addition, the chapel will be available to students, employees, and guests of the University for private reflection on a daily basis.

The chapel’s location, overlooking Tunungwant Creek on the west side of campus, was selected for its woodland setting. The chapel will feature a sanctuary seating about 150 people, a high ceiling, a hardwood floor, and space for a pipe organ and choir.

Albert Filoni—president of MacLachlan, Cornelius and Filoni Architects Inc. of Pittsburgh—designed the chapel; his firm also designed the renovation and expansion of Pitt-Bradford’s Frame-Westebler Commons and Blaisdell Hall.

University officials hope to break ground for the chapel in the fall.

Private funding is the only source of money that will be used for the chapel’s construction. So, Pitt-Bradford is launching a fundraising campaign to raise the money needed to build the chapel, whose estimated cost is approximately $2.5 million. The campaign will include a number of naming opportunities inside the chapel, including the sanctuary.

Harriett Wick served as vice president and secretary of Zippo Manufacturing Co., which was founded by her father, George G. Blaisdell, in Bradford in 1932. She and her sister, Sarah B. Dorn, assumed ownership of the company following their father’s death in 1978. In 1999, Wick and her children sold their shares of the company to Dorn and her sons.

Through the Philo and Sarah Blaisdell Foundation, the sisters have given funds to Pitt-Bradford for capital improvements. As part of Campaign 2000, which is the Pitt-Bradford component of Pitt’s $2 billion

Library Acquires Five Millionth Volume

By Sharon S. Blake

Pitt’s University Library System (ULS) has announced that its five millionth book acquisition is Making the Impossible Possible: One Man’s Crusade to Inspire Others to Dream Bigger and Achieve the Extraordinary (Doubleday Business, 2007) by Pitt alumnus, Pitt trustee, and ULS Board of Visitors chair William Strickland.

The ULS reached its first million volumes in the early 1960s and has been growing steadily since then. Within 13 years, the ULS reached two million volumes in 1975, and 16 years later, in 1991, it reached three million. During the ‘90s, growth within the ULS took place rapidly. By 1999, the ULS celebrated reaching its four millionth volume by acquiring a copy of The New Eslernere Chaucer Facsimile Edition of Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales (Huntington Library Press, 1995), one of only 250 facsimile copies of what is regarded as the most-famous literary treasure of the world-renowned Huntington Library, in San Marino, Calif.

Recipient of a MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant in 1996, Strickland is the president and CEO of Manchester Craftsman Guild and its subsidiaries, the Manchester Craftsman’s Guild (MCG) and Bidwell Training Center. The long-running MCG Jazz Series, which Strickland founded, has produced more than 1,200 concerts and garnered three Grammy Awards. Strickland has received numerous additional honors, among them being named a Pitt Distinguished Alumni Fellow and being inducted into the University’s inaugural Legacy Laureate class. He was named one of “the 100 Most Influential People in America” by Time magazine and also received the Chaucer Award. Strickland recently was inducted into the Academy of Achievement, the World Academy of Arts & Sciences, and the University of Pittsburgh’s Alumni Hall.

Making the Impossible Possible tells the story of Strickland’s inner-city childhood and how his mother and an art teacher inspired him to become more than just an aimless young man living in a rough Pittsburgh neighborhood. Strickland went on to graduate cum laude from Pitt in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and foreign relations. He established MCG to expose inner-city children to the arts. The book focuses on Strickland’s belief that each of us has the potential for remarkable achievement and that we can accomplish the impossible in our lives.

Strickland serves as a consultant, grant evaluator, and mentor in the fields of the arts and arts education, community development, and workforce development training.

Bill Strickland’s book tells an inspiring and important story of a most remarkable individual,” says Rush Miller, University Librarian and director of the ULS. “As the title states, Bill is in the miracle business, making impossible dreams reality for young men and women in Pittsburgh, many of whom might fail otherwise. It’s a fitting that our five millionth volume is a book by such a wonderful alumnum, friend, and supporter of the University of Pittsburgh and the University Library System.”
The 15th-annual Family Support Conference, titled "What’s Love Got to Do With It? The Heart of School Readiness and Success," will take place at the Westin Convention Center Hotel, Downtown. It is designed for social workers, parents, community leaders, and volunteers to emphasize the important role family members play in supporting children throughout their school experience.

Workshops offered include Involving Moms in Involving Dads, Readers for Life, Getting In Synch With Children, and Family and Community Engagement: Go Beyond the Bake Sale.

Keynote presenters at the conference are Adolph Brown III, founder of The Wellness Group, Inc., and Estelle B. Richman, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

Brown is a teacher, author, consultant, and trainer who has shared his success with thousands of teachers worldwide. His involvement with education began in 1972, when he worked with Project Head Start. Brown is a psychotherapist and a former professor of psychology and department chair at Hampton University in Hampton, Va. He frequently traveled with retired General Colin Powell in an effort to emphasize the importance of mentoring in young lives. Known for adding humor to his presentations and motivating young people to personal success, Brown has shared platforms with all the living U.S. presidents as well as First Ladies Barbara Bush, Hillary Clinton, and Nancy Reagan.

In a career that spans more than 30 years of public service, Richman is a nationally recognized expert on behavioral health and children's services. Prior to her current post with the Commonwealth, she was managing director, director of social services, and commissioner of public health for the City of Philadelphia. She has been honored for her advocacy efforts by the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the American Medical Association, among other organizations.

Allegheny County has more than 30 family support centers that are designed to meet the needs of local families. Pitt's Office of Child Development (OCD) provides technical assistance and staff training for most of the centers.

The conference cosponsors include the OCD, part of Pitt's School of Education; Pitt's School of Social Work; Allegheny County Department of Human Services; and The Heinz Endowments. For more information and a complete conference schedule, call 412-244-5363 or visit www.education.pitt.edu/news/newsdetails.aspx?id=299.

Correction:
Paul Salman was host of the panel discussion “The Global Economic Showdown,” sponsored by Pitt Business. Pitt economics professor Jim Causin was among the panelists. This corrects information that was published in the May 12 Pitt Chronicle.

More than 150 Pitt faculty and postdoctoral fellows attended the third annual Postdoctoral Data and Dine Symposium May 7 in the William Pitt Union. Pitt Vice Provost for Research George Klausing (above) delivered the keynote address. The event was hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association (UPPODA) and sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Office of Academic Career Development, Health Sciences. The UPPODA honored Andrew Blake, Pitt vice provost for faculty affairs, with the 2008 Postdoctoral Advocate Award, and Rich Boden, Pitt research assistant professor in the Department of Pathology, with the 2008 Postdoctoral Alumni Award. The event featured a poster session and three postdoctoral fellows received travel awards for their poster presentations.
The Explorers

Humanities and social sciences PhD students cross traditional boundaries, break new ground

By Reid Frazier

Pitt’s graduate programs in the humanities and social sciences now allow—even encourage—students to pursue broader interests. They take more seminars outside their own departments and are learning to straddle the boundaries of disciplines, fields, and specialties in an effort to chart new scholarly terrain.

Beyond a Particular Time and Space

The turn toward cross-fertilizing initiatives is happening on a number of different levels. Within individual departments, some graduate programs have been revamped to incorporate these initiatives.

"The best programs are those in which academic leadership is always rethinking the direction of scholarship," says Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher. "Department chairs and faculty are trying to broaden their students’ exposure in a systematic way. Today they see their work in a broader discourse."

Scholarship in the humanities, for example, has traditionally been defined by time and space—say, the Victorian novel or antebellum plantation life. Doctoral students will always be expected to master their subfields, but departments are increasingly interested in producing scholars who can address a broader array of questions.

As a result, the study of a particular time and place is being enriched by an awareness of what’s going on in other times and places. Graduate programs are not abandoning the traditional time-and-place model of scholarship, Maher and others say, but rather expanding it so that when students graduate, they are able to place their own areas of study within a much broader context.

In addition, Pitt’s Universitywide certificate programs—Women’s Studies, Film Studies, and component programs within the University Center for International Studies—help PhD students explore intellectual frameworks outside their “home” departments. Thus, the natural intellectual curiosity of individual students and scholars serves as a constant source of innovation within the humanities.

Rethinking and Reconfiguring Programs

Two examples of this kind of cross-curricular thinking can be found in Pitt’s English and history departments, both of which were selected to participate in the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate, a national program that seeks to improve doctoral education.

“We were asked to evaluate what we do and, more importantly, why we do it,” says Evelyn Rawski, University Professor of History and the department chair. “The initiative asked us why we’re requiring students to do the things we do and then to simplify the process, to better define the academic mission.”

As a result of this introspection, the history department began initiating deep changes in its graduate program. In 2003, it began requiring graduate students to study one of a handful of thematic, transnational fields. A good example of this is Atlantic History. Now, instead of just studying 17th-century New England history, for instance,
students would also be expected to understand other political and social changes in Western Europe at that time, the rise of the West African slave trade and the settlement of the West Indies.

Racism provides an excellent example of this, says history professor Alejandro de la Fuente, director of the department’s graduate studies. “As a corpus of ideas and policies, racism can be studied from the framework of the nation-state. But if you look at it outside of one region or nation-state, you discover many of these ideas have traveled around the world and have been used and applied in different areas. They become part of a larger trend.”

The department paired up professors from different subdisciplines to design and teach courses in thematic topics. In the course Text and Context, for instance, a scholar specializing in Asian studies and one specializing in European studies devised a syllabus that showed the evolution of words and ideas from Ancient Greece to early China, Imperial Japan, and 17th-century Europe.

The English department was no stranger to self-examination when it took part in the Carnegie Initiative. The PhD program had already undergone a transformation in the 1990s that included a name change. Doctoral students now earn PhDs in critical and cultural studies, not English. The name change reflected a shift that included the study of nontraditional texts, like films, as well as a different way of thinking about literature.

“No one can imagine that film hasn’t had an effect on the way people think of narrative,” says David Bartholomae, professor and chair of the English department. “When you change the focus to critical and cultural studies, you begin to acknowledge that text works in places that extend beyond the page. You can ask questions like, ‘What do people see, read, watch? What’s the cultural work of the novel with respect to 9/11?’

Still, participating in the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate helped show some of the program’s shortcomings, Bartholomae says. Faculty worried students were becoming too specialized. The department wanted to make sure students had a more balanced training. So the department expanded students’ reading and project lists to give them a more comprehensive background.

The interdisciplinary nature of the Pitt English department attracted Richard Parent to the University. “When I was looking at PhD programs, I made a list of all the classes I could take at the places that accepted me and gave me funding,” says Parent, who received his Pitt PhD in 2005 and is now an assistant professor at the University of Vermont. “The list at Pitt was about five times longer than the lists at other schools.”

Parent took courses in the Departments of Religious Studies, Communication, and Philosophy, and he wrote his dissertation on how online and interactive texts affect his research, including naval office shipping records that record trade entering and leaving the colonies, Parliamentary reports and testimony, the American slave trade collection, and West Indian slave plantation records.

Eric Kimball, who is finishing his dissertation on trade between the New England colonies and the Caribbean, says setting early America within the context of Atlantic history makes for a richer understanding of the salient questions of the discipline.

“When you study Atlantic history, you can ask questions like, ‘When the 13 colonies decided to declare their independence, why did the other colonies decide not to?’ Why didn’t Canada and the Caribbean decide to declare their independence, too?” Kimball, who will be an assistant professor of colonial American and Atlantic history at Utah State University in the fall. “You can actually illuminate the questions of why those 13 decided to break away when they did by looking at the era from a transnational perspective.”

**Illuminating the Questions**

Changes in Pitt’s English and history departments have attracted a diverse group of young scholars. English PhD students study everything from Arthurian texts to war movies to multiplayer online video games. The essential questions of the disciplines unite the research: How are narratives constructed? What impact do these works have on an audience? What can the texts tell us about the world in which they were created?

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**A Network of Bridges**

About this multidisciplinary approach are the University’s certificate programs, which provide training in areas that straddle the domains of different disciplines—women’s studies, film studies, and international studies, among others.

Getting a certificate in women’s studies expresses Julie Hakim Azzam— an English department student who finished her critical and cultural studies PhD on postcolonial literature and gender in fall 2007— to works of sociology, anthropology, political science, and history.

“Women’s studies gave me a vocabulary to talk about topics or history in literature—something I’d always been interested in but didn’t know how to bring within the scope of literary criticism,” says Hakim Azzam, who teaches women’s studies and literature at Chatham University. “I'd read articles about political uprisals and campaigns that hadn’t already been cordonned off,” she says. “I saw that happening in the novels I was reading but didn’t know how to discuss it. Women’s studies gave me a way to discuss those topics.”

Helping doctoral students understand the regions they are studying is the primary purpose of the University Center for International Studies’ graduate certificate program. Students in the Latin American Studies graduate program, for instance, are required to take courses on Latin America outside of their major. The cross-disciplinary study of a region is crucial, says Kathleen M. DeWalt, a professor of anthropology and public health and director of Pitt’s Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS).

“One of the ways to deepen a student’s understanding of a place is to have a more contextualized view of the region, to place one’s own disciplinary perspective in the context of other disciplines,” says DeWalt. “I encourage all my anthropology students to take Latin American历史 or politics.”

CLAS is one of five federally designated National Resource Centers at Pitt, and thus among the top five centers of its kind in the nation. The center attracts students from anthropology, business, economics, education, history, Hispanic languages and literatures, and other programs.

In the film studies certificate program, graduate students from different departments select everything from Chinese movie-watching habits in the 1920s to contemporary Black crime films. The program attracts PhD students from the Departments of English, Communication, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Germanic Languages and Literatures.

“Film by its very nature is interdisciplinary,” says Lucy Fischer, Distinguished Professor of English and Film Studies and director of the Film Studies Program. “The film object itself draws from many different fields—literature, graphic, pictorial arts—and we also study a lot of the economic and business aspects of film.”

“Film is our new national literature,” says Tanine Allison, a doctoral student in English and film studies who is writing her dissertation about World War II films. “[Film] has a huge cultural impact. We need to be able to step back and learn what kinds of images are coming at us and shaping our opinions. If we don’t study it, we’re missing out on a huge part of how our culture works.”

**Choose Your Own Adventure**

There is an organic aspect to the interest in an interdisciplinary approach. While departments and certificate programs support a cross-fertilizing approach to graduate education, students are the ones who ultimately push their own research across disciplinary boundaries by following questions or phenomena that can’t be understood by using traditional guidelines.

Jamie Bono’s research provides an excellent example. A PhD student in the English department who studies digital texts and alternate reality games, Bono first became interested in the subject while playing the interactive game Majestic, which is a cross between role-playing and a scavenger hunt. Played over the Internet, it uses text messaging and other media. (The Da Vinci Code’s author, Dan Brown, derived some of his ideas for this novel from Majestic). The field of electronic media studies (referred to by some as the New Humanities) is so new there is no canons of text for Bono to master. He’s had to design much of his course of study, taking classes in the Departments of History and Philosophy of Science, Communication, and English.

There is one drawback, says Bono: “I get option paralysis.”

There are numerous disciplines for Bono to draw from, including the history of technology, literary criticism, and classic Greek rhetoric (His reading list includes Aristotle and Marshall McAluan, who predicted the rise of digital culture and penned the phrase “global village” in 1962). To navigate all this, institutional support is key, he says.

“It’s great to have professors who are willing to go along with this and give me a long leash,” says Bono. “The great thing is that working with people who don’t do what I do forces me to talk with people outside of my field about my research.”

The ability to engineer his own course of study is what attracted him to Pitt, and it’s what excites him about the work he will do for his dissertation.

“We have the ability to apply a range of interests and follow theoretical hunches into directions that haven’t already been cordoned off,” Bono says. “We’re building a field from the ground up.”

**Making Progress**

The results of the revamped programs in the English and history departments have been largely positive. Many entry-level tenure-stream positions require the ability to teach at least two or three different fields, so having that kind of comprehensive knowledge comes in handy for students entering the job market.

The placement rate for history PhDs into tenure-stream positions has increased rapidly, from 45 percent in 2000 (which Professor de la Fuente points out is the average rate for top-30 programs) to 60-70 percent for the last two years. In English, placement of PhDs into tenure-stream positions has increased in the past 10 years along with a dramatic increase in the program’s national profile.

For Rawski, better placement numbers are a reflection of how well these new methods anticipated broader changes in the field. The American Historical Association (AHA), the field’s leading scholarly organization, recently endorsed the cross-disciplinary approach in its report The Education of Historians for the 21st Century. AHA scholars discovered, among their findings in the report, that today’s graduate students “must be prepared to work at the intersection of disciplines, where more and more of the important scholarship and teaching [are] likely to take place in the years to come.”

For Rawski and others, a finding like this is proof that the innovations are keeping Pitt at the leading edge of doctoral education in the humanities and social sciences.

“In the historical scholarship of the next 20 years, people will be looking at broader questions and must have the ability to look at many different sources,” Rawski says. “This is where the field is going. This is where scholarship is going.”
**Community-acquired Pneumonia Harder on Men Than Women**

Study finds men come to emergency departments sicker, more likely to die over the next year

By Michele D. Baum

Men who come to the hospital with pneumonia generally are sicker than women and have a higher risk of dying over the next year, despite aggressive medical care, according to a study presented May 20 at the 104th International Conference of the American Thoracic Society, held May 16-21 in Toronto. It is well known that women live longer than men. We have always assumed that these differences occur because men engage in riskier behaviors and have a greater burden of chronic diseases," said Sachin Yende, study coauthor and assistant professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Critical Care Medicine. "Our study showed that men were more likely to die up to a year after pneumonia, despite adjusting for health behaviors and chronic conditions. Further, our findings indicate this may be linked to differences in immune response.

The University of Pittsburgh researchers evaluated data from 1,136 men and 1,047 women with symptoms of pneumonia who were treated at 28 hospital emergency departments in the United States. On average, men arrived at the emergency departments with poorer vital signs, were more likely to be smokers, and had a greater variety of complicating health conditions. After hospitalization, men received timely antibiotic treatments more often than women and were twice as likely to be admitted immediately to intensive-care units.

"The gender disparity on aggressiveness of hospital care is appropriate, given that men tended to be significantly sicker than women," said Michael Reade, first author, former fellow in Pitt’s Department of Critical Care Medicine, and assistant professor at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Investigators adjusted results for age, race, tobacco use, other demographic characteristics, chronic health conditions, health behaviors, and levels of treatment. “Even so, men had a 30 percent higher risk of death, and the social factors we examined were not sufficient to explain the differences we observed.” Using the patient data, Reade, Yende, and their colleagues next examined a series of molecules important to the body’s immune response to infection, finding significant differences between men and women in levels of tumor necrosis factor, interleukin-6, interleukin-10, antithrombin 3, Factor IX, plasminogen activator inhibitor-1, and D-dimer. By comparison between the genders, some concentrations were lower, while others were higher.

"No one had shown this before," said Yende. "So these differences in immune response could explain at least some of the differences in survival. Gender differences in immune response to infection are an area of intense research, with investigations into the role of X chromosomes, which encode genes for several important immune system mediators. "Some investigators have suggested that the immune response may differ because women have two copies of the X chromosome," said Yende. "Sex hormones are another area of inquiry. It is tempting to speculate that in the future, medical treatment of pneumonia may be different for men and women."

In addition to Yende and Reade, other authors of the study were Gina D’Angelo, Eric Milbrandt, John Kellum, Amber Bar- nato, Florian Mayr, Lisa Weissfeld, and principal study investigator Derek Angus, all of Pitt’s School of Medicine. The study was funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the National Institutes of Health.
**Pitt Oral Thesis Defenses**

Ashley Conley, Graduate School of Public Health, "Immunological Regulation of Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha by Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 Viruses," 1 p.m. May 27, 2011, A215 Craddock Hall.


Kristy Boguslaw, Graduate School of Public Health, "The Role of SIV-PRF and SIVxP on Dendritic Cells, Natural Killer Cells, and Immune Function," 1 p.m. June 6, 2011, A215 Craddock Hall.

Lectures/ Seminars/Readings


"What Is Your FICO Score and How Is It Affecting Your Credit?" Jean Carr, certified credit consultant, 12:15 p.m. May 29, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 49th Street, 412-281-7141, carr@andrew.cmu.edu.


Miscellaneous


Mammogram Screenings, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 30, Richard Thoman Cancer Center, UPMC, South Side, 5115 Centre Ave., Women’s Health Day, 412-626-3920.

"I Ain’t Movin’ Black!" by Jana A. Lebron, 12:15 p.m. May 31, City Theatre, 129 7th St., Downtown, 412-281-4888.

"What a Silly Hatter!" by Edward Lowry, 12:15 p.m. May 31, City Theatre, 129 7th St., Downtown, 412-281-4888.

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Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences has awarded $200,000 to support Cave Canem Foundation’s retreat for African American poets at Pitt-Greensburg from 2008 through 2012. The multiyear funding follows an initial $40,000 gift made to Cave Canem in 2007 and ensures the retreat for another five years on the Greensburg campus, which has been the host site for the program since 2003. This year’s retreat is planned for June 22-29.

“The annual Cave Canem retreat provides a critical conversation space for Black poets, and I am delighted that the connections between Cave Canem and the University have been symbolized by location of the retreat at our Greensburg campus for the last five years,” said N. John Cooper, Betty J. and Ralph E. Bailey Dean of Arts and Sciences, in awarding the funds.

For several years, the University and Cave Canem, North America’s premier home for Black poetry, have been connecting Black poets with Pitt’s writing department. Poet and Pitt professor of English Toi Derricotte cofounded Cave Canem with Cornelius Eady, and Pitt assistant professor of poetry and writing Dawn Lundy Martin was the winner of the 2006 Cave Canem Poetry Prize. Since 1999, the University of Pittsburgh Press has published the winning manuscript of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize every third year. Forthcoming from Pitt Press is Ronaldo V. Wilson’s Narative of the Life of the Brown Boy and the White Man, selected by Claudia Rankine for the 2007 prize.

The Cave Canem retreat annually serves 54 fellows—African American poets from diverse backgrounds, ages, and geographies—who come together with a world-class faculty for a week of writing, presentations, and debate.

For 2008, the retreat’s faculty are Derricotte, Eady, Colleen J. McElroy, Carl Phillips, Rankine, and Reginald Shepherd. Ntozake Shange is guest poet. Since the organization’s inception in 1996, 250 fellowships have been awarded.

Derricotte and Eady founded Cave Canem to remedy the underrepresentation of African American poets in MFA programs and at writing workshops. The group is committed to cultivating poets’ artistic and professional development.

With six robust programs—a weeklong annual retreat, a first book prize, a Legacy Conversation series, regional writing workshops, anthology publication with prestigious presses, and nationally based readings—Cave Canem has been providing necessary sustenance for African American poets for 12 years. Its programs have influenced the literary landscape and serve as models and inspiration for emerging minority organizations in the United States and abroad.

The Cave Canem community has grown from an initial gathering of 27 poets to become an influential movement with a renowned faculty and a high-achieving fellowship of 250 poets residing in 34 states.

The foundation’s emblem, taken from a mosaic of a dog guarding the entry to the House of the Tragic Poet in Pompeii, symbolizes Cave Canem’s role—protecting African American poets and, by breaking the chain, unleashing vital new voices on the literary world.