

## UPB Announces \$1 Million Gift for Chapel



Artist's rendering of the proposed chapel at Pitt-Bradford

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," he added.

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 of 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-Westerberg 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



James Evans (center), Pitt-Bradford's vice president and dean of student affairs, and Andrew J. Fortna (far left) of the Pittsburgh architectural firm MacLachlan, Cornelius, and Filoni, Inc., review a model of the proposed interfaith chapel, with Pitt-Bradford supporters (from left) Jacquelyn Jones, Pauline Higie, William Higie, and Howard Fesenmyer.

Building Our Future Together fundraising campaign, the Blaisdell family provided a \$1.5 million challenge gift to complete the campus' communications building and fine arts center named in their honor.

In 1980, Wick and Dorn established the Miriam Barcroft Blaisdell Scholarship

at Pitt-Bradford in honor of their mother to help support approximately 65 students every year. More than 2,000 students have benefited so far from the scholarship.

Wick and Dorn received the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Presidential Medal of Distinction in 1993.

## ULS to Collect Books For Earthquake Victims

Pitt's University Library System (ULS) is calling on local schools, individuals, and organizations to donate new and used English-language materials to help rebuild school libraries in Sichuan Province, site of the 8.0 earthquake that shook that region on May 12.

A longtime partner with leading Chinese university libraries, the ULS plans to send the books to Dujiangyan City, Sichuan. The school, lost 278 students and 6 teachers in the quake. The Arizona State University (ASU) libraries also are participating in the drive. ULS director Rush Miller and ASU library director Sherrie Schmidt along with other ULS personnel, will travel to China in September to present the books to school officials.

Donated materials—books, CDs, and DVDs in literature, history, science, and the arts—must be in good condition and appropriate for children in grades 7 through 12.

Boxes should be marked "Rebuilding School Libraries, Sichuan Earthquake" and can be brought to Hillman Library, 3960 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

Staff at the ground floor and first-floor lending desks and at the second-floor East Asian Library information desk will receive materials through June 30. Those needing more information or assistance with their donation may call 412-648-7710.

As of May 22, the earthquake death toll stood at 51,151, and another 288,431 people were injured. The quake destroyed many schools and thousands of other buildings.

—Sharon S. Blake

## Library Acquires Five Millionth Volume

Strickland's *Making the Impossible Possible* is the landmark acquisition

By Sharon S. Blake

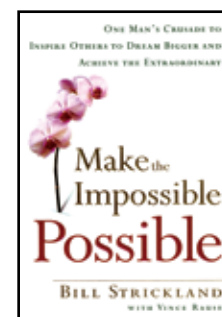
Pitt's University Library System (ULS) has announced that its five millionth book acquisition is *Making the Impossible Possible: One Man's Crusade to Inspire Others to Dream Bigger and Achieve the Extraordinary* (Doubleday Business, 2007) by Pitt alumnus, Pitt trustee, and ULS Board of Visitors chair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

Corporation and its subsidiaries, the Manchester Craftsmen'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 2007 Pittsburgher of the Year by *Pittsburgh Magazine* and, earlier this year, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg celebrated the publication of *Making the Impossible Possible* with a reception in Strickland's honor at Pitt'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 is fitting that our five millionth volume is the book by such a wonderful alumnus, friend, and supporter of the University of Pittsburgh and the University Library System."





## Pitt Cosponsors Family Support Conference

Sharon S. Blake

Parents, policymakers, and human-service providers from throughout the region will convene June 4 to discuss the best ways for families to prepare their children for academic success.

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 educators and emphasizes 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](http://www.education.pitt.edu/news/newsdetails.aspx?id=299).

### Correction:

Paul Solman was host of the panel discussion "The Global Economic Showdown," sponsored by Pitt Business. Pitt economics professor Jim Cassing was among the panelists. This corrects information that was published in the May 12 *Pitt Chronicle*.

# Newsmakers

## YWCA AWARDEES



JOE KAPLEWSKI/CODE

Women associated with the University were recognized at the 2008 YWCA Tribute to Women Leadership Awards May 15. Pitt honorees (from left) were Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, dean of Pitt's School of Nursing, who won the award in the science and technology category; Pitt alumnus Beth A. Slagle (LAW '90), a partner at Meyer, Unkovic and Scott, LLP, who won in the professional services category; and Kathy W. Humphrey, Pitt vice provost and dean of students who won in the education category. In all, eight women were honored at the ceremony for their professional and volunteer work and for helping to advance the goals of the YWCA—empowerment of women and girls and the elimination of racism.

## LEADING LITIGATOR



BRENDAN SIMALOWSKI

Pitt law professor Jules Lobel testified before a U.S. Congressional subcommittee concerning the War Powers Act, which details the U.S. President's powers to commit the nation to war. Lobel was one of five witnesses invited to testify April 10 before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight. Congressman and committee chair William D. Delahunt from Massachusetts introduced Lobel, calling him "the leading American litigator on war powers."

## PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY HONOREE



JOE KAPLEWSKI/CODE

Manfred Honeck (second from left), music director designate of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, was named an honorary member of the University's Austrian Nationality Room Committee. The Austrian Room is the 24th of the Nationality Rooms. Located on the third floor of the Cathedral of Learning, it was dedicated in June 1996. On May 6, Honeck toured the room and was the honored guest at a luncheon in the Croghan-Schenley Room. Pictured from left are Helen Semethy, Austrian American Cultural Society; Honeck; E. Maxine Bruhns, director of the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs; and Jackie and Wilhelm Dorfner of the Austrian American Cultural Society.

## POSTDOC SYMPOSIUM



JIM BURKE/CODE

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 Klinzing (above) delivered the keynote address. The event was hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association (UPPDA) and sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Office of Academic Career Development, Health Sciences. The UPPDA honored Andrew Blair, Pitt vice provost for faculty affairs, with the 2008 Postdoctoral Advocate Award, and Rich Bodnar, 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.

## BAS AT 40



MIKE DRALDZINSKI/CODE

Carol Moseley Braun (right) was the keynote speaker at an April 16 event commemorating the 40th anniversary of the founding of Pitt's Black Action Society. In her lecture, Moseley Braun talked about the importance of Black student organizations and the necessity for all students to be involved in an ever-changing political world. To date, Moseley Braun has been the only African American woman elected to the U.S. Senate, representing Illinois from 1993 to 1999. Pictured with Moseley Braun is Deborah Walker, assistant to the dean in Pitt's Office of Student Affairs.

## PittChronicle

Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Robert Hill
<b>ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER</b>	John Harvith
<b>EXECUTIVE EDITOR</b>	Linda K. Schmittmeyer
<b>EDITOR</b>	Jane-Ellen Robinet
<b>ART DIRECTOR</b>	Gary Cravener
<b>STAFF WRITERS</b>	Sharon S. Blake John Fedele Morgan Kelly Amanda Leff Anthony M. Moore Patricia Lomando White
<b>CONTRIBUTING WRITERS</b>	Michele D. Baum Reid Frazier Kimberley Marcott Weinberg

The *Pitt Chronicle* is published throughout the year by University News and Magazines, University of Pittsburgh, 400 Craig Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, Phone: 412-624-1033, Fax: 412-624-4895, E-mail: [chron@pitt.edu](mailto:chron@pitt.edu) Web: [www.chronicle.pitt.edu](http://www.chronicle.pitt.edu)

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution that does not discriminate upon any basis prohibited by law.



# The Explorers

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

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



David Bartholomae (standing), professor and chair of Pitt's English department, says the department's expanded vision has helped transform the field of English. Pitt graduate students in the Department of English pictured with Bartholomae are (from left) Katherine Kidd, Anna Redcay, and Helen Gerhardt.

By Reid Frazier

Jen Waldron, an assistant professor in Pitt's English department, recently taught a graduate seminar called "Word and Image." Waldron, director of Pitt's Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, is a scholar of Elizabethan and Jacobean drama. But the enrollment sheet for the seminar included students doing graduate work in creative writing, art history, French, English literature, and film studies. They were all interested in similar questions: How are words and images produced and received? What do they say about the world in which they were created?

"We are all interested in how a message changes when it's translated into a different medium and how various modes of representation interact with one another in particular cultural contexts," Waldron says.

Waldron's colleague in the English department, Susan Z. Andrade, is a scholar of African and Caribbean literature, with a special interest in the African novel. Andrade sits on the dissertation committee of a PhD candidate in Pitt's Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures who is writing about Romanian émigré literature in Germany. In Andrade's work on the African novel, she asks a question similar to the PhD candidate on whose committee she sits: What do the content and form of these literatures tell us about the society that created them?

For his PhD dissertation in history, Niklas Frykman spent much of the past two years traveling throughout Europe and visiting Naval archives. He visited six countries and six national archives looking for information on late-18th-century mutinies. Scouring source material written in five

different languages—Danish, Dutch, Swedish, English, and French—he was trying to illuminate the relationship between the egalitarian ideals of the French Revolution and the sudden rash of mutinies in the Atlantic.

None of these scenarios would have been likely a generation ago, when graduate students were expected to master a more narrowly defined discipline. English students needed to know the prescribed canon of literary works and, generally speaking, didn't have much to do with religious studies, political science, or anthropology. History PhDs wrote dissertations on one country or another. Not six.

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,

**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.**

Continued on page 4



# The Explorers



MARY JANE BERRY/CIDDE

Evelyn Rawski, University Professor of History and the department chair, and history professor Alejandro de la Fuente, director of the department's graduate studies, helped institute deep changes in the department's graduate program to provide a more rounded education. As of 2003, graduate students in history are required to study one of several thematic, transnational fields.

*Continued from page 3*

students would also be expected to understand important 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.

"If a student entering the job market was writing a dissertation on, say, [20th-century American novelist] Thomas Pynchon and the theory of the nation or American imperialism, we would want someone looking at that student's CV to say, 'Oh, this person can teach our 20th-Century Novel course or our Survey of American Literature,'" Bartholomae says.

The changes over the past 15 years have catapulted the program into national prominence. Pitt's English department now ranks in the top fifth of all doctoral programs, according to the National Research Council.

"This was a radical change," says Bartholomae. "We were doing the kinds of work in a number of different areas that were catching people's attention. The thinking was, if the field of English was changing, we were leading the change."

Pitt's Department of the History of Art and Architecture also encourages its students to become proficient in areas outside of their traditional focus—in this case, regional.

"The key is to situate your research within a question that is of interest outside the particular region or area you're studying, but also across cultures and times," says Kathryn Linduff, a professor of East Asian art history and chair of the department. "We want to be able to think about the really big questions: What's the function of a portrait? How do architectural movements travel to other countries? We're positioning our students to do more broadly based cross-cultural work."

Students in the history of art and architecture program are researching a wide array of materials, from Chinese mortuary art and German churches in Poland and Jerusalem to 19th-century French photography. According to Linduff, the increasingly global nature of daily life with the advent of the Internet and instant worldwide communication makes the interdisciplinary approach crucial to understanding any field. In addition, the discipline is undergoing a transformation that necessitates a better understanding of other disciplines and connections between cultures.

"We're moving away from the notion that everything important happens only

in one place. We're moving past just looking at Paris in the 19th century," Linduff says. "There's an increasing awareness that creativity can happen anywhere, and that interconnectedness isn't just possible—it's likely. It's part of a way of looking at art that's not just focused on a single individual 'great artist' but on the process of creativity."

## 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?

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 the way we read.

Parent feels working with a diverse group of scholars—his committee consisted of an expert each in reading, composition, and interpretation—benefited him, especially when it came to explaining his research to hiring committees with little exposure to "digital studies." "I was lucky, because my committee kept forcing me to be as clear as possible and make sure that what I was writing was understandable to as many people as possible."

The history department's turn toward transnational themes has aided students of American history, Rawski says. "Now our Americanists have expertise in more than just their regional areas."

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?'" says 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."

*Continued on page 5*



JIM BURKE/CIDDE

Eric Kimball, a doctoral student in the Department of History, is finishing his dissertation on trade between the New England colonies and the Caribbean. Setting early America within the context of Atlantic history makes for a richer understanding of the discipline, he says. Kimball is photographed in the microfilms section of the Hillman Library, which has collections he used in 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.



# The Explorers

Continued from page 4

## A Network of Bridges

Abetting 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 exposed 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 politics or history in literature—something I'd always been interested in but didn't know how to bring within the scope of literary analysis," says Hakim Azzam, who teaches women's studies and literature at Chatham University. "I'd read articles about how political upheavals affected women or the way that culture creates gender and gendered forms of oppression," 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 history or politics."

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

In the film studies certificate program, graduate students from different departments study 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, theater, 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 miss-



Jamie Bono, a PhD student in the English department who studies digital texts and alternate reality games, draws his research from numerous disciplines, including the history of technology, literary criticism, and classic Greek rhetoric. The ability to engineer his own course of study attracted him to Pitt and is what excites him about the work he will do for his dissertation.

ing 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 canon of texts for Bono to master. He's had to design much of his course of study, taking classes in the Departments of the 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 McLuhan, 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."



Lucy Fischer (left), Distinguished Professor of English and Film Studies and director of Pitt's Film Studies Program, says film draws from many fields, including literature, theater, pictorial arts, and even economics and business. Tanine Allison (right), a doctoral student in English and film studies who is writing her dissertation about World War II films, believes that film is our new national literature.



# Science & Technology



## 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 III, 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 intensive 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 Barnato, 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 Researchers Make Breakthrough in Nanotechnology by Uncovering Conductive Property of Carbon-based Molecules

Newfound ability of organic molecules to conduct electricity opens door to smaller, cheaper, and more powerful technologies

By Morgan Kelly

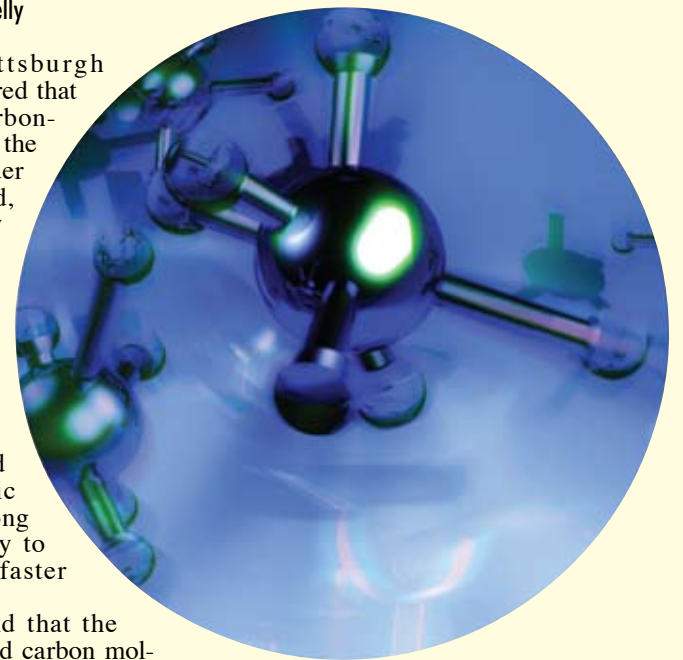
University of Pittsburgh researchers have discovered that certain organic—or carbon-based—molecules exhibit the properties of atoms under certain circumstances and, in turn, conduct electricity as well as metal. Detailed in the April 18 edition of *Science*, the finding is a breakthrough in developing nanotechnology that provides a new strategy for designing electronic materials, including inexpensive and multifunctional organic conductors that have long been considered the key to smaller, cheaper, and faster technologies.

The Pitt team found that the hollow, soccer-ball-shaped carbon molecules known as fullerenes can hold and transfer an electrical charge much like the most highly conductive atoms, explained project head Hrvoje Petek, a professor of physics and chemistry in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences and codirector of Pitt's Petersen Institute for NanoScience and Engineering. The research was performed by Pitt postdoctoral associates Min Feng and Jin Zhao.

When an electron was introduced into a fullerene molecule, the shape of the electron distribution mimicked that of a hydrogen atom or an atom from the alkali metal group, which includes lithium, sodium, and potassium. Moreover, when two fullerenes were placed next to each other on a copper surface, they showed the electron distribution of their chemical bond and appeared as  $H_2$ , a hydrogen molecule. The assembly exhibited metal-like conductivity when the team extended it to a wire 1-molecule-wide.

"Our work provides a new perspective on what determines the electronic properties of materials," Petek said. "The realization that hollow molecules can have metal-like conductivity opens the way to develop novel materials with electronic and chemical properties that can be tailored by shape and size."

Although the team worked with fullerenes, the team's results apply to all hollow molecules, Petek added, including carbon nanotubes—rolled, 1-atom-thick sheets of



graphite 100,000 times smaller than a human hair.

The team's research shows promise for the future of electronics based on molecular conductors. These molecule-based devices surpass the semiconductor and metal conductors of today in terms of lower cost, flexibility, and the ability to meld the speed and power of optics and electronics. Plus, unlike such inorganic conductors as silicon, molecule-based electronics can be miniaturized to a 1-dimensional scale (1-molecule-wide), which may enable them to conduct electricity with minimal loss and thus improve the performance of an electronic device.

Traditionally, the problem has been that organic conductors have not conducted electrical current very well, Petek said. The Pitt team's discovery could enable scientists to finally overcome that problem, he added.

"Metal-like behavior in a molecular material—as we have found—is highly surprising and desirable in the emerging field of molecular electronics," he said.

"Our work is a unique example of how nanoscale materials can be used as atom-sized building blocks for molecular materials that could replace silicon and copper in electronic devices, luminescent displays, photovoltaic cells, and other technologies," Petek added.

To view the paper, visit the *Science* Web site at [www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org).

**"Our work provides a new perspective on what determines the electronic properties of materials. The realization that hollow molecules can have metal-like conductivity opens the way to develop novel materials with electronic and chemical properties that can be tailored by shape and size."**

—Hrvoje Petek



# Happenings



**"An Unsettled Work,"** a video installation by Peter Fischli and David Weiss, Carnegie Museum of Art, through January 11, 2009

## Concerts

**Calliope Acoustic Open Stage**, Folk Music Concert, 9 p.m. **May 27**, Bloomfield Bridge Tavern, 4412 Liberty Ave., Bloomfield, Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, 412-682-8611, www.calliopehouse.org/index.htm.

**Jerusalem of Gold**, Pittsburgh Jewish Music Festival Orchestra, Children's Festival Chorus of Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m. **May 28**, Katz Theatre, Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, 5738 Darlington Rd., 412-394-3353, www.jccpgh.org.

**Mozart Favorites**, 8 p.m., **May 30-31**, 2 p.m. **June 1**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

**Anthony Braxton Septet**, 8 p.m. **May 30**, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, 1815 Metropolitan St., 412-322-0800, www.manchesterguild.org.

**Braxton Plays Pittsburgh**, featuring Anthony Braxton, Michael Pestel and Syrinx Ensemble, 10 a.m. **May 31-June 1**, National Aviary, 700 Arch St., 412-323-7235, www.aviary.org.

**"Phantom Limb,"** Matthew Monahan, Carnegie Museum of Art, through January 11, 2009



**Braxton Plays Pittsburgh**, featuring Anthony Braxton directing the CAPA Antithesis, 7 p.m. **May 31**, Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts Theater, 111 9th St., 412-338-6101.

**Breast Cancer Research Benefit Concert**, 7:30 p.m. **May 31**, New Castle High School, 300 Lincoln Ave., Par for the Cure, 724-658-7927, http://24.173.123.178/parfortheure.

**Jewish Music Festival**, 7:30 p.m. **June 1**, Levy Hall, Temple Rodef Shalom, 4905 Fifth Ave., 412-394-3353, http://rodefshalom.org/index.cfm.

**Chris Higbee** of the Poverty Neck Hillbillies, 7 p.m. **June 6**, Chambers Hall Gymnasium, Pitt-Greensburg, 724-836-7741, www.upg.pitt.edu.

**Langrée & Ohlsson**, Louis Langrée, conductor, 8 p.m., **June 6**, 2:30 p.m. **June 8**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

**Maurice Hines**, singer and dancer, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. **June 7**, 2:30 p.m. **June 8**, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, 1815 Metropolitan St., North Side, 412-322-0800, www.Mcgjazz.org.

## Exhibitions

**Hillman Cancer Center Atrium**, *Oncology on Canvas: Expressions of a Cancer Journey*, 6:30-9 p.m. **May 29**, 5115 Centre Ave., Shadyside, 412-623-4701.

**Third Street Gallery**, *Art As Sustenance: A Feast Of Paintings*, through **May 30**, 220 3rd St., Carnegie, 412-276-5233, www.3rdstreetgallery.net.

**Pittsburgh Glass Center**, *Fused Glass: A Design Perspective*, through **May 30**, 5472 Penn Ave., East Liberty, 412-365-2145, www.pittsburghglasscenter.org.

**The Firehouse**, *Passages*, through **May 31**, 1416 Arch St., Northside, 412-682-0348, www.moxiedada.com.

**Silver Eye Center for Photography**, *Alternative Focus*. Opening Reception, 2-4 p.m. **May 31**; exhibition continues through **June 14**; 1015 E. Carson St., Southside, 412-431-1810, www.silvereye.org.

**Framery**, *A Thin Line Between Space and Time*, through **May 31**, 4735 Butler St., Lawrenceville, 412-687-2102, www.theframerypgh.com.

**August Wilson Center for African American Culture**, *Black Clay in PA: A Dialogue in Flux*, through **May 31**, Gallery 209, 209 9th St., Downtown, 412-281-5484.

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

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

**Andy Warhol Museum**, *Neke Carson:*

*Eyeball Portraits and Beyond + Neke Paints Andy '72, Ceramic Explosion: The Work Of Martin Klimas, and Contemporary Prints From The Bank of New York Mellon Collection*, all through **June 1**, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, www.warhol.org.

**Carnegie Museum of Art**, *Ecology. Design. Synergy*, through **June 1**, and *55th Carnegie International*, through **Jan. 11, 2009**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

**Fein Art Gallery**, *Pittsburgh 150-250: See How It Was, See How It Is*, through **June 6**, 519 East Ohio St., Northside, 412-321-6816, www.feinartgallery.com.

**Pittsburgh Glass Center**, *Stained Glass in a Flash*, through **June 6**; *Glass & Steel: Art Transcends Industry*, through **Sept. 5**; 5472 Penn Ave., East Liberty, 412-365-2145, www.pittsburghglasscenter.org.

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

**Rivers of Steel Visitor Center**, *Monongahela Valley: A Time of Change, 1980-2000*, through **June 14**, 623 East 8th Ave., Homestead Park, 412-464-4020, www.riversofsteel.com.

**Carnegie Science Center**, *Dinosaurs Alive and Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure*, both through **June 15**; *From Sea to Shining Sea: 200 Years of Charting America's Coasts*, through **June 29**; *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition*, through **Sept. 11**; Allegheny Ave., North Shore, 412-237-3400, www.carnegiesciencecenter.org.

**Michael Berger Gallery**, *Prescient*, through **June 28**, 415 Gettysburg St., Point Breeze, 412-441-4282, www.mbergerart.com.

**Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation**, *Edward Donovan: Naturalist Artist, Author, and Collector*, through **June 29**, Carnegie Mellon University, 4909 Frew St., Oakland, 412-268-2434, huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu.

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**Tom Baker**, author of *Get Involved! Making the Most of Your 20s & 30s*, 7 p.m. **May 27**, Joseph Beth Booksellers, 2705 E. Carson St., South Side, 412-381-3600, www.josephbeth.com/.

**"What Is Your FICO Score and How Is It Affecting Your Credit?"** Jenn Carr, certified credit consultant, 12:15 p.m. **May 29**, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 12 Smithfield Street, 412-281-7141, www.carnegielibrary.org.

**Armchair Travels**, 3 p.m. **June 7**, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-315, www.carnegielibrary.org.

**Eighth-annual Summer Reading Extravaganza**, noon **June 8**, lawn, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-281-7141, www.carnegielibrary.org.

## Miscellaneous

**PNC Children's Carousel Tea**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **May 31**, Schenley Plaza, 4100 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, 412-682-7275, www.pittsburghparks.org.

**Mammogram Screenings**, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **May 31**, Hillman Cancer Center, UPMC Shadyside, 5115 Centre Ave., Women's Health Day, 412-623-5900.

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**The Odd Couple**, **May 29-June 29**, Pittsburgh Public Theater, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-434-7590, www.ppt.org.

**Ain't Misbehavin': The Fats Waller Musical Show**, through **May 31**, Kuntu Repertory Theatre, 7th-floor Auditorium, Alumni Hall, 412-624-7298, www.kuntu.org.

**An Ideal Husband** by Oscar Wilde, through **May 31**, Henry Heymann Theatre, Stephen Foster Memorial, Pitts-

burgh Irish & Classical Theatre, www.picttheatre.org.

**Il Postino** by Michael Radford, **June 1**, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Oakland, 412-622-3105, www.carnegielibrary.org.

**The Color Purple** by Gary Griffin, **June 3-15**, Benedum Center, 803 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, 412-471-6070, www.pittsburghclo.org.

**The Heist** by Attack Theater, **June 6-15**, part of Three Rivers Arts Festival, Forbes Avenue at Stanwix Street, 412-281-8723, www.artsfestival.net/about/.

**Take Me Out** by Richard Greenberg, **June 6-22**, Navarra, 131 7th St., Downtown, barebones productions, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

**Bust** by Lauren Weedman, through **June 29**, Pittsburgh City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

**Shear Madness** by Paul Portner, through **Sept. 28**, Pittsburgh CLO Cabaret, Cabaret at Theatre Square, 655 Penn Ave., 412-325-6769, www.pittsburghclo.org. 7th-floor Auditorium, Alumni Hall, 412-624-7298, www.kuntu.org.

## Pitt Oral Thesis Defenses

**Ashley Conley**, Graduate School of Public Health, "Molecular Characterization of IS1301 in an Emergent Clone of Serogroup C Neisseria Meningitidis," 1 p.m. **May 27**, Room A215 Crabtree Hall.

**Shaylee O' Leary**, Graduate School of Public Health, "Transcriptional Regulation of Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha by Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 Vpr," 1 p.m. **June 2**, Room A216 Crabtree Hall.

**Kristina Baglyas**, Graduate School of Public Health, "Delineating the Role of SIV-VPR and SIV-VPX on Dendritic Cells, Natural Killer Cells, and Immune Function," 10 a.m. **June 4**, Room A215 Crabtree Hall.

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Vincent B. McGinty**, School of Medicine, "Amygdala Regulation of Prefrontal-to-accumbens Information Flow: Implications for Motivation and Action," 10 a.m. **May 29**, 2nd-floor Auditorium,

Learning Research and Development Center.

**Jill Montgomery**, Graduate School of Public Health, "Characterization of the Role of Human Herpes Virus 8 in Prostate Cancer," noon **May 29**, Room A115 Crabtree Hall.

**Chunrong Cheng**, Graduate School of Public Health, "Improved Gene-wise Normalization to Enhance Classification Models for Inter-study Prediction in Microarray," 11:30 a.m. **May 30**, Room A622 Crabtree Hall.

**Pei-Ying Chuang**, School of Nursing, "Neuroglobin Genetic Polymorphisms and Their Relationships to Functional Outcome Following Traumatic Brain Injury," 10 a.m. **May 30**, Room 331 Victoria Building.

**Jaime Berlin Talkowski**, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, "Quantifying Physical Activity in Community Dwelling Older Adults Using Accelerometry," 3 p.m. **June 2**, Room 4060 Forbes Tower.

**Patrick R. Shea**, Graduate School of Public Health, "Identification and Functional Characterization of Estrogen Response Elements in the Human Herpes Virus 8 Genome," 2 p.m. **June 3**, Room A312 Crabtree Hall.

**Gregory Salmieri**, School of Arts and Sciences, "Aristotle and the Problem of Concepts," 2 p.m. **June 3**, Room 1001B Cathedral of Learning.

**Thomas Kirchner**, Department of Psychology, School of Arts and Sciences, "Relapse Dynamics During Smoking Cessation: Recurrent Abstinence Violation Effects and Lapse-Relapse Progression," 8 a.m. **June 5**, 4127 Sennott Square.

**Angela Reynolds**, School of Arts and Sciences, "Mathematical Models of Acute Inflammation," 1 p.m. **June 6**, Room 704 Thackeray Hall.

**Peter R. McDonald**, School of Medicine, "Identification of Novel Potential Cancer Therapies by Synthetic Lethal Screening," 1:30 p.m. **June 9**, Room 1395 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower.

**Fang Zhu**, Graduate School of Public Health, "An Index of Local Sensitivity to Nonignorability and a Penalized Pseudolikelihood Method for Data with Nonignorable Nonresponse," 10 a.m. **June 10**, Room 109 Parran Hall.

## PBMF AWARDS



Pitt's Office of Public Affairs won seven Robert L. Vann Journalism Awards at the 25th annual Pittsburgh Black Media Federation Awards ceremony May 8. The awards were presented for 2007 media coverage of African American life, culture, and accomplishments in Western Pennsylvania. Honorees and their awards were: Robert Hill, vice chancellor for public affairs, second place in Column Writing for "No Asterisks" in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*; Pitt Chronicle, first place in News Features for "John Woodruff Dies at 92" by Bruce Steele, first place in Series for the 2007 Black History Month Series (for articles written by Morgan Kelly, Patricia Lomando White, Hassan Wilcox, and Steele), and a second place in Series for "Pitt, Carnegie Mellon Honor Tutu" by John Harvith and Jason Togyer; Pitt Magazine, first place in Public Affairs for Jennifer Bails' story "Sanctuary" and first place in Business Feature (Magazine) for Elaine Vitone's "Smart Drive"; and Pitt Med magazine, Honorable Mention in Feature Photos for "A Most Unwelcome Visitor" by Cami Mesa. Among those attending the awards were (from left) Cara Hayden, Pitt Magazine senior editor; Bails; Vitone; Holden Slattery, Pitt Magazine intern; Cindy Gill, Pitt Magazine editor-in-chief; Ervin Dyer, Pitt Magazine senior editor and coordinator of the PBMF Awards and ceremony; White; and Harvith. Dyer also received two awards for articles he wrote for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, first place in Series for "Invisible Men" and second place in Feature Story for "The Bus Stops Here."





# Pitt Supports Cave Canem's Annual Poetry Retreat

Arts and Sciences announces \$200,000 multiyear funding for Cave Canem

By Patricia Lomando White

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 *Nar-*

Poet and Pitt professor of English Toi Derricotte (left) cofounded Cave Canem with Cornelius Eady to remedy the underrepresentation of Black poets in MFA programs and at writing workshops.



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.

*rative 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 com-

mitted 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.

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published June 9. **Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 7) should be received six working days prior to the desired publication date.** *Happenings* items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to [chron@pitt.edu](mailto:chron@pitt.edu), faxed to 412-624-4895, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-4238 or e-mail [aleff@pitt.edu](mailto:aleff@pitt.edu).



