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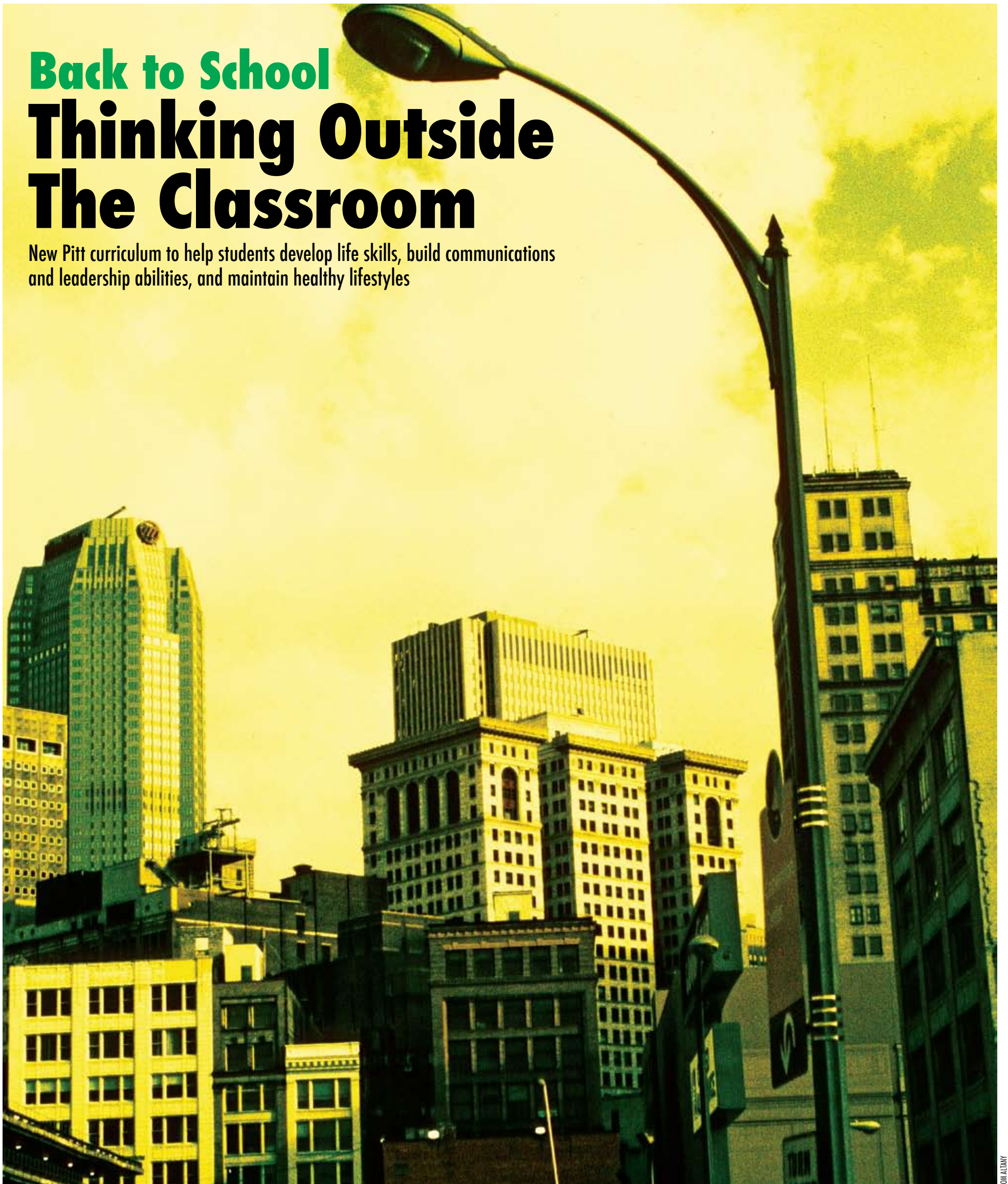
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Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

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Back to School Thinking Outside The Classroom

New Pitt curriculum to help students develop life skills, build communications and leadership abilities, and maintain healthy lifestyles



UniversityUpdate

To: The University Community
From: Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg
Date: July 22, 2008
Re: Fiscal 2009 Operating Budget

The year just closed was another period of exceptional progress for Pitt, and we enter the new year with great momentum. Among other things, both the academic stature and the fiscal health of the University were boosted by the fact that we reached historic highs in such mission-critical areas as applications for admission and research funding. Also, as private support has become increasingly important not only for Pitt but for all of American higher education, it is noteworthy that last year's fundraising efforts produced institutional records in terms of total voluntary support, individual support, foundation support, and total number of donors; attracted the largest gift in our history; and pushed our capital campaign past the \$1.25 billion mark.

Even as we celebrate these achievements, though, we continue to move through times that are presenting serious fiscal challenges. While our financial team has done an exceptional job of protecting our assets, avoiding problems that plagued many strong institutions, the growth of our endowment obviously will be impeded by the overall state of the economy. Dramatically rising costs in expense areas ranging from energy to food also will affect our institutional budget, just as they affect the budgets of the individuals and families who make up the Pitt community.



Mark A. Nordenberg

Adding to these more general challenges is the fact that Commonwealth funding for Pennsylvania's public research universities continues to lag well behind the levels of support provided to most of our competitor universities by the governments of their home states. This is not a new problem. The Commonwealth appropriation amounted to 32 percent of our overall budget in the mid-1970's, shrunk to less than 20 percent by the mid-1990's, and is just 11 percent of our budget today.

To be clear, the overall rate of Commonwealth spending has not been shrinking. Instead, from 2001 through the current fiscal year, the Commonwealth budget increased by more than 40 percent, though our appropriation increased by only 6.7 percent. That low, single-digit increase also compares unfavorably with inflation, which will have risen by about 30 percent over that same period—measured by the Consumer Price Index, while the increase in the Higher Education Price Index will be even higher. To take a single example illustrating the pressures this creates, our utility expenses have grown by nearly \$31 million since 2001, while our appropriation has increased by less than \$12 million during that period.

This year's Commonwealth budget exacerbated those trends. In a year in which the overall Commonwealth budget grew by 4 percent, Pitt's appropriation increased by only 1.4 percent. This prompted sympathetic legislators from both political parties to observe that Pennsylvania's public research universities clearly were not a Commonwealth funding priority—despite the key contributions we continue to make, not only through education and research but also through our public service initiatives and as an engine for regional economic development. Returning to the single expense example of utilities, we have budgeted for a \$7.7 million cost increase for the new fiscal year, which means that our increased costs in that one area are expected to be more than \$5 million larger than our entire appropriation increase.

Dealing with these troubling trends has not been easy, either for the members of the University Planning and Budgeting Committee (UPBC)—which includes administrative, faculty, staff, and student representation—or for the University's senior management team.

However, the budget recommended to and recently approved by the Budget and Executive Committees of our Board of Trustees is the product of committed and creative efforts to ensure that we can continue making investments that are essential to our progress. To give just a few examples, that budget provides for new investments in student-life programming, high-potential research initiatives, and campus safety.

Controlling tuition increases and providing the best possible salary-increase pool also were high priorities throughout the budget-building process. On the tuition front, as already has been publicized, tuition for Pennsylvania residents enrolled at the Pittsburgh campus will increase by 6 percent, while tuition for out-of-state students at that campus will increase by 4 percent. At

our regional campuses, tuition for in-state students will increase by 4 percent and for out-of-state students by 2 percent. Tuition for both in-state and out-of-state students enrolled in the School of Dental Medicine and School of Medicine will increase by 4 percent.

We expect that increases at this level will be in line with increases at like institutions. It also is important to note that some meaningful relief from these increases will be provided by increases to our financial aid budget

and from support produced by our fundraising efforts. From 1998 to 2008, we raised more than \$150 million for scholarships and fellowships, and we have made attracting such support an even higher priority in our ongoing capital campaign.

Believing that compensation should be a high priority but recognizing that any increases to our Commonwealth appropriation likely would be very modest, the UPBC recommended that the budget contain a 3.75 percent salary-increase pool and further urged that any additional funds made available as the Commonwealth budget was finalized be added to the salary-increase pool as a first priority. The UPBC further recommended that salary-increase funds be distributed on the following basis: 2.25 percent for all employees whose work has been rated as satisfactory; 1.0 percent for merit, market, and equity adjustments to be made at the unit level; and 0.5 percent to be distributed by senior officers to address market imbalances between various units of the University.

Unfortunately, no new Commonwealth funds were forthcoming. However, other adjustments permitted us to raise the salary-increase pool to 4 percent. That somewhat larger pool will be distributed as follows: 2.5 percent for all employees whose work has been rated as at least satisfactory; 1.0 percent for merit, market, and equity adjustments to be made at the unit level; and 0.5 percent to be distributed by senior officers to address market imbalances between various units of the University. For continuing members of the faculty and staff, any increases awarded will be retroactive to July 1 and will first appear in September paychecks.

Because the tone of parts of this update has been somewhat somber, let me return to my opening message. The past year was another year of great progress for Pitt. I am grateful to each of you for your contributions to our ongoing record of success, extend my very best wishes for the remaining weeks of summer, and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Mark A. Nordenberg

UPJ Receives \$4 Million State Grant for New Nursing, Health Sciences Building



Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell (left) and Pitt-Johnstown President Jem Spectar

By Robert Knipple

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown has received \$4 million in state funds for the construction of a new nursing and health sciences building as part of the Commonwealth's "Put Pennsylvania to Work" initiative, Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell announced Aug. 6 at a ceremony in Ebensburg, Pa. The funds, which will be used to train more nurses and other health care practitioners, will further the University of Pittsburgh's commitment to contribute to Western Pennsylvania's economic development by providing educational services throughout the region.

Pitt's world renowned Schools of the Health Sciences are known for having provided essential training for the medical professions and services that have become part of the foundation of Western Pennsylvania's economy. Pitt-Johnstown will be working closely with the health sciences schools as it reaches out to the people of this region.

In accepting a ceremonial check from Rendell, Pitt-Johnstown President Jem Spectar said that it was a milestone in the history of Pitt-Johnstown: "We are very grateful for Governor Rendell's support, and we are deeply appreciative of his commitment to the people of Cambria County and our health care needs. The generosity of the Commonwealth will help ensure that our hopes for improved health sciences education and quality health care are realized."

"We are very grateful for Governor Rendell's support, and we are deeply appreciative of his commitment to the people of Cambria County and our health care needs. The generosity of the Commonwealth will help ensure that our hopes for improved health sciences education and quality health care are realized."

—Jem Spectar

Spectar added that the funding makes it possible for Pitt-Johnstown to build upon "its existing capacity and expertise in allied health care programs and nursing to develop and intensify cooperative partnerships with local health care providers." The funding supports UPJ's plan to develop a facility that will house health sciences programs.

Spectar said the funds also would help address a growing shortage of health care workers across the Commonwealth. "We anticipate that, over the next decade, our initiatives in health care areas will strengthen the workforce of our region," Spectar said.

E. Jeanne Gleason, chair of the Pitt-Johnstown Advisory Board and a member of the University's Board of Trustees, said, "We are delighted that the governor recognized the merit of this important initiative. This will enable Pitt-Johnstown to be at the forefront of contributing to the number of health care professionals to meet the needs of the Commonwealth."

Founded in 1927, Pitt-Johnstown is the first and largest regional campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

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Sharpening the Competitive Edge

Pitt's Outside the Classroom Curriculum is designed to encourage students to broaden their experiences, education



A 20-member development committee comprising representatives from the University's administration and faculty as well as students worked two years to create the Outside the Classroom Curriculum. Pictured here are committee members (from left) Kathy W. Humphrey, vice provost and dean of students; James Selker, assistant director of development services in Computing Services & Systems Development; Shawn E. Brooks, associate dean of students and director of Residence Life; Georgine Materniak, assistant to the vice provost and dean of students; Keith Caldwell, director of career services and alumni affairs, School of Social Work; and Donna Brett, senior academic advisor, School of Arts and Sciences Advising Center.

By Patricia Lomando White

Competition is the name of the game in academics, business, sports, and life—and University of Pittsburgh students are no strangers to the game. Now, Pitt students can enhance their skills outside the classroom and sharpen their competitive edge.

Beginning this fall, Pitt will introduce the Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC), a Universitywide initiative that includes a series of extracurricular programs and experiences to complement students' academic studies. It is designed to help students develop important personal attributes and professional skills needed for future success.

More than two years in the making, OCC is unique in its scope. "There are some schools that have bits and pieces of a structured, outside-the-classroom curriculum," said Kathy W. Humphrey, Pitt vice provost and dean of students. "But, from what we can determine, no other major university has a program in place to support education of the whole student with this level of depth and breadth."

The OCC is based on the Pitt Pathway, a set of resources—such as career counselors, faculty, and student organizations—that help students find their paths to academic, personal, and professional success. OCC focuses on nine key areas: leadership development, career preparation, communication skills, healthy lifestyle, understanding diversity, a sense of self, community participation, appreciation for the arts, and service to others.

For each of the nine categories, OCC offers a wide range of activities to choose from and specifies the years in which they are to be completed. The following sampling of the varied OCC activities in four categories reveals the program's breadth.

In the leadership category, students can complete the Emerging Leaders Program, join a student organization, coordinate a book club or reading group, serve as an officer in a student organization, or serve as

a facilitator in peer-mentor programs.

In the career-preparation area, students can participate in the Career Development Explore program, attend a career development session, meet with a career counselor, attend the mandatory book discussion on the new OCC program during orientation, or develop a résumé.

In the healthy lifestyle category, students can participate in a recreational or physical activity for two hours a week, visit the Student Health Service Open House, learn how to read a nutrition facts label, or maintain a healthy diet and body weight.

In the appreciation for the arts area, students can compose poetry, develop creative poster presentations for research or class projects, perform in a campus or off-campus production, serve as a PITT ARTS host, or assist with fundraising for the arts.

Students who complete the OCC requirements will receive an Outside the Classroom Curriculum "transcript" documenting their participation; they also will receive a green cord of distinction to wear at commencement. Most importantly, according to Humphrey, students will have numerous opportunities to gain and sharpen skills that will make them more successful as students and Pitt graduates.

Derived from goals for undergraduate students established by Pitt's Office of the Provost, OCC was developed by a campus-wide committee comprising students, faculty, and staff.

According to Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher, employers and admissions officers at graduate and professional schools, when surveyed, consistently express interest in graduates who write and speak well, have excellent computer and mathematical skills, demonstrate sophisticated quantitative reasoning, think clearly,

"From the moment students arrive on campus, we want them to be thinking about their future—what skills and attributes they should be developing both in and outside the classroom. Mostly, we are eager to help students be transformed into the men or women they want to become."

—Kathy W. Humphrey

read critically, make good decisions, and understand the diversity of cultures in the United States and throughout the world.

"In short, they are looking for a sophisticated, well-rounded person," said Maher. "What excites me about OCC is that our campus collaborated to develop a structured way for students to accomplish this goal. This enhanced Pitt Pathway is flexible, yet intentional; it is designed to encourage and challenge."

Humphrey said she hopes the OCC will "help students maximize their Pitt experience and gain a competitive edge in whatever field they choose to pursue. From the moment

students arrive on campus, we want them to be thinking about their future—what skills and attributes they should be developing both in and outside the classroom.

"Mostly, we are eager to help students be transformed into the men or women they want to become," she added.

Incoming freshmen will be introduced to OCC at orientation training sessions. In addition, resident assistants will conduct training sessions on each floor of the residence halls to help students determine which programs and activities are best suited for them. Several of the OCC orientation programs fulfill OCC requirements, giving freshmen a jump start. Second-year students and upperclassmen will be able to join the curriculum as well.

While students can participate in workshops, for example, to gain a credit toward one of the nine goals, they also can obtain credit for such things as attending a basketball game or a concert. Humphrey noted that OCC's goal isn't to make students' lives more difficult, but to give some credit in areas in which students already are involved. Other activities may put students outside their comfort zones and push them a bit.

The message being sent is that "connecting to this institution is important to us," Humphrey said.

Pitt's Computing Services and Systems Development customized a software package to allow students to track their progress through my.pitt.edu. Students will have the ability to register for programs, track their attendance through a swipe-card system, and ultimately generate a transcript.

"By experiencing this diversified set of programs and activities, our students will clearly be able to document that they accepted the challenge of gaining diversified sets of skills and experiences as undergraduates," Humphrey said. "Plus, they will be able to articulate how their experiences have transformed their lives and made them the types of people a company wants to hire or that a school wants to admit."

Pennsylvania Hall to Offer Leadership Living-Learning Community

By Shawn Brooks

For several years, Pitt's Office of Residence Life has provided upperclassmen in residence halls with more than just a home away from home. Partnering with various academic departments, Residence Life has been introducing Living-Learning Communities (LLCs) designed to extend learning beyond the classroom.

This fall marks the introduction of a Leadership Living-Learning Community in Pennsylvania Hall. One of its attributes is a partnership with Leadership Pittsburgh Inc., whose mission is to strengthen regional leadership through programs, partnerships, and connections.

Students selected to participate in this program will have opportunities to:

- Network with community leaders through the Leadership-Community Connections Program, a collaboration between Pitt and Leadership Pittsburgh;
- Work in teams to identify campus problems and develop strategies to address them;
- Participate in monthly leadership development workshops and Leadership Chat Dinners, informal meals with industry leaders;
- Participate in a Spring Leadership Summit—also open to students from other local colleges and universities—designed to maximize leadership potential both on and off campus;
- Participate in community-based service-learning programs and initiatives;
- Participate in an optional leadership service-abroad trip to Ireland during spring break 2009;
- Create personalized leadership development portfolios; and
- Receive Leadership designations on their cocurricular transcripts.

In addition, involvement in these programs can help students attain a Certificate in Leadership and Ethics within the College of Business Administration or a Leadership Certificate within the School of Arts and Sciences.

Residence Life offers 11 upperclassman LLCs as well as four first-year communities. More information is available at www.reslife.pitt.edu/competitiveedge/index.html.

New Pitt Faculty Bring Diversity, Commitment to Excellence in Teaching

The University welcomes a number of new faculty this year who bring a tremendous breadth and diversity of experience as well as a shared commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service. The profiles here offer an introductory sampling of those new faculty members.

Amy Ai, School of Social Work

Ai is a former associate professor at the University of Washington and a Hartford Geriatric Faculty Scholar and Affiliated Researcher of Integrative Medicine in the University of Michigan Health System. She joins the University as a professor in the School of Social Work. Her research interests include the interdisciplinary study of aging, for which she won the Association for Gerontology in Social Work's prestigious Leadership Award; the interdisciplinary study of health and related well-being; and the connection between post-traumatic stress disorders and post-traumatic growth following crisis or adversity. She received her PhD in psychology from the University of Michigan.

Ai's other areas of research interest include research methodology issues in clinical studies on psychosocial-behavioral and faith-related intervention and mind-body medicine; complementary and alternative medicine and that area's implications for integrative medicine and health care policy; and health care disparity and its implications for research, practice, and policy.



Amy Ai

Ipsita Banerjee, Department of Chemical Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering

After pursuing postdoctoral research at Harvard Medical School's Center for Engineering in Medicine, Banerjee joins the Department of Chemical Engineering as an assistant professor. She received her PhD in chemical engineering from Rutgers University.

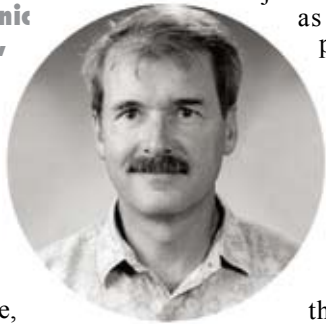
Her primary research interest is in process systems engineering and its application in different chemical and biomedical problems. She also is interested in reaction network modeling and the development of reduced reaction networks for energy-efficient combustion processes.



Ipsita Banerjee

Daniel Balderston, Mellon Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, Arts and Sciences

Balderston joined the School of Arts and Sciences in January as professor and Andrew W. Mellon Chair in Modern Languages in the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures. A literary scholar and critic of Latin American literature, Balderston came to Pitt from the University of Iowa, where he held affiliations in the Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature, the Sexuality Studies Program, Latin American Studies Program, and International Studies. Balderston received his doctorate in comparative



Daniel Balderston

literature from Princeton University.

Balderston is the editor of *Variaciones Borges*, the major international journal devoted to the study of Latin American writer Jorge Luis Borges, and he is recognized as one of the world's leading authorities on Borges. He also is director of the Borges Center and current president of the Instituto Internacional De Literatura Iberoamericana. He has published four scholarly monographs, a high-profile book of collected essays, an index, and an extensive guidebook. He also has coauthored two books, edited or coedited 10 books, and contributed extensively to various journals.

David G. Binion, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine

Binion joins Pitt as a professor of medicine in the Department of Medicine's Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition. He also will serve as codirector of the UPMC

Irritable Bowel Disease Center and director of the center's new translational research program. He formerly served as a professor of medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the

Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program, a joint effort between the medical college and Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital.

Binion's research is focused on identifying cellular factors contributing to such inflammatory bowel diseases as Crohn's disease and developing novel anti-inflammatory therapeutics. He is the associate editor of *Inflammatory Bowel Diseases* and serves on the editorial advisory board of the *American Journal of Gastroenterology*. Binion received his medical degree from the State University of New York, Buffalo, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.



Brian D'Urso

Brian D'Urso, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Arts and Sciences

D'Urso, recently a Wigner Fellow at the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, joins the faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. He earned his PhD in physics at Harvard University, where he studied atomic physics and received the Hertz Foundation Fellowship for exceptional creativity and outstanding potential in research.

D'Urso's research involves the fabrication and properties of nanostructured surfaces, as well as new research trapping extended molecules such as carbon nanotubes with atomic physics techniques.



Mark T. Gladwin

Mark T. Gladwin, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine

Gladwin joins the University as a professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine. He also will serve as director of the newly created Hemostasis and Vascular Biology Research Institute. Gladwin previously served as branch chief of vascular medicine and director of the functional genomics core at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Gladwin's research focuses on nitric oxide and its many contributions to vascular biology, including vasodilation, pulmonary hypotension, vasospasm, and hemolysis-associated pulmonary hypertension in sickle cell disease. Gladwin was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and has received an NIH Merit Award as well as the NIH Director's Award for Mentoring. He received his MD from the University of Miami Honors Program in Medical Education.

Kimberly Gomez, Department of Instruction and Learning, School of Education; Research Scientist, LRDC

Gomez, associate professor in the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Education and a researcher in its Learning Sciences Research Institute, joins the School of Education's Department of Instruction and Learning and its Learning Policy Center as an associate professor. She also will be a research scientist in the Learning Research and Development Center.

Gomez' funded research projects include a study of the relationship between reading and science achievement and a study of technology-rich urban after-school programs, with a particular focus on the development of new media literacies. She recently published an edited volume, with Katherine Richardson Bruna, on *The Work of Language in Multicultural Classrooms: Talking Science, Writing Science* (Routledge/Erlbaum, 2008).

Gomez earned her PhD degree in educational psychology at the University of Chicago.



Kimberly Gomez

Pitt LRDC Researchers Have Role in \$10 Million Project Studying Middle School Science



By Patricia Lomando White

A new national coalition on education that includes three researchers from Pitt's Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC) has been granted \$10 million to study how middle school students learn science.

The grant was awarded to the 21st Century National Center for Cognition and Science Instruction, a virtual center through which researchers will work to evaluate, modify, and improve science curricula in 180 schools in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey.

The LRDC researchers are Christian Schunn, a research scientist and a Pitt professor of psychology, learning sciences and policy, and intelligent systems; Kalyani Raghavan, research associate; and Tim Nokes, research scientist and a Pitt professor of psychology. The 21st Century National Center also includes researchers from the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, and the 21st Century Partnership for STEM Education.

Research suggests that children form a rough identity in middle school and begin to separate and determine their interests, Schunn explained. The hope is that if students are attracted to science in middle school, there is a better chance of keeping them interested in high school. The ultimate goal of the project is to excite middle school students about science, so that more of them will seek careers in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields.

According to Schunn, the team will review two different curricula currently used in middle schools—Holt Science and Technology, a reading-and-writing approach; and FOSS (Full Option Science System), an investigative, hands-on approach. The goal is to improve both textbook and hands-on science teaching and learning.

"We'll take the basic research principles on how people learn, systematically review what is used, and make changes, so that the curricula are better," said Schunn.

He noted that people tend to work from misconceptions, and research shows that even if new information is taught, a year later people tend to forget the new information and revert back to the previously held misconceptions.

"Our plan is to attack the misconceptions and to tie the new learning to things that are already known," Schunn said. "Often, using analogies is helpful."

Researchers will examine one aspect each in three areas: earth sciences, life sciences, and physical sciences. In the first year, they will conduct an experiment employing three middle school groups: one group will continue to use the current curriculum, another group will receive new material with researchers providing input to the teachers, and a third group will use the old material with researchers' input. New information will be rolled in for all groups in subsequent years of the study.

Continued on page 5

New Pitt Faculty Bring Commitment to Excellence

Continued from page 4

Louis Gomez, Helen Faison Professor, School of Education; Senior Scientist, LRDC

Gomez, currently Aon Professor of Learning Sciences, professor of computer science, and Learning Science Program coordinator at Northwestern University, will join the University in January as Pitt's first Helen Faison Professor of Urban Education. He will lead the school's Center for Urban Education and, in addition to holding his chair in the School of Education, will be a senior scientist in the Learning Research and Development Center.

Gomez works with school communities to create social arrangements and curricula that support school improvement. He will play a key leadership role in the University's partnership with the Pittsburgh Public Schools' University Prep 6-12 school at the former Milliones School in the Hill District.

Gomez has served as a trustee of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and is a member of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board and the Advisory Board of the Center for Education at the National Research Council. Gomez received a PhD in cognitive psychology from the University of California at Berkeley.



Louis Gomez

and Canada. She earned her PhD in sociology at Northwestern University.

Staggenborg has authored an award-winning monograph published by Oxford University Press titled *The Pro-Choice Movement: Organization and Activism in the Abortion Conflict*, and she recently coedited a major methodological compendium, *Methods of Social Movement*

Research. Staggenborg is a past chair of the Collective Behavior and Social Movements section of the American Sociological Association.

Bennett Van Houten, Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology, School of Medicine

Van Houten is a senior investigator in molecular genetics and branch chief for program analysis in the Division of Extramural Research and Training of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. He joins Pitt as a professor of pharmacology and chemical biology.

Van Houten's research focuses on molecular aspects of nucleotide and base excision repair in *E. coli*, yeast, *C. elegans*, and mammalian cells. He has been honored five times with an NIH Merit Award and also has received the NIH Director's Award and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Scholar Award in Toxicology. He earned his PhD in biomedical sciences and genetics at the University of Tennessee.



Jeffrey Kharoufeh

Jeffrey Kharoufeh, Department of Industrial Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering

Kharoufeh, formerly of the faculty of the Air Force Institute of Technology's Graduate School of Engineering and Management and of Northeastern University, is an associate professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering. He earned his doctorate in industrial engineering and operations research from Pennsylvania State University.

Kharoufeh is primarily interested in the application of probability and stochastic processes for the design, performance evaluation, control, and optimization of stochastic engineering and service systems. His focus areas include queueing systems, reliability modeling and analysis, maintenance optimization, and models for computer and communication networks and transportation systems.

Kharoufeh serves as an associate editor for *Operations Research Letters* and *IEEE Transactions on Reliability* and as area editor (stochastic models) for the forthcoming *Wiley Encyclopedia of Operations Research and Management Science*. He is a professional member of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), the INFORMS Applied Probability Society, and the Board of Directors (Operations Research Division) of the Institute of Industrial Engineers.

Suzanne Staggenborg, Department of Sociology, Arts and Sciences

Staggenborg joins the School of Arts and Sciences as a professor of sociology, coming to Pitt from McGill University in Montreal, where she was professor and chair in its Department of Sociology. Staggenborg works on political and social movements that originate at a grassroots level and that may influence politics, public opinion, government policy, and law. Her focus is on issues of gender, leadership, and culture in social movement organizations in the United States

Nuclear Engineering Program Gets Three Federal Grants

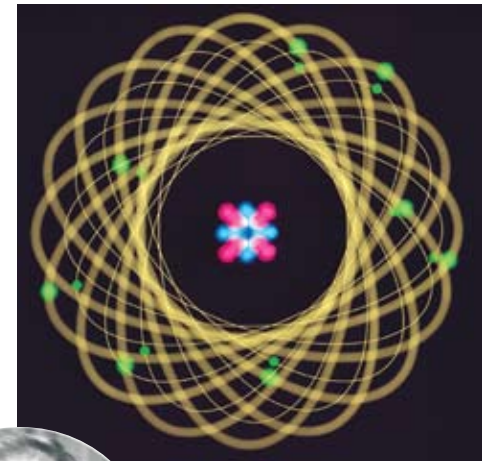
By Morgan Kelly

The University of Pittsburgh received three government grants totaling \$750,000 to bolster the nuclear engineering undergraduate and graduate certificate programs based in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently awarded 60 institutions nearly \$20 million in Nuclear Education Grants meant to support course development, scholarships and fellowships, and faculty recruitment for nuclear energy-related programs.

Pitt's two-year-old nuclear engineering certificate program—the only such track in Western Pennsylvania—and Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania were the only institutions in the state to receive an award. They join such institutions as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Purdue University, and Virginia Tech in obtaining NRC support.

"These grants signify that the University of Pittsburgh is becoming a major player in nuclear engineering education and in meeting the workforce and research needs for the nuclear renaissance in the United States," said Larry R. Foulke, director of Pitt's nuclear engineering program, which includes the graduate and undergraduate certificate tracks.

The NRC grants will be instrumental in expanding the nuclear program's research and teaching capability, Foulke said. Pitt will use a \$450,000 Faculty Development grant to broaden the program to include nuclear-oriented faculty research in addition to the current emphasis on educating students in reactor operations and safety. A \$200,000 grant will go toward establishing undergraduate scholarships, and a second-year award of \$100,000 will promote the expansion of the graduate-level certificate program's distance-learning component. That builds on an initial \$200,000 NRC grant in 2007 used to create a distance-learning module, a unique aspect of Pitt's graduate certificate that is geared toward students across Pennsylvania and



Larry R. Foulke

offering further education to nuclear engineers already in the workplace, Foulke said.

Westinghouse Electric Co. and FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. submitted letters of support to the NRC endorsing Pitt's program as a key source of the trained professionals both companies increasingly seek. With its unique concentration of nuclear engineering experts,

Western Pennsylvania is emerging as a focal point of nuclear power's budding resurgence in light of the rising cost of oil and the political and environmental concerns associated with fossil fuels.

Pitt nuclear engineering students work closely with professionals from Westinghouse, one of the world's largest vendors of nuclear reactor technology; the Bechtel Bettis Inc. naval nuclear propulsion research laboratory in West Mifflin; and FirstEnergy, which operates the Beaver Valley Power Station nuclear power plant in Shippingport. In addition, an advisory committee of engineers and managers from these three companies took part in designing the curriculum to ensure that students learn the most relevant information, and experts from those companies also serve as adjunct professors.

PITT HOSTS CAMMP



The Council of Alumni Association Marketing & Membership Professionals (CAMMP) convened on the University's Oakland campus for its 12th annual conference July 15-18. CAMMP is a national forum for university alumni organization professionals. About 140 CAMMP members from 80 universities across the country participated, including (foreground, from left) Jana Sestili, director of marketing and CAMMP conference cochair, University of Pittsburgh, and Andy Washburn, director of marketing/membership, University of Nebraska; (middle row) Katie Marquis, director of marketing, University of Florida, and Mara Kudrick, assistant director of membership and CAMMP conference cochair, Pitt; (back row) Joan Hall, director of marketing, Indiana University, and David Roloff, director of marketing/membership, University of Missouri.

JOE KAPREWSKI/CNOC

New Financial Lab in Mervis Hall to Simulate Global Financial Markets



JIM BURKE/CODE

Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business has added a state-of-the-art financial lab to Mervis Hall. The \$2.3 million facility will give students access to real-time stock market data and to professors who are experienced in global financial markets. Kuldeep Shastri (above), the Roger S. Ahlbrandt Sr. Endowed Chair in Finance and professor of business administration at Katz, will teach a course in the spring on market microstructure and trading. Using the lab "brings a lot more reality into classroom discussions," he says.

By Amanda Leff

The University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business has added a key tool to its experience-based learning curriculum: a new state-of-the-art financial laboratory. The lab, which features a financial trading simulator, stock tickers, tote display boards, 58 computer stations, live news feeds, and classroom space, provides students with real-time stock market data and access to faculty who are seasoned in global financial markets.

John Delaney, dean of the Katz School and the College of Business Administration (CBA), made it a priority to put plans for the financial lab into motion upon joining Pitt in 2006. The recently completed construction of the \$2.3 million, 3,000-square-foot lab in Mervis Hall will be used in courses tailored to give students a serious glimpse into the world of financial markets.

While finding trading rooms at business schools is not uncommon, most schools are not using the technology to its full potential, says Kuldeep Shastri, Roger S. Ahlbrandt Sr. Endowed Chair in Finance and professor of business administration at Katz.

"It's not about which schools have trading rooms—it's about which schools are using them properly as learning tools," says Shastri.

To help students become more responsive to breaking news, an up-to-the-minute Reuters news feed has been installed in the trading room.

"We know that as major news stories come out about the economy, markets react to them," says Shastri. "The lab allows us to show students a breaking news announcement and its effect on the market in real time. It brings a lot more reality into classroom discussions."

Shawn Thomas, a professor of business administration and the Katz School's finance faculty interest group coordinator, says new courses are being developed to take full advantage of the learning opportunities that lie within the lab. The courses will be geared

toward both CBA upperclassmen and Katz students and will use software to develop analytical solutions to issues that arise in various areas of finance, he says.

Shastri, for example, will teach a spring semester course on market microstructure and trading in the lab. The trading room's simulator software will provide a dose of reality by adjusting the price of the students' virtual market, for example, to reflect the students' buying and selling decisions.

A feature that truly exemplifies the capabilities of the lab is one that allows students to use technology to test their own market strategies with historically accurate data. Once refined, the developed strategies can then be applied and tested with real-time data.

Thomas says the business school faculty and administration felt strongly about installing a financial lab so Pitt students can compete successfully with graduates of schools with similar learning environments.

"The lab will allow students to develop the competencies they'll need for careers in finance," says Thomas. "It will allow them to hit the ground running. They'll be familiar with the analytical tools and software commonly used in Wall Street trading rooms and corporate finance institutions at the highest levels."

Marios Panayides, an assistant professor of finance in the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business, will join Pitt as a visiting professor this fall to teach a course on financial modeling. He says he plans to help the students become comfortable using financial models in Excel.

"Learning by doing' is a highly effective way of gaining deeper insights into financial models," says Panayides. "Most of the corporate world requires finance graduates to have a deep knowledge of spreadsheets and Excel along with basic financial modeling. The class meets both demands."



John Delaney



Pitt has pledged \$250,000 to a project to improve 11 intersections across the Oakland campus to make them safer for pedestrians. Targeted intersections are circled.

Pitt to Rework 11 Intersections On Fifth and Forbes Avenues

By John Fedele

The University of Pittsburgh has committed \$250,000 to a project aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety at 11 intersections along Fifth and Forbes avenues.

Pitt is one of the institutional partners of the Hometown Streets Project, a \$2.1 million undertaking cosponsored by the Oakland Transportation Management Association (OTMA) and the City of Pittsburgh. In addition to having committed financial support, the University will provide in-kind construction project management support to the effort, which began June 30 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

The project's pedestrian safety and mobility improvements include pedestrian countdown signals, curb extensions, wider and more visible crosswalks, and enhanced lighting and planting for traffic calming. They will be made at the following Fifth Avenue intersections: Thackery and Meyran avenues; South Bouquet, DeSoto, and Atwood streets; and McKee Place.

The Forbes Avenue intersections to be improved are South Bouquet and Atwood streets, Oakland and Meyran avenues, and McKee Place.

Pitt's representative on the Hometown Streets Project Committee was



Pitt is one of the institutional partners of the Hometown Streets Project, a \$2.1 million undertaking cosponsored by the Oakland Transportation Management Association and the City of Pittsburgh.

G. Reynolds Clark, vice chancellor for community initiatives and chief of staff, Office of the Chancellor; Paul Supowitz, vice chancellor for governmental relations; and John Wilds, assistant vice chancellor of community and governmental relations. Ron Leibow, project manager for Pitt's Office of Facilities Management, will oversee construction.

"This is a community-wide project that will benefit not only the students, faculty, and staff at Pitt, but the thousands of people who work, shop, and visit Oakland each day," said Clark.

Joining Pitt as community partners are the City of Pittsburgh, the Oakland Taskforce, the Oakland Business Improvement District, the Oakland Community Council, and the Oakland Planning and Development Corporation. In addition to Pitt, funders include the City of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

Also included in the project are the replacement of the street lights along Forbes Avenue from McKee Place to the University of Pittsburgh foot bridge and a replacement design for the Fifth Avenue bus lane railing.

Pitt's School of Information Sciences Helps Kosovo University Build Telecommunications



Martin Weiss

By Morgan Kelly

Pitt's School of Information Sciences (SIS) will lend its telecommunications expertise to the world's newest nation to help launch a graduate program at Kosovo's University of Pristina, the recovering Balkan nation's primary university. The hope for the three-year, \$450,000 project (supported by the U.S. Department of State) is for the program to serve as a source of ideas and experts that the beleaguered country needs to rebuild its infrastructure following years of war and unrest from the ethnic-Albanian majority's push for independence from Serbia.

The program begins this semester with SIS faculty members training one Pristina professor each year in Pitt's SIS telecommunications lab and also helping the visiting professors shape the experience into a curriculum for the new program. SIS also will help oversee the construction of a similar lab in Pristina next summer. Plans call for the first Kosovar students to enroll in the two-year program in fall 2009. The third year will be spent evaluating and fine-tuning the program.

Though the University of Pristina suffered during the war, it remains a prominent institution in the fledgling nation and affords the program the best chance to flourish and benefit Kosovo, said Pitt anthropology professor Robert Hayden, the project's codirector and chair of Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES). Regional experts in REES will help SIS navigate Kosovo's complex cultural, linguistic, and political channels.

The breakaway republic's past strife could prove both formidable and beneficial, explained project codirector Martin Weiss, a SIS professor and associate dean. On one hand, the Pristina university has not had a lot of time or money to invest in essential technology. Yet, because of the fledgling nation's technology gap, local academic and political leaders seem to support the program and acknowledge its potential to help foster economic independence, Weiss said.

"It is fair to say that modern technology has been inconsistently deployed across

campus," said Weiss, who traveled to Pristina to evaluate the university's existing facilities. "There are pockets of relatively up-to-date technology and Internet access is often available, but outages are not uncommon and bandwidth is somewhat limited.

"If they want to be competitive in today's world, there is no other choice, and they understand that," Weiss continued. "The government has rebuilt a lot, but the damage is still extensive; if I were a leader I wouldn't know where to start. They are going to need a lot of help to restore their infrastructure, and motivated students know that. They also know that other jobs are scarce."

In constructing the Pristina program, SIS has the advantage of working with a blank slate on which it can incorporate the lessons learned from building and nurturing its own 20-year-old telecommunications graduate program, Weiss said.

SIS joins a long list of Pitt schools that are lending their expertise to universities in Eastern Europe, and it is the third school—along with Pitt's Schools of Education and Law—to help build a

program in Kosovo, Hayden said. REES proposes projects in Eastern Europe to Pitt schools and faculty and provides much-needed guidance should they accept.

Although Kosovo is mending, SIS enters a country with an uncertain future. Since Kosovo declared independence in February, the United States and nearly four dozen other nations—including France and Britain—have recognized its sovereignty, but Serbia and such nations as China and Russia have not.

"We have expertise in administering programs in this region, which is not always easy," Hayden said. "In Kosovo especially there is a very complex political situation. Often no one knows what to do or who's in charge: There is Kosovo's government, but there are also a United Nations mission and a European Union mission. We can support SIS in this environment.

"I don't expect any political barriers," Hayden said, "but this project will require a certain amount of diplomacy."

"We have expertise in administering programs in this region, which is not always easy," Hayden said. "In Kosovo especially there is a very complex political situation. Often no one knows what to do or who's in charge..."

—Robert Hayden

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS



E. Maxine Bruhns (wearing red) stands with members of the Children's International Summer Village, an organization that brings children from many nations to live in an American city for a month. Pittsburgh was the chosen city this year. The 60 international visitors toured Pitt's Nationality Rooms on July 16 and participated in a reception that featured an international cookie table. The group's children, whose sponsors asked that they not be identified, represented Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Norway, and the Philippines. Bruhns is director of the Nationality Rooms and of Pitt's Intercultural Exchange Program.

Pitt Issues Traffic Alert for Students' Return Aug. 19-22

The influx of University of Pittsburgh students returning to the Pittsburgh campus residence halls from Aug. 19 through 22 has prompted Pitt's Department of Parking and Transportation to issue the following traffic advisory.

Bigelow Boulevard will be closed between Forbes and Fifth Avenues from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, Aug. 20-22. (Port Authority Route 54C will not service the Carnegie Museum bus stop on Forbes Avenue and the South Craig Street stop while Bigelow Boulevard is closed.)

Lothrop Street will be closed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Aug. 19-21, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22.

University Place will be closed between Fifth Avenue and O'Hara Street from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, Aug. 20-22. University Police will be stationed at University Place to assist in traffic control. Individuals parking in Soldiers and Sailors Garage will be able to exit onto University Place, but will be required to turn right toward O'Hara Street.

University Drive B (from Allequippa Street to University Drive) will be closed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Tuesday through Friday, Aug. 19-22. Because traffic on Allequippa Street is expected to be heavier than normal, Pitt Police will be stationed at Allequippa Street and University Drive to assist in traffic control.

From Tuesday through Saturday, Aug. 19-23, parking on **Ruskin Avenue** will be restricted to individuals moving into Ruskin Hall.

Schenley Quadrangle, which is accessible from Fifth Avenue, will be closed to all vehicles from Friday, Aug. 15, through Sunday, Aug. 24.

On Wednesday, Aug. 20, heavier traffic is expected near the University as a result of Freshman Convocation, which will be held at 3 p.m. in the Petersen Events Center. Pitt Police will be stationed at key intersections to assist in traffic control.

Sticks, Not Stones, Make Homes in Indian Himalayas

Pitt engineering students tackle sustainability in one of the world's steepest, harshest terrains

By Morgan Kelly

There is no formal method for testing the strength of bamboo for building structures, so Derek Mitch has to invent one. The Pitt Swanson School of Engineering senior's only resources are three years of college, a working knowledge of concrete construction, and a 22-page chapter of general guidelines from the Indian Building Code.

A budding engineer couldn't ask for a better challenge: "It's a totally different way of looking at engineering," Mitch says.

His conundrum—and opportunity—stem from a May trip to the Indian Himalayan regions of Darjeeling and Sikkim, where he investigated the design and construction of bamboo buildings. Fellow students who accompanied him tackled issues ranging from slope stability to clean energy. Together, the aspiring Pitt engineers, led by Pitt civil engineering professor and William Kepler Whiteford Faculty Fellow Kent Harries, cut their teeth by helping an Indian engineering group, Sustainable Hill Engineering and Design (SHED), create and promote a plan for sustainable construction in an area desperate for new approaches. Harries hopes to make the journey to India's Himalayan foothills an annual event.

Students would experience a level of involvement and need for innovation that few other environments could offer, Harries says. Sikkim and Darjeeling straddle the planet's most unstable terrain. Traditional building methods involve masonry and concrete that have to be trucked along rugged, winding roads where untrained contractors and temporary workers cobble together buildings that list on the soft-soil hillsides and crumble from frequent mudslides and earthquakes.

Aside from being challenged by the terrain and resource limitation, engineers in this remote part of India lack access to the equipment needed to perform basic quality control and assurance testing. So, Pitt students like Mitch take the lead, drawing upon the Swanson School's numerous labs—and sometimes creating test methods and standards that don't exist.

"This is a fantastic environment for an engineering student because it presents a true engineering problem," Harries says. "The issues—the terrain, the weather, the available resources—are everywhere, but the solutions to each are very different."

Structural engineer Gayatri Kharel, a former graduate student of Harries from the University of South Carolina, leads SHED. The group promotes basic principles of sustainable engineering that are a major emphasis in the Swanson School—harvesting potable water, supplying clean and efficient electricity, and preventing landslides. Kharel and SHED take on local building projects and educate residents and contractors about the advantages of sustainability in terms of cost and preserving their homeland.

SHED largely focuses on repopularizing the ikra, a traditional bamboo-frame structure and the subject of Mitch's research. Because of the soft mountain soil, modern construction methods pose a great threat to environment and safety in Sikkim and Darjeeling. So to move local construction beyond concrete and brick, SHED turned to the past. The group lauds the ikra as a more sustainable and affordable (in an economy based on tourism and tea production) structure that withstands regional rigors while preserving the delicate mountainsides. But SHED must

"This is a fantastic environment for an engineering student because it presents a true engineering problem. The issues—the terrain, the weather, the available resources—are everywhere, but the solutions to each are very different."

—Kent Harries



Posing on the road from Rimbik to Darjeeling are (from left) Pitt Swanson School of Engineering senior Derek Mitch; Bhavna Sharma, civil engineering doctoral student and recipient of an Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship from Pitt's Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation; civil engineering doctoral student Maria Jaime; and civil engineering professor and William Kepler Whiteford Faculty Fellow Kent Harries.

counteract skepticism and a decades-old infatuation with modernity, says Kharel, a Darjeeling native.

"When reinforced concrete was introduced, it was modern and a status symbol," she says. "People saw bamboo as the material of poor villagers. Concrete also looks safer than bamboo, but it's not. We have to convince people that bamboo is safer."

In a presentation to Pitt engineering students during a reciprocal visit to Pittsburgh in June, Kharel displayed photos of the 5.7-magnitude Sikkim earthquake of Feb. 14, 2006: severely damaged brick and concrete buildings followed by an unscathed bamboo-frame ikra. Some residents and builders in Sikkim and Darjeeling get the message in these photos, Kharel says.

"Many people are excited," Kharel says. "They are happy we're building with local material because they feel the traditional methods are dying. The bamboo structures are healthier for the environment and the economy, even in terms of tourism. People can visit Darjeeling and see traditional ikras instead of concrete buildings."

SHED oversees several projects demonstrating ikra construction and other sustainable techniques, but these projects also illuminate the social and technical obstacles that remain. For instance, in building St. Joseph's School in Mungpoo, near Darjeel-

ing, SHED had to convince the rector that bamboo trumps concrete for safety and ease of construction—and to go against affluent alumni in the cement contracting and supply business, Kharel says.

Bamboo can crack, as Mitch observed at St. Joseph's. SHED bolstered the material's stability with a concrete foundation, but bamboo beams joined with bolts could split, Mitch says. Like a windshield crack, these tiny fissures grow. SHED needs to know the cause of the splitting, its relationship to the bamboo species used in construction, and the best methods for repairing and preventing the fractures. But the closest lab to Kharel lies down a treacherous road more than 50 miles away.

Upon his return to Pitt, Mitch set about developing an onsite material properties test that, like any other, would gauge the load a material can bear—except he's testing a plant. One with about 1,000 species.

Mitch had no experience engineering bamboo, and his research suggested that few others do, either. He found two papers on the splitting of bamboo and the 22-page government manual on bamboo construction. To compare, the U.S. manual on building with steel contains about 2,200 pages and that for wood takes up more than 4,000, Mitch said.

"The Indian manual said an engineer's job is to anticipate loads and design for them—that's not guidance," he says.

Since his return from the trip, Mitch has narrowed his approach to about 10 possible test methods, but he wants a single test, because that's the only way most Indian contractors will use it, he said.

SHED also confronts a general informality in Indian construction and engineering: "There are professional engineers with a degree from North America or Europe and

working with state-of-the-art engineering tools, but then you have to deal with implementation," Harries says. "This is an area where construction methods are at times questionable."

With limited resources and minimal oversight, contractors execute projects on the cheap and hire temporary workers that rotate every two weeks, Kharel says. Plus, most Indian engineers "learn to build on flat land," not the slopes of Darjeeling and Sikkim, says Kharel, who earned her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology in Nagpur, India.

Mitch's construction experience is limited to that of a summer job, but while in India, he watched as a man in sandals tossed gravel into a cement mixer and concluded that the man wasn't concerned with proper measurement. Nor did another man seem to find anything amiss in tamping concrete into the rebar-frame skeleton of a support beam with a hand trowel—while a machine meant for the job sat unused nearby.

"I saw some scary things," Mitch says, scrolling through digital photos of completed buildings with their rusty rebar skeleton jutting through clumpy smatterings of concrete.

"I saw a four-story concrete building perched on a 60-degree slope with almost no foundation or pilings. That's why I'm making a single test: Getting multiple tests done would be impossible. Any testing at all has a much higher chance of happening with just one."

"From an engineering perspective, India is very fresh," he continues. "There's very little code and enforcement. As a student, that can be good—you have to do everything yourself."

Pitt's 2008 New Student Orientation Offers Full Schedule

Chancellor's Convocation, Tours, and Information Sessions Will Welcome Students

By Anthony M. Moore

The 2008 New Student Orientation will officially launch the college careers of more than 3,500 freshmen and transfer students at the University of Pittsburgh Aug. 19-24. "Your Journey Begins Here" will feature various programs and events geared toward assisting the class of 2012 and their families in making a successful transition to college life.

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and distinguished members of the University community will welcome the incoming class at the Freshman Convocation Ceremony in the Petersen Events Center from 3 to 4 p.m. Aug. 20. The Chancellor's Welcome Picnic follows the ceremony from 4 to 5 p.m., giving students and their families the opportunity to mingle with University faculty, staff, and students.

The traditional Lantern Night Ceremony will be held in Heinz Memorial Chapel from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 24.

Presentations and seminars will be held on numerous aspects of campus life, including student organizations, health services, and campus safety. Highlighting these informational activities will be "Campus Safety: What You Need to Know," from 3 to 4 p.m. Aug. 19; "Student Life: The Importance of Getting Involved," from 11 a.m. to noon Aug. 20; and "The Straight A's of Personal Student Finance," from 5 to 6 p.m. Aug. 20. All events will be held in the William Pitt Union.

Multiple guided tours of the University and the city of Pittsburgh also will be available. Tours include such landmarks as Pitt's Nationality Rooms, Heinz Memorial Chapel, Phipps Conservatory, and the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History. Several events are being planned to acquaint students and their families with the University and its surrounding communities. Activities include "Getting to the Point: What's Right About Pittsburgh and Our Region," a lecture on Pittsburgh's economic and environmental transformation,

from 4 to 5 p.m. Aug. 19, and "Get Lost!" an Oakland-area scavenger hunt, from 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 22. Both activities will commence in the William Pitt Union.

Scheduled entertainment and social activities will include student-produced plays, film screenings, and a luau. The Pitt Program Council will host "Live @ the Union: Comedy & More," a comedic and entertainment showcase, from 8:30 p.m. to midnight Aug. 22.

Nordy's Place will be the scene for both the "Oakland Teahouse," from 11 p.m. Aug. 22 to 1 a.m. Aug. 23, and "Open Mic Night," from 11 p.m. Aug. 22 to 2 a.m. Aug. 23. Pitt's "Music Extravaganza," beginning at 9 p.m. Aug. 23, will feature karaoke, a drum circle, dance party, and a late-night snack. All events will be held in the William Pitt Union.

Among the activities focused exclusively for parents and guardians will be "The Art of College Parenting," from 10 to 11 a.m. Aug. 20 in the William Pitt Union, and "Educating the Whole Student: What Every Parent Should Know," from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 20 in Alumni Hall. Both presentations will address questions and concerns of students' parents and guardians as well as to provide information on University programs. In addition, parents will have an opportunity to socialize with each other at one of two Panther Parents Association Information Sessions in the William Pitt Union, from 4 to 5 p.m. Aug. 19 and from 11:15 a.m. to noon Aug. 20.

University staff will be available to answer questions and provide information at "Orientation Station," open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 19-22 in the William Pitt Union's Lower Lounge. Students will be able to sign up for social activities and find out about programs offered through the New Student Orientation.

For more information or a complete schedule of events, call 412-648-1074 or visit www.orientation.pitt.edu.



JOE WATKINS/CDC

Pitt's Traditional Lantern Night Ceremony Set for Aug. 24

By Patricia Lomando White

Nearly 400 incoming freshmen and first-year transfer women will receive the "light of learning" from University of Pittsburgh alumni "flame-bearers" during the 88th annual Lantern Night Ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 24 in Heinz Memorial Chapel.

The student participants will gather at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room to receive a lantern and prepare for the 7:25 p.m. procession to the chapel.

With unlit lanterns, the women will process on the parallel sidewalks located between the cathedral's Bellefield Avenue entrance and the chapel to the 7:30 p.m. ceremony. During the event, Pitt alumni "flame-bearers," including several mothers and grandmothers of incoming students, will light the lanterns, which will remain lit for the remainder of the program. Carrying the burning lanterns, the new students will

process back to the Commons Room for a reception.

Donna Sanft (EDUC '74, '89), Pitt executive associate athletic director, will give the Lantern Night Address. Other program participants include Patti Mathay (KGSB '92), who will offer a greeting and history of Lantern Night; Whitney Hawkins, president of Pitt's Panhellenic Association, who will provide the student welcome; Jack Smith (A&S '69, MED '73), Pitt Alumni Association president-elect, who will give the alumni welcome; and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg who will deliver the University welcome. Following the remarks, "flame-bearers" will light the lanterns.

Lantern Night is one of the University's oldest traditions. The Alumnae Council of the Pitt Alumni Association and Pitt's Office of Student Life cosponsor the ceremony.

Go Green Oakland Campaign Kicks Off

The Oakland Task Force, in partnership with Carlow University, Carnegie Mellon University, and the University of Pittsburgh, is unveiling *Go Green Oakland*, an educational campaign to highlight the green efforts undertaken by Oakland's big and small institutions. The campaign features a call for the Oakland community to significantly reduce the use of plastic bags and to encourage use of reusable shopping bags.

The *Go Green Oakland* campaign will be launched with the distribution of a resource guide highlighting Oakland's green initiatives, Oakland's eco-friendly businesses, and listings of local and regional green organizations. The guide will be distributed inside a reusable shopping bag to the nearly 5,000 incoming freshmen at the three universities during this week's new student orientation programs.

The Oakland Task Force is a partnership of institutions, community organizations, businesses, and public agencies working to improve the Oakland neighborhood in the city of Pittsburgh, the third-largest employment center in Pennsylvania. There are more than 25 Oakland Task Force member organizations, which boast a variety of small- and large-scale green initiatives that contribute to the environmental health of the Oakland community. Included among those initiatives are comprehensive recycling programs, a farmers' market, furniture recycling, green

building initiatives, the Oakland Transportation Management Association's annual walk challenge, and toxic waste and hazardous material remediation.

The *Go Green Oakland* educational campaign was funded by Pennsylvania State Senator Jay Costa and by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. More information is available at www.oaklandtaskforce.org.

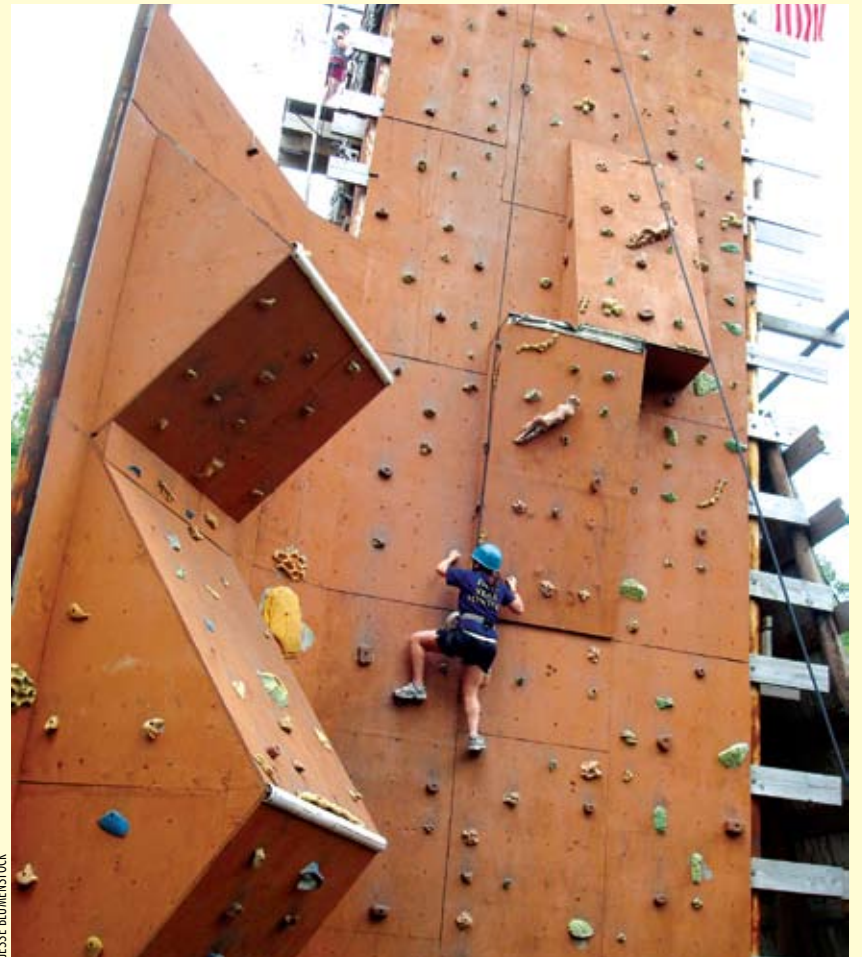
WELCOMING THE NEW



DAVID GARNETT

Incoming Pitt freshman Claire Onley (left) and her mother, Terry Savage, of Takoma Park, Md., attended Pitt's African American Alumni Council (AAAC) "Welcome Freshmen to Pitt Cookout and Sendoff" for the Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia region. Linda Wharton Boyd, president of Pitt's AAAC, hosted the July 27 event for 30 people at her home in Washington, D.C.

SHOOTING FOR THE TOP



JESSE BLUMENSTOCK

An incoming Pitt freshman scales a climbing wall during Pitt Odyssey, a new student orientation program held this summer in the Laurel Highlands. The voluntary program was offered on five separate overnights at Outdoor Odyssey in Boswell, Pa. Participating students had opportunities to meet other freshmen, learn about campus life, and experience rope courses, rock walls, and other team-building challenges.

Science & Technology

Long-term HIV Treatment May Cut Risk for Atherosclerosis, Pitt Study Suggests

By Clare Collins

Antiretroviral drugs for HIV do not increase the risk for coronary atherosclerosis, a central risk factor for heart disease, according to a study led by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) and published in the Aug. 8 issue of the journal *AIDS*. The results further suggest that antiretroviral therapy may offer men with HIV some protection against atherosclerosis—hardening of the arteries, caused in part by high levels of cholesterol, smoking, and other lifestyle factors.

The study, part of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) initiated in 1983, measured levels of coronary artery calcification (CAC) in nearly 950 HIV-positive and HIV-negative men by CT scanning completed between 2004 and 2006. Controlling for traditional atherosclerosis risk factors such as age, family history, smoking, and blood pressure, the study team found that CAC scores were almost 60 percent lower in HIV-positive men who received highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) for more than eight years compared to HIV-negative men.

HAART, a course of treatment that involves the combination of three or more antiretrovirals, has been associated with an increase in cholesterol and other factors associated with atherosclerosis, leading some to question whether long-term use increases the risk of heart attack.

“When we first prescribed highly active antiretroviral therapy for HIV in 1995, we were concerned about how these drugs changed lipid levels in patients and whether they would increase atherosclerosis and ultimately lead to serious heart disease,” said Lawrence Kingsley, study lead author and a professor in GSPH’s Departments of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology and Epidemiology.

“While some studies have found an association between these antiretroviral treatments and increased risk of

“While some studies have found an association between these antiretroviral treatments and increased risk of cardiovascular disease, we believe our findings should reassure clinicians that using antiretroviral therapy over time does not appear to put patients at greater risk for coronary atherosclerosis and may, in fact, be more beneficial than we had initially thought.”

—Lawrence Kingsley



Lawrence Kingsley

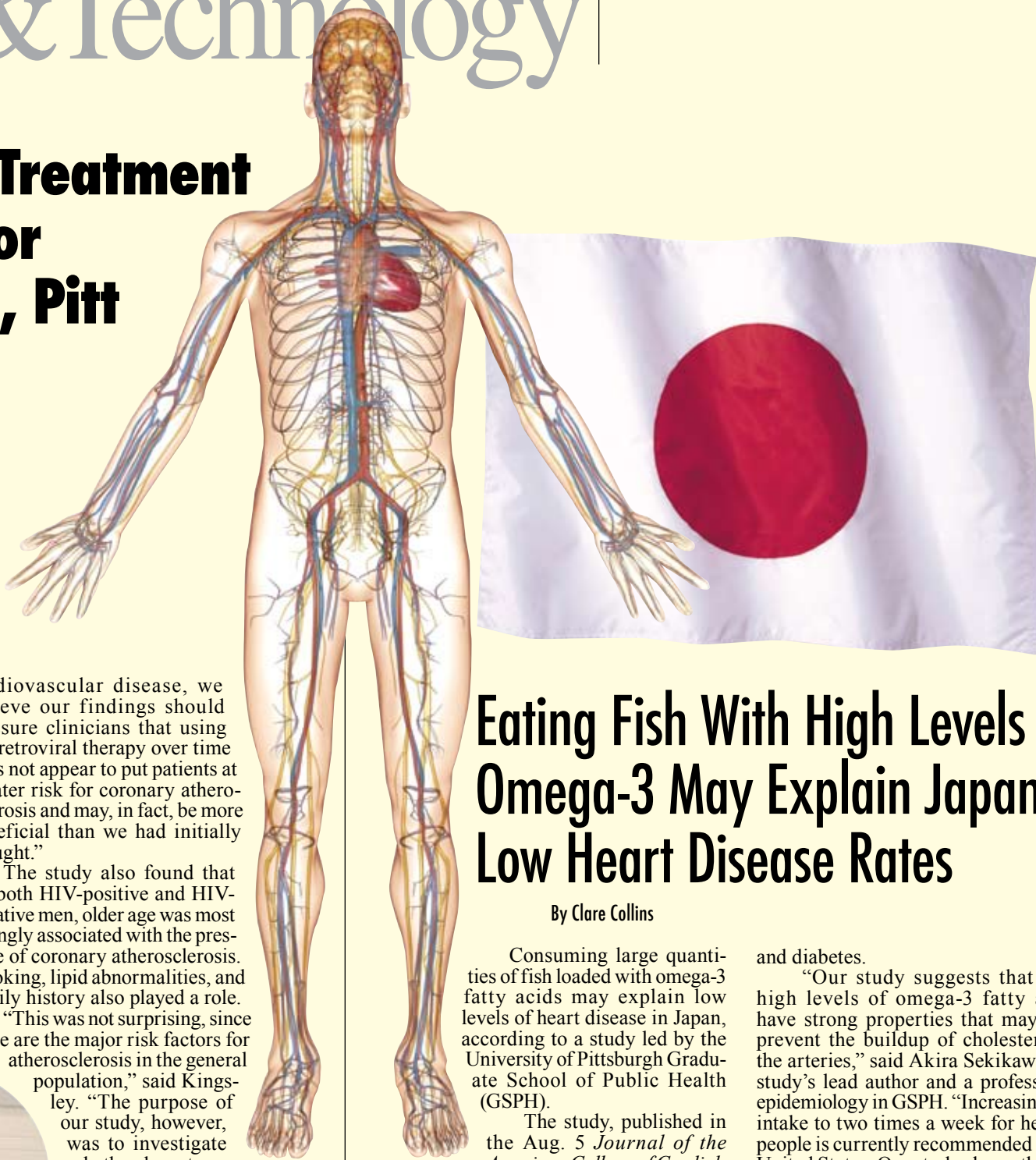
cardiovascular disease, we believe our findings should reassure clinicians that using antiretroviral therapy over time does not appear to put patients at greater risk for coronary atherosclerosis and may, in fact, be more beneficial than we had initially thought.”

The study also found that for both HIV-positive and HIV-negative men, older age was most strongly associated with the presence of coronary atherosclerosis. Smoking, lipid abnormalities, and family history also played a role. “This was not surprising, since these are the major risk factors for atherosclerosis in the general population,” said Kingsley. “The purpose of our study, however, was to investigate whether long-term HAART usage was a major risk factor.”

“These results could be due, in part, to lower lipid values of HIV infected men prior to beginning antiretroviral therapy and high use of lipid-lowering drugs. The key is that controlling risk factors for atherosclerosis should be a priority,” added Lewis Kuller, study coauthor and professor of epidemiology in Pitt’s GSPH.

Kingsley said what remains to be determined “is whether use of the newest antiretroviral therapies confers an even better outcome and whether lipid-lowering therapies will further improve cardiovascular risk in the HIV-infected population. Our future research will address these questions.”

The study was funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.



Eating Fish With High Levels of Omega-3 May Explain Japan’s Low Heart Disease Rates

By Clare Collins

Consuming large quantities of fish loaded with omega-3 fatty acids may explain low levels of heart disease in Japan, according to a study led by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH).

The study, published in the Aug. 5 *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, also found that third- and

fourth-generation Japanese Americans had similar or even higher levels of atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries—a major risk factor for heart disease, compared to White Americans.

The very low rate of heart disease in Japan among developed countries has been puzzling. Death rates from coronary heart disease in Japan have been less than half of those in the United States. This holds true even among Japanese men born after World War II who adopted a Western lifestyle since childhood, and despite the fact that among these same men, risk factors for coronary heart disease (serum levels of total cholesterol, blood pressure, and rates of type 2 diabetes) are very similar to those among men in the United States. Additionally, the rate of cigarette smoking, another major risk factor, has been infamously high in Japan.

The study was conducted at two universities and one research institute in the United States and Japan to compare serum levels of omega-3 fatty acids and atherosclerosis among Japanese, White American, and Japanese American men. Based on data from 868 men between the ages of 40 and 49, Japanese men had the lowest levels of atherosclerosis and two times higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids than those of White Americans or Japanese Americans.

The differences in the levels of atherosclerosis between Japanese and White Americans remained after adjusting for other risk factors—serum cholesterol, blood pressure, cigarette smoking, body mass index,

and diabetes.

“Our study suggests that very high levels of omega-3 fatty acids have strong properties that may help prevent the buildup of cholesterol in the arteries,” said Akira Sekikawa, the study’s lead author and a professor of epidemiology in GSPH. “Increasing fish intake to two times a week for healthy people is currently recommended in the United States. Our study shows that the much higher intake of fish observed in the Japanese may have a strong anti-atherogenic effect.”

Fish consumption among the Japanese is one of the highest in the world. Japanese men consume an average of 100 grams, equivalent to about 3.75 ounces, of fish every day from early in life. Meanwhile, Americans typically eat fish less than two times a week.

Researchers do not recommend that Americans change their diets to consume as much fish as the Japanese, owing to concerns about mercury levels in some fish. However, “increasing intake of omega-3 fatty acids in the United States could have a very substantial impact on heart disease,” Sekikawa said. “Given the similar levels of atherosclerosis in Japanese Americans and White Americans, it also tells us that lower levels of heart disease among Japanese men are much more likely lifestyle-related than a result of genetic differences.”

Omega-3 fatty acids are a type of polyunsaturated fat found primarily in fish. The two most potent omega-3 fatty acids are known as docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and are usually found in such oily fishes as mackerel, salmon, and tuna.

The study was funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology.

Happenings



Untitled 2007/2008, Friedrich Kunath, Life on Mars, 55th Carnegie International, through January 11, 2009

Concerts

Shall We Dance? River City Brass Band, 3 p.m. **Sept. 7**, Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, Pitt-Johnstown; 7:30 p.m. **Sept. 11**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 412-322-7222, www.rcbb.com.

Exhibitions

Andy Warhol Museum, Piet (Mondrian) in Pittsburgh; Glenn Kaino, installation art by Los Angeles-based artists, **both through Aug. 31**, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, www.warhol.org.

Silver Eye Center for Photography, 250 Years of Plants: Botanical Works by Regional Photographers, through **Sept. 13**, 1015 E. Carson St., South Side, 412-431-1810, www.silvereye.org.

Filmmakers Galleries, Doppel Ganger, site-specific photography installation by Fumino Hora, **through Sept. 14**, 447 Melwood Ave., Oakland, 412-681-5449, www.pghfilmmakers.org.

Frick Art & Historical Center, A Panorama of Pittsburgh: Nineteenth-Century Printed Views, **through Oct. 5**, 7227 Reynolds St., Squirrel Hill, 412-371-0600, www.frickart.org.

Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Painting in the United States, **through Oct. 19**, 211 N. Main St., Greensburg, 724-837-1500, www.wmu-seumaa.org.

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

Mattress Factory, Inner & Outer Space, **through Jan. 11, 2009**, 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, 412-231-3169, www.mattress.org.

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

"Complementary Approaches to Pain Self-Management," free lecture by Ron Glick, medical director of the Center for Integrative Medicine, 5:30 p.m. **Aug. 21**, Shadyside Place, Suite 310, 580 S. Aiken Ave., 412-623-3023, http://integrative-medicine.upmc.com.

Poetry reading by Claudia Rankine, 7 p.m. **Sept. 12**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, 2008-09 Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series, nrw1@pitt.edu or oaks@pitt.edu.

Opera/Theater/Dance

Wicked, musical, **Sept. 3-Oct. 5**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America, 412-456-6666, www.broadwayacrossamerica.com.

Auditions for 2008-09 Kuntu Repertory Theatre season, 6-10 p.m. **Sept. 4**, Seventh-Floor Auditorium, Alumni Hall; call-backs, 6:30-11:30 p.m. **Sept. 5**, 412-624-7298, www.kuntu.org.

Death of a Salesman, by Arthur Miller, directed by playwright's son, Robert Miller, **Sept. 5-21**, The REP, Point Park University's theater company, Pittsburgh Playhouse, 222 Craft Ave., Oakland, 412-621-4445, www.pittsburghplayhouse.com.

Shear Madness, by Paul Portner, **through Sept. 28**, Pittsburgh CLO Cabaret, Cabaret at Theatre Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-6766, www.clocabaret.com.

The Wonder Bread Years, by Pat Hazell, indefinite-run special engagement, Lester Hamburg Studio Theatre at City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

Miscellaneous

Pitt Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures graduate and undergraduate reception, noon-1:30 p.m. **Sept. 11**, all prospective, new, and returning majors invited; information, music and lunch provided, Room 1228 Cathedral of Learning, 412-624-5225 or lud3@pitt.edu.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Sybil Streeter, Department of Psychology, "Odor, Adult Attachment and Emotions in Romantic Relationships," 2 p.m. **Aug. 21**, Second-Floor Auditorium, Pitt Learning Research and Development Center.

Patricia Matestic, Department of Psychology, "Trajectories of Observed Maternal and Paternal Sensitivity in Early and Middle Childhood: Predicting Children's Social Competence From Sensitive Parenting," 10 a.m. **Aug. 22**, 4127 Sennott Square.

Eileen St. John, School of Education, "Cognitive Tutoring Systems: A Look at How the Utilization of an Audio Support System Impacts the Word Problem Solving Skills of Struggling Readers," 10 a.m. **Aug. 22**, Room 5140 Posvar Hall.

Jared E. Knickelbein, Immunology Graduate Program, School of Medicine, "Noncytotoxic Lytic Granule-Mediated Maintenance of HSV-2 Neuronal Latency," 9 a.m. **Aug. 25**, S120 Biomedical Science Tower.

Stephen Wilson, Department of Psychology, "Self-focused Versus Other-focused Strategies for Coping With Smoking Cue Exposure," 9 a.m. **Aug. 26**, 4127 Sennott Square.

Adam C. Soloff, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, Graduate School of Public Health, "Evaluation of Dual-Serotype Adenoviral-Based Vaccine Induced Cellular Immunity Following Preventative and Therapeutic Immunization Against Simian Immunodeficiency Virus," 10 a.m. **Aug. 27**, Room S123 South Biomedical Science Tower.



Fish Crow Hillman Library, through August 25

Xia Jiang, Biomedical Informatics Graduate Program, School of Medicine, "A Bayesian Network Model for Spatiotemporal Outbreak Detection," 10 a.m. **Aug. 28**, 5317 Sennott Square.

Adam Straub, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Graduate School Public Health, "Mechanisms for Arsenic-Stimulated Sinusoidal Endothelial Cell Capillarization," noon **Sept. 4**, 5th Floor Conference Room, Bridgeside Point.

Nicole Zangrilli Hoh, School of Nursing, "BCL-2 Genotypes and Outcomes After Traumatic Brain Injury," 1 p.m. **Sept. 10**, Room 446 Victoria Building.

Freshman Trombonist Wins 2008 Pitt-BNY Mellon Jazz Scholarship

By Sharon S. Blake

Incoming University of Pittsburgh freshman and trombonist Brandon Hang has been selected as the winner of the 2008 Pitt-BNY Mellon Jazz Scholarship. The \$5,000 tuition prize is awarded annually to a Pitt music student after tapes of jazz standards are submitted and then judged by a panel of nationally recognized jazz musicians. Hang will be honored for his accomplishment at the 2008 Pitt Jazz Concert on Nov. 1.

Hang, 18, is a graduate of Central Dauphin High School in Lower Paxton, Pa., where he won the 2008 award for the school's Outstanding Jazz Musician.

Even though he had been taking formal piano lessons, Hang says he picked up a trombone at age 10 and liked it. Mastering both instruments was a plus for Hang throughout high school, where he performed on trombone in the wind ensemble, orchestra, and jazz band, and also played piano in the pit band for musical theater productions.

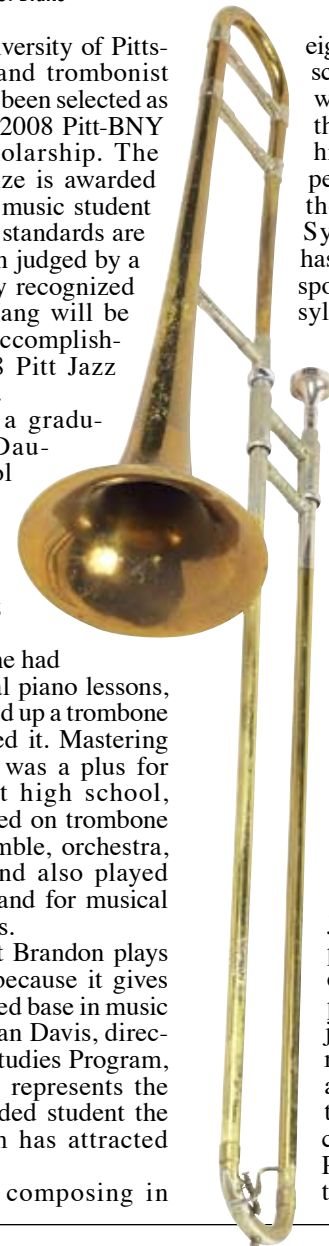
"The fact that Brandon plays piano is crucial, because it gives him a well-grounded base in music theory," said Nathan Davis, director of Pitt's Jazz Studies Program, adding that Hang represents the kind of well-rounded student the Pitt jazz program has attracted through the years.

Hang began composing in

eighth grade, and in high school he composed and wrote arrangements for the jazz band. During his sophomore year, he performed trombone in the Harrisburg Youth Symphony and also has performed in bands sponsored by the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. He picked up gigs in high school, including public jam sessions throughout the Harrisburg area.

Hang plans to major in pharmacy at Pitt and is looking forward to auditioning for the University of Pittsburgh Jazz Ensemble. Although pharmacy is his career goal, he says he will always make time for performing.

This is the 22nd year Pitt and BNY Mellon Jazz have funded the scholarship. BNY Mellon Jazz supports non-profit organizations engaged in live jazz performances and jazz education and recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Pittsburgh's rich jazz tradition.



Hillman Library Exhibition Highlights Life, Career of the Late K. Leroy Irvis

An exhibition at Hillman Library, assembled by Pitt students, celebrates the life and career of K. Leroy Irvis, the first African American Speaker of the House in Pennsylvania and the first Black speaker of any a state house since Reconstruction. A Pitt alumnus (LAW '54) and former trustee, Irvis was a leader in the areas of civil rights, public health, education, and prison reform.

The display, "Discovering K. Leroy Irvis," will be on view this academic term in the K. Leroy Irvis Reading Room on the library's first floor.

The exhibition features photographs, letters, legislative material, publications, two pieces of original sculpture, and campaign literature from the personal papers of Irvis, which are archived and housed within the University Library System. The display illustrates both the adversities that Irvis sought to overcome as well as the triumphs in his public and personal life. His passion for poetry and the arts are also recurrent themes within the exhibition.

Students in a summer course titled Collections Conservation, offered by the School of Information Sciences, studied some of the technical aspects of archival and preservation work, as well as the challenges associated with conservation, museum exhibition design and installation, marketing, and collections management. As a final project, they each submitted a proposal outlining a possible exhibition, based on readings, guest lectures, and their own research on Irvis. Then they combined facets of each proposal to develop the final exhibition.

—By Sharon S. Blake





Pitt's Greek Community Emphasizes Community Service



JIM BURKE/CODE

Peter Hammerle and Alexandra Conlon, both Pitt seniors, are in charge of Greek Week this year. Greek Week, which actually runs throughout the school year, comprises activities that Pitt's fraternities and sororities organize to raise money for charities and other organizations.

By Anthony M. Moore

Junior Chelsea Zimmerman, a member of Pitt's chapter of the Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority, has found a number of excellent service opportunities through the University of Pittsburgh's Greek organizations. Among her favorites: afternoons at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Terrace, an assisted-living facility in Squirrel Hill.

Zimmerman and some of her Alpha Epsilon Phi sisters have planted flowers there, called bingo games, and lent their attentive ears to the facility's elderly residents. The sorority maintains a regular schedule of volunteer activities at the facility.

An English writing and psychology major from Ambler, Pa., Zimmerman is the first to acknowledge that the experience has been as rewarding for her as for those she serves. "It's one of my favorite service activities because I am able to provide the residents with some companionship," she says. "They seem to appreciate having some-

one to tell their stories to because not all of them have families who visit on a regular basis," says Zimmerman, Alpha Epsilon Phi's vice president for programming.

It is this kind of commitment to community service that University officials have come to expect from Pitt's Greek organizations, says Lauren Cavallaro, former coordinator for leadership in Pitt's Office of Cross-Cultural and Leadership Development within Pitt's Division of Student Affairs. (She left her Pitt position Aug. 6.) Over the years, the University's fraternities and sororities have emerged as much more than social clubs, often rising above expectations in their efforts to serve Pitt and its surrounding communities.

In the 2007-08 academic year, Pitt's Greek organizations logged more than 20,000 hours of community service.

In the 2007-08 academic year, Pitt's Greek organizations logged more than 20,000 hours of community service.

"All fraternities and sororities were founded on principles of service and leadership, and Pitt's Greeks have really embraced those core values," says Cavallaro, who served as the coordinator of Pitt's 37 fraternities and sororities. "The exciting thing about Greeks at Pitt is that they are pushing community service. They already have a strong record, and they continue

to show that they want to build on these principles."

In 2005, Pitt's Greek fraternities and sororities together pledged to raise \$500,000 for the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI); to date, \$285,000 has been

raised. Yearlong fundraising activities are held to support UPCI and other charitable organizations, such as Ronald McDonald House, Make a Wish Foundation, and the Pittsburgh Food Bank. Collectively, the fundraising activities are part of so-called Greek Week—even though the activities occur throughout the school year. The fundraisers include events such as the 3K/5K Campus Classic, a dance marathon, and a dodge-ball tournament. Individual Greek organizations determine how their funds will be raised and distributed.

"We encourage them to seek out organizations they want to support," said Cavallaro. "By allowing students to be creative and find activities they enjoy, the prospect of the Greek fraternities and sororities continuing with their fundraising activities is more likely."

Nabil Rahman is the president of Kappa Sigma fraternity. His chapter has recorded more than 4,400 community service hours during the 2007-08 academic year with such activities as blood drives, auctions, and a choreographed dance competition. As a four-year member of Kappa Sigma, he says being active in community service helps make fraternity and sorority members become more well-rounded individuals.

"You're making a contribution to society, but you are also learning about organizing events, communicating with people, and learning things about yourself," says the senior economics major. "It is an all-around learning experience."

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Sept. 8. **Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 11) should be received six working days prior to the desired publication date.** *Happenings* items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to chron@pitt.edu, faxed to 412-624-4895, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-4238 or e-mail aleff@pitt.edu.