

## Pitt Alumnus O'Malley to Receive National Medal of Science

By Morgan Kelly

Pitt alumnus Bert W. O'Malley will be recognized as a recipient of the 2007 National Medal of Science, President George W. Bush has announced. Administered by the National Science Foundation, the National Medal of Science is the nation's highest honor for science and engineering and recognizes individuals for pioneering research. O'Malley is one of eight leaders in science to be honored during a White House ceremony Sept. 29.

O'Malley received his bachelor's degree from Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences in 1959 and his Doctor of Medicine degree from Pitt's School of Medicine in 1963. He is highly regarded in the fields of endocrinology, reproduction, genetic disease, and endocrine cancers. He has helped advance the field of molecular endocrinology by encouraging his colleagues to embrace molecular biology technology.

"The selection of distinguished Pitt alumnus Bert O'Malley for the nation's highest scientific honor visibly and very appropriately recognizes his many outstanding contributions to the field of biological sciences," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "Dr. O'Malley has been honored by his alma mater as the recipient of the Dickson Prize in Medicine, the Philip S. Hench Distinguished Alumnus Award, and the Bicentennial Medallion of Distinction. Most recently, he was named a Legacy Laureate, one of the highest honors our University can bestow upon one of its graduates. Everyone at Pitt is proud of Dr. O'Malley and his distinguished career that has produced so many trailblazing scientific discoveries."

"Bert O'Malley, through his creativity and willingness to ask the most extreme 'What if?' questions, has revolutionized our understanding of hormone function and, more generally, gene expression at the most fundamental level," said Arthur S. Levine, Pitt senior vice chancellor for health sciences and dean of Pitt's School of Medicine. "As Bert himself once said in an interview, 'You have to understand how the cell works to understand the nature of disease.'"

"The O'Malley lab's discoveries are now being applied clinically to understand fertility regulation, reproductive tissue differentiation, and predispositions to reproductive cancers, among other questions. In addition, Bert is the grandfather of what we now call 'team science,' having trained more than 250 students and postdoctoral fellows in a lab where, as he describes it, people took their science seriously and worked collaboratively but still had time for some levity. Many of Bert's trainees have followed in their mentor's footsteps to become the next generation of leaders in the field, perhaps the most singular honor of all," added Levine.

O'Malley currently serves as the Thomas C. Thompson Chair in Cell Biology and chair of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) in Houston, Tex. He also directs BCM's Center for Reproductive Biology and is associate director for basic science at the school's Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center.



Bert W. O'Malley

O'Malley served as president of the Endocrine Society and was instrumental in establishing the journal *Molecular Endocrinology*, one of the most highly cited peer-reviewed biomedical science journals. He has written more than 600 scientific and medical publications and

holds 19 patents for special techniques and inventions related to molecular and cellular biology.

O'Malley has received numerous honors and awards, including the Academia Nazionale dei Lincei Antonio Feltrinelli International Prize for Biology, awarded to

distinguished scholars, and the Brinker International Award for Breast Cancer Research. He also was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland.

O'Malley joins distinguished Pitt-affiliated National Medal of Science winners Herbert W. Boyer (Arts and Sciences '60G, '63G), a former Pitt trustee, cofounder of Genentech, Inc., and biotechnology pioneer; Donald A. Henderson, a University Distinguished Service Professor and Resident Scholar at the UPMC Center for Biosecurity; Paul C. Lauterbur (Arts and Sciences '62G), who shared the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his part in developing magnetic resonance imaging; and Thomas E. Starzl, transplant pioneer

and Distinguished Service Professor of Surgery.

The first National Medal of Science was awarded in 1963, and past honorees include renowned behavioral psychologist B.F. Skinner and artificial heart pioneer Michael E. DeBakey.

## Pitt Part of \$18.5 Million Project to Design Biodegradable Implantable Devices

By Morgan Kelly

University of Pittsburgh researchers will take part in a five-year, \$18.5 million project designed to develop implantable devices made from biodegradable metals. The Pitt researchers will help lead dozens of engineers and doctors from universities and industries across the world in creating devices designed to adapt to physical changes in a patient's body and dissolve once healing has occurred. The project's goal is to reduce the follow-up surgeries and potential complications of major orthopaedic, craniofacial, and cardiovascular procedures and spare millions of patients worldwide added pain and medical expense.

Pitt belongs to the project's central partnership along with the University of Cincinnati (UC) and the project's lead institution, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCAT). Serving as deputy director is William Wagner, deputy director of the Pitt-UPMC McGowan

Institute for Regenerative Medicine and professor of surgery, bioengineering, and chemical engineering in the Swanson School of Engineering.

"The treatment of diseased and traumatized tissues is evolving as medical technologies

increasingly harness the body's regenerative powers," Wagner said. "This effort will extend this approach by combining the mechanical attributes of metals with biologically active agents that together will further encourage the natural healing process."

Jagannathan Sankar, NCAT's Distinguished University Professor of mechanical engineering and director of the Center for Advanced Materials and Smart Structures, will direct the project. UC professor Mark Schulz, codirector of the UC Nanoworld and Smart Materials and Devices Laboratories, will join Wagner as a deputy director.

The project stems from a five-year Engineering Research Center (ERC) grant NCAT received from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in collaboration with Pitt and UC. The highly competitive ERC grant supports large-scale university and industry collaborations on

pioneering technologies. Five grants were awarded this year from 143 applicants; only 29 universities in the past 25 years

have received an ERC. NCAT is the first Historically Black College and University (HCBU) to become an ERC. To coincide with the grant project, NCAT will establish the first bioengineering department at an HCBU with the assistance of faculty members in the Pitt Department of Bioengineering, McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and UC. The NCAT department will offer bachelor's, master's, and PhD degrees.

The ERC project will focus primarily on producing three technologies: biodegradable and self-adapting devices and smart constructs for craniofacial and orthopaedic reconstructive procedures, similarly behaving cardiovascular devices such as stents, and miniaturized sensing systems that monitor and control the safety and effectiveness of biodegradable metals inside the body (a technology that could lead to responsive biosensors that help doctors determine when and where diseases occur in the body).

The biodegradable devices and smart structures are intended to reduce complications and spare patients with conditions ranging from cleft palate and bone fractures to coronary heart disease from undergoing multiple surgeries. For instance, children born with a cleft palate are fitted with hard



William Wagner

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—William Wagner

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# Pitt Offers Roth After-tax 403(b) to Faculty, Staff

The Office of Human Resources is announcing the addition of a Defined Contribution Savings Program option known as the Roth After-tax 403(b). Originally introduced in 2000 as the Roth IRA, the Roth became a permanent tool in retirement planning as a result of a 2006 tax-law change. Working with both Vanguard and TIAA-CREF, Pitt's benefits department will make the Roth available to faculty and staff participating in the Defined Contribution Savings Program, effective Oct. 1, 2008.

Faculty and staff contributions to the savings plan are typically deducted from base pay on a federal pretax basis. Taking deductions on a pretax basis has certain advantages; most notably, pretax deductions reduce federal taxable income, thereby lessening the impact on take-home pay because participants pay less tax. The "downside" to pretax deductions is that contributions and their earnings are taxed when the participant begins to receive retirement income. In most cases, the impact of this taxation is softened because earned income in retirement may be less; therefore the tax basis may be lower.

With the availability of the Roth, participants can create more diversity in the taxation of their portfolios upon retirement.

Roth 403(b) contributions are taken on an after-tax basis. This means that more income is taxed upfront; therefore, take-home pay is less. But withdrawals of contributions are not taxable, and the unique advantage of the Roth 403(b) is this: Earnings attributable to Roth 403(b) contributions may be withdrawn "tax free" in a qualified distribution. A tax-free or "qualified" distribution may occur when the withdrawal is made after attainment of age 59½ and completion of the Roth five-year seasoning period.

Information on the Roth After-tax 403(b) is being mailed to faculty and staff members' homes and will include TIAA-CREF and Vanguard brochures. General guidance is also provided on who may benefit the most from making Roth After-tax 403(b) contributions.

Faculty and staff may choose not to take any action, make a change for Oct. 1, or defer any change to a later date.

The benefits department, along with representatives from TIAA-CREF and Vanguard, will conduct meetings on all campuses in September. The presentation also will be recorded and placed online at [www.hr.pitt.edu/Roth](http://www.hr.pitt.edu/Roth). Meeting times and locations for faculty and staff are listed below.

Campus	Building and Room Location	Day/date	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
Bradford	Frame-Westerberg Commons Bldg., Rms. 118/119	Tues., Sept. 9	11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.	2–3:30 p.m.
Titusville	Haskell Memorial Library, Auditorium	Wed., Sept. 10	10–11:30 a.m.	1–2:30 p.m.
Greensburg	Campana Lecture Hall, Chapel	Thurs., Sept. 11	10:30–11:45 a.m.	2:30–3:45 p.m.
Oakland	Starzl Biomedical Science Tower, Room S100A	Tues., Sept. 16	8–9:30 a.m.	5:30–7 p.m.
Oakland*	Starzl Biomedical Science Tower, Room S100A	Wed., Sept. 17	9:30–11a.m.	2–3:30 p.m.
Oakland	William Pitt Union, Kurtzman Room	Thurs., Sept. 18	10–11:30 a.m.	2–3:30 p.m.
Oakland	Craig Hall, Room 342	Wed., Sept. 24	—	1–2:30 p.m.
Oakland	Craig Hall, Room 342	Thurs., Sept. 25	—	1–2:30 p.m.

\*Meeting is for University of Pittsburgh Physicians. All other meetings are for Pitt faculty and staff.

## Pitt Part of \$18.5 Million Project to Design Biodegradable Implantable Devices

Continued from page 1

metal devices that must be removed and refitted over time. Devices the ERC researchers will explore—crafted from magnesium alloys and other biodegradable metals—would adapt to the body without refitting. Plus, magnesium alloys dissolve after their work is done with no clinical side effects, a feature also beneficial in the cardiovascular realm. Magnesium stents and other supports would restore cardiovascular function without having to be removed and without exposing the patient to the potential complications of having devices left inside the body.

The project pools Pitt's strengths in biomaterials and regenerative medicine stemming from the work conducted in the Swanson School's Departments of Bioengineering, Chemical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering and Materials Sciences, the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and the School of Dental Medicine with NCAT's recognized expertise in metallurgy and UC's research in nano- and sensor technology.

"This project builds on two of the most important research areas in the Swanson School, bio- and mechanical engineering,"

**"This project builds on two of the most important research areas in the Swanson School, bio- and mechanical engineering."**  
—Gerald Holder

said Gerald Holder, the U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering at Pitt. "We are proud to be a part of the team developing the technology that will help people by improving many medical procedures. The impact on our local economy, which is highly dependent on medical-based development, will be very significant. New companies will result from the research done through this ERC, companies that will continue to conduct research, manufacture medical devices, and develop advanced procedures and technology."

Other partners include Germany's Hannover Medical School for support in medical implantology; the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras, India, which will provide a global perspective on the research and application of nano- and biomaterials; and California State University at Los Angeles, a designated Hispanic Serving Institution, which will conduct bioscience research to help engage underrepresented students.

Nearly 30 product development and industrial partners in the nano- and biotechnology market will form a consortium with ERC to provide input for the direction of research and to help transfer ERC technology to patients.



# Pitt Receives \$10 Million NIMH Grant For Schizophrenia Research

By Megan Grote Quatrini

The University of Pittsburgh has received a \$10 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to support a new Conte Center for the Neuroscience of Mental Disorders (CCNMD). The center will focus on developing new treatments for schizophrenia, a disease that affects more than two million adults in the United States alone. The grant will enable Pitt researchers to gain a better understanding of the disease process and to identify pathophysiology-based molecular targets for novel therapeutic interventions for this devastating mental illness.

"Our goal is to understand how schizophrenia affects brain function, to identify new treatments, and to develop better ways to assess the effectiveness of those treatments," said David A. Lewis, Pitt professor of neuroscience and psychiatry and UPMC Endowed Professor of Translational Neuroscience.

"The center provides a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the neurobiology of schizophrenia and includes specialists in molecular neurobiology, systems and computational neuroscience, brain imaging, and clinical psychiatry," he added.

Schizophrenia is a complex and challenging mental illness with clinical features that include difficulty thinking logically, an inability to recognize and express emotions, relate to others, and interpret reality. It is a chronic condition that can be difficult to manage with medication. Schizophrenia has been identified by the World Health Organization as one of the leading causes of years of life lost to disability and premature mortality.

The center's research is based on the widely replicated observation that expression of a gene that synthesizes the neurotransmitter GABA is reduced in the brains of individuals with schizophrenia. GABA, or gamma-aminobutyric acid, is an important neurotransmitter essential for core cognitive processes such as working memory. CCNMD investigators are working to understand how reduced GABA could lead to impairments in brain function that are typical of schizophrenia.

The CCNMD offers a highly interactive scientific environment linking investigators from Pitt's Schools of Medicine and Arts and Sciences as well as the Pitt-Carnegie Mellon University Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition.

**"The center provides a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the neurobiology of schizophrenia and includes specialists in molecular neurobiology, systems and computational neuroscience, brain imaging, and clinical psychiatry."**  
—David A. Lewis



David A. Lewis

Project and core leaders on the grant include Raymond Cho, Guillermo Gonzalez-Burgos, Gordon Frankle, Mary Phillips, Department of Psychiatry; Chester Mathis, Department of Radiology; Allan Sampson, Department of Statistics; and G. Bard Ermentrout, Department of Mathematics, all of the University of Pittsburgh; and Carl Olson, Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, Carnegie Mellon University.

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Graduate and Professional Education: **Mapping the Future**

(This is the seventh article in a series.)

## Launching Pad

# Pitt Law Is Building Momentum for Its Future

## Law school leverages its strengths, draws students from across the country



Law professor Ronald Brand, who is director of Pitt's Center for International Legal Education, works with three students in the law school's Teplitz Memorial Courtroom. From left, Dawn Patterson and Chan Braithwaite, both second-year law students, and Emilie Hammerstein, a third-year student.

By Reid R. Frazier

Ravi Reddy (LAW '06) received a surprise just before beginning his post as a legal officer at the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. It was late 2006, and Reddy learned that his future employer, the director's office of the UN's Department of Justice in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, was woefully short-staffed because of illnesses, injuries, and the holidays. So instead of serving as a judicial inspector in Kosovo, the 25-year-old

Reddy would be covering for a couple of his superiors for his first few months. Reddy was told to brace himself: "They basically said, 'Try to relax while you can, because when you get here, you're not going to have any time,'" says Reddy, now 27.

Fresh out of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Law, which he chose for its strong reputation in international law, Reddy found himself immersed in global issues for

the next five weeks. He worked 14-hour days and most weekends, handling information requests from New York, The Hague, and Kosovo's government. He compiled briefing packets for the UN Security Council, met with war crimes prosecutors, and helped smooth legal wrinkles for the UN in a country whose legal system was being rebuilt from scratch.

"A lot of times my answer would be, 'Let me get back to you on that,'" Reddy says. His trial by fire in Pristina resulted in the director bringing Reddy onto his staff permanently, instead of placing him in the Judicial Inspection Unit. "I guess they thought if I could handle those five weeks, I could handle other things as well," Reddy says.

Allen Black (LAW '03), meanwhile, experienced an unexpected turn in his own career before he attended Pitt's law school. A resident immunologist at Magee Women's Hospital and a professor in Pitt's School of Medicine, Black had been working to obtain a patent for a cancer and HIV drug he had discovered in graduate school. His own patent lawyer suggested that Black

explore a legal career in biotech patent law. Black did just that and committed to switching careers when he applied to Pitt's law school. The school "had a faculty dedicated to teaching intellectual property law and seminars specifically for patent law. Those were the two factors that really influenced my decision," says Black, who holds a Ph.D. in immunology.

Now an associate in the Pittsburgh office of the Philadelphia-based law firm of Pepper Hamilton LLP, Black writes patents for innovations such as bacteria-resistant catfish, RNA drugs, and HIV vaccines. He attributes his success to the real-time experience and specialized training he received at Pitt.

### Competitive Edge

Black and Reddy, though different types of lawyers, were both attracted to Pitt's law school for two of its signature strengths: interna-

tional and comparative law and intellectual property and technology law. The latter has been named in *U.S. News and World Report*

**The law school is gaining a reputation for training lawyers in the highest echelons of private practice, business, government, and the nonprofit world. In more ways than one, the school is becoming a launching pad for students hoping to meet the changing demands of today's legal profession.**

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Allen Black (LAW '03) was a professor of immunology in Pitt's School of Medicine when he switched careers and enrolled in the University's law school. He is now a biotech patent lawyer in the Pittsburgh office of Pepper Hamilton LLP, which is a multipractice law firm with more than 500 lawyers in 11 offices.

## Launching Pad

# Pitt Law Is Building Momentum for Its Future



Pitt law professor Martha Mannix meets with Carly LaBuff, a third-year law student who is a certified legal intern in the law school's Elder Law Clinic. The law school operates six clinics, which pair students with clients unable to afford legal representation. Mannix is codirector of clinical programs and director of the John P. Gismondi Civil Litigation Certificate Program.

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as one of the top 30 programs of its kind for each of the past three years. In addition, Pitt's law school is well known for health law, which consistently has been recognized in *U.S. News* as being among the top 15 programs of its kind in the nation.

Mary Crossley, dean of Pitt's law school, says the experiences of Reddy and Black highlight the school's strategy: "While continuing to offer a broad-based curriculum, we are building on the school's distinctive strengths to attract students from across the country to come to Pitt Law."

These and other strengths have drawn more out-of-state students to apply to the law school than ever before; for example, in the fall of 2008, more than 42 percent of incoming students are from outside of Pennsylvania. At the same time, out-of-state placements for program graduates are rising—at almost 40 percent for the class of 2007—and the law school is gaining a reputation for training lawyers in the highest echelons of private practice, business, government, and the nonprofit world. In more ways than one, the school is becoming a launching pad for students hoping to meet the changing demands of today's legal profession.

Crossley says much is required for students to be prepared for today's legal careers. Students need to develop "the foundational skills of analysis and communications" and to have "the awareness of the central role that law plays in the political, economic, and social structure. Here at Pitt, the opportunity to interact closely with world-class faculty in a variety of different fields is a strong

point of the school," says Crossley. The law faculty ranks among the top 25 in the nation, according to a respected 2007 study by the University of Texas that was based on a standard objective measure of scholarly impact: the number of publication citations for all tenure-stream academic faculty members from 2000 to the present. The Pitt Law faculty's blog (<http://pittlawfaculty.net>) highlights the faculty's scholarly writing and research and service activities.

"We have faculty who are engaged in high-impact service as well," says Crossley, "including those who are testifying before Congress, who have argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, and who influence the law in various other ways. Those same faculty are working with students from their first year in law school."

Those law school faculty members include Professor Jules Lobel, vice president for the U.S. Center for Constitutional Rights, who has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court; Professor Arthur Hellman, a leading national expert on the federal court system, who has been invited to testify before the U.S. House and Senate judiciary committees; Professor John Burkoff, a national expert on criminal law and legal ethics; and Professor Deborah Brake, who has testified before Congress on employment discrimination issues.

## Value-Added Certificate Programs

The law school was a pioneer in specialization when it started a certificate program in

health law in the 1990s. Now, almost half of all law schools offer some type of certificate. To help students tailor their studies to their interests, Pitt's law school now offers certificates in civil litigation and environmental law in addition to health, intellectual property, and international law.

Professor Alan Meisel, who began the health law program at Pitt in 1996, says the programs give students focus. "Even students who knew what they wanted didn't necessarily have the structure to be able to do that," says Meisel, the Dickie, McCamey, and Chilcote Professor of Bioethics and founder and director of Pitt's Center for Bioethics and Health Law. "This was a way to provide some focus for them as they began their careers. Most law school graduates are generalists. These students can bring something to an employer that other students can't."

A health law certificate was a logical offering for the law school, Meisel says, because of the growing need for lawyers

The law school's certificate in intellectual property law capitalizes on another local specialty: the region's growing high-tech sector. "If I want to know what's going on in computer science, bioengineering, or robotics, I have a lot of smart people in Oakland to talk to. That makes my job a lot easier."

—Michael Madison

in the field and the role of Pitt as one of the country's leading medical research institutions. Health law students can take advantage of the University's expansive medical infrastructure through internships, summer placements, and guest lectures.

"We have a huge health system here; it's a great place to get your feet wet," says Valarie Blake, a third-year law student who interned this past summer as counsel in UPMC's legal office. Blake, 25, was a premed major as a Pitt undergraduate, but she changed to health law after a hospital volunteer stint made her realize she wanted the ability to influence how the health care system was run. Blake says the Pitt program has given her a firm grasp of contemporary issues in health care that should be helpful in her career.

The law school's certificate in intellectual property law capitalizes on another local specialty: the region's growing high-tech sector. "If I want to know what's going on in computer science, bioengineering, or robotics, I have a lot of smart people in Oakland to talk to. That makes my job a lot easier," says Michael Madison, the law school's associate dean for research and professor of intellectual property law. Madison worked for a decade in the San Francisco Bay area and Silicon Valley as a business and technology lawyer, specializing in the business and science issues surrounding intellectual property law. He joined the Pitt faculty in 1998 and says he wants his students "to get engaged in building value and making stuff that people will want to buy. They need to understand the business issues because their counterparts in Silicon Valley are going to understand the business issues."

Black, the patent lawyer, is one of many intellectual property students who came to

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"We have faculty who are engaged in high-impact service as well, including those who are testifying before Congress, who have argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, and who influence the law in various other ways. Those same faculty are working with students from their first year in law school."

—Mary Crossley



Mary Crossley

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the school with science and engineering backgrounds. Legal writing is an area that Madison and other professors emphasized, Black says, adding that “99.9 percent of us are never going to stand before a judge or jury. What differentiates you as an attorney is how well you can communicate with a pen and paper.”

### A Global View

As is the case in many other disciplines, legal education now requires an international perspective. Pitt’s Center for International Legal Education gives students a broad entrée into the world of international law.

“I don’t think there’s a student in law school who, in his or her lifetime, won’t encounter something that crosses borders, and students are going to encounter this more and more,” says Ronald Brand, professor of law and director of the center. “Borders are porous, and with the Internet there are no borders in international transactions. All the traditional practices of law that were aimed at people across the street are now aimed at people across the globe.”

The center offers an LLM (Master of Laws) degree for graduates of foreign law schools. “One of the United States’ most important exports is the rule of law,” says Crossley. “By immersing foreign-trained lawyers in the American legal system for a year and then sending them back home, we see the LLM as a way of exporting the rule of law to developing democracies.”

Because of the center’s extensive international connections, Pitt law students find work across the globe, including in the UN, the U.S. Department of State, and some of the world’s biggest international law firms.

Reddy, the UN legal officer in Kosovo, exemplifies how a student’s opportunities in Pitt’s law school can jump-start a young career. While at Pitt, Reddy participated in internships, legal programs, and legal competitions overseas. With the school’s blessing, he earned an LLM from the University of Nottingham in England. In his third year, he was chosen to join an international moot team (a type of legal debate practiced before a mock tribunal of judges), where he researched and drafted legal memoranda, and presented oral arguments in Vienna. That same year, he traveled to Haiti as part of a team of law students researching the independence of Haiti’s judiciary. He also landed an internship in Serbia with the UN. Three years, five countries, and a foot in the door. Reddy says his professors gave him not only the legal skills for his demanding UN job, but also pushed him to build connections and aim high in his career: “I never would have been in this position if it weren’t for the skills that Pitt law taught me.”

### The Human Touch

In addition to teaching students the theoretical skills needed for law, the law school also offers students real-world experience through its clinical programs. These clinics—in tax, environmental law, family law, community economic development,

health law, and elder law—pair students with clients unable to afford representation. The students, under the supervision of Pitt faculty, meet with clients and file legal pleadings in actual cases.

“The clinics are a huge asset to the law school because they really help give students a way to practice what they’ve learned in courses with actual clients,” says Crossley. “They also provide an invaluable public service to the community by providing pro bono legal representation to those who need it.”

The clinics are a valuable bridge between the classroom and the courtroom, says Norma Scales Schmidt (LAW ’07), who took the elder law clinic and now focuses on special needs and elder law in private practice.

“Reading about a situation is different from actually sitting down with someone who is telling you about a situation,” says Schmidt. Her clinical experience, working on a guardianship case before the Allegheny County Orphans’ Court, helped her form the techniques she uses today. “You learn things that you’ll use, such as how to conduct an initial client meeting and the techniques that can make those meetings more effective,” she says. Elder law comprises many functions—preparing wills, powers of attorney, and living wills—that involve coaxing clients to divulge details about their private lives. “We’re talking about some-

thing that’s not always easy to talk about: end-of-life issues, how much money they have, how much debt they have. We learned how to delicately ask personal information from people,” Schmidt adds.

Martha Mannix, a clinical professor of law and codirector of the school’s clinical programs, says the clinics teach students the basics of “lawyering”—meeting with clients, taking depositions, handling expert witnesses, and representing clients at hearings. In 2006, students from Pitt’s health law clinic, who were representing a client with severe brittle diabetes, succeeded in convincing the Medicare program to change its national policy and agree to cover solitary pancreas transplants for such patients under certain circumstances.

“Here they have to sift through facts that may be irrelevant or contradictory and figure out which ones are relevant, then frame all this in a narrative that can make a legal case for their client,” Mannix says. Perhaps most importantly, by linking students with people in need of their professional help, Mannix says “the clinics remind them of why they went to law school in the first place.”

### Broadband Spreads the Word

JURIST (jurist.law.pitt.edu), a unique

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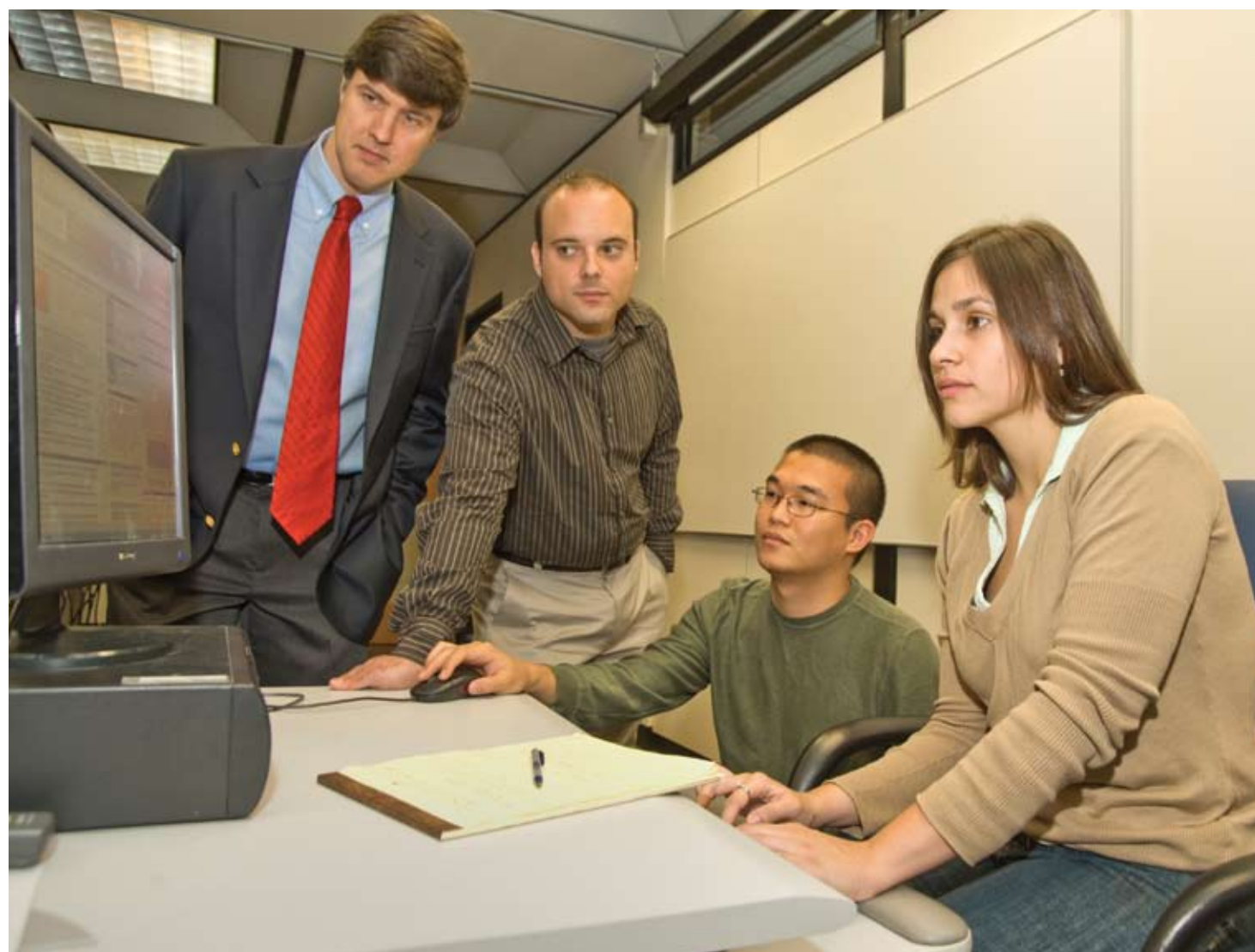
—Alan Meisel

online legal news service written and edited by Pitt law student volunteers, is another valuable learning experience that serves a vital public service. Millions of readers around the world connect to the Web site to get current reports and expert analysis of breaking legal developments. Pitt law students research, write, and edit JURIST, which provides brief legal news articles and links to pertinent documents, as well as commentary by leading scholars.

JURIST was started by Pitt law professor Bernard Hibbitts in 1996 as a digital archive targeted at law professors. It has evolved into a legal news and research

database that eschews sensationalism and has covered such breaking stories of wide-ranging jurisprudential import as the Clinton impeachment, the 2000 presidential recount, and the passage of terrorism laws after 9/11. The Web site ramped up in 2005, hiring a full-time professional staffer to oversee the work of the 40 or so students who research, write, and edit the site. JURIST won a “Webby” Award in 2006 and has been named among the “Top 100 Web Sites for Lawyers,” by the

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Pitt law professor Bernard Hibbitts (far left), publisher and editor in chief of JURIST, the school’s online legal news service, stands with (from left) acting news director Joe Shaulis (LAW ’08) and senior editors Michael Sung and Caitlin Price, both third-year law students.

JIM BURKE/CODE

## Launching Pad

# Pitt Law Is Building Momentum for Its Future

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*ABA Journal*, the magazine of the American Bar Association. It was flooded with readers after the execution of Saddam Hussein, and this year it took a leading role in providing in-depth coverage of demonstrations by Pakistani lawyers against the government.

Hibbitts says in addition to providing balanced, scholarly coverage of important legal events, JURIST is a useful teaching tool. "It teaches our students how to research effectively and to write clearly and succinctly under real-time pressure. When they're attorneys, they're going to be faced with mountains of information which they'll have to explain in plain English to a client or a judge."

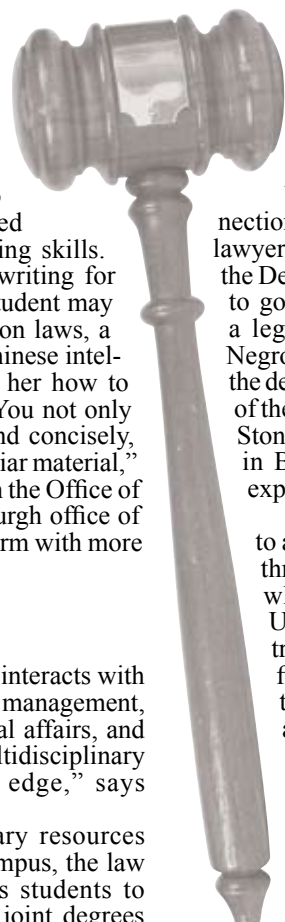
Jeannie Shawl (LAW '05), the Web site's executive director from 2005 to 2008, said she initially joined JURIST to improve her writing skills. The unpredictable nature of writing for JURIST—on a given day, a student may write about Nigerian corruption laws, a UN war crimes tribunal, or Chinese intellectual property law—taught her how to think on her feet, she says. "You not only learn how to write quickly and concisely, but also how to handle unfamiliar material," says Shawl, who now works in the Office of General Counsel at the Pittsburgh office of K&L Gates, an international firm with more than 1,700 lawyers.

## Making Key Connections

"More and more, the law interacts with economics, public policy and management, health policy, and international affairs, and attorneys who develop a multidisciplinary perspective have a crucial edge," says Crossley.

Because of the exemplary resources that are available on Pitt's campus, the law school is able to connect its students to other disciplines by offering joint degrees with the University's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Joseph M.

**The law school links graduates to an extensive professional network through its more than 8,500 alumni, who represent every state in the United States and 40 foreign countries and work for corporations, law firms, nonprofit organizations, and the government.**



Katz Graduate School of Business, School of Social Work, Graduate School of Public Health, and Center for Bioethics and Health Law. Joint degrees also are offered with two schools at Carnegie Mellon University (see degree box at right).

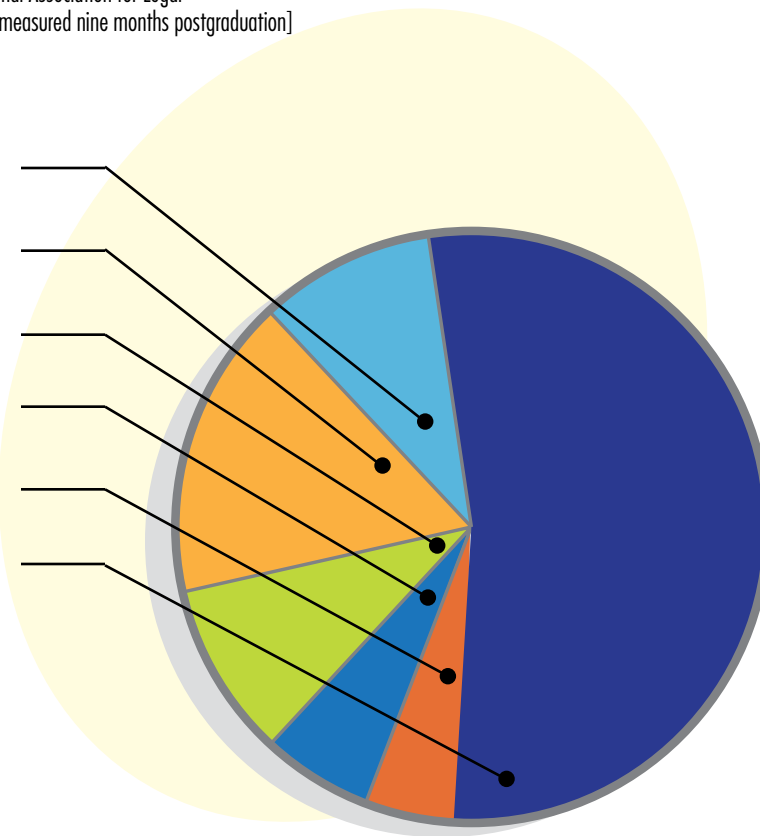
The law school connects students in other ways as well, often by providing unique global opportunities that stem from the school's relationships with an array of faculty, alumni, and business and organizational contacts. Through the Center for International Legal Education, for example, Corin Stone (LAW '98), while still a student, obtained an internship at the Private International Law Conference in The Hague, the Netherlands, where she made connections with U.S. Department of State lawyers. Subsequently, she was hired by the Department of State and volunteered to go to Baghdad in 2004 to serve as a legal advisor to Ambassador John Negroponte at the U.S. Embassy. Now the deputy general counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Stone says she might never have been in Baghdad had it not been for her experience in Pitt's law school.

The law school links graduates to an extensive professional network through its more than 8,500 alumni, who represent every state in the United States and 40 foreign countries and work for corporations, law firms, nonprofit organizations, and the government. The links span a wide breadth of categories and expertise, according to Crossley. "These connections are one of the important strengths we are re-emphasizing. We want to be able to help support our students' pursuit of opportunities, no matter where in the world they go or what area of practice they choose when they graduate."

## Pitt Law Employment Categories: Class of 2007

[as reported by the National Association for Legal Career Professionals and measured nine months postgraduation]

Judicial Clerk	11.1%
Business	17.3%
Government	8.0%
Public Interest	5.3%
Academic	4.0%
Private Practice	54.2%



## Degree Programs Offered by the University of Pittsburgh School of Law

- **Juris Doctor (JD)**
- **Master of Laws for Foreign Law Graduates (LLM)**—The program provides lawyers who have obtained law degrees outside of the United States with an opportunity to study common law in a U.S. context.
- **Doctor of Jurisprudence (JSD)**—The law school's most advanced law degree, the JSD is designed for aspiring legal academics who want to pursue advanced independent study, research, and writing.
- **Master of Studies in Law (MSL)**—The program educates students who use law—or who will use law—in their careers and who want to learn more about legal studies but who do not want to become lawyers.

### Joint-degree Programs

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

- JD/Master of Public Administration
- JD/Master of Public and International Affairs
- JD/Master of International Development

Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business

- JD/Master of Business Administration

Graduate School of Public Health

- JD/Master of Public Health

School of Social Work

- JD/Master of Social Work

The Center for Bioethics and Health Law

- JD/Master of Arts in Bioethics

Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University

- JD/Master of Business Administration

The Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University

- JD/Master of Science in Public Policy and Management
- JD/Master of Arts Management

### Certificate Programs

The John P. Gismondi Civil Litigation Certificate Program  
Environmental Law, Science, and Policy  
Health Law  
Intellectual Property and Technology Law  
International and Comparative Law

### Clinics

Civil Practice Clinic - Elder Law or Health Law  
Community Economic Development Clinic  
Environmental Law Clinic  
Family Law Clinic  
Tax Clinic



## PITT AT THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING



The Steven Spielberg Gallery in New York City's Paley Center for Media was the setting for an Aug. 8 Pitt School of Law reception, held in conjunction with the American Bar Association (ABA) annual meeting. Alumni and other practitioners joined Pitt law school Dean Mary Crossley in congratulating Pitt law professor William V. Luneburg Jr. on being appointed chair-elect of the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice. Clockwise from top left are Pitt adjunct professors Rodney Akers (left), deputy general counsel in Pennsylvania's Office of General Counsel, and Jack Young of Sandler, Reiff & Young P.C., Washington, D.C.; (top right photo, from right) Gerald T. Hathaway of Littler Mendelson P.C. in New York City, Pitt professor Bernard Hibbitts, and Bruce Lord Wilder (LAW '86) of Wilder & Mahood, Pittsburgh; (middle right photo) Mark A. Nadeau of PLA Piper in Phoenix speaking with Dean Mary Crossley; and (bottom right photo) Luneburg (left).



# Happenings



**Continuous Livingroom Scene, Mark Manders, 55th Carnegie International, through January 11, 2009**

## Concerts

**Shall We Dance?** River City Brass Band, 7:30 p.m. **Sept. 11**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 412-322-7222, [www.rcbb.com](http://www.rcbb.com).

**Discuss**, electronic duo blends retro and electronic elements, 2 p.m. **Sept. 14**, First Floor Quiet Reading Room, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Sunday Afternoon Music Series, [www.clpgh.org](http://www.clpgh.org).

## Exhibitions

**Silver Eye Center for Photography**, 250 Years of Plants: Botanical Works by Regional Photographers, through **Sept. 13**; Eloquent Eggs & Disintegrating Dice: Photographs by Rosamond Purcell, through **Nov. 29**, 1015 E. Carson St., South Side, 412-431-1810, [www.silvereye.org](http://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](http://www.pghfilmmakers.org).

**Westmoreland Museum of American Art**, reception for *Born of Fire Oktoberfest Lagerbier*, 6-9 p.m. **Sept. 20**, reservations required; *Painting in the United States*, through **Oct. 19**, 221 N. Main St., Greensburg, 724-837-1500 ext. 33, [www.wmu-seumaa.org](http://www.wmu-seumaa.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](http://www.frickart.org).

**Carnegie Museum of Art**, 55th Carnegie International, through **Jan. 11**,



**The Chief, Pittsburgh Public Theater September 16-21**



**Shear Madness, Cabaret at Theatre Square, through September 28**

4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org).

**Mattress Factory**, *Inner & Outer Space*, through **Jan. 11**, 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, 412-231-3169, [www.mattress.org](http://www.mattress.org).

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**"EU Budgetary Policy and Fiscal Federalism,"** Ivana Simikova, Technical University of Liberec in the Czech Republic, noon **Sept. 9**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt's European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center, [kal70@pitt.edu](mailto:kal70@pitt.edu).

**"Intelligence and Evolutionary Innovation,"** Nicholas Rescher, Pitt professor of philosophy, 12:05 p.m. **Sept. 9**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, [pittcntr@pitt.edu](mailto:pittcntr@pitt.edu).

**"Post-9/11 Politics and the Political Representation of Muslim Women in the West,"** Melanie Hughes, Pitt professor of sociology, noon **Sept. 11**, 2431 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Department of Sociology, [www.sociology.pitt.edu](http://www.sociology.pitt.edu).

**"Reconceptualizing and Managing Incidental Findings of Genetic Research,"** Lisa S. Parker, Pitt professor of human genetics, noon **Sept. 11**, Room 113 School of Law, Pitt's Center for Bioethics and Health Law, 412-647-5785.

**"Transatlantic Perspectives on Health Care Reform: The EU and U.S. Compared,"** panel discussion, noon **Sept. 11**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt's European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center, [kal70@pitt.edu](mailto:kal70@pitt.edu).

**"From the Bench to Bedside and Beyond: A Vision for Geriatrics,"** Neil M. Resnick, director of Pitt's Institute on Aging, inaugural lecture of Thomas Detre Endowed Chair in Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, 4:30 p.m. **Sept. 11**, Provost's Inaugural Lectures Series, 2500 Posvar Hall, 412-624-5750.

**"Preliminary Results of the Spaced Education Progress Testing (SEPT) Trial,"** B. Price Kerfoot, Harvard Medical School professor of surgery, noon-1 p.m. **Sept. 12**, Fourth Floor, Lecture Room 3, Scaife Hall, Medical Education Grand Rounds, Pitt's School of Medicine, 412-648-9000, [www.megr.pitt.edu](http://www.megr.pitt.edu).

**"Classical Mechanics Is Lagrangian; It Is Not Hamiltonian,"** Erik Curiel, visiting fellow in Pitt's Center for Philosophy of Science, 12:05 p.m. **Sept. 12**, 187R Cathedral of Learning, Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, [pittcntr@pitt.edu](mailto:pittcntr@pitt.edu).

**Claudia Rankine**, poet, 7 p.m. **Sept. 12**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, 2008-09 Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series, [nrw1@pitt.edu](mailto:nrw1@pitt.edu) or [oaks@pitt.edu](mailto:oaks@pitt.edu).

**"The Dutch Presidency and Turkish Accession,"** Michael Wright, doctoral student in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, noon **Sept. 16**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pizza and Politics Series, Pitt's European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center, 412-648-7422, [slund@pitt.edu](mailto:slund@pitt.edu).

**Address by the French Ambassador to the United States**, His Excellency Pierre Vimont, 1 p.m. **Sept. 15**, William Pitt Union Lower Lounge, Pitt's European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center, [kal70@pitt.edu](mailto:kal70@pitt.edu).

**"Maintaining Good Health With Self-shiatsu,"** Stephanie Ulmer, Pitt Center for Integrative Medicine shiatsu therapist, 5:30 p.m. **Sept. 18**, Center for Integrative Medicine, Suite 310, 580 S. Aiken Ave., 412-623-3023, <http://integrativemedicine.upmc.com>.

**"The Eradication of Smallpox: What We Should Have Learned but Didn't,"** Donald Henderson, Pitt professor of public health and medicine, Resident Scholar at UPMC's Center for Biosecurity, 3 p.m. **Sept. 23**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, 2008 John C. Cutler

Memorial Lecture in Global Health, 412-383-8849, [www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/internationalweek](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/internationalweek).

**"Responsible Conduct of Research for Emerging Investigators: Understanding Relations Between Academia and Industry,"** Barbara E. Barnes, assistant vice chancellor for continuing education in Pitt's School of Health Sciences, and Leland L. Glenna, professor of rural sociology at Penn State University, 9 a.m.-noon **Oct. 1**, J.W. Connolly Ballroom, Alumni Hall, SCIENCE 2008 Preview Event for Postdoctoral Fellows and Graduate Students, Pitt Office of Academic Career Development, 412-648-8486, register at [www.science2008.pitt.edu/specialevents.html](http://www.science2008.pitt.edu/specialevents.html).

## Miscellaneous

**Reception for European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center**, for students and faculty, 3-5 p.m. **Sept. 9**, 4130 Posvar Hall, [www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/events](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/events).

**Reception for Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures**, for undergraduate students and faculty, noon-1:30 p.m. **Sept. 11**, information, music, and lunch provided, Room 1228 Cathedral of Learning, 412-624-5225, [lud3@pitt.edu](mailto:lud3@pitt.edu).

**Free Salsa Lessons**, 9:15 p.m. **Sept. 11, 18, and 25**, Galleria on First Floor Posvar Hall, Pitt's Center for Latin American Studies, 412-648-7394, [lavst12@pitt.edu](mailto:lavst12@pitt.edu).

**National Society for Histotechnology Annual Symposium**, **Sept. 12-18**, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd., Pittsburgh, [www.nsh.org](http://www.nsh.org).

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**High Kings of Dublin**, theatrical performance, 8 p.m., **Sept. 15**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**The Chief**, one-man play celebrating life of NFL and Pittsburgh legend, Art Rooney Sr., written by Rob Zellers and Gene Collier, **Sept. 16-21**, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-316-1600, [www.ppt.org](http://www.ppt.org).

**Death of a Salesman** by Arthur Miller, directed by playwright's son, Robert Miller, through **Sept. 21**, Pittsburgh Playhouse, 222 Craft Ave., Oakland, 412-621-4445, [www.pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://www.pittsburghplayhouse.com).

**Untitled (living sculpture), Marisa Merz, Life on Mars, 55th Carnegie International, through January 11, 2009**



**Pine Swamp Warbler, Audobon print Hillman Library through September 22**

**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](http://www.clocabaret.com).

**Wicked**, musical, through **Oct. 5**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America, 412-456-6666, [www.broadwayacrossamerica.com](http://www.broadwayacrossamerica.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](http://www.citytheatrecompany.org).

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Lorenzo Soletti**, Department of Bioengineering, "Development of a Stem-cell Based Tissue-engineered Vascular Graft," noon **Sept. 8**, Main Conference Room, 5th Floor, Bridgeside Point Building.

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

**Jia Li**, Department of Biostatistics, "Statistical Issues in Meta-analysis for Identifying Signature Genes in the Integration of Multiple Genomic Studies," 10 a.m. **Sept. 11**, 325A Parran Hall.

**Nattapong Swangmuang**, School of Information Sciences, "A Location Fingerprint Framework Towards Efficient Wireless Indoor Positioning Systems," 10 a.m. **Sept. 11**, Room 52 School of Information Sciences Building.



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## Pitt's Orientation Week: Words of Wisdom, Food, Fitness, and Fun

Orientation Week (Aug. 19-24) for new students comprised a variety of activities. Comedian and magician Derek Hughes evoked much laughter from students (right) during an Aug. 22 show sponsored by the Pitt Program Council. Meanwhile, fried chicken and a large buffet drew students and families (middle right) to the Chancellor's Welcome Picnic on Aug. 20 at the Petersen Events Center. Fitness wasn't forgotten during the week. There was a Tai Chi workshop as well as running, hip-hop, and exercise sessions (bottom right). Student Alexander Lee (below) did an impromptu performance on stage during an Aug. 21 Tropical Luau on the William Pitt Union lawn and patio.



Pitt freshmen were welcomed to the University during an Aug. 20 convocation in the Petersen Events Center by (below, clockwise from top)

Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kathy W. Humphrey, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher, and Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.



PHOTOS BY MARY JANE BERRY/CODE  
EXCEPT AS NOTED



JIM BURKE/CODE



**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Sept. 15. **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).