Pitt Among Top 10 U.S. Universities In Federal R&D Obligations

By Morgan Kelly

The University of Pittsburgh is among the top 10 U.S. university recipients of federal science and engineering research and development obligations, according to the National Science Foundation’s just-released annual survey, based on figures for fiscal year 2006. The ranking connotes meritorious research undertaken at an institution by tallying the competitive grants and awards faculty researchers have received for successful proposals. The new survey positions Pitt higher than last year’s 11th-place ranking, which was based on fiscal year 2005, and higher still than its 12th-place ranking in the previous two years.

“Research is the area of institutional activity that most clearly distinguishes our mission from that of most other institutions of higher learning,” said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. “The recent NSF ranking reflects Pitt’s continuing rise among the ranks of the country’s leading research universities. It also reflects the talent, commitment, and high academic ambition of our faculty—and represents a record of which we are extremely proud.”

Successful Pitt proposals accounted for nearly $427 million of the $25.4 billion awarded. Joining Pitt in the top 10 are Johns Hopkins University, the University of Washington, the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California at Los Angeles, Duke University, Columbia University, Stanford University, and the University of California at San Francisco.

In the survey, the schools ranked from 11th to 20th are Harvard University, Washington University in St. Louis, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of California at San Diego, the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Yale University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Colorado, the University of Minnesota, and Vanderbilt University.

Pitt Slavery Exhibition Opens This Weekend

By Sharon S. Blake

The pioneering University of Pittsburgh exhibition Free at Last! Slavery in Pittsburgh in the 18th and 19th Centuries opens this weekend at the Senator John Heinz History Center with an invitation reception and program Oct. 24. The exhibition—whose focus is the 55 handwritten records discovered last year in the Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds Office that trace this region’s involvement with Black slavery and indentured servitude—will be on display Oct. 25, 2006-April 5, 2009, in the McGunn Gallery of the Heinz History Center, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District.

The reception and program are hosted by Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill in association with Pitt’s African American Alumni Council (AAAC), with the reception beginning at 4 p.m. and the program at 5 p.m.

Invited guests—community and corporate leaders, Pitt African American alumni from throughout the state, members of Pitt’s Board of Trustees, and others—will assemble in the museum’s fifth-floor Mueller Event Center. Hill will serve as master of ceremonies in a program that includes remarks from Nordenberg; Samuel W. Black, curator of the History Center’s African American Collections; and Allegheny County Department of Real Estate Manager Valerie McDonald Roberts, who is in South Africa and will address the gathering via a videotaped message. McDonald Roberts was Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds when the historic documents were found, and she, in turn, transferred them to the Heinz History Center.

Continued on page 3

David H. Perlmutter Elected To the Institute of Medicine

By Marc Lukasik

David H. Perlmutter, the Vira I. Heinz Professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, has been elected to the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM). Election to the IOM is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

Also the scientific director and physician-in-chief at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Perlmutter is one of only 65 new members and five foreign associates announced at the IOM’s Oct. 13 annual meeting. Current active members elect new members from among candidates nominated for their professional achievement and commitment to service.

“David Perlmutter’s election to the Institute of Medicine is one of the highest forms of recognition that can be earned by a physician-scientist, and, given his major contributions to pediatric research, it is an honor that is very well deserved,” said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. “In addition to achieving stature as a pioneering researcher in his field, Dr. Perlmutter is a highly regarded academic leader here at Pitt, who has helped build one of the fastest-growing and most respected programs of pediatric research in the country.”

Perlmutter, who joined the Pitt faculty and Children’s Hospital in 2001, has carried out basic research on alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency, the most common genetic liver disease of childhood, for more than 20 years. His work has led to many new concepts about the pathobiology of liver disease in this deficiency and has suggested several new concepts for chemoprophylaxis of chronic liver injury, hepatocellular carcinoma, and emphysema in this genetic disease. He is the principal investigator on three National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants in this area and also now holds four other NIH grants, including the Child Health Research Center of Excellence Award for training pediatrician-scientists in the molecular basis of pediatric disease.

Perlmutter has led an effort to expand Children’s Hospital’s basic and clinical research program so that it can investigate the molecular basis of pediatric disease and develop innovative new therapies for childhood illnesses. Under his leadership, Children’s Hospital has one of the fastest-growing pediatric research programs in the country in terms of NIH funding.

“I can think of no one more deserving of such an honor than Dr. Perlmutter, whose basic research has elucidated the fundamental etiology of pediatric liver disease and whose translation of that knowledge into clinical practice has improved the health of countless children,” said Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences
Pitt’s Ridgway Center Sets Talk On U.S. National Security Policy

The University of Pittsburgh’s Matthew W. Ridgway Center for International Studies will present a free public lecture at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 23 by Brian Holzner, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, as part of the center’s Speakers Series.

Holzner, whose work focuses on U.S. national security policy with an emphasis on the Middle East, Iraq, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Pakistan, will talk “Transnational Change to Security,” which will take place in Room 1500 Posvar Hall.

Holzner is cousin with Nancy Soderberg of The Prosperity Agenda: What the World Wants From America—and What We Need to Deliver (Wiley, 2000), a book that is 5.2 million copies in print and sold in 52 countries.

Additional information is available on the Ridgway Center’s Web site, www.ridgwaycenter.pitt.edu.

The Ridgway Center is part of Pitt’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

—Amanda Lef

Inaugural Burkart Holzner Lecture to Address Technological Progress

In honor of Pitt Professor Emeritus Burkart Holzner, director of the University Center for International Studies from 1980 to 2000, the University of Pittsburgh will present the inaugural lecture of the Burkart Holzner Lecture Series on International Issues. The free public lecture, “Deflecting Technological Progress: Greener, Profitable, Sustainable,” presented by Ernst von Weizsäcker, dean of the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara, will be held at 11 a.m. Oct. 21, 2500 Posvar Hall.

Holzner is Distinguished Service Professor of International Studies and professor emeritus of sociology and public and international affairs at Pitt. He joined the Pitt faculty in 1961, founding the Unit: Studies in social theory, the sociology of knowledge, and international affairs. He taught and lectured at many universities abroad, among them the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Freiburg, Germany, Hanze University Groningen, the Netherlands, and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing.

“Dr. Holzner’s extraordinary contributions and commitment to international studies in establishing the University of Pittsburgh as a leader in international education,” says Lawrence Fack, Pitt senior director of International Programs, director of the University Center for International Studies, and acting director of the Global Studies Program.

Von Weizsäcker previously served as policy director in the United Nations Center for Science and Technology for Development and was director of the Institute for Environmental Policy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Additional information is available on Weizsäcker’s Web site, www.drivebypress.org. For more information about Drive by Press, visit www.drivebypress.org. 

—Sharon S. Blake

The Chronicle is the newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

Pitt Board’s Nominating Committee Advances Candidates for Election as Emeritus Trustees

By John Fedele

The Nominating Committee of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees on Thursday nominated three Pitt alumni—Steven C. Beering, J. Roger Glunt, and Dick Thornburgh—as candidates for election as emeritus trustees of the board. The full board will vote on the nominations at its Oct. 31 meeting.

Beering is president emeritus and professor of pharmacology at Purdue University—where he was president from 1983 until 2000, when he retired from that position. Beering also is a professor and pro- fessor of medicine at Indiana University. Prior to becoming president of Purdue, he served for a decade as dean of medicine and director of the Indiana University Medical Center. Since 2002, he has been a member of the National Science Foundation’s management board of the National Science Foundation, and has served as NSF chair since 2006. The NSF also serves as the national science policy advisor to the President of the United States.

Beering has held numerous other prestigious national offices, including chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Association of American Universities and former regent of the National Library of Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Beering was elected a Pitt trustee in 2000 and served until June 2008. During his tenure, he was a member of the Executive, Committee, chaired the Health Sciences Committee, and served on the Academic Affairs/Libraries committee, the Institutional Advancement Committee, and the Ad Hoc Risk and Compliance Committee.

Beering received the Philip S. Hench Distinguished Alumni Award from Pitt’s Medical Alumni Association in 1983 and the Pitt Bicentennial Medalion of Distinction in 1987. Pitt named him a Distinguished Alumni Fellow in 1996 and a Legacy Laureate in 2002, and he is an honoree in the Pitt Alumni Hall Legacy Society. He received recognition and appreciation for his service on Pitt’s Board of Trustees, Beering was awarded the Trustee Medalion earlier this year.

Glunt is president of both Glunt Develop- ments, Inc., and Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP, served for a decade as dean of medicine and director of the National Library of Medicine, and has served as NSF chair since 2006. The NSF also serves as the national science policy advisor to the President of the United States.

Glunt was awarded the Cloward medalion in 2005, and he was named a Distinguished Alumni Fellow in 2006.

Glunt established the Nancy Glunt Hoffman Memorial Fund to help at least one 1963 alum- nus of Pitt’s School of Nursing who waged a courageous battle with cancer, and to help posit the University as a model in oncology nursing. He was named the Pitt Alumni Asso- ciation Volunteer of the Year for 2000, and he received the Honorary Alumni Award from the Pitt School of Nursing in 2002 and the Alumni of Distinction Award from the Pitt Band Council in 2003.

Thornburgh, currently of counsel with the law firm Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP, served as the Governor of Pennsylvania from 1979 to 1987 and, from

Continued on page 5
Pitt’s Homecoming 2008 to Light Up Skies, Offer Reunions, Football, Other Activities

By Patricia Lomando White

The University of Pittsburgh will welcome alumni, students, and friends with a first-ever Welcome Back reception, a fireworks-and-laser show, the Homecoming Extravaganza, a career-networking event, and more.

Homecoming festivities begin with a Legacy Laureate Leadership Panel Discussion from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 23 in Posvar Hall, with this year’s Legacy Laureates recognized for their outstanding personal and professional accomplishments—and Pitt alumni and student leaders participating. From 6 to 8 p.m., alumni will offer insights into their occupations at Pathway to Professionals: A Career Networking Event, to be held in Alumni Hall’s Connelly Ballroom.

The free Pitt Program Council fireworks-and-laser show with explosions of color and music, an annual favorite, begins at 9:30 p.m. Oct. 24 from the closed-off Bighill Boulevard between the Cathedral of Learning and William Pitt Union. The night festivities continue at the Homecoming Extravaganza at 10 p.m. in the William Pitt Union Union, with Univision Night, music, and refreshments.

The African American Alumni Council (AAAC), in conjunction with Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nor- denberg, is sponsoring an extensive orientation program in August to help international students make a successful transition to Pitt. This year’s orientation includes an online orientation program and a one-week intensive orientation on campus.

Throughout homecoming, the School of Law Reunion Weekend and reception, Swanson School of Engineering Homecoming reception, College of Business Administration Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business “3P” Luncheon, School of Dental Medicine reception and tours, School of Education Fireworks Watch, School of Pharmacy Banana Split Party, and Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) and College of General Studies (CGS) 50th anniversary receptions. For information on the GSPIA event, visit www.gspsia50.com; for information on the CGS event, visit www.alumni.pitt.edu/homecoming/schedule.html?event=2161146.0

The Cathedral of Learning lights up Pittsburgh’s skyline with its artful illumination by German design team Friedrich Foerster and Sabine Weissinger for ARTLUMIERE. The Oct. 15 lighting, part of the Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights, will appear on the Forbes Avenue and Boulevard Boulevard sides of the Cathedral as well as on the Stephen Foster Memorial. The above design will be displayed during Homecoming festivities and followed by a second design. The Cathedral is one of 20 Illumination sites throughout the Pittsburgh region.

The University of Pittsburgh African American Alumni Council (AAAC) will honor five Pitt faculty and administrators with the Sankofa Award during the University’s Homecoming 2008 AAAC Fellowship Brunch and Sankofa Awards Presentation, Until We Meet Again, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, in the Hilton Hotel’s Duquesne Room, 600 Commonwealth Place, Downtown. The event is part of the University’s Homecoming 2008, held Oct. 23-26.

The Sankofa Award honors members of the University community who have made outstanding educational support and service to students of African descent. Honorees are Toi Derricotte, professor of English in Pitt’s Department of English in the School of Arts and Sciences; Laurence A. Glasco, a professor of history in Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences; Kathy W. Humphrey, vice provost and dean of students at the University; Sandra Murray, professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Physiology in the University’s School of Medicine; and Betsy Porter, director of Pitt’s Office of Financial Aid. Among the AAAC Sankofa weekend activities is the Apple Seed Project, a community service initiative in which alumni share their time and talents with students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 24, by opening the Free at Last Slavery in Pittsburgh in the 18th and 19th Centuries, an exhibition at the Senator John Heinz History Center. Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill, will host a by-invitation reception and program Oct. 24 followed by the opening of Free at Last.

Recognizing the importance of students maintaining strong ties with family and friends, the University of Pittsburgh’s Office of International Services (OIS) and Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) will host the Homeickness Prevention Phone Call Program for international students from 9 to 11 a.m. Oct. 26 in Room 342 Craig Hall. The service is being provided during Homecoming and Family Weekend, when thousands of alumni and families are expected to visit the University. The program will provide first-year international undergraduates with an opportunity to place a free, 10-minute overseas phone call. Online registration is required.

The Homeickness Prevention Program started as a small way to show IA’s support for students who sacrifice day-to-day contact with their families abroad to pursue an education at Pitt. It was created in 2003 by Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, “IA is pleased to provide this opportunity for our international students because we know these conversations with loved ones mean a lot to our students.”

Homecoming Weekend is an essential time for taking steps to prevent homeickness among students who can’t routinely contact their loved ones, said George Kacenga, assistant director for International Admissions at Pitt. “One of OIS’ goals is to help make the University of Pittsburgh a home for our international students, and this program is just one way of realizing that goal.”

Toi Derricotte is a professor of English at Pennsylvania State University. She has received the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship and was a member of the 2007 Bread and Roses Tour. She received a 2007 PEN Faulkner Award for her work, The Art of stares, and has been awarded a 2008 Award for Literary Excellence from the National Book Critics Circle.

Continued on page 3

African American Alumni Council to Honor Five Noted Pit Faculty, Administrators

By Patricia Lomando White

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Throughout the academic year, OIS hosts various events and activities designed to help international students make a successful transition to Pitt. Such events include an extensive orientation program in August with ongoing orientation sessions throughout the school year. Pitt’s IA office is funding the phone call program. IA, along with the Medical and Health Sciences, undertakes all fundraising tasks for the University, as well as maintaining active involvement with alumni and students around the world.

For more information, contact Janine Fisher, OIS’s assistant director for international relations and programming, at 412-624-7621 or jsf@pitt.edu.
38th Annual Pitt Jazz Week to Feature Lectures, Film, Nov. 1 Concert

By Sharon S. Blake

International jazz greats will be on the University of Pittsburgh campus Oct. 28-Nov. 1 for the 38th annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert—the longest-running event of its kind in the United States.

A stellar group of jazz musicians will hold free on-campus lectures and demonstrations, conduct clinics at area schools, visit a community venue, and convene for the annual concert at 8 p.m. Nov. 1 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

Guest performers include Ceci Bridgewater, trumpet; Leon Ndugu Chancler, tenor; Larry Coryell, guitar; Antonio Hart, alto saxophone; Bennie Maupin, tenor saxophone; Mike Mossman, trumpet; and Patrice Rushen, piano. They will perform in concert under the direction of bass player Leon Lee Dorsey, Pitt assistant professor of jazz studies and coordinator of Pitt’s Jazz Studies Program. Pitt professor Nathan Davis, founder of the event, is director of the Jazz Studies Program.

Concert Details

The Nov. 1 concert is a unique performance, given the diverse playing styles and impromptu nature of the show. Tickets are $18 for students with a valid college ID pay $8. Tickets are available at any TicketMaster location, by phone at 412-323-1919, online at ticketermaster.com, and at Pitt’s William Pitt Union (WPU) box office. Student tickets are available only at the WPU box office.

The Honorable William R. Robinson, a member of Allegheny County Council and former Pennsylvania state representative, will serve as the evening’s master of ceremonies. At intermission, two of the guest musicians will be presented with awards and two other musicians not in attendance (one living and one deceased) will be inducted into the University of Pittsburgh International Academy of Jazz Hall of Fame.

Brown Bag Lunch Concerts

A preview to Jazz Week and to set the mood on campus, members of the Pitt Jazz Ensemble, a student organization, have been performing throughout the month in Nordy’s Place, on the lower level of the WPU. The public is invited to bring lunch and listen to jazz at noon on Oct. 23 and Oct. 30.

Evening Jazz Film/Lecture

Hosted one open to the public

7 p.m. Oct. 28

WPU Assembly Room

Film Screening: Straight, No Chaser

A documentary film about the life of pianist and late great Thelonious Monk. Produced by Clint Eastwood and directed by Charlotte Zwerin, the film features live performances by Monk and his band, as well as interviews with friends and family about the offbeat genius, considered one of the founders of bebop.

8 p.m. Oct. 30

Heinz Memorial Chapel, Fifth and Bellefield avenues, Oakland

“The History of the Recording Industry”

A lecture by George Avakian, former record producer and executive known for his production of albums at Columbia Records by Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck, Louis Armstrong, and Erroll Garner, among others.

Continued from page 1

and dean of the School of Medicine at the University. “However, it is his mentorship of an emerging cadre of young physician-scientists and his transformation of the University of Pittsburgh Department of Pediatrics into one of the nation’s strongest pediatric research enterprises that secure his enduring legacy in medicine and science.”

“B is a tremendous honor to be elected to the Institute of Medicine,” said Perlmutter. “I view this recognition as a testament to the great people with whom I have had the opportunity to work in my clinical and research lives at several wonderful institutions. As a physician-scientist, I’ve dedicated my career to improving children’s health through my basic research and clinical care of young patients and by fostering the development of new generations of physician-scientists and clinicians who are dedicated to child health issues.”

Perlmutter’s research has been recognized by numerous awards, including the E. Mead Johnson Award for Research in Pediatrics. He is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians.

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David H. Perlmutter Elected To the Institute of Medicine

Eldridge, Dizzy Gillespie, and Miles Davis”

Cecil Bridgewater (trumpet)

Mike Mossman (trumpet)

1-2:30 p.m. Oct. 30

WPU Lower Lounge

“A Tribute to Pittsburgh Drummers

Kenny Clarke and Art Blakey”

Leon Ndugu Chancler (drums)

3-4 p.m. Oct. 30

WPU Lower Lounge

“The Music of Saxophone Greats Cannonball Adderley and John Coltrane”

Antonio Hart (alto saxophone)

Bennie Maupin (tenor saxophone)

11:30 a.m.-Noon. Nov. 1

WPU Assembly Room

“The Role of Guitar in Jazz Fusion”

Larry Coryell (guitar)

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Nov. 1

“A Tribute to Piano Legends Art Tatum, Bud Powell, and Bill Evans”

Patrice Rushen (piano)

Community-Outreach Events

1 p.m. Oct. 31

Falk Laboratory School

Aliquippa and Brackenridge streets, Oakland

Cecil Bridgewater (trumpet)

1 p.m. Oct. 31

Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts

111 Ninth St., Downtown

Mike Mossman (trumpet)

11 a.m. Nov. 1

Ronald McDonald House

500-512 Shady Ave., Shadyside

Antonio Hart (alto saxophone)

More information about Jazz Week events is available by calling the Pitt Jazz Studies Program, 412-624-4187.
The Sankofa Award honors members of the University community who have exhibited outstanding educational support and service to students of African descent.

Toi Derricotte, a professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh in the School of Arts and Humanities and a poet, was born in Pittsburgh in 1959. She was raised in Penn Hills, PA, a suburb of Pittsburgh. Derricotte is the author of four books of poetry and recipient of numerous awards. She has been featured in The New Yorker, The Nation, and The American Poetry Review. She is the co-editor of The Black Book, an anthology of African American poetry.

The Sankofa Award is given annually to a member of the University community who has shown outstanding support and service to students of African descent.

Pitt Slavery Exhibition Opens This Weekend

Pitt Board’s Nominating Committee Advances Candidates for Election as Emeritus Trustees

Continued from page 1

African American Alumni Council to Honor Five Noted Pitt Faculty, Administrators

Continued from page 3

at the University of Pittsburgh and co-founder of Cave Canem, a workshop/retreat for African American poets.

Derricotte is the author of the memoir The Black Notebook (W.W. Norton & Company, 1997), which received the Annisfield-Wood Award for Poetry that recognizes the Black Caucus of the American Library Association Award in nonfiction and was nominated for the PEN Martha Albrand Award for the Art of the Essay (2008). She was also a New York Times Notable Book of the Year.

Derricotte’s four books of poetry include Ten Days at the University of Pittsburgh (1997), winner of the 1998 Paterson Poetry Prize; Captivity (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1999), which received the Columbia Book Award from the Poetry Committee of the Greater Washington, D.C., area; Natural Birth (Crossing Press, 2005); and The Empress of the Death House (Lotus Press, 1978).

She has received numerous awards, including the Barnes & Noble Writers Award for Writers Award from Poets & Writers, Inc.; the Distinguished Alumni/Alumnae Award from Antioch College and his PhD degree from the University of Pittsburgh. His research on race, caste, and ethnicity has resulted in several articles and a book, The Undertaker’s Daughter, and a collection of essays, Beginning Dialogues. He has been a BA degree in special education at Wayne State University and a master’s degree in English literature and creative writing at Antioch College.

Laurence A. Glascó, a professor of history, has taught at the University of Pittsburgh since 1969. Glascó has focused on African American history, race, and ethnicity. He has been publishing books and articles on Black Pittsburg for almost two decades, including Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African American Landmarks in Allegheny County (Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, 1995), The W.P.A. History of the Negro in Pittsburgh (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004), “Double Burden: A Human History,” in The Sankofa Award: Volume 2, (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1997), and The History of the United States and the African American Experience, which was published in 1999. Glascó has received his BA degree from Antioch College and his PhD degree from the State University of New York, Buffalo.

Kathy W. Humphrey, vice provost and dean of students at the University of Pittsburgh, received her BA degree in African American studies from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and her PhD degree in educational administration at Saint Louis University.

Pitt Slavery Exhibition Opens This Weekend

Continued from page 1

Toi Derricotte, a professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, is the recipient of a George Washington Book Prize in 2008 and is featured in the Free at Last! exhibition.

Pitt Board’s Nominating Committee Advances Candidates for Election as Emeritus Trustees

Continued from page 2

1988 to 1991, as Attorney General of the United States under two Presidents, Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. He was, in 1992–93, the highest-ranking African American at the United Nations as Under-Secretary-General for Administration. Thornburgh was a founding member of the National Organization on Disability and has played a major role in the development of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In 1998, Thornburgh donated to the University a comprehensive collection of documents, photographs, and many hours of audio and video recordings that encompass his career to create the Dick Thornburgh Archive Collection. The collection is now housed in the Pitt Hillman Library's Dick Thornburgh Room, which was dedicated on the occasion of his 70th birthday in 2007 by Seymour Drescher, University Professor of History and Sociology and the holder of the Frederick Douglass Book Prize.

All three of these Pitt faculty alumni will talk about their experiences during the opening to sign copies of their books, which will be on sale.

Following the program, guests will tour the exhibition.

Pitt Board’s Nominating Committee Advances Candidates for Election as Emeritus Trustees

Continued from page 2

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Public Affairs Staffers Receive 19 IABC/Pittsburgh Awards

The University of Pittsburgh’s Office of Public Affairs was honored with 18 awards by the Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).

Five projects produced by Public Affairs claimed the top prize, the Award of Excellence, in their categories. The other 14 entries received Awards of Honor.

The honors were presented Oct. 7 at the 29th annual Golden Triangle Awards ceremony, held in the Power Center Ballroom on Duquesne University’s campus. Master of ceremonies was Bill Flanagan, executive vice president of corporate relations for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its affiliated organizations.

The Golden Triangle Awards, presented by IABC/Pittsburgh, recognize excellence in communications management, skills, and creativity throughout Western Pennsylvania.

In all, 17 Awards of Excellence and 44 Awards of Honor were presented at this year’s competition.

IABC/Pittsburgh presented Office of Public Affairs projects and staff members with the following five Awards of Excellence:

Communications Management—Tuskegee Airmen, the celebration of the Tuskegee Airmen, the group of Black pilots who distinguished themselves as the best escort plane service in the U.S. military during World War II; Graphic Design/Poster—Rainey Dermond, PITT ARTS; Interactive Media Design—Cool Pittsburgh; Writing/News—Kimberly Barlow, “Climbers Check Out Heinz Chapel,” University Times; and Writing Features—Diane Weathers, “Flying Lessons,” Pitt Magazine.


IABC is a not-for-profit international network of public relations and marketing professionals that develops educational resources, services, and activities for individuals and organizations in the field.

Pitt Honors College Hosts Lecture on Humans’ Rise to Prominence, Environmental Effects

The University of Pittsburgh Honors College will host Paul R. Ehrlich, the Bing Professor of Population Studies in Stanford University’s Department of Biology, as part of the sponsored by the Honors College’s Distinguished Lecture Series. The talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 27 in the Twentieth Century Club, Bigelow Boulevard and Paul Street, Oakland.

The Honors College is holding the event in collaboration with the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Phipps Conservatory, National Aviary, and Garden Club of Allegheny County.

The lecture, titled “The Dominate Animal: Human Evolution and the Environment,” is based on Ehrlich’s 2008 book of the same name, coauthored by his wife, Anna H. Ehrlich, and published by Island Press. In his talk, Ehrlich will expound on the rise of humans to a global prominence that is shaping the future of evolution and the fate of our planet. Following the lecture, Samuel M. Taylor, director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, will moderate a discussion on the topic.

Ehrlich is the author of Human Natures: Genes, Cultures, and the Human Prospect (Island Press, 2000), The Population Explosion (Touchstone Books, 1991), and The Population Bomb (Ballantine Books, 1968). He is president of Stanford’s Center for Conservation Studies and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. In a career spanning more than four decades, Ehrlich has amassed numerous honors, including the Cramond Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, in lieu of a Nobel Prize for disciplines in which the Nobel is not awarded; the John Muir Award of the Sierra Club; the Gold Medal Award of the World Wildlife Fund International; and a MacArthur Prize Fellowship.

A native of Philadelphia, Ehrlich earned a BA degree at the University of Pennsylvania and MA and PhD degrees at the University of Kansas. He joined the faculty of Stanford University in 1959 and was promoted to full professor of biology in 1966. His research activities include matters concerning biology, ecology, evolution, and the behaviors of natural populations.

The late Robert G. Hazo created the American Experience program 38 years ago to offer Pitts-burgh’s mid-to-high level managers the opportunity to gain insight into political and economic thought, with the intent of enlightening the public’s political discourse. The program’s current director is Edward L. McCord, director of program- ming and special projects in Pitt’s Honors College. The series focuses on political and economic issues and has offered annual addresses by such internationally known speakers as the late John Kenneth Galbraith, Pat Buchanan, and Teresa Heinz Kerry.

The event is free and open to the public but seating is limited. Those interested in attending must RSVP by Oct. 24, with name, phone number, and name(s) of additional attendees to uhcevent@pitt.edu or 412-624-2654. For more information on the American Experience Lecture Series, visit http://ac.honorscollege.pitt.edu.
Concerts


List of Events

**Concerts**

**Exhibitions**
- Phibs Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Fall Flower Show, through Nov. 8, Oak Schenley Park, Oakland, 412-441-4442, www.phibs.org.
- Frick Fine Arts Building, Department of Art, Student Art Exhibit Exhibition, through Nov. 21, University Art Gallery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 412-374-1410, frickart.pitt.edu.

**Films**

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**Films**
**UPMC Wins Approval to Use Ventricular Assist Device for Heart Failure Patients**

UPMC has received The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval™ for ventricular assist device (VAD) support for destination therapy, which is heart support for patients with end-stage heart disease who are not candidates for heart transplantation. Previously, VADs were primarily used as a bridge to heart transplant, but as clinical experience has demonstrated, they have become a viable treatment option for those patients with end-stage heart disease without compromising quality of life.

The Joint Commission is an independent, nonprofit organization that accredits and certifies more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Its Gold Seal of Approval is considered the highest achievement of quality and compliance.

“Ventricular assist devices now are recognized by the Centers for Medicaid Services as practical surgical treatments for patients with severe heart disease for programs approved by the Joint Commission.”

—Robert Kormos

UPMC presently uses several different types of heart pumps and assist devices in patients, some of which University of Pittsburgh researchers collaborated on. The size and condition of the patient generally determine which particular heart pump will be used.

UPMC also has been instrumental in, and a leading recruiter of, patients enrolled in heart pump clinical studies, including a multicenter U.S. clinical trial to test the safety and feasibility of Heartmate II and the VentAssist as destination therapy.

Most recently, UPMC is part of the Pediatric VAD Consortium, a team of investigators at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, working to develop the world’s first Pediatric Ventricular Assist Device (PVAD). The device is a novel mechanical circulatory support system for infants and very small children with congenital or acquired cardiac disease, allowing them to remain completely mobile while receiving the PVAD. If successful, the device would be the first one designed specifically to provide long-term cardiac support to these infants and toddlers, for whom no technology currently exists.

“Ventricular assist devices now are recognized by the Centers for Medicaid Services as practical surgical treatments for patients with severe heart disease for programs approved by the Joint Commission. As the pumps continue to get smaller, that also translates to shorter hospital stays, shorter recovery time, and better overall quality of life.”

—Robert Kormos

Above: A cutaway view of the VentAssist LVAD, showing its unique floating impeller, which is the 2.5-inch device’s only moving part. Right: The Berlin Heart Pediatric VAD, an external heart device that has been used at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

**By Maureen McGaffin**