GSPIA: 50 Years of Grooming Global Leaders

GSPIA responds to changing needs of employers and students by expanding international focus

By Amanda Leff

The University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) is nimble as ever, adapting to changing enrollment patterns, expanding the breadth of the school’s educational offerings, and intensifying its fundraising efforts to meet today’s global demands.

Since its founding in 1958, GSPIA has groomed leaders around the world. Many of its nearly 7,000 alumni—including such distinguished alumni as the late General Rosecrans Robinson Jr. (64), first African American four-star general in the U.S. Army; U. S. Congressman Jim Moran (’73) from Virginia; Neylan Bali (’63), former director of the Security Council Affairs Division of the United Nations; and Byong Hyon Kim (’68), former Korean Ambassador to China—have not only embarked on careers as ambassadors, members of Congress, top military brass, and officials at the United Nations, but also as government ministers abroad, university presidents, founders, corporate presidents, and corporate leaders, among others.

As recently as the 1970s, about two-thirds of GSPIA’s students earned degrees in public administration and urban and regional planning that were designed to prepare them for careers at the regional or national level, says John T.S. Keeler, dean of GSPIA since 2007. Today, three-quarters of the students set their sights on one of GSPIA’s internationally oriented degrees: the Master of Public and International Affairs and the Master of International Development. As a result of that shift, GSPIA has necessarily focused more and more on training students for careers that demand graduates with a global outlook.

“Over time, there has been a very dramatic increase in the number of employers who expect our students to possess expertise in international affairs. Our vision is for a school that will nurture and groom the leaders of the future, graduates who will be prepared to lead from a broad-based knowledge of the nations of the world and how they interrelate.”

—John T. S. Keeler

International students make up slightly less than 20 percent of GSPIA’s enrollment, down somewhat from a decade ago. As Keeler notes, the effects of Sept. 11, 2001, have made it much more cumbersome for these students to get approval to study in the United States.

Donald C. Stone, GSPIA’s founding dean who served in that position from 1957 through 1969, encouraged his colleagues, students, and friends to improve government, make administrations more effective, and provide responsible leadership and stewardship for future generations.

Stone’s remarkable public service career included developing procedures for the Civil Works Administration and planning and implementing the Works Progress Administration for FDR’s New Deal in the 1930s. He helped draft the United Nations Charter in the 1940s, and his efforts were instrumental in the success of the Marshall Plan in rebuilding Europe after the Second World War.

Keeler says he is sure Stone would have been delighted by one of GSPIA’s most important new initiatives, the opening of an office in Washington, D.C.

GSPIA places about half of its graduates in Washington, D.C., every year. “When I was hired, I knew that GSPIA students would benefit enormously if the school had a foothold in Washington,” says Keeler.

Keeler says GSPIA owes much to Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher for making the school’s presence in D.C. a reality.

“Originally, our plan was just to acquire one small office in D.C.—but the Provost decided he was willing to back a much more substantial initiative,” says Keeler.

Continued on page 4

Five Pitt Faculty, Researchers Named as AERA Inaugural Fellows

By Patricia Leonando White

Five University of Pittsburgh faculty and researchers have been selected for the inaugural American Educational Research Association (AERA) Fellows Program.

They are being recognized for either their exceptional scientific or scholarly contributions to educational research or their significant contributions to the field through development of research opportunities and settings that are nationally and internationally recognized. The fellows will be inducted at AERA’s annual meeting in the spring.

Pitt inductees are William W. Cooley, professor emeritus in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies; James Greeno, visiting professor of education at Pitt and the Margaret Jacks Professor of Education emeritus at Stanford University; Alan Lesgold, professor and dean of the School of Education and professor of psychology and intelligent systems; Lauren Resnick, University Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Science, senior scientist and project director in Pitt’s Learning and Teaching Research Center (LRDC), and former LRDC director; and Janet Schofield, University Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Science, and professor and chair of the Department of Psychology.

At Pitt, Cooley was codirector of LRDC from 1969 to 1977. Lesgold has served as director of LRDC’s Pennsylvania Educational Policy Studies, director of the School of Education’s Administrative and Policy Studies Studies, editor of the School of Education’s Administrative and Policy Studies Studies, and a joint editor of the American Educational Research Journal. Lesgold received his BA in psychology, with high honors, from Michigan State University in 1967 and his master’s and doctoral degrees in psychology from Stanford University in 1968 and 1971, respectively, and also holds an honorary doctorate from the Open University of the Netherlands. He is an APA fellow in experimental, applied, and educational psychology and also an American Psychological Society fellow. In 2001, Lesgold received the APA award for distinguished contributions of applications of psychology to education and training. In 1995, he was awarded the Educom Medal. He was president of the Applied Cognitive Psychology division of the International Association for Applied Psychology from 2002 to 2006. Lesgold is a lifetime national associate of the National Research Council (National Academies). He also was appointed by Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell as a member of the Governor’s Commission on Preparing America’s Teachers in 2005.

“Originally, our plan was just to acquire one small office in D.C.—but the Provost decided he was willing to back a much more substantial initiative,” says Keeler.

Continued on page 3
Briefly Noted

Pitt Lecture to Urge Public, Private Partnerships for Global Security

Will security worldwide improve if private businesses combine efforts with government agencies? Scott E. McHugh (CAS ‘76), vice president for global asset protection and security at Wal-Mart, believes so, and he will outline his reasons in an Oct. 6 lecture titled “Global Public-Private Partnerships for Risk Management: Improve Security for All and Need to Become the Norm, Not the Exception.” The talk, which is the kickoff event for Pitt’s Center for National Preparedness Seminar Series, will take place from 3 to 4 p.m. in Room 528 Alumni Hall.

Prior to assuming his position at Wal-Mart, McHugh served as a member of the U.S. Department of State and pioneered the development of proactive terrorist surveillance detection tactics that are used today in the global war on terrorism. He taught courses on issues associated with terrorism for the National Defense University, FBI Academy, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

McHugh now manages all risk- and security-related issues outside of the United States for Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world’s largest public corporation. He earned a bachelor’s degree in administration of justice and in psychology at the University of Pittsburgh and a master’s degree in strategic intelligence at the U.S. National Defense Intelligence College.

—Lauren O’Leary

History of Art and Architecture Sets Symposium for Oct. 10-12

Pitt’s Department of the History of Art and Architecture (HAA) has set its 2008 graduate student symposium for Oct. 10-12. Embracing the theme of the 2008 Carnegie International, Life on Mars, the symposium is titled “Storytelling: Playful Interactions and Spaces of Imagination in Contemporary Visual Culture.” It will explore contemporary art’s and the screen media’s use of open-ended stories, fragmented narratives, references to literary texts, and the design of fantasy environments that undermine contemplative viewing experiences.

In addition to the Carnegie Museum of Art, sponsors include Pitt’s Film Studies Program, Cultural Studies Program, Global Studies Program, Latin American Studies Program, and Office of the Provost. More information is available by calling 412-684-2400 or visiting http://cwall.faa.pitt.edu/ husymposium2008/index.html.

—Sharon S. Blake

Call for Nominations for Pitt’s Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize

The University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences will accept nominations for the Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize for Excellence in Advising from Oct. 1 through 31. Arts and Sciences annually recognizes outstanding faculty advisors with the prize. The winner will be selected by the Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Council on the basis of demonstrated excellence in academic advising. Each award recipient receives a $4,000 cash prize.

Fulltime Arts and Sciences faculty—assistant or associate professor, professor, lecturer, senior lecturer, or instructor—who have been a departmental advisor for at least three years on the Oakland campus are eligible.

Faculty members who receive a nomination from their department chair and from two or more undergraduate students whom they have advised will be considered.

A letter from the department chair should explain the advising model used in the faculty member’s home department, including a perspective on the advising appointment and case load, and describing how the faculty member has demonstrated excellence. The student advisee letter should describe when and how the faculty member’s advice has impacted the academic and career goals of the advisee.

For more information, contact Z Taylor at taylorz@pitt.edu.

—Patricia Lamone White

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For more information, contact Z Taylor at taylorz@pitt.edu.

—Patricia Lamone White

Job Seekers in Action

Pitt’s Annual Fall Job Fair, held Oct. 1 in the Petersen Events Center, attracted about 3,000 Pitt students and 236 employers, making it the largest job fair in the University’s history. Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg made welcoming remarks during the Student Leadership Networking Event, held prior to the job fair. Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher and Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kathy Humphrey also attended, networking with employers to express appreciation for their partnerships with Pitt.

—Patricia Lamone White

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ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
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HAPPENINGS EDITOR
Lauren O’Leary
The Pitt Chronicle is published throughout the year by University News and Magazines, University of Pittsburgh, 400 Craig Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.
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Email: chron@pitt.edu; Web: www.chronicle.pitt.edu

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For more information, contact Z Taylor at taylorz@pitt.edu.

—Patricia Lamone White
Low Levels of Common Insecticide Can Decimate Tadpole Populations, Pitt Research Shows

By Morgan Kelly

The latest findings of a University of Pittsburgh-based project to determine the environmental impact of routine pesticide use in the U.S. indicate that the most popular insecticide—malathion—can drastically reduce populations of a species of tadpoles in the United States. According to the research published in the Oct. 1 edition of Ecological Applications, even small amounts of malathion lead to the collapse of tadpole populations, a result nearly half the tadpoles in the experiment did not reach maturity and would have died in nature. The research was funded by a National Science Foundation grant.

The results build on a nine-year effort by study author Rick Relyea, a professor of biological sciences at Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences, to investigate whether there is a link between pesticides and the global decline in amphibians, which are considered an environmental indicator species because of their sensitivity to pollutants. Their deaths may foreshadow the poisoning of other, less environmentally sensitive species—including humans. Relyea published papers in 2005 in Ecology and Ecological Applications suggesting that the popular weed-killer Roundup® is “extremely lethal” to amphibians and insecticides found in the environment.

For his current research, Relyea and the study co-author, Pitt alumnus Nicole Decks (CGS ’05), created a simulation pond from 300-gallon outdoor tanks containing wood frog and leopard frog tadpoles. They exposed the ponds to no malathion, moderate concentrations in a single dose, or low concentrations in weekly doses that mirror the levels tadpoles experience in nature. Malathion is commonly used worldwide to thwart crop pests and control mosquitoes that carry malaria and West Nile virus. It has been detected in the wetlands where frogs and other amphibians live.

Malathion in the simulated ponds was too low to directly kill the amphibians, but instead wiped out the zooplankton, but they eventually recovered, and the pond reverted back to its original state. The repeated doses prevented the zooplankton from recovering.

“The chain of events caused by malathion deprived a large fraction of the leopard frog tadpoles of the nutrients they needed to metamorphose into adult frogs,” Relyea said. “Repeated applications sustained that disruption of the tadpoles’ food supply. So, even concentrations that cannot directly kill tadpoles can indirectly kill them in large numbers.”

The research results should apply to several other insecticides that are highly lethal to zooplankton, including carbaryl, diazinon, endosulfan, esfenvalerate, and pyridaben, Relyea said. All of these chemicals are toxic to humans as well and are commonly used in the United States, although some are banned in other countries. The effects of insecticides and other pesticides on amphibians are not widely known because of current regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency do not require amphibian testing. The EPA also relies on single-species tests to assess a pesticide’s risk and does not account for potential indirect repercussions.

“Though there is increasing concern about the indirect impacts on the amphibians observed in this study, they cannot be observed in traditional, single-species tests,” Relyea said. “These results demonstrate that we need to take a much broader view of the consequences pesticides might have in our world.”

Leopard and wood frogs naturally range across North America, including Pennsylvania and the northeastern United States. Once plentiful, leopard frogs have declined in recent years.

The journal Ecological Applications is available online at www.esajournals.org/lo/ecap.

Five Pitt Faculty, Researchers Named As AERA Inaugural Fellows

Continued from page 1

on Learning and Instruction Oeuvre Award, APA’s Edward L. Thorndike Award, and APA’s 2007 Distinguished Contributions to Education and Training Award. She is a lifetime national associate of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine; a member of both the U.S. National Academy of Education and the International Academy of Education; and a fellow of both the APA and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She earned a bachelor’s degree in history at Radcliffe College in 1957, graduating magna cum laude with the Radcliffe History Prize; a master’s degree in teaching at Harvard University Graduate School of Education in 1958; and a doctorate in education at Harvard University Graduate School of Education in 1959.

Schofield’s research focuses on the effect of computers on classroom social processes, school desegregation, intergroup relations, and social-psychological approaches to increasing college retention rates. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Society and the APA. She received the Gordon Allport Intergroup Relations Prize for her book Black and White in School: Trust, Tension, or Tolerance? (Abby Publishing, 1982). Her recent work, “School Desegregation Research: Outcomes, Historical Trends and Issues Affecting Its Usefulness in Policy and Practice,” was published in Improving Intergroup Relations: Building on the Legacy of Thomas P. Pettigrew (Blackwell, 2008). She has served on boards and committees at the National Academy of Sciences as well as on APA’s Council of Representatives. Schofield earned a BA degree in social relations, magna cum laude, at Radcliffe College in 1968 and MA and PhD degrees in social psychology at Harvard University in 1969 and 1972, respectively.

Founded in 1916, AERA works to improve the educational process by encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education and evaluation and by promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results. AERA is an international professional organization whose primary goal is advancing educational research and its practical application. Its more than 26,000 members are educators, administrators, directors of research, counselors, evaluators, graduate students, behavioral scientists, and persons working with testing or evaluation in federal, state, and local agencies.

HEALTHY EXPRESSIONS

Leopard and wood frogs naturally range across North America, including Pennsylvania and the northeastern United States. Once plentiful, leopard frogs have declined in recent years.

Pitt’s Graduate School of Public Health offered hands-on activities during this year’s orientation program as a way for students to explore various facets of public health. The Aug. 21 Plunge into Public Health and Pittsburgh program included Visual Voices, a national arts-based program that uses art expression to address issues related to students’ lives, communities, and health (above); Jessica Griffin Burke (right), assistant professor of behavioral and community health sciences at Pitt, paints with Anne Vitol (left), a part-time student at Pitt in public health and social work. The Visual Voices program was founded by Michael Yonas, assistant professor of family medicine at Pitt’s School of Medicine.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (right) participated in an Aug. 25 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the inaugural year of the University Prep School, a partnership between Pitt and the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Based in the former Warner Middle School in the Hill District, the school offers a support system for students as they observe through their secondary education, preparing them to transition to a future of university or careers. The Promise program helps eligible Pittsburgh Public School graduates to pay for college. In the photo, Nordenberg talks with Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Mark Roosevelt (middle) and University Prep Principal Sita Narra (EBUO c/o U).
Keebler. “And that’s a major reason why we now have the University of Pittsburgh Washington Center.”

Officially opened two months ago at 2025 M Street N.W., the center is a five-office suite in a larger office located at the edge of Foggy Bottom. Made possible by financial support from Maher, the center is a joint venture that serves Pitt’s GSPIA, School of Law, Office of Student Affairs, and Office of Federal Governmental Relations. Key planners for the center were Keebler; Mary Crossley, dean of the law school; Kathy Humphrey, vice provost and dean of students; and Jeanne Stoner, assistant vice chancellor for federal government relations.

The center features two large seminar rooms, one of which is equipped with HD videoconferencing equipment to connect with Pitt’s Oakland campus for instructional purposes.

With videoconferencing capability at its fingertips, GSPIA just finalized the hiring of its first Washington-based adjunct professor, Daniel J. Fiorino, a distinguished senior manager at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency who will teach a course from the D.C. office in the spring. More Washington-based adjuncts will be hired in the future, according to Keebler.

“We have only just begun to explore the possible ways we can benefit from the center,” Keebler says. “The prospects are exciting, especially because we can already envision synergies developing from collaborations with the law school and our other Pitt partners.”

GSPIA’s international push also includes a newly completed partnership with the University of Geneva in Switzerland and a developing partnership with Kobe University in Japan.

Former GSPIA Dean Carolyn Ban, who is a GSPIA professor, took the lead in establishing a double-degree program that will enable students to earn a GSPIA degree along with a Geneva MBA with specialization in international organizations, says Keebler. Several GSPIA faculty members have worked to establish a partnership with the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies at Kobe. Students from Kobe University will come to GSPIA to pursue double degrees, while GSPIA will recruit students with backgrounds in Japanese or East Asian studies from around the United States to combine study for a GSPIA degree with coursework and internships in Japan. GSPIA also is in the early stages of developing similar programs in China and India.

While GSPIA expands its reach across the globe, it also is strengthening its ties regionally in metropolitan Pittsburgh and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

“We’re very proud of the fact that GSPIA has produced a mayor of Pittsburgh—Pete Flaherty (’67)—and has three incumbents in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives,” says Keebler. “We have approximately 25 alumni who are city, town, or municipal managers in the metropolitan area of Pittsburgh alone.”

Looking ahead, Keebler says he is focused on development and fundraising. The school’s current endowment is about $7 million. GSPIA used a portion of its funding from the Provost’s Office to add six new staff members, including two in the alumni relations/development areas, two in career services, a grant administrator, and a special grant writer.

GSPIA Centers and Institutes

The Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies is dedicated to educating the next generation of security analysts as well as producing scholarship and impartal analysis to inform policymakers who confront diverse challenges to international and human security.

The Ford Institute for Human Security, established at Pitt through a generous endowment gift from the Ford Motor Co., conducts research on a series of transnational threats to the human rights of civilian populations. The institute generates independent research, disseminates policy papers, and advocates nonpartisan policy proposals.

The Innovation Clinic seeks to identify innovations in governance that can improve the quality of life in this region. It also seeks to improve the expertise of GSPIA students in public service through applied research, clinical experiences in nonprofit organizations, local governments, and state agencies, and conferences and lecture series.

Through support from LeVonne and Glen Johnson, GSPIA created the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership in 2003 to formalize the school’s commitment to the study of ethics and accountability. The institute’s goal is to create ethical leaders by providing an institutional platform from which to launch an innovative program of teaching, research, and public service on issues of ethics and accountability in all areas of public life.

Interactive, Intelligent Spatial Information System (IRIS) represents GSPIA’s commitment to public service by providing a communications system that will help local leaders increase the efficiency of disaster response management through a seamless, integrated network of real-time data transmission and information search and exchange. The IRIS computational software helps community managers make risk decisions during disasters and better link communities together when public safety is at risk.

An African dance ensemble concludes GSPIA’s 2008 Honors and Graduation Celebration at the Twentieth Century Club in Oakland on April 26.
Post-traumatic Stress Endures Over Time in Family Members Of ICU Patients, Pitt Study Finds

By Clare Collins

Family members may experience post-traumatic stress as many as six months after a loved one’s stay in the intensive care unit (ICU), according to a study by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and University of California, San Francisco. The study, published online in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, found that symptoms of anxiety and depression in family members of ICU patients diminished over time, but high rates of post-traumatic stress and complicated grief remained.

“Our findings suggest that family members of patients in the intensive care unit are at risk for serious psychological disorders that may require treatment,” said Cindy L. Bryce, a professor of medicine and health policy and management in Pitt’s School of Medicine. “Unfortunately, it may be difficult to identify these family members while their loved one is in the hospital because the symptoms that we can observe and measure early—anxiety and depression—do not seem to be associated with the longer-term outcomes like post-traumatic stress disorder and complicated grief. This tells us that screening family members after hospitalization is crucial.”

The study included 50 family members of patients who were admitted to the ICU. Researchers measured family members’ level of anxiety and depression in the ICU and at one- and six-month follow-up interviews. They also measured symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and complicated grief during the six-month follow-up interview. Forty-two percent of family members exhibited symptoms of anxiety in the ICU. This percentage dropped to 15 percent six months later. Likewise, 16 percent of family members displayed depression in the ICU; that dropped to six percent at six months.

At six-month follow-up, 35 percent of all family members had post-traumatic stress, while 46 percent of family members of patients who died had complicated grief. Surprisingly, post-traumatic stress was not more common in bereaved than nonbereaved family members.

“As doctors, we tend to think only of the patient in an intensive care situation,” said Wendy Anderson, lead author and assistant professor, Division of Hospital Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. “Our results show that family members can be greatly influenced by a patient’s ICU stay, and that this impact persists after the patient leaves the ICU.”

Support for the study was provided by the University of Pittsburgh’s Institute for Doctor-Patient Communication and The Greenwall Foundation. Coauthors are professors Robert Arnold and Derek Angus in Pitt’s School of Medicine.

“Feeling that you have to do it all alone—it’s incredibly tough,” Bryce said. “Our findings suggest that family members in the intensive care unit are at risk for serious psychological disorders that may require treatment.”

—Cindy L. Bryce

Genetic Profile Reveals Susceptibility To Cleft Palate, Pitt Study Finds

By Michele D. Baum

For the first time, researchers from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine have identified a series of genetic mutations that appear to be linked to significant risk for cleft palate and other dental abnormalities. These are devastating conditions that can cause tremendous social isolation and also are associated with decreased lifespan, a higher risk of cancer, and increased susceptibility to psychiatric disorders, even after surgical repair.

The findings were reported in the September issue of Genetics in Medicine.

Alexandre Vieira, an assistant professor in Pitt dental school’s Department of Oral Biology, and his colleagues collected and evaluated genetic material from the saliva and blood of more than 500 individuals in family groups with two or more siblings affected with cleft lip or palate and an additional 100 people from unrelated families whose samples were used for general-population comparison data. The researchers analyzed 1,489 variations in DNA sequences, known as single-nucleotide polymorphisms, in 150 genes.

“We found a group of more than a dozen gene mutations that appear to be significantly associated with cleft lip and palate, as well as other dental abnormalities—predominantly at the locations for ERBB2, CDH2, and IRF6,” said Vieira, a pediatric dental specialist. “Here we report, for the first time, an extensive candidate gene analysis for cleft susceptibility, a crucial step that may allow for better estimates of recurrence risk in individual families.”

Collecting the genetic data from members of extended family groups living among the 7,000 islands in the Philippines presented its own challenges. Field researchers faced typhoons and severe tropical storms, at least one major landslide, and frequently thorny local political conditions that restricted areas to which they could safely travel. The researchers were stranded for more than a week and pitched in to help emergency rescue personnel following a massive mudslide on Southern Leyte that caused widespread damage and loss of life in February 2006.

“In some cases, it would be two entire days of travel by boat, car, and foot to reach just one family in a remote village,” said Vieira, first author of the study. “It took us about three years to finish the project.”

The gene ERBB2 has been associated with aggressive breast cancer, while IRF6 is linked to formation of the connective tissue, such as the palate. CDH2 is a gene associated with left-right asymmetry. Other genes of interest that were identified include MSX1, PVR, PVRL, and TGFA.

Associated tooth abnormalities studied included families where people had extra teeth or teeth that were tiny or missing. Missing teeth was the most frequently observed abnormality, the researchers noted.

Cleft lip and palate is a common birth defect, on average affecting about one in 700 live births worldwide. In general, Asian populations have a higher prevalence of cleft lip and palate at about one in 500 births.

Cleft lip and palate is a common birth defect, on average affecting about one in 700 live births worldwide. In general, Asian populations have a higher prevalence of cleft lip and palate at about one in 500 births. Among Caucasians, the rate is one in 1,100, and African populations have the lowest rate, at one in 2,500 births.

“In the Philippines, affected people can be completely isolated socially, miserable, alcoholic, and heavy smokers with a hard time speaking. Access to care is very difficult,” said Vieira. “The hope is to be able to narrow down the genes that cause clefts and to screen for that risk—and, eventually, to possibly lead to gene therapy targets, although that may not happen in my lifetime.”

The study was funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research of the National Institutes of Health.
Awards & More

Dana H. Bovbjerg, a nationally renowned expert in biobehavioral oncology research, has joined the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) as director of the Biobehavioral Medicine Program. Bovbjerg also holds a faculty appointment as a professor in Pitt’s Department of Psychiatry.

Prior to joining UPCI, Bovbjerg directed the Biobehavioral Medicine Program at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. He also has held faculty positions at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Cornell University Medical College.

Bernard Goldstein has been appointed chair of the National Academies’ Committee on the Effectiveness of National Biosurveillance Systems: BioWatch and the Public Health System.

Goldstein is a professor in Pitt’s Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and former dean of the University’s Graduate School of Public Health.

The 25-member National Academies committee, convened in response to a congressional request, will evaluate the cost effectiveness of the BioWatch program—an advanced bioterrorism monitoring system that collects airborne particles to provide early warning of the release of pathogens. The system alerts authorities to provide early warning of the release of pathogens. The system alerts authorities to help those with vision impairments become more active in their communities.

Pollock has had a distinguished U.S. Army career with broad experience in health care administration. She received master’s degrees in business administration from Boston University, health care administration from Baylor University, and national security and strategy from the National Defense University.

David Geller, the Richard L. Simmons Professor of Surgery in Pitt’s School of Medicine, and codirector of the UPMC Liver Cancer Center, has been chosen president-elect of the Society of University Surgeons (SUS). The nation’s premier organization for surgeon investigators, SUS is dedicated to advancing the art and science of surgery by encouraging members to pursue original investigations in the clinic and the laboratory and by developing innovative methods for teaching surgery.

As a hepatobiliary surgical oncologist, Geller has clinical interests in the evaluation and management of patients with liver cancers. Geller received his medical degree from Northwestern University Medical School in 1988 and completed his general surgery residency in 1992 at UPMC, followed by a liver transplantation fellowship at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute in 1998.

The University of Pittsburgh’s Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education, and Research (WISER) has obtained the endorsement of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

Part of the School of Medicine’s Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, WISER is a multidisciplinary training institute with participants ranging from students in the schools of the health sciences to paramedics, nurses, respiratory therapists, and physicians. Using lifelike, computerized simulators, WISER provided 12,000 training sessions to about 3,500 health care providers in the 2007-08 academic year.

Pitt professor Susan Albrecht, associate dean in the School of Nursing, has been named president-elect of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses. She will serve in that position beginning Jan. 1, 2009, and will become the organization’s president in 2010.

Albrecht has served on Pitt’s faculty for more than 30 years, teaching undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students. In addition, she has worked as a staff nurse for the past 30 years with the South Hills Health System.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, a Master of Science degree in maternal nursing, and a PhD from the University of Pittsburgh. She also received a master’s degree in public management from Carnegie Mellon University.

Pitt-Johnstown professor Janet L. Grady, director of UPJ’s nursing program, has been accepted for fellowship in the Academy of Nursing Education. Those accepted as fellows must demonstrate enduring and substantial contributions to nursing education as well as visionary leadership in the profession.

Elviyanti Martini, an Indonesian public health coordinator, and Zarema Mukusheva, a Chechen TV reporter and human rights documentary filmmaker, are recipients of an H.J. Heinz Co. Fellowship that provides a year of practical, professional, and educational experiences through Pitt.

Martini has a master’s degree in community nutrition from the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization’s Tropical Medicine and Public Health network, based at the University of Indonesia. She has worked the past 12 years with Helen Keller International, an nongovernmental organization that provides expertise and training to establish nutrition and eye-health programs in partnership with host countries.

Mukusheva received a master’s degree in history from the Chechnya State University. She has worked as a researcher with the Chechen National Museums’ Department of Ethnography, a reporter for Chechen TV, and, since 2000, a human rights monitor and filmmaker for the Human Rights Center–Memorial, a leading human rights organization in Russia.

Paul Nelson, a professor of international development in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, received a $275,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to fund a three-year project titled “Religious Institutions and Voices in International Development.” Project activities include research on the roles of religion and faith-based nongovernmental organizations in shaping development and human rights policy.
Concerts


Exhibitions


Lectures/Seminars/Readings


“From the New Middle East,” Ray Takeyh, Council on Foreign Relations senior fellow on the Middle East, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 7, 1500 PNC Park Ave., Pittsburgh’s Matthew B. Ridgeway Center; www.ridgeway.pitt.edu.

“Comparative Education in Taiwan,” Chen-Hui Su, doctoral candidate in Pitt’s School of Education, noon, Oct. 8, 4130 Povuar Hall, Pitt’s Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, 412-624-2198, dristsai@pitt.edu.


“Markets in Crisis: Perspectives from Business and Law,” featuring Douglas M. Branson, the W. Edward Sell Professor of Business Law at Pitt’s law school, and Ken Leh, the Samuel A McCullough Professor of Finance at Katz Graduate School of Business, 1:2 p.m., Oct. 9, Most Courtyard, Benzio Law Building, 412-648-1401, lemosy@pitt.edu.


Miscellaneous
Nanami Brennet, singer and songwriter, free lunch, noon, Oct. 8, Nedly’s Place, Lower Level, William Pitt Union, Artful Wednesdays, PITT ARTS, 412-624-4988, www.pittarts@pitt.edu.


Opera/Theater/Dance


Hookah Smoking Rising, Surprisingly Popular Among College Students

By Amy Dugas Rose

More than 40 percent of college students at a large university have smoked tobacco from a waterpipe, or hookah, according to a Pitt School of Medicine study published online in the *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. The study represents the first random sample of U.S. university students to address waterpipe smoking.

“Our study showed that more than one-third of those who used waterpipes to smoke tobacco over the past year had never smoked a cigarette,” said Brian Primack, assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics in Pitt’s School of Medicine and lead author of the study. “Clearly, young people believe hookah smoking is somehow different than smoking cigarettes, but waterpipe smoke has many of the same chemicals as cigarette smoke and likely poses many of the same health risks.”

A waterpipe is used to inhale tobacco that usually is flavored and sweetened. The opening of more than 200 waterpipe cafés in the United States over the past decade demonstrates the popularity of waterpipe smoking. Although the aesthetic appeal of the practice suggests to many users that it is not harmful, studies show that waterpipe tobacco smoke contains many of the same toxins as cigarettes and has been associated with substantial harm and addictiveness.

Researchers received survey responses from 647 undergraduate and graduate students from a large U.S. university. Slightly more than 40 percent of respondents reported they had smoked tobacco from a waterpipe, a little higher than the 39.6 percent who said they had smoked cigarettes. In addition, the study found that 30.5 percent had smoked tobacco from a hookah in the past year and that 9.5 percent had done so in the past 30 days. The results are worrisome, because hookah smoking engaged many young students in tobacco use who would otherwise have been tobacco free, noted Primack.

“We were surprised that the percentage of students who reported ever engaging in waterpipe smoking was actually higher than the percentage of those who have ever smoked cigarettes,” said Primack. “Waterpipe smoking may become even more popular in the near future since many of the new smoke-free ordinances being passed by local governments exempt waterpipe cafés. Waterpipe smoking is going to be a crucial public-health issue that will require increased surveillance and study.”

Coauthors of the study are Jaime Sidani, health educator at Pitt’s Student Health Services; Eric Donny, a Pitt assistant professor of psychology; Aaron Agarwal (A&S ’07), who worked on the project while he was a Pitt undergraduate student in psychology; T. E. Eissenberg of Virginia Commonwealth University; and W.G. Shadel from the RAND Corporation.

The research was supported with funding from the National Cancer Institute, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Maurice Falk Foundation.