

New Pitt Documentary to Be Screened Feb. 4

Blue Gold & Black: From Doorway to Distinction is University's 2009 K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month Program

By Sharon S. Blake

In 1829, a young Black man was hoping to attend the Western University of Pennsylvania, which later became the University of Pittsburgh. But enrolling a Black man in a university was a controversial act at the time, and then-Chancellor Robert Bruce was concerned about the opposition to having a Black student in the classroom. Bruce devised a plan that allowed the young man to sit on a chair just outside the classroom door, where he could hear the lessons and gain the same instruction as the other students.

That young man, whose name is unknown, was the first of many at the University who helped pave the way for Black students to attend Pitt.

A new documentary, *Blue Gold & Black: From Doorway to Distinction*, will be screened at a by-invitation-only world premiere at 7 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland. The event is the University's 2009 K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month Program, commemorating February as Black History Month.

The film tells the story of the 180-year experience of Black men and women at Pitt. Through their persistence and intelligence, they broke down barriers and took their rightful place in the classrooms, on the playing fields, and in Pitt history.

On Motion Media wrote the script for the documentary, based on a treatment written by Robert Hill, Pitt's vice chancellor for public affairs.

Blue Gold & Black: From Doorway to Distinction is a sweeping tale that documents many firsts. It features interviews with prominent Pitt African American alumni, including Robert Lavelle (CBA '51, KGSB '54), president of Lavelle Real Estate Inc. and executive vice president of Dwelling House Savings and Loan Association; Rachel Poole (NURS '47, '52; EDUC '77), one of the first three Black students to graduate from Pitt's School of Nursing; James "Jimmy Joe" Robinson (CAS '51), cofounder of the Manchester Youth Development Center and the first African American to play football for Pitt; Curtiss Porter (A&S '69, EDUC '84), Penn State Greater Allegheny Chancellor; and Helen Faison (EDUC '46, '55, '75), an emeritus Pitt trustee, a trailblazing Pittsburgh educator, and a distinguished professor and director of the Pittsburgh Teachers Institute at Chatham University.

Also featured are Laurence Glasco, a Pitt history professor and historical director of the Pitt-produced *Free at Last? Slavery in Pittsburgh in the 18th and 19th Centuries* exhibition on view at the Senator John Heinz History Center through April 5; Kathy W. Humphrey, Pitt vice provost and dean of students; and Pitt graduates Tonya Groover (A&S '07), founder and program coordinator of Pitt's Technology Leadership Initiative; 2007 Rhodes Scholar Daniel Armanios (A&S '07, ENGR '07) who also was a 2005 Truman Scholar and a 2004 Goldwater Scholar; and 2007 Goldwater Scholar Benjamin Gordon (ENGR '07), assistant project manager at Chester Engineers. The film will



be narrated by a number of Black Pitt alumni, faculty, and friends of the University—a story about them as told by them.

Pitt's Office of the Chancellor and Office of Public Affairs present a program every February to mark Black History Month. The programming is named in honor of the late K. Leroy Irvis, (LAW '54) a Pitt trustee, poet, author, lawyer, sculptor, artist, and one of the most influential men in Pennsylvania history. He served, by acclamation, as speaker of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's House of Representatives—at that time, the only African American speaker of the house in any of the 50 states. The "Lion of Pennsylvania," as Pitt called Irvis, was a powerful voice for peace during the Hill District riots in the late 1960s. Irvis was the lead author of the legislation that in 1966 made Pitt, Penn State, Lincoln, and Temple state-related universities, saving them from financial disaster.



University of Pittsburgh's New 'Living Room'

Renovated University Club offers opportunities for camaraderie, conference and banquet rooms, fitness center



Rendering of the University Club's entrance lobby.

By John Fedele

The newly renovated University Club will open its doors April 1, complete with a faculty and staff club, state-of-the-art fitness center, and dining facilities, as well as banquet and conference rooms.

Special care has been taken in renovating the historic building at 123 University Place. Designed by noted architect Henry Hornbostel, the building opened in 1923 and served as a private club until the University acquired it in 2005 for \$3.1 million.

"We saw an opportunity to acquire a beautiful building, which is central to campus, at a reasonable cost that would

enable us to meet some definite needs of the University and the community," said Jerome Cochran, Pitt executive vice chancellor for business and general counsel.

Some of those needs have long been known: the lack of a convenient on-campus location for conferences, meetings, and banquets, for example, as well as a club where faculty and staff can entertain guests and mingle in a social setting. Results from focus groups and a recent online survey of faculty and staff also were used to determine the building's uses and priorities for the faculty and staff club and conference

center. More than 1,400 members of Pitt's faculty and staff completed the survey.

"The University Club is an important resource for Pitt departments to host conferences that showcase to external colleagues the strength of our research, scholarship, and facilities," said Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher. "It also provides a distinctive location on campus for developing collegiality with Pitt colleagues through conversations over coffee or while on a treadmill."

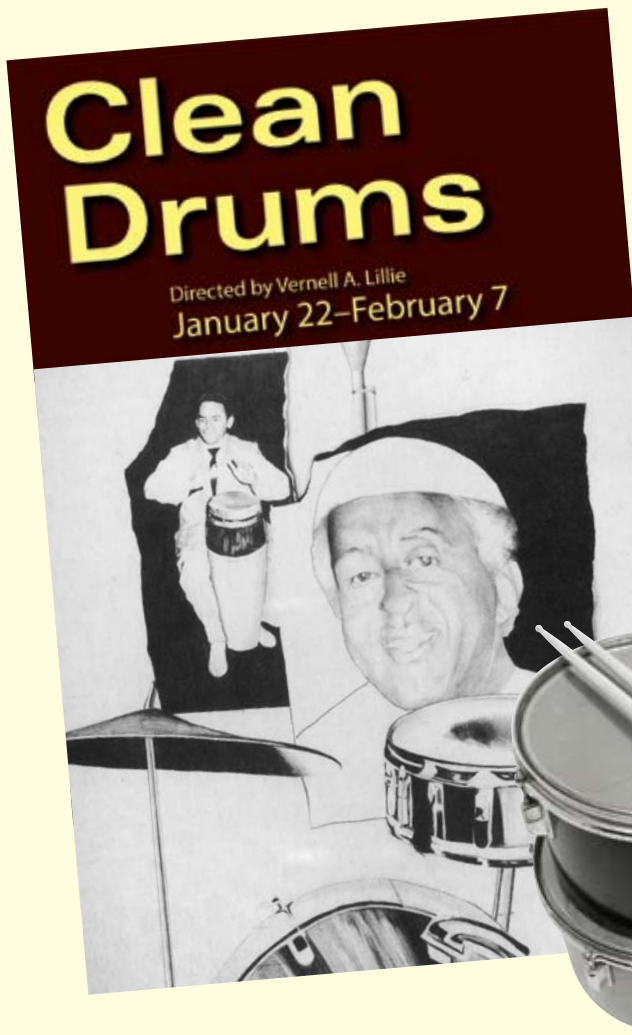
South Side-based Landmark Design Associates, selected by Pitt based upon its qualifications and experience with similar projects, designed the \$20 million renovation project; Massaro Corp. is acting as the construction manager.

The finished product will contain a members-only club for faculty and staff, a health and fitness center, office space for the Office of Research, and more than 18,000 square feet for a conference center and banquet facilities. A coffee shop, the Brioche Dorée, will be open to the public. Sodexo's sports and leisure division will manage, operate, and market the club and the conference center for the University.

The University Club's upper four floors will be leased to Family House, a local nonprofit organization that provides residential housing for families of seriously ill patients receiving treatment at local hospitals. The partnership between Pitt and Family House expands Family House's capacity for serving its clients, many of whom are being treated at University-related hospitals. It

Continued on page 4

Briefly Noted



Rob Penny

Pitt's Kuntu Theatre Presents Rob Penny's *Clean Drums*

The University of Pittsburgh's Kuntu Repertory Theatre will present *Clean Drums* through Feb. 7, as Kuntu continues its season of plays by the late Rob Penny, Kuntu's playwright-in-residence for many years and a Pitt professor of Africana studies. Penny passed away in 2003.

All performances are in the Seventh-Floor Auditorium of Alumni Hall. They run Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 4 p.m. and a matinee at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 5.

Clean Drums will feature a cast that includes some of Pittsburgh's finest jazz musicians. Vernell Lillie, a Pitt professor emeritus of Africana studies and Kuntu's founder and producing artistic director, will direct.

Penny once wrote about *Clean Drums*: "It's biographical mainly because I wrote about [Pittsburgh drummer] Joe Harris. The glue that holds it all together is the spirit of the music and the male and female musicians who give the music its force and meaning. Color, sensibilities, and sounds flow from the conflictual consciousness of the younger musicians, who represent what they call 'free form' playing, and the older musician, Joe Harris, who represents the classical jazz tradition of Louis Armstrong, Billie Holliday, and Sara

Vaughn."

A drummer who began performing in his early teens, Harris played with the likes of bebop master Dizzy Gillespie as well as Pittsburgh jazz legends Billy Eckstine and Erroll Garner. In the 1950s, he was a member of the house band at the Apollo Theater. He performed internationally for many years before returning to his native Pittsburgh in the 1990s.

Admission is \$20 for adults; \$14 for Pitt staff and faculty; \$13 for senior citizens, students, and children ages 4-18; and \$5 for all Pitt students with a valid ID. There are Dollar Nights for Pitt students Jan. 22 and 23. Groups of 10 or more receive 25 percent off the single ticket price. For more information, call 412-624-7298.

—Sharon S. Blake

Pitt to Host Conference for Underrepresented Students

The University of Pittsburgh is once again hosting the annual Minorities in Pittsburgh Conference (MIP), which provides underrepresented students with the opportunity to network and interact with corporate sponsors. The event will be held Feb. 6-7 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Ave., Oakland.

The conference—hosted by the College of Business Administration's Roberto Clemente Minority Business Association (RCMBA)—will feature keynote speaker Farrah Gray. Raised in the projects of Chicago's South Side, Gray worked his way out of poverty by founding and operating several business ventures. He was a millionaire at age 14 when his company, Farr-Out Foods, generated orders exceeding \$1.5 million. *Ebony* magazine recognized Gray when he was 21-years-old as an entrepreneurial icon, and the National Urban League's *Urban Influence* magazine named him one of the most influential Black men in America.

RCMBA is dedicated to providing its members with resources for professional development through events such as the MIP conference. To attend, register online at www.pitt.edu/~sorc/rcmba/mip/mip.html.

—Amanda Leff



Farrah Gray

Pitt-Bradford Students Create McDowell Trail Tree Guide

Two University of Pittsburgh-Bradford environmental studies majors have created a nature guide for selected trees found along the Richard E. McDowell Community Trail, located adjacent to the University.

Erin Baxter of Warren, Pa., and Lisa Moeke of Bradford, worked with Dessie Severson, a retired Pitt-Bradford professor of biology, to research and compile the information. Included in the brochure are the names of 23 trees located along the 1.4-mile trail as well as descriptions and facts about each one. There is also a map to show the location of each tree.

The trail runs along the west branch of Tunungwant Creek, beginning across from the Kessel Athletic Complex on Campus Drive and ending at Clarks Lane.

—Kimberly Marcott Weinberg

News-makers

LONG TIMERS



University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (right) stands with Sherman Watson Jr. (far left) and Jerome L. Rosenberg (middle) during Pitt's 2008 Staff Recognition Reception, which honored staff members with at least 20, 30, and 40 years of service to the University. Watson, an outpatient services assistant in Pitt's School of Dental Medicine, was honored for 48 years of service. Rosenberg, Pitt's research integrity officer and chair of the conflict of interest committee, was recognized for 55 years of service. The annual event was held Dec. 4 in the William Pitt Union.

THE FALLINGWATER COOKBOOK



Elsie Henderson (left) was the longtime and last cook for the Edgar J. Kaufmann family and their guests at Fallingwater, the family's architecturally famous retreat home in the Laurel Highlands of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Henderson coauthored *The Fallingwater Cookbook* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008) with Suzanne Martinson (right), former food editor of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and chef Robert Sendall (middle). The trio signed copies of their book during a Dec. 4 reception in the William Pitt Union's Tansky Lounge.

PittChronicle

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PittScholars&Stewards

Scholarship, Stewardship Focus of New *Pitt Chronicle* Series

To: The Pitt Community

From: Clyde B. Jones III, vice chancellor for health sciences development, and **Albert J. Novak Jr.**, Pitt vice chancellor for institutional advancement.



Clyde B. Jones III



Albert J. Novak Jr.

The University of Pittsburgh believes that higher education changes lives—a noble aspiration that requires a dedicated strategy to ensure a continuous influx of bright, motivated students. Because scholarships provide financial support to recruit and enroll students of exceptional accomplishment, gifts that support these scholarships are the single largest and most immediate need for the University.

Since the launch of Pitt's Building Our Future Together campaign, Pitt's generous supporters have created more than 437 new scholarships and fellowships for students. We would like the Pitt community to see firsthand the positive impact of that philanthropy.

With this issue, the *Pitt Chronicle* is beginning a series of articles that will highlight how both graduate

and undergraduate students benefit from scholarships and fellowships that have been established through Pitt's fundraising efforts. The many gifts Pitt has already received from alumni and friends during the capital campaign have enabled the University to attract, retain, and support literally thousands of talented students and have been crucial in establishing Pitt as a top-tier public university.

With today's economic challenges, it is clear that the University will need to rely more than ever on private resources to meet the needs of its students, as Pitt continues to provide opportunities for promising young minds. We hope these stories will inspire others to participate in helping students reach their full potential by making a gift to the University.

The Laughlin Endowed Fund in Education and Brian Wargo



Brian Wargo

graduate or advanced degrees in science, how to get their students to think, act, and talk like scientists," he adds.

His classroom technique is unique, and it is the basis of his doctoral research and dissertation. He explains that research has found that traditional teaching techniques in science might not be enough to prepare students to work in the field. Scientists spend a great deal of time discussing solutions to the problems they are attempting to solve.

Wargo is passionate about teaching and bringing about classroom reform. That is why he was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Laughlin Endowed Fund in Education, created by Pitt Trustee Terry Laughlin (KGSB '81).

"It was important to me that the recipient of the scholarship have teaching experience and have intentions to return to the classroom," says

Laughlin. "I think it is important to have well-qualified and well-educated teachers in the classroom with our students."

Laughlin, who has spent his career in the banking industry and was recently appointed as the new CEO of IndyMac, notes that he made this specific gift because he believes education is an important investment to make for the future.

The Laughlin Endowed Fund will help Wargo through these months of living life as a graduate student.

"For me, this scholarship has given me both an economic and psychological

Wargo is passionate about teaching and bringing about classroom reform. That is why he was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Laughlin Endowed Fund in Education, created by Pitt Trustee Terry Laughlin (KGSB '81).

boost," says Wargo. "It's wonderful to realize that there is someone out there who really values what I am trying to do. It makes giving up my weekends, evenings, and the little bit of extra money I have worthwhile."

"The reason I'm taking a sabbatical is because I feel so strongly about teaching; I just don't want to be spread too thin," Wargo explains.

Laughlin and Wargo have had the opportunity to meet on a few occasions. Laughlin says, "I have been so impressed with Brian's passion for what he is doing. I know he's going to make a difference in the lives of generations of students."

And that is precisely Wargo's hope. He cites Thomas Friedman's book *The World Is Flat* and its contention that the United States needs to shift up a notch its commitment to science and math education, particularly at the precollege level, to maintain the nation's competitive edge.

"Hopefully, the research I'm doing will be one very small piece of making that shift happen here," Wargo says.

It's 3:30 in the afternoon, and Brian Wargo, a University of Pittsburgh doctoral student in science education, is dashing off to teach a class of Pitt students working toward their master's degrees in education.

The 37-year-old Wargo is on a yearlong sabbatical from his day job as a high school science teacher in the Freedom Area School District in Beaver County, Pa. As part of his doctoral research, Wargo is teaching the graduate students how

to incorporate the practice of argumentation in the science classroom. In essence, he is teaching them how to get *their* future students to engage in meaningful scientific dialogue.

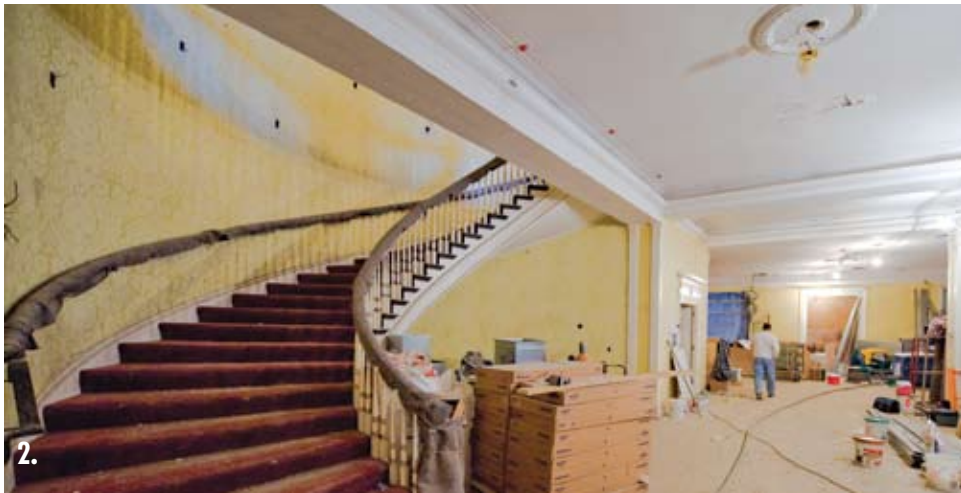
"The idea is to get students to explain why they have confidence in their scientific claims" explains Wargo. "They learn how scientific inquiry plays out using nature as the arbiter."

"In science, it's important to be able to make persuasive arguments so you can convince other scientists. I'm teaching my graduate students, who have either under-

The University's 'Living Room'



RENDERING BY CARLOS F. PETERSON



2.



3.

PHOTOS BY JIM BURGE/CODE

Continued from page 1

also provides collaboration opportunities for students and faculty in Pitt's Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Health and Rehabilitation Science, and Social Work.

Some of the University Club's highlights follow.

Faculty and Staff Club

A key feature of the newly renovated building is the club for faculty and staff, recommended by individual faculty members and the Faculty Senate's Plant Utilization and Planning Committee. For many years, Pitt has been without a club—an important feature of many universities—and the desire for one was reinforced by the focus group and survey results.

In addition to first-class dining facilities, club members will enjoy such amenities as the College Room lounge for cocktails, a library and reading room with current periodicals, wireless Internet access, and special events on the Rooftop Terrace, which provides a view of the Oakland and the University. Special events, including live entertainment such as concerts and recitals, will be held in the club and on the terrace. Eli Shorak, associate vice chancellor for business, says input from members will be used to select the special events. Initial surveys indicated support for art, fashion, and cooking presentations, health lectures, and space for pre- and postgame events.

A full membership, which includes all benefits and privileges of the faculty and staff club and the fitness center, will be \$45 per month. A social membership to the club (allowing access to dining; the library; and special, members-only events) will be \$15 a month, while membership in the fitness facility only will be \$40 per month. Academic-term memberships also will be available. These are four-month memberships designed to accommodate faculty and staff working less than a 12-month schedule. Management is developing reciprocal agreements with other universities across the country.

Fitness Center

John Jakicic, professor and chair in Pitt's Department of Health and Physical Activity, has supervised the creation of the University Club's state-of-the-art fitness center.

"One of the unique characteristics of the fitness center will be the exercise equipment, including a 12-piece resistance training circuit by Precor C-line," said Jakicic, who is also director of Pitt's Physical Activity and Weight Management Research Center. "This is a new line of equipment, and the University Club will be one of the first centers in the United States to offer it."

Jakicic says the fitness center also will

offer a "wide range of fitness classes that will include yoga, Pilates, and a variety of cardio and resistance exercises." Cross-training exercise classes—such as spinning and x-biking, which are not available at other fitness centers on campus—also will be offered. Health coaches, including graduate students from the Department of Health and Physical Activity, will conduct classes and offer members assistance in their workout regimens.

The fitness center—which includes changing rooms, showers, and secured day lockers—will be open from early morning to early evening.

Banquet/Conference Facilities

The University Club will offer meeting and conference space for both small and large groups.

"This facility will bring events onto campus that departments and schools held

off-campus in the past," says Shorak. "It will offer professional conferencing services, modern space accommodations, and first-class menu and dining services."

The banquet and conference facilities will be open to the University community and to the general public, and, Shorak says he expects that faculty, staff, and alumni will be interested in using the facilities. The club's proximity to Heinz Chapel will make it an attractive option for wedding receptions as well.

Already, at least eight wedding receptions—most linked to Pitt alumni or employees—and more than a dozen large meetings are scheduled for the facility, according to Sodexo. Two of the biggest meetings scheduled are a Women in Science conference in May and a celebration of 100 years of orthopedic surgery in June.

With the lease revenue Pitt receives from Family House and for office space, club and fitness center membership fees, and rentals for conferences, banquets, and receptions, the new University Club should be self-sustaining, including its debt service, according to Shorak.

"There has been a lot of planning going into this facility," he says. "We wanted to let people know that the renovations have restored the 'Wow' factor to this historic building. We want people to think of it as

the 'living room' of the University." The University Club management is planning a series of open houses this spring so faculty and staff can see the club and its amenities, along with a grand opening at a date to be determined.

For additional information, or to join the University Club, visit their Web site at www.uc.pitt.edu.

Newsmakers

DAVID E. EPPERSON CHAIR



MARY JANE BEHT/CODE

Pitt's School of Social Work (SSW) established the David E. Epperson Chair in honor of David Epperson (second from left), who was dean of the SSW from 1972 to 2001. A reception was held in Epperson's honor Dec. 9 in the school's conference center. The event was hosted by Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher (far left), SSW Dean and Donald M. Henderson Professor Larry E. Davis (second from right), and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (far right).

CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS



MARY JANE BEHT/CODE

Duke University sociologist Eduardo Bonilla-Silva delivered an Oct. 16 lecture on racism, discrimination, colorblindness, and race matters in today's political America. Hosted by the School of Social Work's Center on Race and Social Problems, Bonilla-Silva spoke to a large audience in the school's conference center in the Cathedral of Learning.

Science & Technology

Vaccine Prevents Pneumococcal Meningitis in Adults and Children, Pitt Study Finds

By Clare Collins

A standard pediatric vaccine used to prevent several common types of life-threatening infections also effectively reduced the rates of another disease, pneumococcal meningitis, in children and adults, according to a multicenter study led by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. The study, published in the Jan. 15 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* and based on a detailed review of pneumococcal meningitis cases, also noted an increase in strains of pneumococcal meningitis not covered by the vaccine and those resistant to antibiotics.

An often deadly disease, pneumococcal meningitis is an infection in the brain and spinal cord membranes caused by the pneumococcus—a bacterium that also causes pneumonia and other serious infections. The highest rates of pneumococcal infections occur in very young children. There are approximately 2,700 cases of pneumococcal meningitis in the United States every year.

After reviewing 1,379 cases of pneumococcal meningitis from 1998 through 2005, study authors found rates of the disease decreased in children and adults after the introduction of pediatric pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) in 2000. PCV7 protects against seven of the most common pneumococcal types, which account for more than 80 percent of pneumococcal disease in young children. PCV7 is not administered to adults.

According to the study, incidence rates for pneumococcal meningitis in all age groups declined 30.1 percent from 1998-99 to 2004-05. After PCV7 was made available, the incidence of meningitis decreased by 64 percent in children and by 54 percent in older adults.

“When you immunize children, they are much less likely to carry pneumococcal strains covered by the vaccine in the back of the throat,” explained Lee Harrison, the study’s senior author and professor of medicine and epidemiology in Pitt’s School of Medicine. “When vaccinated children don’t carry these virulent strains, they don’t end up transmitting them to other children and their parents and grandparents,” he said.

Prior to the study, conflicting data existed on the vaccine’s effect on the incidence of meningitis in adults, Lee added.

The authors also observed that non-PCV7 strains increased by 60.5



Lee Harrison

percent from the 1998-99 period to 2004-05, and the percentage of strains that were not sensitive to penicillin, which initially declined, increased from 19.4 percent in 2003 to 30.1 percent in 2005.

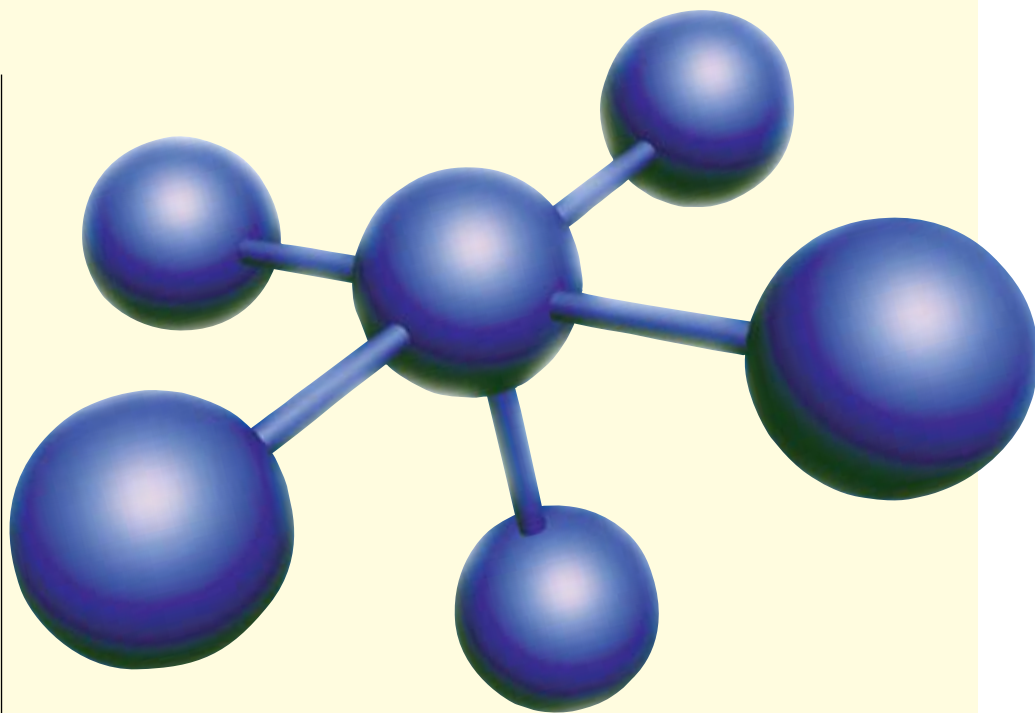
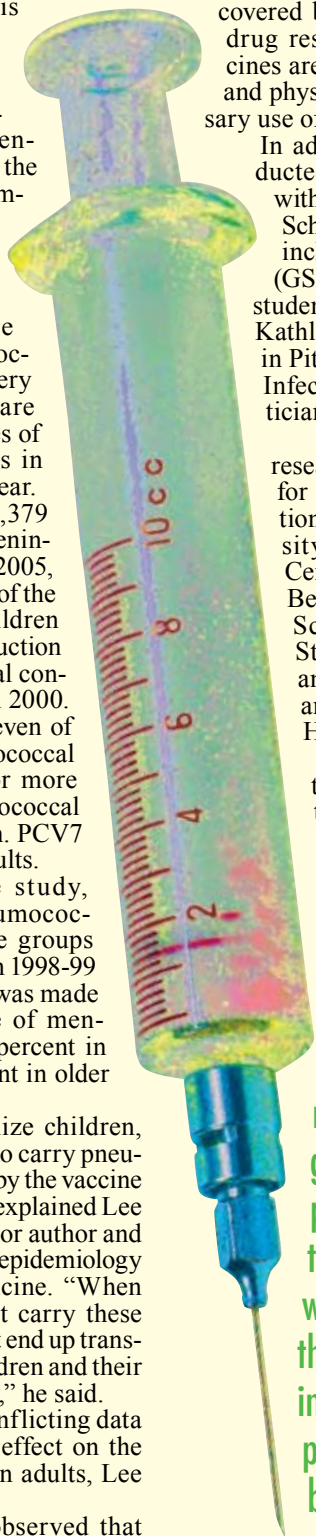
“PCV7 has been highly successful in preventing pneumococcal meningitis, but it remains a very serious and deadly disease,” Harrison said. “Of the patients in our study, 8 percent of children and 22 percent of adults died. These findings indicate the need to continue to explore new methods of prevention with a special emphasis on strains that are not covered by PCV7 and strains that are drug resistant. Next-generation vaccines are in development, and patients and physicians need to avoid unnecessary use of antibiotics.”

In addition to Harrison, who conducted this study in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, coauthors include first author Heather Hsu (GSPH '07), a first-year medical student at Harvard University, and Kathleen Shutt, a research associate in Pitt medical school’s Division of Infectious Diseases and a biostatistician in its Epidemiology Unit.

Other coauthors include researchers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Emory University; University of Texas Health Sciences Center; University of California Berkeley; Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; Oregon State Public Health Division; and the Connecticut, Minnesota, and Tennessee Departments of Health.

The study was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

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Pitt, NETL Researchers Report Molecular Chain Reaction Thought to Be Unlikely

By Morgan Kelly

People said it couldn’t be done, but researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) in Pittsburgh demonstrated a molecular chain reaction on a metal surface, a nanoscale process with sizable potential in areas from nanotechnology to developing information storage technology.

The researchers reported in the Dec. 12 edition of *Science* that a single electron caused a self-perpetuating chain reaction that rearranged the bonds in 10 consecutive molecules positioned on a gold surface. As each molecule’s original bond was broken by the reaction, the molecule rearranged itself to form a new molecule.

Study coauthor Kenneth Jordan, a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry in Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences and codirector of the University’s Center for Simulation and Modeling, said the ability to initiate molecular chain reactions and self-assembly has potential applications in information storage and in nanolithography, a process used in producing microchips and circuit boards.

Because the demonstrated reaction involved several molecules on a surface, it reframes researchers’ understanding of surface-based chain reactions. “The conventional wisdom held that a surface reaction would fizzle soon after the electron was introduced,” Jordan said. “Our

work, however, shows that reactions on metal surfaces can be sustained over long distances.”

Jordan and his colleagues worked with dimethyldisulfide molecules—two CH₃ methyl groups bonded by two adjoining sulfur atoms. The added

electron split the bond between the sulfur atoms of one molecule, creating a highly reactive free radical that attacked the sulfur-sulfur bond of the neighboring molecule. The radical split the bond, resulting in a new molecule and a new radical that proceeded to the sulfur-sulfur bond of the next molecule. The process repeated itself through a series of molecules.

Jordan conducted the research with Peter Maksymovych, who received his PhD degree in physical chemistry from Pitt in 2007 and is now a Wigner postdoctoral fellow at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences at Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Dan C. Sorescu, a NETL research physicist; and John T. Yates Jr., a former Pitt Mellon Professor of Chemistry and now a professor of chemistry at the University of Virginia. Maksymovych and Yates carried out the experiments and Jordan and Sorescu performed the supporting theoretical calculations.



Kenneth Jordan

People said it couldn’t be done, but researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory in Pittsburgh demonstrated a molecular chain reaction on a metal surface, a nanoscale process with sizable potential in areas from nanotechnology to developing information storage technology.

Awards & More



A number of individuals from the University of Pittsburgh were honored during the *New Pittsburgh Courier's* 50 Men of Excellence annual awards luncheon at The Lexus Club at PNC Park.

The *Courier* honored **Larry E. Davis**, the Donald M. Henderson Professor and dean of the School of Social Work, as well as the founder and director of Pitt's Center on Race and Social Problems; **Robert Hill**, vice chancellor for public affairs; **Clyde B. Jones III**, vice chancellor of health sciences development and president of the Medical and Health Sciences Foundation; **Alonzo W. Webb Jr.**, Pitt track and field head coach; and **John M. Wilds**, assistant vice chancellor for community and governmental relations.

Two Pitt trustees were also among the honorees—**George L. Miles Jr.**, president and chief executive officer of WOED Multimedia, and **William Strickland** (A&S '70), president and CEO of Manchester Bidwell Corporation and its subsidiaries, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and Bidwell Training Center.

In addition, the *Courier* honored the following Pitt alumni: Robert O. Agbede (ENGR '79, ENGR '81G), Oliver W. Byrd, (KGSB '74), Terry Collier (KGSB '71), Thaddeus Mosley (A&S '50), Sylvester Pace (EDUC '82G), and Gregory R. Spencer (CGS '80).

Dawn Lundy Martin, assistant professor of English in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of English in the School of Arts and Sciences, has been awarded the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' (AAAS) Poetry Prize. Martin is among five poets to receive the award, which recognizes emerging poets of exceptional promise and distinguished achievement. Martin is a founding member of the Black Took Collective, a group of experimental Black poets; cofounder of the Third Wave Founda-



Larry E. Davis



Robert Hill



Clyde B. Jones III



Alonzo W. Webb Jr.



John M. Wilds

tion; and coeditor of *The Fire This Time: Young Activists and the New Feminism* (Anchor Books, 2004). Her books include *The Morning Hour* (Poetry Society of America, 2003), a collection of poems that was selected for the Poetry Society of America's National Chapbook Fellowship, and *A Matter of Gathering / A Gathering of Matter* (University of Georgia Press, 2007), which won the 2006 Cave Canem Book Prize. Her work has appeared in *Hambone*, *FENCE*, *nocturnes*, *Encyclopaedia*, and *Callaloo*.

Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell appointed **Stephen J. Bagnato**, professor of pediatrics in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and assistant professor of psychology in education at Pitt, to the Pennsylvania Early Learning Council. Bagnato is also the director of the Early Childhood Partnerships program at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

Savio Woo, a University Professor of Bioengineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, received an Honorary Professorship from Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics while he was attending the Olympic Games in Beijing as a guest of International Olympics Committee President Jacques Rogge. The honor was bestowed upon Woo for his many seminal contributions to biomedical engineering research and education. During the same trip, Woo also received a Doctor of Engineering honorary degree from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The Asian Studies Center's Confucius Institute at the University of Pittsburgh (CI-Pitt) was named one of 20 Confucius Institutes of the Year by the Chinese Ministry of Education's Office of Chinese Language Council International. The designation was made during the council's third conference, which was held in Beijing in December. Established in May 2007, CI-Pitt was the first Confucius Institute in Pennsylvania. There are 295 Confucius Institutes in 78 countries and regions worldwide.

Jeremy Levy, a professor of physics and astronomy in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, received a Nano 50 Award in the Innovator category from *Nanotech Briefs*, a Web site and digital newsletter published by *NASA Tech Briefs*, the country's largest-circulation design engineering magazine. The fourth annual Nano 50 Awards recognize the top 50 technologies, products, and innovators that have significantly impacted, or are expected to impact, nanotechnology.

Levy led a research team that



Diane Lenio

Diane Lenio, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown administrative assistant in the Personal Counseling Center, was named this year's recipient of the President's Staff Award for Excellence in Service to Pitt-Johnstown. Lenio, who joined UPJ in 1998, is an active member of the Pitt-Johnstown Staff Activities and Concerns Association, and raised nearly \$500 as the team captain for the Susan G. Komen Passionately Pink for the Cure Campaign.

developed a process wherein the ability to conduct electricity can be turned on and off at nanoscale dimensions. This capability could result in more powerful and compact information technologies.

William Brice, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown professor emeritus in geology and planetary science, received the Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman History of Geology Distinguished Service Award. The award was presented by the Geological Society of America during a meeting held in October in Houston, Tex. The honor was created in 2005 and is given to an individual or individuals for exceptional service to the advancement of the knowledge of the history of the geological sciences.

Pitt Graduate Student Wins Transportation Fellowship Award



Anthony Fitzgerald (left) receives his fellowship check from Joseph Szczur, district executive for PennDOT's District 12.

Pitt business/engineering graduate student Anthony Fitzgerald received a \$10,000 Francis B. Francois Fellowship from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Fitzgerald's award stems from the larger Francis B. Francois Award given to PennDOT's District 12 (Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties) for innovative project delivery. The district offered the fellowship to universities across Pennsylvania, seeking proposals on how the fellowship could be used. PennDOT and AASHTO selected Pitt for its unique MBA/Master of Science in Engineering Dual Degree program that is offered through the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and the Swanson School of Engineering.

Fitzgerald, who is pursuing an MBA and a master's degree in civil engineering, was chosen for his interest in transportation issues and his academic standing. He will work from an integrated business-engineering perspective on a to-be-determined project related to Pennsylvania transportation issues.

Established in 2000, the Francis B. Francois Award honors the eponymous American engineer and noted authority on transportation infrastructure and policy. Francois served for 19 years as executive director of AASHTO, the nation's leading body on transportation research, policy, and design.

—Morgan Kelly

Happenings

Asian Studies Center Presents Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series



The University of Pittsburgh's Asian Studies Center will present the Spring 2009 Asia Over Lunch lecture series at noon on Thursdays, beginning Jan. 29 in 4130 Posvar Hall. Asian Studies is part of Pitt's University Center for International Studies.

The dates, presenters, and lecture titles follow:

Jan. 29— Siddharth Chandra, a Pitt professor of international affairs and director of the Asian Studies Center, "Marijuana Policy and Consumption in India: A Historical Perspective";

Feb. 5— Huiping Xie, doctoral candidate in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, "What Advances Community-driven Development? A Cultural Perspective of Gender Mainstreaming and Self-organization Mechanisms in the Rural Areas of China";

Feb. 12— Asif Khan, Jie Cui, and Muriel Zhou, Pitt doctoral candidates in education, "Gender and Higher Education in Pakistan";

Feb. 19— Seung-Hwan Shin, Pitt doctoral candidate in English, "Tale of Two Koreas: Division System, Semi-sovereignty, and Broken Subjectivity in Shiri and JSA";

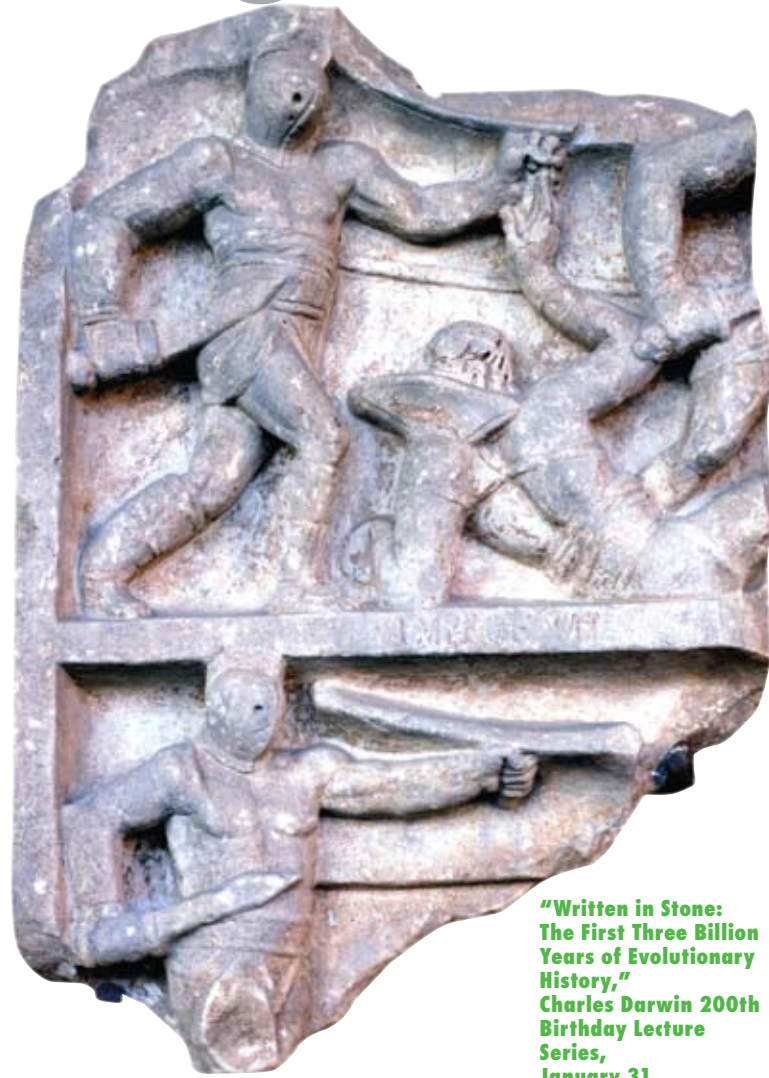
Feb. 26— Lee Branstetter, professor of economics and public policy in Carnegie Mellon University, "Will India and China Dominate the 21st Century Global Economy?";

March 5— Hiro Good, librarian in Pitt's East Asian Library, "Guide to New Japanese Digital Resources: *Asahi Shinbun* Database and Institutional Depositories";

March 19— Donald Goldstein, Pitt professor of public and international affairs and interim director of the Matthew B. Ridgway Center, "Pearl Harbor: The Relevance of the Attack 68 Years Later"; and

March 26— Clark Chilson, Pitt assistant professor of religious studies, "How to Hide a Religion: Dissimulation as a Transformative Process in the History of a Modern Secretive Shin Buddhist Association."

For more information, contact the Asian Studies Center at 412-648-7370.



"Written in Stone: The First Three Billion Years of Evolutionary History," Charles Darwin 200th Birthday Lecture Series, January 31

Concerts

A Tribute to African American Heroes, Daniel Meyer, conductor, 8 p.m. **Jan. 27**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, August Wilson Center for African American Culture, Hill House Association, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Tortelier: An Enchanted Journey, featuring Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Sibelius' *The Swan of Tuonela*, Grieg's *Piano Concerto*; Yan Pascal Tortelier, conductor; Orion Weiss, piano; 8 p.m. **Jan. 30-31**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics season, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

King's Noyse: Olde, Newe, Borrowed, Blue, featuring Ellen Hargis, soprano; Paul O'Dette, lutenist; David Douglass, director and violinist; four string players; 8 p.m. **Jan. 31**, Synod Hall, Fifth Avenue and North Craig Street, Oakland, Renaissance & Baroque Society of Pittsburgh, 412-682-7262, www.rbsp.org.

Exhibitions

Carnegie Museum of Natural History, *Time Machine*, watches from the H.J. Heinz Collection, through **Feb. 29**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.carnegiemn.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art, *Giovanni Battista Piranesi: Architecture and the Spaces of the Imagination*, prints from series *Imaginary Prisons* and *Views of Rome*, through **Feb. 15**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, *Annual Orchid Show*, through **March 8**, One Schenley Park, Oakland, 412-622-6914, www.phipps.conservatory.org.

Mattress Factory, *Predrive: After Technology*, through **March 22**, 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, 412-231-3169, www.mattress.org.

Free at Last? Slavery in Pittsburgh in the 18th and 19th Centuries, through **April 5**, exhibition by the University of Pittsburgh at the Senator John Heinz History Center, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, www.pghistory.org.

Frick Art and Historical Center, *A Revolution on Wheels: The Model T at 100*, through **May 3**, Car and Carriage Museum; *Meissonier: A Final Masterpiece, A Pittsburgh Home*, through **May 31**, The Frick Art Museum, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze 412-371-0600, www.frickart.org.

Film

Orfeu Negro (1959), directed by Marcel Camus, 7:30 p.m. **Jan. 28**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Center for Latin American Studies, Amigos del Cine Latinoamericano Spring 2009 Series, www.amigos-delcinelatinoamericano.blogspot.com.

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

Devra Davis, director of Pitt's Center on Environmental Oncology, professor of epidemiology in the Graduate School of Public Health, and author, 7:30 p.m. **Jan. 26**, Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Drue Heinz Lecture Series, 412-622-8866, www.pittsburghlectures.org.

"Epistemic Landscape Models of Cognitive Labor," Michael Weisberg, University of Pennsylvania professor of philosophy, 12:05 p.m. **Jan. 27**, 817 Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Talks, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/~pittentr.

"The Aftermath of the Tsunami 2004: Relief and Recovery Efforts in Indonesia," Elviyanti Martini, Pitt visiting Heinz Fellow in the University Center for International Studies, 8 p.m. **Jan. 27**, 3725 Sutherland Hall Lounge, Pitt Asian Studies Center, Global Studies Program, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

"No End of History in Sight: Changes and Continuity From the Cold War to the Post-cold War Era," Paul Adams, Pitt-Greensburg professor of political science, 7 p.m. **Jan. 28**, Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center, Pitt-Greensburg campus, La Cultura Lecture Series, 724-836-7741, www.upg.pitt.edu.

Anna Quindlen, columnist and author, 8 p.m. **Jan. 28**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Robert Morris University's Pittsburgh Speaker Series, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghspeakerseries.org.

"Marijuana Policy and Consumption in India: A Historical Perspective," Siddharth Chandra, Pitt professor of public and international affairs and director of the Asian Studies Center, noon **Jan. 29**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Asia Over Lunch Lecture series, 412-383-3062, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

"Women and Cosmopolitanism (Marlene Dietrich, Anna May Wong, and Leni Riefenstahl)," Patrice Petro, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee professor of English and film studies, 1 p.m. **Jan. 29**, 501 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Film Studies Program, 412-624-6564, www.filmstudies.pitt.edu.

"Oxyanionic 5-exo Cyclization/Claisen Rearrangement Reactions: Applications to the Synthesis of Cycloheptanoid Natural Products," Timo Ovaska, University of Connecticut professor of chemistry, 2:30 p.m. **Jan. 29**, 12B Chevron Science Center, Pitt Department of Chemistry, 412-624-8200, www.chem.pitt.edu.

"Basaltic Lavas Emplaced Beneath Ice: Emplacement Mechanism and Their Use as Paleo-ice Indicators," Jefferson Hungerford, Pitt professor of geology and planetary science, 4 p.m. **Jan. 29**, Room 11, Thaw Hall, Pitt Department of Geology and Planetary Science 2009 Speaker Series, 412-624-8780, www.geology.pitt.edu.

"Molecular Modeling of Ligand-Protein Interactions in Membrane Proteins," Maria Kurnikova, Carnegie Mellon University professor of chemistry, 4 p.m. **Jan. 29**, 12A Chevron Science Center, Pitt Department of Chemistry, 412-624-8200, www.chem.pitt.edu.

"Seeing Pittsburgh," Ron Baraff, Rivers of Steel director of museum collections and archives, and Tiffani Emig, Rivers of Steel curator of collections, 10:30 a.m. **Jan. 30**, 501 Information Sciences Building, Publishing Pittsburgh Pictures Series, Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, 412-624-5139, www.ischool.pitt.edu.

"Written in Stone: The First Three Billion Years of Evolutionary History," Shuhai Xiao, Virginia Tech University professor of geobiology, 3 p.m. **Jan. 30**, Bayer Learning Center, Pappert Lecture Hall, Duquesne University, 600 Forbes Ave., Uptown; also 1 p.m. **Jan. 31**, Carnegie Museum of Art Theater, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Evidence for Evolution: A Celebration of Charles Darwin's 200th Birthday Lecture Series, Duquesne University, www.sepa.duq.edu/darwin/talks.html.

Opera/Theater/Dance

Disney's High School Musical, **Jan. 29-Feb. 8**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, 412-539-0900, www.pittsburghmusicals.com.



Metamorphoses, O'Reilly Theater, through February 15

Mouth to Mouth, drama by Kevin Elyot, **Jan. 29-Feb. 22**, 121 Seventh St., Downtown, Quantum Theatre, 412-394-3353, www.quantumtheatre.com.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, by Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts, through **Feb. 1**, Theatre Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, CLO Cabaret Theater, 412-325-6766, www.CLOCabaret.com.

Jersey Boys, through **Feb. 1**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Clean Drums, biographical jazz bop play by Rob Penny, directed by Pitt professor Vernell A. Lillie, through **Feb. 7**, 7th-floor Auditorium, Alumni Hall, Kuntu Repertory Theatre, 412-624-7298, www.kuntu.org.

Metamorphoses, by Mary Zimmerman, through **Feb. 15**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org.

The Seafarer, by Conor McPherson, through **Feb. 15**, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-CITY, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Wenjie He, Pitt Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, "Transcriptional Regulation of Kv4.2 Gene by Iroquois Family Proteins," 9 a.m. **Jan. 26**, 5th Floor, Conference Room, Cellomics Building, 100 Technology Dr., Bridgeside Point.

Zhijie Ding, Swanson School's Department of Bioengineering, "Profilin-1 in Capillary Morphogenesis of Vascular Endothelial Cells," 10 a.m. **Jan. 27**, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Center for Biotechnology and Bioengineering, 300 Technology Dr., South Oakland.

Time Machine, watches from the H.J. Heinz collection, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, through February 29

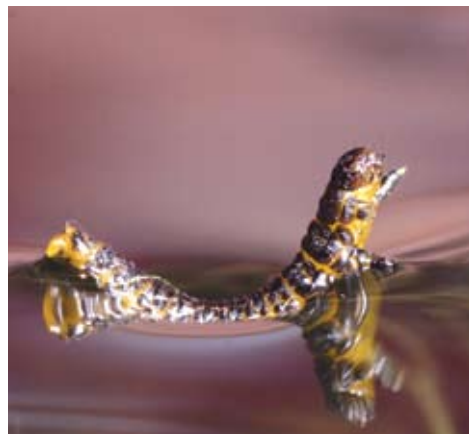




Baby Beetles Inspire Pitt Researchers to Build "Mini Boat" Powered by Surface Tension



By Morgan Kelly



A wriggling beetle larva might repulse the average person, but Pitt professor Sung Kwon Cho admired the way they get around on water. Certain beetle babies glide across water by harnessing the energy of surface tension, or the natural pull of water on a floating object.

Cho, a professor of mechanical engineering and materials science in the Swanson School of Engineering, designed a propulsion system that strips away paddles, sails, and motors and travels, larva-style, by manipulating surface tension. Cho will present his findings today at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' 2009 Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) conference in Sorrento, Italy.

Like any floating object, a larva resting in the water causes the surface tension to pull equally on both sides. To move forward, the larva bends its back downward to change the tension direction behind it. The forward tension then pulls the larva through the water.

In Cho's experiments, an electrode attached to a "mini boat" destabilized the surrounding surface tension with an electric pulse and caused the craft to move via the surface's natural pull.

Cho envisioned the system after colleagues at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology published research in *Nature* in 2005 that described the way beetle larvae move on water, he said. Like any floating object, a larva resting in the water causes the surface tension to pull equally on both sides. To move forward, the larva bends its back downward to change the tension direction behind it. The forward tension then pulls the larva through the water.

Cho and Pitt engineering doctoral students Sang Kug Chung and Kyungjoo Ryu substituted the larva's back bending with the elec-

tric pulse.

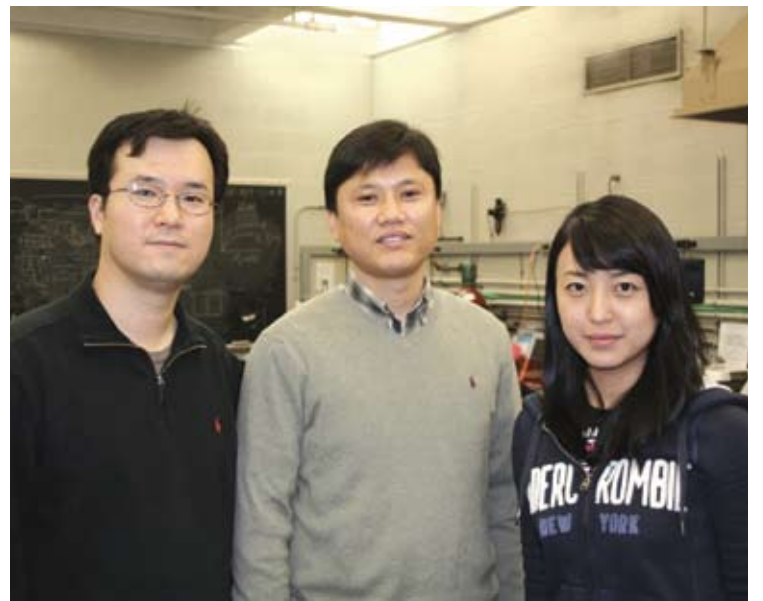
In video of their experiments, a 2-centimeter-long "mini boat" skims across a tub of water with only slight disturbance. An electrode attached to the rear of the boat is emitting a surge that changes the rear surface tension direction and propels the boat forward at roughly 4 millimeters per second. A second electrode attached to the boat's front side served as a rudder and additional video shows the boat spinning with like effortlessness under its power.

Cho sees this method of propulsion as an efficient and low-maintenance mechanism for small robots and boats that monitor water quality in oceans, reservoirs, and other bodies of water, he said. These devices are typically propeller-driven, which can consume a lot of energy. The technique Cho developed has no moving parts and the low-energy electrode that emits the pulse could be powered by batteries, radio waves, or solar power, he added.

An abstract of Cho's mechanism is available on Pitt's Web site at www.pitt.edu/news2009/Cho.pdf.

Footage of the boat is available at www.pitt.edu/news2009/curving_top_cho.wmv. A film of the rudder capability can be viewed at www.pitt.edu/news2009/rotation_side_cho.wmv.

More information on MEMS 2009 is available at the conference Web site at www.mems2009.org



Sung Kwon Cho (center), a professor of mechanical engineering and materials science in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, developed the propulsion system with Pitt engineering doctoral students Sang Kug Chung (left) and Kyungjoo Ryu (right).

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Feb. 2. 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, faxed to 412-624-4895, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail robinet@pitt.edu.

