Chancellor’s 2009 Distinguished Research, Public Service Awards Announced

By Anthony M. Moore

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg has announced the winners of the 2009 Chancellor’s Distinguished Research and Distinguished Public Service Awards.

The Chancellor’s Distinguished Research Award will be given to the following five Pitt faculty members:

Jennifer R. Grandis, the UPMC Endowed Chair in Head and Neck Cancer Surgical Research, vice chair for research in Pitt’s Department of Otolaryngology, and a professor of otolaryngology and pharmacology in Pitt’s School of Medicine; Angela M. Gronenborn, the UPMC Rosalind Franklin Professor and Chair in the School of Medicine’s Department of Structural Biology; Thomas L. Saaty, a professor of business administration and University Professor in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business; Judith Klein-Seetharaman, an assistant professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Structural Biology; and Kazunori Koide, a professor in the School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Chemistry.

Grandis, Gronenborn, and Saaty were honored in the senior scholar category, which recognizes “an outstanding and continuing record of research and scholarly activity.” Klein-Seetharaman and Koide were honored in the junior scholar category.

The three winners of the Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Award, which honors faculty for outstanding contributions to the community, are:

John M. Burkoff, a professor in the School of Law; Toi Derricotte, a professor of English in the School of Arts and Sciences; and Paul Douglas Newman, a professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Each awardee will receive a $2,000 cash prize and a $3,000 grant for the support of his or her teaching or research.

The awardees will be recognized during Pitt’s 33rd annual Honors Convocation on Friday, Feb. 27, and their names also will be inscribed on plaques to be displayed in the William Pitt Union.

Pitt Gender Wage Gap Conference Explores National and Regional Pay Inequality

By Morgan Kelly

Wages for the average working woman in Southwestern Pennsylvania trail those of her local male counterpart and of her female colleagues in most of the nation’s large economic regions. Even so, women in the United States are still pushing for equal pay, as evidenced by the recent passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the pending Paycheck Fairness Act now before the U.S. Senate.

To explore the regional—and national—disparity’s roots and remedies, the University of Pittsburgh will host a daylong conference of nationally recognized wage-disparity scholars and advocates of equal-pay policy Feb. 20 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Toplitz Memorial Courtroom, Barco Law Building. Titled The Gender Wage Gap: Strategies for the Future, the conference is sponsored by Pitt’s School of Law, the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPiA), and the College of General Studies (CGS).

The program begins at 9 a.m. with a keynote address by Jocelyn Frye, the newly appointed director of policy and projects for First Lady Michelle Obama and deputy assistant to President Obama for domestic policy. Prior to this appointment, Frye served as general counsel of the National Partnership for Women and Families, which advocates for working parents on issues ranging from equal pay to family leave. She also directed the partnership’s Workplace Fairness Program and was actively involved in securing passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.签约 signed into law Jan. 29, the first bill signed by President Barack Obama. The law reverses the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2007 ruling in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., which required Title VII complainants to challenge any pay discrimination under the statute within 180 days of the time the discriminatory decision was made, even if the discrimination was ongoing and not discovered until years later. A companion bill, the Paycheck Fairness Act—which would strengthen the 1963
Archives—those repositories of the past—require more than simply collecting papers. To compile and maintain an archive requires a dogged adherence to transparency, social and historical context, and, in some cases, a sense of purpose, as nationally known archivists will attest in the lecture series Archival Agitators and Advocates, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences (iSchool). The iSchool’s Institute for Information Ethics and Policy is cosponsoring the series with the Pitt student chapter of the Society of American Archivists.

Speakers ranging from the Seneca Nation’s head archivist to a staunch advocate of executive privilege in the White House will discuss the preservation of public knowledge and records in light of personal privacy, government and corporate activities, and intellectual property. These issues involve equipping the next generation of archivists so they can become more effective advocates for their programs and the archival mission.

Each one-hour lecture will begin at 11 a.m. in Room 501 of the Information Sciences Building. An informal 10:30 a.m. coffee session with the speaker will precede each event. The lectures are free and open to the public. Lecture dates and brief biographies of the speakers follow.

Wednesday, Feb. 11
Scholarly Anthony Clark will offer a glimpse of his ongoing exploration of every presidential library in the United States in his lecture “Presidential Libraries: The Last Campaign, How Presidents Rewrite History, Run for Posterity, and Enshrine Their Legacies.” Clark is completing a history of the presidential libraries, a project that has taken him to every U.S. presidential library, where he has evaluated the experiences of visitors to these institutions; interviewed docents, guards, and library staff; worked in their public research rooms; and examined the administrative and other files in and about these institutions. Clark has worked for the past 17 years as an information technology consultant and writer. From 2004 to 2005, he was the director of planning and information technology for the Washington, D.C.-based Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, which has been described as a presidential library for the Pope.

Friday, Feb. 20
David L. George-Shongo Jr., archivist for the Seneca Nation, will discuss the creation and challenges of the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials, conventions designed by tribal and nontribal archivists to ensure the safe and respectful acquisition and use of Native American documents, records, and historical accounts. In his lecture “The Protocols for Native American Archival Materials and the Future of Archival Work,” George-Shongo addresses the specific challenges of implementing the protocols, such as considering and working with various tribal values, cultures, and knowledge systems. George-Shongo became the first archivist for the Seneca Nation in 2004 and, in 2005, the first chair of the Society of American Archivist’s Native American Archives Roundtable. He is also a staunch advocate of the three branches of government fought over the proper limits of open government—issues that should have been of vital concern to archivists—the archival profession mostly traveled a timid path during the past 30 years. The question now is whether the profession has sufficiently emerged as a vibrant field that it is willing to address the most salient issues of the day involving government secrecy and the public’s right to know. Montgomery is the founding director of the UCB Human Rights Initiative and a founding member of the International Federation of Human Rights Centers and Archives. He has served as an analyst of classified documents for the U.S. government and is currently a consultant for the Institute for Defense Analysis—a Pentagon-funded task force that helps to set up a digital archive of captured al-Qaeda, Taliban, and Saddam Hussein-era records. More information on the lectures is available on the iSchool Web site at www.ischool.pitt.edu/archivalagitators.
Making a Difference

Emma Rose supports Pitt to pave path for other students

For Emma Rose (CAS ’45), giving to the University of Pittsburgh has always been a family tradition. When she was a little girl when the Cathedral of Learning was being built and the chancellor asked everyone to contribute to the University’s building fund,” Rose said, “My father encouraged me to make a donation, so I gave 10 cents to help with the construction.

Since then, the Cathedral of Learning has been a place of inspiration, scholarship, and achievement for the family. The family who now resides in Hartford, Conn.

During the years of the Great Depression, the Cathedral of Learning offered hope to my family. When we saw the Cathedral in the horizon, my father would often tell me that Pitt would be the institution that would open the doors of opportunity to me,” Rose said.

Just as her father predicted, Rose pursued a college education at Pitt. After receiving a bachelor’s degree from Pitt’s College of Arts and Sciences and a master’s degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology Library School, Rose moved to Hartford, to become the librarian for the Ropkins Branch of the Hartford Public Library. The Ropkins Branch is part of SAND Elementary School, which is named for the South Arsenal Neighborhood Development, a 1960s neighborhood action league.

For 36 years, Rose was committed to making SAND Elementary School a better place to learn. In addition to serving as librarian at the school, she was treasurer and chair of the fundraising committee of the Parent Teacher Community Organization; sponsored extracurricular activities for students, such as the Computer Club and the Cooking and Sewing Club; coordinated the publication of two of the school’s yearbooks; and served as the building representative for the Hartford Education Association.

“I loved being a school librarian because I was able to work with children,” she said. “Whether I was teaching library skills or coordinating reading activities, I was always interacting with the children in my school.”

Rose’s dedication to the school and its children didn’t go unnoticed. When she retired in 1995, the Hartford Board of Education named the SAND Elementary School library the Emma E. Rose Media Center/Ropkins Public Library in her honor.

Not only did Rose contribute to the Hartford community during her time at SAND Elementary, she also has been a faithful contributor to Pitt’s Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, of which she was a member, and the University of Pittsburgh. Rose created a charitable gift annuity to support the African American Nursing Alumni Scholarship Fund in Pitt’s School of Nursing.

While providing tuition assistance to students was her top priority, there is another poignant inspiration behind her gift to the School of Nursing.

“When I was in school during World War II, we needed more soldiers and more nurses. Back then, though, we needed people to fill these needs, racial prejudice was on the rise,” explained Rose. “My friends Rachel Johnson Poole, Nadine Frye, and Adena Johnson Davis, all aspiring nurses, had a difficult time applying to nursing programs in the Pittsburgh area because they were African American. But, in 1943, they were all accepted into Pitt’s School of Nursing. The University made history that day as the first nursing program in Western Pennsylvania to admit African Americans,” Rose recalled.

Rose was encouraged to support Pitt’s nursing program because the University provides friends and sorority sisters the opportunity to earn nursing degrees.

The African American Nursing Alumni Committee established the scholarship fund in 1989. Since then, the committee has raised more than $42,592 from 138 donors.

Over the years, this scholarship has helped ease the financial burden of educational costs for 25 students and Rose’s gift has helped the fund continue to grow.

“In my life, I’ve learned that you can do more as a group than you can by yourself. That’s why I chose to support this scholarship fund,” said Rose. “Together, we can all make a difference in the lives of Pitt students.”

Equal Pay Act’s guarantee of comparable wages for men and women who do the same job—passed the U.S. House in January and is now pending in the U.S. Senate.

The panel begins at 1:45 p.m.

The Pitt Gender Wage Gap Conference Explores National and Regional Pay Inequality

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The program begins at 9 a.m. with a keynote address by Jocelyn Frye, the newly appointed director of policy and projects for First Lady Michelle Obama and deputy assistant to President Barack Obama for domestic policy.

The panel includes: 
- Mary Francis Gargotta (CGS ’79), executive vice president and chief executive officer of MARC USA in Pittsburgh; Terri Marts (CGS ’81), president of URS Corporation’s Washington Defense Group, a $600-million business unit that contracts with the U.S. government; and, Anna Roman (CGS ’82), Hansen, who studies women and politics, will moderate the panel.

For the conference schedule or to register, visit the Pitt Law School Web site at www.law.pitt.edu/genderconf or call 412-648-7796.

Brief biographies of the conference participants can be found at www.pitt.edu/news/2009/gender_gap_conference_bio.html.
Brain’s Impulse Control Region Affected in Teens With Genetic Vulnerability to Alcoholism

By Anito Srikameswaran

A recent study suggests that genetic factors influence size variations in a certain region of the brain, which could in turn be partly responsible for increased susceptibility to alcohol dependence.

It appears that the size of the right orbitofrontal cortex (OFC), an area of the brain that is involved in regulating emotional processing and impulsive behavior, is smaller in teenagers and young adults who have several relatives who are alcohol dependent, according to a study led by Shirley Hill, professor of psychiatry in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

In the research, published in the online version of *Biological Psychiatry*, Hill and her team imaged the brains of 107 teens and young adults using magnetic resonance imaging. They also examined variation in certain genes of the participants and administered a well-validated questionnaire to measure the youngsters’ tendency to be impulsive.

The participants included 63 individuals who were selected for the study because they had multiple alcohol-dependent family members, suggesting a genetic predisposition, and 44 who had no close relatives dependent on drugs or alcohol.

When the investigators looked at two genes, 5-HTT and BDNF, they found certain variants that led to a reduction in white matter volume in the OFC, and that in turn was associated with greater impulsivity.

“We are beginning to understand how genetic factors can lead to structural brain changes that may make people more vulnerable to alcoholism,” Hill said. “These results also support our earlier findings of reduced volume of other brain regions in high-risk kids.”

These differences can be observed even before the high-risk offspring start drinking excessively, she added, “leading us to conclude that they are predisposing factors in the cause of this disease, rather than a consequence of it.”

The study was supported by grants from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Pitt, Children’s Researchers Use Novel Stem Cells to Repair Injured Heart Muscles in Mice

By Marc Lukasiek

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC have been able to effectively repair damaged heart muscle in an animal model using a novel population of stem cells they discovered that is derived from human skeletal muscle tissue.

The research team at Children’s Hospital is led by Johnny Huard, a professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry, Biomechanics, and Pathology. He is also the Henry J. Mankin Professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Huard transplanted stem cells purified from human muscle-derived blood vessels into the hearts of mice that had heart damage similar to that which would occur in people who had suffered a heart attack.

These transplanted myoendothelial cells repaired the injured muscle, stimulated the growth of new blood vessels in the heart, and reduced scar tissue from the injury, thereby dramatically improving the function of the injured left ventricle, said Huard, director of the Stem Cell Research Center in Children’s Hospital’s John G. Rangos Sr. Research Center.

“This study confirms our belief that this novel population of stem cells discovered in our laboratory holds tremendous promise for the future of regenerative medicine. Specifically, myoendothelial cells show potential as a therapy for people who have suffered a myocardial infarction.”

—Johnny Huard

Huard said. “These results support our earlier findings of reduced volume of the OFC, and that in turn was associated with greater impulsivity. We are beginning to understand how genetic factors can lead to structural brain changes that may make people more vulnerable to alcoholism.”

Huard and colleagues in the Stem Cell Research Center are researching and developing numerous therapeutic uses for the population of muscle stem cells that the team identified. One of the most promising uses could be for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a genetic disease that affects one in every 3,500 patients. Boys with DMD lack dystrophin, a protein that gives muscle cells structure.

Huard is an internationally recognized cell biologist conducting laboratory research into the therapeutic use of stem cells to treat a variety of musculoskeletal and orthopaedic diseases and injuries. In the lab, Huard is developing cutting-edge therapies to regenerate bone, cartilage, and peripheral nerve and to repair damaged skeletal muscle after sports and military injuries.
A Woman of Many Passions

Lucile Adams-Campbell dedicates her career to eliminating health disparities

By Amanda Leff

Growing up, Lucile Adams-Campbell had an extraordinary number of passions. She was a one-person quartet, playing the piano, clarinet, saxophone, and guitar. She was a star athlete in track and field, and a budding mathematician and scientist.

Today, not much has changed. She still possesses a great love for music and continues to be a runner. She fits those passions into her hectic schedule of balancing responsibilities as a mother and an internationally recognized expert on health disparities.

Adams-Campbell received her PhD in epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1983 and completed a National Institutes of Health-funded postdoctoral fellowship at Pitt as well. She then joined Pitt’s Department of Epidemiology as an adjunct professor.

While studying epidemiology at Pitt, Adams-Campbell was the only Black doctoral student in her program.

“Other than standing out by virtue of the color of my skin, I can say without any reservations that I succeeded in my doctoral program just as my classmates did—by hard work, dedication, and perseverance,” says Adams-Campbell. “My experience at Pitt positively impacted my life, as evidenced by my career achievements.”

Specializing in community health research, interventions, and outreach, Adams-Campbell has played a leading role in the Washington, D.C., public health community. With a focus on cancer prevention, she studies the issues and factors that affect populations, such as African Americans, who have a greater risk of developing cancer. In September 2008, she was appointed associate director of Minority Health and Health Disparities Research at Georgetown University’s Lombard Comprehensive Cancer Center.

In addition, Adams-Campbell’s lifelong work on health disparities has resulted in her induction into the Institute of Medicine (IOM), an honor membership organization that is a component of the National Academy of Sciences and serves as a national advisory body on matters of health and science policy. She will officially be inducted into the IOM in October 2009.

Prior to delving into the world of health disparities, Adams-Campbell studied chemical engineering at Drexel University—where she received her bachelor’s degree in biological sciences and her master’s degree in biomedical science. “I decided I did not want to pursue pipes and fluid dynamics any further—I wanted to get involved on the human side of research,” she says.

Adams-Campbell recalls being tired of reading about research that dismissed the importance of studying the health of African Americans and other underrepresented groups. She became determined to be a scientist in the field of epidemiology, and she wanted to be sure she always had adequate sample sizes of underrepresented populations.

“I always thought it was practical to address the health of people who were not doing as well, who had poor survival rates,” she says. “I think populations that are more likely to be sicker from a disease—whether it’s hypertension or breast cancer—deserve and warrant attention.”

Adams-Campbell has led several large cohort studies of African American women and played a leading role in bringing to Washington, D.C., the Boston University Black Women’s Health Study, the largest study of African American women to date. Adams-Campbell, the primary investigator in D.C. for that study, was part of the original group of researchers who began the study in 1995—though it took three attempts for the group to secure funding. The Black Women’s Health Study has overcome great odds since its slow beginnings in the mid-’90s.

“We were told that we probably could not recruit more than 800 women, so for us to get 59,000 nationally and to consistently track them with a high follow-up rate—this is a remarkable accomplishment,” she says. “People thought that we couldn’t, but we’re the little train that could.”

In addition to recruiting such a huge number of study participants, the researchers have collected DNA samples for future genetic studies from 26,000 African American women.

“We have our finger on the pulse of this minority community better than anyone else,” says Adams-Campbell. “To me, it’s been one of the biggest and most important studies I have been involved with.”

Inspired by many great minds throughout her life, Adams-Campbell fondly recalls the influence of Lewis Kuller, professor of public health and former chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh.

“Lewis Kuller played a major role in my success,” she says. “He was supportive of my research area of focus—African Americans—at a time when there was, to my knowledge, virtually no research being conducted on this population at the Graduate School of Public Health.”

—Lucile Adams-Campbell

“Lewis Kuller played a major role in my success. He was supportive of my research area of focus—African Americans—at a time when there was, to my knowledge, virtually no research being conducted on this population at the Graduate School of Public Health.”

—Lucile Adams-Campbell

Other positive influences in her life, she says, were her parents, both of whom earned master’s degrees. Her late father, an accountant and linguistic analyst, was especially supportive of the academic life.

“He was definitely very much interested in and supportive of upward mobility,” she says.

Today, Adams-Campbell has two children of her own. Her son is a sophomore at Emory University, and her daughter is a sophomore in high school. Both of her children inherited her love of running, and she and her husband, who is a lawyer, travel all over the country to watch their children’s varsity track meets.

“We make concessions,” she says. “We’ve had to figure out how to coordinate schedules so we can be there with the children.”

As for her hopes for the field of epidemiology, Adams-Campbell says she wants to see reduced mortality rates in African American and other underrepresented populations. She also would like to see the obesity epidemic wiped out.

“We have to change our lifestyle,” she says. “We need more behavior interventions to get people to exercise more and eat better—especially starting at a very young age—to stop this obesity.”

She says she hopes most of all to see a reduction or elimination of the disparity between the people at the highest risk and the people at the lowest risk for all diseases and cancers—whether it is African Americans and other underrepresented groups or White individuals.
Satty is best known for developing the Analytic Hierarchical Process (AHP), a structured technique for assisting individuals in complex decision-making, a technique that he later generalized in the form of the Analytic Network Process (ANP). AHP has been used in both individual and group decision-making in business, industry, and governments and is particularly applicable to complex, large-scale, multiple criteria decision problems. ANP has been applied to a variety of decision involving benefits, costs, opportunities, and risks and is particularly useful in predicting outcomes.

Satty has been recognized as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has been elected a member of the International Academy of Management and the National Academy of Engineering. He has been awarded the Gold Medal from The International Society of Multicriteria Decision Making as well as an Impact Prize from the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences for the development of AHP.

As a world leader in rhodopsin research, Klein-Seetharaman has played an integral role in the development of the field, along with the Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office in the challenging problem of protein folding. Rhodopsin is a pigment of the retina that is responsible for the formation of photoreceptor cells and the first events in the perception of light.

Klein-Seetharaman has served as a speaker or session chair at numerous retinal conferences and has received speaking invitations from around the world, including Germany, Japan, and Spain. She has been awarded the National Science Foundation’s Career Award, the Sofia Kovalevskaya Prize from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and the Margaret Oakley Dayhoff Award from the Biophysical Society, given to "a scientist who holds very high promise to achieve prominent status in the field of chemical sensors.

Klein-Seetharaman received a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Award for her proposal titled “Identification of New Drug Targets for HIV Interaction Pathways.”

Nordenberg wrote, “You have an unusual gift for doing both theory and experimental work in your research. … It is remarkable that you have managed to integrate work in disparate areas of research at multiple institutions with creativity, enthusiasm, scientific depth, and broadness. Your productivity has been stellar.”

Koide has put together an acclaimed program in two different areas of chemical research. He has contributed important ways to research aimed at the total synthesis of anticancer natural products and in the area of chemoselective biological processes. Koide’s research has contributed to the understanding of protein-protein interactions.

“His work has garnered recognition and considerable attention in both the scientific and industrial communities. His work has provided important new opportunities for current and future applications of his technologies in both areas of research,” Nordenberg wrote.

Koide is an entrepreneur and co-founder of the Pitt Innovator Award, Thieme Chemistry Journals Award, and the Merck Fellowship of the Cancer Research Fund of the Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Foundation, as well as the Nato Foundation Fellowship. He has received grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the University of Pittsburgh, and other organizations.

**Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Awards**

Burkoff was recognized for his public service contributions in the areas of professional and public ethics, outstanding judicial education, and oversight of the local law enforcement system.

In choosing Burkoff, the selection committee said he has played a leading role in providing continuing education to Pennsylvania’s judges in his areas of expertise. The committee noted that he has regularly served as a faculty member at the annual Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges Judicial Education Conference since 1984, and it specified his 2006 appointment by the chief justice of Pennsylvania to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Commission on Judicial Independence.

Nordenberg wrote, “The committee also was impressed by your contributions as a member of the specially appointed panel that was convened to investigate what ultimately concluded was the wrongful awarding of an MBA degree at West Virginia University to a highly placed executive MBA student.”

Burkoff, the committee noted your service as the founding chair of the City of Pittsburgh’s Citizen Police Review Board and as a member of a task force on law enforcement significantly to the Use of Force Working Group.”

In a letter supporting Burkoff’s nomination, Pitt Board of Trustees Chair Ralph Cappy, former chief justice of Pennsylvania, wrote, “I am not sure I can express in this letter how important a role the professor has played over the last 25 years in our efforts to maintain a high level of commitment and competence in our state judiciary.”

Derricotte was recognized for her work as cofounder and director of Cave Canem, an organization that has fostered the development and nurturing of African American poets from a series of programs that includes a weeklong writing retreat on the Pitt-Greensburg campus. During Derri- cotte’s tenure as its director, Cave Canem has secured significant, multiyear capacity building grants, including $310,000 from the Ford Foundation, $150,000 from the Lannan Foundation, and $50,000 from Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Derricotte is the author of more than a thousand poems in published anthologies and journals as well as six books, including Jender (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007) and The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey (W.W. Norton & Company, 1999). Nordenberg wrote, “I have long admired your work, and it gives me great pleasure to formally acknowledge your exemplary service to the greater good. The many ben- efits of your efforts appreciate the hard work and dedication you have characterized your service to the community.”

In a letter supporting Derricotte’s nomination, David Bartholomew, chair of Pitt’s English department, wrote, “Tois’s work with Cave Canem has always been a labor of love and she receives no compensation for the time, energy, and vision she provides— and this includes her regular and constant presence at the summer workshops.”

Newman was recognized for his work in helping to shape the vision of the local community’s history by working with high school teachers to involve their students in community heritage projects that immerse them in active scholarly research.

In addition to pursuing his own teaching, research, and writing on the Pitt-Johnstown campus, Newman volunteered to assist students at Northern Cambria High School with the production of the book At the Dust Settles: Revealing Those Seldom Seen (Gazette Printing, 2007), which looks at the numerous coal mining heritage of Western Pennsylvania. He also assisted the high school students in producing Vietnam War Veterans and the Approach of the Golden Anniversary, a video documentary involving in-depth interviews with local Vietnam War veterans who reflected on their wartime experiences as well as their experiences upon returning home.

In a letter supporting Newman’s nomination, Charles Cashdollar, president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, wrote, “Paul’s editorial contribution is an important public service for scholars, public school teachers, and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”

Nordenberg wrote Newman that “the selection committee was particu- larly impressed by your work on com- munity heritage projects with teachers and students from the Northern Cambria High School. The projects, which were coordinated and managed, provided the students with a unique opportu- nity to immerse themselves in active scholarly research. In doing so, the students were exposed to grant writing, interview techniques, field research, publication, and video production.”

**Pitt’s Spring 2009 Job, Internship Fair Set for February 11-12**

By Shawn Ahearn

The University of Pittsburgh will host its Spring 2009 Job Internship Fair on Feb. 11-12 in the William Pitt Union. The Student Employment and Placement Assistance (SEPA) Office within the Development and Student Affairs will welcome more than 150 employers from around the country to campus to conduct interviews for technical and nontech- nical jobs and internships.

The event, which is free and open to all current Pitt students and alumni, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. both days. The fair on Wednesday, Feb. 11, will feature employers seeking to hire students for full-time employment and internships in such technical fields as engineering, computer science, and information science. On Thursday, Feb. 12, the focus will be on jobs and internships in the arts, sciences, and business fields.

Interviews will be conducted for fulltime positions and internships, according to Cheryl Finlay, SEPA director. “Every day we hear about downsizing and layoffs, but we have more than 150 companies from the corporate sector, government, and nonprofit industries coming to our campus to conduct interviews,” she said.

Kathy Humphrey, Pitt vice dean of students, emphasized the impor- tance of attending the job fair.
**Concerts**


- **Jazz Club, 2nd floor, 949 Liberty**, Feb. 14, Abreu, 8 p.m.


- **Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, 622-3131, www.cmoa.org.**

- **PNC Pittsburgh Symphony POPS! 412-244-3232, www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr.**


- **Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-CITY, www.pitt.edu/~sorc/spanish.**


- **School of Information Sciences Information Session for prospective students**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 12, 572 Information Sciences Building, 412-624-3988, www.ischool.pitt.edu.


- **Careers in Public Policy**, Donna Keyser, RAND Corp. management scientist, noon-1:30 p.m. Feb. 16, brown bag lunch for graduate students and postdocs, Room 5010, Biomedical Science Tower 2, Careers Over Lunch, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, www.survival.pitt.edu.

**Lectures/Seminars/Readings**


- **School of Information Sciences Information Session** for prospective students, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 12, 572 Information Sciences Building, 412-624-3988, www.ischool.pitt.edu.


- **Careers in Public Policy**, Donna Keyser, RAND Corp. management scientist, noon-1:30 p.m. Feb. 16, brown bag lunch for graduate students and postdocs, Room 5010, Biomedical Science Tower 2, Careers Over Lunch, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, www.survival.pitt.edu.

- **Pitt Staff Association Council Meet-**


- **Springs 2009 Job/Internship Fair**, noon-2 p.m., open only to Pitt students and alumni, meet with recruiters from more than 120 companies, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days, technical day Feb. 10, nontechnical day Feb. 12, for resumes, business attire suggested, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, 412-684-7130, www.careers.pitt.edu.


- **Poetry Readings by Jason Irwin and Justin Vinar**, award-winning poets, 7 p.m. Feb. 11, First Floor Quiet Reading Room, Carnegie Library, 4400 Forbes Ave., www.kphp.com/mrupittmed.

**Exhibitions**


- **Northland Public Library, February 12**

**Chamber Choir Festival, Heinz Chapel, February 15**


**Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses**


- **Penne Napolitana and Pizza Margherita Reading and Series Reading**, www.kphp.com/mrupittmed.

**Pitt Opera/Therapy/Dance**


Female Brain Cells Better Able to Survive Starvation Than Male Ones, Pitt Researchers Say

By Anita Srikameswaran

Neurons from female rats and mice are better able to survive starvation than neurons from the males because they consume fat rather than protein, said researchers from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. The finding could have implications for the nourishment of critically ill patients.

The research team cultured sets of neurons from male and female rats and mice and deprived them of nutrients for 72 hours to gauge the potential impact of starvation on the brain. The team was led by Robert Clark, a professor of critical care medicine at Pitt, associate director of molecular biology in Pitt’s Safar Center for Resuscitation Research, and a pediatric intensivist at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC; and Lina Du, research associate in Pitt’s Department of Critical Care Medicine.

“Within 24 hours, neurons from the males were dying off because they initiated a self-eating process called autophagy,” Clark said. “But neurons from the females mobilized fatty acids and made lipid droplets to use as a fuel source, prolonging their survival.”

The findings, published in the Jan. 23 issue of the Journal of Biological Chemistry, are the first indication that critical nutritional stress can kill neurons. Known to happen in other tissues during periods of starvation, possibly as a last-ditch survival effort, the process of autophagy leads to cell destruction and the breakdown of complex proteins, generating amino acids and other biological building blocks that could nourish remaining cells.

Sex differences in response to famine have been apparent for nearly a century, with females the heartier of the sexes. Part of the explanation for this observation could be that during nutritional deprivation, male cells tend to lean on energy primarily from protein sources, while female neurons lean on fat. The current research suggests that during times of critical nutritional stress, males might be better off if they used fat-derived fuel, as females do.

Autophagy-induced cell death in the brain could result in permanent damage, Clark said. Other research has revealed brain atrophy, or shrinkage, on scans of brain-injured and other critically ill patients, who likely were stressed and possibly insufficiently nourished during long hospitalizations.

“We really need to take critical care nutrition to the next level,” he said. “We can show that undernourishment of the brain during times of illness could lead to worse neurological outcomes, so it may be important to feed men and women, and boys and girls, differently to prevent brain-cell death.”

Intensive care specialists are able to save more lives than ever before, noted study coauthor and Safar Center director Patrick Kochanek, a vice chair and professor of critical care medicine in Pitt’s School of Medicine.

“Prevention of subtle neurological problems, such as mild cognitive disturbances, is becoming a key final frontier in the intensive care unit,” he said. “Many times when these problems arise, the cause is somewhat of a mystery.”

In future work, Clark and his team hope to develop a bedside test to determine whether the autophagy process is occurring in the brains of critically ill patients.

The research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health.

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PUBLICATION NOTICE: The next edition of Pitt Chronicle will be published Feb. 16. 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.