

Pitt Honors College's Katherine MacCord Wins Gates Cambridge Scholarship



Katherine M. MacCord

By Patricia Lomando White

University of Pittsburgh Honors College senior Katherine M. MacCord, a School of Arts and Sciences student majoring in anthropology with a minor in German, has been named a Gates Cambridge Scholar for her exceptional ability and outstanding academic achievement. MacCord, who also is pursuing a certificate in Conceptual Foundations of Medicine through Pitt's Department of History and Philosophy of Science, is the first Pitt student to receive the Gates Cambridge Scholarship since it was established in 2000 through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

MacCord was one of only 37 U.S. students selected by the Gates Cambridge Trust to receive the award. This year, 752 U.S. students applied for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship and 101 were short-listed and attended interviews on Feb. 6 and 7 in Annapolis, Md.

"The Gates Cambridge Scholarship promotes the values of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that include a commitment to reducing inequities and improving lives around the world," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "Created to enable student scholars of outstanding academic merit and leadership potential to make unique contributions to their discipline and to those most in need, the prestigious award publicly recognizes extraordinary students, such as Katherine, whose high academic achievement, innovative thinking, and creative problem solving deserve special recognition. We congratulate her and also applaud Pitt's Honors College for supporting and advancing individual student success."

"From time to time, one encounters a student like Kate for whom the formal academic record along with faculty comments suggest that admission and study at the most selective schools is especially appropriate," said Alec Stewart, Pitt's Honors College dean. "Her intellectual passion is the juvenile skeletal structure and function, about which she has taught me a good deal. Kate also retains a serious interest in travel, films, and music, interests that make her a delightful conversationalist."

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MacCord is completing the Bachelor of Philosophy degree in Pitt's Honors College. She has been accepted into the Department of Biological Anthropology at the University of Cambridge's Churchill College, where she will pursue a Master of Philosophy degree in human evolutionary studies. Her two main areas of interest are environmental influences on growth and development as well as evolutionary theory, mechanisms, and process. In addition to pursuing future work in human evolution, MacCord plans

Continued on page 6

Trustee, Alumnus Swanson Elected to National Academy of Engineering

By Morgan Kelly

Acclaimed inventor, business founder, and University of Pittsburgh engineering alumnus and trustee John A. Swanson has been named to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), among the highest professional distinctions an engineer can receive. He was one of 65 new members and nine foreign associates elected to the academy Feb. 6 for contributions to and innovations in engineering.

"The election of distinguished Pitt alumnus and University trustee John Swanson to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering is a telling tribute to one of history's great engineers," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "Dr. Swanson founded ANSYS, Inc., nearly four decades ago, and just four years after earning his PhD from Pitt's engineering school that now proudly bears his name. It might fairly be said that Dr. Swanson, who also is the single-most generous individual supporter of Pitt in its 222-year history, helped bring the 'high tech' economy to Southwestern Pennsylvania long before the term had been coined. We have enormous respect for and are deeply grateful to Dr. Swanson, and today we join him in celebrating yet another premier professional distinction."

The academy recognized Swanson for his development of the ANSYS program, a general-purpose, finite-element software



John A. Swanson

code used in engineering design worldwide to predict how product designs will behave in manufacturing and real-work environments. The program is used in various

Continued on page 6

Nordenberg Announces 2009 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Awards

By Anthony M. Moore

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg has announced the winners of the 2009 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Awards. The awards will be given to the following five Pitt faculty members:

Jennifer Cartier, an assistant professor of science education in the School of Education's Department of Instruction and Learning;

Chuck Kinder, director of the Writing Program in the School of Arts and Sciences' Department of English;

Michael J. Madison, associate dean for research and professor of law in the School of Law;

Marla Ripoll, a professor in the School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Economics; and

Mark S. Roberts, a professor of medicine in the School of Medicine, of industrial engineering in the Swanson School of Engineering, and of health and management in the Graduate School of Public Health.

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

Cartier has been recognized for her ability to teach a broad range of students in a variety of situations, designing courses in pedagogy, curriculum theory, and science education that actively engage students with both science content and scientific inquiry processes.

In a letter notifying Cartier of her award, Nordenberg wrote, "The quality of your teaching effectiveness is reflected in the consistently high marks on student evaluations you have received across the range of courses you have taught. You have worked closely with the teachers of the Pittsburgh Public School District, and your commitment to robust science instruction is evident."

Margaret S. Smith, a professor of mathematics education in the School of Education, wrote in a letter of support for Cartier's nomination, "Dr. Cartier is one of the finest educators I have ever known and exactly the type of teacher for whom this award was intended—someone who cares deeply about the learning of others, works tirelessly to support and promote it, and generates intellectual excitement in her students."

Kinder was recognized for his 28 years

of teaching in the Department of English as well as his numerous commitments and responsibilities as the director of the Writing Program.

Nordenberg wrote, "The number and names of the students whose writing you have helped to shape is legendary. Many of your former students singularly credit you for their becoming writers. The fact that you are sought after to lecture and conduct workshops and seminars on the craft of fiction writing throughout the country and overseas is a testament to the high esteem others in your field have for your talents."

In a letter of support for Kinder's nomination, celebrated Pitt alumnus and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon wrote, "From the moment you walked into his classroom, from the first day, Chuck went to work on you. In his conversation, his formal remarks, and his asides, he insisted that writing fiction was the most important, most interesting, most necessary thing in the world. And he would not rest until he had you convinced of the truth of that."

Madison has been recognized for his teaching accomplishments and commitment to training students to think and act like lawyers.

Nordenberg wrote, "You incorporate your scholarship into your teaching, asking students to work on problems that are at the cutting edge of your field. Despite the significant additional work involved, you have employed nontraditional forms of assessment, such as written memoranda, that provide students the opportunity to learn from those experiences."

Continued on page 6

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Pitt's Conor Lee Named Big East Football Scholar-Athlete of Year



Conor Lee

this past year and also was a second team Academic All-American. He finished his career as the most accurate kicker in Pitt history, converting 83.3 percent of his field goals. Lee also made a school-record 113 consecutive extra points.

In addition to rejoicing in Lee's honor for 2008, the Panthers are celebrating the fact that 13 players, including Lee, have been named to the 2008 Big East Football All-Academic Team, which recognizes letter winners who have posted a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better. Student-athletes who have completed a minimum of two semesters of academic work and earned a letter are eligible.

Long snapper Mark Estermyer, who earned a Pitt undergraduate degree in information sciences

in 2008 and is now enrolled as a graduate student in Pitt's School of Information Sciences, was honored for the fourth consecutive year, while Lee was honored for the third time.

Three of Pitt's other honorees were recognized for two consecutive years: tight end John Pelusi, who is a marketing senior in the College of Business Administration; linebacker Austin Ransom, who earned an undergraduate degree in economics in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences in 2008 and is currently enrolled as a graduate student in public and nonprofit management in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; and defensive end Tyler Tkach, who is a marketing junior in the College of Business Administration.

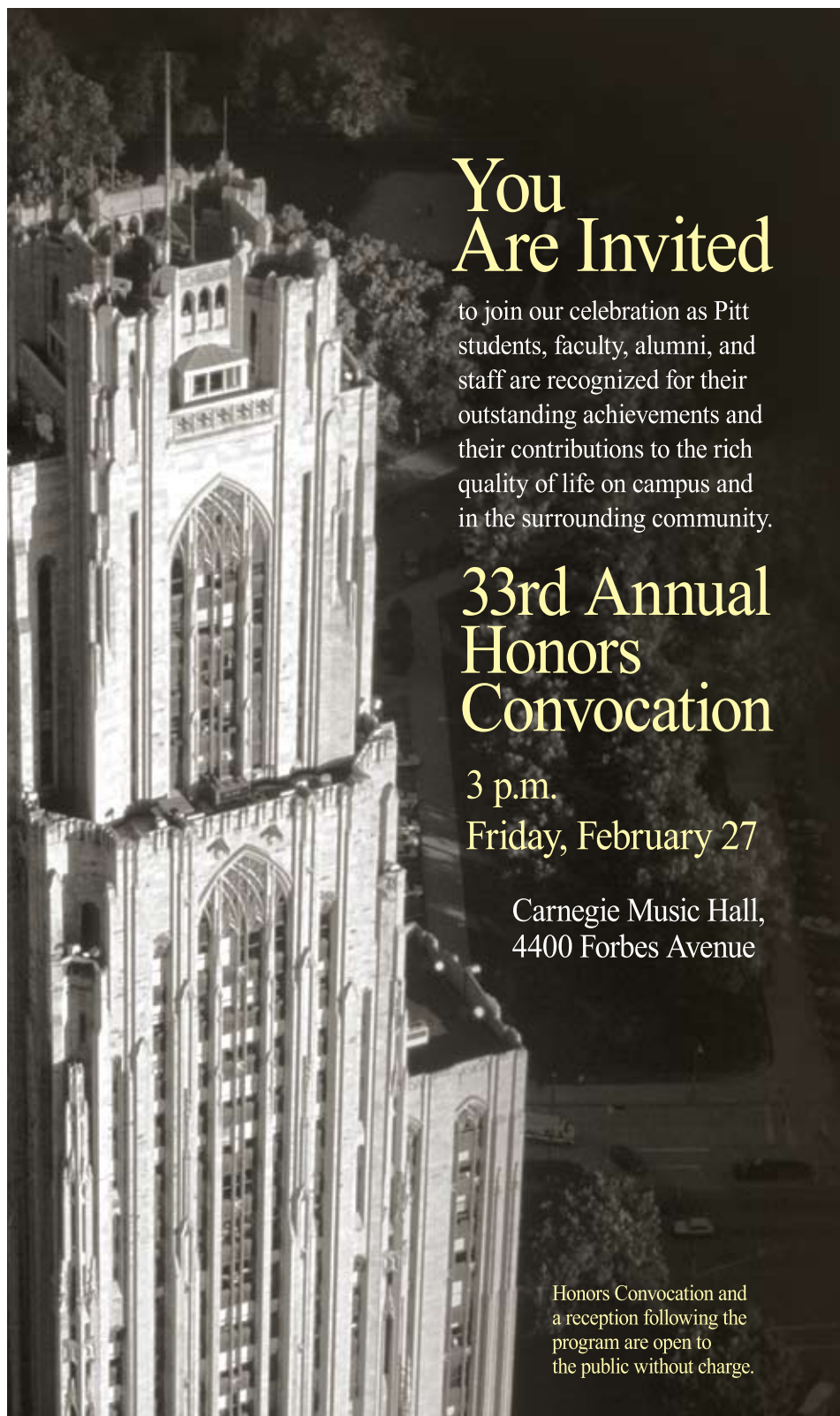
By E.J. Borghetti

Conor Lee, the most accurate place-kicker in the University of Pittsburgh's history, has added to his impressive legacy at Pitt by being named the Big East Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Lee, an Upper St. Clair native, graduated magna cum laude from Pitt in April 2008 with a dual bachelor's degree in economics and business in the School of Arts and Sciences, earning a 3.715 grade-point average. He is currently pursuing an MBA in Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

As the league's Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Lee received a \$2,000 scholarship, which may be applied to graduate or professional studies.

Lee was named first team All-Big East



You Are Invited

to join our celebration as Pitt students, faculty, alumni, and staff are recognized for their outstanding achievements and their contributions to the rich quality of life on campus and in the surrounding community.

33rd Annual Honors Convocation

3 p.m.
Friday, February 27

Carnegie Music Hall,
4400 Forbes Avenue

Honors Convocation and a reception following the program are open to the public without charge.



University of Pittsburgh

Briefly Noted

Harlem's Children's Zone Creator to Speak Feb. 19

Geoffrey Canada, who has won national recognition for his pioneering work to help children and families in Harlem—block by block, child by child—will deliver a free public lecture titled "Communities Educating Children" from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Feb. 19 at Pitt's Center on Race and Social Problems, School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning.

The Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) has been called "one of the most ambitious social experiments of our time" by *The New York Times Magazine*. Under the leadership of Canada, HCZ works to provide comprehensive services to children and their families in central Harlem. Initiated as a pilot program in the mid-1990s, HCZ has expanded to 97 blocks and approximately 8,000 children.

HCZ services include workshops for expectant parents and parents of children up to 3 years of age; all-day pre-kindergarten that includes classes in English, Spanish, and French; and best-practice programs for children of every age through college, including fitness and nutrition, after-school care, and community building.

Registration is not required; for more information, call 412-624-7382.

—By Sharon S. Blake

Pitt Cancer Institute Director to Give 2009 Bernard Fisher Lecture

Nancy E. Davidson, the new director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI), will present the 2009 Bernard Fisher Lecture on Wednesday, Feb. 25, in tribute to Bernard Fisher, the University of Pittsburgh's pioneer in the biology and treatment of breast cancer. The lecture, titled "Endocrine Therapy for Breast Cancer: A Translational Odyssey," will begin at 4 p.m. in Auditorium 6, Scaife Hall.

Davidson also serves as associate vice chancellor for cancer research and as chief of the Division of Hematology-Oncology in the University's Department of Medicine. She most recently served as professor of oncology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and director of the Breast Cancer Program at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. Davidson's career has been dedicated to advancing the understanding of the molecular and cellular biology of breast cancer and to pioneering new therapeutic approaches to the disease.

Registration is not required; for more information, call 412-624-7382.

—By Kristin Beaver



Nancy E. Davidson

PittChronicle

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BlackHistoryMonth

Sherman Watson Jr.

Long-term Commitment

Sherman Watson Jr. gives his all—and 49 years of service—to Pitt's School of Dental Medicine

By Anthony M. Moore

For Sherman G. Watson Jr., finding satisfaction in a job well done is one of life's greatest pleasures. The Churchill, Pa., resident is driven by a "no excuses" work ethic that inspires him to perform all tasks to the best of his ability.

This devotion has been an asset to the University of Pittsburgh's School of Dental Medicine, where Watson works as an outpatient service assistant. He is one of nine professionals responsible for sterilizing the dental school's tools and equipment.

The various duties that Watson performs on a daily basis play a vital role in the dental school's operations, yet the job lends itself to few public accolades. Nevertheless, Watson says he understands the importance of his work and takes great pride in delivering safe materials to the school's doctors and patients. And this sense of pride has only grown over the past 49 years.

That's right—49 years.

It was May of 1960. Dwight D. Eisenhower was president of the United States, Elvis Presley's *Stuck On You* was the No. 1 record in the country, and a tall, soft-spoken young man named Sherman Watson Jr. walked into the University's Salk Hall for the first day of the only job of his adult life. Like most recent high school graduates, Sherman was unsure of his future, but he knew that hard work and dedication were the only reliable paths toward success.

"I don't think anyone ever knows for sure how his life will turn out, but when you pray for the best and you work hard at everything you do, things usually work themselves out," says Watson, whose original post-high school aspirations of serving in the military were derailed by a severe asthma condition. "You can't think about what could have been or what would have been if this, that, or the other had happened. A man has to do the best with what he's been given and take advantage of the gifts that life gives him."

For Watson, among the greatest gifts life gave him were the working-class values passed down from his parents, Maria and Sherman G. Watson Sr. As a first-generation Pittsburgher growing up in Homewood, Watson recalls his father often working multiple jobs in order to provide his family with food and shelter.

"My mother was a housewife, so she was always around. My father was a little bit of a different story." As a youngster, Watson recalls his father working as a porter, a crane worker, and a furnace operator, among many other positions.

At the time, Watson was one of the few African Americans to be found in Salk Hall, not that such a thing mattered to him. While he says he believes that it is impossible to ignore race, Watson feels that a strong work ethic is far more powerful than any racially hostile beliefs harbored by others.



Sherman Watson Jr.



PHOTOS BY MARY JANE BENT/CODE

"My father wasn't there as much, but we all understood he was working hard for the good of the family."

Watson says that his father taught by example, and it was through watching his father's sacrifices that he developed his own "no excuses" approach toward life and work.

For Watson, the opportunity to work for the University of Pittsburgh also stemmed from his father, who, at that time, worked with the University's lab animals. According to Watson, his father was able to convince officials in Salk Hall that his son was as hard a worker as he was. Watson has been working ever since to prove his father right.

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others.

"If there were any attitudes of prejudice expressed against me, I didn't feel them. I wouldn't have allowed myself to feel them. I had a job to do, and I wasn't

going to allow any of that nonsense to get in the way of my job," says Watson. "People are going to say things about you and think all kinds of things of you, but as long as you know yourself and have faith in God, there aren't too many people who can get to you."

Watson's dedication does not go unnoticed within Salk Hall. Kenneth R. Etzel, associate dean for student services and admissions and a professor in the School of Dental Medicine, has known Watson for 23 years. "Sherman epitomizes the type of individual work ethic that we hold dear around here. I don't think anyone works harder than or takes as much pride in his or her work as Sherman."

Today, Watson still regards himself as the same hardworking, disciplined young man who walked into Salk Hall nearly 49 years ago, even though the world has undergone much change. Technological advancements have made his daily tasks much more efficient. An equipment sterilization process that once took 12 machines more than five hours, for example, is now done with two machines in two hours. But some of the biggest changes he has witnessed are in the region's economy and in Pitt itself.

Watson says he takes great satisfaction in the role that Pitt and UPMC have played in helping to transform Southwestern Pennsylvania's economy following the decline of the steel industry. Pitt's schools of the health sciences have trained countless doctors, dentists, nurses, and other health care professionals.

"I think we've done a lot of good work for the people of Pittsburgh. Nobody chooses to get sick, but if it happens, you

want to be close to doctors who can get you well and keep you in good shape," says Watson, who credits UPMC doctors with saving his own life during a bout with pneumonia seven years ago. "I can't think of a better place for health care than right here with some of the best and the brightest doctors in America."

Watson notes that the faces of those doctors have also come to mirror the people of America more closely. "I've seen bright young men and women of every race, religion, and background come and go," says Watson. "That's a major accomplishment and something we all can be proud of. It shows how much can be accomplished by someone willing to put in the level of work that is required."

As he reflects on his career at Pitt, Watson readily admits that it doesn't feel like he's been at the dental school for 49 years. He says he continues to love what he does, and he has no plans of retiring from the only job he has ever known.

"I suppose there will come a time when I'm no longer useful to the University, but I plan on working every day until that time comes."

Science & Technology

Professors Star, Kagan Create Nontoxic Cleanup Method for Potentially Toxic Nanomaterials

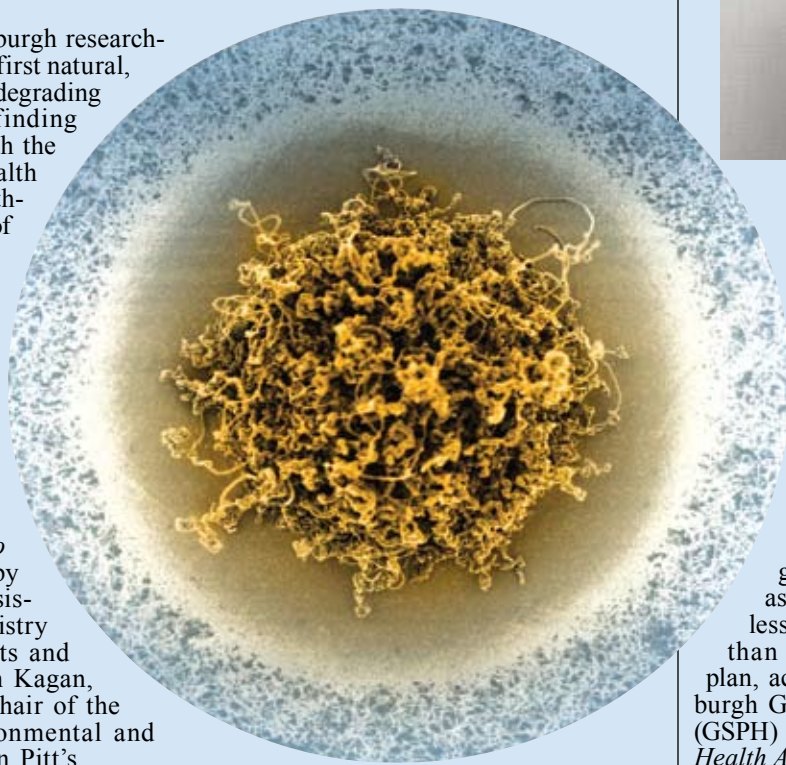
By Morgan Kelly

University of Pittsburgh researchers have developed the first natural, nontoxic method for biodegrading carbon nanotubes, a finding that could help diminish the environmental and health concerns that mar the otherwise bright prospects of the super-strong materials commonly used in products, from electronics to plastics.

A Pitt research team has found that carbon nanotubes deteriorate when exposed to the natural enzyme horseradish peroxidase (HRP), according to a report published in *Nano Letters* and coauthored by Alexander Star, an assistant professor of chemistry in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, and Valerian Kagan, a professor and vice chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health. These results open the door to further development of safe and natural methods—with HRP or other enzymes—of cleaning up carbon nanotube spills in the environment and the industrial or laboratory setting.

Carbon nanotubes are one-atom-thick rolls of graphite 100,000 times smaller than a human hair yet stronger than steel and excellent conductors of electricity and heat. They reinforce plastics, ceramics, or concrete; conduct electricity in electronics or energy-conversion devices; and are sensitive chemical sensors, Star said. (Star created an early-detection device for asthma attacks wherein carbon nanotubes detect minute amounts of nitric oxide preceding an attack.)

"The many applications of nanotubes have resulted in greater production of them, but their toxicity remains controversial," Star said. "Accidental spills of nanotubes are inevitable during their production, and the massive use of nanotube-based materials could lead to increased environmental pollution. We have demonstrated a nontoxic approach to successfully degrade carbon nanotubes in environmentally relevant conditions."



Alexander Star

Carbon nanotubes are one-atom-thick rolls of graphite 100,000 times smaller than a human hair yet stronger than steel and excellent conductors of electricity and heat.

CVD (Chemical Vapor Deposition) grown carbon nanotubes on surface of silicon chip. This image was taken by a scanning electron microscope.

The team's work focused on nanotubes in their raw form as a fine, graphite-like powder, Kagan explained. In this form, nanotubes have caused severe lung inflammation in lab tests. Although small, nanotubes contain thousands of atoms on their surface that could react with the human body in unknown ways, Kagan said. Both he and Star are associated with a three-year-old Pitt initiative to investigate nanotoxicology.

"Nanomaterials aren't completely understood. Industries use nanotubes because they're unique—they are strong, they can be used as semiconductors. But do these features present unknown health risks? The

field of nanotoxicology is developing to find out," Kagan said. "Studies have shown that they can be dangerous. We wanted to develop a method for safely neutralizing these very small materials should they contaminate the natural or working environment."

To break down the nanotubes, the team exposed them to a solution of HRP and a low concentration of hydrogen peroxide at 4 degrees Celsius (39 degrees Fahrenheit) for 12 weeks. Once fully developed, this method could be administered as easily as chemical cleanups in today's labs, Kagan and Star said.



Seniors Who Reach Medicare Gap Decrease Use of Prescribed Drugs, Pitt Study Finds

By Clare Collins

Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Part D who reached a gap in health care coverage known as the "doughnut hole" were much less likely to use prescription drugs than those with an employer-based plan, according to a University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) study. The findings, published in *Health Affairs*, raise concerns about health consequences and increased costs from hospitalizations and physician visits that may arise from lack of coverage. To protect seniors, the authors suggest a change in policy that would mandate the coverage of generic drugs in the doughnut hole through a modest increase in initial prescription copays.

Medicare Part D, which offers prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries, took effect in January 2006. A controversial aspect of its design is the doughnut hole, a gap in coverage of prescription drugs that in 2006 occurred when annual individual drug expenditures reached \$2,250. The purpose of the annual spending cap is to keep the cost of the program within federally approved limits. Since its inception, "there have been few studies to tell us what happens to beneficiaries once they enter the doughnut hole," said the study's lead author, Yuting Zhang, assistant professor of health economics in GSPH.

Zhang and colleagues compared two groups of senior citizens with Medicare drug coverage provided by a large Pennsylvania insurer in 2006. One group was covered through more generous employer-sponsored plans with full coverage in the doughnut hole and the other was covered through Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans (MA-PD) with either no doughnut hole drug coverage or generic coverage only.

They found that one in four (25 percent) of Pennsylvanians enrolled in an MA-PD reached the doughnut hole, but only one in 20 (5 percent) of that subset of individuals went on to reach the catastrophic phase of coverage—when annual drug spending reached \$5,100 and Part D coverage of

drugs resumed.

In addition, Medicare beneficiaries who lacked coverage in the doughnut hole reduced their monthly prescriptions by 14 percent per month once they entered the doughnut hole. Those with generic coverage in the doughnut hole decreased their monthly prescriptions by only three percent, and those who were enrolled in employer-based plans had no changes in monthly prescriptions when they reached the doughnut hole spending level.

The study also found that Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes were more likely to reach the doughnut-hole than those with hypertension, and they reached it sooner. Those with more than one chronic illness also were much more likely to reach the doughnut hole.

"Our findings raise concerns about whether people with chronic illnesses who lack doughnut-hole coverage are able to effectively manage their conditions," said Zhang. "Without needed prescriptions, we could potentially see an increase in hospital and physician costs."

To fill the gap, Zhang and colleagues suggest mandating the coverage of generic drugs in the doughnut hole and offsetting government costs by allowing plans to assess larger copays on prescription drugs prior to entering the doughnut hole.

Coauthors of the study include senior author Judith Lave, a professor of health economics and chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management in GSPH; Julie Donohue, an assistant professor of health policy and management in GSPH; and Joseph P. Newhouse, the John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management at Harvard University.

The study was funded in part by a grant to Donohue from the National Institutes of Health and a grant to Newhouse from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.



Yuting Zhang

Blue Gold & Black: From Doorway to Distinction Has World-Premiere Film Screening Feb. 4



PHOTOS BY JOE KAPREWSKY/GOPE

The University of Pittsburgh presented the world-premiere screening of the documentary *Blue Gold & Black: From Doorway to Distinction* on Feb. 4 in the Twentieth Century Club, Oakland. The documentary details the story of the 180-year experience of Black men and women at Pitt. On Motion Media wrote the script for the film, based on a treatment written by Robert Hill, Pitt's vice chancellor for public affairs. The by-invitation-only event, which was attended by some 500 guests, was the University's 2009 K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month Program, commemorating February as Black History Month.

1. Guests were greeted by a path of candle lanterns and banner stands.

2. Pitt history professor Laurence Glasco, seen at the premiere, provided extensive historical commentary in the documentary.

3. Tonya R. Groover (A&S '07), founder and director of Pitt's Technology Leadership Initiative, was featured in the documentary and attended the event.

4. A banner stand begins the telling of the story of a young Black man who in 1829 wanted to attend the Western University of Pennsylvania, which later became Pitt. Then-chancellor Robert Bruce, concerned about student opposition to having a Black man in the classroom, gave the young man permission to sit on a chair just outside the classroom door to listen to the lectures.

5. Ben Gordon (ENGR '07), a 2007 Goldwater Scholar and assistant project manager at Chester Engineers (left), stands next to Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher

6. From left, Robert Hill, Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs; Cathryn L. Irvis, widow of the late K. Leroy Irvis; and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg are seen before the screening.



1.



2.



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Pitt Honors College's Katherine MacCord Wins Gates Cambridge Scholarship

Continued from page 1

to continue her previous research in juvenile osteology in the Duckworth Laboratory at Cambridge, where she plans to work on the complex effects of disease, malnutrition, and environment on skeletal growth.

"Ms. MacCord has blossomed into one of the brightest and most inquisitive students—undergraduate or graduate—I have had the pleasure of teaching and advising in my 35 years at the University," said Jeffrey Schwartz, Pitt professor in the Departments of Anthropology and History and Philosophy of Science and president of the World Academy of Art and Science.

Under Schwartz's guidance, MacCord has conducted independent research on the human skeleton, questioning anthropologists' long-held tenet that the presence of disease and malnutrition in children retards their skeletal growth. In her research, MacCord has explored the effects of environment and disease on bone growth to determine the exact nature of a connection, and she has conducted an analysis of renowned osteological collections at three natural history museums on three separate continents. Her research shows that disease and malnutrition do not significantly retard growth.

MacCord served as a teaching assistant (TA) in Schwartz's human skeletal course, a position she held for two years; she was the only undergraduate to ever have been a TA in the anthropology department. She received the Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Fellowship, a Brackenridge Fellowship, the Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship, and a University Honors Col-

**"Ms. MacCord has blossomed into one of the brightest and most inquisitive students—undergraduate or graduate—I have had the pleasure of teaching and advising in my 35 years at the University."
—Jeffrey Schwartz**

lege Research Grant, all in 2007; a United States Steel Foundation, Inc. Undergraduate Research Award, a Berner Fellowship, and an International Studies Fund Grant, all in the summer of 2008; and a Berner Fellowship for the 2008-09 school year.

A member of Pitt's undergraduate Anthropology Club, MacCord has helped to organize field trips to local archeological sites. She has been a speaker and member of the undergraduate teaching panel at Pitt's Experiential Learning Fair, a program of the Office of Experiential Learning in Arts and Sciences held to stimulate undergraduate interest in teaching and research. MacCord also lectures for Pitt's High School Apprenticeship Program.

Not only interested in academia, MacCord calls herself "a confirmed film nut." She regularly attends the opera and musical theater, writes humorous

poetry, and enjoys completing daily crossword puzzles, knitting, and baking.

The Gates Foundation, of Seattle, Wash., donated \$210 million to the University of Cambridge to establish the Gates Cambridge Trust, creating in perpetuity an international scholarship program, covering all expenses, to enable outstanding graduate students from outside the United Kingdom to study at the University of Cambridge. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of a person's intellectual ability, leadership capacity, and desire to use his or her knowledge to make contributions to society worldwide by providing service to communities and applying individual talents and knowledge to improve the lives of others.



John A. Swanson (center) at the December 2007 celebration of the naming of the Swanson School of Engineering; at lower right are Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and, front row, second from left, engineering dean Gerald D. Holder.

Trustee, Alumnus Swanson Elected to National Academy of Engineering

Continued from page 1

fields employing computer-aided engineering, including the aerospace, automotive, biomedical, manufacturing, and electronics industries. To market the program, Swanson founded ANSYS, Inc., in 1970, with headquarters in Canonsburg, Pa. The company—which designs, develops, markets, and globally supports engineering simulation technology—now has 1,400 employees and distributes products through a network of business partners in more than 40 countries. Swanson served as the company's president, chief executive officer, and director until his retirement in March 1999. He still teaches ANSYS training classes and serves the company as an advisor.

"John Swanson is truly one of the great engineers of all time," said Gerald D. Holder,

the U.S. Steel Dean of Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, which was named after Swanson in 2007. "His leadership and expertise in writing some of the most complex and sophisticated code ever developed resulted in creating one of the leading engineering software firms in the world. We at the Swanson School are truly honored to have our school named after this extraordinary professional."

Among other prestigious awards, Swanson received the 2004 John Fritz Medal from the American Association of Engineering Societies, which is considered the highest and most prestigious award in the engineering profession. Presented since 1902, prior awardees of the Fritz Medal include Orville Wright, Alexander Graham Bell, Alfred Nobel, Thomas Edison, and George Westinghouse. He also was awarded the 2006 President's Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Swanson has had a long relationship with Pitt. He was elected to the University's Board of Trustees in 2006 and, in 2002, inducted into the Cathedral of Learning Society, which recognizes individuals who have donated \$1 million or more to the University. In 1998, he received the School of Engineering's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

In December 2007, Pitt renamed its engineering school the John A. Swanson School of Engineering in recognition of the greatest generosity by an individual donor in Pitt's history—\$41.3 million donated by Swanson to the University's School of Engineering as part of the \$2 billion Building Our Future Together Campaign. Swanson's gifts to Pitt have helped create the John A. Swanson Institute for Technical Excellence, which houses the John A. Swanson Center for Micro and Nano Systems; the John A. Swanson Center for Product Innovation; and the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Center of Excellence. He also has established the John A. Swanson Embedded Computing Laboratory in Computer Engineering.

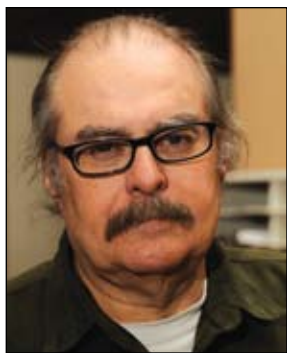
Swanson received his PhD in applied mechanics from Pitt in 1966. He received his master's and bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering from Cornell University in 1963 and 1962, respectively.

With his election, Swanson joins three Pitt professors who also are members of the National Academy of Engineering: Bernard Cohen, emeritus professor of physics and astronomy, elected in 2003; Thomas Saaty, University Professor of Business Administration, elected in 2005; and Savio Woo, University Professor of Bioengineering, elected in 1994.

Nordenberg Announces 2009 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Awards



Jennifer Cartier



Chuck Kinder



Michael J. Madison



Marla Ripoll



Mark S. Roberts

Continued from page 1

In letters of support for his nomination, colleagues noted Madison's use of advanced technology both within and outside the classroom. Mary Crossley, dean of Pitt's law school, wrote that Madison "has used technology out of the classroom, handling the administration of courses entirely electronically. While students appreciate the convenience of having syllabi and supplemental materials available online and access to makeup classes and review materials via podcasting, it is with his classroom use of technology that Professor Madison excels in engaging his students."

Ripoll was recognized for her commitment to engaging students in the study of economics by helping them understand how social scientists interpret the world around them.

Nordenberg wrote, "You create and use concrete models ... to help students frame their understanding of abstract concepts.

You have a carefully structured series of writing assignments that are linked to lectures and class exercises, providing students with both feedback and practice so that they can develop their research skills."

David N. Dejong, chair of Pitt's Department of Economics, wrote, "The hallmark of Prof. Ripoll's teaching is passion: She is passionate about the subject matter of her courses and is driven to pass this on to her students. This goal extends beyond that of having her students learn the material she presents: She seeks to have them end up caring as deeply about the material as she does."

Roberts was recognized for his commitment to the education of the students in the three schools in which he has appointments: the School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Public Health, and the Swanson School of Engineering.

Nordenberg wrote, "Your ability to motivate your students is noteworthy, as is your dedication to advising master's- and PhD-level students in clinical research and in industrial engineering. The clinical research courses that you have developed and continue to teach serve to strengthen the degree-granting programs within the Institute for Clinical Research Education."

Steven D. Shapiro, the Jack D. Myers Professor and chair in the Department of Medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine, wrote, "Over nearly a decade, Dr. Roberts has played an integral leadership role in the development of our training programs in clinical research. He has directed the growth of these programs into one of the largest graduate programs in the School of Medicine. Dr. Roberts has also been the 'soul' of these educational programs."



Pitt's BAS, Society of Black Engineers Set Randall Pinkett Lecture



Randall Pinkett

By Meredith Johnson

As part of the celebration of Black History Month at the University of Pittsburgh, entrepreneur Randall Pinkett will speak at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) Auditorium. The event, cosponsored by Pitt's Black Action

Society (BAS) and National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), is free and open to the public, but students will be given priority seating.

Pinkett is the cofounder, chair, and CEO of BCT Partners, a multimillion-dollar man-

agement, technology, and policy consulting firm. BCT Partners works with corporations, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations in the areas of housing and community development, economic development, human services, health care, and education.

The season-four winner of NBC's reality television show *The Apprentice*, Pinkett has remained involved with the Trump organization as a national spokesperson for the Trump Institute, a faculty member at Trump University, and a boardroom advisor to *The Apprentice*.

Pinkett has received many awards and recognitions—most notably as the first African American to receive a Rhodes Scholarship at Rutgers University in 1994. Among his other achievements are an NSBE Distinguished Fellow Award (1992), the Lucent Technologies Cooperative Research Fellowship (1997), the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship (1998), the MIT Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Award (2002), the Rockefeller Foundation Next Generation Leadership Fellowship (2003), and the Achievements Leadership New Jersey Fellowship (2004). He also has been featured in several publications and was named among the “30 Leaders of the Future” by both *Black Enterprise* and *Ebony* magazines in 2000 and 2001, respectively.

Pinkett has earned five academic degrees, including a BS in electrical engineering at Rutgers and an MS in computer science at the University of Oxford. From the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he received an MBA degree in business administration, an MS degree in electrical engineering, and a PhD degree in media arts and sciences. He is the author of *Campus CEO: The Student Entrepreneur's Guide to Launching a Multimillion-Dollar Business* (Kaplan, 2007).

Pinkett maintains an active public role. He has been featured on the *Today* show, *Live With Regis and Kelly*, and CNN, and is a regular segment host for the *CEO Exchange* on PBS. He also is the national spokesperson for Autism Speaks and Entrepreneurship Week/USA and the campaign spokesperson for New Jersey Reads.

Additional Black History Month Events

Feb. 18, 8:30-10:30 p.m.
BAS General Body Meeting, WPU Assembly Room;

Feb. 20, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
(Pitt students only) Old School Jump-Off Party, WPU Assembly Room;

Feb. 21
Community Outreach Service Day;

Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m., \$10,
National Pan-Hellenic Council Step Show, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, Fifth Avenue and Bigelow Boulevard, Oakland; and

March 3, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Health Fair, WPU Assembly Room and Ballroom.

For more information, contact BAS vice president Endia Vereen at 412-648-7880 or vicepres.bas@gmail.com.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Feb. 23. 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.

