Andrew Vescovi, a Pennsylvania junior, and Savinov is a senior biology majoring in the School of Arts and Sciences, and Andrew from the University of Pittsburgh has been named 2009 Goldwater Scholar. Pitt junior from Richland, Ohio, majoring in chemistry, chemical engineering, and bioengineering, received an honorable mention.

“Created to foster and encourage excellence in science and mathematics, the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship is designed to provide the nation and the world with a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.”

—Mark A. Nordenberg

Two Pitt Students Receive 2009 Goldwater Scholarships

Elizabeth Oczypok, Andrew Savinov recognized for exceptional research in natural sciences

By Patricia Lomando White

David Y. Miller Named Director of Pitt’s Dick Thornburgh Forum on Law, Public Policy

David Y. Miller, a professor and associate dean in the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), has been appointed the inaugural director of Pitt’s Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy. As director, Miller will help integrate the forum into the larger University academic community through the development of programs that reflect the career and interests of Pitt alumnus and trustee Thornburgh, a former two-term Pennsylvania governor and attorney general of the United States under both Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. Thornburgh also served as United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and director of the Institute for Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Established in 2007, the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy provides a unique opportunity to foster public education and civic action on important public policy issues, building on Thornburgh’s legacy by creating a framework for advancing his vision of creating effective and principled governance. The forum engages in a variety of activities that enhance the accountability and integrity of governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels. Internationally, it seeks to advance those values as well as the commitment to rule of law for all levels of government.

“The Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy is a unique resource from which students, scholars, and the general public will benefit in perpetuity,” said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. “I am certain that David Miller will lead the forum in ways that will advance our shared understandings of important public policy issues and do honor to the Thornburgh legacy.”

“David Miller is well-equipped by background and experience to lead the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy in enriching and adding value to University academic programs in a number of areas,” said Thornburgh. “It is my expectation that the Archival Collection and programs conducted by the Forum will, under Dr. Miller’s leadership, and students and faculty members, further their understanding of issues of the day.”

Since 1998, Miller has served as a professor and associate dean in the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), has been appointed the inaugural director of Pitt’s Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy.

The University of Pittsburgh has received two grants totaling $850,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The first grant, for $750,000, will support the University of Pittsburgh Press for a book publishing initiative undertaken in partnership with Pitt’s Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the history department’s World History Center. The second grant, for $100,000, will benefit the Summer Institute on Graduate Study in Information Sciences, an annual program administered by Pitt’s School of Information Sciences (iSchool) to recruit graduate students and faculty members from underrepresented groups to the field of information sciences.

The grant will help the Press build a publishing program in the history of science, increase its overall output of books on all subjects from about 50 titles per year to more than 70. The Department of History and Philosophy of Science will establish a lecture series and a new fellowship program, as well as a prize for outstanding new scholarship. The World History Center will create a postdoctoral fellowship and host a series of conferences on science in global history.

The University developed the joint initiative in response to an invitation from the Mellon Foundation, which provides support for projects that encourage the strengthening of links between university presses and their parent institutions, as well as the promotion of new scholarship.

“Pitt’s longstanding strength in the history and philosophy of science and the more recent launching of the world history program reflect our ongoing commitment to scholarship that is both historically and globally informed.”

—James V. Maher

Continued on page 6

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Gives $850,000 to University Press and iSchool Initiatives

By Maria Sticco and Jasmine Hoffman

Continued on page 6
Pitt Studio Arts Holds Annual Student Exhibition

The works of 30 Pitt studio arts students are featured in the 2009 Studio Art Student Exhibition, which runs through April 25 at the University Art Gallery in the Frick Fine Arts Building. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and on Saturdays, April 25.

Among the media represented in the show are painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and digital imaging; the works are by both seniors and talented underclassmen students. A faculty jury selected the pieces.

At noon on April 15, student artists will be in the gallery to discuss their work and answer questions.

—Sharon S. Blake

Rubash Lecture in Law, Social Work Set for April 9

ShawDye Luise Simpson, civil court judge of the City of New York, will deliver the annual Norman J. and Alice Chapman Rubash Distinguished Lecture in Law and Social Work on noon April 9 in the Borch Law Building's Teplitz Memorial Courtroom.

Simpson’s talk is titled “The Blend of Professional Expertise: Law and Social Work in Legal Decision-making.”

In the fifth year of a 10-year commitment, Simpson serves on the Manhattan Criminal Court, where she hears more than 700 cases a week involving everything from troubled teens to celebrities in disputes. Prior to her election as judge, Simpson was one of Manhattan’s most experienced and accomplished prosecutors, having successfully convicted more than 90 percent of the defendants she prosecuted.

A visiting professor at Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, Simpson completed her education at Pitt, earning a B.S degree in 1987 and a J.D. degree in 1990.

The Rubash Distinguished Lecture Series was established through gifts from Norman J. Rubash, a 1957 graduate of Pitt’s School of Law, and his wife, Alice Chapman Rubash, a 1956 graduate of Pitt’s School of Social Work. Each year a distinguished individual in the fields of law and social work is invited to the University to present a public lecture.

This program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board for two hours of substantive CLE credit. For more information regarding CLE credit, call 412-648-1305.

—Patricia Lomando White

Pitt Jazz Ensemble’s Spring Concert Planned for April 9

Mark Whifield, critically acclaimed as one of the most dynamic guitarists on the New York jazz scene, will join the Pitt Jazz Ensemble on stage for the band’s annual spring concert at 8 p.m. April 9 in the Assembly Room of the William Pitt Union.

Whifield, who has collaborated with Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Wynton Marsalis, and many other artists, will first perform with local professional musicians and then with the ensemble itself.

The Pitt Jazz Ensemble comprises approximately 20 Pitt jazz student musicians, including jazz vocalese. They will perform under the direction of Leon Lee Dorsey. Pitt assistant professor of jazz studies and coordinator of the Jazz Studies Program.

Whifield is an alumnus of Boston’s prestigious Berklee College of Music and he launched a career in New York City in 1987 that included gigs with some of the nation’s finest jazz musicians. In September 2005, Whifield became a member of Berklee’s faculty as an artist in residence. In addition to his teaching, Whifield tours the country and performs in as many as 100 concerts a year with jazz trumpeter Chris Botti. Whifield’s latest solo effort, Song of Wonder, is a tribute to the music of the legendary Steve Wonder.

Attention is $10 for the general public and $5 for students. For more information, call 412-624-4187.

—Sharon S. Blake

Pitt Partnership for Food 2009 Food Drive Begins

The University will hold the Pitt Partnership for Food 2009 Food Drive throughout the month. Proceeds will benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

In order to maximize donations, organizers are using old and new contribution initiatives. As in previous years, the University has agreed to match each food contribution with an additional unit of food, and contributors can also donate food online at half the retail price at www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/pitt. Additionally, participants have been given a special challenge for this year’s food drive: Estimate your daily expenditure on lunch and donate the cost of at least one lunch a week to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Pitt’s past food drive efforts have produced stellar results. For more than a decade, the University has ranked among the 10 most successful Pittsburgh-area employers in the annual spring food drives. Over that period, Pitt’s contributions have totaled nearly two million units of food.

There will be about 500 drop-off boxes in visible locations across campus. For assistance or questions, contact Steve Zupic at 412-624-7709 or szupic@pitt.edu.

—Anthony M. Moore

U.N. Food and Agricultural Legal Advisor to Speak

Victor P. Mosoti, special legal advisor in the cabinet of the director-general for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, will present the 17th annual McLean Lecture on World Law at 7 p.m. April 14 in the University of Pittsburgh Borch Law Building, Teplitz Moot Courtroom.


Starting his legal career as an assistant professor at Ma University in Kenya in 1998, Mosoti has since worked at the World Trade Organization and International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development in Geneva, Switzerland. Since 2003, he has been with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, first as a legal officer and currently as a legal advisor.

Mosoti received his LL.B degree from Moi University in 1999 and then went on to earn his LL.M degree at the University of Pittsburgh in 2001 and his J.D degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2006. He also holds certificates in French language proficiency and public policy analysis from Universitè René Descartes Paris-V and Harvard University, respectively.

The event is jointly sponsored by the Pitt’s Center for International Legal Education and the Global Solutions Education Fund, Pittsburgh. The free public lecture will be followed by a reception.

The McLean Lecture on World Law honors the memory and contributions of Malcolm W. McLean, a founder, executive director, and executive vice president of the Pittsburgh World Federalist Association chapter, now Global Solutions Education Fund, Pittsburgh.

This lecture has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for one hour of substantive credit. There is a $25 fee to obtain CLE credit. For further information, call 412-648-7023 or e-mail cle@law.pitt.edu.

—Meredith Johnson

Pitt Journal

Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh
Sustainability 2009 Puts Green Ideas Into Action

By Morgan Kelly

The ideas and reality of sustainability will be showcased in tandem at the Engineering Sustainability 2009 conference sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh's Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation and Carnegie Mellon University's Steinbrenner Institute for Environmental Education and Research (SEER). Approximately 120 presenters from various countries will report on the latest innovations in "green" transportation, development, power, and water utilities—and some of the largest businesses in the country and the region will exhibit their eco-friendly evolution.

The conference will be held April 19-21 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd., Downtown. Conference registration opens April 19 at 3 p.m. with a welcome reception hosted by Sustainable Pittsburgh at 5:30. The conference begins April 20 with plenary speakers at 8:30 a.m. and various presentations from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. On April 21, plenary speakers begin at 8 a.m. with topical presentations beginning at 9:30 a.m. until the end of the day. The conference is open to the public. To register or see a conference schedule, visit www.mascarocenter.pitt.edu/conference.

The 2009 conference—the third since the biennial conference was launched in 2005—includes practical discussions for businesses and cities looking to diminish their environmental footprints. Selected presentations follow.

The "Business Case for Green Building" session begins at 10:30 a.m. April 20 and explores the potential for companies that go green. The session’s invited speaker, Gary Jay Saulson, director of Corporate Real Estate for PNC Financial Services Group, will discuss the financial institution’s green building policy—the company leads American corporations in number of certified sustainable buildings—and how large companies can benefit from sustainable practices.

"Green Building Case Studies" also begins at 10:30 a.m. April 20 and will evaluate large-scale sustainability projects around the country, from the Erie Art Museum to New Orleans. Pittsburgh Councilman Bill Peduto will discuss Pittsburgh zoning laws that preserve the city’s many hillsides, both structurally and aesthetically.

The "Green Building Toolkit" session at 9:30 a.m. April 21 walks businesses through conceptualizing and designing sustainable buildings. Invited speaker Mark Dietrick, of the architecture and design firm Case Technologies, will discuss techniques and technology that businesses can use to analyze the environmental aspects of their designs for new structures.

The April 20 plenary session begins with recognized and award-winning designer Sandra Mendler of the San Francisco-based sustainable design firm Mithun. She’s followed at 9:30 a.m. by environmental consultant and sustainable infrastructure expert G. Tracy Mehan III, who served as assistant administrator for water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 2001 to 2003 and as environmental stewardship counselor to the G-8 Summit Planning Organization in 2004.

The April 21 plenary session begins with David Allen, a chemical engineering professor and director of the Center for Energy at the University of Texas at Austin, who will explore sustainable engineering as the next step in education. At 8:45 a.m., Julie Zimmerman, a professor of engineering and the first female full professor at the University, will speak about the latest scientific developments in sustainable design. Zimmerman studies the effect of sunlight on the bodies of diurnal insects.

“Engagement in research is an important component of the Pitt experience for many of our students,” said Patricia Beeson, Pitt’s vice provost for graduate and undergraduate studies. “The Springboard events throughout April provide wonderful opportunities for these students to share their work with the broader community.”

Springboard events are open to the public. A schedule is available on Pitt’s Web site at www.pitt.edu/~provost/undergrad_research.html.

Brief descriptions of selected one-day events follow.

Pitt’s University Center for International Studies will present the Global Studies Student Symposium, which provides recognition for excellent student scholarship related to global studies from Pitt students in all disciplines. Global issues and trends relating to sustainable development, the globalized economy and global governance, changing identities in a global world, global conflict and conflict resolution, and global water will be addressed. The symposium begins at noon April 7 in Room 3160, Posvar Hall.

The University Honors College’s Undergraduate Research Fair is an interactive open-house poster session where undergraduates from all disciplines display posters on their research with audience discussion included. Last year’s event included student research on prehistoric climate change, pain sensitivity, and client satisfaction with mental health services. The fair begins at 11:30 a.m. April 8 in the Ballroom of the William Pitt Student Union.

The School of Arts and Sciences’ First Experiences in Research poster session will showcase the initial research endeavors of Arts and Sciences undergraduates with faculty mentors. In previous years, students exhibited such work as examining traumatic brain incidents, family-based stress management for childhood cancer, and Hong Kong films. The session begins at 4:45 p.m. April 13 in the Chevron Science Center.

The Swanson School of Engineering’s Department of Industrial Engineering will host Industrial Engineering Capstone Program presentations. Students will demonstrate the application of industrial engineering analysis to solve operations, planning, and process problems that arise in different settings. Their projects include improving the effectiveness of the UPMC patient-discharge process, analyzing the integration of mixed-model assembly lines at Mine Safety Appliances, improving process flow in the VR Manufacturing Center at the Elliott Company, and evaluating reserve racking utilization and configuration at Dick’s Sporting Goods. The presentations begin at 2 p.m. April 17 in Room 1021, Benedum Hall.

Brief descriptions of continuous and repeating events in April follow.

The Department of Studio Arts’ annual exhibition of juried art by graduating seniors and exceptional works by majors and nonmajors runs through April 25 in the University Art Gallery, Frick Fine Arts Building. (See article on Page 2.)

Students and faculty in theater arts in the School of Arts and Sciences will present Tony Kushner’s epic Angels in America Part Two: Perestroika. The play’s scenes, costumes, and lighting were designed by Pitt faculty and built by Pitt students and staff. The play runs through April 11 in the Charity Randall Theatre, Stephen Foster Memorial.

Continued on page 6
Antidepressants, Depression May Raise Risk of Premature Birth, Study Finds
By Megan Grote Quatrini

Pregnant women who had untreated major depression in all three trimesters of pregnancy, as well as those who took certain antidepressants, had preterm birth rates exceeding 20 percent, according to a study by University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine researchers published in the March issue of Archives of General Psychiatry, one of the JAMA/Archives journals.

Approximately 10-to-20 percent of women struggle with symptoms of major depression during their pregnancies, but treating it can be complicated. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressants are usually the first line of depression treatment but can lead to unwanted outcomes such as preterm births if used continuously throughout pregnancy, the findings suggest.

“It is well known that the prevalence of depression in women is highest during the childbearing years, and treating the symptoms with SSRIs is a common medical therapy,” said Katherine L. Wisner, professor of psychiatry, obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, and epidemiology in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, director of the Women’s Behavioral HealthCARE program at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC, and associate investigator at Magee-Womens Research Institute. “However, given the similarities in outcomes we found for continuous SSRI treatment and continuous depression, it is possible that underlying depressive disorder is a factor in preterm birth among women taking SSRIs.”

Throughout this prospective study, researchers followed 238 women with either no, partial, or continuous exposure to depression or SSRI treatment during pregnancy and compared neonatal outcomes. They found that women exposed to either continuous SSRI treatment or to continuous depression with no SSRI treatment had comparable levels of increased risk for preterm birth at 21 percent and 23 percent, respectively. However, women with no exposure to either depression or SSRI medication had lower rates of preterm birth, at 8 percent.

The researchers also discovered that either depression or SSRI treatment did not affect the baby’s birth weight or the mother’s weight gain during pregnancy or influence the rate of major physical birth defects in the infant.

Previous studies have associated both depression and SSRIs with an increased risk for miscarriage. But taking these antidepressants during pregnancy does not greatly increase the overall risk of birth defects, Wisner noted.

While the results add more evidence linking SSRI treatment to risk of preterm birth, the risk of untreated depression conveys no less risk and suggests that factors independently related to both the disease and its treatment are associated with preterm birth.

The relationship of preterm birth to depression and SSRI exposure must be clarified through further research,” Wisner said. “In the meantime, it is recommended that each pregnant woman consult with her doctor to weigh the benefits and risks of depression treatment with antidepressants.”

This study was supported in part by funding from the National Institute of Mental Health.

Children of Parents With Bipolar Disorder Face Higher Risk of Psychiatric Illnesses, Pitt Study Finds
By Megan Grote Quatrini

Children and teens of parents with bipolar disorder have an increased risk of early-onset bipolar disorder, mood disorders, and anxiety disorders, according to a study by University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine researchers published in the March issue of Archives of General Psychiatry, one of the JAMA/Archives journals.

An estimated one in 100 children and teens worldwide has bipolar disorder. Identifying the condition early may improve long-term outcomes, potentially preventing high psychosocial and medical costs. Researchers from the Pittsburgh Bipolar Offspring Study suggest that having family members with bipolar disorder is the best predictor of whether their children will go on to develop the condition.

“A bipolar diagnosis at a young age deprives children of the opportunity to experience normal emotional, cognitive, and social development, and this is why there is an urgent need to identify, diagnose, and treat these patients early on,” said Boris Birmaher, professor of psychiatry in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, director of the Child and Adolescent Anxiety Program and codirector of the Child and Adolescent Bipolar Services at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC, and endowed chair in Early Onset Bipolar Disease.

Compared with the offspring of control parents, children with bipolar parents had a 14-fold increased risk of having a bipolar spectrum disorder, as well as a two- to three-fold increased risk of having a mood or anxiety disorder. Children in families where both parents had bipolar disorders also were more likely to develop both conditions than those in families containing one parent with bipolar disorder. However, their risk for other psychiatric disorders was the same as that of children who had one bipolar parent.

Bipolar disorder, commonly called manic-depression, often emerges in adolescence and is characterized by intense swings between depression, mania, and periods with mixed symptoms. Bipolar spectrum disorders consist of three subtypes. Bipolar I (BP-I) is characterized by episodes of full-blown mania and major depression; bipolar II (BP-II) involves episodes of less severe mania, called hypomania, and major depression; and the third subtype is called Bipolar Not Otherwise Specified (BP-NOS), which involves symptoms consistent with elated or irritable moods that are disruptive to daily living, plus two to three other symptoms of bipolar disorder.

In this blind study, researchers compared 388 children and teens, ages 6 to 18, with 233 parents with BP-I and BP-II to 251 offspring of 143 demographically matched control parents. Parents were assessed for their health history, family mental health history, family environment, and exposure to negative life events and also were interviewed about their children. Children were assessed directly for bipolar disorder and other psychiatric disorders by researchers who did not know their parents’ diagnoses.

“Consistent with prior research, most parents with bipolar disorder recalled that their illness started before age 20, and about 20 percent had illness that started before age 13,” said Birmaher. “In contrast, most of their children developed their first bipolar disorder episode before age 12, suggesting the possibility that parents were more perceptive of their children’s symptoms early in life or perhaps that bipolar disorder appears earlier in new generations.”

The researchers note that these findings have important clinical implications. “Clinicians who treat adults with bipolar disorder should question them about their children’s psychopathology to offer prompt identification and early interventions for any psychiatric problems that may be affecting the children’s functioning, particularly early-onset bipolar disorder,” said Birmaher. “Further studies are needed to help determine the clinical, biological, and genetic risk factors that may be modified to prevent the development of psychiatric disorders in the children of those with bipolar disorder.”

The Pittsburgh Bipolar Offspring Study was supported in part by funding provided by the National Institute of Mental Health.
Two Teams, One Goal, Many Victories

Pitt’s Journey to the NCAA Men’s Elite Eight
By Gregory A. Hotchkiss

From the season opener’s tipoff to its glorious destination of the NCAA Elite Eight, the 2008-09 Pitt men’s basketball season marked a year of remarkable achievement.

Along the way, Pitt enjoyed several firsts. It advanced to the NCAA Regional Final and Elite Eight for the first time since the NCAA Tournament expanded to 64 teams. The last time Pitt advanced as far in the tournament was in 1974. Pitt earned its first-ever No. 1 seed upon entering the NCAA Tournament. The Panthers also ascended to the nation’s consensus No. 1 national ranking for the first time in school history and held the top spot for three weeks during the season (Jan. 5, Jan. 12, and Feb. 23).

Pitt also defeated the nation’s No. 1-ranked team for the first time in school history (76-68 win at Connecticut on Feb. 16).

In addition, Pitt set school records for most victories in a season (31-5 record), most Big East regular season wins (15-3), most home wins (19), total home attendance (212,682 in 19 games), and best average home attendance (11,194 per game).

Individually, several Panthers achieved on a national scale. Sophomore center DeJuan Blair became the first player at Pitt to earn First Team All-America honors from the Associated Press since Don Hennon achieved that honor in 1957-58. The Big East’s co-Player of the Year, Blair earned consensus First Team All-America honors from virtually every granting organization. Senior forward Sam Young, who became just the fourth player in school history to earn All-Big East First Team honors in two seasons, earned several All-America honors, set his own single-season scoring record, and finished fourth on Pitt’s all-time career scoring list with 1,884 career points. An All-America, All-Big East, and three-time Bob Cousy Award nominee, senior point guard Levance Fields set Pitt’s single season assists record and led the nation for the majority of the season in both assists per game and assist:turnover ratio.

Pitt Women’s Basketball Team Posts Record-breaking Season
By Mendy D. Nestor

The Pitt women’s basketball team had a fantastic 2008-09 season. The Panthers advanced to the NCAA Tournament’s Sweet 16 for the second consecutive year, giving Pitt a trip to the third round twice in just three tournament appearances in school history.

Pitt also reached 25 wins, giving this season’s team the most wins in school history, finishing with a 25-8 overall record. In Big East play, the Panthers finished 12-4 overall, which is also a school record for best winning percentage.

Individually, senior guard Shavonte Zellous put the team on her shoulders and willed Pitt to its current success. The May 2008 Pitt graduate finished second in the Big East and sixth in the nation in scoring, making an astounding 22.6 points per game average. She broke numerous records during the season, including becoming the only player in Pitt men’s or women’s history to score more than 700 points in a season. She concluded the season with 747 points and 2,251 in her career. Zellous also became the first at Pitt—and just the ninth in men’s and women’s Big East history—to score more than 600 points in three separate seasons.

Zellous also was Pitt’s first three-time First Team All-Big East member. She was named to the Big East All-Tournament team and is currently a finalist for the State Farm Coaches WBCA All-America team. Zellous became Pitt’s first-ever All-American women’s basketball team member as she was named to the Associated Press All-America third team Tuesday.

1 Levance Fields, senior point guard 2 DeJuan Blair, sophomore center 3 Sam Young, senior forward 4 Shavonte Zellous, senior guard 5 Chelsea Cole, sophomore forward 6 Women’s team with Coach Agnus Berenato (center) 7 Men’s coach Jamie Dixon
Two Pitt Students Receive 2009 Goldwater Scholarships

Continued from page 1

these fields, the Goldwater Scholarship is awarded in either a student’s sophomore or junior year. The award goes toward covering tuition, room and board, fees, and books for each student recipient’s remaining period of study.

Oczypok began her research in profes-
sor of biological sciences Lewis Jacobson’s laboratory under the direction of Nathaniel Szewczyk, now an associate professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Graduate Enter Medicine and Health in Denver, U.K. Oczypok’s work focuses on muscle atrophy, particularly muscle degradation in astronauts on extended space missions. She works with worms to observe the poten-
tial degradation of the muscle attachment complex—a group of proteins that anchor muscles to their surroundings—in a hypergravity environment. A worm’s complex is similar molecularly to human focal adhe-
sions during the process of muscular degeneration and repair due to exercise-induced muscle injury.

In 2006, worms from Jacobson’s lab left for a six-month stay on the International Space Station aboard the Russian Soyuz spacecraft to view them in real-time. In 2007, she traveled with Szewczyk to Florida’s Kennedy Space Center and to Edwards Air Force Base in California to collect the experimental samples from the returning shuttle space. She found that the worms experienced normal muscle development and muscle function, but not muscle contraction. In summer 2008, Oczypok studied in the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Medicine and Health on a Biochemistry Student -ship that allowed her to expand her views to include using DNA and protein manipulation to create a European Space Agency (ESA) Young Researcher Award to present her work at an ESA conference in France.

Oczypok’s career goal is to obtain an MD/PhD degree in the biomedical sciences. She hopes to eventually use her knowledge of disease through molecular biology and use this knowledge to explore possible disease prevention treatments. Her work at the University of Pittsburgh provided a blend of clinical and scientific experiences, bringing her to the realization that “helping others do not just mean treating patients in the clinic, but it also means using my knowledge of molecular biology to tackle the underlying problems of debilitating diseases,” Oczypok said.

Savinov began doing laboratory research after having taken an entry-level biology course at Carnegie Mellon University as a high school student during the summer of 2006. Professor David Hackney, who taught the course, invited Savinov to work in his lab. In the following summer, Savinov studied the motility produced by the motor protein kinesin in an in-vitro reconstituted system and contributed part-time in Hackney’s lab until beginning his under-
graduate studies at Pitt as a Chancellor’s Scholar.

In summer 2008, under the direction of Graham Hatfull—Eberly Family Professor of Biotechnology, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Professor, and chair of Pitt’s Department of Biological Sciences—Savinov investigated a mycobacteriophage (a tiny virus that infects bacteria) known as Bsl1 and the role of a particular protein in how the plague reproduces inside an infected bacterium. He plans to expand his work in Fall 2009 by looking into whether the protein performs other important and perhaps more general functions as a biological regulator.

This past summer, Savinov received an HHMI Undergraduate Fellowship. His future plans are to major in Computational Biological Sciences in the College of Computing and Information, and minor in molecular biology, and work on a collaborative project at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Savinov’s goal is to earn a PhD degree in biochemistry with plans to do research in molecular medicine with a special focus on infectious disease. The award will bring these fields together in a truly creative way.”

In pursuing the grant, the Press and its partners note that “the study of the history of science is enhanced by interaction with other fields and that the humanities offer crucial insights into understanding science.”

The Department of History and Phi-
losophy of Science, a renowned academic program within Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences, focuses on the conceptual and methodological foundations of science and emphasizes the connections between the historical, philosophical, and cultural aspects of science. According to James Lennox, Pitt professor of history and philosophy of science, “This externally funded initiative will allow us to explore a number of new avenues of research related to the historical development of the global reach of science and the impact of science on cross-cultural interactions.”

The history department established the World History Center to foster research that emphasizes broad historical patterns that cut across national and even civilizational boundaries, identifies transcultural influences, and challenges Western-centric concepts of history.

“This initiative provides a wonderful opportunity to explore the global connections in scientific thinking and practice from the medieval era to recent times” said Patricia Manning, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of World History and the center’s director. “We consider this area of scholarship to be one of the most promising fields of the future. It is a field on the cutting edge for our time.”

The project will draw on the many resources available at the University, including the University Library System, the African American Alumni Council, the Center on Race and Social Problems, and the Black Action Society. The Mellon grant will provide the funding needed to implement the series of institutes.

SIS is nationally recognized as a lead-
ing school in scholarly research and com-
munications and is a founding member of the iSchool Consortium, which comprises 19 leading information sciences institu-
tions, including the University of Cali-
ifornia at Los Angeles and the University of Michigan. Since its founding in 2002, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has donated more than $10 million to Pitt in support of research in the humanities. (Peter Kracht and Kelly Shaffer also contributed to this article.)

Engineering Sustainability Fuels Green Ideas Into Action

Continued from page 3

The winner of the Mascaro Center’s Energy Efficient Building Tech-
ologies student green design contest will be announced during the April 21 plenary session.

Continued from page 1

students’ senior design projects. Their ideas will be fully compliant with the American Disabilities Act, reflecting the goals of Pitt and his wife Ginny’s lifelong commitment to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

The Thornburghs, who in 2003 received the Henry B. Beatt Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities, established a $25,000 Goldwater Scholarship Award to Pitt to establish The Thorn-
burgh Family Lecture Series in Disability Studies. The program is supported by The University of Pittsburgh School of Law and School of Health and Rehabilita-
tion Sciences, in conjunction with Pitt’s Dick Thornburgh Archival Collection.

Mellon Foundation Gives Grant

Continued from page 1

Students pursuing master’s and PhD degrees continue to be funded in the nation’s information sciences, including Pitt’s School. The institutes will engage Pitt and the two Pennsylvania Information Schools (Penn State and Drexel universities) to design and build an annual series of cohort-based initiatives that identify, recruit, and mentor underrepresented students for graduate studies and nurture their academic growth, culminating in faculty positions in higher education. “The nation’s information professions needs a workforce representative of its diverse population,” said Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History and Philosophy of Science and director of the Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences. “Development of this workforce requires faculty who, likewise, reflect the nation’s diversity. With the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, our school is poised to launch a long-term program designed to educate the next generation of scholars, leaders, and researchers to bring the diversity of culture, experience, and perspective to the education of information professionals. Our goal is to recruit and mentor diverse students who demonstrate leadership and who represent the diverse society we have become in North America.”

The University will draw on the many resources available at the University, including the University Library System, the African American Alumni Council, the Center on Race and Social Problems, and the Black Action Society. The Mellon grant will provide the funding needed to implement the series of institutes.

SIS is nationally recognized as a lead-
ing school in scholarly research and com-
munications and is a founding member of the iSchool Consortium, which comprises 19 leading information sciences institu-
tions, including the University of Cali-
ifornia at Los Angeles and the University of Michigan. Since its founding in 2002, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has donated more than $10 million to Pitt in support of research in the humanities. (Peter Kracht and Kelly Shaffer also contributed to this article.)
The Evolutionary Function of Moral Projection,” Kyle Stanford, University of California, Berkeley, and the professor of logic and philosophy of science, 12:05 p.m. April 7, Room 817 Cathedral of Learning, Lecture Hall Six, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/~cphilsci.


The Blend of Professional Expertise: Law and Social Work in Legal Decision-making,” Shavii Maya Simpson, civil court judge of the City of New York, 10 a.m. April 7, Conference Room in history, 3 p.m. April 9, 2500 Posvar Hall, Pitt Division of History, 412-648-7451, www.pitt.edu/~pitbit.


Anticipating, Eliteizing, and Interpreting Physical Findings: A Sociocultural-Physical Analysis,” Georges Borghgraef, University of Illinois at Chicago, and the professor of medical education, 10 a.m. April 10, Laura 497, Pitt School of Medicine Grand Rounds, Pitt School of Medicine, 412-648-9000, www.meqg.pitt.edu.

Fourth Annual Springboard 2009: A Monthlong Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity,” event encompassing undergraduate research presentations, research posters, and other research activities, for departments, conferences, art exhibitions, and creative productions. April 7, 4130 Posvar Hall, University’s five campuses during the spring, April 9, 10 a.m., www.uark.pitt.edu/main/undergrad/home.

Matsubara: A Celebration in Pittsburgh, Carnegie Museum of Art, through June 7

\section*{Matsubara: A Celebration in Pittsburgh, Carnegie Museum of Art, through June 7}\\
\begin{itemize}
\item "Politics of Recognition and the European Union," Hartmut Bohr, Newcastle University professor of international politics, noon April 6, 4310 Posvar Hall, European Union Center of Excellence, European Studies Center, 412-648-7405, www.uciss.pitt.edu/main.
\item "The Myth of Equality: Contemporary Women’s Issues," speakers will discuss reproductive health, gender wage disparity, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and lobbying and advocacy, 1-4 p.m. April 6, Assembly Room, William Pitt Union, ACLU, Campus Women’s Organization, Pitt School of Social Work, Pitt Student Executive council, 412-624-6485, ACLUwomen@pitt.edu.
\item "The EU and NATO in the 21st Century: Security Collaborators or Competitors?" discussions with experts on the future interaction of the two and how EU and NATO are handling the evolving defense and security environment in Europe and beyond, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. April 7, Pennsylvania Room, Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Ave, Oakland, Pitt’s European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center, University Center for International Studies, GSPHA, 412-624-7884, brizzi@gspa.pitt.edu.
\item "The Global Studies Student Research Symposium," Pitt Center for Latin American Studies and the director of the Latin American Studies, 4 p.m. April 7, 400 Forbes Ave, Oakland, Pitt Global Studies Program, 412-624-2918, www.uciss.pitt.edu/main.
\end{itemize}
Diners enjoyed lunch at the University Club’s Fraternity Grill on April 1, which was opening day for the club following a $20 million renovation. The historic building at 123 University Place offers a faculty-and-staff club, fitness center, and dining facilities as well as banquet and conference rooms that are available to club members and the public.

**UNIVERSITY CLUB OPENS**

**SPIKE LEE DISCUSSES PASSION**

Spike Lee told Pitt students and other members of his audience in David Lawrence Hall on March 31 to find professions they love and work hard, even when it’s difficult. Lee, a famed filmmaker, writer, actor, producer, and director, was brought to campus by Pitt’s Black Action Society.

**INTERNATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY**

Werner D. Lippert, a specialist in U.S. foreign relations at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), delivered an April 2 lecture in Alumni Hall that was sponsored by Pitt’s Center for National Preparedness and IUP’s John P. Murtha Institute for Homeland Security. Lippert discussed anticipated changes in international security policies under the Obama Administration as well as the United States’ security vulnerabilities that stem from foreign energy dependence.