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Pitt Board Chair and Retired Chief Justice of Pa. Ralph J. Cappy Dies
By John Hairish and Patricia Lemonds White

University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees Chair and retired Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ralph J. Cappy, 65, died May 1 at his home in Green Tree, Pa. A public memorial service was held at Heinz Chapel May 5 with Auxiliary Bishop Rendell, current Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ronald D. Castille, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Pittsburgh attorney and Pitt law school alumnus Gary G. Gentile, and Richard A. Zappulla, former principal and chair of The First City Company and cochair of The Paccem in Terris Institute Board of Governors. [See the print version of Chancellor Nordenberg’s memorial tribute on page 1 below.]

“Ralph Cappy, who earned both of his degrees from Pitt, was totally committed to the University. He made enormous contributions to our progress, as our Board Chair and in countless other ways,” Nordenberg said in a public statement he sent from China, where he had been meeting with alumni, shortly after he learned that Cappy had passed away. The chancellor cut short his trip to China to return to Pittsburgh and take part in Tuesday’s memorial service.

“As much as he will be remembered for his extraordinary legacy as Pennsylvania’s Chief Justice and as Pitt’s Board Chair, though, Ralph also will be remembered as a wonderful human being,” the chancellor continued. “His warm and welcoming personality defined him as a leader, making others eager to work with him, and stood at the center of his many friendships. “Ralph Cappy was a powerful force for good in his personal and professional lives. In Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania, and around the world.”

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“The Kid From Brookline”
Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg’s Farewell to Board of Trustees Chair Ralph J. Cappy

(Right is the print version of University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg’s eulogy for The Honorable Ralph J. Cappy, retired Chief Justice of Pennsylvania and chair of the University’s Board of Trustees. A memorial service celebrating Mr. Cappy’s life was held May 5, 2009, in Heinz Memorial Chapel in Oakland.)

By Clare Collins

“Ralph and I began partnering in the mid-1980s—when he was a young, but already accomplished, trial court judge, and I was a brand new law school dean. Over the course of the last 20 years, there were few important events in his professional life, or in mine, that we did not, in some way, share. And for the past six years, I had the uncommon privilege of working closely with him as the chair of the University’s Board of Trustees.

Of course, our relationship was not purely professional. Ralph was a caring and loyal friend to me, as he was to many of you. He was someone whose abilities and character I respected and whom my company thoroughly enjoyed. We always had fun together!

As you might expect, our families also became close. And Jane and I, like you, can speak that for what might be called the very extended “Cappy family” that has assembled in this Chapel this morning, when I say that, just as we loved Ralph, so we love his wonderful wife and the son of that special life that he shared with you.

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Pitt Forms Center for Global Health
By Clare Collins

Recognizing that most global health problems result from a combination of social, economic, political, and environmental factors, Pitt has partnered with faculty and students in the areas of research, education, service, and policy.

“The current swine flu outbreak is yet another example of the need for a global response to address health issues that impact all of us,” Burke noted. “Our center will build on Pitt’s track record of significant discoveries and interdisciplinary partnerships, and will draw on a range of expertise to work toward solutions to our most challenging problems.”

The center will promote and support ongoing research projects at the University of Pittsburgh—projects as diverse as pandemic preparedness in Thailand, the improvement of children’s health in India,

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Professor Nicholas Rescher, Alumnus Michael Chabon Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences
By Sharon S. Blake

Nicholas Rescher, Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh, and Michael Chabon, Pitt alumnus and Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, have been elected 2009 Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS). This marks the fourth consecutive year a Pitt philosopher has received this honor.

The new class of Fellows representing scholars, scientists, writers, artists, musicians, philanthropists, and civic and corporate leaders from around the globe—will be inducted during an Oct. 10 ceremony at the Academy’s headquarters in Cambridge, Mass.

Known as one of America’s most prolific and influential philosophers, Rescher has been chair of Pitt’s Department of Philosophy and director of Pitt’s Center for Philosophy of Science, which he now cochairs. His productive research career has extended over six decades and his work represents a many-sided approach to fundamental philosophical issues—weaving together threads of thought from continental idealism and American pragmatism. His body of work includes more than 100 books on philosophy, many of which have been translated into other languages. His publications on themes pertaining to Catholicism include studies on Aristotle, the scholastics, and Pascal.

Rescher earned his PhD at Princeton University in 1951 when he was only 22. His dissertation was on the history of Princeton’s Department of Philosophy, and he has published extensively in this area and others. He has served as a president of the American Philosophical Association, the American Catholic Philosophical Association, the American G. W. Leibniz Society, the C. S. Pierce Society, the American Metaphysical Society. Founder of the American Philosophical Quarterly, Rescher has been elected to membership in the European Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Society of Canada, and a number of other learned academies. His awards and recognitions include the Alexander von Humboldt Prize for Humanistic Scholarship in 1984, the Belgian Prix Mercier in 2005, and the Aquinas Medal of the American Catholic Philosophical Association.

Chabon was recognized as one of his generation’s most promising young writers with the publication of The Mysteries of Pittsburgh (William Morrow & Co., 1988), his first novel, which earned critical acclaim and became a national bestseller, recently translated into 18 languages, and adapted into a feature film starring Jon Foster, Sienna Miller, Peter Sarsgaard, and Nick Nolte. Reviewers praised Chabon’s rich prose and strong narrative skill and compared his style to that of F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Chabon, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English writing at Pitt and a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing at the University of California, Irvine, is probably best known for his bestselling novel Wonder Boys (Villard, 1995), a satirical comedy that chronicles three manic days in the life of Crady Tripp, a marijuana-smoking English professor whose life unravels as he struggles to complete a long-overdue novel. Wonder Boys won recognition as a New York Times Notable Book in 1995 and was adapted as a film starring Michael Douglas and Tobey Maguire. Chabon’s The Amazing Adven- tures of Kavalier & Clay, which was named a Pulitzer Prize Finalist (2000), and the Alexander von Humboldt Prize for Humanistic Scholarship in 1984, the Belgian Prix Mercier in 2005, and the Aquinas Medal of the American Catholic Philosophical Association.

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A new Department of Developmental Biology, which will take advantage of sophisticated technologies to explore the workings of egg, sperm, and their union, has been established at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

In founding chair will be Cecilia Lo, who has long studied the causes of congenital heart defects, transposition of the great arteries, novel mutations that cause congenital heart disease, and a great leader in creating programs that apply principles of cellular and molecular biology in cognitive learning.

Mr. Lo and his wife, Susan, have served on many professional and public boards and organizations, including Carnegie Mellon University, the Pitt School of Law, and the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Lo is currently chief of the Cartilage Biology and Orthopaedics Branch at the National Institute of Arthritis, and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases of the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Lo and his wife have been married for 33 years and have one child.
“Pathways to Success”

Well, thank you so much. And greetings, Class of 2009, and many congratulations. This is a wonderful, exciting, happy, sad, anxious day for you all. But you’re a Pitt graduate. And that world out there is not as tough as you might think.

“My own career? I am a physician, and, as you’ve heard, a basic, or discovery scientist. I think a discovery scientist is sort of as you’ve heard, a basic, or discovery scientist is sort of tough as you might think.

And finally, search for opportunities. And you can learn that way, too. You don’t have to make all of the mistakes yourself.

Personal code of ethics. I’ll make that short. You can get ahead without a personal code of ethics, but you won’t be happy. A human conscience weighs very heavily. I suggest you pay strong attention to that.

And, finally, search for opportunities. They are all around you. You could be like Ari Frit, sitting at 3M company. Next to him, a person was making a formula for a super-glue that didn’t work. He was about to throw the formula away. Fry pulled it back from the wastecan. Put it on the back of pieces of paper, and you have Post-it—which you all use, which has made millions for that company. So opportunities are always there. And the experts don’t know it all.

A good story about experts is the one about the new chief of a South Dakota Indian tribe. As he took over, braves that first winter came to him and said “Is it going to be cold this winter?” And he hadn’t learned to read the sky and the winds and the animals and the trees. But being a practical man, he said “Yes, gather wood.” But also a modern chief, he thought, “I think I’ll call the weatherman.” So, without identifying himself, he did. A couple of weeks later, the weatherman said, “It’s going to be extremely cold at the weather bureau. So he called back and said “Is it going to be cold this winter?” He had learned to read the sky and the trees and the animals. But being a practical man, he said “Yes, gather wood.”

And the experts don’t know it all.

So how do you improve your judgment? That’s the right question to ask. It’s something you can do something about. It’s something you can improve. But in fact, that study has shown that track. You haven’t jumped off a cliff to know that’s wrong, do you? Well, there are many subtle lessons in life you can learn that way, too. You don’t have to make all of the mistakes yourself.

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And the experts don’t know it all.
“Pathways to Success”

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winter?” The weatherman said, “It’s going to be one of the coldest winters on record.” The chief said, “How do you know that?” The weatherman said, “Because the Indians are out gathering wood like crazy!”

We’re in an economic downturn, you’re probably worried about that. Okay, I know, it’s a pain out there. But, in a way the glass is half full because we are on the verge of the next economic boom, which, if history repeats itself, will be above 45 percent of what the last one was.

Do you know that the downturns of the economy are the periods of greatest invention and innovation in the history of our country? Not with money flowing like water at the peaks. When everything is running smoothly and money is everywhere, you can get by with “me, also” stuff—the same movies, the same books, the same kind of work or service. When things tighten up, the human has one resource it can rely on—the brain. So put your ingenuity to work. Okay?

To finish, I have two final personal comments. I promise this won’t be too long.

One, in the future, don’t think about your job, but think about your vocation. Your vocation is your life’s body of work. It involves more than your paid employment: It involves unpaid volunteer work, volunteering for the homeless, charitable giving, Little League coaching. You know, there are a lot of things that you can do as a body of work that will complete your life.

Your vocation is really who you are and who you were. At the end of your life, do you want to have your life summed up in dollar signs? Would you like a number on your gravestone to summarize your life? I think not. And don’t make that your gold standard in your life.

Final thought: Don’t limit yourselves. I guarantee you, like me, like anybody else here, we can tell you now, you don’t know what you can do in life yet. You are just starting out. Do not settle. Set your goals high. Set your goal way up here and you will at least reach your capacity—which is what you want to do. If you set your goal here [motions lower], you are going to fall below your capacity, and that’s an unhappy thing later in your life. So shoot for the stars. Okay? Graduates, there are a hundred billion stars in the sky, we can see only a few thousand. But you keep your feet on the ground and your eyes on the heavens. And I hope every one of your stars shines as bright as the evening Venus.

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Commencement 2009

Pitt graduated its Class of 2009 on April 26 in the Petersen Events Center. Students celebrated the day. Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg set the goals high. Set your goal way up here and you will at least reach your capacity—which is what you want to do. If you set your goal here [motions lower], you are going to fall below your capacity, and that’s an unhappy thing later in your life. So shoot for the stars. Okay? Graduates, there are a hundred billion stars in the sky, we can see only a few thousand. But you keep your feet on the ground and your eyes on the heavens. And I hope every one of your stars shines as bright as the evening Venus.

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BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

At right, scenes from the 5th Annual Interfaith Baccalaureate Service on April 25. Students gathered in the William Pitt Union for the baccalaureate, which was sponsored by Pitt Alumni Association’s African American Alumni Council and the Black Action Society. Kathy W. Humphrey, Pitt vice provost and dean of students, stands with Baccalaureate keynote speaker The Honorable Michael A. Brown (middle), an alumnus member of the Council of the District of Columbia, and James III (A&S ’90), who delivered the Litany for Seniors address.
Pitt Receives $2.8 Million to Train HIV/AIDS Researchers Overseas

By Clare Collins

The University of Pittsburgh has received a five-year, $2.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s Fogarty International Center to train researchers in regions of the world most hard-hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The grant, part of the center’s AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP), will allow Pitt to develop a training site in Mozambique, where there are an estimated 750 new HIV infections every day, and to expand programs under way in Brazil and India.

“The HIV/AIDS epidemic remains uncontrolled in many regions in the world,” said principal investigator Lee Harrison, professor of medicine and epidemiology in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Graduate School of Public Health, respectively. “With an ever-growing number of patients in treatment programs, there is an urgent need for well-trained scientists to monitor patients and find out why people develop resistance to anti-HIV drugs.” He said the Fogarty grant will give international researchers the tools and skills needed to do this vital work.


The Pitt training program in Mozambique is based on a partnership forged in 2006 with Catholic University Mozambique, the site of one of only two medical schools in the southeastern African country. With 1.8 million people living with HIV and one physician for every 33,000 residents, Mozambique has very limited capabilities for research and few trained investigators. Harrison said the growing epidemic disproportionately impacts women, many of them of childbearing age. In the region of Beira, where Catholic University is based, 34 percent of pregnant women are HIV-infected.

In Mozambique, the Pitt team will focus on training researchers in epidemiological methods to better understand the failure of antiretroviral treatment and answer basic questions about HIV prevalence. In Brazil, ranked second in number of reported AIDS cases in the Americas, training will focus on treatment and vaccine trials, tuberculosis research related to AIDS, and the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy in public clinics. In India, where there are 2.5 million HIV-infected people, training will center on laboratory studies on the molecular mechanisms of HIV and the development of anti-HIV vaccines using Indian strains.

The University of Pittsburgh received one of seven AITRP grants recently awarded. The AITRP has trained nearly 2,000 researchers overseas, most of whom remain in their countries to continue HIV/AIDS research, train young scientists, and provide leadership to their governments on health issues. Codirecting the program with Harrison is Phalguni Gupta, a professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology in Pitt’s Graduate School of Public Health.

Two University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences graduate students—Lee Harrison, Department of History, and Justin Sytsma, Department of History and Philosophy of Science—received Mellon-ACLs Dissertation Completion Fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies for the 2009-10 academic year.

ACLS will award 65 fellowships this year to assist graduate students in the humanities and related social sciences in the last year of their PhD dissertation writing. This program aims to encourage timely completion of the PhD. Applicants must be prepared to complete their dissertations within the period of their fellowship tenure or shortly thereafter.

Frykman’s fields of study are Atlantic history, early United States history, and slavery and abolition; he has research interests in these topics as well as in the age of revolution and maritime/naval history.


Among his awards are Pitt Arts and Sciences 2008-09 Lillian B. Lawler Predoctoral Fellowship, 2007-08 Sweden-America Foundation Research Fellowship in Stockholm, and a 2006-07 Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship.


Sytsma delivered a keynote presenta- tion on advanced multimedia techniques at the FlashForward conference in 2001 in New York City and, in 2000, received an International Web Page Creative Excellence and two Creative Achievements awards for work on three separate Web sites. Among his awards are the Graduate Student Paper Prize in 2009, presented at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division 83rd annual meeting in Vancouver, B.C., and the William James Award for best undergraduate paper at the Society for Philosophy and Psychology 34th annual meeting in Minneapolis. In addition, he earned an MA in history and philosophy of science in 2006 and an MA in philosophy in 2008, both at Pitt.
whom he was so proud. And not only do we share your sorrow today, but we intend to be a continuing source of support in meeting the challenge of building a brighter future for your family and that of happier tomorrows—as Ralph surely would have wanted us to do.

It is not surprising that he regularly expressed himself, Ralph Cappo almost seemed more proud of the place from which he had come than he was of the places to which he traveled. He was the “kid from Brookline” who became the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania—one of only nine positions he held, but in ways that were different from those positions—reflects the breadth of his professional life in any single Pitt week. And he had been able to muster in all four of his own undergraduate years combined.

Ralph, of course, is the way that Ralph was. He had a personal appeal that drew people to him. And he had an enviable combination of qualities that held those people close, as friends and as allies, and that contributed to his many successes. Those qualities included an active and agile mind; a principled commitment to worthy causes, the courage of his convictions, good judgment, common sense—and, most important of all, a caring heart.

Use it. But it is hardly a "... let me close by expressing all of the somehow more simply. Chief Justice Cappy, through your many achievements, your countless contributions, and your inspiring example, you earned our highest respect. And, Ralphie, for the kind of person you were, for the special friend you have been, and for the ways that you added richness to our lives, we always will love you.”

Professor Nicholas Rescher, Alumni & Michael Chabon
Elect to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

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Pitt Form Center for Global Health

Framework in Global Health Program to develop curricul-um in global health; and host an ongoing lecture series with health experts from around the world.

The center, directed by Joan R. M. Kessel, is guided by a global health advisory committee comprising leaders from the health sciences and other partner schools across the university. For more information, visit www.globalhealth.pitt.edu.
Concerts


Oakland Girls Choir: Voices of Women, performing music inspired by poets Emily Dickinson and Christine Rosseti, 7:30 p.m. May 16, Church of the Ascension, 4725 Ellsworth Ave... Shadyside, 412-621-4361, www.ascension Pittsburg.org.

Exhibitions

Future Tenants, Ritual Decadence, exhibit featuring two-dimensional works inspired by animal mating rituals, through May 16, 819 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-7037.


Lectures/Seminars/Readings


“The Origins of Red Tide Toxins,” Tim Jamison, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, chemistry professor, 5 p.m. May 21, 128 Chemistry Science Center, Pitt Dowd Lectures and Department of Chemistry, www.chem.pitt.edu.

Miscellaneous


Robert Fogley, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures, a newly minted Bachelor of Arts, Bastard, and Nomadic Masculinity: A Study of Hilarity in the Works of Guy de Maupassant and Andre Gide,” 2 p.m. May 13, 1325 Cathedral of Learning.

Molly Brown, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of English, “Nineteenth-Century, Nostalgia, and Masculinity: Clavier/ Sjambok/Hanks,” 11 a.m. May 14, 527 Cathedral of Learning.

Christine Shy, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Epidemiology, “Breastfeeding and a Type 1 Diabetes: Determinants and Clinical Consequences,” 1 p.m. May 18, Second Floor, DLR Building.

Ella Vanderbril-Abric, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Psychology, “Psychosocial, Cognitive, and Neurobiological Changes and the Aberrant Social Behavior in a Longitudinal Study of Low-Income Boys,” 10 a.m. May 20, 4127 Sennott Square.
Infant bed sharing—or parents sharing sleeping space with their infants—is widely practiced even though it remains controversial. The American Academy of Pediatrics advises against bed sharing, because of accumulating research suggesting increased risks of accidental suffocation and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) for infants who bed share. However, many parents believe the perceived benefits of bed sharing outweigh concerns and warnings, according to a University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine study.

"For physicians to know how to more effectively counsel parents on safe sleeping practices for their children, we need to better understand parents’ beliefs, motivations and feelings about infant bed sharing," said Jennifer Chianese, who led the study. Chianese was an assistant professor of pediatrics in Pitt’s School of Medicine at the time of the study and has recently joined the Children’s Community Pediatrics Bass-Wolfson affiliate of Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

The study interviewed 28 caregivers—all of whom bed share regularly—in four focus groups. In every focus group discussion, parents reported near-miss incidents of their infants suffocating. Some parents reported they would recommend against bed sharing to others, despite the fact that they bed share themselves. Other participants denied that bed sharing posed any risk to their infants, describing themselves as “light sleepers” and able to wake up if their children were near harm. Doctors’ recommendations against bed sharing did not dissuade any of the caregivers. However, parents did appreciate advice on how to increase the safety of bed sharing.

In addition, researchers identified five themes to explain parents’ motivations for bed sharing.

**Better sleep**—Parents overwhelmingly expressed the belief that bed sharing allows both parties to sleep better, despite research suggesting both parents and infants experience fewer nighttime awakenings when sleeping alone.

**Convenience**—Most participants used the word “convenient” when describing their reasons for bed sharing. Parents reported being able to tend to their babies’ needs without getting out of bed, and the three nursing mothers who participated believed bed sharing made breast-feeding more convenient.

**Tradition**—Participants often reported the traditional nature of bed sharing and found comfort in knowing their ancestors bed shared as well.

**Child safety**—Contrary to evidence that bed sharing is dangerous, most caregivers believed it protects their babies. Many parents even identified bed sharing as a form of prevention against SIDS because they would immediately know if their babies were to stop breathing.

**Emotional needs**—Parents reported a strong sense of bonding and described feelings of gratitude, closeness, comfort, and security when bed sharing. They also reported their infants as having strong-willed demands for bed sharing.

“These findings should give physicians a better idea of the reasons behind bed sharing, allowing them to offer more customized advice on the subject,” said Judy Chang, senior author on the study. “In addition to counseling against bed sharing, physicians should include suggestions for room sharing and reducing bed sharing risks. Room sharing may be an alternative to parents, as it allows them to watch over their infants while decreasing risks for SIDS.” Chang is an assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences at the University Of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, investigator with the Magee-Womens Research Institute, and a gynecologist at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC.

“Parents who do insist on bed sharing can benefit from counseling on how to avoid other SIDS risk factors by using a firm mattress, avoiding extra pillows and covers, and putting babies to sleep on their backs. Regardless of their perceptions on bed sharing, parents and other primary caregivers need to be educated on risks associated with SIDS and infant suffocation and the variety of ways they can improve the safety of their infant sleeping practices,” added Chianese.

The focus groups, made up of parents or guardians of infants up to six months of age, were recruited from an inner-city primary care center in Pittsburgh. Prior research has found African American families of lower socioeconomic status to be more likely to bed share. A strong majority of participants were female and African American; half of the participants were single, and three mothers breastfed.