

## Pitt Creates Office of Veterans Services

Office to help ensure easier transition from combat to classroom



By Sharon S. Blake

The University of Pittsburgh has established a new Office of Veterans Services, a one-stop resource that will assist veterans in receiving their military benefits and becoming successful students. The office is being instituted with the intent of providing a seamless transition from military to student life by offering veterans an expanded array of services, ranging from an orientation tailor-made for them to counselors who have expertise in dealing with veterans' issues.

"The Office of Veterans Services furthers our University's commitment to military veterans who, according to the 2000 U.S. Census, constitute roughly 15 percent of all Western Pennsylvanians, including more than 33,500 residents of Pittsburgh. It will enhance our ability to effectively recruit, retain, educate, and graduate larger numbers of veterans," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "We also are delighted to be partnering with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program and through it, to be honoring those who have served our country."

Pennsylvania has the largest National Guard contingent abroad as well as the fourth-largest population of veterans. Because the new Post-9/11 GI Bill to take effect this August offers expanded educational benefits, it is expected that there will be an increase in the number of veterans seeking an education upon returning to Pennsylvania following their tours of duty, according to Robert F. Pack, Pitt vice provost for academic planning and resource management. Currently, 250 veterans are enrolled at Pitt.

In addition, Pitt is partnering with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program. That program will pay tuition and fees for veterans who are out-of-state or graduate students and who are eligible for the maximum benefit. Under Yellow Ribbon, the VA and Pitt will split the cost of any outstanding tuition above that covered by the benefit. All of Pitt's graduate schools and programs, except dental medicine, are Yellow Ribbon participants, as are all of Pitt's undergraduate programs at all five of its campuses. Pitt also is waiving its \$45 application fee for all veterans. For additional information on the Yellow Ribbon Program, visit [www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_Bill\\_Info/CH33/Yellow\\_ribbon.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Yellow_ribbon.htm)

The University also will make an institutional investment in the education of

veterans who are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program. For out-of-state undergraduate students who receive 70 percent or more of the full educational benefit from the VA, the University will accept the amount allowed by the VA as full payment; for those out-of-state veterans receiving a lesser percentage, the University will issue a grant for the difference between the in- and out-of-state rates.

Pitt's new Office of Veterans Services will provide an administrative single point of entry for the veteran-turned-college-student and will draw upon the strengths of Pitt's schools, colleges, and the departments within them for services and support for veterans. The new office will be housed in Pitt's College of General Studies (CGS), on the fourth floor of the Cathedral of Learning; it will build on CGS' long-standing experience in serving nontraditional students. CGS offers interdisciplinary programs in a variety of liberal arts disciplines and provides the prerequisites students need before applying to programs in other schools, such as Engineering, Business, and Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Two open-house events for veterans are scheduled at CGS, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. July 15 and 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. July 25.

"Pitt's comprehensive service-oriented program will meet the unique needs of veterans and their families and help them take advantage of all Pitt has to offer—academic advising, counseling, on-campus support,

and career services," says Kelly Otter, associate dean of CGS. "Veterans will attend an orientation program designed just for them and get help in developing peer-support networks. Our goal is to develop a more cohesive veterans community on campus."

The Office of Veterans Services has a new Web portal—[www.veterans.pitt.edu](http://www.veterans.pitt.edu)—that is accessible through Pitt's home page and links to online applications and useful information from the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.

The Office of Veterans Services will have a new full-time director this summer, who will work across campus to coordinate student support services of particular interest to veterans. The director will assist with outreach to military installations, the National Guard offices, and such organizations as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, and the Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, as well as the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, which comprises a major medical facility, a behavioral health facility, a community living center, and a veterans recovery center, all complemented by five community-based outpatient clinics.

Pitt has two major ROTC units on its Pittsburgh campus—Three Rivers Battalion Army and Detachment 730 Air Force—and will rely heavily on those units for counseling and mentoring of the new students.



J. Brett Harvey



Martha Hartle Munsch

## J. Brett Harvey, Martha Hartle Munsch Elected To Board of Trustees

By John Harvith

At its June 26 annual meeting, the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees elected the following two candidates for membership on the board: J. Brett Harvey, president and CEO of CONSOL Energy Inc. and chair and CEO of CNX Gas Corporation, and alumnus Martha Hartle Munsch (A&S '70), a partner in the law firm Reed Smith.

As previously announced following the Nominating Committee's meeting on June 11 and published in the June 22 *Pitt Chronicle*, Pitt alumnus Stephen R. Tritch (ENGR '71, KGSB '77), chair of the Westinghouse Electric Company and a Pitt trustee, was advanced as a candidate to serve as chair of the Board of Trustees, succeeding retired Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ralph J. Cappy (A&S '65, LAW '68), who had served as board chair from 2003 until his death in May; Tritch was elected chair at the June 26 board meeting.

At the same board meeting, Suzanne W. Broadhurst, director of corporate giving for Eat 'n Park Hospitality Group, and Robert M. Hernandez (A&S '66), chair of RTI International Metals Inc. and retired vice chair and CFO of USX Corporation, were re-elected as the board's two vice chairs.

Re-elected to the board as trustees were Broadhurst; Charles R. Bunch, chair and CEO of PPG Industries; George A. Davidson Jr., (ENGR '61) retired chair of Dominion Resources Inc.; William S. Dietrich II (A&S '80G, '84G), managing director of The Dietrich Charitable Trusts; Lee B. Foster II, chair of the board of L.B. Foster Company; Bobbie Gaunt (ED '72), retired vice president, Ford Motor Company, and retired CEO, Ford of Canada; F. James McCarl III, president of the McCarl Group; Susan P. McGalla, past president and past chief merchandising officer of American Eagle Outfitters Inc.; Thomas H. O'Brien, retired chair of PNC Financial Services Group; Bryant J. Salter (A&S '71), president and CEO of Business Diplomacy Consulting LLC; and Charles M. Steiner (BUS '63), of the Steiner Family Office.

These actions by the board were taken following the recommendations of its Nominating Committee, which had met earlier in the day. (See accompanying stories on trustees elected from regional campuses, a new Commonwealth Trustee, and trustees retiring from the board.)

Biographical information on Harvey and Munsch follows.

Prior to being named president and CEO of CONSOL Energy in 1998, J. Brett Harvey was president and CEO

## Board Announces Creation of Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy Endowed Scholarship Fund for School of Law



During its June 26 annual meeting, the Pitt Board of Trustees announced the creation of the Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy Endowed Scholarship Fund in the Pitt School of Law. Sabrina Robinson, an entering first-year law student, will be the inaugural recipient of the Cappy Scholarship. From left, Board Vice Chair Robert M. Hernandez, Pitt Law School Dean Mary A. Crossley, Robinson, Janet Fry Cappy, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, and Board Vice Chair Suzanne W. Broadhurst.

By John Harvith

In a "Resolution of Respect and Gratitude" unanimously adopted at its June 26 annual meeting, the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees announced the creation of the Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy Endowed Scholarship Fund in the Pitt School of Law. Retired Chief Justice of Pennsylvania and a partner in the law firm Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, Cappy was chair of the Pitt Board of Trustees from 2003 until his untimely death in May.

"The University of Pittsburgh was Ralph Cappy's university," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, who presented at the board meeting the resolution honor-

ing the life, career, and contributions of Cappy. "After earning both his undergraduate degree and his law degree from Pitt, Ralph Cappy built a distinguished career in law—as a public defender, private attorney, and judge—devoting 30 years of his life to service as a member of the judiciary, culminating with his role as Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. In a very real sense, though, Chief Justice Cappy never left our campus. He believed in Pitt's mission, made enormous contributions to our progress—first as a member and later as chair of our

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# Center for Vision Restoration Of UPMC-Pitt Gets \$3 Million Gift From Louis J. Fox



Louis J. Fox

By Stacey Simon

The Center for Vision Restoration of UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh received a \$3 million gift from Louis J. Fox, a Pennsylvania native and Pitt graduate. UPMC has pledged to match Fox's donation to the center. Fox (A&S '64), a retired commodity merchant banker and trader, has embraced the center's mission to discover cures for blindness and vision impairment through a joint program of the UPMC Eye Center and McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

"His generous gift will aid us in our efforts to pioneer comprehensive, patient-driven research and clinical therapies to treat people who, through disease, accident, or injury, have limited sight. To honor his generosity, the center will now be known as the Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration," said the center's executive director, Maj. Gen. (retired) Gale Pollock, who, as the former Deputy Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, recognized the need to find ways to restore lost vision.

More than one in 10 of all combat wounds during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have been eye injuries and, in some cases, have left service members with impaired vision, Pollock said. Unfortunately, there often is very little that can be done to restore sight after severe eye trauma. In addition, the World Health Organization estimates that about 120 million people worldwide are visually impaired as a result of cataracts, corneal scarring, glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and other conditions.

Fox was diagnosed 10 years ago with

central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO), an incurable condition caused by blood vessel obstruction. It quickly left him with life-changing vision loss, first in his right eye and then in his left three years later. More than 100,000 Americans are believed to have CRVO, estimates show.

"Before my situation, I knew very little about vision loss," said Fox, who is married with two grown children and currently resides in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and Taconic, Conn. "As an avid pilot and sailor, I had taken my good vision for granted. Losing it has been extremely difficult. I learned of the Center for Vision Restoration at UPMC soon after it was established in September 2008, and of the promising work being done here.

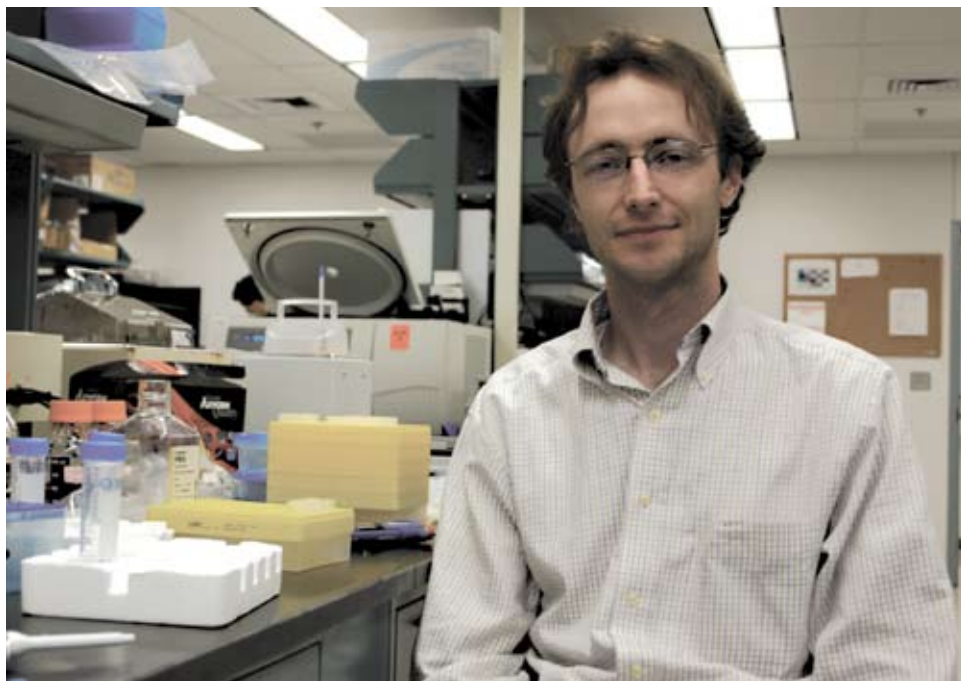
"My heartfelt desire is that my contribution speeds the discovery and development of therapies that will make it possible for people to see again," he added.

The Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration of UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary research and clinical program dedicated to ocular regenerative medicine and improving quality of life for the vision-impaired. A joint program of the UPMC Eye Center and the Pitt-UPMC McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the Fox Center's main focus is discovery and development of new cures for blindness and visual impairment, especially for those with problems affecting the retina, optic nerve, cornea, and lens. Through basic and clinical research, it seeks to

provide vision restoration through the augmentation of existing visual pathways or by providing vision through nonvisual means.

**"His [Louis J. Fox's] generous gift will aid us in our efforts to pioneer comprehensive, patient-driven research and clinical therapies to treat people who, through disease, accident or injury, have limited sight. To honor his generosity, the center will now be known as the Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration. More than one in 10 of all combat wounds during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have been eye injuries and, in some cases, have left service members with impaired vision."**

—Maj. Gen. Gale Pollock



Jon Boyle

## Jon Boyle Named '09 Pew Scholar in Biomedical Sciences

By Morgan Kelly

University of Pittsburgh professor Jon Boyle's ongoing investigation into the unique molecular relationship between disease-causing microorganisms and their hosts has earned him recognition by the Pew Charitable Trusts as a 2009 Pew Scholar in Biomedical Sciences, an honor he shares with some of the nation's top researchers, including two Nobel laureates. An assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, Boyle is the first Pitt professor to receive the award.

Boyle, who will receive \$240,000 over four years to support his research, was among 17 early-career scientists the Pew Trusts identified as "displaying outstanding promise in research relevant to the advancement of human health." Fellow 2009 recipients include researchers from Columbia University, Harvard University, Princeton University, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Pennsylvania.

In his research, Boyle investigates the molecular factors that make pathogenic microorganisms and their hosts compatible. In particular, he studies the microorganism *Toxoplasma gondii*, the pathogen that causes Toxoplasmosis in humans as well as various mammals and bird species. Closely related to the microorganism that causes malaria, *T. gondii*'s wide range of hosts makes it a good candidate for identifying the parasite genes that determine virulence, and then exploring the effects of these molecules in different hosts, including mice and humans. Boyle and others have identified proteins within *T. gondii* that determine virulence, including one called ROP18 that can transform a benign strain of the microorganism into a lethal one. Uncovering the mechanism of these proteins could provide further understanding of the host-pathogen relationship at the molecular level and help in the development of more effective treatments for such diseases as Toxoplasmosis.

Boyle came to Pitt in 2008 after completing his postdoctoral research in molecular parasitology in the lab of John Boothroyd in Stanford University's School of Medicine. He received his PhD in molecular parasitology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison School of Veterinary Medicine

in 2003, studying under professor Timothy P. Yoshino. Boyle received his bachelor's degree in molecular biology from the University of Montana in 1995.

During its 25-year history, the Pew scholar program has recognized more than 460 researchers, including such notable scientists as 1992 scholar Roderick MacKinnon of Rockefeller University, who won a 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and 1995 scholar Craig C. Mello of the University of Massachusetts, recipient of a 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

The program has provided more than \$125 million in research support. More information on the scholarship program is available on the Pew Scholars Web site at [www.pewscholars.org](http://www.pewscholars.org).

**In his research, Boyle investigates the molecular factors that make pathogenic microorganisms and their hosts compatible.**

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# Pitt Alumni Association Honors 2009 Alumni Volunteers



From left: Jeff Gleim, executive director, Pitt Alumni Association, and associate vice chancellor for alumni relations; Al Novak, vice chancellor for institutional advancement; J. Roger Glunt, past president and director emeritus of the Pitt Alumni Association receiving the Bill Baiert Distinguished Service Award; and F. James McCarl III, president of the Pitt Alumni Association.

By Anthony M. Moore

The University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association recently recognized outstanding alumni for their volunteerism and commitment to the University at the 2009 Pitt Alumni Association Awards luncheon held in Alumni Hall's Connolly Ballroom. Winners were honored with the 2009 Volunteer Excellence Award, the Ivan and Mary Novick Award for Young Alumni Leadership, the Bill Baiert Award for Distinguished Alumni Service, the Pitt Alumni Recruitment Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Alumni Legislative Network Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Volunteer Excellence Award recognizes alumni who give their time for more than one year or provide multiple years of service to the University and the Alumni Association. Two alumni received the award this year: Herb Dodell and Lou Rusiski III.

Dodell (A&S '61) is one of the founders and the current president of the Southern California Pitt Club, which was established in the late 1990s. Dodell helped build the club's scholarship fund and an extensive schedule of special events, including dinners and film screenings at Sony Pictures Studios. These activities have raised more than \$25,000 for the club's scholarship endowment. Dodell's previous involvement with the Pitt Alumni Association includes being a member of the Pitt Alumni Recruitment Team, the Pitt Career Network, and the Alumni Leadership Council. He also served as a host for the University on the Road program.

Rusiski (ENGR '71) has shared his musical expertise with Pitt's Marching Band, Basketball Pep Band, and the Symphonic Band for more than 20 years. He has been a vital part of band operations, performing an assortment of tasks, ranging from fitting students for uniforms and coordinating musical equipment for games to providing leadership training and mentoring to undergraduate band members. Rusiski also plays a key role in the recruitment of future band members through his involvement with the PittStart Program and other Office of Admissions and Financial Aid recruiting activities.

The Ivan (A&S '49) and Mary Novick Award is given annually to an alumnus who graduated in the past 15 years, is age 38 or younger, and has demonstrated leadership as a volunteer for the Pitt Alumni Association and/or the University. The award is funded with a gift from Ivan and Mary Novick.

The 2009 Ivan and Mary Novick award winner is Joan Snyder (CBA '01). While at Pitt, Snyder was president of the Student Government Board and a member of the Alumni Association's Student Committee. She is now a life member of the Alumni

Association, with memberships in the New York City and New Jersey Pitt clubs. Snyder has played a key role in the formation of the Frances Hesselbein Global Leadership Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement (<http://www.chronicle.pitt.edu/?p=2409>), working hand-in-hand with the academy's namesake, Frances Hesselbein, as well as the steering committee to develop the vision, goals, and mission for the academy.

The Bill Baiert (EDUC '51) Distinguished Service Award acknowledges a volunteer with long-standing service to the University and his or her community. This year's award winner is J. Roger Glunt (BUS '60), past president, director emeritus, and lifetime member of the Pitt Alumni Association. He currently serves as an Emeritus Trustee of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees and a University Director of the UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside Board. Glunt has a lengthy history of support for Pitt's School of Nursing, having chaired the school's Board of Visitors and the Nursing Advisory Committee for Pitt's capital campaign. He was awarded the School of Nursing's Honorary Alumni Award in 2002.

Glunt is the recipient of numerous other honors and distinctions, including the Pitt Alumni Association Volunteer of Excellence Award in 2000 and the Distinguished Alumni Fellow Award in 2006.

The University's alumni play an important role in the recruitment of students through the Pitt Alumni Recruitment Team (PART) program, a partnership between Pitt's Alumni Association and Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.

The 2009 Alumni Recruitment Volunteer of the Year is Michael Ford (A&S '81), who has served as a volunteer with the Alumni Ambassador Program since its inception in 2006. In his role as an ambassador, Ford links Pitt to high-achieving students in his community and assists students with the college application process.

The Alumni Legislative Network (ALN) plays a key role in advocating the University and higher education to Pennsylvania's state legislators.

The 2009 Alumni Legislative Network Volunteer of the Year is Will Hoel (BUS '60). Hoel frequently writes letters and makes phone calls to his legislators advocating for causes pertaining to Pitt. He travels annually to Pitt Day in Harrisburg to meet with lawmakers on Pitt's behalf and often serves as a mentor for new ALN volunteers during legislative visits. Hoel is also a member of the Alumni Leadership Council and serves as a leader in the Metro Pittsburgh Pitt Club.

# Board Announces Creation of Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy Endowed Scholarship Fund for School of Law



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Board of Trustees and in countless other ways—and was totally committed to Pitt's future. Because he always emphasized the critical nature of scholarships in attracting and supporting talented and deserving Pitt students, this is a most fitting tribute to his memory."

The inaugural recipient of the Cappy Scholarship will be entering first-year law student Sabrina Robinson who, like Cappy, hails from Western Pennsylvania and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences. Robinson, who grew up in Natrona Heights, Pa., and lives in Pittsburgh with her husband, attorney and 2006 Pitt law school graduate Theodore Robinson, was introduced at the board meeting by Nordenberg. At Pitt, Robinson majored in English with a minor in Swahili, was copy editor of *The Pitt News*, worked as a teaching assistant in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, served a term as president of the Pitt chapter of the Young Democrats of America, and graduated cum laude in 2004. She went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in creative writing at the University of Michigan, where she worked as a student instructor in composition and creative writing and graduated in 2007. She currently works for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. She says that she hopes "to be a part of a legal culture in America that can serve those who have been underserved."

The Cappy Scholarship is funded by donations received in memory of Cappy and institutional support. Future donations received will be added to the fund.

Two custom copies of the resolution were framed. One of them was presented during the meeting to Cappy's widow, Janet Fry Cappy, and the other copy will be retained for appropriate display within the University.

In the resolution, the members of the Board of Trustees expressed "their sincere appreciation and profound gratitude" to Cappy "for his many contributions to the University and the broader community," approved

and applauded the efforts to create the Cappy Scholarship Fund, spoke of their "gratitude to those who already have, or will in the future, contribute to it," cherished "the warm memories of their personal and professional associations" with Cappy, and noted "our gratitude for the leadership that Chief Justice Cappy provided and the high regard in which he was held by his many friends and colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh."

In the resolution's preamble, the board members described Cappy as "one of Pittsburgh's most accomplished, respected, and beloved native sons, who celebrated his roots by proudly proclaiming to be a 'kid from Brookline' long after he had ceased being a 'kid' and long after he had moved from Brookline" and pointed out how he

"used the power of education [through his two Pitt degrees] to build the foundation for a life of achievement and impact." They also noted that his "career was characterized by his common sense, good judgment, keen mind, and caring heart; by his commitment to the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary; by an enviable record of innovation in judicial administration, driven by his belief that justice should be delivered fairly and efficiently," that he "always approached his responsibilities with genuine respect for others and without personal pretentiousness," and that as board chair he "was instrumental in the University's dramatic drive through a period of historic progress that saw it rise within the ranks of the nation's top-performing universities—as a leader in education, a pioneer in research, and a partner in regional development."

Named a Distinguished Alumni Fellow by the Pitt Alumni Association in 2008, Cappy (A&S '65, LAW '68) was elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1990 and appointed chief justice in 2003. He retired from the court on Jan. 7, 2008, and joined Buchanan Ingersoll.

After graduating from Pitt's law school, Cappy spent one year in private practice. From 1968 to 1978, he held various positions, including first assistant homicide attorney and then deputy director and chief public defender in the Office of the Public Defender in Pittsburgh. In 1978, Cappy was appointed to be a judge on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas and was elected to that court the following year. He later was appointed administrative judge of the court's civil division, serving from 1986 to 1990.

Cappy served on the University's Board of Trustees from 1992 until his death and was its chair beginning in 2003. He also was a member of the Pitt School of Law Board of Visitors, where he was a past chair. He served as a member of the UPMC Board of Directors beginning in 1998 and was its vice chair since 2003.

# Newsmakers

## HEINZ CHAPEL CHOIR IN CHINA



COURTESY OF BILL IVINS

The Heinz Chapel Choir traveled through China April 28-May 12, giving performances in Beijing, Xi'an, Hangzhou, and Shanghai. Fifty-one choir members and 13 adults made the journey, including choir director John Goldsmith (back row, second from left). The group is pictured here on Tiananmen Square in front of the Forbidden City.

## DISABILITY RIGHTS



MIKE DRAZDZINSKI/COIDE

Pitt hosted a conference for disability rights leaders from the European Union and the United States. The June 12-13 conference was sponsored by Pitt's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS), in conjunction with the European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center of the University Center for International Studies. From left, Alberta Sbragia, the Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair and director of the European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center; Ginny Thornburgh, director of the American Association of People with Disabilities' Interfaith Initiative; Dick Thornburgh (LAW '57), a Pitt emeritus trustee and former U.S. Attorney General and governor of Pennsylvania; Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg; Clifford Brubaker, SHRS dean; and Katherine Seelman, SHRS professor of rehabilitation science and technology and associate dean of disability programs.

## "A KALEIDOSCOPE OF SCHOLARS"



BRADEN WOLFE/COIDE

Graduate students from other nations and underrepresented populations gathered April 15 for "A Kaleidoscope of Scholars: An Intercultural Community," an annual dinner hosted by Pitt, Carnegie Mellon University, and Duquesne University. The dinner was held in the William Pitt Union and Robert Hill (pictured), Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs, was the keynote speaker.

## CHANCELLOR'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AWARD



MIKE DRAZDZINSKI/COIDE

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg presented the 2009 Affirmative Action Award to the Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Concerns (PACWC). The honor is presented annually to an "outstanding University program area or individual that has made a significant contribution in affirmative action." Accepting the award on behalf of the committee's 19 members is Patricia Beeson, PACWC chair and Pitt vice provost for graduate and undergraduate studies. The award was presented during a June 10 University Senate Council meeting.

## KEYS TO SUCCESS



JIM BURKE/COIDE

Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences held a June 9 symposium entitled African American Student Retention: Promising Practices for Success. Hosted by the University's Academic Research Center, the conference's session focused on such topics as maximizing student engagement, ingredients for effective mentoring programs, and academic advising strategies. Above, from left, are Gail Austin, Academic Resource Center director; keynote speaker Terrell Strayhorn, assistant professor of higher education in the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Juan Manfredi, Pitt associate dean for undergraduate studies, School of Arts and Sciences; and Kathy W. Humphrey, Pitt vice provost and dean of students.

# Awards & More



**Sharon Hillier** received the American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association's prestigious Thomas Parran Award during the 18th International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research meeting in London. Hillier is a professor and vice chair for faculty affairs and director of reproductive infectious disease research in the Pitt School of Medicine's Division of Reproductive Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences. Hillier is the principal investigator for the Microbicide Trials Network, an HIV/AIDS clinical trials network established in 2006 by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. She also is a senior investigator at Magee-Womens Research Institute.



Sharon Hillier

**Pitt's School of Information Sciences** and the **Health Sciences Library System** will manage a new degree program to be funded by the federal Institute of Museum & Library Services. The institute announced recently that it would grant \$911,311 to support the creation and implementation of the new degree, Post Master's Degree Certificate of Advanced Studies in Health Sciences Librarianship. The program will offer students who have already earned their Master's of Library and Information Science degrees specialized preparation for professional positions in health sciences libraries. The grant will support the costs of curriculum development and evaluation, online course delivery infrastructure, and student recruitment. In addition, it will cover tuition costs for 27 students as they



Suzanne W. Broadhurst



Freddie H. Fu

progress through this yearlong post-Master's program. Students will be enrolled in the program beginning in May 2010.

A Pitt team recently won the Best Paper award in the international division of the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) for an evaluation of Pitt's Plus3 program, a first-year study abroad program for engineering and business undergraduates that exposes them to international markets through an intensive two-week trip abroad and requires a team research paper. Pitt staff member **Kristine Lalley**, the paper's lead author and director of International Engineering Initiatives in the Swanson School of Engineering, accepted the award at the 2009 ASEE Annual Conference in Austin, Texas, on June 15; the paper also was published in the conference proceedings. Lalley worked with **Josephine Olson**, director of the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business's International Business Center and a professor of business administration, and College of Business Administration student **Brant Hawk**. They surveyed 101 students (76 engineering, 25 business) who participated in Plus3 in 2005 or 2006 about the program's influence on their academic careers. Lalley, Olson, and Hawk found that 31 percent of students pursued one or more foreign languages after the program, and 29 percent studied abroad again or did a later international internship.

**Suzanne W. Broadhurst**, vice chair of the Pitt Board of Trustees and director of corporate giving for Eat'n Park Hospitality Group, was the commencement speaker for Wheeling Jesuit University's commencement exercises on May 16.

**Freddie H. Fu** was named president of the International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery, and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine (ISAKOS) during its Biennial Congress in Osaka, Japan. Fu,

who has been a member of the ISAKOS Board of Directors for 10 years, will serve a two-year term as president. Fu has been the David Silver Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine since 1997. He was the founding medical director of UPMC's Center for Sports Medicine. Fu also is the current president of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine.

**Peter Brusilovsky**, a professor in the School of Information Sciences, was honored by the Slovak University of Technology with the degree of *Doctor honoris causa*. He was selected because of his contributions to the fields of informatics and

information technologies. He received the honorary degree during a ceremony in Bratislava.

**David J. Hackam**, an assistant professor of surgery, cell biology and physiology, and **Satdarshan P.S. Monga**, director of the Division of Experimental Pathology, a professor of pathology, as well as a professor of medicine in the Pitt School of Medicine's Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, were elected into the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). The honor recognizes the contributions of physician-scientists at a young age. They were inducted into the Society in April during the Association of American Physicians and ASCI Joint Meeting in Chicago.



David J. Hackam



Satdarshan P.S. Monga

A project to provide people in Inner Mongolia with arsenic-free drinking water earned a Pitt team recognition at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2009 P3: People, Prosperity, and Planet sustainable design competition held April 18-20 in Washington, D.C. Led by **Di Gao**, a Swanson School of Engineering assistant professor and **William Kepler Whiteford**, Faculty Fellow in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering (CPE), the team received the Youth Council on Sustainable Science and Technology award for a low-cost arsenic filter that employs absorbent iron oxide particles. The Pitt team also included CPE undergraduate **Brian Novicki** and graduate student **Liangliang Cao**, Honors College student **Allison Hahn**, civil and environmental engineering (CEE) student **Bradley Harden**, CEE research assistant professor **Jason Monnell**, and **Edward McCord**, the Honors College director of programming and special projects.

## Computerworld's Honors Program Recognizes Pitt's Innovative Information Technology Projects

Two Pitt projects have been awarded Laureates from the International Data Group's (IDG) Computerworld Honors Program during the recent 21st Annual Laureate Medal Ceremony and Gala Awards Evening in Washington, D.C. The projects—Pitt's Emergency Notification System (ENS) and the Application Virtualization for Effective Software Delivery project—are among the 20 Pitt innovations recognized by the *Computerworld* Honors Program since 2003.

In the Education and Academia Category, Pitt earned a Laureate Medal for its Emergency Notification System, which offers rapid communication to subscribers through text-messaging and voice mail, in the event of an on-campus emergency. The free service was introduced to the University community in the fall of 2007 and has been used four times, with a successful message delivery rate of 99.8 percent.

Jinx Walton, director of Pitt's Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD), said ENS has been an excellent complement to the University's other methods of campuswide communications, which include fire alarms and Web postings.

"With more than 8,000 faculty and staff and more than 25,000 students at the Oakland campus alone, the challenge of getting the word out about a campus safety issue is daunting," said Walton.

"The most significant advantage the ENS system affords us is the ability to positively communicate emergency notices to as many members of the University community as possible in a very short amount of time."

In the Business and Related Services Category, Pitt garnered a Laureate Gold Medal for The Application Virtualization for Effective Software Delivery project, which allows more software applications to be installed on computers without destabilizing the computer and making it more likely to crash. The project solved the challenge of providing more than 100 software applications for Windows computers maintained by CSSD for student use.

Application Virtualization allows applications to be delivered as they are needed by students and eliminates the problems that can result from conflicts between applications installed on the same computer. The result is a significant reduction in the amount of time needed to prepare computers for student use and more flexibility in making new applications available.

Published by IDG, Computerworld is a leading source of technology news and information for information technology professionals worldwide.

—**Anthony M. Moore**

## Representatives of Regional Campus Advisory Boards Elected as Trustees



Craig A. Hartburg



Howard M. "Skip" Picking III

By John Harvith

Advisory board members of two University of Pittsburgh regional campuses were elected as trustees during the University's June 26 Board of Trustees annual meeting following the recommendations of the board's Nominating Committee, which had met earlier in the day: alumnus Craig A. Hartburg (A&S '77), president of Servco Services Inc. and chair of the Pitt-Bradford Advisory Board, and Howard M. "Skip" Picking III, retired CEO and president of the Miller-Picking Corporation and vice chair of the Pitt-Johnstown Advisory Board.

A Pitt alumnus, Hartburg attended Pitt-Bradford from 1973 to 1975 and went on to complete his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1977 at the University's Pittsburgh campus with dual majors in economics and political science. The year of his graduation, he began working for Servco Services as an operations manager, serving successively as sales manager, vice president of operations, and executive vice president before assuming the presidency of the corporation in 1995.

Hartburg has been a member of the Pitt-Bradford Advisory Board since 2000. During his tenure on that board, he has served as its vice chair, chair of the board's Communications and University Relations Council, and a member of the Development Council and Executive Committee; he was elected chair in 2005. A resident of Bradford, Hartburg is active in the community, serving as a member of the board, and previously chair, of Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems and chair of its finance committee as well as a board member of Control Chief Corporation. He formerly served as president of the United Way of Bradford and chair of its annual fund drive, receiving

that organization's Red Feather Award. He also has served as a board member of the Bradford Civil Service Commission and of the Bradford Regional Medical Center.

Actively involved in business and community affairs in the Johnstown area, Picking has been a member of the Pitt-Johnstown Advisory Board since 1974, and he currently chairs the Advisory Board's Finance Committee and formerly chaired the Pitt-Johnstown Development Committee through two successful capital campaigns. He and his wife have endowed the annual Great Americans Day lecture series and have created an endowed scholarship focusing on entrepreneurship in business. He also serves as chair of the not-for-profit Concurrent Technologies Corporation and Stonycreek Quemahoning Initiative and is a director of AmeriServ Financial Inc. and a member and past officer of the Greater Johnstown Regional Partnership. Previously, Picking was president and CEO of Miller-Picking Corporation, a publicly held air-conditioning machinery business that was sold to York International.

A past director of the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute, Penn Traffic Corporation, and Johnstown Savings Bank, Picking served as a Pitt trustee from 2001 to 2003, as chair of the United Way of the Laurel Highlands, and as chair of Cone-maugh Valley Memorial Hospital, where he was a trustee for 30 years.

Picking earned both the B.S. degree in mechanical engineering and the M.B.A. degree in finance at Cornell University. As a Cornell undergraduate, he was named an Alfred Sloan scholar and was nominated for a Rhodes scholarship.

## Four Pitt Trustees Complete Their Terms



Melissa A. Hart

Watts Humphrey Jr.

Emil M. Spadafore Jr.

A. David Tilstone

**F**our University of Pittsburgh trustees have completed their terms on the Pitt board: Melissa A. Hart (LAW '87), an attorney with Keevican Weiss Bauerle & Hirsch LLC; G. Watts Humphrey Jr., president of GWH Holdings, Inc.; Emil M. Spadafore Jr. (A&S '71), a partner in the Thomas, Spadafore, Walker & Keenan law firm and chair of the Pitt-Titusville Advisory Board; and A. David Tilstone, past president, Kennametal Extrude Hone Corp. and chair of the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board.

During the Board of Trustees' June 26 annual meeting, Hart, Spadafore, and Tilstone received the University of Pittsburgh Trustee Medallion commemorating their service to the University. Humphrey, who was unable to attend the annual meeting, will receive the medallion at a later date.

## J. Brett Harvey, Martha Hartle Munsch Elected to Board of Trustees

Continued from page 1

of PacifiCorp Energy Inc., a subsidiary of PacifiCorp, one of the nation's largest electric utility companies. In addition, he has served as vice president of the PacifiCorp Fuels Department and president and CEO of Interwest Mining Company.

Representing the fourth generation in a long lineage of coal miners, Harvey began his business career in 1979 with Kaiser Steel Company after earning a Bachelor of Science in Mining Engineering degree at the University of Utah. At Kaiser, he was a longwall supervisor at the company's Sunnyside Mine in Utah; he advanced to mining superintendent in 1980 and became general manager of the mine in 1982. Two years later, he was elected vice president and general manager of Kaiser Coal of New Mexico.

By 1988, Harvey was vice president-fuels and mining at Utah Power & Light Company, which he had joined in 1986 as a director of technical sales; he then quickly rose through the ranks at PacifiCorp from serving as vice president-mining in 1990 to heading PacifiCorp Energy in 1995.

Harvey serves on the boards of Allegheny Technologies Incorporated and the Barrick Gold Corporation.

In addition, Harvey is a member of the coal industry advisory board of the International Energy Agency, board chair of the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association, and a member of the Leadership Council of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity and The Conservation Fund, among other positions. He also is a member of the Executive Committee of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, and a director and past chair of the Greater Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts. He serves on the board of the Duquesne Club and is a member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Chairman's Council. The University of Utah bestowed its Distinguished Alumnus Award upon Harvey in 2008, the same year that Duquesne University gave him an honorary doctorate.

An alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree Phi Beta Kappa in the School of Arts and Sciences in 1970, Martha Hartle Munsch was a prominent leader in her undergraduate days, serving as sports editor of *The Pitt*

*News* and of the University's yearbook, *The Owl*. She joined Reed Smith in 1973, the year she graduated from Yale Law School and was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar. In 1973, Munsch was one of only three women attorneys in the firm, and, after two years at Reed Smith, she joined the Pitt School of Law faculty for 2.5 years as an assistant professor teaching in the areas of civil procedure and legal process, employment discrimination, and employment standards; at that time she was the first and only woman on the full-time faculty of the law school. Munsch returned to Reed Smith in 1978 as a member of the Labor and Employment Law Group; she became a partner at Reed Smith in 1983, the first woman elected to partnership in Reed Smith's Pittsburgh office.

In her law practice, Munsch concentrates on employment law matters of all kinds, with a particular emphasis on representation of higher education and other nonprofit clients as well as a diverse group of traditional business clients. She is a litigator and trial lawyer, having litigated hundreds of cases at both the trial and appellate levels in federal and state courts and administrative agencies.

A generous donor to Pitt's current \$2 billion capital campaign, Munsch has established the Martha Hartle Munsch Endowed Women's Basketball Scholarship and named the Martha Hartle Munsch Head Women's Basketball Coach's Office in the Petersen Events Center.

Munsch previously served as a Pitt trustee from 1991 to 2002. During her tenure, she chaired the Academic Affairs/Libraries Committee and served on the Executive, Affirmative Action, Athletics, and Student Affairs committees. She was a member of the University Trust Board of Trustees, a member of the Chancellor Search Committee, a member of various ad hoc committees of the board, and a director of the Pittsburgh Applied Research Center. She continues to serve the University as a community representative to the Affirmative Action and Athletics committees of the Board of Trustees and as a member of the Boards of Visitors for Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences and School of Law.

## Joyce Is New Commonwealth Trustee

Pitt alumnus John Wright Joyce (A&S '82), deputy executive director of administration and general counsel for the Allegheny County Housing Authority, attended his first Pitt Board of Trustees meeting as a Commonwealth Trustee on June 26. Appointed to the board earlier this year by Pennsylvania House of Representatives Speaker Keith R. McCall, Joyce has succeeded Pitt alumnus John G. Conomikes (A&S '58) as a Commonwealth Trustee. Prior to his Commonwealth Trustee appointment, Conomikes had been elected a Pitt Emeritus Trustee, and he retains that latter status on the Pitt board.

Joyce earned his bachelor's degree in communication at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Arts and Sciences in 1982; he went on to obtain his J.D. degree at Duquesne University Law School in 1990. Following a clerkship with the Honorable Joseph Del Sole of the Pennsylvania Superior Court, he began practicing law with the firm of Grogan, Graffam, McGinley, and Lucchino. He has been the Allegheny County Housing Authority's general counsel since 1995 and was named deputy executive director in 1997. He is a member of both the Allegheny County and Pennsylvania bar associations.

# Happenings



**Mattress Factory, Thaddeus Mosley: Sculpture (Studio/Home), through August 2**

## Concerts

**Barry Manilow**, pop and soft rock from world-famous singer, songwriter, 7:30 p.m. **July 6**, Mellon Arena, 66 Mario Lemieux Place, Downtown, 412-323-1919, [www.mellonarena.com](http://www.mellonarena.com).

**Sweaty Betty Blues Band**, jazz, blues, and R&B music, 5 p.m. **July 7**, Backstage Bar at Theatre Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-6769, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**BNY Mellon Jazz Presents Diana Krall**, 8 p.m. **July 8**; **The Machine-Pink Floyd Tribute**, featuring Daniel Meyer, conductor, 8 p.m. **July 10**; **Video Games Live**, music from the most popular video games of all time, 8 p.m. **July 11** and 2:30 p.m. **July 12**; **Live Nation Presents Maxwell**, R&B music, 8 p.m. **July 18**; Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-392-4900, [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org).

**Frontiers**, rock music, 9 p.m. **July 17**, Hard Rock Café, 230 West Station Square Dr., Station Square, 412-481-7625, [www.hardrock.com](http://www.hardrock.com).



**Carnegie Museum of Art, Digital to Daguerreotype, through January 31, 2010**

## Exhibitions

**Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller: Opera for a Small Room**, exhibition about quirky world of an operarecords collector, **through July 19**; **Architecture Explorations**, **through Aug. 14**; **Digital to Daguerreotype: Photographs of People**, **through Jan. 31, 2010**; 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3309, [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org).

**Senator John Heinz History Center, National Negro League Conference, July 16-18**; **Portrait of the Allegheny**, a photo exhibition documenting recreational and industrial uses of the Allegheny River, **through July 31**; **Forbes Field: Celebrating 100 Years**, **through Nov. 8**; and **Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War**, exhibition examining life of 16th U.S. President during American Civil War, **through Jan. 15, 2010**; 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org).

**Everyone an Artist Gallery, Reflections: The Self Portrait Reinterpreted**, **through July 14**, 4128 Butler St., Lawrenceville, 412-621-2951, [www.milestonecentersinc.org](http://www.milestonecentersinc.org).

**709 Penn Gallery, Threadline: Works by Lee Renninger**, **through July 18**, 709 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-471-6078, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Box Heart Gallery, The Traveling Wave**, **through July 18**, 4523 Liberty Ave., Bloomfield, 412-687-8858, [www.boxheart.org](http://www.boxheart.org).

**Mattress Factory, Thaddeus Mosley: Sculpture (Studio/Home)**, **through Aug. 2**, 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, 412-231-3169, [www.mattress.org](http://www.mattress.org).

**Andy Warhol Museum, Pinball Wizard**, **through Aug. 9**; **Conrad Ventur**, **through Sept. 13**; 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, [www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org).

**707 Penn Gallery, Discombobulated**, **through Aug. 22**, 707 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-471-6078, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Society for Contemporary Craft, Beyond Shared Language: Contemporary Art and the Latin American Experience**, **through Aug. 29**, 2100 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-261-7003, [www.contemporary-craft.org](http://www.contemporary-craft.org).

**Space, Smoke and Mirrors**, **through Sept. 12**, 812 Liberty Ave., Downtown, 412-325-7723, [www.spacepittsburgh.org](http://www.spacepittsburgh.org).

**Space 101 Gallery, Bare V**, **July 10-Aug. 1**, 2100 Mary St., South Side, The Brew House Association, 412-381-7767.

**Sweetwater Center for the Arts, Magic, Alchemy, Shamanism**, **July 10-Aug. 14**, 200 Broad St., Sewickley, 412-741-4405, [www.sweetwaterartcenter.org](http://www.sweetwaterartcenter.org).

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**"Free Business Start-Up Counseling From SCORE,"** 10 a.m. **July 6**, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Squirrel Hill Branch, 5801 Forbes Ave., 412-442-9650, [www.carnegieliibrary.org](http://www.carnegieliibrary.org).

**"Genetics Symposium II: Oral Health-Systemic Health Connections,"** Alexandre Viera, assistant professor in the Pitt School of Dental Medicine's Department of Oral Biology, 2 p.m. **July 9**, 355 Salk Hall, School of Dental Medicine, 412-647-3555.

**"Time Management for Writers,"** featuring Aubrey Hirsch, creative writing professor at Chatham University, 10 a.m. **July 11**, Green Tree Public Library, 10 West Manilla Ave., Greentree, Pittsburgh Writers Project, 412-921-9292, [www.greentreepubliclibrary.org](http://www.greentreepubliclibrary.org).

## Miscellaneous

**"Exporting Your Courseweb Course,"** live Web cast with limited interaction, 12:15 p.m. **July 8**, Pitt Center for Instructional Development & Distance Education, <https://cidde-web.cidde.pitt.edu/mCast/default.asp?mCast=BbmCast>.

[cidde.pitt.edu/mCast/default.asp?mCast=BbmCast](https://cidde-web.cidde.pitt.edu/mCast/default.asp?mCast=BbmCast).

**"Using SafeAssign in Courseweb,"** live Web cast with limited interaction, 12:15 p.m. **July 15**, Pitt Center for Instructional Development & Distance Education, <https://cidde-web.cidde.pitt.edu/mCast/default.asp?mCast=BbmCast>.

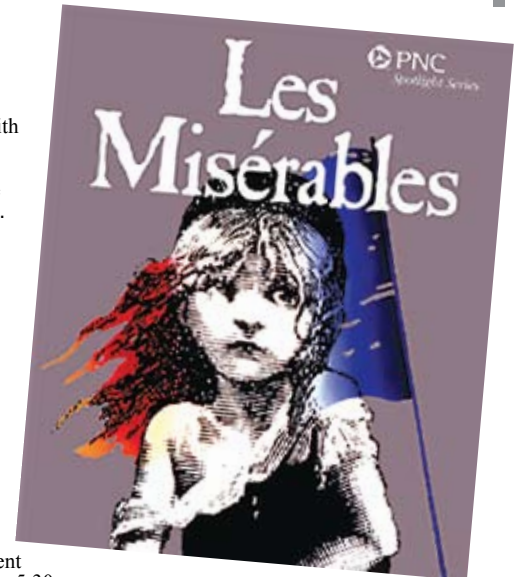
**Stephen Foster Music and Heritage Festival**, featuring outdoor concert, cemetery tours, and food vendors, noon **July 11**, Allegheny Cemetery, 4734 Butler St., Lawrenceville, Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association, 412-682-1624, [www.doodahdays.com](http://www.doodahdays.com).

**Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District**, quarterly showcase of art and entertainment featuring Pittsburgh art galleries, 5:30 p.m. **July 17**, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**8-Track: The Sounds of the 70's**, by Rick Seeber, **through Sept. 27**, Theater Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh CLO, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Sweeney Todd**, by Stephen Sondheim, **July 16-19**, New Hazlett Theater, 6 Allegheny Square East, North Side, 412-320-4610, [www.newhazletttheater.org](http://www.newhazletttheater.org).



**Les Misérables, Benedum Center, July 7-19**

**Les Misérables**, musical based on Victor Hugo novel, **July 7-19**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh CLO, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Genevieve Woodard**, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology, "Evaluating Novel Risk Factor Associations for Subclinical Cardiovascular Disease," 1 p.m. **July 7**, A523 Crabtree Hall.

**Emily Drill**, School of Medicine's Center for Neuroscience/Neurobiology Graduate Program, "Deciphering the Role of TLX in Dorsal Neural Progenitors and Its Contribution to Brain Structure and Behavior," noon **July 8**, 6014 Biomedical Science Tower 3.

**Teresa Johnson-Evans**, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures, "History, Genre, Politics: The Cinema of Yamina Benguigui," 12:15 p.m. **July 10**, 1218 Cathedral of Learning.

**Mehret Birru**, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology, "The Associations of Ethnicity, Cardiovascular Risk Factors, and Socioeconomic Status with Subclinical Cardiovascular Disease," 1 p.m. **July 13**, A622 Crabtree Hall.

**Carlos E. Caicedo**, School of Information Sciences' Telecommunications and Networking Program, "Technical Architectures and Economic Conditions for Viable Spectrum Trading Markets," 10 a.m. **July 15**, 502 Information Sciences Building.

**Sharad Gupta**, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry, "Expanding the Complexity and Functional Diversity of BIS-Amino Acid Building Blocks," 2 p.m. **July 13**, 307 Eberly Hall.

**Jill Francesca Dione**, School of Arts and Science's Department of English, "Body Image: Fashioning the Postwar American," 10 a.m. **July 15**, 512 Cathedral of Learning.

**Sachiko Miyahara**, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Biostatistics, "Statistical Inferences for Two-stage Treatment Regimes for Time-to-event and Longitudinal Data," 10:30 a.m. **July 16**, 109 Parran Hall.

**Sweaty Betty Blues Band, Theatre Square, July 7**





# Pitt Researchers Zero In on Ozone With Fluorescent Solution That Detects Harmful Molecule in Air, Body

By Morgan Kelly

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh have developed a fluorescent substance that glows bright green when exposed to even minute amounts of ozone in the air and in biological samples such as human lung cells. A molecule consisting of three oxygen atoms, ozone is at once a harmful pollutant and lung irritant, and a possible natural weapon that certain research suggests the human body employs against infections.

The Pitt team reports in the current edition of *Nature Chemistry* that their simple and fast-acting detector can function as a consumer device to measure surrounding ozone, or as a laboratory tool that could provide insight into ozone's effect on the human body and its debated role in the human immune system. The probe differs from existing ozone-detection methods in that it's sensitive only to ozone, the researchers write. Current indicators can register a false-positive in response to humidity, other reactive oxygen species, and atmospheric compounds such as lead, palladium, and platinum.

"As you inhale air, you inhale ozone, and it is not known how deeply it penetrates the lung or its effect on the body," said Kazunori Koide, a chemistry professor in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, who is the paper's corresponding author. "Patients with respiratory diseases who are more sensitive to ozone may be able to monitor their exposure, as should employees in industrial and laboratory jobs that include regular ozone exposure. Our method is quick, so people will know they've exceeded safe levels before they suffer the symptoms, and it's highly specific to ozone, so it will prevent having false data."

Koide worked with researchers in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health: professor George Leikauf, professor and department chair Bruce Pitt, and assistant professor Claudette St. Croix. The project also included Pitt postdoctoral

student Shin Ando and graduate student and lead author Amanda Garner, both in the Department of Chemistry. The paper can be found on the *Nature Chemistry* Web site at [www.nature.com/nchem](http://www.nature.com/nchem).

The team's detection method consists of a small molecule-based probe added to regular distilled water. Ozone reacts with the probe through a process called ozonolysis, creating the organic compound aldehyde. The aldehyde undergoes an additional reaction known as beta elimination to produce a substance that glows bright green—or Pittsburgh Green, as the researchers termed it—under an ultraviolet (UV) lamp or microscope. The Pitt team reported that the solution began to glow within 30 minutes of coming into contact with ozone.

As an indoor and outdoor pollutant, ozone can irritate the lungs, particularly in people with asthma, bronchitis, or cystic fibrosis. It is generated by certain electronic devices and also created from the reaction of high concentrations of pollution, such as car exhaust and UV radiation from the sun. Koide and his colleagues sought to create an easy method for people to test the ozone level of their immediate indoor and outdoor environment; they suggest in their paper that people could wear a badge containing the probe. For the indoor experiment, paper strips coated with the solution were left for eight hours in an unventilated office with two photocopiers

and two laser printers, devices that are known to generate ozone. When exposed to UV light, the strips revealed concentrations of ozone captured from within the room. To test the probe outdoors, the Pitt scientists placed the solution at four high-traffic areas in Pittsburgh for eight hours on a sunny day (but out of direct sunlight) and successfully detected ozone.

The probe also was tested on human lung fluid and blood serum to determine its biomedical potential. The samples were exposed to ozone and glowed under a laser light, showing that the probe could work in biological samples. The

researchers went further and exposed human lung cells treated with the probe to ozone-rich air for five minutes. With a microscope, they observed the fluorescent glow expand within the cell, illustrating that ozone indeed penetrated the cell membrane.

The probe's successful use in biological samples could help unravel certain medical questions regarding ozone. The researchers cite a back-and-forth of research published in various journals such as *Science* and

*the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that claims and disputes

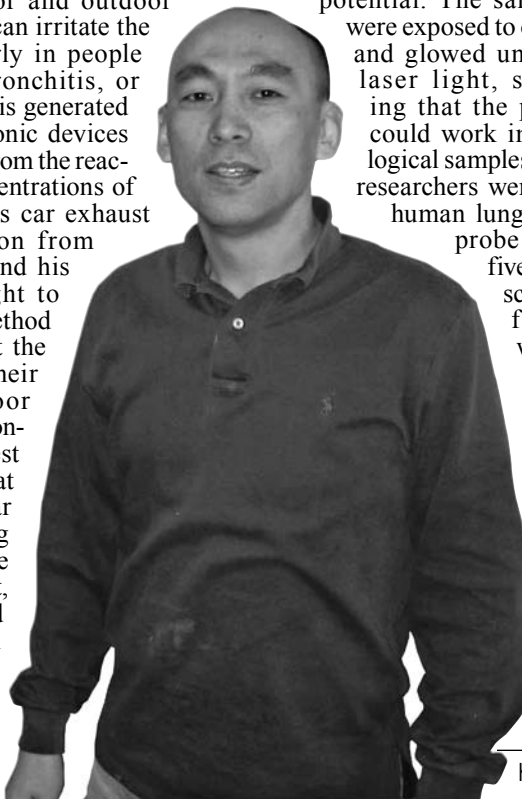
whether white blood cells emit ozone to fight inflammation and bacterial infections. So far, though, the methods used to detect ozone have been questioned based on their sensitivity to other reactive oxygen species, a problem the Pitt probe seems to not have.

Another issue concerns ozone's penetration of the body and its subsequent effect. The Pitt researchers note that other scientists have observed ozone's effect on cell samples, but that other findings suggest ozone is too short-lived to affect cells in the

body. They demonstrated that their probe can track ozone as it moves throughout a cell sample and possibly help scientists gain insight into the molecule's activity within cells.

**"Patients with respiratory diseases who are more sensitive to ozone may be able to monitor their exposure, as should employees in industrial and laboratory jobs that include regular ozone exposure."**

—Kazunori Koide



Kazunori Koide

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published July 20. 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](mailto: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](mailto:robinet@pitt.edu).



