Russian President Medvedev Visits Pitt, Discusses Changes in U.S.-Russian Relations—And Talks a Little Bit About Himself, Too

Medvedev addressed the estimated 300-plus people gathered in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. But before he began the question-and-answer session, he made reference to former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev’s 1959 tour of the United States and his visit to Pitt’s Schenley Hall ballroom (now the William Pitt Union).

“It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to share with you my vision of events past and present in Russia, Russian-American relations, the global challenges, and problems that we all face... It is particularly interesting to know that exactly 50 years ago, one of the Soviet leaders visited this very place. I cannot say that we are close politically, or that I share his views, but it is interesting whatever the case to note this coincidence. Nothing is ever completely coincident, after all,” Medvedev said.

“I hope, too, that you will not ask me the same questions as were put to Nikita Khrushchev 50 years ago, because life has gone on, and we have all changed since then. Actually, I can’t say that I have changed since then because I was not even born 50 years ago, but there is no question that our countries have undergone great change since then. We are no longer divided by the barriers of ideology and values that existed then. We share practically the same views on global development issues and respond in the same way to problems at home.

“There are no doubt issues that arouse in us different emotions, things on which we do not see eye-to-eye, but this is good, too, for this is one of the driving forces that has been helping humanity to develop over thousands of years. We are all different, and this is good. At the same time, we share common values, and this is also good.”

Medvedev then took unscripted questions from the students in the audience—ranging from those who sought his advice to college students, to those who pressed him on Russia’s relations with some of its neighbors. (Nordenberg noted that the president, a one-time instructor at St. Petersburg State University, had declined a moderator, preferring personal exchanges.)

As the son of a professor and a former teacher, Medvedev, when asked what advice the president of a major country can offer Pitt students, told them to relish their years in academia.

“I have had all sorts of experiences in my life: I was a graduate student, a teacher, a lawyer, I worked in business, became a civil servant, worked in the government,” he said.

“Now I am president of a large country, but I can tell you that those years when I was a law student were the happiest years of my life. It [your time in college] is also an important foundation for your future lives and should motivate you to seek learning every single day. So, my advice to you is to treasure this time. I envy you.”

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg conferred an honorary doctoral degree in public and international affairs upon José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission of the European Union (EU), during a Sept. 24 by-invitation-only luncheon event in Alumni Hall’s J.W. Connolly Ballroom.

Barroso was in Pittsburgh to represent the EU during the Sept. 24-25 global G-20 Summit, and his visit to the University was a homecoming of sorts. He first visited Pitt on Feb. 10, 2006, when he toured the University’s European Center of Excellence and European Studies Center and gave a lecture that attracted a standing-room-only audience.

The EU leader’s affection for the University and Pittsburgh was apparent. “Pittsburgh has been transformed by stressing the importance of new technologies, particularly information technology; medical research; biotechnology; nanotechnology; and robotics. The University, led with great skill and vision by Chancellor Nordenberg, has played a vital role in that effort, positioning Pittsburgh to capitalize on the knowledge societies of the future,” Barroso said.

Barroso also praised Pitt’s European Union Center of Excellence and its director, Alberta Stragia, the director of Pitt’s European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center and gave a lecture that attracted a standing-room-only audience.

Barroso went on to say that he brought “three key messages” to Pittsburgh. The G-20 leaders must remain vigilant regarding the “fragile” global economic and financial situation, maintain pressure for reform of financial markets, and retain the “momentum of the G-20” to work toward increased trade and investment for the U.S. and EU to work more closely to fight climate change.

The EU represents 27 European nations with a population of almost 500 million. It accounts for more than 30 percent of the world’s gross domestic product and 17 percent of the world’s trade.

“Pittsburgh has been transformed by stressing the importance of new technologies, particularly information technology, medical research, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and robotics. The University, led with great skill and vision by Chancellor Nordenberg, has played a vital role in that effort, positioning Pittsburgh to capitalize on the knowledge societies of the future.” —José Manuel Barroso

Nordenberg, Cohon, and Romoff discussed their institutions’ respective contributions to the region, including the rapid rise of Pitt to a Top 5 ranking in terms of federal funding to its faculty researchers from the National Institutes of Health.

With a huge photograph of Pittsburgh’s skyline as a stage backdrop, University Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Carnegie Mellon University President Jared L. Cohon, and UPMC CEO Jeffrey A. Romoff discussed their institutions’ respective contributions to the region, including the rapid rise of Pitt to a Top 5 ranking in terms of federal funding to its faculty researchers from the National Institutes of Health.

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The World Comes to Oakland

By Jane-Ellen Robinet and Sharon S. Blake

The G-20 Pittsburgh Summit brought heads of state and other dignitaries to Pitt’s campus, as well as numerous journalists. And while the Downtown streets surrounding the David L. Lawrence Convention Center were ghostly quiet because of a Secret Service-imposed security perimeter, the streets of Oakland were bustling. A few scenes follow.

The Old Incorporates the New

While Pitt’s campus was her father’s home away from home, Sharon Epperson said she remembers growing up and spending many childhood days on Pitt’s campus.

As a correspondent for CNBC-TV, Sharon Epperson covers the global energy and commodities markets daily from the floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange and also covers personal finance. She graduated cum laude from Harvard University and also received a master’s degree in international affairs from Columbia University.

Epperson was in town last week to cover the Sept. 21 tour of Pitt’s Biomedical Science Tower 3. The $205.5 million, state-of-the-art research facility is home to 50 laboratories and 500 researchers who are working on advanced medical therapies for such diseases as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, as well as “orphan diseases,” which affect small numbers of people but are often prevalent in the developing world. The tower offers stunning views of the campus and beyond—and includes hallway floors patterned in colors to represent different mouse chromosomes.

Arthur S. Levine, Pitt senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, welcomed tour participants, explaining that many of the building’s scientists are structural, computational, or developmental biologists. Much of their work focuses on exploring the structure and function of a variety of biologic molecules and, in particular, proteins: “If we are ever to design new drugs or vaccines, we need to know what these proteins look like,” Levine said.

Prominent Footsteps of Her Own

The G-20 Summit brought Sharon Epperson back to her childhood playground—and to the academic stomping grounds of her father, David E. Epperson (A&S ’61, ’70, ’75G, SOC ’62, ’70), who was dean of the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work from 1972 to 2001. Sharon Epperson’s sister, Cecilia Giller Epperson (BS ’57, MS ’62), is also a Pitt alumna.

Sharon Epperson

Pittsburgh and said she has visited many times during her four years in Washington. Speaking flawless English and asking numerous questions, Woltersdorf was one of several journalists who took a Sept. 21 tour of Pitt’s Biomedical Science Tower 3.

As the World Comes to Oakland, reporters were seated around the room’s perimeter, had been told that Pitt would provide box lunches for them. The food was available in an upstairs lounge before and after the event, but no eating was allowed in the ballroom. So while the estimated 250 guests enjoyed their sit-down lunch, assembled journalists remained in their seats waiting for Barroso’s speech to begin. More than one reporter could be overheard commenting about text messages they were receiving during the pause in activity: “What’s happening now? What’s going on?” several editors texted their reporters. “They’re eating; they’re eating,” was the newbie reply.

A High-tech Exchange

One corner of the 72-year-old Cathedral of Learning’s Commons Room became decidedly high-tech during a Sept. 24 address given by Russian President Dmitry A. Medvedev. Local, national, and foreign journalists and Russian delegation members joined about 300 invited Pitt faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and students for the talk. And just adjacent to a riser upon which more than a dozen videographers were clustered sat two professional interpreters.

The man and woman, seated inside a small booth with both English and Russian, used a Bosch DCN interpreter console to translate simultaneously—United Nations-style—Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg’s introduction into Russian, Medvedev’s remarks into English, and the students’ questions into either Russian or English, depending on the language in which the question was asked. All the attendees received small headsets that allowed them to switch between English and Russian.

A team from the Arlington, Virginia-based ASET International Services LLC sat just below the booth, using laptops to monitor the process to ensure the two interpreters were on the correct channels. The half-million dollars worth of equipment, which took eight hours to install, had been used the previous night during a United Nations dinner in New York. The interpreters in the booth would nod when it was time for one to relieve the other, which happened every 15 to 20 minutes.

“It’s simultaneous interpretation is grueling,” noted Anne Renaldi, ASET’s deputy director of conference services. “Interpreters have to listen in the source language, mentally translate, and speak in the target language simultaneously.”

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Lagasse, Banerjee Get $5.1 Million From NIH to Explore Better Ways to Grow Cells for Regenerative Medicine

By Morgan Kelly

Regenerative medicine researchers at the University of Pittsburgh received two grants totaling more than $5.1 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to explore new methods for culti-

vating replacement cells from existing tissues and organs. A $2.9 million, five-year Transformative R01 (T-R01) grant was presented to Eric Lagasse, a professor of pathology in Pitt’s School of Medicine and a researcher in Pitt and UPMC’s jointly operated McGowan Insti-

tute for Regenerative Medicine, will support the development of a novel concept: using the body’s many lymph nodes as sites for growing replacement cells for other tissues and organs, in essence using them as bioreactors to grow cells within the living body. Ipsita Banerjee, a professor of chemical and petroleum engineer-

ing in Pitt’s Swanson School of Engineering and a McGowan fac-

ulty member, received a $2.2 million, five-year New Innovator award to unravel how embryonic stem cells develop into mature cells and possible techniques for influenc-

ing the growth of specific organs.

The grants were presented as part of the 2009 NIH Director’s High-Risk Research Awards, a cluster of five-year grants presented to researchers exploring ideas with the potential to advance their field and medi-

cal treatment. On Sept. 24, the NIH announced 115 awards totaling $384 million, including 42 T-R01 Awards, 18 Pio-

ner Awards, and 55 New Innovator Awards for early-stage investigators. This marks the inaugu-

ral year for the T-R01 grants—which support innovative and high-risk projects that could pro-

foundly impact biomedical research and medical treatment—and also is a record year for the number of New Innovator and Pio-

neer Awards bestowed. Fellow New Innovator and T-R01 recipients include researchers from the Cleveland Clinic, Columbia University, Duke University, Harvard University, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Stanford University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Fellow recipients include researchers from the Cleveland Clinic, Columbia University, Duke University, Harvard University, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Stanford University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Eric Lagasse

Lagasse’s work focuses on lymph nodes, which are important in responses to bacterial and viral infection and are found throughout the body. Even spread out, the total mass of the nodes makes them a feasible place
to grow liver cells, for example, which must also be available in abundance and with ample blood flow to provide life-sustaining hepatic function, Lagasse said. His team will explore growing liver and other tissues in such “ectopic” sites, meaning outside of where they would normally reside. The same principle of using lymph nodes as sites for ectopic cell factories might work for replacing pancreas cells that make insulin for patients with diabetes or immune system T-cells for patients who have AIDS and other diseases of immunologic impair-

ment.

“Our regenerative medicine approach for healing damaged tissues and organs might not have moved forward without this new grant concept,” Lagasse noted. “This funding supports assessment and rapid transla-

tion from bench to the bedside of nontraditional treatments.”

Banerjee will inves-

tigate the process through which embryonic stem cells become mature organ-specific cells and how scientists can control that development in a bottom-up approach. Banerjee will cultivate embryonic cells, noting information that could be integrated into dictating cell development, such as the influence of environmental fac-

tors and gene networks.

“I want to take a completely different approach to addressing the complex process of cell development, which will potentially advance our understanding of regenerative medicine and stem cell bioengi-

neering as a whole,” Banerjee said.

Two Pitt researchers have received NIH Direc-

tor’s awards in the past. In 2007, Eva Szigiethy, of the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and an assistant professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at Pitt, received a New Innovator grant to study inflammatory bowel dis-

ease as a model for inves-

tigating the interaction between the brain, gut, and immune system in determining how patients cope with chronic illness.

The following year, Barry London, a Pitt professor of medicine, was presented with a Pioneer Award to develop new techniques to image electrical activity of the heart and identify those at risk of sudden cardiac death.


Continued from page 2

Pitt, CMU, UPMC CEOs Discuss Pittsburgh Region’s “Eds and Meds” Economy

Continued from page 2

Following the discussion, reporters were taken on several cutting-edge technology and research tours on the campuses of Carnegie Mellon, Pitt, and UPMC.

EU Commission President Barroso Returns To Pitt for Honorary Degree, Luncheon
The University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association recently elected nine new members to its Board of Directors. Lisa Golden, John Racioppi, Frank Ruscetti, and James Hill were elected directors at large. Haig Sakoian was elected as regional director for a two-year term, and Tim Pecsenye, Valerie Corbin-Ketchen, Heather Harmon, and Gary Brown were elected as regional directors for three-year terms.

Biographical information of the newly elected officials follows:

**Lisa Golden** is an emergency medicine physician with Westmoreland Emergency Medicine Specialists, P.C., in Greensburg, Pa. A 1993 graduate of Pitt with a BS degree from the School of Arts and Sciences, Golden is a member of the Alumni Leadership Council and Panther Club and cochair of the Scholarship Committee. She resides in Windber, Pa.

**John Racioppi** is senior vice president of business development at Accept Software in Fremont, Calif. He received a BA degree in economics from Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences in 1979 and an MBA degree from Pitt’s law school in 1987. A life member of Pitt Club of Chicago. He resides in Pittsburgh.

**Frank Ruscetti** is chair and president of Harvest Financial Corp. in Pittsburgh. He earned a BA degree at Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences in 1971. He established the Ruscetti Family Academic Incentive Award, which provides scholarships for students. He resides in Pittsburgh.

**James Hill** is vice president and senior investment manager of Oakmont Capital Management, LLC. He received a BS degree in political science from Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences in 1998. Hill is a volunteer in the Pitt Career Network, participant in Pitt’s Pathway to Professions, a member of Pitt’s African American Alumni Council, and a mentor for Pitt’s RISE program. He lives in Valparaiso, Ind.

**Haig Sakoian** is the global director of Environment Health and Safety and Operations Audit with Alcoa Inc. Sakoian has earned three degrees at Pitt: a BS in biochemistry in 1975, an MS in industrial hygiene in 1979, and an MBA in 2004. He resides in Pittsburg.

**Tim Pecsenye** is a partner in the law firm Blank Rome, LLP, in Philadelphia. He received a BA degree from Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences in 1984 and a JD degree from Pitt’s law school in 1987. A life member of Pitt’s Alumni Association, Pecsenye is a 2003 Volunteer of Excellence Award recipient and is affiliated with the New Jersey Pitt Club and the Pitt Club of Greater Philadelphia. He resides in Philadelphia.

**Valerie Corbin-Ketchen** is senior government affairs representative for Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in Camp Hill, Pa. She earned a BA degree in urban studies at Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences in 1981. Corbin-Ketchen is regional representative for Pitt’s African American Alumni Council in Central Pennsylvania, a member of the Alumni Legislative Network, and a PART volunteer. Hill lives in Harrisburg.

**Heather Harmon** is channel development manager of The Topps Co., Inc., in New York City. She earned a BS degree at Pitt’s College of Business Administration in 2005. Harmon is a Pitt Alumni Association Young Life Member, a member of the Pitt New York City Pitt Club, and a Pitt Career Network volunteer. She resides in New York City.

**Gary Brown**, former managing partner at New State Mortgage Co., is a real estate investor. He received a BA degree in economics from Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences in 1974 and an MBA from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business in 1978. An Alumni Association life member, Brown is a senior advisor on the Alumni Association Board and is treasurer of the Pitt Club of Chicago. He resides in Valparaiso, Ind.

**Valerie Corbin-Ketchen**

Pitt’s Library System Digitizes, Mounts Works of Fred Wright, Noted Labor Cartoonist

The work of Fred Wright, one of America’s most-renowned labor cartoonists, has been digitized and mounted online by the University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS). The new Web site, titled “Drawing on the American Labor Movement,” features Wright’s entire Labor History Series in addition to some of his other works. It is accessible at http://images.library.pitt.edu/u/wwright.

Wright’s career as a cartoonist began in the U.S. Army in 1939, but he is best known for his work for the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE), one of the country’s largest independent labor unions, still headquartered in Pittsburgh. From 1949 until his death in 1984, Wright created thousands of cartoons for the union’s newspaper, the UE News, as well as for other publications. He also designed leaflets, strike placards, and animated cartoons about organizing for the American labor movement.

In the spirit of the movement, Wright’s early cartoons criticized governmental anti-union actions like the Taft-Hartley Act, as well as McCarthyism. His Labor History Series cartoons—177 in all—first appeared in the UE News from 1956 through 1961 and an expanded version ran during the 1970s. They illustrate the conflicts and hardships that workers faced during the American labor movement from the Colonial period to the Vietnam War. When published, each cartoon contained three panels and was accompanied by text written by UE News photographer and reporter James Lerner.

The specific digital images on the new site are of publication plates, or cut-and-paste pages, used by Wright to lay out a proof of his original cartoon along with Lerner’s text.

Wright’s materials are in Pitt’s Archives Service Center, 7500 Thomas Blvd., Point Breeze, which is the national repository for the records of the UE, including a collection called “Photographs from the UE News Photographic Collection,” which can be accessed at http://images.library.pitt.edu/u/ue.

The Archives Service Center also houses the Archives of Industrial Society, which comprises historical records pertaining to the labor history of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.
Pitt Research Suggests EPA Standard for Pesticide Safety Overlooks Poisons’ Long-term Effects

By Morgan Kelly

The four-day testing period the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commonly uses to determine safe levels of pesticide exposure for humans and animals does not account for the toxins’ long-term effects, University of Pittsburgh researchers report in the September edition of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

The team found that the highly toxic pesticide endosulfan—a neurotoxin banned in several nations but still used extensively in the United States—can still be lethal 10 years after being sprayed, raising serious concerns about making the standard four-day test period may not adequately account for contaminants “that can destroy amphibian populations” that have been detected in nature—combine to create “cocktails of contaminants” that can destroy amphibian populations, even if the concentration of each individual pesticide is within levels considered safe for humans and animals.

The mixture killed 99 percent of leopard frog tadpoles, and endosulfan alone killed 84 percent. A month earlier, Relyea published a paper in Ecological Applications reporting that gradual amounts of malathion—the most popular insecticide in the United States—too small to directly kill developing leopard frog tadpoles instead sparked a biological chain reaction that deprived them of their primary food source. As a result, nearly half the tadpoles in the experiment did not reach maturity and would have died in nature.

News releases about Relyea’s previous work are available on Pitt’s Web site at www.pitt.edu/news2009/roundup.pdf.

In November 2008, Relyea reported in Oecologia that 95 percent of the world’s 10 most popular pesticides—which have been detected in nature—cause “lag effects” including “cocktails of contaminants” that can destroy amphibian populations, even if the concentration of each individual pesticide is within levels considered safe for humans and animals. The mixture killed 99 percent of leopard frog tadpoles, and endosulfan alone killed 84 percent.

Two nanoscale devices recently reported by University of Pittsburgh researchers in separate journals harness the potential of carbon nanomaterials to enhance two different technologies. The sensors’ long-term effects on larger, less-sensitive species.

Two nanoscale devices recently reported by University of Pittsburgh researchers in separate journals harness the potential of carbon nanomaterials to enhance two different technologies.

For both technologies, the Pitt teams worked with carbon nanomaterials to create enhanced versions of existing technologies. For instance, the oxygen sensor combines the small scale of carbon nanotubes—they are one-atom thick rolls of graphite—100,000 times smaller than a human hair—with the reactivity of the europium compound, a rare earth element that emits a unique light that allows easier visualization of biological environments such as the body and chemical agents.

To illustrate the capsules’ adaptability, the team loaded them with a luminescent imaging agent developed in Petoud’s lab made of zinc sulfide semiconductor nanocrystals incorporating terbium, a metal chemically similar to europium. Once in the body, the substance would emit a unique light that allows easier detection and a better image, Petoud said. But the inorganic nanocrystals have to be prepared before being introduced to a biological environment such as the body and is difficult and time-consuming. The graphite nanocrystals, however, could hold and transport the solution with no preparation.

The team exposed nine species of frog and tadpole species to endosulfan levels “expected and found in nature” for the EPA’s required four-day period, then moved the tadpoles to clean water for an additional four days, Jones reported. Although endosulfan was ultimately toxic to all species, three species of tadpole showed no significant sensitiv

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Two nanoscale devices recently reported by University of Pittsburgh researchers in separate journals harness the potential of carbon nanomaterials to enhance two different technologies.

For both technologies, the Pitt teams worked with carbon nanomaterials to create enhanced versions of existing technologies. For instance, the oxygen sensor combines the small scale of carbon nanotubes—they are one-atom thick rolls of graphite—100,000 times smaller than a human hair—with the reactivity of the europium compound, a rare earth element that emits a unique light that allows easier visualization of biological environments such as the body and chemical agents.

To illustrate the capsules’ adaptability, the team loaded them with a luminescent imaging agent developed in Petoud’s lab made of zinc sulfide semiconductor nanocrystals incorporating terbium, a metal chemically similar to europium. Once in the body, the substance would emit a unique light that allows easier detection and a better image, Petoud said. But the inorganic nanocrystals have to be prepared before being introduced to a biological environment such as the body and is difficult and time-consuming. The graphite nanocrystals, however, could hold and transport the solution with no preparation.


Lectures/Seminars/Readings


University of Pittsburgh Fall 2009 Career Fair, 1-4 p.m. Sept. 29, Petersen Events Center, Pitt Student Employment and Placement Assistance, www.hire.pitt.edu.


New Pitt Web Site Tells Story of Early Pittsburgh
As Seen Through the Lens of the Jewish Community

Several hundred residents of Pittsburgh’s Jewish community joined University of Pittsburgh archivists and members of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Sept. 29 to launch NCJW’s online oral history project—Pittsburgh and Beyond: The Experience of the Jewish Community.

The new website, http://digital.library.pitt.edu/n/ncjw, allows users to listen online to more than 500 audio interviews of area Jewish residents—many of them immigrants—compiled by a small group of volunteers over a 40-year period. The site, designed and built by a team at Pitt’s Archives Service Center, includes detailed abstracts of each interview and is searchable by key words, a personal name, geographic region, or subject. It is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind.

Gathering in the ballroom of the University Club, the group heard how the idea for the project surfaced in 1968, when a group of NCJW women thought it was important to preserve the stories of Jewish immigrants by recording their experiences. Trained volunteers interviewed Jewish men and women who came to the United States from Eastern Europe between 1890 and 1924.

In 1973, NCJW launched a second phase of the project—compiling the oral histories of Pittsburgh’s Jewish men and women who made contributions locally, nationally, and internationally. Overall, 516 individuals were interviewed between 1968 and 2001, including former Pittsburgh Mayor Sophie Masloff; late musician Lincoln Maazel, father of Grammy Award-winning conductor, former Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra music director, and Pitt alumnus Lorin Maazel; the late William Block, publisher of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; pioneering breast cancer researcher Bernard Fisher, Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Surgery; and Pitt Distinguished Service Professor Julius Youngner, senior scientist of the Pitt polio vaccine team.

A number of interviewees were in attendance at Tuesday’s luncheon and were recognized, along with their family members, “It is amazing to hear the history of the Pittsburgh Jewish community in the actual words and voices of the people who lived it,” said Marcia Frumerman, oral history project leader for NCJW.

“The result of the partnership between Pitt’s Library System and NCJW is a gift to the world,” said Rush Miller, Hillman librarian and director of the University Library System. “These interviews illustrate an entire century of a community through the eyes of its residents, including the fight to overcome political corruption, the struggle for women’s rights, and the journeys of immigrants. It is a reminder of the strength and fortitude of those who came before us.”

Ed Galloway, head of Pitt’s Archives Service Center, explained to the audience the archival process: Boxes of audiocassettes were digitized and the printed guide entered into a database. The two components were then merged to create an easily navigable site that includes convenient fast-forward and rewind buttons, making all parts of the interview quickly accessible.

Following the luncheon, family members of those interviewed for the project received a silver gift-wrapped box. Inside was a CD of their family members’ interview.