Transplant Pioneer Thomas E. Starzl Wins Institute of Medicine’s 2009 Lienhard Award

In 1981, Starzl joined the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine as a professor of surgery and led the team of surgeons who performed Pittsburgh’s first liver transplant. Thirty liver transplants were performed that year, launching the liver transplant program—the only one in the nation at the time.

Transplantation Institute, was presented with the 2009 Gustav O. Lienhard Award at the Institute of Medicine’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 12. Known as “the father of transplantation,” Starzl was selected for his role in pioneering and advancing transplantation science.

Each year, the award is presented to an individual to recognize his or her outstanding achievement in improving health care services in the United States. The award consists of a medal and $25,000 and is funded by an endowment from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

“Thomas Starzl transformed the field of transplantation as we knew it. Through his leadership and perseverance, he created what is now one of the oldest and strongest transplant programs in the world,” said Abhinav Humar, clinical director of the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute and division chief of transplant surgery at UPMC. “It is fitting that he be recognized by the Institute of Medicine with this prestigious honor.”

Starzl performed the world’s first liver transplant in 1963 and the first successful liver transplant in 1967, both while at the University of Colorado. In 1980, he introduced the antirejection medications antilymphocyte

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Donald S. Burke Elected to Institute of Medicine

By Clare Collins

Donald S. Burke, dean of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, has been elected to the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies, one of the highest honors in health and medicine.

The selection of Burke, an expert in the prevention, diagnosis, and control of infectious diseases, was announced Oct. 12 during IOM’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

“Election to the Institute of Medicine is highly selective, bestowed only on those physician-scientists who have made remarkable contributions to the fields of health and medicine,” said University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. “Given Dr. Burke’s groundbreaking work in the mitigation of infectious diseases of global concern and his commitment to improving the lives of others around the world, his selection is a great honor not only for him, but for the University of Pittsburgh.”

Burke also is the associate vice chancellor for global health at the University, director of Pitt’s Center for Vaccine Research, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Jonas Salk Chair in Global Health. He has focused his research on HIV/AIDS, tropical viruses, hepatitis, influenza, and emerging infectious diseases. His lifelong mission has been to prevent and lessen the impact of epidemic infectious diseases around the world.

“I can think of no one more deserving of this high honor than Dr. Burke,” said Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of Pitt’s School of Medicine. “His career-long dedication to improving our understanding of infectious diseases has had a far-reaching impact on public health, giving us insight into the best methods to predict and prevent diseases that affect people around the globe. The vision and commitment he has displayed over the years secure his legacy as one of the world’s foremost scientists.”

Burke’s expertise spans the proverbial “from the bench to the bush,” including laboratory research, field studies, vaccine trials, and implementation and evaluation of programs to control infectious diseases. He has led major vaccine research and development efforts for Japanese encephalitis, dengue, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and biodefense threats. The diagnostic assays he developed for epidemic viral encephalitis and for HIV/AIDS have become worldwide standards.

Burke’s epidemiological studies of HIV among incoming military recruits first

Continued on page 6

Mary Ellen Callahan Nominated to Serve on Pitt’s Board of Trustees

By John Harvith

At its Oct. 15 fall meeting, the Nominating Committee of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees recommended for election to membership on the board Pitt alumnus Mary Ellen Callahan (A&S ’90), chief privacy officer and chief Freedom of Information Act officer in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The full board is expected to act on the nomination at its next meeting, at 10:15 a.m. Oct. 30.

Prior to being named to her positions in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in March of this year, Callahan specialized in privacy, data security, and consumer protection law as a partner at Hogan & Hartson LLP, where she worked for more than 10 years.

Callahan graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in political science from the University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences and University Honors College, with a certificate in Russian and East European Studies from Pitt’s University Center for International Studies. While at Pitt, she was a Chancellor’s Scholar and was named a Truman Scholarship winner. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Chicago Law School, where she had Barack Obama as one of her professors. Prior to law school, Callahan worked at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress as part of the Special Task Force on the Development of the Parliamentary Institutions in Eastern Europe.

“The national academic honors that Mary Ellen Callahan earned as a University of Pittsburgh undergraduate helped establish a pattern that continues today—with Pitt widely recognized as one of the country’s leading producers of high-achieving
Under Collier’s vision of the future of education, America’s public school system should be remodeled to include such applications as online social networks, distance learning, and digital home schooling. Also present to discuss aspects of the lecture will be Kevin Ashley, a professor in Pitt’s School of Law; Diane Litman, a professor in Pitt’s Department of Computer Science; and Kenneth R. Koedinger, a professor in Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Computer Science. The lecture will be followed by a reception at 4:30 p.m. on the 9th floor of URC. The event is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is required and can be made on the UPCI Web site: www.learningpolicystcenter.org. For more information, contact Julie Kaufman at lcpc@pitt.edu.

—Patricia Lomando White

Former Judge of European Court of Justice to Speak

Sir David Edward, former judge of the European Court of Justice, will speak at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law’s 18th annual McLean Lecture on World Law at 6 p.m. Oct. 22 in the Barco Law Building’s Teplitz Memorial Courtroom. The lecture is titled “Nationalism, Constitutionalism, and the Future of the European Union.” The free event is open to the public and will be followed by a reception. It is jointly sponsored by Pitt’s Center for International Legal Education and the Global Solutions Education Fund Pittsburgh.

Edward served as a European Court of Justice judge from 1992 to 2004 and as a judge at the Court of First Instance of the European Commission from 1989 to 1992. A professor emeritus at the University of Edinburgh School of Law, Edward has appeared as counsel before the European Court of Justice and the British House of Lords. He was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1974 and Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 2004. Prior to his judicial appointments, Edward appeared in a number of high-profile cases in Scottish and English courts, and also in the European Court of Justice. He also has written extensively on European-related issues.

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

—Patricia Lomando White

Faculty and Staff Development Program Set

The University of Pittsburgh’s Office of Human Resources is offering its Faculty and Staff Development Program (FSDP) workshops through December. A variety of workshops is offered to help enhance the professional and personal development of Pitt’s faculty and staff. Among the topics are leadership development, human resources, international services development, diversity education, career development, financial planning, University business and financial services, and organization development and health safety.

The schedule of workshops and registration information can be found at www.hr.pitt.edu/FSDP.

—Kristin Shearer

At its Oct. 22-25 Sankofa Homecoming Weekend festivities, the University of Pittsburgh African American Alumni Council (AAAC) will celebrate the strides in diversity initiatives Pitt has made in the four decades since a group of Black students occupied the campus’ computer center in 1969 and reached agreement with the University to accede to a list of student demands. This immediately resulted, among other things, in the establishment of a Black studies department, the energized recruitment of Black students, faculty, and administrators, and the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday as a University holiday.

Pitt Distinguished Service Professor of Communication Jack L. Daniel, who, as a newly minted Pitt PhD graduate, was a leader during the occupation, here gives his story of the events of 40 years ago and their aftermath; he was vice provost for academic affairs at Pitt from 1992 to 2002 and served after that as vice provost for undergraduate studies and dean of students at Pitt. He will take part in this week’s AAAC celebration.

—John Harvith

Pitt’s African American Alumni Council (AAAC) has many reasons to celebrate 40 years of progress at Pitt during Sankofa Homecoming Weekend Oct. 22-25. Looking back, January through July 1969 seems to have been the fastest-paced, most intense, nerve-racking period of my life. It was a time when reason often gave way to threats and acts of violence, a time when revolutionary “brothers and sisters” first threatened those considered to be the White racist opposition and, sooner than later, focused on “dealing with Negroes” they perceived to be “counter revolutionaries,” “Uncle Toms,” and old-fashioned Negroes.

Nonetheless, proceeding in a civil fashion throughout 1968, Black Action Society (BAS) members had met with the chancellor, provost, and various deans and directors regarding their desire for an increased presence of African American students, staff, faculty, administrators, and social and academic programs. Frustrated by what some felt to be the snail-like pace of University representatives, BAS members increasingly determined that direct actions were needed.

The Jan. 15, 1969, BAS takeover of the University’s computer center was probably the first time in Pitt’s history that a group of undergraduates took over a facility, made a set of demands, and obtained outcomes that contributed to the hiring of faculty and administrators, the recruitment and enrollment of students, and the development of new academic programs. On the night of the “computer center takeover,” I served as one of the negotiators with the then-chancellor, and I remain forever appreciative of the fact that he chose to negotiate rather than have police intervene—something that might well have led to the loss of life and the ruination of careers.

These students were the “freedom fighters” who risked everything for the cause of social justice at Pitt, and for their selfless acts that led directly to all that is institutionalized at Pitt regarding the African American aspects of diversity, they must never be forgotten.

On Feb. 18, 1969, I received a letter from Arts and Sciences Dean Dave Halliday.appointing me as the interim director of Black Studies. Lloyd Bell became an assistant vice chancellor in charge of a new office devoted to community service. A search eventually led to the appointment of Donald M. Henderson as vice provost. In less than a year, there were more than 15 faculty members in Black Studies. For the 1969 Fall Term, there was a huge increase in African American enrollments. The campus was frequented by African American guest speakers.

Throughout the 1970s, the University rapidly expanded its disadvantaged student programs, which enrolled the vast majority of our African American students. Notwithstanding their academic challenges and often a less-than-hospitable campus climate, graduates from these programs became physicians, engineers, lawyers, authors, teachers, social workers, entrepreneurs, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, corporate leaders, senior academic administrators, and, in short, all that comes from college success.

Many gained national prominence, and we should never forget that, as was the case with me, the standardized predictors of college success indicated that we should not have been admitted! These students demonstrated what could come of their Continued on page 4
The King and Queen of Homecoming 2008, Sandra Alba (left) and Akere Ate

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Homecoming Extravaganza at 10 p.m. in the William Pitt Union with Casino Night, music, and light refreshments.

The Homecoming football pregame festivities will kick off Oct. 24 around 9 a.m. at Heinz Field with the Pitt Panthers World’s Largest Family Block Party on Art Rooney Avenue between Gates A and B. The opening events will feature live entertainment on the main stage, a giant video wall, inflatable games for kids, game-day food, and other family-oriented activities.

At 10 a.m. on game day, Pitt’s Panther Prowl will give fans the opportunity to meet and greet the football players as they arrive at Heinz Field outside Gate A. Immediately following will be the Pitt Marching Band’s Pregame Concert. The band will lead the March to Victory parade, following General Robinson Street and ending at the stage on Art Rooney Avenue. The Homecoming Court will ride in the parade, and the king and queen will be crowned during the half-time festivities.

To conclude the 2009 Homecoming weekend, Pitt’s newly renovated University Club, 123 University Place, Oakland, will host a Sunday Brunch from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 25. Reservations and prepayment are required by 5 p.m. today, Oct. 19.

Throughout Homecoming weekend, Pitt’s African American Alumni Council (AAAC) will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Activities will include the Sankofa Meet and Greet Business Networking Event at 8 a.m. Oct. 22 at Bossa Nova, 123 Seventh St., Downtown; A Tribute to Campus Civil Rights Pioneers at 3 p.m. Oct. 23 in the Assembly Room of the William Pitt Union; and the Distinguished African American Alumni Awards Banquet Gala at 6 p.m. Oct. 24 in Alumni Hall’s J.W. Connolly Ballroom.

Additional Homecoming events will include the School of Nursing’s 51+ Luncheon, which honors the school’s classes of 1944, 1949, 1954, and 1959; the School of Law’s Homecoming Reception; the School of Dental Medicine’s Alumni Reception and Student Mentoring Event; the Swanson School of Engineering’s Homecoming Celebration; and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs’ Homecoming Celebration.

Pitt Repertory Theatre will be presenting through Nov. 1 Count Dracula, a comic retelling of the world’s most famous vampire tale, written by Ted Tiller and directed by W. Stephen Coleman.

Science2009—Unplugged, Pitt’s ninth annual celebration of science and technology, was held Oct. 15-16. The event featured science presentations by some of Pittsburgh’s leading researchers as well as keynote lectures by distinguished guest scientists in Alumni Hall’s 7th-floor Auditorium.

1. One of the Science2009 plenary speakers was Michael Gratzel, professor and director of the Laboratory of Photonics and Interfaces in the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland. Gratzel delivered the Provost Lecture, titled “Light and Energy, Mesoscopic Systems for Solar Power Conversion and Storage.” From left, Gratzel; George Klinzing, Pitt vice provost for research; and George Klinzing, Pitt vice provost for research.

2. Undergraduate researchers were a new addition to Science2009 this year. Seventy-three undergraduate researchers from across the University presented their faculty-mentored work during an Oct. 15 undergraduate poster reception in Alumni Hall’s J.W. Connolly Ballroom. About 300 people attended the event, including research presenters, other undergraduates, faculty, and family members of student presenters.

3. Victor Ambros (left) is the Silverman Professor of Natural Sciences in the Program in Molecular Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School. He gave the Oct. 15 Dickson Prize in Medicine Lecture on “MicroRNAs, From Model Organisms to Human Biology.” Standing with him is Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at Pitt.
Mervat Abdelhak, chair of the Department of Health Information Management in the University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, received the American Health Information Management Association’s (AHIMA) Distinguished Member Award. The award is the organization’s highest honor for an individual with an impressive history of health information management contributions. Abdelhak’s career in the health information management field spans more than 30 years. She served as AHIMA president in 2003 and continues to serve in leadership roles in the organization.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine has selected Michael Boninger, a renowned researcher in spinal cord injury and assistive technology, as chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Since November 2007, Boninger has directed the UPMC Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, which combines medical care and research to help patients regain independence and enhance their quality of life. Boninger will continue serving this role along with his position as associate dean for the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Donald M. Yealy, the newly named chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, has received the Outstanding Contribution in Research Award from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). The award, presented during the group’s annual scientific assembly in Boston earlier this month, recognizes Yealy’s significant contributions to research in emergency medicine.

Yealy is also the Department’s vice chair since 1995. Yealy is a principal investigator on two current federally funded research trials totaling $9.7 million. He has focused most of his academic research on clinical decision-making and the early care of many life-threatening conditions, including community-acquired pneumonia, sepsis, acute heart failure, and respiratory failure.

The University of Pittsburgh’s Blue Gold & Black: From Doorway to Distinction exhibit was created to recognize a faculty member of the University of Pittsburgh and the 250th anniversary of the founding of Pittsburgh and the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade in the United States. It was on display from Oct. 25, 2008, through April 5, 2009, in the McGuinn Gallery of the Senator John Heinz History Center, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District. The by-invitation opening reception event was held at the History Center on Oct. 24, 2008.

The IABC/UPMC presented Pitt Office of Public Affairs’ Projects and Other projects for the following eight Awards of Excellence:

- Communication Management/ Special Events—Free at Last
- Communications Management/Other—Free at Last
- Communication Skills/Magazines—Pitt Med
- Communication Skills/Feature Writing—Joe Miech, Pitt Med, “The Investigator’s Path”
- Communication Creative/Publication Design: Magazines—Gary Cravener, Pitt Magazine
- Communication Creative/Other Graphic Design: Posters—Bill Irvins, Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series
- Communication Creative/Other Graphic Design: Logo or Organizational Identity—Jane Dudley, University Club identity; and Communication Creative/Other Graphic Design: Other—Sarah Nelsen, From Doorway to Distinction exhibit

The University of Pittsburgh’s Blue Gold & Black: From Doorway to Distinction exhibit was created by Pitt at the Senator John Heinz History Center, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District. The by-invitation opening reception event was held at the History Center on Oct. 24, 2008.

Blue Gold & Black: From Doorway to Distinction—Presbyterian Night at Heinz History Center and African American Chamber of Commerce, both speeches by Hill

Other Writing:
- Laurence A. Glasco, Free at Last? catalogue essay

Audiovisual:
- Blue Gold & Black: From Doorway to Distinction—Web Sites [two awards]—Pitt Giving and School of Medicine’s Admissions and Financial Aid
- American Revelations—Elena Gialamas Cerri, Pitt Med
- Annual Reports Design—Marc Belchick Beas and Rainey Dermond, Blue Gold & Black 2008
- Other Publications Design [two awards]—Amy Porta Kleeblan, Free at Last? catalogue, and Jane Dudley, Pitt Rep, American Revelations
- Poster Design—Bill Ochsenhirt, Karte Baseball
- Other Graphic Design [two awards]—Sarah Nelsen, From Doorway to Distinction invitation, and Marc Belchick Beas, Free at Last? exhibition

Print Advertising:
- Marc Belchick Beas, NCAA Celebration ad

Also at the event, Pitt’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) received an Award of Excellence for the GSPIA Web site and an Award of Honor for the GSPIA 50th Anniversary celebration.

IABC is a not-for-profit international network of public relations practitioners that develops educational resources, services, and activities for individuals and organizations in the field.

Pitt Office of Public Affairs Wins Best in Show at ‘09 IABC Golden Triangle Awards
“true grit” bolstered by very high-quality University support and resources.

Notwithstanding the problems related to the shortage of African American students in the high school pipeline, visionary Pitt leaders have worked hard to compete for the very best qualified students, at times enrolling African American students who had competitive offers from Ivy League, Big Ten, and other flagship institutions. In 1969, some administrators cried “credible tears” and said, “We’d like to admit them, but we can’t find them.” As of 2009, Pitt has found at least two decades of experience with finding, enrolling, and graduating many of the most-talented African Americans in the country. For this success, Pitt was externally lauded by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in its most recent accreditation report on the University. Most actions associated with the election of Barack Obama are part of my reactions to so many of my Pitt African American alums and watershed moments, e.g., when student Donna Roberts won a Rhodes Scholarship when Daniel Aronson also won one, along with Truman and Goldwater scholarships, making him perhaps the most academically recognized student in Pitt history; when Rebecca Hubbard won a Marshall Scholarship; when Wangari Muta Maathal won the Nobel Peace Prize; when Bebe Moore Campbell became a nationally recognized author and later a Pitt trustee; when Donald M. Henderson became a Pitt alum and was later a Pitt trustee; when Bebe Moore Campbell became a Pitt trustee; when Albert A. Nordenberg, a Pitt alum, became the leader in enrolling African Americans in the University. For this success, Pitt has had at least two decades of experience with finding, enrolling, and graduating many of the most-talented African Americans in the country. For this success, Pitt was externally lauded by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in its most recent accreditation report on the University.

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Dr. Starzl has applied his talents and skills to everything that he has touched from the earliest days of his career—first as a neuroscientist, then as a surgeon, and, most importantly, as the pioneering developer of organ transplantation as a safe and effective remedy for many diseases and disorders. His imagination, courage, intellectual energy, and passion have changed the lives of countless patients,” said Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Starzl attended Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, where he earned a doctoral degree in neurobiology and a medical degree with distinction in 1952. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1999. Among Starzl’s other honors were his receipt of the 2004 National Medal of Science from President George W. Bush and the 2004 David M. Hume Memorial Award from the National Kidney Foundation. The Brookdale Award in Medicine from the American Medical Association, the Rhodos Medal from the American Philosophical Society, and honorary doctorates from universities worldwide.

At Pitt, Burke assembled and is leading an international team of epidemiologists and computer scientists who are evaluating pandemic influenza control strategies. Burke also has served on World Health Organization steering committees for HIV/AIDS vaccines and dengue vaccines, and as president of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. While at Johns Hopkins, he won the Golden Apple public health teaching award, and throughout his career, he has mentored students who have gone on to become leaders in infectious disease research and development worldwide. The ROM was established in 1970 by the National Academy of Sciences as a national resource for independent, informally based information and analysis, and for the development of public understanding and research on health issues. It provides unbiased, evidence-based information and assists policymakers, professionals, leaders in every sector of society, and the public at large.

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Donald S. Burke Elected To Institute of Medicine

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Donna Marie Callahan Elected To Serve on Pitt’s Board of Trustees

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Concerts

Celti Thunders, group performing eclectic mix ranging from Celtic to contemporary pop, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 20, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-624-6000, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Davidisherry, group performing original pieces and old-time and Irish tunes, 6 p.m. Oct. 21, The Cup & Chaucer Cafe, Hillman Library ground floor, University of Pittsburgh Library System, Calliope:


Exhibitions


“Cosmology and Inductive Inference: A Bayesian Fellowizer,” John D. Norton, professor, Pitt Department of History and Philosophy of Science, 12:05 p.m. Oct. 20, 817 R.Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Talk Series, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pitpc@pitt.edu.

“Time and freedom in Asian Film,” Tony Duij, adjunct professor of Asian history, Wesleyan University, 4 p.m. Oct. 20, 501 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Humanities and Asian Studies Centers, hunt@pitt.edu.


“Gender and Security in Post-conflict Liberia,” Prude Muder, graduate student in Pitt’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, noon Oct. 21, 2201 PPG Place, Pitt Women’s Studies Program, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, www.wss.pitt.edu.

“Sacred Law, Sacred Money: The Problem of Authority in the Early Greek Polis,” Jeremy McIntyre, Davidson Professor of Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 4:30 p.m. Oct. 21, 306 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of Classics, Archaeology and Philosophy of Science, www.carlotta.org, 8227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-685-7394, lavst12@pitt.edu.

Franklin Toker, professor of art and architecture and author will give lecture on his new book, Pittsburgh, A New Portrait (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009), 7 p.m., Oct. 21, Carnegie Music Hall, 5400 Forbes Ave, Oakland, 412-624-4564, blake@pitt.edu.


“Nationalism, Constitutionalism, and the Future of the European Union,” David Edward, former judge of the European Court of Justice, 6 p.m. Oct. 22, Teplitz Memorial Courtroom, Busch Law Building, Pitt Center for International Legal Education, School of Law, 412-648-7023, glclark@pitt.edu. (See page 3)


University of Pittsburgh Annual Teaching Excellence Awards, 3 p.m. Oct. 23, Oct. 24, Oct. 25, David Griska, professor of Women’s Studies Program, Office of Student Life, 412-648-7023, glclark@pitt.edu. (See page 3)


Opera/ Theater/ Dance


Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Hans Mattling, School of Arts and Sciences, defense of dissertation, 3 p.m. Oct. 19, 19, Room 526 Cathedral of Learning.

Miscellaneous


U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, Author of Americans With Disabilities Act, to Speak Oct. 26
Talk is part of Pitt’s Thornburgh Family Lecture Series in Disability Law and Policy

Harkin (D-IA) learned firsthand about the challenges facing people with disabilities from his late brother, Frank, who was deaf from an early age. Harkin took this knowledge to the U.S. Congress, where he made the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 his signature legislative achievement.

With physical and mental disabilities by requiring that they be afforded accessible buildings, transportation, and workplace accommodations. To preserve the intent of the ADA after several court rulings weakened standards, Harkin and 1962 Pitt law school alumnus Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) introduced the ADA Amendments bill to ensure that all Americans with disabilities are protected from discrimination; this bill was signed into law in September 2008.

Harkin also has spearheaded the fight to advance research in paralysis and improve the quality of life for people living with paralysis and mobility impairments from stroke, ALS, spinal cord injuries, and other causes. His Christopher and Dana Reeve Act, named after the late actor and his widow, became law earlier this year.

Last month, Harkin accepted the position of chair of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, succeeding late U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Harkin’s lecture has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board for 1.5 hours of CLE credit; registration is at the door. For more information on the lecture series, call 412-648-1490.

By Sharon S. Blake

The talk will be simulcast in Room 107 of the Barco Law Building. A question-and-answer session will follow.

Harkin’s lecture is part of the Thornburgh Family Lecture Series in Disability Law and Policy, is titled “Disability Rights: The Achievements and the Unfinished Agenda.” The lecture is cosponsored by the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy.

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With physical and mental disabilities by requiring that they be afforded accessible buildings, transportation, and workplace accommodations. To preserve the intent of the ADA after several court rulings weakened standards, Harkin and 1962 Pitt law school alumnus Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) introduced the ADA Amendments bill to ensure that all Americans with disabilities are protected from discrimination; this bill was signed into law in September 2008.

Harkin also has spearheaded the fight to advance research in paralysis and improve the quality of life for people living with paralysis and mobility impairments from stroke, ALS, spinal cord injuries, and other causes. His Christopher and Dana Reeve Act, named after the late actor and his widow, became law earlier this year.

Last month, Harkin accepted the position of chair of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, succeeding late U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Harkin’s lecture has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board for 1.5 hours of CLE credit; registration is at the door. For more information on the lecture series, call 412-648-1490.

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