

## Nordenberg Given 2009 Presidential Leadership Award By The Gordie Foundation, Outside the Classroom



Mark A. Nordenberg

The Gordie Foundation (TGF) and Outside the Classroom (OTC) named Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg the 2009 recipient of the Presidential Leadership Award during a Nov. 2 ceremony in Pitt's University Club. The \$50,000 award

recognizes the chancellor's "success in promoting a vibrant intellectual and social campus climate that de-emphasizes the role of alcohol," noted TGF and OTC's official announcement of the honor.

"Through the strong support of school administrators and spreading awareness campus to campus, we can significantly reduce the amount of alcohol-related deaths," said Leslie Lanahan, founder of the Gordie Foundation. "The highly effective campus programs that Chancellor Nordenberg has set in place provide a great foundation for other schools to create their own plans of educating students about the dangers of alcohol."

"Under the leadership of Chancellor Nordenberg, the University of Pittsburgh has experienced significant progress addressing student alcohol misuse in recent years," according to the TGF-OTC announcement, which pointed out Pitt's most recent outreach programs, including the PantherWELL peer health education program, featuring student-to-student programming; Alcohol Task Force, leading to a new student recreation area, serving as an alternative location to night clubs and bars; and the launch of two successful public awareness campaigns when the campus men's basketball team advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament, encouraging students to

celebrate responsibly. "These efforts led to a 61 percent increase in students who reported receiving information from the university on alcohol," the announcement added.

"We are glad to see the visibility of high-risk drinking raised through the recent conversation among college presidents," said Brandon Busteed, founder and CEO of OTC. "On behalf of all of the participating organizations, I want to congratulate Chancellor Nordenberg for his vision and implementation of programs and policies that have helped create a campus community less defined by alcohol."

The Presidential Leadership Award was developed by six major higher education organizations, including TGF, OTC, the American College Personnel Association, the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, and United Educators. The award, funded by TGF and OTC, carries a \$50,000 donation made to the university or college in the name of the recipient.

For nearly a decade, OTC has been committed to strengthening the field of alcohol prevention by providing institutional leaders and their students with the information needed to develop well-informed, cost-effective strategies for

*Continued on page 6*

## Louis M. Gomez Named Senior Partner in Carnegie Foundation Program

By Patricia Lomando White

Louis M. Gomez, professor and Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education in the University of Pittsburgh School of Education, has been named one of only five senior partners for a new program of work at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The new program "will seek to tackle some of the most nettlesome problems affecting the educational success of a large number of our nation's students," according to the foundation's announcement of the senior partners' appointments. "The first problem it will address is the high failure rates among students in developmental mathematics in community colleges."

Gomez is the inaugural holder of the Faison Chair, the first director of Pitt's Center for Urban Education, and a senior scientist in Pitt's Learning Research and Development Center.



Louis M. Gomez

"Professor Gomez brings to his work the unique combination of preparation in cognitive science research, involvement in urban education practice, experience in the uses of classroom technology to promote learning, and knowledge of the most forward-looking components of the information economy," said Alan Lesgold, School of Education dean. "He is an obvious choice for the Carnegie Foundation's effort, and we are fortunate to have him at Pitt."

The others selected as senior partners to guide the development of the Carnegie's new program agenda are Magdalene Lampert, the George Herbert Mead Collegiate Professor in Education, University of Michigan; James W. Stigler, professor of psychology, University of California, Los Angeles; Uri Treisman, director of the Charles A. Dana Center and professor of mathematics and public affairs at the University of Texas; and Guadalupe Valdés, the Bonnie Katz Tenenbaum Professor of Education, Stanford University.

*Continued on page 3*

## Pitt's New Seismic Station Connects Region With Global Network Of Scientists Unraveling Earth's Structure

By Morgan Kelly

A seismic station newly installed at the University of Pittsburgh's Allegheny Observatory revives Pitt's long-dormant work in seismology and—as the region's only seismic station—unites Western Pennsylvania with a global network of scientists aiming to better understand the Earth's structure.

Maintained by the Department of Geology and Planetary Science in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, Pitt's installation boasts a highly sensitive seismograph—a heavy steel canister that must be perfectly level—that can detect as little as a half-nanometer-per-second displacement of the Earth's crust caused by earthquakes anywhere in the world. (The seismograph also senses tremors generated by large waves, storms, explosions, and mine collapses.) Pitt feeds its earthquake readings into the public database of the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS), a consortium of universities sponsored by the National Science Foundation that pools and analyzes seismic data.

Pitt professor of geophysics William Harbert, who oversees the seismic station, said that the Pitt station's record of ground-trembling events elsewhere reveals details about the Earth's internal structure and how landmasses are linked. Shortly after Pitt's station came online, Harbert said, it detected a rumbling 18 kilometers (11 miles) beneath Pittsburgh that radiated from a 6.2-magnitude earthquake that

shook Alaska's Aleutian Islands—nearly 4,000 miles away—on Oct. 12.

"When combined with information about the same earthquake from around the world, our record would help capture the complexities of the Earth's composition," Harbert said. "The goal of IRIS is to establish as dense a concentration of data stations as possible. Pitt's station fills in a data gap and places us in a group of universities and institutions responsible for providing the accounts seismologists need to know how seismic activity in one area of the world resonates everywhere."

The Allegheny Observatory station restores a 70-year-old legacy of seismic research at Pitt. At the behest of the late Pitt Chancellor John Bowman, the Cathedral of Learning originally housed an earth-floor "seismic vault" equipped with a state-of-the-art seismograph constructed at the California Institute of Technology. The antiquated apparatus was dismantled several decades ago, and the site currently stores artifacts for Pitt's Nationality Rooms.

The new station—identified on IRIS as "UPAO"—hooks into two IRIS networks: The REALTIME network of nearly 1,900 stations around the world that instantly displays earthquake data, and the US-REGIONAL network based at Pennsylvania State University that includes approximately 2,000 stations in the United States and Puerto Rico. Pitt belongs to a five-station subnetwork that also includes seismic stations at the Pennsylvania

Geological Survey near Harrisburg, on the Penn State campus and at a Penn State substation outside of Philadelphia, and at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

Relevant to Pittsburgh, the Pitt station can indicate how events several thousand miles away manifest locally and what that signifies about Pittsburgh's geology, Harbert said. In addition, he will focus the station's capabilities on more local activity such as storms on the Great Lakes and the East Coast, as well as such new research areas as determining the possible consequences of underground carbon sequestration.

"There are questions we can answer, from 'How many small earthquakes have occurred in this area that the national network didn't pick up?' to whether we'll create small earthquakes by pumping carbon into the ground and displacing the soil," he said. "There is so much we can learn about our region because of this."

Pitt's seismograph also will be used in education. An ongoing project between Pitt and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History seeks to eventually have information from Pitt's seismograph displayed in the museum. Harbert also will use the station's readings in his geophysics classes to demonstrate how scientists determine the location and magnitude of earthquakes.

More information on and data from Pitt's seismic station is available on the IRIS Web site at [www.iris.edu/mda/PE/UPAO](http://www.iris.edu/mda/PE/UPAO).



# BrieflyNoted



## Listeners Can Vote for Pitt 92.1 WPTS in College Radio Station Competition

The University of Pittsburgh's radio station, 92.1 WPTS—Pittsburgh's Progressive FM, has been selected as one of the top five finalists competing for the mtvU Woodie Award for Best College Radio Station.

Listeners and supporters can vote for WPTS via [www.mtv.com/ontv/woodieawards/2009/college-radio-woodie/](http://www.mtv.com/ontv/woodieawards/2009/college-radio-woodie/) through Nov. 9. The winner will be announced Nov. 18.

Established in 1984, WPTS evolved from the AM station WPGH, which was established in 1958 by a group of students led by Pitt alumnus Adrian Cronauer (A&S '59), who was the inspiration for Robin Williams' character in *Good Morning Vietnam*.

Pitt's radio station is competing against radio stations from Ball State University; California State University, San Bernardino; University of Missouri; and University of Puget Sound.

—Kristin Shearer

## Lecture on Forensic Science, Weapons of Mass Destruction

Forensic science has long been known for its role in solving crimes, but it has recently been playing an increasingly important role in the investigation and prosecution of incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. The University of Pittsburgh's Center for National Preparedness will present this issue during a lecture titled "Forensic Science and Weapons of Mass Destruction" at 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, in Room 532 Alumni Hall.

The lecture will be delivered by Randall S. Murch, the associate director of the Center for Technology, Security, and Policy at Virginia Tech and the former deputy director of the FBI Laboratory.

The event, which will be followed by a reception, is free and open to the public, but reservations are recommended by visiting [www.cnp.pitt.edu/seminar](http://www.cnp.pitt.edu/seminar).

—Shannon Scannell



Randall S. Murch

## C.D. Wright to Speak at Pitt Nov. 5

Critically acclaimed poet C.D. Wright will give her perspective of the past, present, and future of poetry during an interview titled "The Future of Poetry I," at 8:30 p.m. Nov. 5 in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. Pitt English professor Dawn Lundy Martin will conduct the interview; Wright also will read selections from her poetry. The event is part of the Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series' 2009-10 season.

The interview will focus on Wright's experiences as a writer, how her work has evolved, and the events that shaped her poetry. The discussion also will examine the ever-changing landscape of the genre and those who contribute to it.

Wright is the author of a dozen books, including *Rising, Falling, Hovering* (Copper Canyon Press, 2008), which won the 2009 Griffin Poetry Prize. Her poems and essays have appeared in such literary magazines as *American Letters & Commentary*, *Arshile*, and *Conjunctions*. Among Wright's numerous honors and distinctions are fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

All events in the Writers Series are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jeff Oaks at [oaks@pitt.edu](mailto:oaks@pitt.edu) or visit [www.english.pitt.edu](http://www.english.pitt.edu).

—Anthony M. Moore



## Nordenberg Lecture In Law, Medicine, and Psychiatry to Focus on Genetic Testing

Gail H. Javitt will deliver the annual Mark A. Nordenberg Lecture in Law, Medicine, and Psychiatry, titled "Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing," at noon Nov. 5 in the University of Pittsburgh Barco Law Building's Teplitz Memorial Courtroom.

Javitt is counsel in Sidley Austin LLP's food and drug regulatory division and a research scholar in the Berman Institute of Bioethics at Johns Hopkins University. She previously served as the law and policy director at the Genetics and Public Policy Center at Johns Hopkins University. At the center, she was responsible for developing policy options to guide the development and use of reproductive technologies and is currently leading an initiative to improve oversight of genetic-testing quality.

Javitt has served as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Maryland School of Law, where she has taught food and drug law and genetics law. She was a Greenwall Fellow in Bioethics and Health Policy at Georgetown University and Johns Hopkins University, where she cotaught health law and regulation at the School of Public Health.

The lecture, named for Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, former dean of Pitt's law school, is approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board for one hour of substantive CLE credit. Registration is available at the door. There is a \$25 fee to obtain CLE credit, with a check made payable to the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. For more information, call 412-647-5700 or e-mail [bioethic@pitt.edu](mailto:bioethic@pitt.edu).

—Kristin Shearer

## Pitt's Model U.N. Program Set for Nov. 9

Approximately 430 students from 26 high schools will participate in the University of Pittsburgh's 13th Annual Model United Nations Simulation from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 9 in the William Pitt Union.

Students participating in the Model U.N. assume the role of diplomats and participate in mock sessions of bodies of the United Nations, including the Human Rights Council, the Environment Programme, the novice-level Development Programme, the Economic and Financial Committee, the Security Council, and the Disarmament and International Security Council. Each school delegation is assigned a country to represent in the negotiations, and this year, 49 countries will be represented. To prepare for the event, students research their assigned countries' positions on a number of real-world issues.

Participants will discuss such issues as instability in the Asian subcontinent, chaos in Haiti, high-seas piracy, nuclear proliferation, volatile commodity prices, offshore banking, clean water and sanitation, urban sprawl, alternative energy, persistent organic pollutants, slavery, and prisoners' rights.

For more information, visit [www.pitt.edu/~modelun](http://www.pitt.edu/~modelun) or contact Luz Amanda Hank at 412-648-7394 or [modelun@pitt.edu](mailto:modelun@pitt.edu).

—Kristin Shearer



Gail H. Javitt

## Katz's J. Jeffrey Inman To Discuss Consumer Marketing

With the downturn in the economy, it is especially important for marketing specialists to understand consumers' "path to purchase" and how to effectively leverage that information into strategies at the shelf.

J. Jeffrey Inman, the Albert Wesley Frey Professor of Marketing in Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, is a leading researcher in consumer marketing. At 7:30 a.m.

Nov. 10, he will discuss the latest trends and topics in consumer marketing and highlight 10 conclusions from his latest research.

The event, which is part of the Katz School's Pittsburgh Executive Series, will be held on the fifth floor of Alumni Hall. Registration is required. To register or for more information, contact Linda Anderson at 412-648-1608 or [landerson@katz.pitt.edu](mailto:landerson@katz.pitt.edu).

—Amanda Leff



## PittChronicle

Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Robert Hill
<b>ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER</b>	John Harvith
<b>EXECUTIVE EDITOR</b>	Linda K. Schmittmeyer
<b>EDITOR</b>	Jane-Ellen Robinet
<b>ART DIRECTOR</b>	Gary Cravener William Ivins
<b>STAFF WRITERS</b>	Sharon S. Blake John Fedele Morgan Kelly Amanda Leff Anthony M. Moore Patricia Lomando White
<b>CONTRIBUTING WRITERS</b>	Shannon Scannell Kristin Shearer Anita Srikameswaran
<b>HAPPENINGS EDITOR</b>	Baindu Saidu

The *Pitt Chronicle* is published throughout the year by University News and Magazines, University of Pittsburgh, 400 Craig Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Phone: 412-624-1033, Fax: 412-624-4895, E-mail: [chron@pitt.edu](mailto:chron@pitt.edu) Web: [www.chronicle.pitt.edu](http://www.chronicle.pitt.edu)

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution that does not discriminate upon any basis prohibited by law.



# Pitt Trustees' Property and Facilities Committee Approves \$15 Million in Construction

By John Fedele

A new residence hall for the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford campus and a new wellness center for the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown campus are the highlights of \$15 million in construction projects approved Oct. 30 by the Property and Facilities Committee of Pitt's Board of Trustees. In addition, the committee approved the purchase of the property at 315 Oakland Ave. in Oakland for \$1.395 million for eventual conversion into undergraduate student apartments. The construction projects are expected to generate 80 on-site jobs and 32 support jobs.

The Bradford campus' three-story residence hall will cost \$5.42 million and house 103 students. The building, with 30,300 gross square feet, will consist of 20 two-bedroom, 3 three-bedroom, and 4 one-bedroom suites. The project is expected to be completed by August 2010.

"Because the Bradford campus has met its long-term enrollment goal of 1,500 full-time equivalent students and because changing student demographics have increased the number of traditional-age students from beyond commuting distance, Pitt-Bradford has an increased demand for on-campus residence facilities," said Pitt Executive Vice Chancellor Jerome Cochran. "The new facility will provide students with an appropriate on-campus experience and aid in future recruitment."

The new construction at the Johnstown campus, part of the University's 12-year facilities plan, will be a 38,000-gross-square-foot multipurpose wellness and

recreation center that will cost \$9.66 million. The facility will include a multipurpose gymnasium, an elevated three-lane running track, a fitness center with weight and cardiovascular exercise equipment, a climbing wall, and two combination classroom/dance/exercise rooms, as well as public restrooms and office space. The project is expected to be completed by December 2010.

"The wellness center will provide a much-needed recreational and social space that has been long identified as a priority by Johnstown campus students," said Cochran. "The current facilities are limited and over-capacity, given the demands posed by intercollegiate athletics, educational instruction, and intramural activity. The new facility also will be important for the Johnstown campus to satisfy the needs of its current resident students and achieve its enrollment targets."

In addition, the committee approved the purchase of the three-quarter-acre parcel of land at 315 Oakland Ave., located directly next to Pitt's Bouquet Gardens residences. The property has a 2.5-story, 5,000-square-foot building that, most recently, was used as offices. A closing by the end of December is anticipated.

"The University believes that the land is well suited for additional undergraduate student apartments. We are conducting zoning and design studies to advance the necessary planning for the project," said Cochran.

## Gomez Is Senior Partner in Carnegie Foundation Program

Continued from page 1

"With the help of these partners, each of whom brings expertise to the work, Carnegie will convene the right mix of practitioners, researchers, social entrepreneurs, policy makers, and other stakeholders—including students—to map the dimensions of a problem, identify promising solutions, and advocate and support the efforts of a community engaged in continuous evidence-based improvement," Carnegie President Anthony S. Bryk said. "These five partners will be integral to these efforts."

Gomez has worked with Bryk to develop a new approach to education research and development, Design-Educational Engineering-and-Development (DEED). According to the Carnegie Foundation's announcement of Gomez' appointment, "isolated, short-term projects at a few sites must give way to longer-term, cooperative initiatives that move through repeated cycles of problem diagnosis, design, assessment, and redesign—a process carefully attuned to the variations among sites and circumstances in which improvements must take root. The DEED approach is based on the notion that it is not sufficient to know that a program or innovation can work, but how to make it work reliably over many diverse contexts and situations."

Prior to joining Pitt in January 2009, Gomez was Aon Professor of Learning Sciences and professor of computer science at Northwestern University. He also served as Learning Sciences Program coordinator at Northwestern, working with school communities to create social arrangements and curricula to support school improvement. He was a codirector of the National Science Foundation-sponsored Center for Learning Technologies in Urban Schools (LeTUS), a partnership comprising the Chicago Public Schools, the Detroit Public Schools, the University of Michigan, and Northwestern.

He is a member of the National Advisory Committee of the Math and Science Partnership, Knowledge, Management, and Dissemination Project; the external advisory

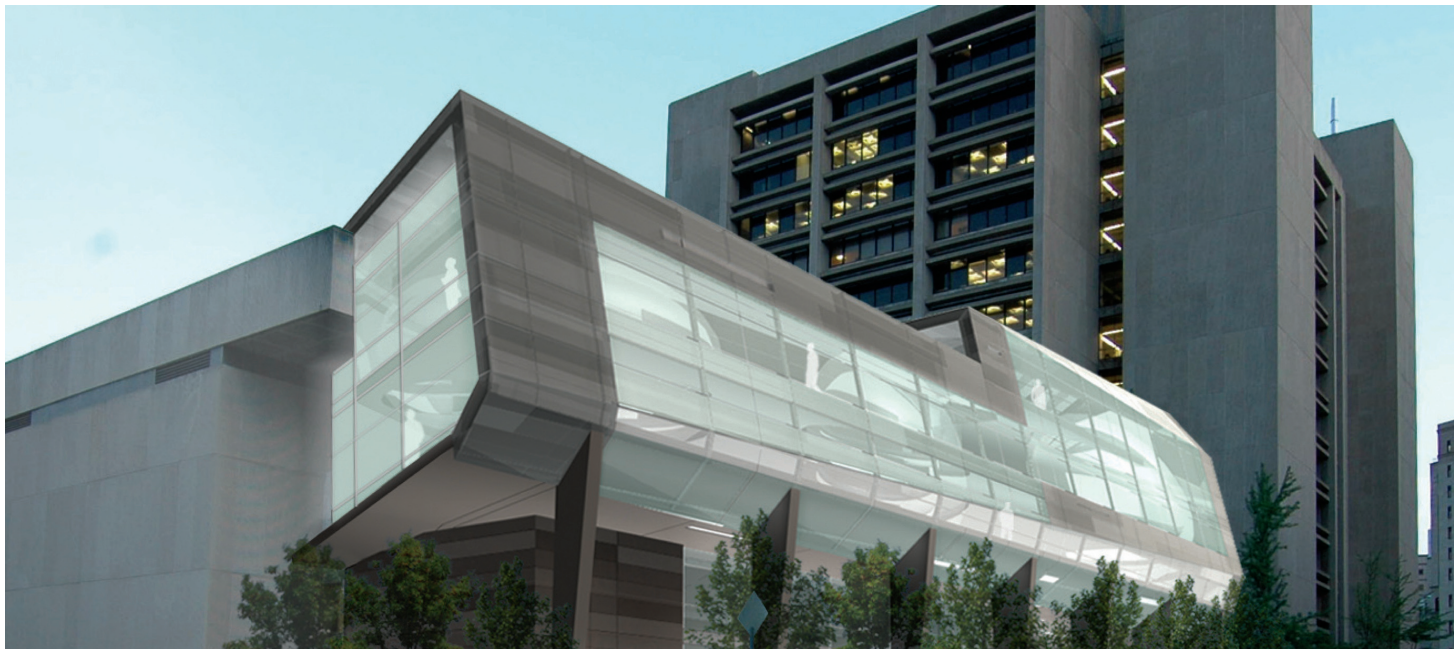
board of the Center for the Advancement of Engineering Education at the University of Washington; the MacArthur Foundation Teaching and Learning Planning Network; the board of directors of CAST (Center for Applied Special Technology); and the board of trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He also serves as a member of the National Research Council's Center for Education and the Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center.

Among Gomez' publications are "Supporting Meaningful Science Learning: Reading and Writing Science" with coauthors in A. Rodriguez' *Science Education as a Pathway to Teaching Language Literacy* (Rotterdam, Netherlands: SENSE Publishing, in press); *The Role of Research in Educational Improvement*, with coauthors (Harvard Education Press, 2009); "Creating Social Relationships: The Role of Technology in Pre-Service Teacher Preparation" with coauthors in the *Journal of Teacher Education* (2008); and, with Kimberley Gomez, "Reading for Learning: Literacy Supports for 21st Century Work" in *Phi Delta Kappan* (2007) and "Preparing Young Learners for the 21st Century: Reading and Writing to Learn in Science," *Invitational Paper Series of the Minority Student Achievement Network* (2007).

Gomez received the BA degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1974 and the PhD degree in cognitive psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1979.

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905 and chartered in 1906 by an act of Congress, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center. Its current mission is to support needed transformations in American education through tighter connections between teaching practice, evidence of student learning, the communication and use of this evidence, and structured opportunities to build knowledge.

# Swanson School Nuclear Engineering Program Wins \$400,000 Grant From NRC



Benedum Hall, which houses the Swanson School of Engineering

By Morgan Kelly

The Swanson School of Engineering's nuclear engineering program won a coveted \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to back two graduate fellowships, which will help bolster the academic research component of

Pitt's nearly three-year-old program. As the only nuclear engineering track in Western Pennsylvania, the program already is noted for teaching and training aspiring engineers in nuclear operations and safety by working closely with the region's uniquely high

concentration of nuclear engineering experts at such companies as Bechtel Bettis, Westinghouse Electric Company, and FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company, which operates the Beaver Valley Power Station nuclear power plant in Shippingport, Pa.

The NRC grant will support two PhD students with \$50,000 a year for four years; the students will be enrolled in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science's (MEMS) doctoral program. Under the guidance of MEMS professor and William Kepler Whiteford Faculty Fellow Jorg Wiezorek, the students will work to develop a more quantitative and mechanistic understanding of the degradation of the austenitic stainless steels used in constructing nuclear reactors. Graduate fellows will collaborate with Westinghouse and have access to the unique materials-testing facilities of Westinghouse's Science and Technology Center. Fellowship applications will be accepted and reviewed until the positions are filled.

The fellowship grant marks the third time the NRC has recognized Pitt's nuclear engineering program with substantial funding. In August 2008, the program received grants totaling \$650,000 to bolster its undergraduate and graduate certificate programs. Since 2007, the NRC has provided \$400,000 to create a distance-learning portion for the graduate certificate, a unique aspect of Pitt's program that is geared toward students across Pennsylvania and offers further education to nuclear engineers already in the workplace. Directed by Larry Foulke, a noted 40-year veteran of the nuclear industry, Pitt's program was established to answer the growing demand for nuclear engineers.



# Homecoming2009



MIKE DRAZITSKY/C/DIDE



JIM BURKE/C/DIDE

Pittsburgh was alive with the sights and sounds of dancing, dining, discussions, celebrations, football, and fireworks during the Oct. 22-25 Pitt Homecoming 2009. **1.** The Pitt Program Council's Oct. 23 fireworks and laser show lit up the skies of Oakland. **2 and 3.** The University's African American Alumni Council (AAAC) celebrated its Sankofa Homecoming Weekend, marking the many strides in diversity that Pitt has made over the past four decades. Honored during an Oct. 24 AAAC Banquet Gala in Alumni Hall's Connelly Ballroom were seven Pitt graduates who were named Distinguished African American Alumni. Standing with Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (back row, far right) are, from left, Robert Agbede (ENGR '79, '81G), Bernard Mack (A&S '88), Pitt Trustee William E. Strickland Jr. (A&S '70), and Gregory Randall Spencer (CGS '80). Front row, from left, are Rachel Poole (NURS '47, '52G, EDUC '77G), Linda Wharton-Boyd (A&S '72, '75G, '79G), Noma Bennett Anderson (SHRS '79G), and Nadine Frye (NURS '47, '51G; EDUC '87G). (Wharton-Boyd, AAAC's president, presented the awards.) **4.** Pitt's School of Nursing held its 50+ Luncheon on Oct. 23 in the Victoria Building. Pictured are members of the nursing school's class of 1959, from left: Evelyn Ramming, Beverly Benz Hogan, Janet Uplinger, Monretta Davis Aarons, Vail Watson Jackson, Jane Way, Megan Lewis McDonald, Shirley Powe Smith, Elizabeth Nicholson Ivey, and Margaret Park Tait. **5.** Dan Thomas and Dalya Akyuz were chosen as Homecoming King and Queen.



JIM BURKE/C/DIDE



CARMON RINEHART





MIKE DRAZDZINSKI/C/DDE



MIKE DRAZDZINSKI/C/DDE



**1.** Pitt's Joe Thomas, No. 56, lifts teammate Dion Lewis following another Pitt touchdown during the Oct. 24 Homecoming game against South Florida University at Heinz Field. The Panthers won 41-14. **2.** Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and Linda Wharton-Boyd, president of Pitt's African American Alumni Council, view the Historical Exhibition of African American Progress at Pitt, located in Hillman Library. **3 and 4.** Alumni reconnected with one another during the Oct. 23 Welcome Back Reception in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. The Pitt Men's Glee Club, directed by Richard Teaster, entertained the guests. **5.** Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg presented Pitt's 2009 Legacy Laureates with their awards during an Oct. 22 dinner and reception. From left, Nordenberg; Legacy Laureate Wen-Ta Chiu; Juan Chiu, his wife; and Chingche Jason Chiu, their son, who is a student in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health. There was also a panel discussion among Legacy Laureates prior to the dinner. Pitt's other 2009 Legacy Laureates are Charles I. Berlin, Christine L. Borgman, Anthony N. Civello, Frank B. Fuhrer Jr., Margaret Grey, Theresa A. Guise, John A. Jurenko, Richard B. Nelson, H. Lee

Noble, James H. McCormick, and Hal K. Wrigley.

**6.** A group of AAAC members and supporters participated in the AAAC's annual community service effort, The Appleseed Project, and made a visit to Reizenstein Middle School in East Liberty. Among the adults who participated were Maurita Bryant (center with white tag), assistant chief of the Pittsburgh City Police; to the right of her, Deborah Walker, assistant to the dean in Pitt's Office of Student Affairs; and to the right of Walker, Tina Spivey Randell (EDUC '79, '80G). In the back row, second from left, Pittsburgh Police Sgt. Amanda Alridge; center back, retired Pittsburgh Police Detective Tyrone Dickey; and to the right of him, Tim Blackshear (A&S '82). **7.** Members of Pitt's Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity as well as other Black Greek organizations participated in the Oct. 23 *Steppin' Back in Time . . . Moving in the Future* event in Alumni Hall.



MARY JANE BENTY/C/DDE



JOE KAPLEWSKI/C/DDE



MIKE DRAZDZINSKI/C/DDE



CARMON RINEHART



# Eva Tansky Blum, Toi Derricotte Named Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania

Pitt alumnus and trustee Eva Tansky Blum and noted poet, author, and Pitt Professor of English Toi Derricotte have been named Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania by Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell and First Lady Judge Marjorie O. Rendell. Blum and Derricotte were two of eight women recognized by the Rendells Oct. 21 as Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania for their contributions to a variety of fields.

Blum (A&S '70, LAW '73) is senior vice president and director of community affairs at PNC Bank and chair of the PNC Foundation. In this role, Blum directs the company's philanthropic programs, including PNC Grow Up Great, a 10-year, \$100 million program that was launched in 2004 to support quality early-childhood education. Actively involved in her alma mater, Blum, who received the Pitt Volunteer of the Year award in 1990, is a member of the Pitt Board of Trustees' Executive and Institutional Advancement committees, chairs the board's Student Affairs Committee, and cochairs Pitt's \$2 billion Building Our Future Together capital campaign, the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of both Pitt and Western Pennsylvania; to date, the campaign has raised more than \$1.4 billion in support. She also serves on the Pitt School of Law Board of Visitors and is past president and a life member of the Pitt Alumni Association. She was one of 12 "Phenomenal (Pitt) Women" featured by *Pitt Magazine* in its Winter 2009 issue, was the 2001 recipient of the Carlow College Women of Spirit Award, was named in 1999 one of Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business by former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, and was honored with the YWCA Tribute to Women Award in 1998.

A Pitt faculty member since 1998, Derricotte is cofounder and director of Cave Canem, the first workshop/retreat committed



Eva Tansky Blum

to the discovery and cultivation of new voices in African American poetry. She is the author of more than a thousand poems in published anthologies and journals as well as the books of poetry *The Empress of the Death House* (1978), *Natural Birth* (1983), *Captivity* (1989), and *Tender* (1997), winner of the 1998 Paterson Poetry Prize. Her literary memoir *The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey* (1999) was a recipient of the 1998 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association Nonfiction Award; was nominated for the PEN Martha Albrand Award for the Art of the Memoir; and was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. She has won numerous other awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, two fellowships in poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts, two Pushcart Prizes, and the first Dudley Randall Award for National



Toi Derricotte

Contributions to Literature. Derricotte earned her BA degree in special education at Wayne State University in 1965 and the MA degree in English literature and creative writing at New York University in 1984.

"This year's Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania have done extraordinary work in many different capacities," the governor said. "Their contributions to Pennsylvania and the nation have benefited everything from academics to athletics, the arts to the military, as well as businesses and communities. I am grateful for the work that these women have done on our behalf to strengthen our state and the quality of life for so many residents."

"It is a privilege to honor the dedication and commitment of these extraordinary women of Pennsylvania," said Marjorie Rendell. "Their legacy of leadership is making a difference across the state."

## Nordenberg Given 2009 Presidential Leadership Award

*Continued from page 1*

reducing alcohol-related risk and preventing harm. Today, the organization's flagship educational program, AlcoholEdu® for College, is used on hundreds of campuses and by 36 percent of all first-year students at America's higher education institutions. In 2008, OTC launched The Alcohol Prevention Coalition to take on the larger scope of the work— providing institutionwide solutions to the key challenges threatening effective alcohol prevention. All of OTC's programs are developed under the leadership of national prevention expert William DeJong. For more information, visit [www.outsidetheclassroom.com](http://www.outsidetheclassroom.com).

The Gordie Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing today's young people with the skills to navigate the dangers of alcohol, binge drinking, peer pressure, and hazing. TGF was founded by parents Leslie and Michael Lanahan after the loss of their son Gordie Bailey because of an alcohol overdose following a fraternity hazing incident. Since its inception, the foundation has established nearly 150 Circle of Trust Chapters on college and university campuses across the country. Other outreach initiatives of the foundation include National GORDIEday, GORDIEgolf Classic, speaking engagements, partnerships with like-minded organizations, and screenings of "HAZE" the movie ([www.hazethemovie.com](http://www.hazethemovie.com)). The film, which includes an introduction by the foundation's honorary chair and national spokesperson, Robin Wright Penn, was screened at the 2009 BendFilm Festival, the 2009 Indie Spirit Film Festival (where it received the Director's Choice Award), the 2009 Newport International Film Festival, the AFI DALLAS International Film Festival, and the 2008 Hamptons Film Festival. For more information, visit [www.gordie.org](http://www.gordie.org).

## Awards & More



Mary Besterfield-Sacre

**Mary Besterfield-Sacre** and **Joseph McCarthy**, two professors in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, are among 49 young engineering researchers and educators selected to present their novel approaches to engineering education at the National Academy of Engineering's (NAE) inaugural Frontiers of Engineering Education (FOEE) symposium, scheduled for Nov. 15-18 in Herndon, Va.

Besterfield-Sacre, a professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering



Joseph McCarthy

and Fulton C. Noss Faculty Fellow, will discuss her current project to develop a tool for evaluating team-based design processes and the factors that result in a quality design and prototype. Besterfield-Sacre has designed several models for evaluating engineering student learning. In addition, she developed the Pittsburgh Freshman Engineering Attitudes Survey to measure students' perspectives on engineering and their confidence is pursuing an engineering career. The survey is widely used in engineering schools to predict which students will complete engi-

neering programs in good standing.

McCarthy, a professor and William Kepler Whiteford Faculty Fellow in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, created a block-scheduled engineering curriculum intended to increase student motivation and help students understand the interconnectedness of their discipline. Instead of loading students with a variety of smaller chemical engineering classes each semester, McCarthy's model breaks the discipline into six "pillars"—or main courses—and presents one pillar per semester as a two-hour class, five days a week. McCarthy will explain that after seven years in practice, the expanded class time and integrated laboratory experiences have resulted in more hands-on student experiences, an increase in student-assessment scores, and better professor-student interactions.

**Karen VanderVen**, professor in the University of Pittsburgh Department of Psychology in Education in Pitt's School of Education, received the LifeTime Achievement Award from the Academy of Child and Youth Care Professionals. VanderVen's interests include early childhood education with a special focus on play, professionalization of early childhood and child and youth work, leadership development, the developmental role of

activity, practical strategies for activity programming, and intergenerational and life-span practices. VanderVen earned an AB degree in psychology at Vassar College and an MS degree in child development and child care and a PhD degree in education at Pitt.

**Nicole Bourbonnais**, a doctoral candidate in the University of Pittsburgh Department of History in the School of Arts and Sciences, has been awarded a doctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada for her research, which traces the history and evolution of family planning in the Caribbean.

Bourbonnais, who received a bachelor's degree in history from the University of British Columbia, studies Caribbean and Latin American history at Pitt. She will receive \$20,000 Canadian (about \$18,000 U.S.) per annum for four years while she is enrolled in the doctoral program. Bourbonnais' experience as a sex-education project volunteer in 2003 for Youth Challenge International, a Toronto-based nongovernmental aid organization in Guyana, sparked her personal and scholarly interest in the region.



# Happenings



**C.D. Wright**  
Interview with poet and a reading, 8:30 p.m. Nov. 5

**Frick Art & Historical Center, *Icons of American Photography, A Century of Photographs From the Cleveland Museum of Art*, through Jan. 3,** 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-0600, [www.frickarts.org](http://www.frickarts.org).

**Mattress Factory Museum, *Gestures: An Exhibition of Small Site-specific Works*, through Jan. 10,** 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, 412-231-3169, [www.mattress.org](http://www.mattress.org).

**Pittsburgh Glass Center, Sheila Klein's *The Return*, through Jan. 20,** 5472 Penn Ave., Garfield, 412-365-2145, [www.pittsburghglasscenter.org](http://www.pittsburghglasscenter.org).

**Andy Warhol Museum, *Unnatural Rubber; Super Trash; Shepard Fairey: Supply & Demand*, all through Jan. 31,** 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, [www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org).

**Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art, the Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton Collection*, art exhibition, through June 30,** Carnegie Mellon University, 5th floor, Hunt Library, 4909 Frew St., Oakland, 412-268-2434, [www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu](http://www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu).

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**"Thucydides Rector: Pericles' Speech in Indirect Discourse,"** Edith Foster, assistant professor of history, Ashland University, 4 p.m. **Nov. 2**, 208B Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of Classics, 412-624-4494, [www.classics.pitt.edu](http://www.classics.pitt.edu).

**Tom Wolfe**, author, 7:30 p.m. **Nov. 2**, Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Drue Heinz Lecture Series, 412-622-8866, [www.pittsburghlectures.org](http://www.pittsburghlectures.org).

**"The Idea of France in the Middle Ages and Renaissance,"** Colloquium with lectures from Daisy Delogu, assistant professor of French, University of Chicago, and Katherine Crawford, associate professor in Vanderbilt University's Department of History, 2:30 p.m. **Nov. 3**, 501 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures, Pitt Humanities Center, 412-624-5221, [www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu](http://www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu).

**"Eating Habits: An Ethnographic Study of Social Food in Female Catholic Religious Life,"** Emily Bailey, graduate student in Pitt's Department of Religious Studies, noon **Nov. 4**, 2201 Posvar Hall, Pitt Women's Studies Program, [www.wstudies.pitt.edu](http://www.wstudies.pitt.edu).

**"The Masaryk Papers,"** Cynthia Maleski, attorney, 1 p.m. **Nov. 4**, 4217 Posvar Hall, Pitt Center for Russian and East European Studies, Pitt Nationality Rooms, [www.ucis.pitt.edu](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu).

**"Gender and the Medieval/Renaissance French Nation,"** Colloquium led by Daisy Delogu, assistant professor of French, University of Chicago, and Katherine Crawford, associate professor in Vanderbilt University's Department of History, 2:30 p.m. **Nov. 4**, Babcock Room, 40th floor, Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures, Humanities Center, 412-624-5221, [www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu](http://www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu).

**"Dendritic Macromolecules for Energy and Environmental Issues,"** Takuzo Aida, professor, University of Tokyo's Department of Chemistry and Biotechnology, 4 p.m. **Nov. 4**, 169 Crawford Hall, 30th Annual Bayer Lectures, Pitt Department of Chemistry, [www.chem.pitt.edu](http://www.chem.pitt.edu).

**"Macro-Histories: Two Bridges for Two Gaps,"** Diego Olstein, World History Center Visiting Scholar, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 4 p.m. **Nov. 4**, 3703 Posvar Hall, Pitt Department of History, [www.history.pitt.edu](http://www.history.pitt.edu).

**"Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing,"** Gail Javitt, counsel, Sidley Austin LLP, and research scholar, Johns Hopkins University's Berman Institute of Bioethics, noon **Nov. 5**, Teplitz Courtroom, ground floor, Barco Law Building, Mark A. Nordenberg Lecture in Law, Medicine, and Psychiatry, Pitt School of Law, Center for Bioethics and Health Law, 412-647-5700. (See page 2)



**Lee Mun Wah, 1 p.m. Nov. 5**

**"Unlearning Racism in School,"** faculty/staff workshop session with Lee Mun Wah, filmmaker, author, educator, and diversity trainer, 1 p.m. **Nov. 5**, William Pitt Union Assembly Room, Pitt Office of Cross-Cultural and Leadership Development, 412-648-0124, [hallt@pitt.edu](mailto:hallt@pitt.edu).

**"Inside the Business of Music,"** Charlie Fishman, president and executive producer of the DC Jazz Festival, 7 p.m. **Nov. 5**, Heinz Memorial Chapel, Fifth and Bellefield avenues, Oakland, Pitt's 39th Annual Jazz Seminar and Concert, 412-624-4187.

**C.D. Wright**, interview with poet and a reading, 8:30 p.m. **Nov. 5**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series, 412-624-6506, or [www.english.pitt.edu](http://www.english.pitt.edu).

**"A Tribute to Bud Powell, Bill Evans, and Herbie Hancock,"** George Cables, pianist, 10 a.m. **Nov. 6**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt's 39th Annual Jazz Seminar and Concert, 412-624-4187.

**"Interior Monologues,"** Norbert Wiesneth, Berlin photographer, noon **Nov. 6**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Departments of History and Germanic Languages and Literature, Center for Russian and East European Studies, European Union Center for Excellence, and European Studies Center, [www.ucis.pitt.edu](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu).

**"A Salute to Max Roach,"** Terri Lyne Carrington, drummer, 2 p.m. **Nov. 6**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt's 39th Annual Jazz Seminar and Concert, 412-624-4187.

**"Trumpet Kings: The Music of Roy Eldridge, Dizzy Gillespie, Chet Baker, and Miles Davis,"** Lew Soloff, trumpeter, 10 a.m. **Nov. 7**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt's 39th Annual Jazz Seminar and Concert, 412-624-4187.

**"A Tribute to Jazz in Film: The Terminal,"** Benny Golson, saxophonist, 11:30 a.m. **Nov. 7**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt's 39th Annual Jazz Seminar and Concert, 412-624-4187.

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**Koresh Dance Company**, 7:30 p.m. **Nov. 2**, Bromely Family Theater, Blaisdell Hall, Pitt-Bradford, 814-362-5113, [www.upb.pitt.edu](http://www.upb.pitt.edu).

**Attack Theatre**, dance performance, noon **Nov. 4**, Nurdy's Place, William Pitt Union, Pitt Arts Artful Wednesdays, 412-624-4462, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Candide**, theatrical performance based on Voltaire's raucous satire, **Nov. 5-22**, Former Don Allen City Auto, 5315 Baum Blvd., Bloomfield, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, 412-394-3353, [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org).

**Brundibar**, one-act opera by Hans Krasa, **Nov. 6-8**, CAPA Theater, 111 Ninth St., Downtown, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, 412-621-1499, [www.operatheaterpittsburgh.org](http://www.operatheaterpittsburgh.org).

**Tom Wolfe, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 2, Carnegie Music Hall**



**Store**, theatrical performance, **Nov. 6-7**, Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave., East Liberty, 412-363-3000, [www.kelly-strayhorn.org](http://www.kelly-strayhorn.org).

**Carousel**, theatrical performance, **Nov. 6-15**, Pittsburgh Playhouse, 222 Craft Ave., Oakland, Point Park University, 412-621-4445, [www.pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://www.pittsburghplayhouse.com).

**One Man Lord of the Rings**, theatrical performance featuring Charles Ross, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. **Nov. 7**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Cohen & Grigsby Trust Presents Series, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Forever Plaid**, musical theater, through **March 28**, Theater Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, CLO Cabaret, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

## Miscellaneous

**"Grants Over Lunch,"** workshop about obtaining funding from government and private agencies, noon **Nov. 2**, S100 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower, Brown Bag Luncheon Series: Grants Over Lunch, Pitt Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, [www.survival.pitt.edu](http://www.survival.pitt.edu).

**"Teaching,"** part of workshop series to provide graduate and professional students, postdocs, residents, and junior faculty with training in professional development and ethics, 10 a.m. **Nov. 7**, Lecture Room 2, Scaife Hall, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, [www.survival.pitt.edu](http://www.survival.pitt.edu).

**A Gourmet Steeler Tailgate Party**, 4 p.m. **Nov. 8**, Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle Irish Pub, 2329 Penn Ave., Strip District, The Pittsburgh Camerata, 412-421-5884, [www.pittsburghcamerata.org](http://www.pittsburghcamerata.org).

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Jolene Valentin**, Swanson School of Engineering's Department of Bioengineering, "Macrophage Involvement in the Remodeling of an Extracellular Matrix Scaffold," 10 a.m. **Nov. 2**, Conference Room A, Suite 300, Bridgeside Point Building 2, 450 Technology Dr., South Oakland.

## Concerts

**Caleb Lovely**, pop rock, 6 p.m. **Nov. 2**, The Cup & Chaucer Cafe, Hillman Library ground floor, University of Pittsburgh Library System, Calliope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, [www.calliopehouse.org](http://www.calliopehouse.org).

**Warsaw Village Band**, folk music from Poland, 7:30 p.m. **Nov. 2**, Synod Hall, 125 N. Craig St., Oakland, Polish Cultural Council, 412-871-3347, [www.polishculturalcouncil.org](http://www.polishculturalcouncil.org).

**Osso Performs Suffjan Stevens**, musical performance, 8 p.m. **Nov. 3**, Andy Warhol Museum, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, Andy Warhol Museum Sound Series, 412-237-8300, [www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org).

**Classical Favorites**, Marek Janowski, conductor, and violinist Chee-Yun, featuring works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Dvorak, **Nov. 5-7**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org).

**Jill Sobule and Kelly Joe Phelps**, musical performance, 7:30 p.m. **Nov. 7**, Carnegie Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Calliope Concerts, 2009-10 series, 412-394-3353, [www.calliopehouse.com](http://www.calliopehouse.com).

**39th Annual University of Pittsburgh Jazz Concert**, 8 p.m. **Nov. 7**, Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Pitt's Jazz Studies Program, tickets available from William Pitt Union box office, 412-648-7814, or from ProArts, [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org).

**Mediterranean Nights: Sultry Songs & Passionate Dances From Italy and Spain**, musical performance by Apollo's Fire, 8 p.m. **Nov. 7**, Synod Hall, 125 N. Craig St., Oakland, Renaissance and Baroque Society of Pittsburgh, 412-361-2048, [www.rbps.org](http://www.rbps.org).

**Herb Alpert and Lani Hall**, musical performance, **Nov. 7-8**, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, 1815 Metropolitan St., Manchester, MCG Jazz 2009-2010 Season, [www.mcgjazz.org](http://www.mcgjazz.org).

**Harlan Twins**, musical performance, 2 p.m. **Nov. 8**, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Sunday Afternoon Music Series, 412-622-3151, [www.carnegielibrary.org](http://www.carnegielibrary.org).

## Exhibitions

**Carnegie Museum of Art, *Associated Artists of Pittsburgh Annual Member Exhibit*, through Nov. 8; *Digital to Daguerreotype: Photographs of People*, through Jan. 31,** 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3309, [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org).

**Senator John Heinz History Center, *Forbes Field: Celebrating 100 Years*, through Nov. 8; and *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, through Jan. 15,** 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org).

**Hillman Library, *Selected Prints Exhibit from the Barry Rosensteel Japanese Prints Collection*, through Dec. 19,** Special Collections Department, third floor, Hillman Library, 412-648-8190.

**University Art Gallery, *Making Face: Depictions of Women in Japan From Edo to Today*, Japanese woodblock prints from the 18th and 19th centuries and new works by Japanese contemporary artist Hiroki Otsuka, through Dec. 12,** Frick Fine Arts Building, 412-648-2410.







# Pitt-NIH Team Finds Way to Protect Healthy Cells From Dangerous Radiation Exposure

By Anita Srikameswaran

Researchers in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), may be hot on the heels of a Holy Grail of cancer therapy: They have found a way to not only protect healthy tissue from the toxic effects of radiation treatment, but also increase tumor death. The findings appear in the Oct. 21 issue of *Science Translational Medicine*.

More than half of all cancer patients are treated at least in part with radiation, said study coauthor Jeff S. Isenberg, a professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, Pitt School of Medicine. But the same radiation that kills cancer cells can also destroy healthy ones, causing side effects such as nausea and vomiting, skin sores and rashes, and weakness and fatigue. Long-term radiation exposure can lead to the scarring and death of normal tissue.

Isenberg and his NCI colleagues have identified a biochemical signaling pathway that can profoundly influence what happens to both cancerous and healthy cells when they are exposed to radiation. In mouse experiments, they found that blocking a molecule called thrombospondin-1 from binding to its cell surface receptor, called CD47, affords normal tissues nearly complete protection from both standard and very high doses of radiation.

"We almost couldn't believe what we were seeing," Isenberg said. "This dramatic protective effect occurred in skin, muscle, and bone marrow cells, which is very encouraging. Cells that might have died of radiation exposure remained viable and functional when pretreated with agents that interfere with the thrombospondin-1/CD47 pathway."

There have been concerns that approaches to spare healthy cells will risk inadvertently protecting tumor cells, noted senior author David D. Roberts, chief of the biochemical pathology section, Laboratory of Pathology in the NCI's Center for Cancer Research. But, he added, "In our experiments, suppression of CD47 robustly delayed the regrowth of tumors in radiation-treated mice."

It's not yet clear why disrupting the CD47 signaling pathway leads to these effects, the researchers said. It's possible that radiation impairs the immune response to tumors even while killing tumor cells, but suppression of CD47 keeps the immune cells safe. Decreasing CD47 levels on tumor cells also could make them more sensitive to attack by the patient's immune system after treatment. Or, suppression of injury to vascular cells might improve blood flow to allow naturally occurring antitumor immunity to reach cancer cells more easily.

The researchers are already exploring the signaling pathway's role in several other domains, noted Mark Gladwin, chief



Jeff S. Isenberg

of Pitt's Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine and director of the Vascular Medicine Institute, where Isenberg is a principal investigator.

"Dr. Isenberg and his team are examining multiple disease treatment strategies for pulmonary hypertension, wound healing, sickle cell disease, and heart attacks, based on the blockade of the thrombospondin-1/CD47 pathway," he said.

The research was funded by the Intramural Research Program of the National Cancer Institute, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-NIH Research Scholars Program, and the NIH.

**"We almost couldn't believe what we were seeing. This dramatic protective effect occurred in skin, muscle, and bone marrow cells, which is very encouraging."**

**— Jeff S. Isenberg**

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Nov. 9. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 7) should be received at least two weeks before the event 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).