

NIST Gives Pitt \$15 Million Grant to Expand Nanoscience, Experimental Physics Facilities

By Morgan Kelly

A \$15 million grant Pitt recently received from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is the keystone of a four-year, \$27.8 million expansion of the University's nanoscience and experimental physics facilities. The renovation—to which Pitt will contribute \$12.8 million—encompasses four buildings and will provide the School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Physics and Astronomy with 13 new or significantly enhanced laboratories, including space for three new faculty members.

"The project focuses on strengthening Pitt's research in applying advanced physics—including nanoscience, semiconductors, and quantum physics—to areas ranging from energy and information technology to health care and climate change study," said George Klinzing, Pitt's vice provost for research.

"The Department of Physics and Astronomy is home to the nanoscience and experimental physics research that is critical to the University's 2005 NanoScience and Technology Initiative," Klinzing added. "We project that these new facilities and associated faculty recruitments will lead to a significant increase in sponsored research funding; the creation of new technologies in scientific measurements; novel

electronic devices and technologies; better understanding of large-scale storms and hurricanes; improved telecommunication devices; and the ability to provide first-class graduate education and training for additional graduate students and postdoctoral researchers."

N. John Cooper, the Bettye J. and Ralph E. Bailey Dean of Arts and Sciences, stated, "The science of the smallest objects requires large facilities, and the generous support from NIST will lay the foundation for next-generation facilities for our experimental physicists."

The renovation is one of only 12 major "shovel-ready" construction projects nationwide that NIST—which supplies and oversees the nation's standards of measurement, including the official time—funded with \$123 million available through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Pitt is the only institution in Pennsylvania to receive an award and joins such other institutions as Columbia, Georgetown, and Purdue universities. The projects NIST funded were chosen from 167 proposals.

Pitt's renovation will provide state-of-the-art labs, research support areas, and offices for current and prospective faculty members specializing in condensed matter and nanoscience. The number of tenure-

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—George Klinzing

stream faculty working in these areas will be expanded from eight to 11 with a new chaired professorship, a junior hire in nanoscience, and a junior hire in biological physics. The plan calls for 75,000



George Klinzing

square feet in new laboratories in Allen Hall, the Nuclear Physics Laboratory, and Old Engineering Hall, as well as an open-floor, interdisciplinary physics machine shop.

It also includes 27,000 square feet of laboratory space for which Pitt will pursue U.S. Green Building Council LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

The University has significantly expanded its infrastructure to support experimental physics in recent years by establishing the Petersen Institute of NanoScience and Engineering housed in the Swanson School of Engineering with the associated NanoScale Fabrication and Characterization Facility.

Pitt has also established the Center for Oxide-Semiconductor Materials for Quantum Computation in the physics and astronomy department.

Video Gamers: Volume of Brain Structures Predicts Success



By Diana Yates

Researchers can predict a person's performance on a video game simply by measuring the volume of specific structures in that person's brain, according to a study by a multi-institutional team led by Pitt psychology professor Kirk Erickson.

The new study, published in the journal *Cerebral Cortex*, found that nearly a quarter of the variability in achievement seen

among men and women trained on a new video game could be predicted by measuring the volume of three structures in their brains. The study adds to the evidence that specific parts of the striatum, a collection of distinctive tissues tucked deep inside the cerebral cortex, profoundly influence a person's ability to refine his or her motor skills, learn new procedures, develop useful

strategies, and adapt to a quickly changing environment.

"This is the first time that we've been able to take a real-world task like a video game and show that the size of specific brain regions is predictive of performance and learning rates on this video game," said Erickson, the study's lead author. Ann Graybiel, an Institute Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Investigator in the McGovern Institute for Brain Research, and Arthur Kramer, a professor of psychology at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois, were copincipal investigators on the study. Walter Boot of Florida State University also contributed to the research, which was conducted at the University of Illinois.

Research has shown that expert video gamers outperform novices on many basic measures of attention and perception, but other studies have found that training novices on video games for 20 or more hours often yields no measurable cognitive benefits. These contradictory findings suggest that pre-existing individual differences in the brain might predict variability in learning rates, the authors wrote.

Animal studies conducted by Graybiel and others led the researchers to focus on three brain structures: the caudate (CAW-date) nucleus and the putamen (pew-TAY-min) in the dorsal striatum and the nucleus

accumbens (ah-COME-bins) in the ventral striatum.

"Our animal work has shown that the striatum is a kind of learning machine—it becomes active during habit formation and skill acquisition," Graybiel said. "So it made a lot of sense to explore whether the striatum might also be related to the ability to learn in humans."

The caudate nucleus and putamen are involved in motor learning, but research has shown they are also important to the cognitive flexibility that allows one to quickly shift between tasks. The nucleus accumbens is known to process emotions associated with reward and punishment.

The researchers began with a basic question about these structures: Is bigger better?

They used high-resolution Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to analyze the size of these brain regions in 39 healthy adults ages 18-28, 10 of them male, who had spent less than three hours a week playing video games in the previous two years. The volume of each brain structure was compared to that of the brain as a whole.

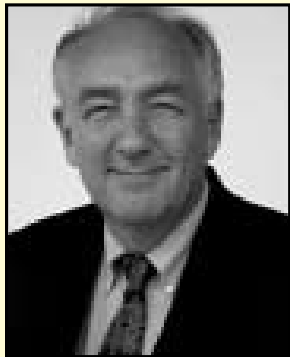
Participants were then trained on one of two versions of Space Fortress, a video game developed at the University of Illinois



Kirk Erickson

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BrieflyNoted



Stephen Rapp

U.S. Ambassador-at-Large For War Crimes Issues to Speak at Pitt Jan. 28

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law's Center for International Legal Education will feature Stephen Rapp, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues, in a lecture titled "The Role of the United States in International Criminal Justice," at noon Jan. 28 in the Barco Law Building's Teplitz Memorial Courtroom.

Appointed by President Barack Obama, Rapp, an Iowa native, assumed his duties on Sept. 8, 2009. Previously, Rapp served as prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, beginning in January 2007, where he led the prosecutions of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and those allegedly responsible for the atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's civil war.

During his tenure as prosecutor, Rapp and his colleagues achieved the first-ever convictions for sexual slavery and forced marriage as crimes against humanity. He also achieved convictions for attacks on peacekeepers and for the recruitment and use of child soldiers as violations of international humanitarian law.

In addition, Rapp was a senior trial attorney and chief of prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda from 2001 to 2007.

Rapp received his BA degree from Harvard University in 1971 and attended Columbia and Drake Law Schools, receiving his JD degree from Drake in 1974.

This lecture has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for one hour of substantive Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits. There is a \$25 fee for credit. For CLE details, call 412-648-7023 or e-mail cile@law.pitt.edu.

—Patricia Lomando White

Pitt Graduate Student Organization Calls for Teaching Award Nominations

The University of Pittsburgh's Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization is accepting nominations for the Elizabeth Baranger Excellence in Teaching Award.

The award, named after Baranger, a professor emeritus in Pitt's Department of Physics and

Astronomy and a former vice provost for graduate studies, honors outstanding teaching by graduate students in the School of Arts and Sciences. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 12. Nominations can be submitted by Pitt faculty, teaching assistants, teaching fellows, as well as graduate and undergraduate students. To be eligible for the \$250 award, an instructor must have been enrolled as a graduate student and teaching a class in any semester of the previous calendar year, 2009.

More information is available at www.pitt.edu/~asgso/teachingawardnomination.html.



Staff Association Council Goes Green

The University of Pittsburgh's Staff Association Council (SAC) is eliminating the paper newsletters that have been sent to Pitt staff for more than 20 years. Beginning this month, SAC will e-mail electronic newsletters to staffers' in-boxes on a monthly basis.

Staff members who would like to receive the newsletter should visit SAC's Web site, www.sac.pitt.edu, to sign up.

"With announcements of upcoming staff initiatives, exciting features, and the broadcast of key events, SAC's e-Newsletter promises to energize its readership," said Gwen Watkins, SAC's president.

—Annabelle Clippinger



Technique to Study Galaxies Earns Pitt Researcher U.S. Department of Energy Grant for Young Scientists



By Morgan Kelly

A Pitt researcher developing a better technique to gauge the distance from Earth to some of the most distant galaxies in the visible universe recently received a five-year, \$750,000 grant under a newly established federal program intended to support young scientists.

Jeffrey Newman, a professor of physics and astronomy in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, was among 69 researchers nationwide—out of 1,750 applicants—selected for the U.S. Department of Energy's Early Career Research program, an \$85 million initiative funded under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Awardees were chosen by peer review and include researchers from Cornell University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan, and Princeton University.

Newman—a nationally recognized expert on large astronomical datasets studying the distant universe—will refine a method he created to tap the full potential of observations by the world's most powerful telescopes. The distance to a faraway galaxy is determined by measuring its redshift, or how its emitted light is stretched out by the universe's expansion. These distances are vital in determining the nature of the as-yet undetected dark energy that appears to make up most of the universe's mass and is causing it to expand faster over time. But the redshift of the farthest, faintest visible galaxies can only be gauged with indirect calculations. Estimations off by a mere 0.5 percent would result in an incorrect answer to what dark energy may be. Newman devised an algorithm to improve these measurements that in tests with simulated data kept errors below this threshold.

Newman's technique will be critical for future projects such as the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST), a 14-year effort involving 23 universities including Pitt. The powerful telescope will record how the sky changes from night to night in a multicolor, movie-like format. The footage will allow for unprecedented study of elusive dark matter and dark energy, which has greater

pull on the universe than dark matter. Newman's work on the LSST is essential in studying these cosmic components and for determining how far back in the universe's history the telescope is looking for each galaxy observed.

He also is on the executive committee of the All-wavelength Extended Groth Strip International Survey, or AEGIS, a massive project involving nearly 100 researchers worldwide to map a distant region of the universe—the Extended Groth Strip—and document the past 10 billion years of galactic evolution with telescopes around the world and in space. Newman will use data from the AEGIS project to test and perfect his algorithm.



Jeffrey Newman

PittChronicle

Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

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 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 Web: www.chronicle.pitt.edu

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Pitt Research Explores Effect of Display Formats on Consumers



By Amanda Leff Ritchie

Expert consumers like to be surprised by unusual product presentation, while novices crave familiarity, according to a new study done by researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of South Carolina.

The study, “Smart Subcategories: How Assortment Formats Influence Consumer Learning and Satisfaction,” will be published in the June issue of *The Journal of Consumer Research*.

“How can retailers help consumers become more informed about the products they use while also making them happy?”

ask authors Cait Poynor, Pitt assistant professor of business administration in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, and Stacy Wood, University of South Carolina professor of marketing. The answer seems to be in organizing products tailored to customers’ knowledge levels. Their research indicates that simply organizing a store’s existing stock in different ways can improve consumers’ learning and their degree of satisfaction.

What works for one consumer may not work for another, however. The authors found that highly knowledgeable consumers

liked being surprised by product formats; on the other hand, novice consumers had an easier time when familiar with product groupings.

The data was collected from 123 undergraduate students who completed a two-part study as part of their course work. Both parts were carried out online, where the presentation of information could be manipulated. The benefit of an online environment is the infinite number of ways Web sites can be organized, says Poynor.

Students were first placed in two different groups based on their level of prior

The study, “Smart Subcategories: How Assortment Formats Influence Consumer Learning and Satisfaction,” will be published in the June issue of *The Journal of Consumer Research*.

knowledge (low vs. high) of a particular type of object, determined by a written survey. They were then asked to make selections based upon information presented to them in various formats. Researchers analyzed the students’ choices based upon an algorithm that assessed product learning and satisfaction.

“Results may explain why expert cooks love the chaos of farmers’ markets, whereas novice cooks find them overwhelming,” the authors explain. “Or, for retail food stores, a gourmet grocery that caters to a more knowledgeable ‘foodie’ may build a happier, better-informed consumer base by presenting items in more novel and exotic formats (by season, optimal wine pairings, or country of origin, for example), whereas retailers at the edge of a college campus may help their novice college-age shoppers most by grouping items in the most traditional formats—all fruits together, all coffee together, all bread together, etc.”

The study also found that highly knowledgeable consumers were “notoriously complacent” when it came to paying attention to product information. People who consider themselves experts in a domain generally breeze past potentially new and important information, while novices employ all of their cognitive capacity when making a purchase decision.

According to the research, the way to establish the most satisfied and well-informed consumer can only be determined by considering consumer familiarity with product categories and their expectations about the retail environment.

A preprint of this article can be found at <http://journals.uchicago.edu/jcr>.

Video Gamers: Volume of Brain Structures Predicts Success

Continued from page 1

that requires players to try to destroy a fortress without losing their own ship to one of several potential hazards.

Half of the study participants were asked to focus on maximizing their overall score in the game while also paying attention to the various components of the game.

The other participants had to periodically shift priorities, improving their skills in one area for a period of time while also maximizing their success at the other tasks.

The latter approach, called variable-priority training, encourages the kind of flexibility in decision-making that is com-

monly required in daily life, Kramer said. Studies have shown that variable-priority training is more likely than other training methods to improve those skills people use every day.

The researchers found that players who had a larger nucleus accumbens did better than their counterparts in the early stages of the training period, regardless of their training group. This made sense, Erickson said, because the nucleus accumbens is part of the brain’s reward center, and a person’s motivation for excelling at a video game includes the pleasure that results from achieving a specific goal. This sense of achievement and the emotional reward that accompanies it are likely highest in the earliest stages of learning, he said.

Players with a larger caudate nucleus and putamen did best on the variable-priority training.

“The putamen and the caudate have been implicated in learning procedures,

learning new skills, and those nuclei predicted learning throughout the 20-hour period,” Kramer said. The players in which those structures were largest “learned more quickly and learned more over the training period,” he said.

“This study tells us a lot about how the brain works when it is trying to learn a complex task,” Erickson said. “We can use information about the brain to predict who is going to learn certain tasks at a more rapid rate.” Such information might be useful in education, where longer training periods may be required for some students, or in treating disability or dementia, where information

about the brain regions affected by injury or disease could lead to a better understanding of the skills that might also need attention, he said.

The study was funded by the U.S. Office of Naval Research.

“This study tells us a lot about how the brain works when it is trying to learn a complex task. We can use information about the brain to predict who is going to learn certain tasks at a more rapid rate.”

—Kirk Erickson



Newsmakers

PITT VOLUNTEERS



More than 50 volunteers from the University of Pittsburgh's Faculty and Staff in Service to Community helped distribute food on Dec. 22 during the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's monthly food distribution in the Food Bank's Duquesne Warehouse. An estimated 800 families were served by the volunteers.

JOE KAPLEWSKI/CODICE

OPENING DOORS



MORGAN KELLY/PC

Velma Scantlebury-White (center), the nation's first African American female transplant surgeon and associate director of the Kidney Transplant Program in Delaware at Christiana Care Health System, headlined a Jan. 15 panel on African American academic surgeons. Sponsored by the Pitt School of Medicine's Department of Surgery, the panel addressed tips for success in medical school and how to balance family with the rigors of medical training, among other topics. From left, the panelists were P. Dafé Ogagan, a medical resident in Pitt's Department of Urological Surgery; Tracy Short, a surgical resident at UPMC Mercy; Scantlebury-White; William Simmons, a clinical professor in Pitt's Department of Anesthesiology; and Pitt medical student Bradley Stephens.

Panel of Women Foreign Correspondents To Speak at University Club Jan. 27

By Patricia Lomando White

The University of Pittsburgh Honors College will host a panel presentation titled "Foreign Correspondents: Women in Danger," featuring an international panel of seasoned foreign correspondents who have been stationed in some of the world's hot spots, at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 27 in the University Club, Ballroom A.

Panelists are Nadia Trinidad, ABS-CBN senior political correspondent; Firlle Davies, BBC reporter and producer; and Tara Mahtafar, PBS *Frontline* managing editor. Christine Spolar, senior editor at the *Huffington Post* Investigative Fund in Washington, D.C., will moderate the discussion.

Those interested in attending this free public event must RSVP by e-mail to uhcevent@pitt.edu (preferred) or call 412-624-2654, providing name, phone number, and requested number of tickets, which will be available at the door.

Trinidad began her journalism career as a reporter for the Associated Broadcasting Co. and moved to the Philippines' largest network, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., in 1988. Since then, Trinidad, who is based in Manila, has covered bombings, the rise and fall of presidents, impeachment attempts, and the corruption scandals hounding that nation's current administration. She is a Knight Fellow at Stanford University.



Christine Spolar

Davies, a journalist for more than 20 years, started her career covering civil wars and humanitarian emergencies in Africa for *Visnews*, now owned by Reuters. Since 2000, Davies has worked for the BBC, reporting for domestic and world service radio and domestic and world television while also producing online and current affairs documentaries. She has worked in Zaire/Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Sudan. She is the International Women's Media Foundation's current Elizabeth Neuffer Fellow.

Mahtafar is the managing editor of the Tehran Bureau for PBS' *Frontline* and a contributor to The Century Foundation's Inside Iran program. Now based in Washington, D.C., Mahtafar worked as a journalist in Tehran for several years, covering last summer's Iranian elections and post-election events. She has written on Iran for the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Aljazeera International*, and *The Independent*.

Spolar has been a chronicler of world

events in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa for the past two decades. As a correspondent for *The Washington Post* and the *Chicago Tribune* and a producer at CBS, Spolar has covered long-running conflicts in Bosnia, Iraq, Lebanon, and Israel. She has been assigned to posts in Warsaw, London, Ljubljana, Cairo, Jerusalem, Baghdad, and Rome.

Panelists are Nadia Trinidad, ABS-CBN senior political correspondent; Firlle Davies, BBC reporter and producer; and Tara Mahtafar, PBS Frontline managing editor. Christine Spolar, senior editor at the Huffington Post Investigative Fund in Washington, D.C., will moderate the discussion.

INSTALLATION & RECEPTION

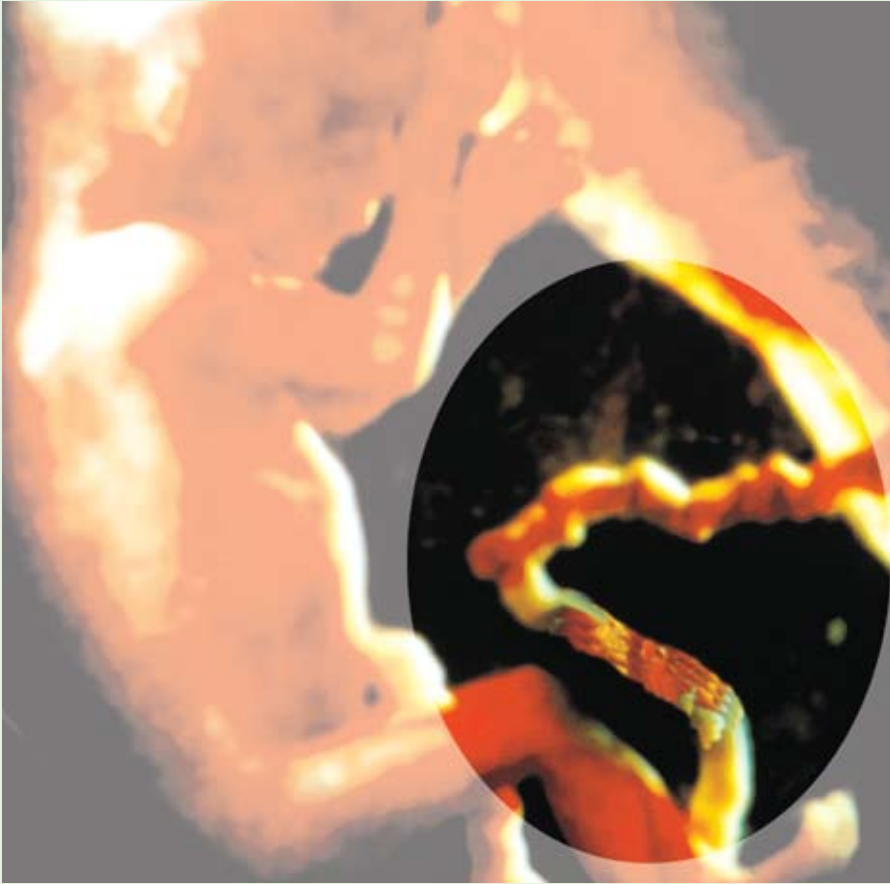


MARY JANE BENTY/CODICE

Stephen B. Manuck delivered a Jan. 12 lecture in Posvar Hall to mark his installation as Distinguished University Professor of Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences. Manuck's lecture, "Honor, Guile, and the New Genetics of Pugnacious Behavior," was followed by a reception hosted by Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher.

Science & Technology

Umbilical Cord Could Be New Source of Plentiful Stem Cells, Pitt Research Says



By Anita Srikameswaran

Stem cells that could one day provide therapeutic options for muscle and bone disorders can be easily harvested from the tissue of the umbilical cord, just as the blood that goes through the cord provides precursor cells to treat some blood disorders, said University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine researchers in the online version of the *Journal of Biomedicine and Biotechnology*.

Umbilical cord tissue cells can be expanded to a greater number, are remarkably stable, and might not trigger strong immune responses, said senior investigator Bridget M. Deasy, an assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Pitt School of Medicine. The cells are obtained from the gelatinous material in the cord known as Wharton's jelly and from blood vessel walls.

"Our experiments also indicate that at least 21 million stem cells, and possibly as many as 500 million, could be banked from a single umbilical cord after the

birth of a baby," Deasy noted. "So, the cord could become an accessible source of a multitude of stem cells overcoming many of the restrictions, such as limited quantity as well as donor age and donor sex issues, that come with other adult stem cell populations."

Deasy and her team analyzed sections of two-foot-long human umbilical cords that were donated for research, looking for cells in Wharton's jelly and blood vessel walls that displayed the characteristic protein markers found in stem cells derived from other sources. The researchers then sought to find the best way to isolate the stem cells from the cords and tested them in the lab to confirm their ability to produce specialized cells, such as bone and cartilage, while retaining their invaluable ability to renew themselves.

To build on these findings, the team will test the umbilical cord stem cells in animal models of cartilage and bone repair, as well as in muscle regeneration.

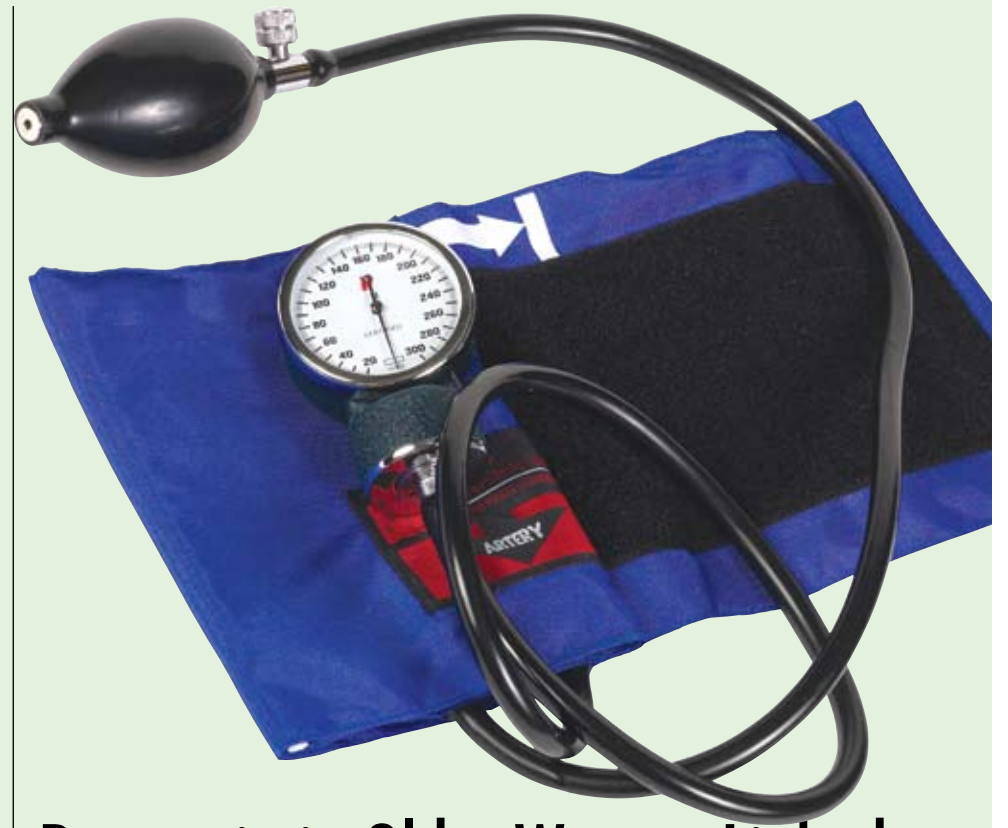
The research was supported by grants from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Research and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

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—Bridget M. Deasy



Bridget M. Deasy



Dementia in Older Women Linked To High Blood Pressure Years Earlier

By Clare Collins

High blood pressure may put women at greater risk for dementia later in life by increasing white matter abnormalities in the brain, report researchers from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) in a study published online in the *Journal of Clinical Hypertension*.

"Hypertension is very common in the U.S. and many other countries and can lead to serious health problems," said Lewis Kuller, a professor of epidemiology in the GSPH. "Proper blood pressure control, which remains generally poor, may be very important to prevent dementia as women age."

The study, part of the multisite, long-term Women's Health Initiative Memory Study (WHIMS), included 1,424 women 65 or older who had their blood pressure assessed annually and underwent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain. Researchers assessed white matter lesions, which are associated with increased risks for dementia and stroke. White-matter makes up 60 percent of the brain and contains nerve fibers responsible for communication between the brain's regions.

Women who, at the start of the study, were hypertensive, meaning a blood pressure of 140/90 or higher, had significantly more white-matter lesions on their MRI scans eight years later than participants with normal blood pressure. Lesions were more common in the frontal lobe, the brain's emotional control center and home to personality, than in the occipital, parietal, or temporal lobes.

"Women should be encouraged to

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Lewis Kuller

control high blood pressure when they are young or in middleage in order to prevent serious problems later on," Kuller said. "Prevention and control of elevated blood pressure and subsequent vascular disease in the brain may represent the best current preventive therapy for dementia."

The research was funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program Offers Wide-ranging Spring Lineup



African American Culture.

Video Games Live: Bonus Round With the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Jack Wall, conductor, and The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, 8 p.m., **Feb. 11-12**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics.

The Love Spell – L'Incantesimo, opera by Italo Montemezzi, 8 p.m. **Feb. 12-14**, Carnegie Museum of Art's Hall of Sculpture, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh.

Bob James & Keiko Matsui, a jazz collaboration with The Musical Instrument Museum, **Feb. 12-14**, Manchester Craftmen's Guild, 1815 Metropolitan St., Manchester, MCG Jazz.

Company B & In the Upper Room, dance performance, **Feb. 12-14**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

Ben Folds With the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, featuring solo pianist and vocalist Folds, 8 p.m. **Feb. 13**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, BNY Mellon Grand Classics.

The Fugue in Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, musical performance by The Axelrod Quartet, 8 p.m. **Feb. 13**, Synod Hall, 125 N. Craig St., Oakland, Renaissance and

Baroque Society of Pittsburgh.

Tribute to Phyllis Hyman, music of the late Pittsburgh-bred chanteuse, 8 p.m. **Feb. 19**, August Wilson Center Theater, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, August Wilson Center for African American Culture.

An American Voyage, Leonard Slatkin, conductor; works by Bernstein, Bates, and Danielpour, **Feb. 19 and 21**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics.

Xanadu, musical by Douglas Carter Beane, **Feb. 23-25, 27-28**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America.

Broadway Rocks With Marvin! Marvin Hamlisch, conductor, 7:30 p.m., **Feb. 25-28**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics.

Aspen/Santa Fe Ballet, 8 p.m. **Feb. 26**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Dance Council.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo, musical performance, 7 p.m. **Feb. 28**, special PITT NIGHT, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Presents Series.

Joshua Bell, violinist, and **Jeremy Denk**, pianist, 7:30 p.m. **March 2**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics.

The University of Pittsburgh's PITT ARTS program is offering a wide range of arts and cultural events this spring through its Cheap Seats program, which is open to all Pitt students, faculty, and staff. Discounted tickets to performances offered by 11 major arts organizations are available by visiting the PITT ARTS office at 929 William Pitt Union. In addition, nearly all Cheap Seats are available online at the PITT ARTS site, www.pittarts.pitt.edu. Events below marked PITT NIGHT offer Pitt students, faculty, and staff not only discounted tickets, but also optional free transportation and dessert receptions to meet artists from the shows.

For information about PITT ARTS Cheap Seats program, call 412-624-4498 or visit www.pittarts.pitt.edu. Cheap Seats events for January and February follow.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, theatrical performance, **Jan. 21-Feb. 21**, special PITT NIGHT **Jan. 22**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater.

Tribute Concert: A Symphonic Celebration of African American Culture, featuring local jazz trumpeter Sean Jones, 8 p.m. **Jan. 26**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics.

Rent, musical theater, **Jan. 28-Feb. 7**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Musical Theater.

Cats, musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber, **Jan. 28, 29 and 31**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America.

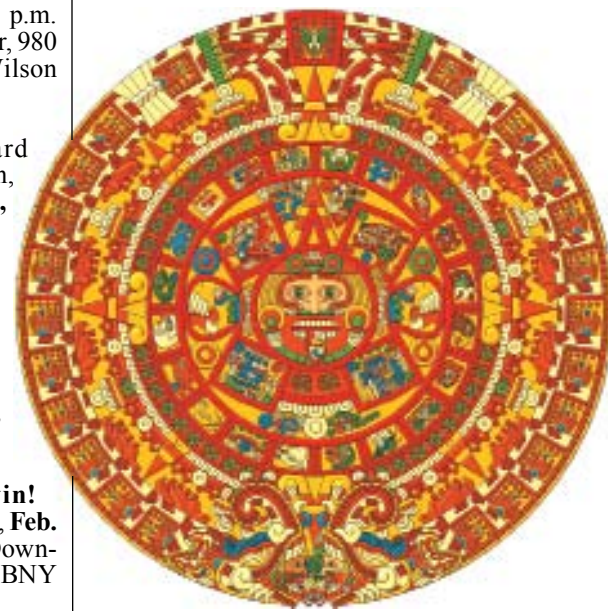
Mahler's Chamber Symphony, Gil Shaham, violin; works by Mozart, Haydn, and Mahler, 8 p.m., **Jan. 29 and 31**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics.

In the Heights, musical theater, **Feb. 2-5 and 7**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America.

Honeck & Mutter, Manfred Honeck, conductor, Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin, featuring works by Brahms and Mahler, 8 p.m. **Feb. 5 and 6**, special PITT NIGHT **Feb. 5**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics.

Daniel Bernard Roumain: Etudes 4violin&electronix, Hatian violinist and bandleader, 8 p.m. **Feb. 6**, August Wilson Center Theater, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, August Wilson Center for

Pitt's Asian Studies Center Sets Spring 2010 Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series



By Amanda Leff Ritchie

The University of Pittsburgh's Asian Studies Center will present the Spring 2010 *Asia Over Lunch* lecture series on Thursdays at noon, beginning Feb. 4, in 4130 Posvar Hall.

The dates, presenters, and titles of the lectures follow.

Feb. 4

Shih-Hsiang Sung, Pitt PhD student in anthropology, "Fate, Fortune, and Risk Control: A New Interpretation to the High Rate of Cesarean Section in Taiwan";

Feb. 11

Armen Mihran Bakalian, Pitt graduate student in East Asian studies, "'Number-One' Lord: The Unlikely Life of Hayashi Tadataka, 1848-1941";

Feb. 18

Karen Gerhart, Pitt professor of the history of art and architecture, "The Material Culture of Death in Medieval Japan";

Feb. 25

Yexia Zhang, 2009-10 Heinz Fellow, Pitt's University Center for International Studies, "Children's Birth Registration in China: Practice, Problems, and Policies";

March 4

Jesook Song, a professor of East Asian Studies, University of Toronto, "South Koreans in the Debt Crisis: The Creation of a Neoliberal Welfare Society";

March 18

Eun-Kyung Lee, Pitt PhD student in education, "Effect of Higher Education on the Economic Growth in East Asian Countries";

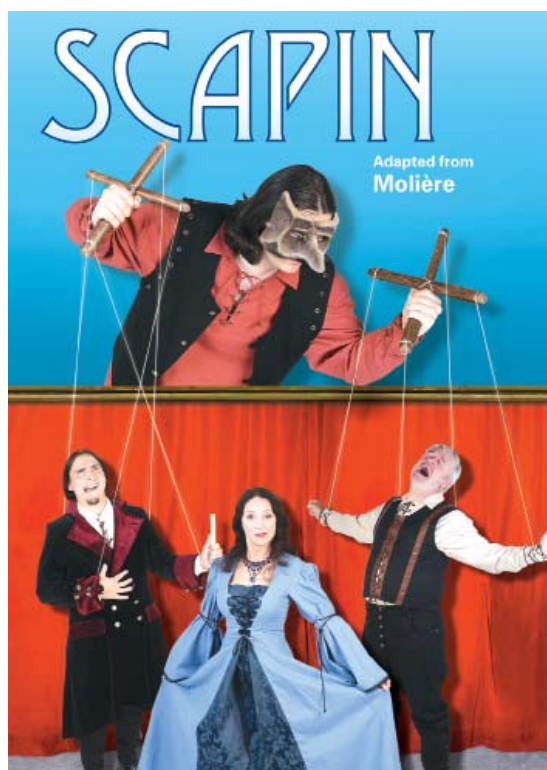
March 25

Usha Iyer, Pitt PhD student in English, "Finding the Past in Pastiche: The Politics of Intertextuality in Bollywood Cinema"; and

April 1

Xiuying Zou, public services librarian, Pitt East Asian Library, "Introduction to Library Resources and Services on Chinese Studies at the University of Pittsburgh."

Pitt Repertory Theatre to Present *Scapin* Feb. 3-14



By Sharon S. Blake

A classic play gets a Hollywood twist in the University of Pittsburgh Repertory Theatre's production of Moliere's comedy *Scapin*, Feb. 3 through 14 at the Studio Theatre in the basement of Pitt's Cathedral of Learning.

Because of limited seating, reservations are strongly recommended. Tickets can be reserved by calling 412-624-PLAY (7529).

With an updated text by Bill Irwin and Mark O'Donnell and directed by Holly Thuma, *Scapin* has the look and spirit of slapstick movie comedies from the silent era. The result is a madcap romp complete with Keystone Cops and plenty of physical comedy. The production tells the story of four star-crossed lovers. Since the path of true love rarely runs smoothly, it is up to the faithful servant Scapin to use disguises and tricks to untangle the web of confusion that surrounds the lovers.

Gale McNeeley, an internationally renowned star of *commedia dell'arte*, plays the title role. Once a Richard Rauh Teaching Artist in Pitt's Department of Theatre Arts, McNeeley has a repertoire of work that includes performances at the Brooklyn Academy Theatre, New York Shakespeare Festival, and San Diego Rep. McNeeley also has had extensive training in clowning, pantomime, and juggling—all of which come into play in *Scapin*.

Commedia dell'arte is a form of improvisational theater that dates back to 16th-century Italy. Performances were largely unscripted, held outdoors, used few props, and relied heavily on physical comedy. This theatrical form influenced a number of playwrights, including Shakespeare and Moliere.

The cast of *Scapin* also features Mark Epstein, a faculty member in Pitt's theatre arts department, and a number of Pitt students. For more information, contact department marketing coordinator F. J. Hartland at fjh6@pitt.edu, or visit www.play.pitt.edu.

Happenings



Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Luncheon, with works performed by Pitt Department of Music String Quartet, William Pitt Union
January 27

Concerts

Tribute Concert: A Symphonic Celebration of African American Culture, featuring local jazz trumpeter Sean Jones, 7:30 p.m. **Jan. 26**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburgh-symphony.org.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Luncheon, with works performed by Pitt Department of Music String Quartet, noon **Jan. 27**, Lower Lounge William Pitt Union, PITT ARTS, 412-624-4462, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Mahler's Chamber Symphony, Manfred Honeck, conductor; Gil Shaham, violin; works by Mozart, Haydn, and Mahler, 8 p.m. **Jan. 29, 31**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave. Downtown, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburgh-symphony.org.

Exhibitions

University Art Gallery, Studio Arts Field Study in Wyoming, exhibition from University Honors College's summer 2009 program, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through **Jan. 29**, Frick Fine Arts Building, University Honors College, Pitt Department of Studio Arts, www.studioarts.pitt.edu.

Andy Warhol Museum, Shepard Fairey: Supply & Demand; Supertrash; and Unnatural Rubber, art exhibitions, through **Jan. 31**, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, www.warhol.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art, Palm Springs Modern: Photographs by Julius Shulman, Digital to Daguerreotype: Photographs of People, exhibitions, through **Jan. 31**; **Forum 64: Cecil Balmond**, exhibition, through **May 30**; **Gods, Love, and War: Tapestries at Carnegie Museum of Art**, exhibition, through **June 13**; **Past Meets Present: Decorative Arts and Design**, exhibition, ongoing, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

Phipps Conservatory, Orchid Fever: The Exquisite Expedition of the Orchid, exhibition, through **Feb. 28**, 1 Schenley Park Dr., Oakland, 412-622-6914, www.phipps.conservatory.org.

Pittsburgh Filmmakers Gallery, The City Within, exhibition, through **Feb. 28**, 477 Melwood Ave., Oakland, 412-682-4111, www.pghfilmmakers.org.

Mattress Factory, Likeness, art exhibition, through **March 21**, 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, 412-231-3169, www.mattress.org.

Frick Art & Historical Center, 1934: A New Deal for Artists, art exhibition celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Public Works of Art Program, through **April 25**, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-0600, www.frickart.org.

Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Whales/Tohora, exhibition, through **May 2**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.carnegiemnh.org.

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

"Hezbollah's Unfettered Righteousness: The Pursuit of a Millennial Creed," Hilal Khashan, professor of political science, American University of Beirut, 4 p.m. **Jan. 25**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Global Studies Program, 412-648-5085, global@pitt.edu.

"Issues in Global Health: Cases in China, Lesotho, and Uganda," speakers include Heinz Fellows Yexia Zhang and Moses Katende and Malmberg Fellow Mpho Letima, 6 p.m. **Jan. 25**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Global Studies Program, Global Solutions Education Fund, 412-648-5085, global@pitt.edu.

"Similarity and Induction," Susan Sterrett, visiting fellow from Duke University, 12:05 p.m. **Jan. 26**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Talk Series, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittctr@pitt.edu.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform Roundtable Discussion, featuring speakers Judy Berkowitz, refugee service coordinator, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Pittsburgh; Howie Harris, staff director, SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania; and Robert Whitehill, attorney, Fox Rothschild, LLP, 7:30 p.m. **Jan. 26**, Levenson Hall, Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, 5738 Forbes Ave., Squirrel Hill, Pitt Center for Latin American Studies, 412-605-0816, fidel@pajc.net.

"Children's Safety Program in Rural China," Yexia Zhang, Heinz Fellow, 8 p.m. **Jan. 26**, First-floor Lounge, Sutherland Hall, Pitt Asian Studies Center, Global Studies Program, International Studies Living Learning Community, 412-648-5085, global@pitt.edu.

"Prussian Classicism as Postcolonial Lieu de Memoire: A Transnational Perspective on the Korean Metropolis Seoul," Jin-Sung Chun, professor, Busan National University of Education, South Korea, and University of Chicago, 4:30 p.m. **Jan. 27**, 204 Frick Fine Arts Building, Pitt Asian Studies Center, European Colloquium Series, World History Center, Architectural Studies, 412-648-7426, ebenvin@pitt.edu.

"The Role of the United States in International Criminal Justice," Stephen Rapp, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes, noon **Jan. 28**, Teplitz Memorial Courtroom, Barco Law Building, Pitt Center for International Legal Education, 412-648-7023.

"Immigration Integration and Anti-discrimination Policy in Europe," Terri Givens, associate professor in government department, University of Texas at Austin, noon **Jan. 28**, 4217 Posvar Hall, Pitt European Union Center of Excellence, European Studies Center, kal70@pitt.edu.

"Picturing the Healing Arts: Illustrating a Medieval Book of Remedies," Jean Givens, art history professor, University of Connecticut, 4:30 p.m. **Jan. 28**, 202 Frick Fine Arts, Pitt Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, European Union Center of Excellence, www.pitt.edu/~medren/events.html.

"African Musical Practices: Journeying From the Traditional to the Global," E. Kwadwo O. Beeko, professor, Pitt Department of Music, 5 p.m. **Jan. 28**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt African Studies Program, 412-624-8143.

"Method and Science in the Essais," Mariafranca Spallanzani, visiting fellow from the University of Bologna, 12:05 p.m. **Jan. 29**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Talk Series, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittctr@pitt.edu.

"Beyond Nation? A Thrice-told Tale From Bulgaria's Post-socialist Soundstage," Donna Buchanan, professor, Department of Music, University of



The Exquisite Expedition of the Orchid, Phipps Conservatory, through February 28

Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 3 p.m. **Jan. 29**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Department of Music, Center for Russian and East European Studies, European Studies Center, European Union Center of Excellence, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

Miscellaneous

"Immigration Options After Your Postdoctoral Training," workshop for postdoctoral students, 3 p.m. **Jan. 27**, S100 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower, Postdoctoral Professionalism Series, Pitt Office of Academic Career Development, 412-648-8486, chf33@pitt.edu.

Opera/Theater/Dance

Rent, musical theater, **Jan. 28- Feb. 7**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, 412-539-0999, www.pittsburghmusicals.com.

The Rape of Lucretia, by Benjamin Britten, opera performance, **Jan. 30 and Feb. 2, 5, 7**, CAPA Theater, 111 Ninth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-281-0912, www.pittsburghopera.org.

Room Service, theatrical performance, through **Jan. 31**, Pittsburgh Playhouse, 222 Craft Ave., Oakland, Point Park University, 412-621-4445, www.pittsburghplayhouse.com.

Raisin, musical based on Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, through **Feb. 6**, Pitt's Kuntu Repertory Theater, Seventh-floor Auditorium, Alumni Hall, 412-624-7298, www.kuntu.org.

The Clockmaker, theatrical performance, through **Feb. 14**, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, theatrical performance, through **Feb. 21**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Nicole Hill, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Psychology, "The Role of Spatial Consistency in Dual-task Detection: Implications for Automatic and Controlled Search," 4:30 p.m. **Jan. 26**, Second-floor auditorium, Learning Research and Development Center.



Rehearsal for The Rape of Lucretia, CAPA Theater, January 30 and February 2, 5, and 7



Pitt-produced Exhibition—*Free at Last? Slavery in Pittsburgh In the 18th and 19th Centuries*—Now Accessible Online



By Sharon S. Blake

The University of Pittsburgh-produced exhibition *Free at Last? Slavery in Pittsburgh in the 18th and 19th Centuries*, which was on display during the 2008-09 academic year at the Senator John Heinz History Center, lives on in a compelling Web version.

By visiting www.library.pitt.edu/free-atlast/, a site built by a team from Pitt's University Library System (ULS), viewers are guided through a virtual tour of the award-winning exhibition seen by thousands between October 2008 and April 2009.

Free at Last? writes a new chapter in the early history of race relations in this region by exploring the little-known fact that slavery persisted in Western Pennsylvania through the years immediately preceding the Civil War. The exhibition centers on 55 handwrit-

ten records of legal transactions in Pittsburgh between 1792 and 1857 that were discovered in 2007 by staff in the Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds Office. Those faded records, now property of the Heinz History Center, document this area's decades-long involvement with Black slavery and indentured servitude.

"I believe that this effort captures the essence and feel of the original, physical exhibition," said Rush Miller, director of ULS. "The ULS Web design team did an outstanding job of converting exhibition content into a first-rate online presentation, and the video commentary by Dr. [Laurence] Glasco is an added feature that enriches the experience of the documents and artifacts."

Highlights of the Web exhibition

include:

- Five sections that organize the story—Middle Passage to Early America, The Freedom Papers, Fugitive Slave Laws and Escapes, Abolition, and Civil War and Aftermath;
- Video segments narrated by Laurence A. Glasco, Pitt professor of history and the exhibition's historical director, that explain the significance of the documents and the gripping tales of some fugitive slaves' escapes to freedom;
- A zoom and navigation tool to closely inspect the original 55 handwritten documents;
- A typed transcript of the handwritten text; and
- A photo gallery of 81 thumbnail images with a slideshow or the option to click for a full photo and explanation.

Pitt Web services librarian Jeff Wisniewski and designer Kari Johnston were provided with a CD of audio files, pdf files, and the hard copy of the exhibition catalogue. They reassembled the pieces online in a way that mimics the experience of viewing it at the History Center, but with more options. Ed Galloway, director of Pitt's Archives Service Center, digitized the slave documents. To show the information in context, a portion of each slave document is shaded in grey. The unshaded portion is a record of human sales, slaves freed by their owners, evidence of a former slave's free status, or requests for freedom papers. The shaded portion is a sales record of other property, like plots of land.

Even though it's not the oldest material he's worked with, Galloway says it's among the most significant. "These records touch upon the lives of men, women, and children," he said, "and that's what makes them remarkable."

Galloway says he envisions additional links that could be placed throughout the site, leading to other resources and related digi-

Free at Last? writes a new chapter in the early history of race relations in this region by exploring the little-known fact that slavery persisted in Western Pennsylvania through the years immediately preceding the Civil War.

tized documents in the ULS archives. Pitt's Office of Public Affairs created *Free at Last?* from conception to execution. The exhibition won six 2009 Golden Triangle Awards from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), including the award for Best of Show. It also received the CASE District II Gold Award in the Individual Special Public Relations Projects category and the PRSA Pittsburgh Renaissance Award.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Feb. 1. 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, 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.

