

Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher Is Pitt's Honors Convocation Speaker Feb. 26



James V. Maher

James V. Maher, Pitt provost and senior vice chancellor, will be the keynote speaker at the University of Pittsburgh's 34th annual Honors Convocation, to be held at 3 p.m. Feb. 26 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

The convocation recognizes undergraduate, graduate, and professional student academic achievement; student leadership; and faculty accomplishments.

Maher, who announced in November that he would leave his current position and return to the Pitt faculty at the beginning of the next academic year or as soon after that as his successor can be in place, is widely credited with helping to lead the University through a period of unparalleled progress. He has been Pitt's chief academic officer since 1994.

"The work of Pitt faculty, staff, and students has been touched in a broad range of ways by the efforts of Provost Maher to help build a culture of achievement and impact. In a very real sense, then, he has contributed to many of the accomplishments we will recognize at our Honors Convocation, making him the ideal speaker for this special academic celebration," Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg said.

During Maher's years as provost, the University has made significant strides on wide-ranging fronts, including dramatically increasing applications for admission; elevating the academic credentials of admitted

students and boosting enrollments; promoting instructional innovation and supporting the creative use of new teaching technologies; adding substantially to on-campus housing capacity and enriching the quality of student life; enhancing overall research strength while moving into critical new areas of inquiry and creating programs for the commercialization of technology; designing and implementing plans for the development of facilities and infrastructure that would support academic ambitions while maintaining fiscal discipline; and reaching out to alumni, donors, and other friends in markedly more effective ways.

Maher has served as chair of the University Planning and Budgeting Committee; the Information Technology Steering Committee, which coordinates information technology activities for the University; the International Coordinating Council, which coordinates Pitt's international programs; and the Council of Deans. He also served as cochair of the University's Facilities Planning Committee and principal liaison to the Academic Affairs and Libraries Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Prior to becoming provost, Maher was chair of Pitt's Department of Physics and Astronomy, and, for 24 years, a member of the Pitt faculty. He came to Pitt in 1970 as an assistant professor of physics, after serving as a postdoctoral research associate in the Physics Division of the Argonne National

Laboratory in Argonne, Ill.

Maher served as director of Pitt's Scaife Nuclear Physics Laboratory and has been a longstanding resident fellow of the University's Center for Philosophy of Science. He has published numerous papers in the fields of nuclear physics and statistical condensed matter physics, presented at professional conferences, and served as a visiting scientist at a number of other universities. He is an elected fellow of both the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Among Maher's positions of leadership in both national and regional organizations are recent service as chair of the Council of Academic Affairs of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and service on the boards of BioOne, the Carnegie Science Center, the Pittsburgh Technology Council, the Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative, the St. Vincent Seminary, and WQED Multimedia. He was a commissioner of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and served on the Association of American Universities (AAU)/National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) Task Force on Accreditation, which developed a set of principles that were largely adopted by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation. He was a member of the AAU's Intellectual Property Task Force that authored its formative report "Intellectual Property and New Media Technologies: A Framework for Development at AAU Institutions." He also was invited by the AAU and the Association of Research Libraries to participate in writing the influential *Tempe Principles for Emerging Systems of Scholarly Publishing*, a set of principles designed to guide the transformation of the scholarly publishing system.

Maher earned his bachelor's degree in physics at the University of Notre Dame in 1964 and his master's and doctoral degrees in physics at Yale University in 1965 and 1969, respectively.



Ann Rairigh

University of Pittsburgh Honored as One of the Top Military-friendly Colleges and Universities

By Sharon S. Blake

The University of Pittsburgh has received top honors for the support services it provides veterans and for creating a military-friendly atmosphere on its campus.

Military Advanced Education's 3rd Annual Guide to America's Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities—a magazine produced specifically for service members taking advantage of their education benefits—lists Pitt as one of the country's top military-friendly universities. Currently, approximately 300 veterans are enrolled at the University.

The magazine recognizes Pitt's recently expanded Office of Veterans Services (www.veterans.pitt.edu), including its academic and financial-aid guidance, career and long-term goals counseling, and tuition-benefit assistance. It also offers orientation sessions specifically designed for veterans.

"We've accomplished one of our main goals—to create a veteran-friendly campus across the entire University," says Ann Rairigh, director of the office. "We support veterans from the application process, with pre-admissions appointments and admissions essay workshops, to academic and social support while they are students. The support continues through graduation, with career fairs and military-to-civilian résumé-writing workshops."

Rairigh adds that the office has become a model for other higher education institutions, and the University plans to expand its veterans services.

Military Advanced Education, distributed to servicemen and women as they end their tours of duty, strives to assist veterans in finding the right schools in their areas of interest and also works to assist schools in finding the right candidates for their programs. It covers issues and trends in distance learning and education as they relate to military life. *Military Advanced Education* is a product of KMI Media Group, a Rockville, Md., publisher of defense-related publications and Web sites.

PittScholars&Stewards

The Steven C. Beering, MD, Scholarship

Lightening the Load, Promoting the Profession

By Emily Martin

Steven C. Beering (MED '58, A&S '55) remembers his life turning upside down when he was 15 years old and his family moved from Germany to Pittsburgh in July 1948. "The world was a different place," he recalled during a recent interview. But the young Beering's thirst for knowledge and success was unwavering. He quickly adapted to his new surroundings and began working to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.

It was the influence of C. H. William Ruhe (MED '40, A&S '37), Beering's mentor and a professor in Pitt's School of Medicine from 1941 through 1960, that led Beering to the University of Pittsburgh. With Ruhe's help, Beering gained entrance to Pitt after graduating from high school with highest honors. He was given a job in the University's language departments, where he met his wife Jane (A&S '55), who was studying Chinese. Beering taught French and German while pursuing his own education at Pitt, first as an undergraduate and then as a medical student. "I was a poor church mouse!" Beering remembered with a laugh. "I did have a few scholarships, but I also worked a few different jobs—driving cabs, working in steel mills, translating medical articles—just to make ends meet."

Beering specialized in internal medicine and endocrinology. After graduating from medical school, he joined the U.S. Air Force and began a career that included stints at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as well as at NASA during the earlier stages of the space program. Later, Beering

The Steven C. Beering, MD, Scholarship has allowed Veronica Ortiz to pursue her academic and research endeavors with fewer financial burdens. Her research opportunities have included working with world-renowned neurosurgeons and critical-care doctors.

accepted a teaching position with the Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, where he taught and maintained a practice for 10 years before being elected president of Purdue University. Beering served Purdue for 18 years, and during his tenure there, he established a successful scholarship program. He also established scholarship programs within the Indiana University School of Medicine and Pitt's School of Medicine.

"I remember what it was like to work hard as a student, and I decided that when I had the chance, I would donate to support scholarships," Beering said.

The Steven C. Beering, MD, Scholarship at Pitt's School of Medicine is awarded annually to help a student reduce the cost of his or her medical school tuition. This year's Beering Scholar, third-year medical student

Veronica Ortiz, said she is excited to be working toward her lifelong goal of becoming a physician. Clinical rotations have been the highlight of her medical education thus far. "I've loved transitioning into patient care and being able to implement what I've learned in my first two years [of medical school]," she said.

Ortiz added that the Beering Scholarship has allowed her to pursue her academic and research endeavors with fewer financial burdens. Her research opportunities have included working with world-renowned neurosurgeons and critical-care doctors. "I am extremely grateful. Dr. and Mrs. Beering's generosity has been instrumental in my medical school success," she said.

Beering is an emeritus trustee at the University of Pittsburgh and chair of the National Science Board, which is the governing board of the National Science Foundation as well as a policy advisor to the U.S. president and Congress. Beering understands the important connection between scholarship and success in the medical field. "There's nothing quite so satisfying as to help someone attain his or her goals," Beering said. "It takes years to get an MD, and graduating with debt can be a big setback, steering people away from general practice, family medicine, and care



Jane and Steven Beering

in rural and urban areas. Right now, there's a shortage of physicians in each of these areas, but donating to support medical student scholarships [can ease those shortages]," he said.

The Beering Scholarship will continue to do just that, enhancing the education and lives of students like Veronica Ortiz for many decades to come.

Starzl, McGowan Institute, 8 Others From Pitt Honored by Carnegie Science Center



The McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine

Organ transplant trailblazer Thomas E. Starzl, Distinguished Service Professor of Surgery in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine and director emeritus of the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, has been selected to receive the 2010 Carnegie Science Chairman's Award.

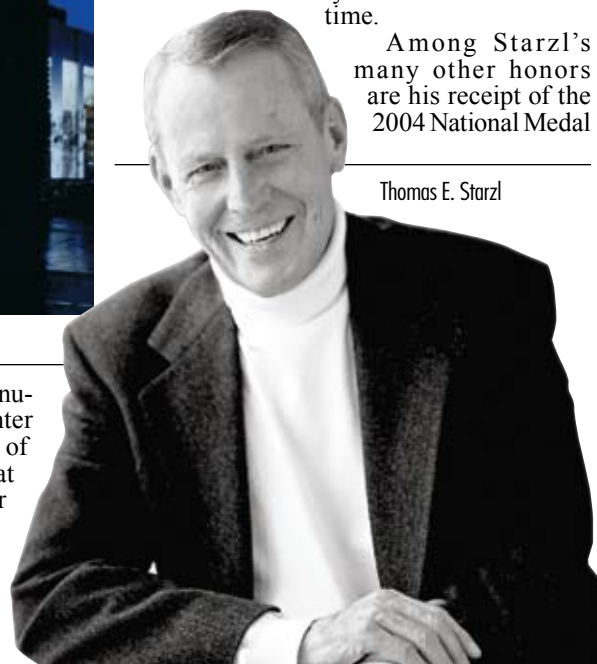
In addition, the Pitt-UPMC McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine and five other Pitt faculty members and one doctoral student are recipients of the 2010

Carnegie Science Awards, given annually by the Carnegie Science Center to celebrate the accomplishments of individuals and organizations that work to improve lives through their commitment and contributions to science and technology in Western Pennsylvania. Two other Pitt faculty members won honorable mentions. The honorees were announced Jan. 28; they will be

recognized in a formal celebration at Carnegie Music Hall on May 7.

Starzl, who is known as "the father of transplantation," was selected by the Carnegie Science Awards committee for his role in pioneering and advancing transplantation science. Starzl joined Pitt's School of Medicine in 1981 as a professor of surgery and led the team of surgeons who performed Pittsburgh's first liver transplant. Thirty liver transplants were performed that year, launching the liver transplant program—the only one in the nation at the time.

Among Starzl's many other honors are his receipt of the 2004 National Medal



Thomas E. Starzl

of Science from then-President George W. Bush, the 2009 Gustav O. Lienhard Award from the Institute of Medicine, the David M. Hume Memorial Award from the National

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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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BlackHistoryMonth

A Passion to Serve, a Compass to Guide

Yvonne Cook is Highmark Foundation president and a key player in the Pittsburgh community

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

Yvonne Cook has maintained a single focus in both her career and personal interests: serving the greater Pittsburgh community and beyond.

In her professional life, Cook (CGS '91) is president of the Highmark Foundation, a private corporate foundation that is funded by insurer Highmark, Inc., and has assets of about \$100 million. She assumed the position in 2003 and is responsible for managing and directing the foundation's daily activities. Cook also is vice president for community and health initiatives at Highmark.

Each year, Highmark awards millions of dollars to nonprofit organizations to provide community services aimed at helping people live longer, healthier lives. And Cook is in charge of selecting which projects receive foundation funding.

"I really like interacting with potential grantees when they come to me with their projects," she says. "I love hearing their ideas. I like helping to shape and support ideas and seeing them come to realization."

Some past grants that had the most meaning for Cook include \$246,000 to support the Centers for Healthy Hearts and Souls, which provides residents of some of Pittsburgh's neediest communities with access to organized wellness activities; \$53,000 to support Magee-Women's Hospital to expand its Girls on the Run program, a self-esteem-building and healthy lifestyles program; \$185,000 to the Mt. Ararat Community Activity Center to expand a mentoring program to girls ages 12-14; and \$200,000 to the Allegheny County Department of Human Services to improve the treatment of maternal depression among low-income pregnant women or mothers enrolled in Allegheny County's Health Choices Program.

Originally enrolled as a business major at Pitt, it wasn't until Cook met Lawrence Howard, former dean of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and emeritus professor of public and international affairs, that she realized she wanted to pursue a career in public management.

"Hereally turned my life around professionally," she says. "He truly helped me to think about the world in a different way."

"The University of Pittsburgh prepared me for a varied career. As I continue to move and grow professionally, I really can't thank Pitt enough for that." Cook says her professors equipped her for life after graduation. "There's a difference between learning in a class and actually being prepared for your future."

—Yvonne Cook



Yvonne Cook at Pittsburgh's August Wilson Center for African American Culture

"I had a very positive academic experience," Cook adds. "The University of Pittsburgh prepared me for a varied career. As

I continue to move and grow professionally, I really can't thank Pitt enough for that."

Cook says her professors equipped her for life after graduation. "There's a difference between learning in a class and actually being prepared for your future," she says.

Cook also obtained a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon's H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management.

Cook's passions and interests outside of work can be found in the community, as well. One in particular—The August Wilson Center for African American Culture—is near to her heart. Cook is cofounder and treasurer of the center, which opened amid much fanfare in the fall of 2009. It took

15 years of hard work and determination to bring the vision for the center to fruition.

"The center provides wonderful and

high-quality African American programming, which is critical to diversity and inclusion efforts," says Cook. "Our goal is to encourage everyone to participate in the center's activities, and I am really proud of that."

"Yvonne has been instrumental in helping us garner support from Highmark and other funding sources around the area," says Oliver Byrd, senior vice president at BNY Mellon and chair of the August Wilson Center's board.

"But most important is that she shows compassion for the artists and artist organizations—and a clear understanding of the contributions that people of color have made in Western Pennsylvania," adds Byrd. "And it's that kind of commitment that has enabled the center to make it so far on this 13-plus-year journey. It's her perseverance that has helped to shape the vision of what the August Wilson Center has come to be."

Tireless in her efforts to affect change in Pittsburgh, Cook also is an advisory board member of Imani Christian Academy, a private school that works with at-risk children to transform them into spiritually, academically, physically, and socially whole adults, and a board member of the Multicultural Arts Initiative, which is a funding and advocacy organization that supports culturally diverse arts programming.

The awards and honors she has received reflect her successes. Among them are the Coretta Scott King Women of Diversity

Award (*Women-CONNECT Magazine*, 2009); Women of Achievement Award (S.I.D.S. of Pennsylvania/Cribs for Kids, 2009); and the Florence Nightingale Award (Health Hope Network, 2006). In addition, she was selected as one of the *New Pittsburgh Courier's* 50 Women of Excellence in 2008.

Cook says she is committed to helping level the playing field for African Americans and women, something she did full-time when she served as executive assistant to former Allegheny County Chief Executive James Roddey. In that role, she advised Roddey on health and human service matters and provided oversight to the county's Department of Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

Cook says her spiritual and family values—which she refers to as her "moral compass"—drive her desire and commitment to serve the community.

"Also, my educational experiences, both in high school and college, continue to reinforce my need to be active in the community," she says.

Cook says she takes pride in continuing to rely upon her moral compass as she moves up the corporate ladder.

"Sometimes, as you advance in your career, you become influenced—or you are seen to be in a privileged type of environment. I've been able to hold on to the compass that guides me and continues to help me make good decisions."

Newsmakers

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY



MARY JANE BENT/CODE

E. Maxine Bruhns, director of Pitt's Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Program, received the 2009 Special Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Western Pennsylvania Chapter. The National Philanthropy Day awards banquet was held in the Sheraton Station Square Hotel on Nov. 11. From left, Connie Schwartz-Bedo, past president of AFP Western Pennsylvania Chapter; Bruhns; and Jerry Mote, chapter president for 2010.

HARRISBURG AND HOME



MARY JANE BENT/CODE

Pennsylvania state Rep. Jake Wheatley (GSPIA '00) addressed Pitt students in Posvar Hall on Jan. 22 as a guest lecturer for Pitt's Roscoe Robinson Jr. Memorial Lecture Series on Diversity and Public Service, sponsored by the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Wheatley, a decorated U.S. Marine combat veteran of Operation Desert Storm, spoke about diversity and state government.

A WELCOME VICTORY



MIKE BRAZDZINSKI/CODE

The Pitt men's basketball team racked up a 63-53 victory against St. John's on Jan. 28, bringing the Panthers' season record to 16-4, 6-2 Big East. The Panthers clamped down defensively and made their free throws in the game at the Petersen Events Center. Above, No. 5 Gilbert Brown, a 6-foot-6 forward, shoots two for the Panthers.

A LOFTY HISTORY



JIM BURKE/CODE

U.S. astronaut and physician Mae Jemison, who was the first African American woman to travel in space, was the featured speaker during a Jan. 19 evening in David Lawrence Hall, sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh's Black Action Society. Jemison's presentation, "Dr. King's Legacy: A Call to Action," was part of a series of free public events on Pitt's Oakland campus Jan. 15-21 to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Jemison entered Stanford University at the age of 16, earned her medical degree at Cornell University Medical College, and flew aboard the shuttle *Endeavor* in 1992.

Science & Technology

Schoen's Research Raises Concern Over Frequency of Surveillance Colonoscopy

By Anita Srikameswaran

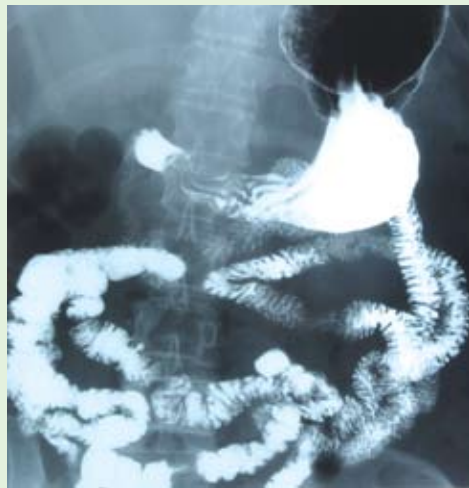
How often patients receive surveillance colonoscopy may need to be better aligned with their risks for colorectal cancer, according to two papers published by University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine researchers. The studies provide evidence that colonoscopy is both overused and underused in particular patient populations, raising serious implications for health care spending.

According to Robert E. Schoen, professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh and senior author of both papers, surveillance colonoscopy is performed to monitor patients who have had precancerous polyps, called adenomas, found on a previous colonoscopy. The aim of surveillance is to identify and remove recurrent growths before they advance to cancer.

"Guidelines recommend that patients who have had precancerous lesions, especially advanced precancerous lesions, get follow-up colonoscopy earlier and more often than patients who do not have polyps," said Schoen. "Yet our studies show surveillance colonoscopy is not being used by the medical system in relation to underlying risk."

The first study, published in the January edition of the journal *Gastroenterology*, demonstrates a substantial overuse of surveillance colonoscopy among low-risk patients and underuse among high-risk patients. The study followed 3,600 patients from the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-sponsored Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian (PLCO) cancer screening trial. Among 1,026 patients with no precancerous lesions at their initial examination, 58 percent underwent a follow-up exam an average of every 3.9 years, although the recommendation is to do so every five or 10 years. Detailed review of the records could not identify medical reasons for the premature testing. After five years, only 58.4 percent of patients with advanced precancerous lesions received surveillance colonoscopy despite the recommendation that they do so every three years.

"High-risk patients aren't receiving timely follow-up colonoscopy, but there



is overutilization among low-risk patients who are unlikely to develop colon cancer," Schoen said. "This misuse wastes health care resources and risks development of cancers in high-risk patients that might have been preventable."

The second study, published in the January issue of *GIE: Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, emphasizes a persistent, ongoing risk of cancer, despite colonoscopy, especially among patients with a history of advanced precancerous lesions.

For the study, 1,297 individuals who participated in the NCI's Polyp Prevention Trial, a four-year study that examined the effect of a low-fat, high-fiber, high-fruit, and vegetable diet on precancerous polyp recurrence, were followed for an additional six years. Nine cases of colorectal cancer developed although the individuals had multiple colonoscopies during the 10-year observation period. Seven out of the nine subjects who developed cancer had a history of advanced precancerous lesions.

"Despite regular colonoscopy, colorectal cancer may still occur. This study emphasizes that patients with a history of advanced polyps are at particular risk and should be monitored closely with timely surveillance examinations," Schoen said. "Combined, these studies seriously indicate how surveillance colonoscopy is being implemented, and represent a call to action to align colonoscopy use with patient risk, especially in an era where we are trying to spend our health care dollars as effectively as possible."



Robert E. Schoen

The first study, published in the January edition of the journal *Gastroenterology*, demonstrates a substantial overuse of surveillance colonoscopy among low-risk patients and underuse among high-risk patients.



Grandis, Argiris Receive Patent for New Head and Neck Cancer Treatment

By Courtney McCrimmon

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine have been awarded a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for the development of a new DNA therapy for head and neck cancers. The therapy targets the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), a protein found on the surface of many types of cancer cells that causes them to multiply.

Standard treatments for head and neck cancers often are ineffective and tend to have debilitating side effects, explained Jennifer R. Grandis, a professor of otolaryngology and pharmacology at Pitt and director of the Head and Neck Program at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI). "We set out to develop an alternative approach that is safe and effective for these cancers," she said.

The new treatment is based on a form of genetic therapy called "antisense," or AS, in which a synthesized strand of DNA or RNA targets the EGFR genes within a head and neck tumor. The therapy blocks the production of a protein produced by the gene. According to Grandis, expectations were exceeded in a phase I study of the therapy that was designed primarily to determine the safety and potential toxicity of EGFR AS injections in patients with advanced head and neck cancers.

"Not only were the AS injections well tolerated, but tumors disappeared or shrank

considerably in 29 percent of the patients," Grandis said. "These results show that EGFR AS therapy has great potential as a safe, effective treatment."

A phase II clinical trial evaluating the safety and efficacy of EGFR AS injections in combination with the drug cetuximab and radiation therapy will soon be open for eligible patients. According to Ethan Argiris, a professor of medicine at Pitt and principal investigator of the phase II trial, the study will enroll patients 70 years of age or older with advanced head and neck cancers who aren't eligible for cisplatin, the chemotherapy often used to treat head and neck cancers.

Head and neck cancers are a group of biologically similar cancers originating from the upper aerodigestive tract, including the lip, mouth, nasal cavity, paranasal sinuses, pharynx, and larynx, that affect more than 45,000 individuals in the United States each year. Head and neck cancers are strongly associated with environmental and lifestyle risk factors, including tobacco smoking, alcohol consumption, and certain strains of the sexually transmitted human papilloma virus.



Jennifer R. Grandis

Starzl, McGowan Institute, and 8 Others From Pitt Honored by Science Center



Di Gao (center) with students in his laboratory

Continued from page 2

Kidney Foundation, the Brookdale Award in Medicine from the American Medical Association, the Rhoads Medal from the American Philosophical Society, and 24 honorary doctorates from universities worldwide.

Pitt's other Carnegie Science Award honorees follow.

Advanced Materials Award

Di Gao, an assistant professor and William Kepler Whiteford Faculty Fellow in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering, University of Pittsburgh.

Gao developed the first anti-icing superhydrophobic coating that is able to prevent icing of freezing rain on a solid surface.

Corporate Innovation Award

McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, an organization created by Pitt's School of Medicine and UPMC Health System to tap into the vast potential of tissue engineering and other techniques to repair damaged or diseased tissues and organs.

The Science Center said in its release that "the McGowan Institute's innovative structure has led to the development of therapies that are aligned with the regenerative medicine paradigm. McGowan faculty members have organized more than 20 clinical studies currently under way or that are anticipated to begin within a year."

University/Post-Secondary Educator Award

Alison Slinsky Legg, (A&S '98G), director of Outreach Programs for the Department of Biological Sciences in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences.

Slinsky Legg was selected for designing programs aimed at breaking barriers between the lab and the classroom by making cutting-edge science accessible to K-12 students. Since its inception, the program has benefited nearly 35,000 students in Western Pennsylvania. In 2008, the program's reach was expanded by the University's purchase of the Pitt Mobile Science Lab, a self-contained, fully equipped, traveling laboratory.

Honorable Mention—University/Post-Secondary Educator Award

Thad Zaleskiewicz, an emeritus physics professor at Pitt-Greensburg. He is codeveloper of an integrated natural science course that serves more than 300 students annually, and he coordinates the Summer Science Math Experience for junior high school students.

University/Post-Secondary Student Award

Bryan Brown, a Pitt bioengineering doctoral student. Brown has been recognized for his research, including fellowships from the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, and awards from tissue engineering, regenerative medicine, and biomaterials societies. He is a graduate student in the lab of Steven Badylak, deputy director of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine and a professor of surgery in Pitt's School of Medicine.

Emerging Female Scientist Award

Charleen T. Chu, a professor of pathology in Pitt's School of Medicine and the 2010 winner of the American Society for Investigative Pathology Outstanding Investigator Award.

Chu was chosen because of the seminal discoveries she has made that have placed her at the forefront of Parkinson's disease research.

Honorable Mention—Emerging Female Scientist Award

Kacey Marra, an assistant professor of surgery in Pitt's School of Medicine.

As codirector of Pitt's Adipose Stem Cell Center and a pioneer in her field, Marra focuses on regenerative medicine, particularly using fat-derived stem cells for tissue regeneration and the development of novel biomaterials.

Environmental Award

Devra Davis, founding director of the Center for Environmental Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and now a professor in the Department of Epidemiology in the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

Davis was selected for creating both the Environmental Health Trust, an independent think tank devoted to studying and reducing environmental health hazards, and the world's first Center for Environmental Oncology.

Life Sciences Award

Andrew Schwartz, a professor of neurobiology in Pitt's School of Medicine, whose research has contributed to the development of brain-controlled prosthetic arms and hands.

Schwartz is a pioneer in the field of neural engineering and established Pitt's Neural Engineering Program in 2004.



Devra Davis



Andrew Schwartz

PittinBrief

Pitt to Host Chemical Professionals Career Workshop on Post-graduation Employment Feb. 6

The University of Pittsburgh's Department of Chemistry will host its annual career workshop for chemical professionals on Feb. 6 in Room A221/A224 Langley Hall. Registration for the daylong event ends Feb. 1.

The workshop begins at 8:30 a.m. and comprises presentations on navigating the existing job market, interviewing in science-related fields, a catered networking lunch, confidential résumé reviews, career-consultation sessions, and a job fair. The workshop is sponsored by the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Chemical Society, and the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh.

The workshop will feature notable guest speakers offering their expertise in establishing careers in science. Daniel J. Eustace, a career consultant with the American Chemical Society, will deliver the lecture "Managing an Effective Job Search," at 9:30 a.m. Eustace has more than 30 years experience in the chemistry field, having served as the health safety and environmental protection manager for Multilayer Coating Technology, LLC, formerly the Polaroid Corporation, and senior staff chemist for Exxon Research and Engineering Company. He currently is an adjunct professor for the University of Connecticut, where he teaches a course specifically designed to assist science students find postgraduate employment.

Joseph D. Jolson, founder of Custom Client Solutions, a Pittsburgh-based consulting firm, will analyze the local science job market during a session beginning at noon. Jolson's scientific career spans more than 25 years. He invented the lithium-silver oxide battery and commercialized improved lithium-iodine and thermally activated batteries; he also led teams that developed such products as gas sensors, gas detectors, and respiratory protection devices.

More information and an event schedule is available at www.chem.cmu.edu/acs-pgh/JSCP.pdf.

—By Anthony M. Moore

Pitt Offers Professionals, Companies the Region's Only University-level Training In Lean Six Sigma Strategy

Local professionals seeking certification in Lean Six Sigma, the popular process and quality improvement strategy, can take advantage of a new two-semester, part-time certification program established in the Department of Industrial Engineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering. The program is the region's only university-level Lean Six Sigma program and offers Green and Black Belt certification, locally and affordably. Local companies seeking a Lean Six Sigma solution also can submit on-site project work to the class, regardless of whether their employees are taking the course.

Developed at Motorola in the 1980s, Six Sigma employs systematic statistical and quality methods to reduce process errors and variation in fields ranging from production and banking to service and health care, said instructor and Pitt field faculty member Shankar Lakhavani. Lakhavani—himself a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt and chair-elect of the American Society for Quality's Pittsburgh section—said the program was designed in response to both commercial interest in a certification program and the lack of a local academic Black Belt course.

Both Green and Black Belt courses will be offered beginning in Pitt's summer term. These courses also can be applied as credits toward a master's degree in industrial engineering. More information is available by contacting Shankar Lakhavani at 412-736-5864, or shankl@pitt.edu.

—By Morgan Kelly

Pitt Center for Global Health Plans "Haiti's Road to Recovery" Panel

In the aftermath of Haiti's devastating Jan. 12 earthquake, the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Global Health is presenting a panel discussion, "Haiti's Road to Recovery—A Discussion of Complexities," at 4 p.m. on Feb. 2 in Ballroom A, University Club.

Panelists include Donald S. Burke, dean of Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health, associate vice chancellor for global health, and the UPMC-Jonas Salk Chair in Global Health at Pitt; Mary Carrasco, director of international and community initiatives, Pittsburgh Mercy Health System; Louise Comfort, a professor of public and urban affairs in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Kent Harries, a civil engineering professor and William Kepler Whiteford Faculty Fellow in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering; Kathleen Hower, executive director and cofounder, Global Links; and Samuel Stebbins, assistant professor of epidemiology in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health.

With most of Haiti's infrastructure destroyed by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake, relief efforts face a monumental challenge. Comparisons with recent major disasters, such as the Tsunami of 2004, demonstrate that Haiti poses a much tougher challenge. Former President Bill Clinton, now the U.N.



Special Envoy to Haiti, says the country has an opportunity to be a better place than it was before the devastating earthquake.

The panel discussion will address whether such a scenario is possible or whether the lessons of history and Haiti's special circumstances indicate otherwise. Panelists will also discuss what individuals, other countries, and global organizations and agencies must do to put Haiti on the road to recovery.

The discussion is free and open to the public. More information on the event is available by calling 412-624-6985. For more information on Pitt's Center for Global Health, visit www.globalhealth.pitt.edu/.

Happenings



Workers on the Cathedral of Learning, by Harry W. Scheuch, 1934: A New Deal for Artists, Frick Art & Historical Center, through April 25

"The Establishment of the European External Action Service: An Administrative Reform Driven by a Political Ambition," featuring Eric Remacle, professor of political science, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, and Edoardo Ongaro, professor of public management, Bocconi University, Italy, noon **Feb. 2**, 211 David Lawrence Hall, Pitt European Studies Center, European Union Center of Excellence, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

Lunchtime talk on stress management, Emily Levinson, Pitt Life Solutions account manager, noon **Feb. 2**, Dining Room A, William Pitt Union, Brown Bag Lunch program, Pitt Staff Association Council, 412-624-4234, sac@pitt.edu.

"Fate, Fortune, and Risk Control: A New Interpretation of the High Rate of Cesarean Section in Taiwan," Shih-Hsiang Sung, graduate student, Pitt Department of Anthropology, noon **Feb. 4**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.

"Limpopo: The Case of Tatyana Tolstaya's African Woman," Jennifer Wilson, professor, Russian studies, Princeton University, noon **Feb. 4**, 4217 Posvar Hall, Pitt African Studies Program, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Center for Russian and East European Studies, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

"Understanding, Formal Verification, and the Philosophy of Mathematics," Jeremy Avigad, professor, Carnegie Mellon University's Departments of Philosophy and Mathematical Sciences, 3:30 p.m. **Feb. 5**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittcntr@pitt.edu.

Miscellaneous

Workshop, on Sandra Mitchell's *Unsimple Truths: Science, Complexity, and Policy* (2009, University of Chicago Press), 4:30 p.m. **Feb. 3**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittcntr@pitt.edu.

Opera/Theater/Dance

In the Heights, musical theater, **Feb. 2-7**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America, 412-456-2697, www.broadway-acrossamerica.com, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats available at 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.



Behind the Lens, Pittsburgh Glass Center, February 5-28

The Rape of Lucretia, by Benjamin Britten, opera performance, **Feb. 2, 5, 7**, CAPA Theater, 111 Ninth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-281-0912, www.pittsburghopera.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats available at 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Scapin, adapted from Moliere by Bill Irwin and Mark O'Donnell, **Feb. 3-14**, Studio Theatre, Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Repertory Theater, www.play.pitt.edu.

Buried Child, theatrical performance, **Feb. 5-21**, 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.

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

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 ARTS Cheap Seats available at 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Concerts

Honeck & Mutter, Manfred Honeck, conductor, Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin, featuring works by Brahms and Beethoven, 8 p.m. **Feb. 5-6** with PITT ARTS Night on **Feb. 5**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats available at 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Daniel Bernard Roumain: Etudes4violin&electronix, Haitian violinist and bandleader, 8 p.m. **Feb. 6**, August Wilson Center Theater, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, August Wilson Center for African American Culture, www.augustwilsoncenter.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats available at 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Wind Quintet Program, musical performance by the Renaissance City Winds, 3 p.m. **Feb. 7**, Kresge Theater, Grace Library, Carlow University, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland, Renaissance City Wind Music Society, Carlow University, 412-681-7111, www.renaissancecitywinds.org.

Exhibitions

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

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

Pittsburgh Glass Center, Behind the Lens, featuring photographs of Pittsburgh's Glass Center by Nathan J. Shaulis, **Feb. 5-28**, Pittsburgh Glass Center, 5472 Penn Ave., Garfield, 412-365-2145, www.pittsburghglasscenter.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 Works Progress Administration's 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, **through May 2**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.carnegiemnh.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art, Forum 64: Cecil Balmond, **through May 30**; *Gods, Love, and War: Tapestries at Carnegie Museum of Art,* **through June 13**; *Past Meets Present: Decorative Arts and Design,* **ongoing**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

Film

L'Auberge Espagnole (Cedric Klapisch, 2002), 1 p.m. **Feb. 5**, 3610 Posvar Hall, Pitt European Studies Center, European Union of Excellence, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

La Danse: The Paris Opera Ballet (Frederick Wiseman, 2009), time TBA, **Feb. 5**, Harris Theater, 809 Liberty Ave.,

Downtown, Pittsburgh Filmmakers, 412-682-4111, www.pghfilmmakers.org.

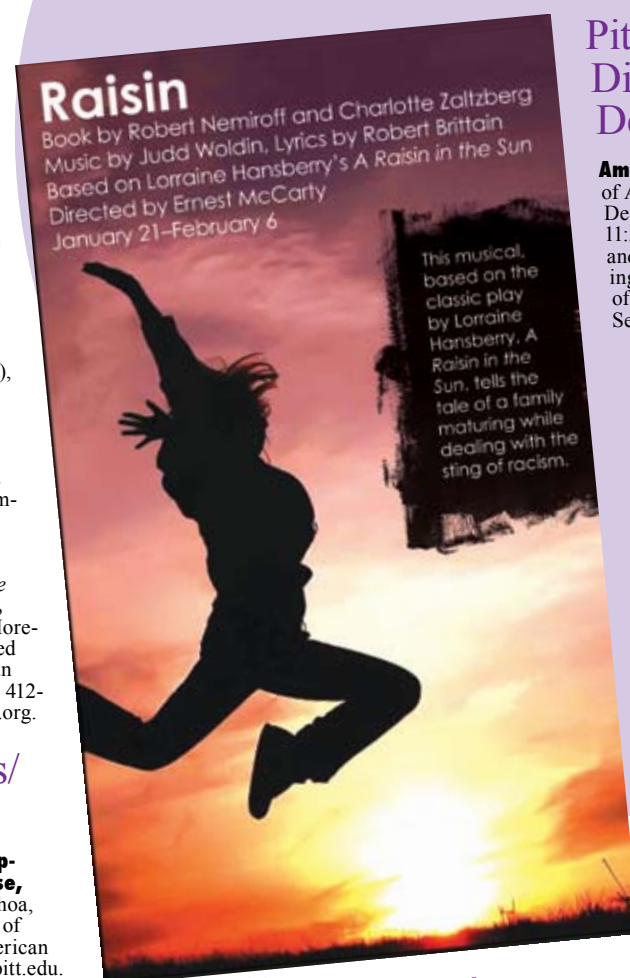
Om Shanti Om (Farah Khan, 2007), Indian Film Series, 6:30 p.m. **Feb. 5**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt Asian Studies Center, Arts and Sciences Graduate Dean's Office, Film Studies Program, Indo-Pacific Area Council, 412-624-5578, neepamajumdar@gmail.com.

Kaagaz Ke Phool (Guru Dutt, 1959), Indian Film Series, 7 p.m. **Feb. 6**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt Asian Studies Center, Arts and Sciences Graduate Dean's Office, Film Studies Program, Indo-Pacific Area Council, 412-624-5578, neepamajumdar@gmail.com.

China Unreel'd, documentary film screening of *Please Vote for Me* (Weijun Chen, 2007), 2 p.m. **Feb. 6**, Winchester Thurston School, 555 Morewood Ave., Shadyside, Asia Unreel'd Documentary Film Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, Confucius Institute, 412-578-7523, www.winchesterthurston.org.

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

"Subversive Vermin: Marcos Zapatism, Anti-Neoliberal Discourse, and Cold War Anxiety," John Ochoa, author, 3 p.m. **Feb. 1**, 602 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Latin American Studies, Humanities Center, jk17@pitt.edu.



Raisin, Kuntu Repertory Theater through February 6

Pitt/PhD Dissertation Defenses

Amanda Midboe, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Psychology, 11:30 a.m. **Feb. 3**, "Worry and Health Decision-Making: The Moderating Role of Social Support," 4127 Sennott Square.



Switching to Low-tar Cigarettes Halves Chance Of Quitting Smoking, Pitt Study Finds

By Amy Dugas Rose

Smokers who switched to a low-tar, light, or mild brand of cigarettes had about a 50 percent lower chance of giving up smoking, according to a University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine study.

“Forty-three percent of smokers reported a desire to quit smoking as a reason for switching to lighter cigarettes. While these individuals were the most likely to make an attempt, ironically, they were the least likely to quit smoking,” said Hilary Tindle, lead author of the study and assistant professor of medicine in Pitt’s School of Medicine.

“It may be that smokers think that a lighter brand is better for their health and is therefore an acceptable alternative to giving up completely,” Tindle added.

The findings, reported in the November issue of *Tobacco Control*, are based on more than 31,000 smokers in the United States who participated in the Tobacco Use Supplement to the Current Population Survey, sponsored by the National Cancer Institute and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survey is a key source of national and state data on smoking and other tobacco use in U.S. households.

Survey participants were asked in 2003 whether they had switched to a milder/low-tar brand of cigarette and their reasons for switching. They also were asked if they had attempted to give up smoking altogether during the previous 12 months and whether they currently identified themselves as nonsmokers. The total sample included more than 29,000 people who were current smokers and almost 2,000 who reported having given up the habit for at least 90 days prior to the survey.

In all, 12,000 people, or 38 percent, said they had



Hilary Tindle

switched to a lighter brand, with one in four citing flavor as the primary reason. Almost one in five of those surveyed said they had switched for a combination of better flavor, the desire to smoke a less harmful cigarette, and the intention to give up smoking completely.

Those smokers who switched brands were 58 percent more likely to have attempted to give up smoking between 2002

and 2003 than those who stuck with their brand. But this same group was actually 60 percent less likely to be successful in quitting smoking.

In the entire study group—including those who tried to quit and those who did not—the overall odds of giving up smoking were 46 percent lower among those who switched to a lighter cigarette for any reason than among those who stuck with their original brand.

Low-tar cigarettes deliver amounts of tar, nicotine, and other substances that are

In the entire study group—including those who tried to quit and those who did not—the overall odds of giving up smoking were 46 percent lower among those who switched to a lighter cigarette for any reason than among those who stuck with their original brand.

comparable with regular cigarettes, yet they comprise 84 percent of the cigarette market in the United States.

“Previous research has shown that smokers interpret the term ‘light’ to mean less toxic, an association that manufacturers have sought to exploit in advertising,” Tindle said.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Feb. 8. 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.

