Pitt Is Again Ranked in Very Top Cluster Of America’s Public Research Universities

The University of Pittsburgh has been ranked in the very top cluster of the nation’s public research universities in the recently released 2009 edition of The American Research University, a report by the Center on Higher Education at Arizona State University. The rankings, which are based on nine categories of research performance, place Pitt among the top 25 public universities on all nine measures.

In commenting on Pittsburgh’s performance, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg stated, “When this particular study was first released in 2000, we immediately began using it in our own benchmarking, because we believed it was the best independently produced assessment of institutional strength—in part, because it does rely on objective and well-targeted measures. To be performing at levels that make Pitt a distinguished top cluster is a real achievement.”

In 2000, the University of Pittsburgh was ranked in the study’s fourth cluster of public research universities. That group included such strong universities as Ohio State, Purdue, and the University of Virginia. To reach the top cluster, Pitt had to improve its performance compared to those institutions and to another 12 of the country’s finest public research universities.

In the initial Top American Research Universities report, its editors placed the significance of Pitt’s rankings rise in perspective by first noting that “research universities live in a highly competitive marketplace, and none of those in the top categories is likely to cease improving.” To get relatively better, then, a university “must match and then exceed the growth of its competitors.” This was described as a “major challenge.” And this year’s report notes “the remarkable stability in the rankings of research universities,” particularly “at the top of the distribution.”

Consistent with the approach taken by this report—which clusters universities, rather than ranking them sequentially—Chancellor Nordenberg stated that “always is possible to find bases to argue about distinctions between institutions that are drawn too finely.” However, he continued, “we have found that “our University’s momentum in rising to the next top cluster, in place in the top cluster for three of the last four years is an unmistakable measure of our progress and should be a source of pride for all of the many Pitt people who have contributed to building our ongoing record of success.”

The Top American Research Universities report is published by The Center for Measuring University Performance, which is located at Arizona State University. Its coeditors are John V. Lombardi, the president of the Louisiana State University System, and Elizabeth D. Capaldi, the executive vice president and university provost at Arizona State University. The report is available at The Center’s Web site, http://mup.asu.edu.

Continued on page 3

Engineering Alumnus Leonard Berenfield Pledges $1.5 Million to Department of Bioengineering

The University of Pittsburgh has received a $1.5 million pledge from Leonard Berenfield (ENG ’64) to establish The Berenfield Family Engineering Legacy Fund for Bioengineering in the John A. Swanson School of Engineering.

Berenfield’s gift will support the University’s research efforts in the areas of pediatric cardiac surgery and cardio-pulmonary regenerative medicine, fields in which the Department of Bioengineering has earned national recognition for research excellence. Berenfield, whose son and grandson were born with heart defects that required surgery, is an avid supporter of pediatric cardiovascular research and wishes to see continued advancements in technology and medicine in this field.

“As one of the oldest engineering schools in the nation, Pitt’s Swanson School has a long tradition of producing advanced research and is one of the nation’s leaders in bioengineering research,” said Gerald D. Holder, the U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering at Pitt. “Commitments like Len’s are invaluable in lifting our academic reputation and positioning us even further as a leading national engineering school.”

Under the leadership of Dr. Harvey Borovetz, chair and Distinguished Professor of Bioengineering at Pitt, a true partnership has developed with the past several years between the Swanson School and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, “notes Peter Wearden, Pitt assistant professor of cardio-thoracic surgery and director of Mechanical Circulatory Support at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. “Mr. Berenfield’s gift will serve to grow this relationship even further. Because of the experiences of his family, Len, in the most personal of ways, shares our passion to find transformative solutions for children with congenital heart disease. We are very grateful that Mr. Berenfield has chosen to join our team. His generous gift will enhance our ability to make a significant difference in the lives of these children and their families.”

According to Borovetz, who also is the Robert L. Hardesty Professor in the
Pitt Cell Phone Recycling Campaign

The University of Pittsburgh will be collecting deactivated cell phones through June 6 for a recycling campaign sponsored by Pitt’s Computing and Systems Development. Cell phones, PDAs, and accessories can be deposited in recycling drop boxes located across campus, including all campus computing labs, Craig Hall’s lobby, Hillman Library, the McCracken Library, and the William Pitt Student Union. Any personal data left on the cell phones will be securely destroyed prior to the recycling process, which will be done by eLoop LLC, a Pittsburgh recycling facility that has been approved by the Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection.

—Amanda Leff Ritchie

Pitt Plans 20th Annual Kennywood Day for July 31

University of Pittsburgh faculty, staff, and students and their families are invited to Pitt’s 20th annual Kennywood Picnic Day. On July 31, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Pitt’s Staff Association Council (SAC), which is coordinating the event, is selling discounted tickets to Kennywood for the day of the event—equal as well as access for other Western Pennsylvanian water and amusement parks.

The price of a discounted FunDay Pass and a catered meal at Kennywood on July 31 is $21.

For seniors 55 years and older, the price for the pass and catered meal is $15. Children ages 2 and younger are free. Tickets are on sale in the William Pitt Student Union through July 30, and must be made in cash.

SAC is also selling discounted tickets to Kennywood for use on other days this summer. Each ticket costs $22. There is a discount ticket available at the door if the tickets are used on weekends in July or August.

Discounted tickets to Sandcastle Waterpark in Homestead and Idlewild in Ligonier are currently available through Aug. 27. Also, in the William Pitt Student Union, Sandcastle Waterpark passes are $20 each, Idlewild FunDay passes, $21 each. Both parks’ passes are valid any day of the 2010 season, with no surcharge.

Additional information is available through the SAC Office, 412-624-4260.

G. Reynolds Clark to Receive Area’s United Way Inaugural Outstanding Campaign Volunteer of Year Award

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

G. Reynolds (“Renny”) Clark, the University of Pittsburgh’s vice chancellor for community initiatives and chief of staff for Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, has been selected to be the inaugural recipient of the United Way of Allegheny County’s Outstanding Campaign Volunteer of the Year Award, which recognizes a campaign leader who has made “a significant impact in the annual United Way Campaign through his or her dedication, leadership, and outreach.” Clark also is being recognized for his “passionate dedication to facilitating new and longstanding relationships with agencies of the United Way.”

The award will be presented to Clark, retired chair of the Westinghouse Foundation, at the 2009 United Way Campaign Celebration, to be held at 11:30 a.m. May 25 in the Omni William Penn Hotel.

Clark has been the chair of the University’s United Way campaign since he joined the University in 2000; during that time, the Pittsburgh campaign has raised $5.76 million for the Allegheny County United Way.

“Renny is the best volunteer in the world,” says Robert Nelkin, president and chief professional officer of the United Way of Allegheny County. “He is tireless. He is passionate. He is reliable. And he is very effective.”

A member of the United Way of Allegheny County Board of Directors, Clark also serves on the United Way’s Community Engagement Committee, which strives to “deepen individual understanding of the United Way’s mission, and support of United Way’s work of advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all.” The Toqueville Society also recognizes local philanthropic leaders and volunteer champions around the world who have devoted time, talent, and funds to create long-lasting changes by tackling their communities’ most serious issues. As a Toqueville Society Committee member, Clark has reached out to community leaders, requesting major gifts of $10,000 or greater.

Clark joined Pitt after a 34-year career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation, where, in addition to having chaired the Westinghouse Foundation, he served as executive director of the company’s staff services functions, among other roles. In June 2009, Westinghouse’s SURE (Service Uniting Retired Employees) selected Clark to receive that organization’s Lifetime Achievement Award for 2009. SURE’s 900 supporting members volunteer some 20,000 hours a year, benefiting children, the elderly, and the infirm, and they help to raise funds for, and provide guidance to, other charities.

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

G. Reynolds (“Renny”) Clark

Pitt’s African American Alumni Council Names Cochairs For Diversity Initiative Fundraising Campaign

By Patricia Lomando White

The University of Pittsburgh African American Alumni Council (AAAC) has named Louis Kelly (EDUC ’77, ’78) and Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew (NURS ’56, MEd ’57) cochairs of the AAAC Scholarship Campaign Steering Committee. During Pitt’s 2009 Homecoming, the AAAC publicly launched the $3 million campaign to support diversity initiatives at Pitt as well as for continued student scholarship assistance.

Appointed by AAAC President Linda Wharton-Boyd, Kelly and Larkins-Pettigrew will succeed Doug Browning (A&S ’72), who led the AAAC scholarship effort during the initial phase of the campaign through its public launch in October.

For seniors 55 years and older, the price for the pass and catered meal is $15. Children ages 2 and younger are free. Tickets are on sale in the William Pitt Student Union through July 30, and must be made in cash.

SAC is also selling discounted tickets to Kennywood for use on other days this summer, each ticket costs $22. There is a discount ticket available at the door if the tickets are used on weekends in July or August.

Discounted tickets to Sandcastle Waterpark in Homestead and Idlewild in Ligonier are available through Aug. 27. Also, in the William Pitt Student Union, Sandcastle Waterpark passes are $20 each, Idlewild FunDay passes, $21 each. Both parks’ passes are valid any day of the 2010 season, with no surcharge.

Additional information is available through the SAC Office, 412-624-4260.

G. Reynolds (“Renny”) Clark

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

G. Reynolds (“Renny”) Clark, the University of Pittsburgh’s vice chancellor for community initiatives and chief of staff for Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, has been selected to be the inaugural recipient of the United Way of Allegheny County’s Outstanding Campaign Volunteer of the Year Award, which recognizes a campaign leader who has made “a significant impact in the annual United Way Campaign through his or her dedication, leadership, and outreach.” Clark also is being recognized for his “passionate dedication to facilitating new and longstanding relationships with agencies of the United Way.”

The award will be presented to Clark, retired chair of the Westinghouse Foundation, at the 2009 United Way Campaign Celebration, to be held at 11:30 a.m. May 25 in the Omni William Penn Hotel.

Clark has been the chair of the University’s United Way campaign since he joined the University in 2000; during that time, the Pittsburgh campaign has raised $5.76 million for the Allegheny County United Way.

“Renny is the best volunteer in the world,” says Robert Nelkin, president and chief professional officer of the United Way of Allegheny County. “He is tireless. He is passionate. He is reliable. And he is very effective.”

A member of the United Way of Allegheny County Board of Directors, Clark also serves on the United Way’s Community Engagement Committee, which strives to “deepen individual understanding of the United Way’s mission, and support of United Way’s work of advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all.” The Toqueville Society also recognizes local philanthropic leaders and volunteer champions around the world who have devoted time, talent, and funds to create long-lasting changes by tackling their communities’ most serious issues. As a Toqueville Society Committee member, Clark has reached out to community leaders, requesting major gifts of $10,000 or greater.

Clark joined Pitt after a 34-year career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation, where, in addition to having chaired the Westinghouse Foundation, he served as executive director of the company’s staff services functions, among other roles. In June 2009, Westinghouse’s SURE (Service Uniting Retired Employees) selected Clark to receive that organization’s Lifetime Achievement Award for 2009. SURE’s 900 supporting members volunteer some 20,000 hours a year, benefiting children, the elderly, and the infirm, and they help to raise funds for, and provide guidance to, other charities.

Continued on page 3
In-Store Slack: Pitt Researchers Find That Consumers Often Plan For Unplanned Purchases

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

Straying from the grocery list can yield some savings in your shopping cart, but not necessarily in your wallet, according to University of Pittsburgh researchers and a coresearcher from Baylor University who have coauthored a new study.

The researchers found that shoppers often expect to buy a certain number of unplanned items, and most have a fairly accurate estimate as to how much they will spend on them. The study's coauthors used the term “in-store slack” to describe the room shoppers leave in their budget for unplanned purchases.

"Shoppers in the study indicated that they employ this strategy both because they anticipate ‘forgotten needs’ as well as because they realize that they will encounter ‘unplanned wants’—with some respondents even explicitly indicating that they expected to make impulse purchases," the authors wrote. The shoppers were remarkably accurate when predicting how much they would spend. The average budget deviation (actual spending minus planned spending) was only 47 cents.

The impact of in-store slack on household budget deviations depended on how many aisles the shopper visited and the shoppers' level of impulsiveness.

For retailers, this research suggests that consumers who shop only specific aisles are not spending all of the money that they are. The researchers said that mentally preparing to spend on the current trip, according to the authors. The fact that most consumers do not exceed their mental budgets despite making unplanned purchases suggests that different product categories are used as substitutes (i.e., should I spend my in-store slack on ice cream or Parmesan cheese?). Therefore, the researchers predicted future study should further examine whether in-store stimuli may simply serve to redirect what items consumers purchase rather than to increase unplanned spending.

The researchers found that shoppers often expect to buy a certain number of unplanned items, and most have a fairly accurate estimate as to how much they will spend on them.

In 2010 University of Pittsburgh Phi Beta Kappa Inductees

Rachel E. Aliotto
Natalie Gene Allen
Richard J. Bahler
Andrew Jay Berson
Catherine M. Bohner
Henry Jacob Borish
Katherine Elyse Campbell
Justin Edward Cardinale
Philip Carullo*
He Chang*
Chris Jonathan Cole
David Walter Combs
Rhianne Nicholle Cook
William H. Denq
Nicholas Regis DeSefino
Amanda Lee Dippold
Karolina Duskova
Bradley Matthew End
Jennifer Febbo
Richard P. Fiorella
Kevin A. Flaherty
Lorraine A. Fowler
Anjalka Gandhi
Brandon Lee Gielie
Alyssa Boden Green
Mary Elizabeth Harbst
Ashley L. Heisey
Jessica A. Herbe
Elena J. Herman
Elizabeth E. Hubing
Jennifer Howells
Alexander S. Jamison
Amelia L. Johnson
Milissa S. Jonesa
Rebecca A. Kerner*
Thomas T. Korpar
Andrea Kostura*
Gabrielle Kudman*
Grace W. Lindsay*
YiLi Lu
Amy Darol Lu
Jody L. Manners
Saras Martinez-Suazo*
Ashley Rae Martinez
Emma Catherine McAuley*
Molly McLean*
Abhinav Mital
Julia L. Morley
Rebecca Carole Morral
Kyle Lucinda Morris
Michael R. Muler
Courtlyn Elizabeth Mummeert
Terri Ann Nicely
Michael Gerard Oah
Julia M. O’Rourke
Sumir R. Pandit*
Maria T. Panteva
Laura M. Pasek
Jacob Williams Philipin
Kalee Rae Martin
Natalie Reizine*
John Michael Roberts
Christine Anne Roden
Cory Rodgers*
Gabrielle Fayth Rozenberg
Marc Howard Schutzbank
Punith Singh
Sativa Srinivasas
Olivia Ann Stapsinski
Carrie A. Stringer
Nathanial D. Swift-Erleve
Chelsea Ann Tessmer
Tameka Bridget Thompson
Carolyn Blair Wagner
Carrie Weintraub
Carly Wernert
Elizabeth Wiehagen
Juliette Yedimenko*
(* Pitt juniors)

Pitt School of Medicine’s Department of Surgery, the gift will help the Swanson School and its Department of Bioengineering support, retain, and recruit outstanding graduate student and postdoctoral fellows, as well as prominent faculty members, all of whom will help further strengthen Pitt’s position as a leading bioengineering research institution. The opportunity to collaborate across disciplines promotes translation of the research done in the laboratory to the clinic, and, ultimately, to Wearden’s very special patients.

Through his earlier investments in Pitt’s Building Our Future Together Campaign, Berenfield, a Pittsburgh native, created the Leonard H. Berenfield Graduate Fellowship in Bioengineering. This commitment endowed a fellowship for bioengineering graduate students who focus their research in the area of pediatric cardiac surgery and cardiopulmonary regenerative medicine.

The Berenfield serves as president and chief executive officer of Berenfield Containers Inc. Headquartered in Mason, Ohio, with locations in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Arkansas, Berenfield Containers manufactures steel and fiber shipping containers that range in size from six to 77 gallons.

Prior to joining his family’s business, Berenfield worked for Westinghouse Electric at the Bettis Atomic Power Plant in West Mifflin as a mechanical engineer. He was responsible for designing the part of the container that stored the fuel rods.

The University of Pittsburgh’s Building Our Future Together capital campaign is the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of both Pitt and Southwestern Pennsylvania. To date, the campaign has raised more than $1.46 billion.

The researchers found that shoppers often expect to buy a certain number of unplanned items, and most have a fairly accurate estimate as to how much they will spend on them.

Berenfield Pledges $1.5 Million to Bioengineering

Pitt School of Medicine’s Department of Surgery, the gift will help the Swanson School and its Department of Bioengineering support, retain, and recruit outstanding graduate student and postdoctoral fellows, as well as prominent faculty members, all of whom will help further strengthen Pitt’s position as a leading bioengineering research institution. The opportunity to collaborate across disciplines promotes translation of the research done in the laboratory to the clinic, and, ultimately, to Wearden’s very special patients.

Through his earlier investments in Pitt’s Building Our Future Together Campaign, Berenfield, a Pittsburgh native, created the Leonard H. Berenfield Graduate Fellowship in Bioengineering.

Carole R. ReynoldsClark to Receive United Way’s Outstanding Volunteer Award

Continued from page 2

addition, Clark and his wife, Linda, lived for many years in Franklin Park, Pa., where Clark served for five years as mayor and 30 years as a volunteer firefighter, including 18 years as fire chief.

A 1965 graduate of Geneva College, Clark serves on his alma mater’s board of trustees. In 1990, he received the Distin- guished Service Award from that college’s Alumni Association and cochairs the school’s recent $25 million capital campaign. Therefore, the researchers predicted future study should further examine whether in-store stimuli may simply serve to redirect what items consumers purchase rather than to increase unplanned spending.

The researchers found that shoppers often expect to buy a certain number of unplanned items, and most have a fairly accurate estimate as to how much they will spend on them.

Berenfield Pledges $1.5 Million to Bioengineering

Pitt School of Medicine’s Department of Surgery, the gift will help the Swanson School and its Department of Bioengineering support, retain, and recruit outstanding graduate student and postdoctoral fellows, as well as prominent faculty members, all of whom will help further strengthen Pitt’s position as a leading bioengineering research institution. The opportunity to collaborate across disciplines promotes translation of the research done in the laboratory to the clinic, and, ultimately, to Wearden’s very special patients.

Through his earlier investments in Pitt’s Building Our Future Together Campaign, Berenfield, a Pittsburgh native, created the Leonard H. Berenfield Graduate Fellowship in Bioengineering. This commitment endowed a fellowship for bioengineering graduate students who focus their research in the area of pediatric cardiac surgery and cardiopulmonary regenerative medicine.

The Berenfield serves as president and chief executive officer of Berenfield Containers Inc. Headquartered in Mason, Ohio, with locations in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Arkansas, Berenfield Containers manufactures steel and fiber shipping containers that range in size from six to 77 gallons.

Prior to joining his family’s business, Berenfield worked for Westinghouse Electric at the Bettis Atomic Power Plant in West Mifflin as a mechanical engineer. He was responsible for designing the part of the container that stored the fuel rods.

The University of Pittsburgh’s Building Our Future Together capital campaign is the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of both Pitt and Southwestern Pennsylvania. To date, the campaign has raised more than $1.46 billion.

The researchers found that shoppers often expect to buy a certain number of unplanned items, and most have a fairly accurate estimate as to how much they will spend on them.
Meeting Life’s "Grand Challenges"

"Be informed ... get involved ... volunteer ... This is just the beginning of your education ... not the end."

(This is the print version of the May 2, 2010, University of Pittsburgh commencement address delivered by John A. Swanson, a Pitt alumnus, trustee, and founder and president of ANSYS, Inc., helped revolutionize computer-aided engineering, received the degree Doctor of Science Honoris Causa during the commencement ceremony.)

I did give serious thought about [giving this address] after a while, because I have never done anything like this before. But in thinking about it further, I said to myself, “That’s probably the best possible reason for doing it.” I’d like you to bear that in mind. To say yes [to something like this] opens up a new set of challenges. So if someone asks you to stretch yourself, to do a little bit more—please take advantage of the opportunity. Also, the best way to learn is to teach. I think you have probably found that out already. Nothing gives you a deeper understanding of subject matter than to stand up in front of peers and try to explain yourself and explain your subject to those who, like this audience, are exceptional in their intelligence and exceptional in their learning.

In order to put the talk together, I had to find the theme. After some consideration, I looked at something the National Academy of Engineering has produced. It’s called “The Grand Challenges in Engineering.” I thought, “Why should it just be engineers who have grand challenges? Because most of the challenges combine engineering and philosophy and religion and education and teaching and everything else.” So let’s for a few minutes explore some of these grand challenges.

And I’m going to start large.

Let’s start with the world. When we were in college, we had a poster on the wall that said, “In five billion years, the sun will swallow the Earth.” Doesn’t that make your troubles seem insignificant? Actually, no. My troubles are my troubles. And to me, they are significant. But no grand challenge there. Five billion years—we’re not going to worry about it. We’re just going to let it happen. By then, if we have managed to do anything at all, the sun will swallow the Earth. And we shouldn’t have done the work.

But no grand challenge there. Five billion years—we’re not going to worry about it. Life is very robust. Life is everywhere. If we look throughout the universe, I’m confident that everywhere we look there will be life. Now, you might ask, how about intelligent life? And there is even intelligent life here, but assuming there is, I would argue that all life is intelligent. It has the intelligence it requires to meet its own needs. Our life is different as a species because we recognize not only our own needs, but the needs of the rest of our species. And that is unique.

If we focus on the survival of the species, where are the grand challenges? And I found just one, and it’s a big one—the problem of nuclear war. Mass annihilation. This has every potential to wipe out our species. And I did not realize how adamant I felt about this until I started putting the words on paper. It is absolute stupidity to maintain vast archives of nuclear weapons. First of all, we’re never going to use them. Secondly, who controls them? And if we look at the Gulf of Mexico, accidents will happen... and we do not want an accident to happen here. The vaccine is there.

But bear in mind that in that nuclear arsenal is energy—energy which can be made into electricity, energy which can [take a big chunk out of] the so-called energy crisis. So one of our survival challenges is, of course, energy. And it is a big one because the other challenges such as water and food can be derived. There is sufficient energy. Energy is not a big problem. There is lots of energy falling on this Earth every day. The problem is timing, and the problem is location. No one wants to live in the desert, but the energy is there. So we have network problems. We can solve those. It’s a grand challenge.

The end is clear. We have the tools. Let’s go and do it. Also in the area of the survival of civilization, I would put the grand challenge of disease. Things like leukemia. And if we mention that, let us stop and consider that animals are part of our population. The health we have to look at is the health of the whole system. Not just the health of the human species. We have to look at our animal and neighbors, because diseases can move back and forth between us. If we are healthy and the animals are not, we are not healthy. So we need to look at a total health system. That is a challenge. People understand it.

Other threats that we see include solar storms. We’ve seen dramatic pictures of the sun with massive flares. We also have the distinct possibility that sometime soon Earth’s magnetic poles will reverse. If they do, the solar storms will strike the Earth in full intensity during that period. We also have the concept of global climate change. Let me tell you for sure, that our climate will change. What we don’t know for sure is which way it’s going. The studies of cyclic weather say we’re entering an ice age. Other studies say the Earth is heating up. The answer, I believe, is let’s plan on change... not on which change. But let’s not build on floodplains. Let’s get the houses away from the seacoast. Let’s do the incremental things that can be done, so that when the earthquake comes or the hurricane comes, the Earth will not be ameliorated, that we can pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and go on again.

It would be presumptuous to think, I believe, that we can control the climate. We don’t understand it. But we do understand how to mitigate the effects—and that’s what we must do.

Another challenge, of course, is that even if we do manage to get rid of the nuclear problem, we still have the problem of war and conflict. And an underlying cause of that, unfortunately, seems to be religion. We almost all worship the same God, but somehow that does not seem to be enough. For those of you in philosophy, think about it. Find a way for all of our religions to coexist. The world is too small for us to be as fragmented as we are.
Let’s move down another step, to the survival of our nation. I can talk about this because I am a U.S. citizen. I am proud of it, but I am not necessarily proud of our government. A grand challenge is to balance the budget and cut the deficits. We cannot continue spending more than we earn. I have to apologize for my generation, because what happened in the national debt, you and your children, is abominable. You were handed a bill tied behind your back and we are imposing upon you the sins of the adults. So please be a little forgiving, accept the challenge, and see if you can dig your way out of the mess that we’ve put you in.

If we had a government of statesmen, we would be in good shape. Unfortunately, we have a government of politicians. And until we can convert politicians into statesmen, the government will not be what we hope for... the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

I have heard that the most terrifying statement in the English language is “I hope it is from the government, I’m here to help you. And the fact that that gives us a laugh gives us some indication of the depth of the problem.

There are some threats to our nation, and the biggest threat is cybersecurity. I’m sure that many of you are aware of that. The Internet has given us access to everything with only one word being hacking required to get to some items which are very threatening. We need to solve the cybersecurity problem.

Terrorism is a problem, but I would like to quote the distinguished philosopher Pogo: “We have met the enemy, and he is us.” The danger of terror is much greater because of what we do than what any of our enemies do. And if you have traveled, you know how our enemies are referring to.

If we move yet [further] up the pyramid of desire, we want to expand knowledge. And I think that the physics people in the universities... we know what I am referring to.

It’s an intellectual and an experimental challenge, and it is being approached.

Now, as Mark [University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg] pointed out, you in this room, are, first of all, by far the most intelligent group of people I have ever been able to face, and that makes this a joy. You are also highly qualified to meet these challenges. One of your major qualifications is, of course, that you are or soon will be graduates of the University of Pittsburgh. This is the university that developed the Salk polio vaccine, that is a leader in transplant technology, and that is among the top 10 recipients of federal science and engineering grants. Its graduates have won three Nobel Prizes, two within the last 10 years, and include two Pennsylvania governors, two U.S. senators, three representatives, and innumerable scientists, engineers, and business leaders. You are in great company and you are great company.

Now, as chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg pointed out, you in this room, are, first of all, by far the most intelligent group I have ever been able to face, and that makes this a joy. You are also highly qualified to meet these challenges. One of your major qualifications is, of course, that you are or soon will be graduates of the University of Pittsburgh. This is the university that developed the Salk polio vaccine, that is a leader in transplant technology, and that is among the top 10 recipients of federal science and engineering grants. Its graduates have won three Nobel Prizes, two within the last 10 years, and include two Pennsylvania governors, two U.S. senators, three representatives, and innumerable scientists, engineers, and business leaders. You are in great company and you are great company.

It’s a difficult and an experimental challenge, and it is being approached.

And I think that the physics people in the universities, two U.S. senators, three representatives, and innumerable scientists, engineers, and business leaders. You are in great company and you are great company.

When we moved to Florida, it was right after the “chad” election [the election of 2000]. And I said to myself, “I need to get involved.” So I have worked there for many years at the polling places. Get involved in your government, even if it’s a small thing. Make sure that you are a part of it and you understand. Work with society. Being a loner is not a good thing. Have friends. Have neighbors. Talk to them. Work with them. Stay healthy. It’s very tempting to just sit at your desk and work all day, [but] as you expand and expand, it’s not your mind that is expanding.

Volunteer. Work with other people. There are needs out there. You have to have the opportunity that you can work [to meet]. I’m proud of Pitt; a lot of you students have gone out there on volunteer days. Thank you so much.

Now, when troubles come—and they will—a very useful thought is, “This too will pass.” It may hurt, and it may hurt badly. But a week from now, a month from now, it will get better.

So, you have a Pitt education. You are well on your way. Try to make everyday a better day. Make the world a little better each day. And I’d like to conclude with—Hail to Pitt!

John A. Swanson’s Distinguished Career Includes Numerous Honors, Contributions

By Morgan Kelly

John A. Swanson, who helped revolutionize computer-aided engineering four years after graduating from Pitt, has earned substantial recognition over the past 40 years, including two of the highest honors a professional engineer can receive.

Last year, he was named to the National Academy of Engineering, one of 65 new members and nine foreign associates elected in 2009 for contributions to and innovations in engineering. In May 2004, Swanson received the American Association of Engineering Societies’ John Fritz Medal, widely considered the highest award in the engineering profession.

Prior awardees of the Fritz Medal include Orville Wright, Alexander Graham Bell, Alfred Nobel, Thomas Edison, Guglielmo Marconi, and George Westinghouse.

Swanson was named a Pitt School of Engineering Distinguished Alumnus in 1998. He has served on Pitt’s Board of Trustees since 2006.

In December 2007, Pitt renamed its engineering school the John A. Swanson School of Engineering in recognition of the greatest generosity by an individual donor in Pitt’s history.

Swanson served ANSYS as president, chief executive officer, and director; at his retirement from ANSYS in March 1999, he was the company’s chief technologist. Headquartered in Canonsburg, Pa., with more than 40 sales locations worldwide, ANSYS and its subsidiaries today employ approximately 1,400 people and distribute products through a network of channel partners in more than 40 countries. Swanson still teaches ANSYS training classes and serves the company in an advisory capacity.

In 2002, Swanson was inducted into the Cathedral of Learning Society, which recognizes individuals who have donated $1 million or more to the University. Through his earlier investments in Pitt’s $2 billion Building Our Future Together capital campaign, Swanson created the John A. Swanson Institute for Technical Excellence, which houses the John A. Swanson Center for Micro and Nano Systems; the John A. Swanson Center for Product Innovation; and the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Center of Excellence. He also has established the John A. Swanson Embedded Computing Laboratory on Campus Computing.

Before attending Pitt, Swanson received his master’s and bachelor’s degrees in mechanical engineering from Cornell University in 1963 and 1962, respectively. Now retired, Swanson lends his expertise to Pitt engineering students as an advisor on senior design projects.
Continued from page 1

Eight Teaching Proposals Receive Funding From Provost’s ACIE

Continued from page 2

Pitt’s Kuntu Repertory Theatre Wraps Up Season With August Wilson’s Radio Golf
By Sharon S. Blake

The University of Pittsburgh’s Kuntu Repertory Theatre closes its 2009-10 season with Radio Golf by August Wilson—the last play in Wilson’s acclaimed 10-play cycle chronicling Black life in 20th-century America. The play runs May 27 through June 12 in the Seventh-Floor Auditorium of Alumni Hall.

Set in Pittsburgh in the late 1990s, Radio Golf is a fast-paced dynamic work about successful entrepreneur Harmond Wilks, who aspires to become the city’s first Black mayor. But when Wilks’ past begins to catch up with him, secrets are revealed that could be his undoing.

Three of the play’s lead characters will be played by actors from three of Pittsburgh’s major universities: Carnegie Mellon University senior Eric Berryman plays Wilks; Point Park University senior Lichelle Byrd assumes the role of Mame Wilks; and Ruffin Prentiss, who graduated from Pitt earlier this month, portrays Roosevelt Hicks. Rounding out the ensemble are Anton Floyd, a New York City actor previously featured in Kuntu’s production of The Electronic Negro, playing the role of Sterling Johnson, and Montez Freeland, making his debut with Kuntu as Elder Joseph Barlow. Radio Golf will be directed by Vernell A. Lillie, founder and artistic director of Pitt’s Kuntu Repertory Theatre. The play is a professor emeritus of African Studies at Pitt.

Performances are

Pitt’s African American Alumni Council Names Cohairs for Diversity Initiative Fundraising Campaign

The AAAAC Campaign is part of the University’s Building Our Future Together capital campaign, the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of both Pitt and Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The AAAAC Campaign is part of the University’s Building Our Future Together capital campaign, the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of both Pitt and Southwestern Pennsylvania. To date, the Building Our Future Together campaign has raised more than $4.16 billion.

For more information about supporting the AAAAC or to make a gift online, visit www.giveto.pitt.edu or call 1-800-817-9843.
Happenings

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

“Chemical Approaches to Understanding Redox Biology in the Brain,” Christopher J. Chang, chemistry professor at the University of California, Berkeley, 14th Annual Paul Dowd Lectures, 5 p.m. May 20, also “Metals on the Brain: Probing Their Chemistry With Molecular Imaging,” 2:30 p.m. May 21, both lectures held in 157 Benedum Hall, Pitt Department of Chemistry, try, www.chem.pitt.edu.

Miscellaneous


Pittsburgh Improv Jam, 10 p.m. May 26, 27, and June 3, Cabaret at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-6769, www.pgharts.org.

Shady Side Art Festival on Walnut Street, featuring works by an eclectic mix of established artists and emerging talents, May 22-23, 954-472-3755, info@artsfestival.com.

Opera/Theater/Dance


Pitt/PhD Dissertation Defences

Haya Al-Khatlan, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, 10 a.m., “Evaluation of Young Adult’s Preferences, Needs, and the Understandability of the Personal Health Record Data,” 6050 Forbes Tower.

Judith Carroll, School of Arts and Sciences, Psychology, 2 p.m., “The Association of Affective, Somatic, and Cognitive Components of Hostility With Telomere Length, a Marker of Biological Aging,” 412-746-4383.

Zhongyu Yang, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Chemistry, 1 p.m., May 18, “Copper Ion-Dependent Electron Spin Resonance Spectroscopic Rulers,” 717 Mellon Science Center.

Meghan Solomon, School of Education’s Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, 11 a.m. May 18, “The Influence of Healthy Gender-Neutral, Student-Centered Pedagogical Approaches to Instructional Technology,” 5702 Posvar Hall.

Reena Bajpai, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Chemistry, 10 a.m. May 21, “Mixture Synthesis and Spectroscopic Analysis of a Stereoselective Library of the Phylllophora Mating Hormone Alpha1 and the Corresponding bio-MTPA Ester,” 307 Beegle Hall.

Eve Martinez, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Anthropology, 3 p.m. May 25, “Phylogenetic Social Organization in the Jamastran Valley, Southeastern Honduras,” 3107 Posvar Hall.

Michael Thompson, School of Medicine’s Cellular and Molecular Pathology Graduate Program, 2 p.m. May 25, “6-Catenin: A Friend or Foe in Liver Pathobiology?” 5123 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower.
Commencement 2010

The University of Pittsburgh has conferred about 7,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees at its five campuses this spring. In Oakland, students, alumni, donors, and Pitt administrators gathered at 2 p.m. May 2 in the Petersen Events Center for commencement.

1. From left, Pitt Board of Trustees Chair Stephen R. Tritch (ENGR ’71, KGSB ’77), who also is chair of the Westinghouse Electric Company; John A. Swanson (ENGR ’66G), commencement speaker, Pitt trustee since 2006, and the founder and retired president, CEO, and director of ANSYS, Inc., who received the Doctor of Science Honoris Causa degree during the ceremony; and Gerald Holder, professor and U. S. Steel Dean, Swanson School of Engineering.

2. Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (right) surprised Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher by conferring upon him the Pitt honorary Doctor of Science degree.

3. Sharon Epperson (third from left), a CNBC-TV correspondent, was the keynote speaker for the May 2 School of Social Work Alumni Recognition of Scholars & Scholars Memorial Hall and Museum. She stands with (from left) her father, David E. Epperson (A&S ’61, ’70, ’75G, SOC WK ’64), who was dean of the School of Social Work from 1972 to 2001; her mother, Cecilia Trower Epperson (EDU ’57, ’61G); and Larry E. Davis, Pitt’s Donald M. Henderson Professor, current dean of the School of Social Work, and director of the Center on Race and Social Problems.


5. Celebrating graduates!