Pitt Board’s Nominating Committee Recommends Election of Travis as Trustee, Noble as Emeritus Trustee

By John Harvith

The Nominating Committee of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees has recommended Pitt alumnus Tracey T. Travis (ENG’83), senior vice president of finance and chief financial officer at Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation, for membership on the board and recommended that alumnus H. Lee Noble (A&S ’62), retired executive vice president of the Bayer Corporation, be elected an emeritus trustee. The full board will act on the committee’s recommendations at its June 25 annual meeting.

In commenting on the actions taken by the Nominating Committee, University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg stated, “These recommendations will strengthen our already outstanding Board of Trustees. Tracey Travis has been honored as one of Pitt’s most distinguished graduates, is recognized as one of the country’s leading financial professionals, and is a visible and respected presence in the international business community. Clearly, we will benefit from her experience and insights as a trustee. Through his long tenure on the Board, and in a range of other ways, Lee Noble has made significant contributions to Pitt’s progress. Through his election as an emeritus trustee, we ensure that we will continue to benefit from his service.”

Biographical information on Travis and Noble follows.

Tracey T. Travis was named to her current position at Polo Ralph Lauren—one of the world’s leading global luxury apparel and lifestyle products companies—in 2005, charged with responsibility for the company’s worldwide corporate finance, operations, including accounting, financial planning and analysis, treasury, tax, and business development. Travis’s responsibilities were subsequently expanded to include investor relations and information technology. As CFO of Polo Ralph Lauren, a corporate with $9.4 billion in annual revenue, Travis has led work related to acquisitions of licensed brands, capital structuring, long-range planning, and investor relations strategy.

Previously, Travis was an executive with Limited Brands Inc. in Columbus, Ohio, first as CFO of subsidiary Intimate Brands Inc. from 2001 to 2002, and, from 2002 to 2004, as senior vice president of finance for parent company Limited Brands. The corporation owns Victoria’s Secret and Bath & Body Works, among other brands. From 1999 to 2001, Travis was CFO of the Americas Group of American National Can, where she led both the finance and information technology groups. Prior to holding this position, she occupied various management positions at Pepsi-Cola/Pepsi Bottling Group from 1989 to 1999, including group manager, New Products, where she assisted in the development of the business plan for Pepsi’s entrance into non-soft-drink beverage categories; general manager for the Howell, Mich., market unit, and CFO for the Michigan business unit.

Following receipt of her Pitt Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering, Travis began her career at General Motors as an engineer. After earning an MBA in finance and operations management from Columbia University on a GM Fellowship, Travis returned to GM as a financial executive working on various international product programs, joint ventures, and divestitures.

Travis currently serves on the boards of Jo-Ann Stores Inc., the Lincoln Center Theater, the women’s Forum of New York, and the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Prevention and is treasurer of the Ralph Lauren Foundation. She is a member of Financial Executives International, the National Association of Corporate Directors, the New York Women’s Forum, the Executive Leadership Council, and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance.

H. Lee Noble, retired as executive vice president of the Bayer Corporation after a 25-year career at Bayer, earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences in 1962. At Bayer, Noble served as board chair for Deerfield Urethane, a Bayer subsidiary, and president of the Bayer Polymer Division, where he doubled sales to $2 billion, completed four major acquisitions, and oversaw capital projects of more than $1.2 billion.

Noble has supported the advancement of the University from important positions of leadership for nearly 50 years, beginning with his appointment as a 1991 alumnus member of the School of Arts and Sciences (A&S) Board of Visitors. He was appointed a Commonwealth Trustee on the Pitt Board in 1998 by then-Pennsylvania Senate President Pro Tempore Robert C. Jubelirer, and he served in that board position until February 2010. During his tenure on the Pitt Board, Noble was a member of the Budget, Investment, and Student Affairs committees; chaired the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) Board of Visitors; and was a University Director of the UPMC Board. He continues his service to the University as a member of the A&S and GSPIA boards of visitors.

A life member of the Pitt Alumni Association, Noble has been a loyal and dedicated alumnus through a variety of ways, including generous financial support to the University through the H. Lee Noble Scholarship Fund in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg Chair. In 2009, he was named a Pitt Legacy Laureate.

H. Lee Noble has actively participated in industry, civic, and charitable groups and has helped lead a number of community organizations. He chaired Life’s Work of Western Pennsylvania; founded and chaired the Pittsburgh Project for Employment of Persons with Disabilities, now known as Project for Freedom; was a director and member of the Executive Committee of the Social Security Administration; chaired the Board of Directors of the International Isocyanate Institute; and was a member of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance.

Pitt’s Interactive Neighborhood Database Gains Traction in Revitalizing Pittsburgh

By Morgan Kelly

Citizens, civic groups, and government entities working to further renew and reinvent Pittsburgh are increasingly turning to Pitt’s online Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System (PNCIS), an interactive database of property and neighborhood conditions, in their efforts to restore dilapidated homes, promote urban farming, and even help young artists find homes.

PNCIS is maintained by Pitt’s Urban Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) and provides a neighborhood-by-neighborhood, parcel-level snapshot of information intended to improve community planning and outreach, including crime and vacancy rates, housing market and foreclosure figures, tax delinquency, and election results.

To recognize and discuss ways to enhance PNCIS’ value in shaping Pittsburgh, those Pittsburgers who regularly use the database gathered with national experts in urban revitalization at the University Club on June 11 for the inaugural PNCIS Users Conference. The conference was cosponsored by UCSUR and the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, a longtime PNCIS partner with UCSUR and the City of Pittsburgh.

Representatives from local organizations and agencies spoke about PNCIS’ efforts to reduce blight, expand services, and renew communities, ranging from forming block watches in the city’s Homewood neighborhood to identifying areas of Pittsburgh in need of better access to banking services. A few of the reported uses of PNCIS follow.

• North Side resident and urban farmer Jana Thompson uses PNCIS in cooperation with Grow Pittsburgh to review and help the city set urban agriculture codes. For Continued on page 2
Robert F. Pack, Pitt Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Resources Management, to Retire

By John Harvith

Robert F. Pack, vice provost for academic planning and resources management at the University of Pittsburgh since 1993, will retire from the University, announced Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Mahler.

Pack received both his MA and PhD degrees in English from Pitt, earning the latter in 1970, while a doctoral student at the University, he was awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at West Virginia University, where he received his BA in 1965. He served as a member of the faculty and administration at Rutgers University before returning to Pitt in 1993 to assume the newly created position of vice provost for academic planning and resources management. Pack’s responsibilities at Pitt have included University-wide budgeting and capital planning for both academic and student life facilities and acting as liaison between Pitt’s four regional campuses and the provost.

“It might accurately be said that Bob Pack and I were brought together by accident,” said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. “He was recruited to Pitt from Rutgers by then-Provost Donald Henderson. However, by the time Bob arrived, Dr. Henderson had retired, and I had taken his place. A lesser person might have quickly retreated back to New Jersey, but Bob decided to give me a chance, and both a productive professional partnership and a special friendship were born. The University of Pittsburgh has grown significantly in quality and impact during Bob’s service as vice provost, and that is no coincidence. Bob’s contributions to our progress have taken many forms and have been very substantial. Everyone who cares about Pitt is in his debt.”

“I accepted Bob’s wish to retire with both regret and deep appreciation for his loyalty and passionate commitment to the University,” Mahler stated in making the announcement. “Bob was instrumental in the development of the University’s highly successful facilities plans; among his achievements are the programming and renovation of Alumni Hall and the development of enhanced student and residence hall facilities on all five campuses of the University. He has also taken a leading role in the successful integration of the regional campuses into the University.”

“In addition, Bob was responsible for implementing Pitt’s new enterprise Student Information System, which won national recognition through a CCM Trumpeter award, and I know he is particularly proud of his efforts resulting in the recent establishment of the Office of Veterans Services. Building on his experience at Rutgers, he also led the integration of the arts into student life here at Pitt through the establishment of the Pitt Arts program,” Mahler added.

In December, Pitt launched a national search for a new provost to succeed Mahler, who will be returning to the Pitt faculty at the conclusion of the 2009-10 academic year or as soon after that as his successor can be in place. To facilitate the new provost’s smooth transition, Pack has agreed to continue in his current position during the fall term, but with a reduced workload; the search for a replacement for this senior staff position will take place under the leadership of the new provost.

Continued from page 3

instance, proposed regulations suggested a minimum lot size that maps from PNCIS show is larger than nearly half of the city’s residential lots, which would effectively prohibit urban farming, she said.

• Artist incubation researcher Courtney Ehrlichman of Carnegie Mellon University studies strategies to keep young, graduating artists in Pittsburgh, particularly by making it easier for them to own property in the neighborhoods they help revitalize. Ehrlichman is exploring a strategy to attract artists to Pittsburgh by creating neighborhood profiles based on PNCIS data about vacant and tax-delinquent properties, as well as on current property owners in the area.

“Confere nce speakers from the national scene talked about how stores of community data like PNCIS are influencing urban revitalization policy, research, and government programs. By Kathy Petit, codirector of the Washington, D.C.-based Urban Institute’s National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership. Petit discussed innovative uses of community information systems across the nation and their role in neighborhood development. Robert Remner, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Office of Policy Development and Research, talked about the growing role of research at HUD, new neighborhood revitalization programs, and the implications for local communities and neighborhood information systems. Mike Schramm, from Case Western Reserve University’s Center for Urban Poverty and Community Development, recounted how Case Western’s data system was used to reduce foreclosures and help to stabilize communities affected by the 2005-07 foreclosure crisis in the Cleveland area.

“Together, We Do Have the Power to Do Wonderful Things”

Chancellor says Pitt has “consciously played a major role in the preservation of Black history ... and in the constructive consideration of issues of race.”

These are the printed remarks of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg that were delivered during the annual meeting of the African American Chamber of Commerce, held May 19, 2010, in the Omni William Penn Hotel, Downtown.

Thank you, and welcome everyone. It is great to be with you—even if I am a bit late. I was supposed to speak at this gathering two years ago. Unfortunately, I had a bad experience with an extension ladder, broke my shoulder, and had to ask for a “rain check.”

You got the better end of that deal anyway, because the always—thought-provoking Robert Hill, Pitt’s vice chancellor for public affairs, spoke in my place. But I am glad that you gave me a second chance—to thank and congratulate the African American Chamber of Commerce for its important work, which we at Pitt really support and believe in; to provide a bit of an update on progress at our University; to describe the position of higher education and health care as engines of commerce in 21st-century Pittsburgh; and to offer perspectives on the entirely unproductive tensions that have surfaced between government and the nonprofit community in recent months.

Introduction

Pitt was founded as a log-cabin academy in 1787, the same year that our Constitution breathed life into a new nation. In describing what he believed should be an incredibly bright future for this region, our founder, Hugh Henry Brackenridge, offered two prophetic statements:

“This town must in future time be a place of great manufactory. Indeed, the greatest on the continent, or perhaps in the world,” he declared. Continuing, he added, “The situation [here] is greatly to be chosen for a seat of higher learning. . . . [And] we well know that the strength of a state greatly consists in the superior mental powers of the inhabitants.”

Both of those Pittsburgh prophecies, made in the mid-1780s, came true generations later. But even the visionary Mr. Brackenridge could not have foreseen the future extent of Pittsburgh’s manufacturing might, the quality of its educational institutions, or the impact of higher education on our 21st-century economy.

University Overview

This region’s higher education sector is a rich one that contains many strong, highly complementary, institutions. I need to underscore that fact from the outset because, given the position that I hold, I naturally will be focusing mainly on the institution that I represent, an institution that sits at the center of that sector, the University of Pittsburgh.

And I am pleased to say that Pitt is an institution that really has been on the move:

• In terms of our most significant mission, we have nearly tripled applications for admission to the undergraduate programs in Oakland—going from less than 7,800 in 1995 to more than 22,000 this year.

We were the nation’s top-ranked public university in the 2009 edition of Saviors of Our Cities: A Survey of Best College and University Civic Partnerships—reflecting our deep commitments to the economic health and general vibrancy of this community.

Preserving Black History

And in terms of what many of us would consider to be a very significant contribution to the richness of this region, we have consciously played a major role in the preservation of Black history, in the presentation of African American culture, and in the constructive consideration of issues of race:

• We are the university that has long been home to the Kuntu Repertory Theatre and the University of Pittsburgh Jazz Semi-nar and Conference; and

We are the only American university to have a center on race and social problems in its School of Social Work. Dean and Center Director Larry Davis is here today, and I know that he would like to see many of you at his national conference on Race in America—a “blockbuster event” to be held in Oakland from June 3 to 6.

The Regional Economy

Returning to commerce and the economy, Pitt sits at the heart of the education and health-services sector, which the U.S. Department of Labor has labeled the region’s largest employment “supersetor.” To be absolutely clear, the people of this region benefit enormously from the continuing presence and impact of a strong, diverse, and committed corporate community. We see that very visibly today, with the generous sponsorships for this program that have been provided by PNC and Heinz. But in today’s attractively balanced regional economy, not only is the “eds and meds” sector the region’s single-biggest source of employment, but it is the only sector that has added jobs each and every year since 1995.

To focus on one recent period, from March of 2008 to March of 2009, this is what U.S. Department of Labor statistics show: The Pittsburgh area lost 7,400 manufacturing jobs; lost 5,300 leisure and

We are the university that has taken its Black History Month programs far beyond the customary speakers and panel discussions to research, present, and preserve such important aspects of this region’s Black history as the inspiring career of “the Speaker,” the Honorable K. Leroy Irvis; the bravery and patriotism of the Tuskegee Airmen from Western Pennsylvania; the trailblazing work of the Hill District’s Freedom House Ambulance Service; the enormous contributions—locally, nationally, and internationally—of The Pittsburgh Courier; and the Black experience, over two centuries, at the University of Pittsburgh itself.
Today, in addition to serving our fundamental educational mission, Pennsylvania’s public research universities provide so much more. At Pitt, we now annually import nearly $4 in research funding for every $1 of our state appropriation. In addition to the critical longer-term payoffs associated with both our educational and our research missions, then, we also provide a short-term return on investment through the attraction of job-generating research funds that probably cannot be equaled by any other state appropriation.

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Pitt’s modern tradition of Black History Month celebrations began with the production and 2004 world premiere screening of the documentary *K. Leroy Irvis: The Lion of Pennsylvania*. Irvis, who in 1977 became the first African American speaker of the House in Pennsylvania and the first Black speaker of any state house since Reconstruction, sponsored in 1966 the bill that made Pitt a state-related institution of higher education, thus saving the University from economic ruin.
was built on the worst, already tax-exempt, block of the Forbes Avenue business corridor. Big projects outside of our traditional footprint, most often undertaken with the UPMC as the lead partner, have been among the most significant regional development projects—clearly and significantly benefiting the greater good—of recent years:  
- The McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine and UPMC Sports Performance Complex were built on the long-barren site of an old steel mill and became anchors for the entire South Works development, which may be this region’s best recent example of successful urban renewal;  
- UPMC’s new Children’s Hospital, which includes a research tower occupied by Pitt faculty, was built on the abandoned campus of St. Francis Hospital, saving Lawrenceville from what might have been a “death blow”; and  
- The Hillman Cancer Center—built by UPMC and half of which is occupied by Pitt researchers—not only is a powerful economic engine in its own right but opened up new development possibilities along the Centre Avenue/Baum Boulevard corridor in the City’s East End.

Just a few days ago [in early May], Pittsburgh again was named this country’s most livable city. Everyone who lives here ought to be proud of that fact. And many of the people in this room have the right to smile even more broadly, because the contributions you have made—to the strength, health, and vitality of this community—have helped make this city so livable.

If we want to sustain our momentum through these challenging times, we really do need to work at it together—as many of us now are doing in trying to find a solution to the City’s pension problems. Put another way, we need to avoid the classic Pittsburgh practice of taking potshots and pointing fingers at each other. With respect to issues like these, we really are “in the same boat”—and we either are going to keep moving across the surface together “in synch” or struggle against each other and sink.

So, thank you—for having me here today, for being such good friends, and for being key partners in fueling Pittsburgh’s progress. Together, we do have the power to do wonderful things. And it always feels great to be moving forward in your distinguished company.
Chancellor Welcomes Julian Bond to Race Conference

"... He is a man who has devoted his life to redressing injustice at every turn."

This is an abridged print version of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg’s introduction of Julian Bond, chair emeritus of the NAACP and the opening keynote speaker for Pitt’s June 3–5, 2010, national conference, "Race in America: Restructuring Inequality." Bond addressed an audience of about 800 people June 3 in Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial. The conference was organized by Larry E. Davis, dean of Pitt’s School of Social Work, and Pitt’s Donald M. Henderson Professor and director of the University’s Center on Race and Social Problems.

Thank you very much, Larry, and good evening, everyone. When Provost Maher and I greeted Larry Davis out of his very comfortable endowed chair at Washington University in St. Louis and persuaded him to become the dean of our School of Social Work, we expected big things. And he has been delivering in big ways for the past nine years. Certainly, we see clear evidence of that tonight, as we launch this historic conference, "Race in America: Restructuring Inequality.

It is my privilege, as Pitt’s chancellor, to welcome each of you, to comment briefly on the program, and to introduce our distinguished guest Mr. Julian Bond - Chairman Emeritus of the NAACP. Mr. Bond’s presence is an exciting taste of things to come—because this conference will bring to our campus some of the nation’s most prominent experts on race. Their insights will add to the richness of the discussions to take place over the course of the next two days... Julian Bond has long been one of America’s most prominent leaders in the movements for civil rights and economic justice. Some seven years before, when I was an undergraduate and he came to my college to speak. By that time, he already had been a founding member of the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, a student civil rights organization that helped win the integration of Atlanta’s movie theaters and lunch counters, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, formed in 1960 to coordinate sit-ins and voter education drives throughout the South.

Mr. Bond also had been elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, where members who objected to his opposition to the Vietnam War denied him his seat. Mr. Bond finally was seated after a third election and a unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court. He served until 1974, when he was elected to the Georgia Senate. He retired from his Senate seat in 1986.

The holder of at least 25 honorary degrees, Mr. Bond now serves as a Distinguished Professor in Residence at American University of Pittsburgh Office of Public Affairs. In doing so, he will officially open this gathering of one of the largest groups of authorities on race ever assembled at an academic conference.

Mr. Bond is the perfect individual to deliver tonight’s keynote address because he is a man who has devoted his life to redressing injustice at every turn. From his student days at Morehouse College in Atlanta through his more than a decade-long service as chairman of the country’s oldest and largest civil rights organization—the NAACP—Mr. Bond has inspired us, challenged us, and encouraged us to confront and constructively deal with issues of race.

I first was privileged to meet Mr. Bond when I was an undergraduate and he came to the University of Virginia. He also serves on numerous boards, including those of the Southern Poverty Law Center, where he previously was named the civil rights organization’s first president, and People for the American Way, whose mission is to make the promise of America real for every American.

A former commentator on America’s Black Forum, the oldest Black-owned program in television syndication, Mr. Bond also is a prolific and award-winning writer, poet, and narrator. His voice has given life to numerous documentaries, including the critically acclaimed series Eyes on the Prize and K. Leroy Irvis: The Lion of Pennsylvania, which was produced by the University of Pittsburgh Office of Public Affairs.

Would you please join me in welcoming back to Pittsburgh and to the podium the venerable civil rights leader Mr. Julian Bond. [Applause.]
Concerts

Don Alique Sr., jazz musician, 7 p.m., June 22, Backstage Bar at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-6769, www.pgharts.org.

Boilermaker Jazz Band, American jazz group, and swing music, 7 p.m. June 24, Backstage Bar at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-6769, www.pgharts.org.


Exhibitions


Frick Art and Historical Center, Small Rooms and Large Landscapes: Victorian American Landscapes, through Sept. 5, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-6606, www.frickart.org.


Cave Canem Poets to Hold Free Public Readings

The event is hosted by the City of Asylum/Pittsburgh, an organization that provides refuge to exiled foreign writers.

A reading also will be held on the Pitt-Greensburg campus, 150 Finoli Dr., at 7:30 p.m. June 21, featuring Cave Canem faculty members Toi Derricotte, Cornelius Eady, and Ed Roberson with Letras Latinas poet Brenda Cárdenas, a guest participant.

Readings featuring the 54 Cave Canem Fellows will be held at 7:30 p.m. June 22, 23, and 27, also on the Pitt-Greensburg campus.

The Cave Canem Foundation was established in 1996 by Toi Derricotte, a poet and professor of English and award-winning poet and author, and poet Cornelius Eady to encourage the growth of Black poetry across the country.

By Shannon Scannell

Toi Derricotte, Pitt English professor and Cave Canem cofounder

MISCELLANEOUS

Conferences


Donald Reese Wilson, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, 1:30 p.m. June 23, “The Functionalization of Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes With Biomolecules to Target Professional Phagocytes and Promote Bio-degradation,” Fifth-Floor Conference Room, Bridgeside Point Building.

Leah Shilling, School of Education’s Department of Instruction and Learning, 10 a.m. July 7, “An Exploration of the Development and Modification of Pre-Service Elementary Teachers’ Mathematical Belief,” 5702 Posvar Hall.


June 29, “Novel Mechanisms of Resistance to HIV-1 Reverse Transcriptase (RT) Inhibitors: Molecular and Clinical Characterization of Mutations in the Connection and RNAS H Domains of RT,” A115 Graduate School of Public Health.

Ji Young Song, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Epidemiology, 1:30 p.m. July 8, “Estrogen Receptor-Beta Genotype, Seven Fennu- nohistochemical Markers, and Human Lung Cancer,” Suite 4C UPMC Cancer Pavilion.

Nigeriajen Rondouru, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, 2 p.m. July 2, “The Functionalization of Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes With Biomolecules to Target Professional Phagocytes and Promote Bio-degradation,” Fifth-Floor Conference Room, Bridgeside Point Building.

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Genesis for Apple Inc. iPhone Was Pitt Experiments That Led to First Wireless Phone “Call” in 1900

By Morgan Kelly

The iPhone 4 hitting stores June 24 may put Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple Inc. ahead in wireless technology, but behind it is the work of a University of Pittsburgh engineering professor 110 years ago that established Pittsburgh as a key location in the advent of wireless telephones.

Reginald A. Fessenden, chair of Pitt’s electrical engineering department from 1893 to 1900, began experimenting with wireless telephones in 1898, had a wireless communication system functioning between wireless telephones in 1899, and achieved the first wireless voice transmission in December 1900, shortly after he left the University. That first transmission, Fessenden recalled in 1926, was “poor in quality, but quite distinct and entirely intelligible.” In 1907, Fessenden established successful wireless telephone connections that spanned up to 400 miles.

“The modern cell phone is essentially what Fessenden wanted: A telephone where people could talk normally to each other and not be tethered by cords,” said Marlin Mickle, the Nicholas A. DeCecco professor of electrical and computer engineering in Pitt’s Swanson School of Engineering. Mickle is familiar with Fessenden’s work at Pitt, especially his receiving a patent for his method of wireless communication in January 1906 between Brant Rock and his station in Scotland. But his broadcasts were largely unacknowledged at the time and Fessenden himself was dedicated to perfecting the wireless telephone.

In 1902, Fessenden received a patent for Marconi’s wireless telegraph operated via electric pulses and required operators who knew Morse code. Fessenden, on the other hand, focused on analog communication that would transmit a person’s actual voice through continuous electromagnetic waves.

In 1906, Fessenden publicly demonstrated his wireless telephone with a “transmission of speech” over the 10 miles between Brant Rock and Plymouth, Mass., according to an eye-witness account by the editor of the American Telephone Journal. However, Fessenden overshadowed his own success in wireless telephony three days later by making, according to his records, the first radio broadcast of voice and music—which included himself playing the violin and reading from the Bible—for which he is better known today.

In fact, Fessenden is most often recognized for his contributions to radio—he also achieved the first two-way trans-Atlantic communication in January 1906 between Brant Rock and his station in Scotland. But his broadcasts were largely unacknowledged at the time and Fessenden himself was dedicated to perfecting the wireless telephone.

Within a year of his Dec. 21 transmission, Fessenden had wireless connections from Brant Rock to Brooklyn, N.Y., and Washington, D.C., distances of 190 and 400 miles, respectively. Fessenden later said that the quality of the Brooklyn-Brant Rock transmission exceeded that of standard telephone lines.

In 1926, nearly 30 years after his first wireless experiments at Pitt, Fessenden reflected on the trying process in a speech to the Radio Institute in New York City by saying, “A good deal of hard work went to the inventing of the wireless telephone: both research, going over a fishing place to find what fish are there, and invention, or deciding you want a certain fish and going after it until you get it.”