

Anthony A. Grace Named Distinguished Professor Of Neuroscience at Pitt



Anthony A. Grace

By Sarah Spiegel

School of Arts and Sciences faculty member Anthony A. Grace has been named Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience. Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg made the appointment, which took effect at the start of this month.

The rank of Distinguished Professor recognizes extraordinary, internationally recognized scholarly attainment in an individual discipline or field.

A professor of neuroscience, psychiatry, and psychology, Grace serves on Pitt's Center for Neuroscience's Executive and Faculty Admissions committees and

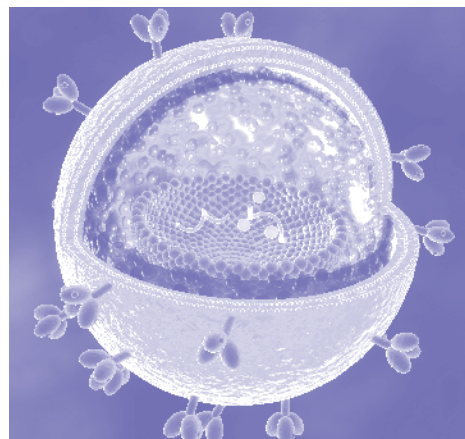
on the MD and PhD Degree Supervisory Committee.

Grace has been involved for more than 30 years in translational research related to the limbic system and schizophrenia. His early work pioneered the identification and characterization of dopamine-containing neurons. Grace's most recent work involves examining the interactions of several brain regions with known involvement in psychiatric disorders and drug abuse and determining how these interactions are disrupted by stress. He has used the methylazoxymethanol acetate (MAM) developmental model of schizophrenia, which was developed in his lab. Employing this model, his lab has now advanced GABAergic drugs that may be effective in the treatment of schizophrenia.

Grace served on the Schizophrenia International Research Society Board of Directors and the Schizophrenia Research Forum Scientific Advisory Board in 2005; he currently serves on the council of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. In 2008, he received the CINP-Lilly Neuroscience Basic Research Award for his research into the biological bases of psychiatric disorders. The award is presented by the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum and pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly to a researcher younger than age 55 who has made significant contributions to the understanding of the nervous system.

Grace earned his undergraduate degree in psychology and biology from Allegheny College and his PhD degree in pharmacology from Yale University.

Pitt Gets \$11.8 Million to Develop Microbicide Films for HIV Prevention



A sectioned HIV virus

By Anita Srikameswaran

With the support of an \$11.8 million, five-year federal grant, researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and their collaborators are developing a quick-dissolving vaginal film containing a powerful drug that reduces the risk of HIV infection, and they

plan to begin testing it locally within a year.

A small film, like those used to deliver breath fresheners, could have several advantages over vaginal microbicide gels that are already being tested overseas, said Sharon Hillier, professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences in the Pitt School of Medicine, senior investigator at Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI) and coprincipal investigator of the new project, which is funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health.

"Multiple films could be packaged in discrete cartridges without the need for refrigeration, making them portable and easier to store and distribute, and therefore probably cheaper than a gel," she noted. "And because they aren't likely to be as messy as a gel, women might be willing to use them routinely, perhaps on a daily basis."

Led by coprincipal investigator Lisa Cencia Rohan, a professor in Pitt's School of Pharmacy, and an MWRI associate inves-

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Pitt Is No. 15 Among U.S. Public Universities in 2010-11 Times Higher Education World University Rankings

By John Harvith

The University of Pittsburgh has placed 15th among U.S. public institutions of higher education, 38th among all U.S. universities, and 64th worldwide in the London-based 2010-11 *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings, issued on Sept. 16.

Other institutions among the top 15 public U.S. universities in the rankings include UC Berkeley, UCLA, Michigan, the University of Washington, North Carolina, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Among the private institutions in the top 38 U.S. universities are Harvard, Caltech, MIT, Stanford, Princeton, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Cornell, Columbia, Penn, Carnegie Mellon, Duke, Northwestern, Brown, and NYU.

"We would like to congratulate the University of Pittsburgh for its performance in this year's rigorous rankings," commented Ann Mroz, editor of *Times Higher Education* (THE) magazine, publisher of the rankings, which uses a new methodology the magazine describes as "the most detailed, rigorous, and comprehensive study of global university performance ever undertaken."

Mroz added: "Being ranked 64 in the world's top 200 is an impressive achievement. The top 200 universities in the world represent only a tiny fraction of world higher education, and any institution that makes it into this table is truly world class."

According to THE World University Rankings editor Phil Baty, the rankings tables are based on data provided by Thomson Reuters, "and for the first time, an invitation-only survey of over 13,000 verified academics was conducted by Ipsos Mori [a leading market research company in the UK and Ireland]. This ensures that we have very high-quality data, both qualitative and

quantitative. As global higher education is becoming more competitive than ever, inclusion in this year's rankings is an impressive achievement for any institution. These rankings are the gold standard for world-class research institutions."

"As global higher education is becoming more competitive than ever, inclusion in this year's rankings is an impressive achievement for any institution. These rankings are the gold standard for world-class research institutions."

—Phil Baty

In its announcement news release, THE said this year represented "year zero" for the rankings because of the new methodology—"developed after consultation with 50 sector leaders, our editorial board, and Web site feedback"—which "places less importance on reputation and heritage than in previous years and gives more weight to hard measures of excellence in all three core elements of a university's mission: research, teaching, and knowledge transfer."

THE also claims that it now has "the only global ranking system that includes a section dedicated to the teaching and learning environment."

The rankings now include, according to THE, "13 separate performance indicators, across five broad categories": teaching, which it calls "the learning environment" and to which it assigns 30 percent of its score; citation impact, "a normalized measure of research influence," weighted at 32.5 percent; research, calibrated for "volume, income, and reputation," assigned a weight of 30 percent; international mix, incorporating "staff and student ratios," at 5 percent; and industry income, which THE terms "measuring knowledge transfer," at 2.5 percent.

PittScholars&Stewards

The Binding Ties of a Pitt Education

By Lori Spisak

Philanthropy is a family tradition for University of Pittsburgh faculty members R. Donald and Leslie Hoffman. A brother-sister team, both of the Hoffmans have created scholarships for Pitt dental and nursing students in the hopes of lessening the students' financial pressures as they pursue their academic dreams.

Donald Hoffman is associate dean for education and curriculum within Pitt's School of Dental Medicine; Leslie Hoffman, chair of the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care in the School of Nursing, teaches doctoral courses and mentors students with research interests in critical care, pulmonary nursing, and nursing administration.

The Hoffmans grew up in Bedford County, 100 miles east of Pittsburgh. They watched as their father, a local veterinarian, and uncle, a native of nearby Adams County, established trusts to make a difference in their hometowns. Their uncle's trust supports historical, cultural, and health care initiatives in Adams County; their father's endowed scholarship, The Dr. Roy D. Hoffman Scholarship Fund, supports high school graduates from farm families in Bedford and Fulton counties who seek a four-year, two-year, or trade-school education. The Hoffman siblings were impressed by the gifts' impact and decided to help their own students at Pitt.

When Leslie Hoffman celebrated her 60th birthday, many of her former and current students and colleagues



Leslie Hoffman and R. Donald Hoffman

honored her commitment to the School of Nursing and created a research scholarship in her name: the Leslie A. Hoffman Endowed Acute Care Nursing Research Fund. "This was such a nice way for them to continue funding for the pulmonary specialty—something that's near and dear to my heart," she says. The fund supports research projects

by current doctoral students and Pitt School of Nursing alumni. She has made her own contributions and expresses pride that two awards from the fund were offered in the 2009-10 academic year.

Donald Hoffman's scholarship, The R. Donald Hoffman, DMD, PhD Scholarship Fund, reflects both his affection for his

A brother-sister team, both of the Hoffmans have created scholarships for Pitt dental and nursing students.

hometown and his respect for future dentists. "I want to encourage young men and women who are originally from Bedford County to come to Pitt for their dental education and then return to Bedford County," he says. "Pitt's Dental Med currently has very few scholarships," he adds. "I really wanted my gift to go to training the next generation of dentists who will serve the residents of this rural county."

The Hoffmans say they are proud to help others through their scholarships. "The research award in the School of Nursing may be modest—if you're comparing it with some large NIH grants," Leslie Hoffman explains. "But this research fund can make the difference between a researcher being able to obtain pilot data from a small project that may later be funded on a larger scale and not being able to start it at all."

"Pitt has an excellent quality of education for students," Donald Hoffman says, "And, through this scholarship, I can continue to contribute to their futures."

Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center Receives 2 NSF Grants Totaling \$2.5 Million

By Odana Chaney

The Three Rivers Optical Exchange (3ROX), the advanced network research group at the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center, has received two National Science Foundation (NSF) four-year grants totaling \$2.5 million.

The Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center is a joint effort of the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University with Westinghouse Electric Co.

The first grant is a four-year Academic Research Infrastructure award of \$1.54 million to fund a major upgrade of the Southwestern Pennsylvania region's research and education network environment, which 3ROX maintains and manages. That network currently permits many Pennsylvania and West Virginia universities and schools to connect to national high-performance network resources, such as Internet2 and National LambdaRail. Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, Penn State University, West Virginia University, and the Pittsburgh Public Schools will benefit from the upgrade, which also will increase 3ROX's fiber-based optical capability by boosting high-end transmission rates tenfold, from 10 gigabits per second to 100 gigabits, said Wendy Huntoon, the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center's director of networking.

In addition to networking upgrades, the Academic Research Infrastructure grant will make available a pool of circuits, called transponders, at no cost on an as-

The Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center is a joint effort of the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University with Westinghouse Electric Company.

needed basis for data-intensive research. The transponders will free researchers from bandwidth limitations when they are researching and experimenting with various bandwidth sizes. Pittsburgh-based examples of such projects include detector development for the Geneva, Switzerland-based Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest particle accelerator, and seismology and earthquake engineering.

The second NSF grant, a \$980,000 Software Development for Cyberinfrastructure award, will fund the Web10Gig Project, which is developing network software to enable ordinary users to effectively use advanced computer networks.

"The potential broader impact of Web10Gig is huge," Huntoon said. "It can make it easy for users from the broadest ranges of fields and technical abilities to use the network to its full capacity. Eliminating many common network problems will have a transformative effect for researchers in many disciplines."

Pitt's Rankings Rise in *Chronicle of Higher Ed* Almanac

By John Harvith

The University of Pittsburgh has made a strong showing in a number of key institutional quality indicators reported in *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* recently published Almanac Issue 2010-11, which ranks leading American colleges and universities in a range of categories.

In the category Top Institutions in Federal Research-and-Development Expenditures for Science and Engineering, Pitt ranks 7th among public universities in this year's Almanac, up from 8th last year, and 12th among all universities, public and private, up from 14th last year. Pitt outranks Arizona, Berkeley, Chicago, Cornell, Harvard, Illinois, Minnesota, North Carolina, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State, Texas, Virginia, Washington University in St. Louis, and Yale, among many others, in this category, based upon information supplied by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

In the category College and University Endowments Over \$250 Million, based on information supplied by the National Association of College and University Business Officers [NACUBO], Pitt has this year maintained its 2009 Almanac ranking of 8th among all U.S. public universities, outranking Berkeley, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue, UCLA, Washington, and Wisconsin, among many others; it also has maintained its ranking of 29th among all universities, public and private.

In the category Largest Endowments

per Student, based on information supplied by NACUBO, Pitt is ranked 8th in this year's Almanac among public universities,

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PittChronicle

Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

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

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Pitt Gets \$11.8 Million to Develop Microbicide Films For HIV Prevention

The film would provide an alternative dosage form that preclinical testing suggests could release the drug faster and more efficiently than the gel version.

Continued from page 1

tigator, the researchers will first develop a film version of the antiretroviral drug tenofovir and establish the necessary processes to make it on a large scale for human use. Tenofovir in its pill form is used as an HIV treatment, and South African researchers recently showed that a gel formulation of the drug cut the risk of HIV infection by more than half among women who were most conscientious about applying it before and after intercourse; the gel reduced the infection risk by 39 percent among women who were less vigilant.

The film would provide an alternative dosage form that preclinical testing suggests could release the drug faster and more efficiently than the gel version.

"An effective microbicide strategy should include different forms of the product," Rohan said. "Women will have preferences, and having options to meet those needs will lead to greater use and therefore better protection from infection."

The researchers will develop and test, in addition to tenofovir, a second film containing another anti-HIV agent that has yet to be determined.



Sharon Hillier

Pitt's Rankings Rise in 2010-11 Almanac

In the category Top Institutions in Federal Research-and-Development Expenditures for Science and Engineering, Pitt ranks 7th among public universities in this year's Almanac, up from 8th last year, and 12th among all universities, public and private, up from 14th last year.

Continued from page 2

up from 10th last year, outpacing such other institutions as Berkeley, Minnesota, Ohio State, UCLA, Washington, and Wisconsin.

In the category Top Institutions in Total Research-and-Development Expenditures for Science and Engineering, Pitt is ranked 11th among all U.S. public universities in this year's Almanac, up from 12th last year, and 17th among all U.S. universities, up from 19th last year, ahead of Berkeley, Colorado, Columbia, Emory, Harvard, Illinois, Maryland, Northwestern, Texas, USC, Vanderbilt, and Yale. This ranking was based upon information supplied by the NSF.

Happenings



"Tarantism," by Joachim Koester, *Forum 65: Jones, Koester, Nashashibi/Skaer: Reanimation*, Carnegie Museum of Art, through October 3

Concerts

IonSound Project, classical musicians dedicated to bringing contemporary music to life, noon **Sept. 22**, Nurdy's Place, Lower Level, William Pitt Union, PITT ARTS' Artful Wednesdays, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Honeck & Beethoven's Fifth, with Manfred Honeck, conductor; Yuja Wang, piano, **Sept. 24-26**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org. Pitt ARTS' Pitt Night is **Sept. 24**, Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Exhibitions

Michael Berger Gallery, *Playing With Fire*, includes Heidi Taillerer's hand-painted Infiniti G37 Coupe "Ligozzi," reception with Taillerer is 4-6 p.m. **Sept. 25**, 30 S. Sixth St., South Side, 412-441-4282, www.MichaelBergerGallery.com.

Frick Fine Arts Building, *The Lives They Left Behind*, photographic exhibition featuring the contents of suitcases left behind by patients of New York psychiatric hospital in late-19th to mid-20th century, **through Sept. 25**, 877-391-3820, www.suitcaseexhibit.org.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, *13th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration*, features 110 watercolors, drawings, and prints, **Sept. 24-Dec. 17**, 5th floor, Hunt Library, Carnegie Mellon University, 4909 Frew St., Oakland, 412-268-2434, http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu.

Carnegie Museum of Art, *Forum 65: Jones, Koester, Nashashibi/Skaer: Reanimation*, **through Oct. 3**; *Past Meets Present: Decorative Arts and Design at Carnegie Museum of Art*, **ongoing**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

709 Penn Gallery, *Nature in Glass*, exhibition of Gary Guldosh's flowers and other nature-inspired pieces, **through Oct. 24**, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Department of Education and Community Engagement, 412-456-6666.

August Wilson Center for African American Culture, *In My Father's House*, mixed-media exhibition about how African Americans collect and preserve their culture, **ongoing**, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Senator John Heinz History Center, *Beat 'Em Bucs: The Story of the 1960 Pirates*, exhibition **through January**, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

IonSound Project,
Nurdy's Place,
September 22

Lectures/ Seminars/ Readings

Annie Barrows, coauthor of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, 7:30 p.m. **Sept. 20**, Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Drue Heinz Lectures, 412-622-8866, www.pittsburghlectures.org.

"Doing Without 'Theory': Towards a More Transparent Philosophy of Science," Peter Vickers, postdoctoral fellow, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 12:05 p.m. **Sept. 21**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Talks Series, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittctr@pitt.edu.

"An Encomium of the Fig: Poetry in Ancient Rhetorical Education," Jeffrey Walker, professor and chair of rhetoric and writing, University of Texas at Austin, 2:30 p.m. **Sept. 22**, 144 Cathedral of Learning, Rhetorical Criticism of Literature Lecture Series, Pitt Dean of Undergraduate Studies, School of Arts and Sciences, Humanities Center, Department of Communication, 412-624-6535.

Lecture Related to *The Lives They Left Behind*, Carla Yanni, author of *The Architecture of Madness*, will address issues raised by exhibition, 7 p.m. **Sept. 22**, Frick Fine Arts Building Auditorium, 877-391-3820, www.suitcaseexhibit.org.

"If Memory Serves: Remembering (and) Sexual Subculture," Chris Castiglia, Penn State's Liberal Arts Research Professor of English, 12:30 p.m. **Sept. 23**, 602 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Humanities Center, Women's Studies Program, 412-624-8519, www.humcenter.pitt.edu.

Research and Reflections on G-20 Protests, panel discussion and viewing of the film *Pittsburgh Welcomes* (John Dewitler, 2010) on the anniversary of the G-20 in Pittsburgh, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. **Sept. 24**, 2432 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Department of Sociology's Social Movement Forum, School of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research and Scholarship Program, 412-648-7580, socdept@pitt.edu.

Playing With Fire,
Michael Berger Gallery,
September 25



Miscellaneous

Pitt International Week, annual celebration with dance performances, lectures, and other cultural events, **Sept. 22-25**, at various sites on the Pittsburgh campus, Pitt's University Center for International Studies, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

Schenley Heights Community Development Program 15th Anniversary, celebration of the nonprofit organization's 15 years of community service; keynote speaker Robert Hill, Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs; 6-8 p.m. **Sept. 23**, Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland, Schenley Heights Community Development Program, 412-621-3341, shcdp@shcdp.org.

Film and the End of Empire, international conference exploring the history of moving images in the British Empire, **Sept. 24-26**, University Club, Pitt's Film Studies Program, 412-624-6564, www.filmstudies.pitt.edu.

Opera/Theater/ Dance

World of Jewtopia, multimedia performance, **Sept. 25-26**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-471-6070, www.pgharts.org. PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Triple Espresso, story of failure-prone comedy trio trying for its big break, **through Jan. 9**, Cabaret at Theater Square, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org. PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Ericka C. Holmstrand, Center for Neuroscience, "Heterogeneity of High-Affinity Choline Transporter Expression and Localization in Limbic Projections of the Cholinergic Tegmentum," 9 a.m. **Sept. 21**, 2nd-Floor Auditorium, Learning Research and Development Center Building.

Divyashel Sharma, School of Information Sciences' Telecommunications and Networking Program, "Efficient Information Access in Data-Intensive Sensor Networks," 10 a.m. **Sept. 23**, Room 522, Information Sciences Building.

Trinity B. Crapse, Center for Neuroscience, "Neuronal Mechanisms for Evaluating the Visual Scene Across Eye Movements," 1 p.m. **Sept. 23**, Room A219B Langley Hall.

Mark Bailey, School of Medicine's Cell Biology and Molecular Physiology Graduate Program, "Role of the Sixth Transmembrane Domain in the Activation Mechanism of the Intermediate Conductance Calcium Activated Potassium Channel, KCa3.1," 3:30 p.m. **Sept. 23**, S120 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower.

Katherine Middlecamp, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Geology and Planetary Science, "Isotopic Investigation of Anthropogenic Sources of Atmospheric Nitrogen and Carbon to Vegetation Along Spatial Gradients," 2 p.m. **Sept. 24**, Room 214 Space Research Coordination Center Building.

Nature in Glass,
709 Penn Gallery,
through October 24





Pitt to Host "Film and the End of Empire" Conference



By Patricia Lomando White

A major international conference titled "Film and the End of Empire"—which has been designed to explore in depth the history of moving images of the British Empire—will be presented by the University of Pittsburgh Film Studies Program from Sept. 24

through 26 in the University Club.

"Film and the End of Empire" is a major scholarly and archival project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) of the United Kingdom.

In 2007, Colin MacCabe, Distinguished

Professor of English and Film at Pitt, was awarded a grant of \$1.06 million from AHRC for his research project, "Colonial Film: Moving Images of the British Empire." With the award, MacCabe was charged with cataloguing a collection of more than 7,000 British films from pre-1900 productions to television-era programming. According to MacCabe, the project's goal was to make the films available to a broad audience.

The Pitt conference is one of various scholarly investigations of the archival material that is under way. Paul Gilroy, Anthony Giddens Professor of Social Theory at the London School of Economics, and Priya Jaikumar, associate professor in the Department of Critical Studies in the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California, will

deliver the conference's keynote addresses. Gilroy's talk is titled "Great Games: War, Film, and Working Through Britain's Colonial Legacy," and Jaikumar's talk is titled "Place/Map/Archive: Colonial and Film Historiography's Spatial Crisis."

The conference schedule is available at <http://filmandempire.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/zeprogramme1.pdf>.

Pitt School of Arts and Sciences faculty taking part in the conference are MacCabe; Nancy Condee, a professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Lucy Fischer, Distinguished Professor of English and Film Studies and director of Pitt's Film Studies Program; Neepa Majumdra, a professor in the Department of English; Patrick Manning, a professor of history and director of Pitt's World History Center; Vladimir Padunov, a professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; and Shalini Puri, a professor in the Department of English.

An online catalogue with more than 6,000 films will be available at <http://www.colonialfilm.org.uk> beginning this month for scholars, researchers, and the public. The new catalogue includes the entire corpus of representations of the British colonies in documentary or fiction films held in the collections of the British Film Institute, the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, and the Imperial War Museum.

Other events planned as part of the overall project include a seminar series in London; workshops for young faculty, schoolteachers, and filmmakers; two edited collections of scholarly work; and discussions with primary

and secondary teachers about curriculum development.

For more information or to register for the conference, send an e-mail to sarah_glauser@hotmail.com.



Colin MacCabe

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Sept. 27. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 3) should be received six working days prior to the desired publication 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.