James F. Woodward Named Distinguished Professor of History and Philosophy of Science

By Morgan Kelly

As green buildings sprout up with increasing regularity, researchers at the University of Pittsburgh will lead a four-year, $2 million federally funded project to revamp sustainable construction by investigating the true environmental presence of current green buildings and redesigning the scientific method that guides sustainable construction. The researchers will then integrate their work into a digital simulator that would predict a structure’s ultimate footprint based on construction and performance decisions.

Melissa Bilec, a professor of civil and environmental engineering in Pitt’s Swanson School of Engineering, received an Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation grant in Science in Energy and Environmental Design (EFRI-SEED) from the National Science Foundation to lead a group of Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University researchers in evaluating and expanding the scope of life-cycle assessments, or LCAs. When used in construction, LCAs analyze a building’s environmental impact throughout its entire existence, from the production of its basic components and raw materials to its eventual demolition and disposal.

Coinvestigators from Pitt include Alex Jones, a professor in the Swanson School’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Amy Landis, a professor of civil and environmental engineering; and Laura Schaefer, a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science. Also included is Stephen Lee, head of the Carnegie Mellon’s School of Architecture. The team received one of only 10 EFRI-SEED grants awarded this year, joining such other recipients as the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Virginia. Initial work on the project was supported by the Mascardo Center for Sustainable Innovation, Pitt’s center for sustainable engineering and sustainable neighborhood design.

The current LCA model has not developed in step with sustainable engineering research, Bilec explained, meaning that important considerations are not factored into a building’s construction. Notably absent is a method for quantifying a structure’s potential effect on the people who use it every day, Bilec said. For instance, LCAs currently consider the emissions produced when carpeting is manufactured, but not the gases slowly
Briefly Noted

Pitt Sets Adoption Lecture for Sept. 30

The University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences, School of Law, and Women's Studies Program as well as the Pittsburgh Consortium for Adoption Studies—the first event of a four-part series designed to provide a forum for students, faculty, and the general public to gain a better understanding of the adoption process.

@ Sierra L. Starks

Pitt Department of Communication to Host Public Address Conference Sept. 30-Oct. 2

The University of Pittsburgh's Department of Communication will host the 12th Biennial Public Address Conference titled "Human Rights Rhetoric: Controversies, Consensus, and Community Actions" from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 at the Holiday Inn Select—University Center, 100 Lyttton Ave., Oakland.

Sponsored by the Pitt Department of Communication's Jack Matthews Endowment Fund and the Arts and Sciences Faculty Research and Scholarship's Jack Matthews Endowment Fund, this event features lectures, breakout sessions, as well as a banquet at 7 p.m. Oct. 2 to recognize Professor David Zarefsky of Northwestern University, this year's conference honoree.

David Zarefsky is the Owen L. Coon Professor of Communication Studies at Northwestern. He is being honored for his significant contributions to the topics of human rights, rhetoric, and public address that include more than 70 published articles in professional journals.

Kirt Wilson, an associate professor of communication arts and sciences at Pennsylvania State University, will deliver the Sept. 30 lecture titled "More Than Civil Rights: The Fight for Black Freedom as a Human Rights Struggle." The lecture is open only to conference registrants.

Two public lectures will be held in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. Mary Borl Tonn, an associate professor of rhetoric at the University of Richmond, will present a lecture titled "From the Eye to the Soul: Industrial Labor's Mary Harris 'Mother' Jones, and the Rhetorics of Display" at 4 p.m. Oct. 1. Stephen John Hartnett, associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Colorado at Denver, will deliver a talk titled "Speaking With the Damned: or, Prison Education, Social Justice, and Communication as a Human Right" at 4 p.m. Oct. 2.

The complete conference schedule is available at www.pitt.edu/~comm. For more information, contact Pitt professor Lester Olson at olson@pitt.edu.

—@ Sierra L. Starks

Call for Nominations for Pitt's Belllet Awards, Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize

The University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences will accept nominations from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31 for both the Tina and David Belllet Teaching Excellence Awards and the Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize for Excellence in Advising.

David Belllet (CAS '67) and his wife, Tina, established the Belllet Teaching Excellence Awards in 1998 to recognize outstanding and innovative undergraduate teaching in the School of Arts and Sciences. Belllet Award recipients receive a cash prize in appreciation of their contributions to the School of Arts and Sciences and the University.

To qualify for the award, nominees must be full-time undergraduate Arts and Sciences faculty who have taught for three years on Pitt's Pittsburgh campus. Applicants must receive at least three nominations to be considered for the award.

Students and faculty may submit nominations to Arts and Sciences’ Senior Director for Undergraduate Studies Judy McConnaha, 140 Thackeray Hall, 139 University Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Electronic submissions can be sent to Carol Lynch at dynch@pitt.edu, but must be followed by a signed paper duplicate.

Ampco-Pittsburgh Corporation established the Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize for Excellence in Advising in 2006 to recognize outstanding academic advisors and their commitment to the success of Pitt’s undergraduate students. Award recipients receive a one-time $4,000 cash prize.

All undergraduate Arts and Sciences faculty members are eligible for the Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize. Nominations must have been made to a departmental advisor for at least three years on the Pittsburgh campus to be considered. Nominations must receive at least one nomination from their department chair or program director and at least two from undergraduate students whom they have advised.

Department chairs, program directors, and current and former undergraduate advisors may submit nominations to Arts and Sciences Senior Director for Undergraduate Studies Judy McConnaha, 140 Thackeray Hall, 139 University Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Electronic submissions can be sent to taylor@as.pitt.edu. Additional information is available at www.as.pitt.edu/advising/awards.html#ampco.

Author John Perkins to Speak At Pitt on Oct. 14


A question-and-answer session and book signing will follow the lecture.

Perkins is the author of Confessions of an Economic Hit Man (Penguin Group, 2006), The Secret History of the American Empire (Penguin Group, 2008) and Hoodwinked (Random House, 2009). He has held a variety of positions, including chief economist for a major international consulting firm, CEO of an alternative energy company, and adviser to Fortune 500 corporations and the World Bank.

Perkins donates all proceeds from his speaking engagements to his nonprofit work, which includes environmental sustainability efforts and human rights initiatives in the Amazon rainforest region.

Among the sponsors of this event are the University of Pittsburgh’s Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration, International Business Center, Center for Latin American Studies, Global Studies Program, and Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

For more information, visit www.gpss.pitt.edu or www.johnperkins.org.

—@ Sierra L. Starks

Tina and David Belllet

Pitt Researchers Lead Measurement of Green House Construction's Environmental Impact

"For our study, we first want to make sure sustainable buildings perform as they should. If they do not, we need to modify the design. A second goal concerns the human aspect. We spend 90 percent of our time inside, and we know very little about the real quality of indoor air. The interaction between people and the indoor environment needs to be considered if we want to understand overall sustainability."

To improve the LCA model, the researchers will first identify its weaknesses—those that need to be more thorough, considerations that are overlooked, and cumbersome aspects of the model—through electronic surveys distributed to people and trade groups in the architecture, construction, and engineering fields who create these assessments, as well as an evaluation of current case studies on sustainable building.

The team will then develop criteria that engineers and architects can use to determine the long-term sustainability of a building and its components. In addition, the group plans to integrate the revised LCA template into a digital interface they have named “the BUILD dashboard.” This simulator would predict the possible environmental footprint of various construction choices.

Biele said the group will then test the dashboard on structures in Pittsburgh.

The final prospective step in the project is to incorporate the new LCA into the Building Information Modeling (BIM), process, real-time software widely used to design and construct buildings.

Pitt Researchers Lead Measurement of Green House Construction's Environmental Impact

Continued from page 1

released on the carpeting and its adhesives over time, gases that people inhale.

“The LCA model needs to go further, especially in the area of building construction,” Biele said. “For our study, we first want to make sure sustainable buildings perform as they should. If they do not, we need to modify the design. A second goal concerns the human aspect. We spend 90 percent of our time inside, and we know very little about the real quality of indoor air. The interaction between people and the indoor environment needs to be considered if we want to understand overall sustainability.”

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The University of Pittsburgh’s 10th annual celebration of science and technology, “Science2010—Transformations,” will be held Oct. 7-8 in Alumni Hall. Admission to all Science2010 events is free and open to the public, but registration is required. The conference’s activities are intended to provide opportunities for participants to gain both knowledge and formative knowledge. “There is no textbook for practicing transformative science,” the conference’s Web site says. “But Science2010 is predicated on the belief that we raise our chances of achieving great science, in developing new plines. The challenge we face today—in actively engaging our peers in other disciplines and mastering our own areas of expertise and transformative insight when we go beyond what we do, and how we see the world we inhabit.”

The event’s four plenary speakers and their lecture topics are Stephen J. Elledge, the Gregor Mendel Professor of Genetics and Medicine and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator at Harvard Medical School, “The DNA Damage Response: Stopped for Repairs”; Patrick D. Gallagher, director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, “Strengthening the Connections: Research, Innovation, and Economic Growth”; Ann M. Graybiel, the Walter A. Rosenblith Professor of Neuroscience and investigator, McGovern Institute for Brain Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “Our Habitual Lives: How the Brain Makes and Breaks Habits”; and Mark B. Roth, a member of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and an affiliate associate professor at the University of Washington, “Metabolic Flexibility and Suspended Animation.”

Two poster sessions are scheduled for 1 p.m. on Oct. 7 and 8, with topics ranging from basic life science to new research tools and techniques. An undergraduate research poster reception will be held at 5 p.m. Oct. 7 where undergrads from across the University will exhibit faculty-mentored research posters in basic science, medicine, and engineering. Also on display will be product and service exhibits by corporate and organizational sponsors as well as information booths by University offices that serve the scientific community.

A full schedule of Science2010 events and registration details are available at www.science2010.pitt.edu.

Good Child Care for Low-Income Preschoolers Can Cut Behavior Problems Later, Study Finds

A longitudinal study led by a University of Pittsburgh psychologist reveals that children from low-income families placed in high-quality preschool programs have fewer behavioral problems in middle childhood and that such settings were especially important for boys and Black children.

The study—conducted by researchers at Pitt, Boston College, Universidad de los Andes, Loyola University Chicago, and Northwestern University—has been published in the September/October issue of the journal Child Development.

“This study adds to a growing body of evidence supporting the need for policy and programmatic efforts to increase low-income families’ access to high-quality early care and education,” said Pitt assistant professor of psychology Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal, who led the study.

The researchers looked at approximately 350 children from low-income families in Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio when they were preschoolers, ages 2 to 4, and again when they reached middle childhood, ages 7 to 11. The youngsters were part of the Three-City Study, a longitudinal look at the well-being of low-income families following welfare reform in 1996. The children in the study used the childcare options available in their communities.

An examination of the data revealed that children who attended more responsive, stimulating, and well-structured settings during preschool had fewer behavioral problems in middle childhood and that such settings were especially important for boys and Black children. High-quality care was particularly important for boys and Black children, the study found. Children in those groups seemed to be especially responsive to stimulating and responsive care outside the home. Votruba-Drzal says the study strengthens the researchers’ understanding of how child development in low-income families is shaped by childcare experiences.

The study was funded, in part, by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the following federal agencies: the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, the Administration for Children and Families, the Social Security Administration, and the National Institute of Mental Health.
University Update

To: Members of the University Community
From: Mark A. Nordenberg
Date: September 22, 2010
Re: Looking Back and Moving Ahead

As everyone who lived through it knows, last year was both a time of trouble and a time of triumph here at Pitt. Right from the start, we faced a succession of daunting challenges. Not only did we effectively deal with each obstacle that the year presented, but we continued to build momentum as we pushed forward with our important work.

- In the earliest days of the last fiscal year, we faced the truly urgent need to counter an attempt to reclassify Pennsylvania’s state-related universities as “non-public” entities. Though contrary to both precedent and policy, that misdesign could have deprived Pitt, Penn State, Temple, and Lincoln of tens of millions of dollars of federal and state support. Working with those other universities, we were able to secure a reversal of that position in the U.S. Department of Education, preserving our right to share in federal stimulus funds targeted for public higher education and also to benefit from the state funding protections built into that federal legislation.

- We endured not only an extended delay in the passage of the Commonwealth’s general budget but, when our funding was tied to the resolution of partisan differences over the shape of gaming legislation, were forced to contend with an even longer delay before action was taken on our own appropriation. Formal approval of our state funding did not come until mid-December, and no state appropriation dollars actually were received until February. Relying on financial strength built over the course of many years, we simply had to “wait out” these delays. And to be clear, that wait did not just involve maintaining our own operations without state funding flows. Instead, we also provided an extended grace period for students who could not meet normal tuition-payment deadlines because their individual state grants also had been held up by the budget delay.

- A highly publicized plan to tax the tuition paid by all students enrolled in Pittsburgh institutions of higher education put this City in a negative national media spotlight and raised the specter of increased costs for our students and an uncompetitive business climate for Pitt and Pittsburgh’s other colleges and universities. Through a broad-based higher education coalition, whose efforts included a heavy dose of student advocacy, we were able to secure the withdrawal of that proposal.

- The disruptions following the G-20 Summit posed a threat to positive campus relations that had been productively and respectfully built over the course of many years, even though the University’s influence over summit-related events was very limited. During the G-20 and in its wake, we worked hard to maintain the good relationships between our students and administration—and particularly with our Office of Student Affairs and the Pitt Police—that have come to characterize the University of Pittsburgh.

- Not long after the G-20 and before either our State budget woes or the problems posed by the City’s proposed tuition tax were behind us, talk of possible conference expansion threw the world of intercollegiate athletics into a state of some disarray—a condition that persists, though to a somewhat lesser degree, today.

Our success in effectively meeting, or at least deflecting, those challenges took enormous effort and might itself be viewed as a worthy cause for celebration. What is far more remarkable, though, is that we not only met those very significant challenges but were able to build further momentum while moving through such a difficult period. What we saw during the last year was a continuation of the progress that now has been building at Pitt over the course of many years. In some key areas, in fact, we saw even more dramatic rates of progress despite these troubling times. Consider the following examples.

We continued to build an outstanding record in both student recruitment and student performance. Looking just at this Fall’s freshman class here in Oakland, as one key indicator of broader institutional strength, that class was drawn from a pool of 22,606

The fact that we claimed our third Rhodes Scholar in five years was one visible sign of the high accomplishment that has come to characterize our enrolled students. Pitt undergraduates also claimed Goldwater, Udall, and Boren Scholarships; three Humanities in Action Fellowships; two Whitaker Foundation International Fellowships; and a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Junior Fellowship.

We currently rank 5th among all American universities in terms of the grant funding attracted by members of our faculty from the National Institutes of Health—joining Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Penn, and the University of California at San Francisco in that top five. We also rank in the top 10 universities in total federal science and engineering research and development support.

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applications, compared to 7,825 in 1995 and 21,757 last year—near-record levels. In terms of undergraduates over the course of the past 15 years and a jump of nearly 900 applicants in the last year alone. And last year, at a time when almost everything else in the economy was stalled, we grew our research base by almost 10 percent, a 10 percent increase since 1995 and a 10 percent increase since 1995 and a level that takes us into the range of total financial strength that are essential to the pursuit of our historical goals. Earlier this month, we announced that we had passed the $2 billion capital campaign. This is the largest amount of money ever raised by any group of any kind in any region of any size. And we are pursuing the next 10 universities in total federal science and engineering research and development support. That group consists of Johns Hopkins, Washington, Michigan, Penn, UCLA, Duke, Stanford, and the University of California at San Francisco, and Pitt.

We continued to garner wide-ranging forms of recognition for our many and varied strengths. For the fourth consecutive year, we were ranked in the very top cluster of the country’s public research universities in the objective assessment independently produced each year by the Center for Measuring University Performance—joining Berkeley, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, UCLA, and Wisconsin in that distinguished group. During the course of the year, Pitt received many more national honors—recognized as one of the country’s most veteran-friendly universities.

We brought new talent into our senior leadership team. Most notably, of course, Patty Beeson assumed the Provost’s position on August 15. Her appointment generated enthusiasm and entirely positive reactions on campus, and she certainly is off to a very strong start, having named three outstanding colleagues—David DeJong, Juan Manfredi, and Alberto Sbragia—to key positions within the Provost’s Office.

We continued to build exceptional strength as a center of pioneering research. Our research expenditures rose from $240 million in 1995 to $654 million in FY 2009 to $83 million, an increase of nearly 13 percent since 1995 and a level that takes us into the range of total financial strength that are essential to the pursuit of our historical goals. Earlier this month, we announced that we had passed the $2 billion capital campaign. This is the largest amount of money ever raised by any group of any kind in any region of any size. And we are pursuing the next 10 universities in total federal science and engineering research and development support. That group consists of Johns Hopkins, Washington, Michigan, Penn, UCLA, Duke, Stanford, and the University of California at San Francisco, and Pitt.

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Despite the many victories of the past year, though, many of our most serious challenges have persisted. For example, our state pension problems, which led to the “tuition tax” proposal, have not been solved, and we are dependent on a safe, vibrant, fiscally healthy City of Pittsburgh. Even worse, the City’s pension problems are dwarfed by the state’s pension problems, and the state’s budget challenges go far beyond underfunded pensions, with some experts predicting that total short-term shortfalls will be measured in the billions of dollars. At least under existing law, this is the last year of federal stimulus funding, which means that we soon will confront what has come to be known as the federal “funding cliff.”

Public transportation problems recently have become the focus of local concern, particularly in this region. And we are an institution that depends heavily on public transportation—a means of getting employees back and forth to work, for students who do not live in the immediate vicinity of campus getting back and forth to classes, and for students taking advantage of the richness of the region, whether that is for job opportunities or the enrichment activities like the Pitt Arts Program.

Whatever this has meant for us? Most obviously, we have not moved beyond the regional funding cliff. In fact, it seems likely that even more daunting challenges may await us. To take just the single most obvious example, the federal funding cliff could present very serious difficulties, as could almost any of these other issues, with possible consequences becoming even more severe as some combination of them were to hit us at once. But our success in meeting past challenges should provide some measure of confidence moving forward, and our record of forging further progress, even when faced with fiscal challenges, gives us hope that we might emerge from this period as an even stronger and more highly regarded university.

In his book, Troubled Times for American Higher Education: The 1990’s and Beyond, Clark Kerr—who distinguished career included service as Chancellor at Berkeley and Chair of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education—said, “Everybody behaves more or less alike at a cocktail party (the 1980’s), but not on the firing lines (the 1990’s).” He also predicted that, in light of the serious challenges that he expected would arise, the period from 1990 to 2010 could be a period of greater-than-usual change in university rankings, tied to the comparative effectiveness of institutional responses to those challenges. The last 15 years have seen a clear rise in the strength, quality, and reputation of the University of Pittsburgh. The momentum that we have built obviously is tied to a rich reservoir of human talent. But other qualities consistently on display throughout our University—commitment, discipline, selflessness, and an appetite for hard work, among them—have been indispensable to our progress.
Louis M. Gomez, a professor and the Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education in Pitt’s School of Education, and John H. Wallace, a professor in Pitt’s School of Social Work, will be honored during the New Pittsburgh Courier’s 50 Men of Excellence awards on Sept. 30 in Heinz Field’s West Club Lounge. The awards are given to men in the greater Pittsburgh area for their professional excellence and dedication to the community.

Also to be honored are 11 Pitt alumni: Curtis Aiken (CGS ’87), president, CEO, and founder of Protech Compliance, Inc.; Kevin W. Cameron (KGSB ’00), vice president of enterprise vendor management for the PNC Financial Services Group; Clarence Carry (KGSB ’71), senior diversity coordinator for the Pittsburgh Sports and Exhibition Authority; Harold Hayes (A&S ’75), reporter, KDKA-TV; Terrance A. Hayes (A&S ’97), professor of creative writing at Carnegie Mellon University; Max Miller (LAW ’93), director of the University of Pittsburgh’s Law School Innovation Practice Institute; Thomas A. Motley (CGS ’72, GSPIA ’75), past polemarch of the Pittsburgh Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.; Leon Pampulhe (A&S ’73G, EDUC ’78G, 80G), pastor and executive director of Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti; William T. Simmons (LAW ’78), director of the Shuman Juvenile Detention Center; Frank L. Torbert Jr. (KGSB ’70), president of FL Trading Inc.; and Rob Wilson (ENG’91), vice president and financial advisor for Blazer Capital Management.

Laurence Glasco, a Pitt professor of history and an author, was honored by Carnegie Mellon University’s Center for African American Urban Studies and the Economy. During a Sept. 10 reception at the University Club, local historians, including Glasco, received recognition for their dedication to uncovering the history of Black Pittsburgh. Glasco has authored several books about the history of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania, including Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: Historic Sites of Black Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 1995), which he cowrote with Frank E. Bolden and Eliza Smith Brown. He is the editor of The W.P.A. History of the Negro in Pittsburgh (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004). Two more books are under way: one about the late K. Leroy Irvis, Pitt alumni and trustee and legendary Pennsylvania legislative leader who in 1977 became the first African American speaker of the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania and the first Black speaker of any state house since Reconstruction, and a second book, titled August Wilson’s Pittsburgh.

A philosophy book published by the University of Pittsburgh Press (UPP) has won this year’s $10,000 Eureka Prize for Research in Ethics. The international prize, sponsored annually by the Australian Catholic University, was awarded to John Forge for the book titled The Responsible Scientist: A Philosophical Inquiry. The manuscript, published in 2008 as part of UPP’s Philosophy of Science list, was acquired for UPP by Press Director Cynthia Miller. Forge is a research associate at the Unit for History and Philosophy of Science at The University of Sydney, Australia.

Edward Chu, an internationally renowned expert in the biology and treatment of colorectal cancer, has been named chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology in Pitt’s School of Medicine and deputy director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI). Prior to coming to UPCI, Chu served as a professor of medicine and pharmacology at Yale University School of Medicine, chief of the Section of Medical Oncology, and deputy director of the Yale Cancer Center.

The following University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing faculty have been recognized with research grants and awards.

Michael Beach, an assistant professor in the Department of Acute and Tertiary Care, was awarded $60,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program. This initiative aims to expand the pipeline of students in accelerated baccalaureate nursing programs.

Catherine M. Bender, a professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems, received a $1.1 million T32 Institutional Training Program grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research. The grant will support the training of nurse scientists to lead independent research programs in cancer survivorship.

Lora Burke, a professor of nursing and epidemiology in the Department of Health and Community Systems, was elected chair of the American Heart Association’s Scientific Council on Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Metabolism. She will serve in the role until 2012. Burke also was appointed as a member of the Clinical and Integrative Diabetes and Obesity Study Section at the National Institutes of Health. She will serve in that role until 2013.

Mary Beth Hopp, a professor in the Department of Acute and Tertiary Care, received a $50,000 grant from the Greenwall Foundation’s Kornfeld Program on Bioethics and Patient Care. Her research involves non-speaking patients in the intensive care unit and explores the ethical implications of their participation in treatment decisions.

Michael W. Neft, an assistant professor in the Department of Acute and Tertiary Care, was selected to serve as chair of the Department of Health and Community Systems, received a $50,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health for her research on promoting physical activity in older adults with comorbidities.

Robert E. Schoen, a professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh, received the Sadie Gerson Distinguished Scholar Award, established by Sandy Gerson Snyder in honor of her mother who passed away from colon cancer at the age of 51. Schoen, a leader in research of early detection and prevention of colorectal cancer, is also researching a vaccine to prevent development of colorectal cancer.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded grants to the following School of Information Sciences faculty: Geoffrey Bowker, Peter Brusilovsky, Dqing He, Corey Knobel, Jung Sun Oh, and Ronald Larsen.

Professor Geoffrey Bowker, with coprincipal investigator and Information Sciences Dean Ronald L. Larson, secured a grant for $90,684 to support a workshop titled “Emerging Configurations of the Virtual and the Real” this semester. Funded by the NSF’s Office of Cyberinfrastructure, the workshop will convene a group of experts from various fields to address the impact of advances in information and communications technologies on research and education in the information sciences.

Professor Peter Brusilovsky received two EAGER (Early Concept Grants for Exploratory Research) awards. The first grant for $99,999, for which Assistant Professor Jung Sun Oh will serve as coprincipal investigator, will support a project that explores formalization and social networking for short-term communities, such as academic research conferences. Brusilovsky’s second EAGER Grant, for $155,882, will look at how to model and visualize latent communities, or groups of people who form communities based on their similar interests. This work will consider how to elicit latent communities from various kinds of data about individuals available in the modern social web.

Professor Dqing He received a $49,983 grant from the NSF’s Division of Information and Intelligent Systems to explore the emerging phenomenon of public academic information resources on the social web.

Assistant Professor Cory Knobel and Bowker were awarded a $198,506 grant from NSF’s Office of Cyberinfrastructure for the project titled “Evaluating Best Practices in Collaborative Cyber-Science and Engineering.”
Happenings

Concerts


University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, free performance of Mozart’s Symfonia Concertante, featuring Wil Sneed and Wei Zhao, Teichner-Tippett’s Concerto for Two String Orchestras, 8 p.m. Sept. 29, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4423, www.pittmusic.edu.

Exhibitions


Forlo-Mariniczyn & Godfrey Trio, Nordy’s Place, September 29

Miscellaneous

German Academic Exchange Services: Scholarship and Grant Information Session, for undergraduates and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty seeking funding opportunities for study and research in Germany, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 27, 532 Alumni Hall, Pittsburgh University’s Center for European Studies, 412-624-6881, reillyj@pitt.edu.


Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Charles Warner, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of English, 9 a.m. Sept. 28, “Research in the Form of a Spectacle: Godard and the Cinematic Essay,” Room 526, Cathedral of Learning.

Xinyi Zhou, Swanson School of Engineering’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 9 a.m. Sept. 28, “Dynamics, Thermal Management Through Task Scheduling,” 580 Benedum Hall.

Jamsheed Siyar, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Philosophy, “Kant’s Conception of Practical Reason,” 10 a.m. Sept. 30, 1001D Cathedral of Learning.

Kimberly M. Payne, Department of Biological Sciences’ Program in Integrative Molecular Biology, 11:30 a.m. Sept. 30, “Mycobacteriochrome Lysane: Bioinformatic Characterization of Lysane A and Identification of the Function and Role of Lysane B in Infection,” 169 Crawford Hall.

Alexandra Newnham, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Philosophy, “Kant on Logical Form,” 10:00D Cathedral of Learning.

Arthur Coningham, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Philosophy, 2 p.m. Sept. 30, “The Role of Deoherence in the Emergence of Definite Properties,” 1001B Cathedral of Learning.

The Minh Luong, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Biostatistics, 10 a.m. Oct. 1, “Data Link Methods and Applications for Modeling Biological Interaction,” 308 Parron Hall.

"Vatican Splendors: A Journey Through Faith and Art, Sunday, October 3-23 January 9"
Internationally renowned jazz greats will convene at the University of Pittsburgh Nov. 2 through Nov. 6 to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert.

The first academic jazz seminar of its kind in the country, Pitt’s Jazz Seminar features international artists connecting with aspiring students in a lecture format, then performing together as an ensemble.

Over the decades, some of the greatest names in American jazz history have participated, including saxophonists Grover Washington Jr. and Sonny Stitt, drummer and bandleader Art Blakey, trumpet master Dizzy Gillespie, and pianist Billy Taylor, among many others.

Musicians who will take part in the 2010 Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert include Randy Brecker, trumpet; George Cables, piano; Leon Lee Dorsey, Pitt assistant professor of jazz studies and coordinator of Pitt’s Jazz Studies Program, bass; Jon Faddis, trumpet; Winard Harper, drums; Javon Jackson, tenor saxophone; Peter King, alto saxophone; Bobby Broom, guitar, and Dave Pike, vibraphone.

During Jazz Week, the musicians conduct free lecture/demonstrations on the Pitt campus, provide miniclinics at area schools, and visit community centers. Two evening lectures on the history and business aspects of jazz also are scheduled; details will be forthcoming. At the end of the week, the musicians will perform in concert at 8 p.m. Nov. 6 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

Concert tickets are $18 general admission and $8 for students with a valid ID. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning the week of Oct. 4 by calling ProArtsTickets at 412-394-3353 or visiting www.proartstickets.org. Student tickets only are available at the William Pitt Union box office. Tickets will be on sale the evening of the concert at Carnegie Music Hall for $10 and $20, cash only.

The Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert was founded by Nathan Davis, who serves as its director as well as the director of Pitt’s Jazz Studies Program. Additional details, including the seminar schedule, will be available in coming weeks.