

Alumni, Friends to Return for Pitt Homecoming, Oct. 28-31



By Patricia Lomando White

A Welcome Back Reception, a fireworks and laser show, Homecoming Extravaganza, theatrical performances, and school and departmental reunions are the highlights of festivities planned for alumni, students, and friends as the University of Pittsburgh celebrates Homecoming 2010 from Oct. 28 to 31, including the noon Oct. 30 football game between the Pitt Panthers and the University of Louisville Cardinals.

Homecoming festivities will begin from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 28 with Pathway to Profes-

sions: A Career Networking Event held in the J.W. Connolly Ballroom of Alumni Hall, at which alumni offer insights into their careers.

Celebrating its centennial, *The Pitt News* will hold an open house from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 29 in Room 424, William Pitt Union (WPU). Alumni can tour the office, meet the staff, and peruse bound volumes of newspapers from years past.

A festive autumn setting, complete with hors d'oeuvres and drinks, will be the

backdrop for the Pitt Alumni Association's Welcome Back Reception that helps connect Pitt alumni from past decades. It will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Cathedral of Learning's Commons Room. The Nationality Rooms also will be open for visitors. Following the Welcome Back event, a number of schools and departments will host their own alumni receptions.

The Pitt Program Council's fireworks

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Pitt's AAAC to Celebrate Sankofa Homecoming Weekend 2010, Blue, Gold, and Black: It Takes a Village, Oct. 28-31

By Patricia Lomando White

The University of Pittsburgh African American Alumni Council (AAAC) will celebrate Sankofa Homecoming Weekend 2010: Blue, Gold, and Black: It Takes a Village by honoring five Pitt alumni and several Pitt and local organizations with the Sankofa Award during AAAC's Fellowship Brunch and Sankofa Awards Presentation to be held at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 31 in the Pittsburgh Grand Hotel (formerly the Hilton), 600 Commonwealth Place, Downtown. The event is part of the University's Homecoming 2010, taking place Oct. 28-31.

This year's Sankofa Awards carry the theme It Takes a Village. Five members of the University community who have exhibited outstanding educational support and service to students of African descent will receive the honor and nine University and community organizations that have made significant contributions to the success of Pitt African American students will be recognized.

Gail Austin, former director of Pitt's Academic Resource Center (ARC) who

retired after 42 years of service in various University positions, will be given a special Sankofa Jean Hamilton Walls Award. Austin is being recognized with the Walls Award for her commitment to enhancing diversity, particularly regarding African American students; for her dedication to ensuring the educational success of thousands of students who matriculated through Project A (a 1968 Pitt summer preparatory program for African American students), Malcolm-Martin-Marcus Scholars Program, University Community Education Programs, and University Challenge for Excellence Program; and for her devotion to the advancement of partnerships within the larger African American community.

Austin received her BA in French literature from Pitt and has done graduate work in psychology and anthropology. As a student in the late 1960s, she was inspired



Gail Austin

by the civil rights movement and by visits to Pitt by Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders in the movement.

Since then, Austin has been a peace and justice advocate both at the University and in the community. She was named a winner of the 2010 Iris Marion Young Award for Political Engagement, an honor inaugurated in 2008 by Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and the Women's Studies Program to recognize those who work to promote social justice and democracy. She also received the 2008 Thomas Merton Center New Person Award for her efforts promoting peace and justice. With other activists from Pitt and the community, Austin helped form the Afro-American Cultural Society to increase the number of Black students, staff, and faculty at the University.

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Katz Welcomes Center for Women In Business

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business is the new home of the Center for Women in Business, led by director Lee Ann Munger. The center, housed in the Katz School's Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence, grew from the success of the once-independent PowerLink, founded in 1991 with the goal of helping women-owned businesses grow profitably through the use of professional, volunteer advisory panels.

"Women are choosing to start and build businesses at greater numbers than ever, and the ability to be self-sufficient allows women to balance the competing demands of their lives," said Ann Dugan, director of the institute. "Although people today are better prepared for the start-up phase of a business, they often stumble in the growth phase. The institute's new Women in Business Center provides the resources and services to ensure that women-owned businesses soar to the next level of profitability and success."

During its first 10 years, PowerLink was operated entirely by volunteers. Its first client, Anita Brattina, CEO and founder of Direct Response Marketing, wrote about her experience with having a PowerLink Advisory Board in her book *Diary of a Small Business Owner* (AMACOM, 1995). The book was an *Inc. Magazine* cover feature and garnered significant national interest. Female business owners from across the country clamored for PowerLink programs in their communities, and in 2001, a licensing agreement with the ATHENA Foundation led to PowerLink programs being established nationwide; PowerLink now exists in 25 U.S. cities.

Munger, the former executive director of PowerLink, has been an advocate for women in business throughout her career: She has managed PowerLink Advisory Panels for more than 40 woman-owned businesses, managed the work of hundreds of volunteer business advisors, developed

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Briefly Noted



Social Entrepreneurship Featured at Pitt Senate's Oct. 26 Fall Plenary

The University Senate's Fall Plenary, "Social Entrepreneurship at Pitt: Innovators, Change Makers, and Local Heroes," will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Oct. 26 in the William Pitt Union's Assembly Room.

Social entrepreneurs create ventures, products, or organizations that address social problems, in much the same way that business entrepreneurs pursue business opportunities.

"Social entrepreneurs combine research, knowledge, and a passion for change to make an impact on the world around them," said Audrey Murrell, a professor of business administration, psychology, and public and international affairs and director of the David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. She will deliver an overview for the plenary and will introduce Micah Toll, a Pitt social entrepreneur.

Toll is a junior mechanical engineering student and was the winner of Pitt's "Big Idea" competition in both 2009 and 2010. Among other products, Toll created a portable, light weight construction material crafted from cardboard and foam to be used in disasters that occur in Third World nations where building materials are scarce. Toll and his work will be featured during the plenary.

Opening remarks will be delivered by Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. Rory A. Cooper, FISA/PVA Endowed Chair and a Distinguished Professor in the Pitt Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology, will deliver the keynote address, "Social Entrepreneurship: Forging New Freedoms for People with Disabilities."

"Staff, faculty, and students should attend to familiarize themselves with the wonderful work that is being done in classrooms, labs, and community-field projects. Innovative thinking and ideas can truly find a home at Pitt because our campus is a natural incubator for this type of knowledge and development," said Murrell.

—By Odana Chaney

Annual Nordenberg Lecture in Law, Medicine, and Psychiatry Set for Oct. 28

Anne Tamar-Mattis, founder and executive director of Advocates for Informed Choice, will deliver the annual Mark A. Nordenberg Lecture in Law, Medicine, and Psychiatry at noon Oct. 28 in the University of Pittsburgh Barco Law Building's Teplitz Memorial Courtroom. Her talk is titled "Legal and Ethical Issues in Medical Treatment of Children With Variations of Sex Anatomy."

In her lecture, Tamar-Mattis will identify key legal and ethical issues in treating children with intersex conditions—variations of sexual anatomy or chromosomes that do not fit standard expectations for gender distinction. The talk will explore the ethics and law of surrogate decision-making on behalf of children in complex cases and discuss the balance between the medical need for knowledge and the child's rights to privacy and dignity.

Advocates for Informed Choice is the first organization in the country to focus on legal advocacy

for the civil and human rights of children born with intersex conditions. Tamar-Mattis has served for many years as an organizer in the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning) and intersex communities. She is the former director of the national LYRIC Youth Talkline and former program director of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, Tamar-Mattis earned a BA in religious studies at Brown University. She has returned to Berkeley law school as a lecturer teaching the classes Sex Discrimination and Sexual Orientation and the Law. She is the author of *Exceptions to the Rule: Curing the Law's Failure to Protect Intersex Infants* (LexisNexis, 2006) and she writes a regular column in *Endocrine Today*, a professional journal reaching physicians who care for intersex children.

Pitt's annual lecture in law, medicine, and psychiatry is named after Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, former dean of the law school, and is approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board for one hour of substantive CLE credit. Registration is available at the door. There is a \$25 fee to obtain CLE credit with a check made payable to the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

For more information, call 412-647-5700 or e-mail bioethic@pitt.edu.

—By Patricia Lomando White

Pitt Offers Oct. 29 Conference on Research Ethics

How vulnerable are the people academic researchers choose to study? Do institutional review boards (IRBs) go far enough in helping to protect the rights and welfare of research subjects?

These issues will be addressed in a free one-day conference at the University of Pittsburgh titled "Beyond the IRB: New Frontiers in the Ethics of Qualitative Research," from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 29, in 2400 Posvar Hall.

Sponsored by Pitt's Department of Sociology, the conference has been designed to set an agenda for ethical standards in qualitative research that extend beyond the areas currently in general use by IRBs.

"Changes in technologies, laws, and patterns of policing create new vulnerabilities for the people and social groups that are studied by social scientists," said Kathleen Blee, Distinguished Professor of Sociology in the School of Arts and Sciences and chair of Pitt's Department of Sociology. "Our conference is an opportunity to develop a new set of ethical standards that will guide qualitative research in the 21st century."

At the conference, social science researchers from around the country will present information on ethical dilemmas they have encountered.

For more information, call 412-648-7580 or visit www.sociology.pitt.edu.

—By Sharon S. Blake

Pitt Center for Latin American Studies Plans Nov. 20 Concert

The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Latin American Studies, along with Pittsburgh Cardiovascular Institute and Med Health Services, will present the Eric Mintel Quartet in the third annual "The Americas—In Concert." The free public concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 20 in Pitt's Frick Fine Arts Auditorium.

Eric Mintel, jazz pianist and composer, created the Eric Mintel Quartet, which incorporates jazz and classical music. The quartet has traveled throughout the country combining these elements with choral music; it was invited to perform at the White House for President Clinton in 1998 and performed last year on NBC Philadelphia's "The 10! Show."

Mintel also will offer a jazz workshop for students at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. Jazz theory, ensemble performance, jazz rhythms studies, and stage presence tips are among the topics that will be discussed. Teachers are invited to arrange for their classes to attend the workshop. For more information on the workshop, contact Lilly Abreu at lilly_abreu@yahoo.com or 412-362-1771.

Pitt's Center for Latin American Studies is part of the University Center for International Studies. For more information, call 412-648-7392.

—By Sierra L. Starks

AAPD CEO to Deliver Thornburgh Lecture in Disability Law and Policy Nov. 4

Andrew J. Imparato, president and chief executive officer of the American Association of People With Disabilities (AAPD), will be the featured speaker 1-2:30 p.m. Nov. 4 at the University of Pittsburgh's Thornburgh Family Lecture Series in Disability Law and Policy. The lecture will take place in Ballroom B of the University Club.

Diagnosed with bipolar disorder when he was a student at Stanford University law school, Imparato has long been an advocate for people with disabilities. Before joining AAPD in 1999, he served as director of policy for the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency advising the president and Congress on public policy issues related to disabilities.

At AAPD, Imparato has worked with a coalition of disability, employer, civil rights, and faith-based groups in a political strategy that led to the passing of the 2008 ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) Amendments Act. This law revised the definition of disabilities to encompass and protect the millions of Americans with such impairments as epilepsy, diabetes, depression, and cancer.

Imparato has been featured on CNN, CBS News, Fox Sports, and BBC Radio, among other media outlets, discussing disability issues as well as his own condition.

Founded in 1995, AAPD is the largest nonprofit,

nonpartisan, cross-disability membership organization in the nation. It was founded in an effort to organize the disability community to become a force for social, political, and economic change. Under Imparato's leadership, AAPD has quadrupled its membership and staff size.

The Thornburgh Family Lecture Series is sponsored by the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy. After receiving the 2003 Henry B. Betts Award, Dick and Ginny Thornburgh donated the proceeds from that award to the University of Pittsburgh to establish the lecture series. The fund has been supplemented by grants from Pitt's Office of the Chancellor, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, and School of Law.

The Nov. 4 event is free and open to the public, though preregistration is requested because of limited seating. A reception will follow the lecture. The lecture has been approved for 1.5 hours of substantive CLE Credit by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board. For more information on the event, CLE credit, or to preregister, visit www.law.pitt.edu/Thornburgh-2010.

—By Sierra L. Starks

Pitt to Host 20th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival Nov. 7

The University of Pittsburgh Slovak Studies Program and the Pitt Student Slovak Club will present the 20th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival from 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 7 in the Cathedral of Learning's Commons Room.

The free event will include performances by such local artists as the Pittsburgh Slovaks, Slavjane Folk Ensemble, and the University of Pittsburgh Carpathian Ensemble. Also among the festival's many performers are the returning professional Slovakian artists the Singing Revil'ak Family and Jozef Ivaska.

Included in the schedule of events are cultural displays and lectures, as well as a Slovak cooking lesson by Lubos Brieda, creator of slovakcooking.com. Vendors will sell Slovak and East European merchandise as well as ethnic food and pastries.

The Slovak Heritage Festival asks for donations of baked goods to help defray costs for this free public event. For more information about the festival, contact Christine Metil at 412-624-5906 or metil@pitt.edu.

—By Sierra L. Starks



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Blacklight, World's Largest Coherent Shared-Memory Computing System, Is Operational At Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center



By Morgan Kelly

Now equipped with one of the world's largest computer memory systems, the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (PSC) is carrying out the virtual grunt work for more than a dozen researchers, from simulating the Universe's beginnings to helping shore up cybersecurity.

Behind this versatility is the PSC's recent acquisition of the SGI Blacklight, a multiprocessor computer system purchased in part with a \$2.8 million National Science Foundation grant the PSC received in July. The PSC is a collaboration between Pitt, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Westinghouse Electric Company.

Forty-three users representing 18 research groups are currently taking advantage of Blacklight's coherent shared-memory system, which boasts both an enormous storage capacity and quick processor interaction. Blacklight consists of 512 processors and two connected 16-terabyte memory systems, the two largest coherent shared-memory systems in the world, offering the storage capacity of approximately 8,000 average laptop computers. Being a shared system, the processors can access any available memory space,

while the coherent memory systems update one another. These functions are crucial for performing large data tasks quickly.

"Because of the extraordinary memory size and relative ease of programming made possible by this system's shared-memory structure, scientists and engineers will be able to solve problems that were heretofore intractable," said PSC scientific directors Michael Levine and Ralph Roskies in a joint statement. "For many research communities—including data analysis and many areas of computer science—it will open the door to the use of high-performance computation and thereby expand the abilities of scientists to ask and answer questions."

The system is already being used for projects in machine learning, natural language processing, software security, analysis of molecular biology simulations, extreme-scale performance engineering, chemistry, fluid dynamics, the early universe, condensed matter, seismic analysis, and genomics.

More information about Blacklight and the PSC is available on the center's Web site at www.psc.edu.

UPCI Plans 3 Symposia to Mark 25th Anniversary

The University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) has planned three symposia to mark the institute's 25th anniversary. The first symposium, "Stem Cells in Cancer," will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 5 in Cooper Conference Room D, Hillman Cancer Center, 5115 Centre Ave., Shadyside.

Two additional symposia—"Cancer Genomics" and "Personalized Medicine, in Honor of Jeffery Shogan, MD"—are scheduled for March 10, 2011, and May 5, 2011, respectively. Shogan (MED '82), who died in January at age 56, was a clinical professor of medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine and the director of business services and chief business officer for UPMC Cancer Centers.

The Nov. 5 symposium's keynote address, "New Strategy to Target Cancer Stem Cells," will be delivered by Linheng Li, a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine in the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

Additional topics and presenters for the Nov. 5 symposium follow.

- "Hematopoietic Stem Cell Protection and Reprogramming," Tao Cheng, professor of radiation oncology in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and director of stem cell biology at UPCI;

- "Adipose Derived Stem Cells: Biology and Clinical Applications," Albert Donnenberg, professor of medicine in the Pitt School of Medicine, director of the UPCI Flow Cytometry Facility, and director of the UPMC Hematopoietic Stem Cell Laboratory;

- "Stem Cells and Cancer," Eric Lagasse, professor in the Pitt School of Medicine's Department of Pathology and director of

the Cancer Stem Cell Center in the Pitt-UPMC McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine;

- "Use of Blocked Populations of Breast Cancer Stem Cells to Screen for Novel Chemotherapeutic Targets," Edward Prochownik, The Paul C. Gaffney Professor of Pediatrics and professor of microbiology and molecular genetics in the Pitt School of Medicine and director of oncology research at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC;

- "Aldh and Hematopoietic Stem Cells," Clayton Smith, a visiting professor of medicine at Pitt and director of UPCI's Hematologic Malignancy Program;

- "Teasing out Src-Family Kinase Signaling in ES cells and CML Using Chemical Genetics," Tom Smithgall, the William S. McElroy Professor and Chair of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics in the Pitt School of Medicine;

- "Generation of Cardiovascular Cells from Human ES/iPS Cells," Lei Yang,

assistant professor in the Pitt School of Medicine and director of the Stem Cell Core Facility in the medical school's Department of Developmental Biology; and

- "Intestinal Stem Cells in Danger: To Live or Die?" Jian Yu, assistant professor of pathology in the Pitt School of Medicine.

For additional information and to register, visit www.upci.upmc.edu/symposia or call 412-623-3203.

UPCI received notification earlier this fall that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) renewed the center's \$27 million Cancer



Nancy E. Davidson

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Pitt Researchers: Plant-Based Plastics Not Necessarily Greener Than Oil-Based Relatives



By Morgan Kelly

An analysis of plant and petroleum-derived plastics by University of Pittsburgh researchers suggests that biopolymers are not necessarily better for the environment than their petroleum-based relatives,

according to a report in *Environmental Science & Technology*. The Pitt team found that while biopolymers are the more eco-friendly material, traditional plastics can be less environmentally taxing to produce.

Biopolymers trumped the other plastics for biodegradability, low toxicity, and use of renewable resources. Nonetheless, the farming and chemical processing needed to produce them can devour energy and dump fertilizers and pesticides into the environment, wrote lead author Michaelangelo Tabone (ENGR, A&S '10), who conducted the analysis as an undergraduate student in the lab of Amy Landis, a professor of civil and environmental engineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering. Tabone and Landis worked with James Cregg, an undergraduate chemistry student in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences; and Eric Beckman, codirector of Pitt's Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation and the George M. Bevier Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering in Pitt's Swanson School. The project was supported by the National Science Foundation.

The researchers examined 12 plastics—seven petroleum-based polymers, four biopolymers, and one hybrid. The team first performed a life-cycle assessment (LCA) on each polymer's preproduction stage to gauge the environmental and health effects of the energy, raw materials, and chemicals used

to create one ounce of plastic pellets. They then checked each plastic in its finished form against principles of green design, including biodegradability, energy efficiency, wastefulness, and toxicity. A graph of the LCA results and a chart ranking the polymers by eco-friendliness are available on Pitt's Web site at www.news.pitt.edu/news/Landis_polymers_LCA.

Biopolymers were among the more prolific polluters on the path to production, the LCA revealed. The team attributed this to agricultural fertilizers and pesticides, extensive land use for farming, and the intense chemical processing needed to convert plants into plastic. All four biopolymers were the largest contributors to ozone depletion.

Biopolymers were among the more prolific polluters on the path to production, the LCA revealed. The team attributed this to agricultural fertilizers and pesticides, extensive land use for farming, and the intense chemical processing needed to convert plants into plastic. All four biopolymers were the largest contributors to ozone depletion. The two tested forms of sugar-derived polymer—standard polylactic acid (PLA-G) and the type manufactured by Minnesota-based NatureWorks (PLA-NW), the most common sugar-based plastic in the United States—exhibited the maximum contribution to eutrophication, which occurs when overfertilized bodies of

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Newsmakers

THE CITY IS OUR CAMPUS



An estimated 2,800 Pitt students fanned out across the city on Saturday, Oct. 16, during Pitt Make a Difference Day. The third annual volunteer event sent 60 buses full of students to various locations across Pittsburgh to pick up trash, take care of green spaces, and to perform other chores. Students gathered at the William Pitt Union in the morning to catch their buses; Pitt volunteers picked up trash in parts of Wilkinsburg.

PHOTOS BY JIM BURKE/CUDE

PITTSBURGH CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD



Five members of the Pittsburgh Citizen Police Review Board (CPRB), including Pitt's Deborah Walker and Debra Whitfield (seated, center and left, respectively), took their oaths of office on Sept. 10 in City Council's chambers. Walker (CGS '01, GSPIA '03), a former Pitt police officer, is the student conduct officer and assistant to the dean in Pitt's Office of Student Affairs. Whitfield (CGS '06) is a financial counselor in Pitt's School of Dental Medicine. Several Pitt administrators and colleagues observed the ceremony. From left, Carol Mohammed, director of Pitt's Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Inclusion; James N. Williams III, assistant director, City/County Relations, Pitt Governmental Relations; Richard M. Carrington, CPRB member; Gwen Watkins, vice president, Steering Committee, Pitt Staff Association Council; Pitt Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kathy W. Humphrey; Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill; Shawn E. Brooks, associate dean and director, Pitt Residence Life; Eugene M. Downing Jr., CPRB member; and, seated at right, Leshonda Roberts, CPRB member.

JIM BURKE/CUDE

JIM BURKE/CUDE

CONFESSIONS OF AN ECONOMIC HIT MAN

John Perkins, a *New York Times* best-selling author, spoke Oct. 14 at Soldiers & Sailors Auditorium. He discussed corporate responsibility, ethics in the public and private sector, and sustainable environmental practices. 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.



J. MONROE BUTLER II

NEGRO EDUCATIONAL REVIEW

Alice M. Scales and Shirley A. Biggs (seated, from left), Pitt professors of education emerita, met with officials from Florida A&M University (FAMU) to discuss issues related to the *Negro Educational Review*. The international refereed journal was established in 1950 and has been edited by Scales, editor-in-chief and comanaging editor, and Biggs, comanaging editor, at Pitt since 2005. The women met Oct. 18 in Posvar Hall with (standing, from left) FAMU officials Franklin D. Hamilton (GSPH '69), professor emeritus, Environmental Sciences Institute; Frederick S. Humphries (A&S '65), Regent Professor, FAMU College of Law; and James E. Hawkins, advisory editor of the *Negro Educational Review* and dean, School of Journalism & Graphic Communication.



Alumni, Friends to Return for Pitt Homecoming, Oct. 28-31

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and laser show at 9:30 p.m. Oct. 29 on Bigelow Boulevard between the Cathedral of Learning and the William Pitt Union is always a hit with onlookers. The evening's festivities will continue with the Homecoming Extravaganza at 10 p.m. in the William Pitt Union with Casino Night, music, and light refreshments.

The Homecoming football pregame festivities will kick off at 9 a.m. Oct. 30 at Heinz Field with the World's Largest Family Block Party on Art Rooney Avenue between Gates A and B. The opening events will feature live entertainment on the main stage, a giant video wall, inflatable games for the kids, and other family-oriented activities.

Pitt's Panther Prowl at 10 a.m. will give fans the opportunity to meet and greet the football players as they arrive at Heinz Field outside Gate A. Immediately following will be the Pitt Marching Band's Pregame Concert. The band will lead the March to Victory parade at 11 a.m. from Tony Dorsett Drive down General Robinson Street, ending at the stage on Art Rooney Avenue. The Homecoming Court will ride in the parade, and the king and queen will be crowned during halftime festivities.

Throughout Homecoming weekend, Pitt's African American Alumni Council (AAAC) will host numerous events for the entire University community. These activities will include Rhyme, Rhythm, and Rapture: *Blackline Magazine* Release Party and Poetry Slam at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 28 in the Frick Fine Arts Building, 650 Schenley Dr., Oakland; screening of the documen-

tary *Blue Gold and Black: From Doorway to Distinction* from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Third Floor Lecture Room, Alumni Hall; and Rejoice in the Miracle, the AAAC worship service at 10 a.m. Oct. 31 at the Pittsburgh Grand Hotel, 600 Commonwealth Place, Downtown. (Story on page 1.)

The Homecoming football pregame festivities will kick off at 9 a.m. Oct. 30 at Heinz Field with the World's Largest Family Block Party ... and family-oriented activities.

Additional Homecoming events will include those hosted by the School of Nursing, the School of Law, the School of Dental Medicine, the Swanson School of Engineering, the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, the College of General Studies, and others.

Pitt Repertory Theatre will be presenting *Slasher: A Horrifying Comedy*, a satirical twist on horror movie clichés, written by Allison Moore and directed by Holly Thuma,

from Oct. 29 through Nov. 7. Also, alumna Yvonne Hudson (A&S '89) will portray poet Emily Dickinson at 4 and 6 p.m. Oct. 30 in *Emily Dickinson: The Poet Lights the Lamp*, a presentation drawn from the author's letters and poems.

For general information about Homecoming, call the Pitt Alumni Association at 412-624-8229 or 1-800-258-7488 or visit www.alumni.pitt.edu/homecoming. For information on Pitt's AAAC Sankofa Homecoming Weekend, visit www.alumni.pitt.edu. For tickets to *Slasher*, call 412-624-7529 or visit www.play.pitt.edu. To RSVP for *Emily Dickinson*, e-mail Poets.Corner.Pittsburgh@gmail.com, or for information, call 412-251-5532. For ticket information for the Homecoming football game, call 1-800-643-7488 or visit www.pittsburghpanthers.com.

UPCI Plans 3 Symposia to Mark 25th Anniversary



Hillman Cancer Center (UPCI)

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Center Support Grant to support UPCI's broad range of clinical, research, and educational programs. Established in 1985, UPCI received its designation as an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in 1989 and has retained this distinction since then. UPCI is the only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in Western

Pennsylvania.

UPCI is headed by Nancy E. Davidson, an internationally renowned expert in breast cancer research and treatment. She also serves as associate vice chancellor for cancer research and as chief of the Division of Hematology-Oncology in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Medicine.

Katz Welcomes Center for Women in Business

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programs and procedures, and directed the organization's marketing and recruiting. She is a past president of the PowerLink Board of Directors.

Prior to her work at PowerLink, Munger was president and cofounder of Graphics & Artworks, a graphic design and marketing firm. In 1996, she was honored as the Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year by the Pittsburgh chapters of YWCA and the National Association of Women Business Owners. A graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh Year XII, Munger has served on the Leadership Pittsburgh and Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA selection committees.

"We are very excited about our association with the institute," said Munger. "As a stand-alone nonprofit, PowerLink had a limited capacity to grow. The added resources now available through the institute will allow growth and the innovation of additional programs to meet a wider range of needs of women-owned businesses."

As an independent entity, PowerLink worked with 154 companies and 184 women business owners in Pittsburgh. The Center for Women in Business is currently in the process of accepting about 10 more companies.

Pitt's Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence works to grow Western Pennsylvania's economy by supporting, nurturing, and promoting commercialization, entrepreneurial activity, new business creation, and estab-

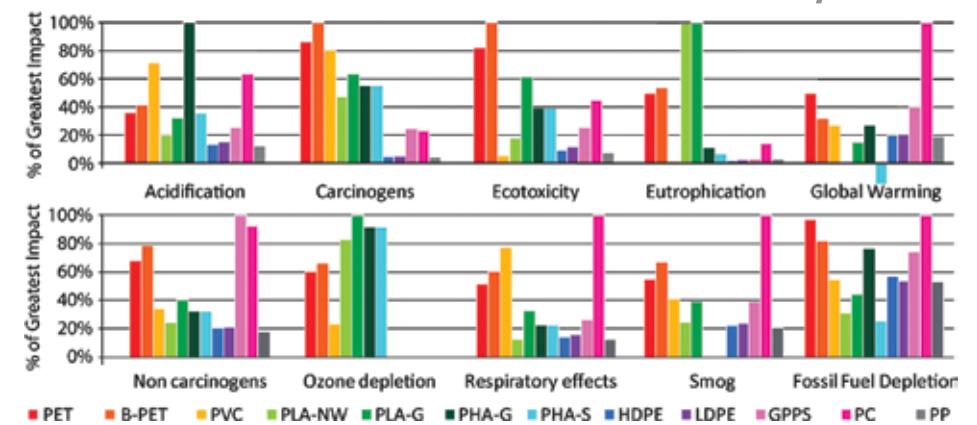
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Lee Ann Munger

lished business growth. Its mission is to provide educational and consulting services that support the continued growth and success of the business sector. Today, the institute is the largest membership-based entrepreneurial support organization in the region.

Pitt Research: Plant-Based Plastics Not Necessarily Greener



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water can no longer support life. One type of the corn-based polyhydroxyalkanoate, PHA-G, topped the acidification category. In addition, biopolymers exceeded most of the petroleum-based polymers for ecotoxicity and carcinogen emissions.

Once in use, however, biopolymers bested traditional polymers for ecofriendliness. For example, the sugar-based plastic from NatureWorks jumped from the sixth position under the LCA to become the material most in keeping with the standards of green design. On the other hand, the ubiquitous plastic polypropylene (PP)—widely used in packaging—was the cleanest polymer to produce, but sank to ninth place as a sustainable material.

Interestingly, the researchers found that the petroleum-plant hybrid biopolyethylene terephthalate, or B-PET, combines the ills of agriculture with the structural stubbornness of standard plastic to be harmful to produce (12th) and use (8th).

For example, the sugar-based plastic from NatureWorks jumped from the sixth position under the LCA to become the material most in keeping with the standards of green design. On the other hand, the ubiquitous plastic polypropylene (PP)—widely used in packaging—was the cleanest polymer to produce, but sank to ninth place as a sustainable material.



Amy Landis

Landis is continuing the project by subjecting the polymers to a full LCA, which will also examine the materials' environmental impact throughout their use and eventual disposal.

Pitt Wins IABC/ Pittsburgh Best in Show Award



Pitt's Office of Public Affairs received 23 awards—including Best in Show for the *Newspaper of Record: The Pittsburgh Courier, 1907-1965* project—during the International Association of Business Communicators awards ceremony on Sept. 30. Front row, from left: Terry Capp (in purple sweater), University Marketing and Communications (UMC) director of publications and marketing; Dave Crowley, KDKA-TV reporter and the evening's master of ceremonies; Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill; Cara Masset, senior editor, *Pitt Magazine*; and Susan Tresatti, UMC Web producer. Back row, from left: Debra McCluskey, UMC Web producer; Amy Porta Kleebank, UMC art director; Randy Oest, UMC Web designer; Don Henderson, UMC assistant creative director; Sarah Nelsen, UMC art director; Ervin Dyer, senior editor, *Pitt Magazine*; and Rainey Opperman-Dermond, UMC art director.

The University of Pittsburgh's February 2010 world-premiere screening of *Newspaper of Record: The Pittsburgh Courier, 1907-1965* won Best in Show from the Pittsburgh Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) at its 31st annual Golden Triangle Awards ceremony, held Sept. 30 at the University Club.

The honor, which was one of 23 IABC awards that Pitt received this year, also marked Pitt's second consecutive IABC Best in Show award and its fifth IABC Best in Show award since 2003.

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill hosted the world-premiere screening of *Newspaper of Record*, a documentary by filmmaker and Pitt alumnus Kenneth Love. The by-invitation event, held Feb. 1 in The Twentieth Century Club, served as Pitt's 2010 K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month Program for 2010. The event and documentary celebrated the 58-year illustrious history of *The Pittsburgh Courier*, which became the most influential Black newspaper in the nation, with a peak circulation of 400,000. Pitt's handling of the entire *Newspaper of Record* project was awarded Best in Show in the communication management/other category.

The Pittsburgh IABC chapter's awards recognize excellence in communication management, communication skills, and communication creativity throughout Western Pennsylvania.

IABC/Pittsburgh presented Pitt's Office of Public Affairs projects and/or staff members with the following **six Awards of Excellence**.

Communication Management/ Media Relations

Eds and Meds

Communication Management/ Special Events

Newspaper of Record: The Pittsburgh Courier, 1907-1965

Communication Management/Other

Newspaper of Record: The Pittsburgh Courier, 1907-1965

Communication Skills/ Publications (Annual Reports)

2009 Economic Impact Report

Communication Creative/ Other Publications

Heinz Memorial Chapel Weddings (Amy Porta Kleebank)

Communication Creative/Other

Newspaper of Record invitation (Marc Belchick Beas)

The following **16 Awards of Honor** were presented to Pitt communicators for University projects.

Communication Management/ Media Relations

G-20 Summit

Communication Skills/Annual Reports

2009 Report of Chancellor

Mark A. Nordenberg

Communication Skills/ Special Publications

Alumni Life Member Calendar

Communication Skills/News Writing

Pitt Magazine, "Invisible Harm" (Ervin Dyer)

Communication Skills/Feature Writing

Pitt Magazine, "Grow It" (Cara Hayden)

Communication Skills/Web Sites

Women's Studies Communication Creative/Magazines

Pitt Med (Elena Cerri)

Outside the Classroom

(Sarah Nelsen)

Communication Creative/Annual Reports

2009 Economic Impact Report

(Don Henderson)

Communication Creative/ Other Publications

Alumni Life Member Calendar

(Sarah Nelsen)

Office of Technology Management

Innovator's Guide (Jane Dudley)

Newspaper of Record program,

(Marc Belchick Beas)

Communication Creative/Book and Magazine Covers

2009 Report of Chancellor

Mark A. Nordenberg,

(Marc Belchick Beas)

Bridges, Fall 2009,

"Mean Streets" (Bill Ivins)

Communication Creative/Film/TV/ Advertising

Institutional Ad

Communication Creative/Print/ Advertising

Student Tax Ads

Previously, Pitt received Best in Show awards for its 2008-09 special event *Free at Last? Slavery in Pittsburgh in the 18th and 19th Centuries*; for its 2006 exhibition *From Colored Orphans to Youth Development: The 125-Year History of Three Rivers Youth*; for the design of *Pitt Med* magazine in 2005; and for its 2003 *Report of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg*.



Actress and Pitt theater arts major Tera Velan plays the murderous Momma Francis McKinney in Pitt Rep's *Slasher*.

Pitt Rep Presents *Slasher*, Comedic Look at Horror

Life is a scream for aspiring actress Sheena in *Slasher*, presented by Pitt Repertory Theatre Oct. 29-Nov. 7 in Pitt's Charity Randall Theatre, Stephen Foster Memorial.

Slasher is described as a satirical twist on horror films as iconic "last-girl standing" Sheena lands a part in a low-budget flick, only to have her debut marred by a smarmy D-list director and her feminist mother, who adds new meaning to the word "cut!" Written by Allison Moore and directed by Holly Thuma, head of undergraduate performance at the University, *Slasher* will be performed evenings at 8 and Sundays at 2 p.m.; there is no Monday performance.

Tickets are \$25 general admission; \$20 for Pitt faculty, staff, and alumni; and \$12 for students. To order tickets, call 412-624-PLAY (7529) or visit www.play.pitt.edu. Tickets also are available at the downstairs box office of the Stephen Foster Memorial, on Forbes Avenue adjacent to the Cathedral of Learning, from noon to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

At 3:30 p.m. Nov. 7, following the matinee performance, the public is invited to attend a free panel discussion in the Charity Randall Theatre that will explore some of the issues associated with *Slasher*—feminism, violence against women, and the sociology of female relationships. Panelists include:

- Frayda Cohen, interim chair of Pitt's Women's Studies Program;
- Veronica Fitzpatrick, a Pitt graduate student with a concentration in film studies;
- Lisa Jackson-Schebetta, Pitt assistant professor of theater arts; and
- Christine Whalen, visiting assistant professor of sociology at Pitt.

Media are welcome to cover a special presentation Oct. 29 for those attending the play through the PITT ARTS program. Prior to the performance, from 7:20 to 7:45 p.m., several members of *Slasher's* stage crew will be in the Charity Randall Theatre balcony to discuss their roles in bringing the story to life.

—Sharon S. Blake

Pitt's AAAC to Celebrate Sankofa Homecoming Weekend 2010

Continued from page 1

She has served on the Pitt Divestment Coalition and was active in Pittsburghers Against Apartheid, the national Free South Africa Movement, the No Dope Coalition, and African Americans Against War. Austin's latest work focuses on Black Voices for Peace, an organization that opposes the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. She is president of the Kente Arts Alliance, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to bringing quality arts programming to underserved communities. Since her retirement in April, Austin has been involved in environmental issues, including supporting biodiversity initiatives in her Manchester neighborhood.

"I am grateful to the AAAC for recognizing me with the Jean Hamilton Walls Award," said Austin. "It is truly an honor, but I must say that it has been a collective achievement inspired both by the need to increase diversity at Pitt and by the timeless

words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights pioneers resonating in my mind."

The award is named in honor of Pitt alumnus Jean Hamilton Walls, the first Black woman to earn a bachelor's degree at Pitt. Walls, a Pittsburgh native, graduated in 1910 with a BS in mathematics and physics. She also became the first Black woman to earn a PhD at Pitt in 1938. Throughout a distinguished educational career spanning more than four decades, Walls taught at such notable institutions as Central State, Southern, and Wilberforce universities.

Honorees receiving the Sankofa Award this year are James Cox, director of Pitt's University Counseling Center; Linda Williams Moore, director of Pitt's Office of Cross Cultural and Leadership Development; Deborah Walker, student conduct officer in Pitt's Division of Student Affairs; and RaShall Brackney, commander in the City

of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police.

Organizational Sankofa awards will be presented under three classifications: University Departments and Organizations, with awards going to Pitt's Roberto Clemente Minority Business Association, EXCEL, Academic Resource Center, Center for Minority Health, and Office of Residence Life; Community, Civic and Business Organizations, with awards going to the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and Merrill Lynch; and Faith Institutions, with awards going to Mt. Ararat Baptist Church and Macedonia Baptist Church.

A highlight of the festivities is the Homecoming premiere of the documentary *Blue Gold and Black: From Doorway to Distinction*, to be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Third Floor Lecture Room, Alumni Hall. Based on a treatment written by Robert Hill, Pitt's vice chancellor for public affairs,

and produced by the University's Office of Public Affairs, the film tells the story of the 180-year experience of Black men and women at Pitt.

The AAAC Apple Seed Project, an annual community service event, will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 29, with participants sharing their time and talent with students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. This year's event is cohosted with Pitt's Black Action Society, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Blue and Gold Society.

Throughout Homecoming weekend, Pitt's AAAC will host numerous events for the entire University community. These activities will include Rhyme, Rhythm, and Rapture: *Blackline Magazine* Release Party and Poetry Slam at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 28 in the Frick Fine Arts Building; and Rejoice in the Miracle, the AAAC worship service, at 10 a.m. Oct. 31 in the Pittsburgh Grand Hotel.

Happenings



En el jardín de Hollywood, 2003, by © Antonio de Felipe, Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend, The Andy Warhol Museum, through January 2

Concerts

Namoli Brennet, transgender singer and songwriter, noon **Oct. 27**, Nurdy's Place, Lower Level, William Pitt Union, Pitt ARTS' Artful Wednesdays, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Brown Bag Lunch and Live Jazz, offered in connection with upcoming 40th annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert, noon **Oct. 28**, Nurdy's Place, Lower Level William Pitt Union, Pitt's Jazz Studies Program, 412-624-4187.

Sarah Chang Plays Bruch, also works by von Weber, Tower, and Ravel, 8 p.m. **Oct. 29**; also 2:30 p.m. **Oct. 31**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Hubert Laws, flutist in the jazz, pop, and rhythm-and-blues genres, 2:30 p.m. **Oct. 31**, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Hall, 1815 Metropolitan St., Manchester, 412-322-0800, www.mcgjazz.com, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Exhibitions

Artist Image Resource, *Recent Works on Paper* by Thomas M. Weprich, through **Oct. 31**, with reception from 5 to 9 p.m. **Oct. 29**, Upper Front Gallery, 518 Foreland St., North Side, 412-321-8664.

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

Frick Art & Historical Center, *For My Best Beloved Sister Mia: An Album of Photographs* by Julia Margaret Cameron, works by one of the Victorian Era's best-known master photographers, through **Jan. 2**, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-0600, www.frickart.org.

Andy Warhol Museum, *Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend*, through **Jan. 2**, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, www.warhol.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art, *Ordinary Madness*, through **Jan. 9**; *Past Meets Present: Decorative Arts and Design at Carnegie Museum of Art*, ongoing, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

Senator John Heinz History Center, *Vatican Splendors: A Journey Through Faith and Art*, through **Jan. 9**, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

Mattress Factory, *Queloids: Race and Racism in Cuban Contemporary Art*, through **Feb. 27**, 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, Pitt's University Center for International Studies, Center for Latin American Studies, 412-322-2231, www.mattress.org.

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

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

"Is Science Necessarily Neutral from a Moral Viewpoint? James Lovelock's Gaia Theory and the Fact/Value Dichotomy," Pierluigi Barrotta, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science visiting fellow, University of Pisa, 12:05 p.m. **Oct. 26**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittentr@pitt.edu.

Andrew Ross Sorkin, *The New York Times'* chief mergers and acquisitions reporter and columnist, 7 p.m. **Oct. 26**, J. Irving Whalley Chapel, Pitt-Johnstown, Frank J. and Sylvia T. Pasquerilla Lecture Series, Pitt-Johnstown Office of Institutional Advancement, 814-269-2080, www.upj.pitt.edu/PasquerillaLecture.

"Race, Racism, and Mental Health in Asian American Communities,"

Sumie Okazaki, associate professor of applied psychology in Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at New York University, noon **Oct. 27**, School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems' Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney PC Fall 2010 Speaker Series, www.crsp.pitt.edu, 412-624-7382.

"The Paradox of Poetic Repetition," Cecile Chu-Chin Sun, professor, Pitt Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, noon **Oct. 28**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, Pitt's Asian Studies Center, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.

"Let Plunder: Altamirano's Mexico and the Problem of Paramilitarism," Joshua Lund, Pitt Humanities Center Fellow, 12:30 p.m. **Oct. 28**, 512 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Humanities Center Colloquium Series, humctr@pitt.edu, www.humcenter.pitt.edu.

Discussion With Jim Patrick, cocreator of first multichannel cochlear implant and chief scientist for Cochlear Limited, 4 p.m. **Oct. 28**, Auditorium 5, Scaife Hall, Pitt Department of Bioengineering, DePaul School for Hearing and Speech, www.speakmiracles.org.

"Beyond the IRB: New Frontiers in the Ethics of Qualitative Research," one-day conference, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Oct. 29**, 2400 Posvar Hall, free, Pitt Department of Sociology, www.sociology.pitt.edu, 412-648-7580.

Free Talk by Joan Tower, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's 2010-11 Composer of the Year, 4 p.m. **Oct. 29**, 132 Music Building, Pitt's Department of Music, www.music.pitt.edu/events, 412-624-4125.

"Time's Arrow and Eddington's Challenge," in honor of Adolf Grünbaum's 50 years at Pitt, Huw Price, ARC Federation Fellow and Challis Professor of Philosophy, University of Sydney's Centre for Time, 3:30 p.m. **Oct. 29**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittentr@pitt.edu.

Miscellaneous

Havanyork, (2009), directed by Luciano Larobina, 6:30 p.m. **Oct. 27**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, *Cuban Eyes/Cubance: Fifty Years of Cuban Cinema Since the Cuban Revolution Film Series*, Pitt's Center for Latin American Studies, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, [www.amigocinelatinoamericano@gmail.com](mailto:amigocinelatinoamericano@gmail.com).

The Capital Steps, political satire group, 3 p.m. **Oct. 31**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, www.pgharts.org, 412-456-1390, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.



Namoli Brennet, Nurdy's Place, October 27



Pilobolus, Byham Theater, October 30

Opera/Theater/Dance

When the Rain Stops Falling by Andrew Bovell, **Oct. 28-Nov. 21**, Iron City Brewery, 3340 Liberty Ave., Lawrenceville, Quantum Theatre, www.quantumtheatre.com, 1-888-718-4253, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Slasher, theatrical performance, **Oct. 28-Nov. 7**, Charity Randall Theatre, Stephen Foster Memorial, Pitt Repertory Theatre, 412-624-0933, www.play.pitt.edu.

Pilobolus, dance company specializing in athletic exploration of creative collaboration, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. **Oct. 30**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Dance Council, www.pgharts.org, 412-456-1390, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

"Emily Dickinson: The Poet Lights the Lamp," presentation drawn from author's letters and poems by Yvonne Hudson, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. **Oct. 30**, English Nationality Room, 144 Cathedral of Learning, discussion with the actress between performances, free to those with Pitt Alumni Association card, part of 2010 Pitt Homecoming Weekend, Poets. Corner.Pittsburgh@gmail.com, 412-251-5532.

The Royal Family by Georges S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber, through **Oct. 31**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 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

Michelle Gibbons, School of Arts and Sciences Department of Communication, 9 a.m. **Oct. 25**, "Made Up Minds: Rhetorical Invention and the Thinking Self in Public Culture," 1128 Cathedral of Learning.

Hubert Laws, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Hall, October 31





Art Exhibition Mounted by Pitt Students Depicts Pittsburgh—Past and Present

SLAG: What's Left After Industry? features paintings from the Gimbel Collection, photography, other works by Pitt students, local artists

By Sharon S. Blake

Pittsburgh's transformation from a manufacturing giant to an emerging green, high-tech center has not gone unnoticed. That's what the organizers of the upcoming *SLAG: What's Left After Industry?* exhibition at the University Art Gallery want to illuminate.

The exhibition, conceived and developed by students enrolled in the Museum Studies Seminar in Pitt's Department of the History of Art and Architecture, will run Nov. 1-29 in the University Art Gallery in the Frick Fine Arts Building.

The students and their instructor, Janet McCall, executive director of the Society for Contemporary Craft, will host an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Nov. 1 in the Gallery. Pittsburgh photographer Mark Perrott, whose images are part of the show, will give an informal talk in the gallery at 7:30 p.m.

SLAG: What's Left After Industry? seeks to answer its own question by portraying Pittsburgh in three stages: its industrial heyday, during the shuttering of the steel mills, and in its most recent incarnation.

McCall divided her 20 undergraduate students into four independent teams—curatorial, interpretation, installation, and documentation—to contribute to the overall planning and execution of the exhibition, which was built around the University's 1946 Gimbel Pennsylvania Art Collection, donated to Pitt in 1959 by Gimbel Bros., Inc.

The industrial boom is shown through selected works from the Gimbel Collection, paintings by American artists of factories, mines, and people bound together by Southwest Pennsylvania's industrial background. For the second phase, the teams used black-and-white photographs taken by Perrott in the early 1980s during the dismantling of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Company's Eliza Furnace on Pittsburgh's South Side. The



Bessemer Blowing by Edward Millman, 1947, gouache on cardboard. From the University's 1946 Gimbel Pennsylvania Art Collection.

final phase, of contemporary Pittsburgh, is represented in 15 to 20 works submitted by Pitt students and local artists—photography, oil on canvas, fiber, and other media.

“By showcasing a broad range of ren-

derings depicting the construction, deconstruction, and rebirth of Pittsburgh, we expect *SLAG* to rouse memories of Pittsburgh's past, provoke thoughts about the present, and open a dialogue about its future,” said Matthew Showman, a Pitt senior majoring in art history and leader of the curatorial team.

During the seminar, students learned about the history of public art museums, ways of thinking about the different types of exhibitions, new models for museums, as well as art-handling guidelines. McCall says the course is giving the students real hands-on experience in museum work, a field that she says is currently in “an identity crisis” but also presenting new opportunities for young people.

“Many baby boomers will be stepping down over the next few years, and there will be a need for well-trained, passionate individuals to continue their work,”

McCall said.

For Showman, who hopes to continue his curatorial studies in graduate school, the seminar has been an atypical experience: “Sure, we write papers, but our discourse

McCall divided the students into four independent teams—curatorial, interpretation, installation, and documentation—to contribute to the overall planning and execution of the exhibition, which was built around the University's 1946 Gimbel Pennsylvania Art Collection.

and intensive discussions about the future of museums and what we want to do as exhibition makers has been really inspiring,” he said.

For more information, call 412-648-2400 or visit www.theslagexperience.info.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Nov. 1. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 7) 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.

**"Violent Armed Groups:
A Global Challenge,"
Matthew B. Ridgway Center for
International Security Studies,
September 16-17**