Inside
Corbett appoints Nordenberg to transition team

Pitt Chronicle's 10th Anniversary

10th Anniversary
Pitt’s Jakicic Receives NIH Funding for Technology-Enhanced Weight-Loss Program

By Patricia Lemond White

Obesity! It’s a national epidemic and on the rise among young adults. Using technology to combat this problem, the University of Pittsburgh Physical Activity and Weight Management Research Center will offer the IDEA (Innovative Approaches to Diet, Exercise, and Activity) study, one of seven clinical trials to be funded by the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

NIH’s Early Adult Reduction of Weight through Lifestyle Intervention (EARLY) Trials seek to prevent weight gain and promote weight loss among young adults—ages 18 to 35—through healthy eating and physical activity. Few studies have examined how to effectively combat this high-risk age group in achieving and maintaining a healthy weight. A total of $36 million will fund the seven trials over a five-year period.

Conducted at universities throughout the United States, the trials will incorporate such technologies as text messaging, online social networking, and Bluetooth-enabled scales as part of young adults’ weight-loss efforts.

“We’re really excited about using technology to enhance our weight-loss and physical-activity studies,” said John Jakicic, professor and chair of the Department of Health and Physical Activity in Pitt’s School of Education and director of the Physical Activity and Weight Management Research Center at Pitt. “We think these technologies and enhancements will significantly improve the age group’s overall health.”

Pitt’s IDEA program will test whether an enhanced weight-loss intervention with the use of text messaging reminders and wearable exercise monitors improves weight loss in young adults compared to a standard behavioral weight-loss intervention. Researchers will examine these interventions on changes in body composition, body-fat distribution, fitness, physical activity, dietary intake, and behavioral/psychosocial measures that may be predictive of behavior change.

Pitt’s IDEA study will involve 480 overweight and obese young adults who will be assessed at the beginning of the study and at six, 12, 18, and 24 months. The 24-month behavioral weight-loss program includes a reduction in calorie intake and moderate-to-vigorous intensity exercise, progressively increasing from 100 to 250 minutes per week.

Additionally, subjects will be randomized to receive the standard intervention or the enhanced intervention that includes state-of-the-art technologies. These technologies will be implemented from months seven to 24 and include daily text messaging prompts to reinforce adherence to the behavioral intervention and a monitor that is worn to provide real-time feedback on energy expenditure and achievement of daily physical activity goals.

Brief description of the six EARLY Trials and their study locations follow:

• Treating Adults at Risk for Weight Gain With Interactive Technology (TARGET), University of Tennessee: Participants will wear a pedometer, a mobile device, and a scale to monitor their activity, dietary intake, and weight loss. The study will last 12 months, with participants assessed every six months.

• Weight Reduction Intervention for Weight Loss in Adolescents (WRIGHT), University of California, San Francisco: Participants will use a pedometer, a mobile device, and a scale to monitor their activity, dietary intake, and weight loss. The study will last 18 months, with participants assessed every three months.

• EARLY Trials and EARLY Trials Related (ERT), University of Texas: Participants will use a pedometer, a mobile device, and a scale to monitor their activity, dietary intake, and weight loss. The study will last 24 months, with participants assessed every six months.

• Treatment of Obesity and Lifestyle Nutrition and Exercise (TONE), University of Pennsylvania: Participants will use a pedometer, a mobile device, and a scale to monitor their activity, dietary intake, and weight loss. The study will last 24 months, with participants assessed every six months.

• Treatment of Obesity and Lifestyle Nutrition and Exercise (TONE), University of California, San Francisco: Participants will use a pedometer, a mobile device, and a scale to monitor their activity, dietary intake, and weight loss. The study will last 24 months, with participants assessed every six months.

• Treatment of Obesity and Lifestyle Nutrition and Exercise (TONE), University of California, San Francisco: Participants will use a pedometer, a mobile device, and a scale to monitor their activity, dietary intake, and weight loss. The study will last 24 months, with participants assessed every six months.

Pennsylvania Governor-elect Tom Corbett has selected University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg to co-chair the Education Committee of the Corbett administration’s transition team.

The committee, which comprises 32 members from across the state, has been tasked with the critical assignment of reviewing the operations of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and education-related programs under the governor’s jurisdiction. The other co-chair is Joel Greenberg, a founder and managing director of Susquehanna International Group.

The education panel is one of 17 transition teams. Each will examine a different area of state government and then prepare a transition report before Corbett assumes the governorship in January. The committee members are volunteering their time.

“I’m honored that so many men and women have agreed to participate in my transition team,” Corbett said. “The work they are doing is essential as we build a new administration and prepare to lead Pennsylvania.”

Other members of the Corbett transition team include the following people who are on staff at Pitt and/or UPMC or serve or have served as Pitt trustees.

• Robert Cindrich (LAW ’68), adjunct professor in the Pitt School of Law, UPMC senior vice president and chief legal officer; co-chair of the Health and Aging Committee.

• Jerome Cochran (LAW ’89), Pitt executive vice chancellor and general counsel; Budget, Pensions, and Revenue Committee.

• Everette James, associate vice chancellor for health policy and planning, Schools of the Health Sciences, and professor of health policy and management, Graduate School of Public Health, and former Pennsylvania Secretary of Health; Health and Aging Committee.

• Robert B. Kennedy, vice president for government relations, UPMC; Public Safety Committee.

• Joe A. Maher III, Pennsylvania state representative and Pitt trustee; Agriculture Committee.

• James Roddy, principal, McCrory & McDowell, and Pitt trustee; Economic Development Committee and Transportation/Infrastructure Committee.

• Mary Jo White (LAW ’67), Pennsylvania state senator and Pitt trustee; Energy and Environment Committee.

Other members of Corbett’s transition team include those representing a wide variety of industries, including agriculture, banking, education, finance, law, health care, insurance, real estate, economic development, and insurance. Also represented are those representing labor unions, law enforcement agencies, foundations, and other nonprofit organizations.

Pa. Gov.-Elect Corbett Selects Chancellor to Co-Chair Transition Team Education Committee

By Patrick A..archive

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution that does not discriminate upon any basis prohibited by law.
JAKICIC RECEIVES NIH FUNDING FOR WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAM

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partum Women, Cornell University/University of Rochester, will test Internet-based programs to promote the health of pregnant and post-partum women. The study is cofunded by the Elaine and Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

• Choosing Healthy Options in College Environments and Settings (CHOICES), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, will test a for-credit course that includes Web-based social networking to prevent unhealthy weight gain in students attending a two-year community college.

• Cell Phone Intervention for You (CITY), Duke University, will test two weight-loss approaches—one using cell phones for self-monitoring and social networking and another using cell phones for self-monitoring only and also receiving personal coaching.

• Social/Mobile Approaches to Reducing Weight (SMART), University of California, San Diego, will test behavioral intervention that uses mobile phones, Facebook, and the Web to help student participants lose weight.

• Study of Novel Approaches for Preventing (SNAP), Brown University Miriam Hospital, will test a Web-based weight-management intervention to help participants self-regulate their weight by either making changes in their eating and exercise habits to lose weight or making small changes to prevent or reverse weight gain.

Pitt’s trial is in the recruitment phase; all seven trials are expected to start enrollment by spring 2011. Although each trial is slightly different and will be conducted within its own discrete geographical region, the teams are using a set of common measures and questionnaires so that they are able to better compare their findings when the trials are complete.

For more information about Pitt’s IDEA study or to inquire about participation, call 412-488-4184.

Lecture on Slave Trade by Pitt’s Marcus Rediker to Air Dec. 18-19 on C-SPAN 3

Marcus Rediker, University of Pittsburgh Distiniguished Professor of Atlantic History, will be featured on American History TV’s Lectures in History series, airing at 9 p.m. and midnight Dec. 18 and 1 p.m. Dec. 19 on C-SPAN 3. Rediker’s lecture on the slave trade and slave ships will also air on C-SPAN radio at 10 p.m. Dec. 18.

“Professor Rediker was selected for American History TV’s Lectures in History program because of his specialty and publications on the slave trade,” said Lake A. Nitcher, coexecutive producer of C-SPAN 3’s American History TV. “Lectures in History is a survey of American history as well as college classrooms across the country. When it came time to featuring a class on the slave trade, Professor Rediker’s was an obvious choice.”

Rediker’s book The Slave Ship: A Human History (Viking Penguin and John Murray, 2007) has won multiple awards. It has been translated into Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Portuguese.

—By Patricia Lomando White

PICTURED AT LEFT

Andrew Weitzman (center), a Pitt professor of music, was interviewed Oct. 3 by TVOne, a privately owned Indonesian television station in East Jakarta. Speaking in Indonesian, Weitzman discussed his new book, Dangdut Stories: A Social and Musical History of Indonesia’s Most Popular Music (Oxford University Press, 2010). The first book in any language about modern Indonesia’s diverse, popular dangdut music, Dangdut Stories offers an historical treatment of the genre’s eclectic musical style, performance practice, and prominent role in Indonesia’s cultural politics. Also interviewed by TVOne was musician and songwriter Rhoma Irama (right), the self-proclaimed “King of Dangdut” and prominent role in Indonesia’s cultural politics. Also interviewed by TVOne was musician and songwriter Rhoma Irama (right), the self-proclaimed “King of Dangdut” and leader of the first dangdut group, established in the 1970s. Irama’s image appears on the cover of Weitzman’s book, and his 10-piece band performed on Pitt during an October 2008 conference titled “Islam and Popular Culture in Indonesia and Malaysia.” Weitzman’s TVOne interview was one of several national TV and radio appearances he made in Indonesia in October.

Eleven Pitt College of Business Administration (CBA) students are competing in the Chevrolet Campus Promotions Program, a nationwide marketing contest. ProshinHilton, a student-headed advertising agency created for CBA’s Projects in Marketing course, launched the “Dare to Be Pitt Proud” campaign to promote four Chevrolet models: the Camaro, the Equinox, the Malibu, and the new 2011 Cruze. ProshinHilton is working to raise Chevy’s visibility by showing the cars and employing the “Dare to Be” slogan at a variety of campus events, including “Dare to Be Strong” for a breast cancer fundraiser and a “Dare to Be Smart” game show. This is the sixth year that CBA students have participated in a national marketing competition; Pitt has won three of them. Pictured with Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (standing, center) are senior marketing majors (sitting, from left) Patricia Rose, Kristi DePau, Lauren Smith, Jodi Hatzinger, Michael Mitten, and Thayer Haston; (in the second row, from left) Stephen Yoo, Tara Oparade, Alexis Panka, Channavor Nordenberg, Allison Coffey, Abigail Painter, Tereesa Breiticker, and Michael McKitrict; (and in the back row, from left) Christian Knotts, Kate Frey, and Andrew Burke. Not pictured are senior marketing students Blake Clawson and Matthew Higgins and the faculty member overseeing the project, Robert Gibert, a professor of business administration in CBA and the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

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MISS AMERICA VISITS PITT

Miss America 2010, Caressa Cameron (far left), participated in the Oct. 13 symposium “Reclaiming Our Youth Through Community Connections: II—Focus on Girls and Young Women,” which was sponsored by the Pittsburgh-based Educating Teens About HIV/AIDS. Since she was crowned Miss America, Cameron has been a vocal proponent of education as an essential part of the fight against AIDS. Following the symposium, which was held in the Omni William Penn Hotel, Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill hosted a reception for Cameron in the University Club. Pictured are Cameron, Albertha Graham-Ellison (EDUC ’96G), vice president and project director of Educating Teens About HIV/AIDS; Hill; and Kezia Ellis, Educating Teens About HIV/AIDS founder.

REACHING OUT TO YOUNG DOCTORS

Pitt’s chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) held a regional conference Nov. 13 in Scaife Hall. Lynne Holden (left), president and executive director of Mentoring in Medicine, delivered the conference’s keynote luncheon address. Mentoring in Medicine aims to increase diversity in the health field and address health care disparities by providing opportunities and experience to students of color. Also pictured are second-year medical student Ada Kelly (middle), Pitt SNMA chapter president, and Chants Pittgrew (EDUC ’76G), assistant dean in the Pitt School of Medicine’s Office of Student Affairs and Diversity Programs.

SEEDS OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION

Members of Pitt’s Black Action Society (BAS) met with students in University Prep 6-12, an academic magnet school in the Hill District that was formed through a partnership between the University and the Pittsburgh Public Schools. The Oct. 29 assembly was part of the Pitt African American Alumni Council’s (AAAC) Apple Seed Project, an annual community-service event during which AAAC members share their time and experience with students attending Pittsburgh Public Schools. Along with BAS, Pitt’s National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Blue and Gold Society collaborated visits to other schools on the same day.

MAKING MEDIA ROUNDS IN INDONESIA

Andrew Weitzman (center), a Pitt professor of music, was interviewed Oct. 3 by TVOne, a privately owned Indonesian television station in East Jakarta. Speaking in Indonesian, Weitzman discussed his new book, Dangdut Stories: A Social and Musical History of Indonesia’s Most Popular Music (Oxford University Press, 2010). The first book in any language about modern Indonesia’s diverse, popular dangdut music, Dangdut Stories offers an historical treatment of the genre’s eclectic musical style, performance practice, and prominent role in Indonesia’s cultural politics. Also interviewed by TVOne was musician and songwriter Rhoma Irama (right), the self-proclaimed “King of Dangdut” and leader of the first dangdut group, established in the 1970s. Irama’s image appears on the cover of Weitzman’s book, and his 10-piece band performed on Pitt during an October 2008 conference titled “Islam and Popular Culture in Indonesia and Malaysia.” Weitzman’s TVOne interview was one of several national TV and radio appearances he made in Indonesia in October.

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The first issue of the Pitt Campaign Chronicle rolled off the presses and hit campus newsstands on Oct. 23, 2000. A strategic communications initiative founded by Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill, the Chronicle is the University’s official newspaper. During the past 10 years, the publication has covered Pitt’s biggest news and events, a smattering of which are highlighted below. While the Chronicle is published weekly, its staff works daily to ensure that the coverage conveys Pitt’s broad mission: To be a leader in education, a pioneer in research, and a partner in regional development.
An Interview With Publisher Robert Hill

Robert Hill, Pitt’s vice chancellor for public affairs, created the Pitt Campaign Chronicle in 2000 to support what was then the University’s newly launched $500 million fundraising campaign, whose goal would increase to $1 billion in 2002 and double again in 2006 to $2 billion. Designed initially to showcase Pitt’s faculty research as well as the accomplishments of the administration, faculty, and staff and the measurable results of the campaign’s success, the weekly paper was first published on Oct. 23, 2000. Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and Hill changed the publication’s name to the Pitt Chronicle in Fall 2002 to better reflect its coverage of campus news, information, and events. Celebrating its 10th anniversary this fall, the Pitt Chronicle has evolved into a must-read publication on campus and beyond. It plays a key role in the University’s efforts to disseminate information on the beneficial effects of its tripartite mission: leader in education, pioneer in research, and partner in regional development. In the following Q&A, Hill discusses the Chronicle’s genesis and impact.

PC: Why did you begin the Pitt Chronicle and what has its impact been?

RH: Many research universities tell their stories through their own university periodicals. Obviously, there are many media through which an organization can convey its messages, images, and strategies. But there are few such media that portray an institution’s achievements exactly as the organization wishes. When I arrived at Pitt in 1999, there were no publications that met that latter criterion. I felt we could fill that gap by establishing a University-owned-and-operated publication that would be its official messenger.

As for the Chronicle’s impact, I think it’s been enormous. Of course, as publisher, what else would I think? To begin with, the University leadership does convey important information through the paper. The Chronicle makes big announcements and publicizes important University victories. In addition, while there was initially reluctance among some faculty to realize the benefits of such a publication, many have come to value it because the paper tells their stories. In the broadest sense, every word that goes into the paper is an endorsement of our University. It must be a first-rate publication, and I believe it is. In the 10 years of its existence, I think we’ve run only a handful of corrections. We put a lot of effort into the editing process. I also think that the establishment of special reports has been a nice evolution: annual Back to School issue, two Arts & Culture issues per year, annual Black History Month profiles, annual Women’s History Month profiles, an annual Commencement issue, and periodic series on various facets of the University’s academic endeavors. What’s gratifying is that the bundling of these subjects allows people and issues to come to life in a way that we have not seen before.

We also strive for diversity in our coverage. If you look over any 12-month period of newspapers, you ought to see diversity in the kinds of coverage. A balance between science and technology coverage and our coverage of the arts and humanities, for example. We continually assess whether we have gender balance, racial diversity, and coverage of the programs deemed priorities by the Chancellor and the Provost. Pitt is great because gifted people from a variety of backgrounds forged its eminence through undergrad and research achievements.

PC: Where do you envision the paper going from here?

RH: I am always reaching for the next level of excellence. I don’t care whether you look at it in terms of a dozen Pitt Chronicle issues or one: As happy as I am with any given issue, that individual product always can be improved. We continually strive to create a better newspaper, and I am optimistic that the Pitt Chronicle’s writers and editors will do that as we advance into our second decade.
E. Maxine Bruhns, director of Pitt’s Nationality Rooms Program, received the Professional Award from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations (PFMHO) during the organization’s 2010 Special Achievement Awards Program in November. PFMHO said Bruhns was chosen for her dedication to developing the Nationality Rooms into a thriving program that sponsors study-abroad scholarships, fosters a steady growth in the number of dedicated classrooms, and maintains outreach efforts to the communities that enliven the Rooms with interactive cultural and historical programs.

Pitt-Johnstown President Jem Specter will receive the Certificate of Honor from the South Asia Literary Association (SALA) during SALA’s 11th annual conference in January in Los Angeles. He is being recognized for his support of The South Asian Review, a scholarly journal with readership throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, South Africa, Israel, Australia, and the countries of South Asia. The journal has been housed at Pitt-Johnstown since 2001 and is published three times annually, providing a forum for the examination of South Asian languages and literatures in a broad cultural context.

The University of Pittsburgh’s Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business was recently named the 2010 Education Partner of the Year by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Black MBA Association. Also honored at the event was Audrey Murrell, who was presented with the Education Excellence Award. Murrell is director of Katz’s David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership and a professor of business administration, psychology, and public and international affairs. In addition, Don Norrington, the Katz School’s associate director of MBA Career Services, was recognized for his lifelong service and friendship. The National Black MBA Association is a nonprofit organization that works to establish educational opportunities and economic growth for African Americans.

Pitt professor Jack L. Daniel (A&S ’63, ’65G, ’68G) was awarded a Lifetime Service Award by the National Communication Association’s African American Communication Culture Division and Black Caucus. Daniel, a Distinguished Service Professor of Communication, has served Pitt in a number of positions, including vice provost for undergraduate studies, dean of students, chair of the Department of Black Studies, and interim dean of the College of General Studies.

Agnes Berenato, head coach of the Pitt women’s basketball team, was named Honorary Chair of the 2011 Komen Pittsburgh Race for the Cure by the Pittsburgh Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The race will be held on Mother’s Day, May 8, 2011, in Schenley Park, Oakland.

Sheila Solomon, a genetic counselor at Pitt, and Ryan Patrick Parker, director of diversity for Pitt’s Schools of the Health Sciences, were featured in Pittsburgh Magazine’s 40 Under 40, an annual selection of 40 people under the age of 40 “who make Pittsburgh a better place to live, work, or play.” The honorees, selected from 300 nominations, were chosen for their professional achievements, involvement, and positive influence on the region.

Several University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences’ faculty members have had their work recognized by academic and scientific societies and other organizations. A list follows.

Ted M. Ross, a professor of microbiology and molecular genetics in Pitt’s School of Medicine and a member of Pitt’s Center for Vaccine Research, was awarded a $946,000 contract from the nonprofit organization PATH to research universal influenza vaccines that could offer protection against several strains of the flu. The 18-month project’s goal is to advance the development of strong influenza vaccine candidates that would be accessible and affordable for low-resource countries.

Eric M. Altschuler, a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery in the Pitt School of Medicine, was elected to serve a two-year term as president of the Pennsylvania Neurosurgical Society, a statewide organization that addresses the concerns of neurosurgeons and patients in the prevention and treatment of neurological trauma and illness.

Bambang Parmanto, a professor in the Department of Health Information Management in the Pitt School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, recently received the Research Award from the American Health Information Management Association at the association’s annual convention in Orlando, Fla. The award honors those who have made an outstanding contribution to health information management research.

Deborah Oparic, an assistant professor and program director of physician assistant studies in the Pitt School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, was chosen by her students, peers, and the Awards Committee of the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants (PSPA) as the recipient of the 2010 Pennsylvania Educator of the Year Award. She received the award at the 35th annual PSPA Conference held in Harrisburg, Pa., in October.

Eugene H. Myers, Distinguished Professor and chair emeritus in the School of Medicine’s Department of Otolaryngology, has been the guest of honor and lecturer at several locations recently, including the Annual Educational Conference of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Cairo; the Department of Otolaryngology at the American University of Beirut; and the 32nd Turkish National Congress of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery. In addition, Myers was elected honorary president of the Balkan Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and was a visiting professor at Alexandria University in Egypt.

The University of Pittsburgh’s grounds services unit won a Merit Award in the Professional Grounds Management Society’s (PGMS) 2010 Green Star Awards competition. The award was given in the University and College Grounds category for exceptional grounds maintenance. Winners were honored in late October during the society’s 2010 School of Grounds Management held in Louisville, Ky.

“This is a great honor to receive,” said Kathryn Trent, manager of grounds services in Pitt’s Department of Facilities Management. “It not only recognizes the efforts of our staff, but also the University’s commitment to enriching the lives of its students, staff, and visitors through green spaces.”

Founded in 1911, PGMS is an individual membership society of grounds professionals dedicated to advancing the grounds management profession through education and professional development.


Concerts


Exhibitions

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, 412-371-6660, www.frick.org.


Lectures/Seminars/Readings


“Representing the Theory of Classical Genetics With Special Attention to Conservation,” Beryl Leidman, visiting fellow, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 12:05 p.m. Dec. 7, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Talk Series, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittcht@pitt.edu.


“In the Pastures of Paradise: A Disease, and the Creature from the Black Lagoon,” Timothy Greenmancy, UPMC Chair in Movement Disorders, Pitt School of Medicine, 4 p.m. Dec. 6, 2300 Povall Hall, Provost Inaugural Lecture, 412-624-5750.

Miscellaneous

TIFS Informational luncheon for Researchers and Research Assistants, talk on Text Information Extraction System (TIES), Rebecca Krzywinski, director, Biomedical Informatics Graduate Training Program, Pitt School of Medicine, 11 a.m. Dec. 15, M3901 UPMC Presbyterian Hospital South Tower, open to Pitt and UPMC faculty, staff, and students, Pitt Department of Biomedical Informatics, 412-623-4753.


Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Susanah D. Acharyya, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Epidemiology, 11 a.m. Dec. 6, “Relationships of Diet, Weight Loss, and Insulin Resistance With Adiponectin Levels Among Overweight/Obese Adults,” 451 Victoria Building.

Rafael Ponce-Cordero, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, 11 a.m. Dec. 6, “Héroes y banditos: iconos propios de la literatura y la música en América Latina,” 1528 Cathedral of Learning.

Yutsutsa Hiltbrand, School of Informatics, Computing, and Networking Program, 10 a.m. Dec. 6, “Securities Market Surveillance Systems Employing MACGPS,” 3104 Information Sciences Building.

So Yan Jung, School of Public Health’s Department of Epidemiology, 11 a.m. Dec. 6, “The Maternal-Fetal-Immunologic Interactions and Co-Morbidity as a Mediator of Age on Survival, and Delayed Treatment for Breast Cancer Metastasis,” 109 Parran Hall.

Yen Weng, School of Medicine’s Molecular Pharmacology Graduate Program, 2 p.m. Dec. 6, “Uncovering the Oncogenic Potential and Transcriptional Hypothesis of Regenerating Liver,” 1395 Biomedical Science Tower.

Sue Taran, School of Informatics, Computing, and Networking Program, 10 a.m. Dec. 9, “Generation of Classificatory Metadata for Web Resources Using Social Tags,” 522 School of Information Sciences Building.

Hilmi M. Doghestani, School of Medicine’s Molecular Biophysics and Structural Biology Graduate Program, 2 p.m. Dec. 9, “Evaluating the Biophysical and Pharmacological Characteristics of Cytoplastic Dynin Heavy Chain,” 1018 Biomedical Science Tower 3.

Velma L. Payne, School of Medicine’s Department of Biomedical Informatics, 3 p.m. Dec. 14, “Effect of a Memory Intervention on Cognitive Haptic Use During Diagnosing Accuracy,” 6100B Parkville Building. Nimick Conference Rooms, Hillman Cancer Center.
The construction and renovation projects are expected to generate 778 construction and support jobs and $87,990 in fees and taxes.

Properties, LLC, for 11,294 square feet of research, teaching, and office space in the Parkvale Building, 200 Meyran Ave., to house the Department of Biomedical Informatics. The lease extension begins in March 2011 and continues through February 2016 at a fixed annual cost of $304,938; it contains an option for an additional five-year extension; and

• A five-year lease with Cityview Properties, LLC, for 4,575 square feet of laboratory, classroom, and administrative space at the Parkvale Annex Building, 3520 Forbes Ave. The lease is from February 2011 through January 2016 at a fixed annual cost of $123,525; it also provides an option for an additional five-year extension.

Pitt Trustees Approve $110.5 Million in Construction and Renovation Projects

The Property and Facilities Committee of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees approved four construction and renovation projects totaling $110.5 million, highlighted by a $50 million renovation plan to construct an addition to Salk Hall. The committee also approved two lease extensions. The construction and renovation projects are expected to generate 778 construction and support jobs and $87,990 in fees and taxes.

The Salk Hall project will add laboratory and administrative space for the School of Dental Medicine’s Center for Craniofacial Regeneration and the School of Pharmacy’s Center for Pharmacogenetics and Center for Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences; it also allows for future renovation of Salk Hall. The project is registered to achieve LEED Silver Certification and includes aesthetic and pedestrian safety improvements to Sutherland Drive.

Other projects approved at the meeting were:

• A $13.99 million renovation to the 12th floor of the Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower to accommodate the Vascular Medicine Institute and the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine in the School of Medicine;

• A $39.9 million project to begin Phase IIA of Benedum Hall renovations. This involves a total renovation of floors 3, 6, 7, and 8, as well as the creation of a mezzanine level and extensive work in the subbasement. The renovated areas will include laboratories, support facilities, small conference rooms, and departmental space for the Swanson School of Engineering. The mezzanine level will add approximately 8,000 square feet of new space; and

• A $6 million project to renovate 4,400 square feet of laboratory space in Langley and Crawford Halls to create a Biosafety Level 2 and 3 Laboratory Suite for the Department of Biological Sciences. The new secure facilities will meet or exceed the requirements of the National Institutes of Health and the Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories Guide (5th ed.), allowing bacteriologists and virologists to elevate their research projects to a new level of sophistication.

The two lease extensions approved by the committee were:

• A five-year lease with Cityview Properties, LLC, for 11,294 square feet of research, teaching, and office space in the Parkvale Building, 200 Meyran Ave., to house the Department of Biomedical Informatics. The lease extension begins in March 2011 and continues through February 2016 at a fixed annual cost of $304,938; it contains an option for an additional five-year extension; and

• A five-year lease with Cityview Properties, LLC, for 4,575 square feet of laboratory, classroom, and administrative space at the Parkvale Annex Building, 3520 Forbes Ave. The lease is from February 2011 through January 2016 at a fixed annual cost of $123,525; it also provides an option for an additional five-year extension.