Ronald Linden Named Director of Pitt’s European Studies Center, European Union Center of Excellence

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

Ronald Linden, professor of political science in the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Arts and Sciences, has been named director of Pitt’s European Studies Center and European Union Center of Excellence, effective immediately.

In announcing the appointment, Lawrence Feick, director of Pitt’s University Center for International Studies (UCIS), said, “Ron is a superb scholar who has a deep understanding of both Western and Eastern Europe. He brings wide-ranging and critically important experience to this position, including his previous time in UCIS as a very successful director of Russian and Eastern European Studies.

Under Ron’s leadership, our programs and activities in European studies and European Union studies will continue to flourish, and we will enhance our position as one of the highest-impact programs in the world focused on this critical region.”

As a UCIS faculty member since 1977, Linden has focused his research on Central Europe and Southeastern Europe. He served as director of the Center for Russian and East European Studies from 1984 to 1989 and again from 1991 to 1994. From 1989 to 1991, he was director of research for Radio Free Europe in Munich, Germany, where his responsibilities included supervision of the publication of the weekly Report on Eastern Europe.

Linden is the author or editor of seven books on Central and Eastern Europe, with another forthcoming. He has also published more than 25 articles and chapters since 1979. His most recent publications include introductions for and editing of two special issues of Post-Communism, “The Meaning of 1989 and After” (2009) and “The New Populism in Central Europe” (2008). He is the author of “EU Accession and the Role of International Actors,” published in Central and East European Politics: From Communion to Democracy (Routledge, 2001), and “The Burden of Belonging: Romanian and Bulgarian Foreign Policy in the New Era” (Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies, 2009). He was also a contributing author to the volume The Berlin Wall in 2009, published by the U.S. Department of State in 2009 in commemoration 20 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. During his career, Linden has served as a Fulbright Research Scholar and a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer in Yugoslavia, a research scholar at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace under the Jennings Randolph Program on International Peace, and a guest scholar of the East European Studies Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

In 2009-10, Linden was awarded a Transatlantic Academy Fellowship from the German Marshall Fund in Washington, D.C., where he was part of a project devoted to studying Turkish foreign policy. In addition, Linden has received research grants from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research and from the International Research and Exchanges Board.

Linden received his PhD in political science from Princeton University in 1976, his master’s degree in political science from the University of Michigan in 1971, and his bachelor’s degree in government from Boston University in 1969.

Use of Donepezil With an Antidepressant Cuts Incidence of Dementia in Older Adults, Reynolds-Led Study Finds

By Megan Grote Guattini

Donepezil, a medication used to treat dementia in Alzheimer’s patients, was found to enhance language, memory, and executive functioning in older, depressed adults to a greater extent than was evident from the role of an antidepressant medication alone, according to a new study by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. The study, published in the Archives of General Psychiatry, is the first to provide scientifically rigorous evidence to guide clinical practice in older adults with both major depression and mild cognitive impairment.

“Cognitive impairment is a core feature of depression in older adults and may foreshadow the development of dementia,” said Charles F. Reynolds, lead author of the study and UPMC Endowed Chair of Geriatric Psychiatry. “While treatment of depression usually benefits associated cognitive impairment, it does not completely regulate cognitive impairment and may not delay the progression to dementia. So, even in remission, older adults with past depression may still show residual cognitive difficulties, such as slowing of information processing speed and impairments in executive or language function. Our study showed that by adding donepezil, cognition can be improved beyond that which is seen simply with the treatment of depression itself.”

For the study, researchers compared 130 depressed adults older than 65—with 67 of the adults receiving donepezil, marketed under the trade name Aricept, and 63 receiving a placebo. The participants were followed for two years while researchers explored the effects of donepezil and placebo on five areas of neuropsychological functioning: speed of information processing, memory, language, visuospatial functioning, and executive functioning, or brain processes that are responsible for planning and abstract thinking.

The researchers noted two unexpected findings: Donepezil seemed to delay the progression of mild cognitive impairment to frank dementia, and the use of antidepressants was associated with somewhat higher recurrence rates of clinical depression episodes, Reynolds noted. “So, there was both a benefit and a risk to adding donepezil to antidepressant pharmacotherapy in older adults. Fortunately, the majority of recurrent depressive episodes could be treated to remission.”

Adding donepezil to maintenance antidepressant medication appears to be useful in the care of older, depressed patients with mild cognitive impairment but does not benefit those with normal cognition. The researchers stress that clinicians should watch for early signs of any depressive relapse and treat as needed.

The study was supported in part by the National Institutes of Health and by the UPMC Endowed Chair in Geriatric Psychiatry. It was also a unique collaboration between the National Institute of Mental Health-sponsored Late Life Depression Center and UPMC’s Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center.

University of Pittsburgh’s Confucius Institute Is an Institute of the Year

The Chinese Ministry of Education’s Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) named the Asian Studies Center’s Confucius Institute (CI-Pitt) at the University of Pittsburgh one of 30 Confucius Institutes in the Year during the Council’s annual conference, which was held in Beijing in December. CI-Pitt is one of five North American institutes to receive the honor. This is the second time CI-Pitt has been recognized as one of the top Confucius Institutes since it was founded in May 2007.

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UAG Exhibition Reveals Beauty, Artists’ Introspection During a Journey Amid Dinosaur Bones

“It was fun to interact with the science students,” said Ellyn Womelsdorf (A&S ’10), who studied in Wyoming as a postbaccalaureate studio arts graduate. “They learned from us, and we learned from them,” she added, saying that the science students would pop into the studio to see the artists’ work, and vice versa.

The Cook Ranch was rich with inspiration, the young artists said. Rob Hackett, who will graduate this December, hiked to the top of Medicine Bow Peak and took seven photographs of the sweeping vistas. He then “stitched” them together to create a wide panorama that is part of the exhibition.

Womelsdorf, meanwhile, found inspiration in a tiny mosquito, from the swarms that would cling to the studio’s screen door at night. She drew one mosquito against a red backdrop created from a mixture of waterproof and acrylic ink. She poured the ink onto the paper, then dripped denatured alcohol on the surface, creating a kind of mottled tie-died effect. Similarly, additional pieces with blue, green, or yellow backgrounds feature other Western iconography—a snow fence, windmills, and a pronghorn antelope.

Nickolas Reynolds, who will graduate in April, said he had decided beforehand that he would create watercolors of landscapes. But on the way to the site, he kept noticing abandoned cars with grasslands sprouting from where the seats had once been. “People had deserted these cars with the intention of coming back,” he said, adding that some Rock River residents abandon houses in the same fashion.

Reynolds’ explorations took him to the local dump, which was heaped with piles of rusted junk. One of his exhibition pieces is a mobile made of hubcaps, a rusted license plate, and large railroad spikes. When touched, the rusty pieces of metal clink against one another and evoke a surprisingly delicate tinkling sound, like glass chimes.

The fourth student, Ben Danforth, created what he calls a “highly symbolic” body of work, using ink and gouache on paper. What surprised him the most was how well he functioned with no distractions.

“Students in a BA program rarely have time to think solely about artwork and reflect on its development,” said Danforth, who graduated last month from the School of Arts & Sciences.

“Having nothing to focus on but one’s work was an enormously beneficial experience.”

Danforth says he was inspired by the grand scale of things, and that the enormous Wyoming sky helped him put in perspective his own existence in the world.

“It was amazing to watch the students struggle with their sense of time, place, and landscape in relation to their own work,” said Jenkins, who managed to carve out a side trip to Denver, where the students visited galleries, an art museum, and two of her artist friends who work out of studios in the Colorado mountains.

On the ranch, the students hiked together and individually. They crawled over boulders, explored an alley where a night-hawk had taken up residence in an abandoned house, and watched a golden eagle soar into flight right in front of them. Each student kept a journal; in fact, every word of Womelsdorf’s journal was recopied to form the backdrop for one of her large pieces in the exhibition.

Jenkins called the Studio Arts Wyoming Field Study a “microrcosm of graduate school,” not unlike a Master of Fine Arts program. “It was a dedicated round-the-clock studio space with a community of peers engaged in similar work,” she said. “The students had a sense of purpose rooted in curiosity, experimentation, and creative problem solving.”

Most of the art and paleontology students have kept in touch with one another since last year’s adventure.

“My roommate out in Wyoming is now my roommate here in Pittsburgh,” smiled Womelsdorf.
PITT ARTS Sets Feb. 4 as PSO Russia Night for Pitt Community

If the cold weather and snow are making you think of Russia, there is a warmer alternative.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO), PITT ARTS, and Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) are sponsoring a Pitt Russia Night at Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown. The event is part of the two-week Tchaikovsky Festival, which runs Feb. 2-12. Russian pianist Denis Matsuev will return to Heinz Hall at 8 p.m. Feb. 4 during the festival's opening weekend. Two years ago, Matsuev received a rapturous reception from Pittsburgh audiences for his critically acclaimed performances of Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto.

The program for next month's concert, which will be conducted by Gianandrea Noseda, the PSO's music director, will present a daylong Tchaikovsky Festival at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Barger was selected following a national search. Previously, she was employed by Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she had served as associate vice president for development, acting vice president for university relations, and director of corporate and foundation relations.

Robert Stein, assistant director of the Small Business Development Center in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business' Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE), was named a Microsoft Most Valuable Professional for the eighth consecutive year. The MVP award is given to technical community leaders who share their expertise and provide feedback to help people enhance their use of technology. A nationally renowned innovator and advisor in the technology industry, Stein is also the manager of the Information Technology Program at IEE.

Lynn Iams Barger has been named executive director of Institutional Advancement at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Barger was selected following a national search. Previously, she was employed by Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she graduated as an English major.

GSPIA Professor Louise Comfort Writes Book on Resilience

Louise K. Comfort, a professor and director of the Center for Disaster Management in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), is coauthor of the recently published book Designing Resilience (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010).


Renaudino for her expertise in emergency management and response, Comfort is also recognized as an authority in organizational theory, innovation and behavior, and information technology policy and management.

—Amanda Leff Ritchie

Lynn Iams Barger

PITT ARTS Moves to Permanent Offices in 907 William Pitt Union

After almost seven months in a temporary space on the third floor of the William Pitt Union (WPU), PITT ARTS now has a permanent address and newly renovated offices. The program’s space in 907 WPU features a large main office with ample room for the PITT ARTS Program’s three fulltime staff, work-study students, and student hosts; a lounge where Pitt faculty, staff, and students can relax; and a newly renovated, large thorugh-street forma. The offices in 907 William Pitt Union (WPU), PIT T ARTS

Complete with columns, PITT ARTS has been connecting students on the campus and throughout the university with arts organizations around the world. The program sponsors more than 110 student outings for PITT ARTS each year, including performances at concerts, symphonies, and operas. PITT ARTS also provides off-campus art experiences as well as discounted cultural opportunities for faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students. Additional information is available at www.pittarts.pitt.edu and 412-624-4499.

—By Anabelle Clippinger

Bookshelf

Louise K. Comfort, a professor and director of the Center for Disaster Management in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), is coauthor of the recently published book Designing Resilience (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010).

Coedited by Arjen Boin, adjunct professor in the Public Administration Institute of the Netherlands, and Chris C. Demchok, associate professor in the School of Public Administration and Policy at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Designing Resilience presents case studies of extreme events. The authors analyze the affected citizens and systems management of such large-scale disasters as Hurricane Katrina in the United States and the 2005 London subway bombings in the United Kingdom.

The book outlines elements critical to effective disaster management: quality of response, capacity to improve, proper coordination, and survival skills, among others. Its examples provide guidance to other nations and states in assessing their own disaster-management systems and what needs to be changed to achieve resilience.
January

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### Arts and Culture

#### January

**24**


**Beat 'Em Boys—the Story of the 1960 Pittsburgh Pirates**, through January.

**Memories of Mario** by Shane Majors.


**Alumnae Hall, Pitt's Kuntu Repertory Theatre, 412-624-6489, www.kuntu.org.**


**Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet** by Tarell Alvin McCraney, companion play to City Theatre's 2008 farce **The Brothers Size**, through February 13, City Theatre, 1380 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatre.com.

**Menahem Pressler, distinguished pianist performing** Beethoven, Dusicky, and Schubert, 7:30 p.m. at Buhl Hall Auditorium, Buhlmann Hall, Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society, 412-624-4129, www.pittsburghchambermusic.org.

**Pitt Humanities Center Fellow 2011** Robert Hill, size checkpoint for public Affairs, noon, School of Social Work Conference Center, 20th floor, Cathedral of Learning, Reed Smith Spring 2011.

**Tchaikovsky Festival Recital: Violin Concerto No. 1** with soloist Rebecca Teufenban and Abigail Macdonald, 7:30 p.m., Heinz Hall, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m., Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh Pops, 7:30 p.m., Bellefield Hall, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-392-4900, www.pittsymphony.org.

**Utopia by Rachel Harrison, Carnegie Museum of Art, through February 20**


**The Music on the Edge: Tchaikovsky Festival** open forum for undergraduates, Judith Halberstam, Pitt Humanities Center Fellow, 12:30 p.m., 602 Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh Humanities Center, Pitt's Women's Studies, 412-624-6485, www.wssites.pitt.edu.


**Heinz History Center, 412-454-6000, heinzhistorycenter.org.**

**February 5**


**Starled Past: Four Centuries of French Drawings from the Blanton Museum of Art**, exhibition featuring more than 60 drawings produced over a 400-year period, through April 17, Frick Art Museum, Frick Art & Historical Center, 727 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-3600, www.frick.org.


**“The Queer Art of Failure,”** lecture by Judith Halberstam, Pitt Humanities Center Fellow, 5 p.m., Ballroom B, University Center, Pitt’s Women’s Studies, Pitt’s Women’s Studies, 412-624-6485, www.wssites.pitt.edu.

**Pitt Humanities Center Fellow 2011** Robert Hill, size checkpoint for public Affairs, noon, School of Social Work Conference Center, 20th floor, Cathedral of Learning, Reed Smith Spring 2011.

**Haydn’s Concerto No. 1, Violin, Viviana Hagner, Heinz Hall, January 28 and 30**

**Pitt Humanities Center Fellow 2011** Robert Hill, size checkpoint for public Affairs, noon, School of Social Work Conference Center, 20th floor, Cathedral of Learning, Reed Smith Spring 2011.
Music on the Edge: Clarinetist Jean Kopperud and Percussionist Tom Kolar

Heinz Chapel, February 19


Voice of Music: An Evening with Bass

University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, performing Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade, 8 p.m., free, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

The Real of the Real: Kyoto Tables and Discourses of Authenticity

University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, performing Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade, 8 p.m., free, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

An Evening with Video Artist Monia Enomoto


Tango Fire!


Tchaikovsky Festival, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, February 2-12


"Evo Ero Robots?? The Art of Kurokutu-ni-nigen"


412, New Hazlett Theater, March 19

Marvin Does Marvin, Heinz Hall, March 10-13

"Tribute Concert: A Symphonic Celebration of African American Culture"


Music on the Edge: Tchaikovsky, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, February 1-12


China, the Maldives, and Solomon Islands,

"Comparative Health Status of Women and Children in Indonesia, the Maldives, and Solomon Islands,


Heinz Chapel Choir Chamber Choir Festival, free, 3 p.m., Heinz Chapel, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

The Heinz Chapel Choir and Chamber Choir Festival, free, 3 p.m., Heinz Chapel, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.


The Heinz Chapel Choir and Chamber Choir Festival, free, 3 p.m., Heinz Chapel, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.


"Evo Ero Robots?? The Art of Kurokutu-ni-nigen"


"Evo Ero Robots?? The Art of Kurokutu-ni-nigen"


Manchester Transfer, Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Manchester Craftsman's Guild Hall, 1815 Metropolitan St., Manchester, MCG Jazz, 412-432-0280, www.mcgjazz.org.

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Mardi Gras

February 13

Heinz Chapel, Choir Chamber

Heinz Chapel


Lubasz Koryczewski, guitar performance, 8 p.m., PNC Recital Hall, Downtown, University Library System, www.calliopehouse.org.

“High Returns, Low Aspirations? Social Norms and Education in Valerie Amos” Mander Meram, Pitt assistant professor of international affairs, noon, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.


“Great Return, Low Aspirations? Social Norms and Education in Valerie Amos” Mander Meram, Pitt assistant professor of international affairs, noon, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.

Birth of a Nation: The Story of Black Hair, 8 p.m., Heinz Chapel, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, music.pitt.edu.


African Music and Dance Ensemble, Pitt students free with ID, 8 p.m., Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, music.pitt.edu.


The Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Justice vs. Impunity? September Piy, Heinz Fellow, noon, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.

Brahms’ Symphony No. 1 with conductor Herbert Blomstedt and, in Piano Concerto No. 1, soloist Garrick Ohlsson, 1:30 p.m., April 8-9, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave, Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNMY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-922-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.


Pitt Men’s Glee Club, Pitt students free with ID, 8 p.m., First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, 359 S. Bellefield Ave., Oakland, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, music.pitt.edu.


Heinz Chapel Choir Spring Concert, free, 3 p.m., Heinz Chapel, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, music.pitt.edu.

Indonesian Music Concert, Bellefield Hall, April 6 and 9


The Bubble (Eytan Fox, 2009), free film showing, 7:45 p.m., 3415 Posvar Hall, Contemporary Queer Cinema Public Film Series Spring 2011, Pitt Women’s Studies Program, 412-624-4498, www.wstdates.pitt.edu.

Teaching and Learning English in China and Indonesia,” Sara Ricker, graduate student, Pitt Department of Education, noon, 4150 Posvar Hall, Pitt Ukrainian Research Seminar Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.


Women’s Choral Ensemble Spring Concert, free, 3 p.m., Heinz Chapel, Pitt Choral Program, 412-624-4125, music.pitt.edu.


Dining in Concert, featuring musical scores, film clips, and artist performances from a variety of popular Disney films, through April 17, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNMY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.


Diplomatic Carriage by Frances Poulenc, story of 16 Carmelite nuns who defended their faith and were executed during France’s 18th-century Reign of Terror, 8 p.m., also May 3-6, and 8, Benedum Center, 303 Liberty Avenue, Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-456-6666, www.pittsburghopera.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-392-4900, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.
“Law and Politics: Should the UK Expel the ICC Indictment Against Sudan’s President?”

“Identifying the Molecular and Genetic Basis of Sudden Cardiac Death,” Barry London, the Harry S. Tuck Professor of Medicine and chief of the Division of Cardiology in Pitt’s School of Medicine, 4:30 p.m. Jan. 27, 2500 Posvar Hall, Pitt Provost’s Inaugural Lecture Series, www.pitt.edu.

“Tolerance and Its Borders: Citizen Responses to Civil Liberties Disputes in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands,” Aaron Abbas, doctoral candidate, Pitt Department of Political Science, noon Jan. 27, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pizza & Politics Lecture, Pitt European Studies Center, European Union Center of Excellence, 412-624-5404, tlac@pitt.edu.

“Beyond Reduction vs. Autonomy in Psychology,” David Danks, professor of philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 28, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Annual Lecture Series, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittcntn@pitt.edu.


Miscellaneous
TIES Informational Lunch/meal for Researchers and Research Assistants, talk on Text Information Extraction System (TIES), Rebecca Crowly, director, Biomedical Informatics Graduate Training Program, Pitt School of Medicine, 11 a.m. Jan. 26, Cooper Conference, Room C, Hillman Cancer Center, open to Pitt and UPMC faculty, staff, and students, Pitt Department of Biomedical Informatics, 412-624-7433.


CIDD CourseWeb Level 1 Workshop, instructions on Pitt’s implementation of the Blackboard Learning Management System, 2-4 p.m. Jan. 31, 8275 Alumni Hall, register online at www.cidd.e.pitt.edu.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses
David Cram Holwich, School of Arts and Sciences Department of Communication, 1 p.m. Jan. 24, Nuclear Weapons: After the Cold War: Change and Continuity in Public Discourses,” 1109B Cathedral of Learning.
Nitin Bhardwaj, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, 2 p.m. Jan. 24, “Development of Candidate Vaccine Strategies Against Rift Valley Fever Virus,” 7233 Parran Hall.

“Tolerance and its Borders: Citizen Responses to Civil Liberties Disputes in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands,” Posvar Hall, January 27