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From Season Tickets to Naming Rights

Petersen baseball field's bullpen named for Tom, Joan Bigley, courtesy of Jack, Georgia Smith

Pitt and sports: The ties that bind the Bigley and Smith families. Front row, from left, Cameron (Smith) Foos (EDUC '03), Joan Bigley, and Georgia Smith (A&S '70); back row, from left: David Foos (KGSB '03), Jack Smith (A&S '69, MED '73), and Tom Bigley (KGSB '56).

By Lynn Shea

While many Pitt graduates have enjoyed meeting and befriending other alumni while cheering on the Panthers, not many have demonstrated their appreciation for a heartwarming Hail to Pitt! friendship in as grand a style as Pitt Alumni Association president Jack Smith (A&S'69, MED'73) and his wife, Georgia (A&S '70).

The two could barely hide their excitement as they conspired about how and when to tell Tom (KGSB '56) and Joan Bigley what they had done. After having spent more than 30 years with the Bigleys as avid Pitt fans, the Smiths had decided to honor their longtime friends by making a generous pledge of support for the new Petersen Sports Complex—one that would allow them to name the visiting team bullpen of the new baseball field the Tom and Joan Bigley Baseball Visiting Team Bullpen.

"I was speechless," said Joan Bigley, whose spirited retelling of the story confirmed that the term "speechless" does not normally define her conversational style.

Bigley explained that the couples' friendship began as a casual acquaintance between fellow fans and season ticket holders whose seats happened to be just one row apart on the 50-yard line of the visiting-team side of the stadium. Nowadays she says that the Smiths are more like family, attending football and basketball games together, visiting one another frequently, and sometimes traveling together.

"They are just incredible, giving, loving people," she says of the Smiths.

Both the Smiths and the Bigleys are thrilled about the new Petersen Sports Complex. The just-completed state-of-the-art home for the Panthers' baseball, softball, and men's and women's soccer teams has been built on 12 acres at the peak of Pitt's upper campus; it is ready for this spring's baseball and softball season.

Smith says their gift was not only an excellent opportunity to support what he fondly calls the "field of dreams," but also a way to honor the Bigleys, who were the first ones to give the Smiths the idea of supporting Pitt athletics in a more significant way.

Smith says that many years ago, after watching a Pitt placekicker miss an important field goal, he jokingly told his friends, "We should hire a new kicker."

It was then that the Bigleys say they made the decision to endow a scholarship for a student-athlete.

Smith said that the Bigleys' act of generosity made him realize what a great way this type of philanthropy would be to repay the University for the experience and

Continued on page 2

Pitt Alumni Association Names 2011 Distinguished Alumni Fellows

By Patricia Lomando White

The University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association has named the late Jesse W. Fife Jr. (A&S '72), former executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Manchester Bidwell Corp., and Joseph F. Weis Jr. (LAW '50), senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, as Distinguished Alumni Fellows for 2011. Fife, who knew of the honor before his passing on Dec. 6, 2010, and Weis will be honored during the University's annual Honors Convocation at 3 p.m. Feb. 25 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

The University's 35th annual Honors Convocation will feature Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson as the keynote speaker. Beeson is in her first year as Pitt's chief academic officer, having been appointed to the position on Aug. 15, 2010. She spent six years in the Office of the Provost, first as vice provost for graduate studies followed by an appointment as vice provost for undergraduate and graduate studies. Prior to that, she served three years as associate dean for undergraduate studies in the School of Arts and Sciences. She has been a faculty member of the Department of Economics since 1983 and has a secondary appointment in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Beeson earned her bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in 1977 and her doctoral degree from the University of Oregon in 1983.

The convocation honors, in addition to Distinguished Alumni Fellows, outstanding undergraduate, graduate, and professional student academic achievement; student leadership; and faculty and staff accomplishments. In the latter category, the ceremony recognizes the recipients of the 2011 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award, and the Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the Community and in Service to the University.

Brief biographies of the alumni honorees follow.

Fife served as executive vice president

Continued on page 9

Chancellor Announces 2011 Distinguished Research Awards

Jeremy Levy

Edouard Machery

Mary L. Marazita

John D. Norton

Alexander Star

By Alex Russell

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg has announced the winners of the 2011 Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, which will be given to the following five faculty members:

Jeremy Levy, a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy;

Edouard Machery, a professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science;

Mary L. Marazita, a professor in and vice chair of the Department of Oral Biology in the School of Dental Medicine, director of the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics, a professor of human genetics in the Graduate School of Public Health, and a professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine;

John D. Norton, director of the Center for Philosophy of Science, and a professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science; and

Alexander Star, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry.

Levy, Marazita, and Norton are being honored in the senior scholar category, which recognizes "an outstanding and continuing record of research and scholarly activity," while Machery and Star are being honored in the junior scholar category. Each awardee will receive a $2,000 cash prize and a $3,000 grant for research support and will be recognized at the University of Pittsburgh's 35th annual Honors Convocation, to be held at 3 p.m. Feb. 25 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

Levy, Marazita, and Norton are being honored in the senior scholar category, which recognizes "an outstanding and continuing record of research and scholarly activity," while Machery and Star are being honored in the junior scholar category. Each awardee will receive a $2,000 cash prize and a $3,000 grant for research support and will be recognized at the University of Pittsburgh's 35th annual Honors Convocation.

Levy is a widely respected leader in the field of oxide electronics and quantum computation. The Chancellor's Award selection committee said it was particularly impressed by the information provided in support of his nomination, including the letters of recommendation from well-known authorities in the fields of physics and astronomy. The chancellor, in his Feb. 9 letter informing Levy of the award, said Levy's research has been described "as an unusual combination of depth, breadth, interdisciplinary focus, leadership, achievement, and high impact." Levy received the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award in the junior category in 2004. He received in 2008 the coveted Nano 50 Award for his invention of an oxide-based nanotransistor. In 2009, he was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society for inventing new approaches to creating electronic circuitry at scales that seem unimaginably small, such as a working transistor with wires that were only two nanometers wide.

Continued on page 9

Stories on 2011 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching and Public Service Awards, page 4.

Briefly Noted

GSPIA Sets Feb. 22 Lecture On Private Sector Role In Disaster Risk Reduction

The University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) will present Brent H. Woodworth at 3 p.m. Feb. 22 to deliver a free public lecture titled "Metropolitan Regions at Risk: The Role and Responsibility of the Private Sector in Disaster Risk Reduction" in Room 3911 Posvar Hall.

Woodworth will discuss how disaster-response actions change when working in a politically unstable environment, which actions work best when responding to disasters in economically challenged or underdeveloped countries, and what methods and systems have proved to be successful in global crises.

Woodworth is the chair of the Sahana Software Foundation, which seeks to alleviate human suffering by giving emergency managers, disaster-response professionals, and communities access to the information needed to better prepare for and respond to disasters through the development and promotion of free and open-source software and open standards. He is also the president of the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation. Woodworth has led on-site disaster response and recovery efforts for more than 70 major events in 49 countries.

The event is presented by GSPIA's Center for Disaster Management, Center for Metropolitan Studies (formerly the Innovation Clinic), and Ford Institute for Human Security. For more information, contact GSPIA professor Louise Comfort at 412-648-7606 or comfort@gspia.pitt.edu.

—By Amanda Leff Ritchie

Pitt-Greensburg's La Cultura Lecture Series to Focus on India

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg's La Cultura Lecture Series will present a lecture titled "Religion in India: Ancient Concepts and Current Issues," which will be given by Milica Bakic-Hayden at 7 p.m. Feb. 28 in Village Hall 118.

Bakic-Hayden is a visiting lecturer in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Religious Studies. Her areas of expertise are religion and society in the Balkans and South Asia and topics in comparative religion. She is a core faculty member of the Indo-Pacific Studies Program, Asian Studies Center, and Center for Russian and East European Studies in Pitt's University Center for International Studies. Currently she is a contributor and workshop participant in the United Nations Development Fund for Women Program titled "Women Building Peace and Human Security in Western Balkans" and is editing a book-length manuscript, *Religion in the Balkans: Traditions in Dialogue.*

Additional information is available at www.greensburg.pitt.edu.

—By Susan M. Isola

From Season Tickets to Naming Rights, Courtesy of Jack, Georgia Smith

Continued from page 1

education that had contributed to his own success.

Smith, an orthopaedic surgeon, and his wife have provided financial support to the School of Medicine, the Pitt-Greensburg regional campus, and Pitt Athletics, including the establishment of the Jack D. and Georgia M. Smith Endowed Athletic Scholarship to provide scholarships to varsity student-athletes from Westmoreland County.

The Bigleys' many gifts to the University have included support for the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, the Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair, and Pitt Athletics, including the establishment of the Thomas G. Bigley Baseball Scholarship and the Joan Bigley Endowed Baseball Scholarship fund.

Bigley says he is very flattered that the Smiths chose to recognize his wife and himself with such a generous gift to the new fields, which, according to Bigley, are not only beautiful, but also fill out the upper campus and are a huge boost to Pitt's Olympic sports programs. The fact that his name will be associated with the baseball field is particularly meaningful to him since he earned a full scholarship to Pitt to play catcher for the Panthers baseball team.

A retired managing partner of Ernst and Young's Pittsburgh office, Bigley has been a member of the University's Board of Trustees since 1994 and formerly served as its vice chair.

"That was the only way I could have come to the University," says Bigley, who has repaid Pitt handsomely through both his generous financial support and his exceptional service to the University.

A retired managing partner of Ernst and Young's Pittsburgh office, Bigley has been a member of the University's Board of Trustees since 1994 and formerly served as its vice chair. He has served on numerous board committees, including the Athletics Committee, and is a lifetime member of the Pitt Alumni Association. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Katz School in 1984 and was named Golden Panther of the Year in 1991.

Bigley was an accomplished Pitt student as well. He was a member of the Pitt Pathfinders, the Beta Alpha Psi business information honors society, and the Druids honors society, and he graduated cum laude.

Smith also has provided outstanding service to the University. He has been an active member of the Pitt Alumni Association, holding leadership positions since 2004. He also serves on the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board.

As a student, he was a member of Student Government and served on the staff of *The Owl* yearbook and on the board of the Student Union.

Jeff Gleim, the University's associate vice chancellor for alumni relations, said Smith is providing the Pitt Alumni Association with strong leadership: "He really leads by example and is always willing to do himself what he asks others to do."

Smith firmly believes that all he has done for Pitt and its Alumni Association and athletics program has been repaid to him many times over in the richness of the friendship he has enjoyed with the Bigleys and the many other friendships he has gained through his involvement with Pitt.

"It may be cliché," says Smith, "but you get more than you give."

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BlackHistoryMonth

Body Language

Anthropologist Yolanda Covington-Ward's Research Focuses on the Power of Dance and Gesture

By Sharon S. Blake

Yolanda Covington-Ward thinks her love of dance may have originated on the stage of her Bronx, N.Y., elementary school some 20 years ago. A shy, bookish, and serious fifth-grader, Ward was encouraged by a teacher to embrace her African heritage and culture. Soon she was transformed from a bookworm into an energetic, high-kicking performer whose head scarf flew off as she performed a West African dance before the entire school. The applause rocked the room as she exited the stage.

"I can still remember that," laughed Covington-Ward, an anthropologist and assistant professor of Africana Studies at Pitt. Dance and performance, she said, are what gave her the confidence she lacked and the courage to face life's challenges.

Through the ensuing years, Covington-Ward built an impressive list of credentials. Her master's and PhD work in anthropology at the University of Michigan took her to Panama, Belgium, and to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It was in the Congo that she researched how people of the BisiKongo (Kongo) ethnic group used their bodies—not just in dance, but also in everyday life, even as a means to challenge authority.

Whether researching Kongo women's use of trembling as a means to prophesy or looking at how dance shapes Liberian national identity, Covington-Ward has worked tirelessly to analyze how the body is used to transform social relationships and identities. She has been invited to lecture throughout the United States and the Congo, is proficient in four languages, and is passionate about teaching Pitt undergraduates the cultures, dances, and histories of Africa and its Diasporas.

She has been published in a number of peer-reviewed journals, among them *African Studies Quarterly*, *Transforming Anthropology*, *African Research and Documentation*, and the *Journal of Religion in Africa*. Her article on the performances of Kongo nationalism in the Congolese independence movement will be published in the Spring 2011 issue of the *Journal of Black Studies*.

For the past three years she has presented papers at the national conference of the American Anthropological Association, and she also has presented papers at the international conference of the African Studies Association and of the Association of Black Anthropologists.

She recently completed a two-year term as secretary of the Association for Africanist Anthropology.

Where her career has led her is far different from where it began. The oldest of six children and the first in her family to attend college, Covington-Ward was on the premed track at Brown University in the late '90s. But her love of African culture and a study-abroad semester in Ghana kept pulling her toward anthropology. At Michigan, her mentor, Mbala Nkanga, urged her to follow her passion. In 2005, she became the first student in 10 years to win a Fulbright award to the DRC.

"When I got to the Congo, my mind and expectations were wide open," she said, "I tried to see where dance fit into the larger scheme of things for the Kongo people."

MARY JANE BENT/CIDDE

Yolanda Covington-Ward stands in the Cathedral of Learning's African Heritage Nationality Room. She is wearing a skirt and top made out of fabric given to her by a Nigerian friend. The type of fabric used is popular throughout West Africa and is often worn to such events as weddings or formal dances.

Covington-Ward's research in the Congo included a 1920s religious movement founded in the Western province of Bas-Congo by prophet Simon Kimbangu. According to Covington-Ward, when word spread that Kimbangu embodied the Holy Spirit and healed people, crowds flocked to him. He was eventually arrested by the Belgian colonial administration and brought to trial. During the trial, Kimbangu "trembled," a gesture some Kongolese believe suggested the presence of the Holy Spirit. The prophet was jailed for 30 years and died in prison. Her research into the religious movement was a turning point for her. "I realized people's body movements had challenged prevailing authority."

Her studies also took her to Luozi, a rural town that lacked electricity and where residents used a cupped form of handclapping—*bula makonko*—to open and close prayer and to ask for forgiveness. There, Covington-Ward encountered Bundu dia Kongo, a radical nationalist group that combined spiritual elements with political goals. Members also encouraged the use of the *bula makonko* gesture as a means of greeting people. By reviving *bula makonko*, which existed at the time of the Kongo Kingdom, the group hopes to restore the power and influence of that kingdom, said Covington-Ward.

The young anthropologist also examined the history of the Grand March, a dance of European origins that a number of freed Blacks and former slaves, largely from Virginia and Maryland, brought with them when they emigrated to Liberia. It became the dance of the American elite in Liberia, said Covington-Ward, and helped the country shape its identity as one of the two independent African countries during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Now it's an important part of the lifestyle of many Liberians of different ethnic backgrounds living in the Diaspora in the United States.

Through the ensuing years, Covington-Ward built an impressive list of credentials. Her master's and PhD work in anthropology at the University of Michigan took her to Panama, Belgium, and to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was in the Congo that she researched how people of the BisiKongo ethnic group used their bodies—not just in dance, but also in everyday life, even as a means to challenge authority.

That group includes her husband, Lincoln Ward, a Web developer for University Marketing Communications in Pitt's Office of Public Affairs. The couple and their 3-year-old daughter, Leyeti, reside in Churchill, Pa., but Covington-Ward still finds an occasional opportunity to dance at events organized by the Union of African Communities in Pittsburgh.

While Covington-Ward decided during her early days at Brown that she would rather teach than go into medicine, she thrives on conducting research.

"It's wonderful!" she said, her face brightening. "I was in the National Archive in Kinshasa in 90-degree heat with no air conditioning, and I found a whole file on (DRC President) Mobutu and dancing! That moment—it's a moment that cannot be found in books."

Covington-Ward's research enhances her teaching at Pitt. When her students recently read about members of the Kongo ethnic group decorating graves with the last plates, cups, and shoes used by the deceased, she showed them her own photos of Kongo grave decorations she had taken in Luozi. She feels that "giving students real examples of how this stuff works on the ground" makes for a more engaging learning experience.

In fact, Covington-Ward developed a new course for the Africana Studies curriculum—Power and Performance in Africa. As expected, routine Power Point presentations are rare. Instead, to discuss their individual research projects, the students staged monologues, dances, and speeches to relay the information to their classmates. It's all about embodying gesture and movement and using one's own body as a pedagogical tool, said Covington-Ward.

As for dance itself, Covington-Ward strongly advocates it as a way of finding a part of you that you never knew existed. "I'm more conservative and quiet in everyday life," she conceded. "But when I can get up and dance . . . no one can tell me anything!"

Chancellor Announces 2011 Distinguished Teaching Awards


Graham Hatfull


Mary Margaret Kerr


Matthew Luderer


John O' Donnell


Sanjeev Shroff

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg has announced the 2011 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Awards, which will be given to the following five Pitt faculty members:

Graham Hatfull, the Eberly Family Professor, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor, and chair of the School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Biological Sciences;

Mary Margaret Kerr, professor and chair of the School of Education's Department of Administrative Policy and Studies;

Matthew Luderer, professor in the Pitt-Greensburg Department of Chemistry;

John O'Donnell, professor in the School of Nursing's Department of Acute and Tertiary Care; and

Sanjeev Shroff, professor and Gerald McGinnis Chair in Bioengineering, associate chair of the Swanson School's Department of Bioengineering, and professor of medicine.

Each awardee will receive a $2,000 cash prize, a grant of $3,000 for the support of his or her teaching activities, and recognition at the University of Pittsburgh's 35th annual Honors Convocation, to be held at 3 p.m. Feb. 25 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

Hatfull was recognized for his positive impact on the Department of Biology's teaching mission. "As a recipient of a third Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Professorship and as the Program Director of an HHMI funded Undergraduate Science Education program, your positive influence on the undergraduate learning experiences of your students has enabled them to pursue their education in dynamic and intellectually challenging ways," Nordenberg wrote in his Feb. 9 letter informing Hatfull of his award. The chancellor added that Hatfull's dedication to creating learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom "inspires and stimulates students to pursue their academic interests outside a traditional course curriculum." Previously, Hatfull was a recipient of the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award in both the junior and senior scholar categories. In 2010, HHMI awarded a four-year, $1.2 million grant to support Pitt's academic initiatives, through its Department of Biology, that cultivate high school and undergraduate students' interest in science and biology by involving them in active research. At the same time, HHMI renewed Hatfull's appointment as one of just 13 HHMI Professors nationwide and the only one in Pennsylvania.

The chancellor, in his Feb. 9 letter informing **Kerr** of her award, praised her use of a real-world approach to classroom teaching and for her "innovative curricula. Inside the classroom, you prepare students for concrete problems by creating a classroom environment that prompts them to respond, examine, and hone their behavioral observational skills, thus preparing them for careers as educators." Within Pitt's School of Education, Kerr holds appointments in administrative and policy studies, psychology in education, and child psychiatry. Also licensed as a superintendent, Kerr has worked in urban school districts throughout her academic career. Her focus has been the improvement of services for students with emotional and behavioral problems. "You are training future teachers both to identify troubled students and to help those students progress with effective behavioral interventions. As is clear from your student evaluations, your teaching provokes, challenges, and educates students while also providing a firm theoretical foundation that will remain an important asset throughout their careers," the chancellor wrote.

Luderer was selected to receive the award because of his "many contributions to the Biology and Chemistry curricula of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg," the chancellor wrote in his notification letter. Specifically, Nordenberg cited Lauderer's development of an organic chemistry laboratory manual, which was published by McGraw Hill in 2007. In addition, Luderer also has been chosen by 45 students as a mentor for their undergraduate senior capstone experiences. "As is evident from your outstanding student evaluations, your classroom teaching is inspiring while simultaneously making a traditionally difficult subject, Organic Chemistry, enjoyable for your students. … You consistently provide your students with the tools and methods to pursue their professional goals." Luderer also developed a teaching assistant training program for the organic laboratories designed for students who plan to pursue a graduate degree in chemistry or biology.

As director of the School of Nursing's Nurse Anesthesia Program, **O'Donnell** is being recognized because his "individual efforts stand as an inspiring example of excellence in the role of University teacher," the chancellor wrote in his letter notifying O'Donnell of his award. In that role, O'Donnell has helped students develop the skills and knowledge required to become professional anesthesia providers. "Your dedication to teaching is clear as you have sought new opportunities for teaching students at all levels—from baccalaureate students to Pitt faculty—and in your development of workshops using innovative technologies to teach regional, national, and international educators at the School of Nursing's Instructional Series," Nordenberg wrote. The chancellor also noted O'Donnell's "outstanding" student evaluations, adding that "…your instruction is clear and concise and your passion for your subject is palpable. The University is proud to reward your commitment to excellence in teaching with this award."

Nordenberg lauded **Shroff**'s many contributions to the Department of Bioengineering as well as his "passion for teaching students both in the classroom and in the laboratory." In particular, the chancellor, in his notification letter to Shroff, cited his "pioneering contribution to the creation of innovative, simulation-based teaching tools that are having a national impact on the training of bioengineers, health care providers and medical students." Shroff received his Ph.D. in bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1981 and completed his postdoctoral fellowship within the Cardiovascular-Pulmonary Division of the University of Pennsylvania Department of Medicine in 1982. Currently, in addition to his appointments at the University, Shroff is a senior investigator at the Magee-Womens Research Institute. "It is evident from your student evaluations that you have a unique ability to engage students and that your instruction is precise, insightful and very exciting for them. Your instruction provides students with the tools they need to become independent researchers and to pursue careers in bioengineering and medicine," the chancellor wrote.

Baldisseri, Cooper, and Glasco Win 2011 Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award

By Alex Russell

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg announced the winners of the 2011 Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award, which will be given to the following three faculty members:

Marie Baldisseri, a professor in the Department of Critical Care Medicine, Pitt School of Medicine;

Rory Cooper, Distinguished Professor and FISA-Paralyzed Veterans of America Chair in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology, Pitt School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences; and

Laurence Glasco, a professor in the Department of History, School of Arts and Sciences.


Marie Baldisseri


Rory Cooper


Laurence Glasco

Each awardee will receive a $2,000 cash prize, a grant of $3,000 for the support of his or her public service activities, and recognition at the University of Pittsburgh's 35th annual Honors Convocation, to be held at 3 p.m. Feb. 25 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

Baldisseri is being honored for her national and international humanitarian work in the service of public health. "As a physician with academic and clinical responsibilities in the field of critical care medicine, you have used your expertise far beyond the University," the chancellor wrote in his award letter to Baldisseri. As a regular volunteer for numerous medical missions, Baldisseri was instrumental in designing and implementing the first intensive care unit in the capital city of Swaziland in southern Africa. Following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, she was part of a team that within three days brought the Society of Critical Care Medicine Fundamentals of Critical Care Support course to physicians in the Dominican Republic caring for Haitian earthquake victims. Recently, she founded the Critical Care Disaster Foundation, which is dedicated to working and teaching in areas preemptively, before a disaster strikes. "Further, you are incorporating this new knowledge in the training of students within the University and of colleagues within the

Each awardee will receive a $2,000 cash prize, a grant of $3,000 for the support of his or her public service activities, and recognition at the University of Pittsburgh's 35th annual Honors Convocation.

Continued on page 9

Charting the Future Through Bioengineering

By Jeffery Fraser

The science of bioengineering is profoundly changing the world of medicine as we know it. Continued research and technological breakthroughs have revolutionized the discipline, resulting in advances never before thought possible: a tiny cardiac-assist device for infants whose hearts don't pump adequately, a blood-treatment tool that allows ventilator-dependent people to breathe without a ventilator, a high-tech bandage used successfully to repair injured hearts, and materials that help regenerate bone and then dissolve once the job is done.

University of Pittsburgh researchers are at the forefront of this surge in innovation. They are applying their expertise to create a myriad of new devices, spurring the creation of start-up companies as well as research partnerships involving an array of industries.

Such accomplishments are in no small part the result of the idea-nurturing environment that researchers find on the University's Pittsburgh campus and across Western Pennsylvania. In a field that demands collaboration, Pitt researchers find a wealth of leading experts in diverse disciplines within the University's Swanson School of Engineering, its School of Medicine, and its other schools of the health sciences; the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) health network; and the Pitt-UPMC McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

The results have been widely recognized, with Pitt in recent years being ranked as one of the nation's top universities for bioengineering research and education. In 2010, for example, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Pitt's graduate program in bioengineering 12th in the nation overall, along with the University of Michigan and University of California, Berkeley. Among public institutions, Pitt was ranked fourth best. In the 2010 rankings by the National Research Council, the most comprehensive, data-based assessment of research-doctorate programs in the United States, Pitt's bioengineering program was ranked seventh out of 53 programs.

JIM BURKE/CODE

Pitt's Department of Bioengineering was established in the Swanson School of Engineering in 1998. Today, the department includes 23 full-time faculty, more than 100 faculty holding secondary appointments in bioengineering, 180 undergraduate students, and about 180 graduate students, two-thirds of whom are PhD candidates. It is chaired by Harvey Borovetz (pictured above), Distinguished Professor, Robert L. Hardesty Professor of Surgery, and a professor of chemical and petroleum engineering.

Another indicator of the caliber of Pitt's bioengineering research is the amount of funding the Swanson School's Department of Bioengineering receives from competitive federal funding programs. In 2009 and 2010 alone, Pitt bioengineering researchers were awarded $5.6 million to develop a heart-assist pump for infants and toddlers, part of a $23.6 million effort by the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and $5.1 million from the NIH to explore new methods for growing cells from existing tissues and organs. In addition, Pitt was selected as one of the leaders of a national $85 million program to advance regenerative medicine and develop treatments for wounded soldiers. Funding for that program stems from a new federal entity, the Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine.

> In recent years, Pitt has been ranked as one of the top universities for bioengineering research and education. "We are a national program," says Pitt's Harvey Borovetz. "And we're a national program because we have unique strengths and collaborations."

"We are a national program," says Pitt's Harvey Borovetz, Distinguished Professor, chair of the bioengineering department, Robert L. Hardesty Professor of Surgery, and a professor of chemical and petroleum engineering. "And we're a national program because we have unique strengths and collaborations."

Bioengineering as a discipline experienced significant growth during the final decades of the 20th century. Its rise in prominence was fueled by funding from the federal government and private benefactors, primarily The Whitaker Foundation, whose dollars helped establish many of the bioengineering departments found on university campuses today, including Pitt's.

Pitt's Department of Bioengineering was established in the Swanson School of Engineering in 1998. Today it includes 23 full-time faculty, more than 100 faculty holding secondary appointments in bioengineering, 180 undergraduate students, and about 180 graduate students, two-thirds of whom are PhD candidates.

The collaborative nature of Pitt's bioengineering environment is a key factor in the department's ability to enroll a significant number of PhD candidates, half of whom are mentored by Pitt School of Medicine faculty.

Robust Collaboration

"At the end of the day, what NIH generally chooses to fund is innovative, significant work that will benefit public health," says Borovetz. "And for many bioengineers, it's hard to imagine working on innovative, significant work that benefits public health and not working with colleagues who are public-health practitioners."

Bioengineering collaborations with the School of Medicine provide clinical insight into just about every medical specialty. Such partnerships allow bioengineers to identify which clinical issues they may help resolve. In addition, UPMC offers a broad network of 20 hospitals and renowned programs in such specialties as transplantation, cancer, neurosurgery, cardiology/cardiac surgery, orthopaedics, and sports medicine.

> Today, millions of sponsored research dollars flow through Pitt to support work in regenerative medicine. "We are seen as a place where people do serious work," says Alan Russell. "And, to some degree, we are a magnet to companies that are interested in that space."

A case in point: the development of the PediaFlow™ ventricular-assist device for children and newborns with congenital and/or acquired heart disease. Cardiac experts within the medical school were essential during the early research stages for the device, and they continue to spearhead the device's development as it moves toward clinical trials, Borovetz says. He and a team of experts—who include pediatric heart surgeons and cardiologists from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, bioengineering faculty at Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University, and industry partners—are working to refine the device.

And the PediaFlow™ effort is more than an academic exercise. Eight out of every 1,000 infants are born with heart defects, according to a recent report from the American Heart Association. "In many cases, there are few options for these children," says Borovetz.

Another uncommon resource available to Pitt researchers is the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, a Pitt-UPMC entity created in 2001 to better position Pitt and the region in the burgeoning regenerative medicine industry. Based on Pittsburgh's South Side, the McGowan Institute is an outgrowth of the McGowan Center for Artificial Organ Development, which was established in 1992 with an initial focus on cardiopulmonary organ replacements.

Today, millions of sponsored research dollars flow through Pitt annually to support work related to regenerative medicine. More than 240 faculty are affiliated with the McGowan Institute; their core competencies are broad—cellular biology, gene therapy, imaging, biomaterials, bioengineering, and biomechanics among them—and they use their expertise to develop medical devices, biomaterials, engineered tissue, and cell-based therapies

Continued on page 6

Charting the Future Through Bioengineering

Continued from page 5

affecting everything from the heart and vascular tissue to the lungs and nervous system.

Not only does such breadth of expertise provide for rich collaborations within the University, it also attracts privately funded entities, enticing them to form the partnerships that the McGowan Institute views as part of its mission. "We are seen as a place where people do serious work in regenerative medicine. And, to some degree, we are a magnet to companies that are interested in that space," says Alan Russell, director of the McGowan Institute and University Professor of Surgery in Pitt's School of Medicine.

Several companies have also evolved from the work of Pitt bioengineering researchers. Russell's work in the decontamination of chemical weapons through the use of enzymes led to the creation of Agentase, a South Side company that is now a subsidiary of ICX Technologies. Agentase develops products for detecting and addressing chemical contamination in settings that range from war zones to hospitals.

More recently, Russell's lab is focusing on deciphering the complex chemistry that would allow researchers to more effectively and efficiently separate cells as part of their work to develop new regenerative medicine technologies. "Surfaces that interact with certain cells in interesting ways is of significant interest to us," says Russell. "In regenerative medicine, people are separating cells all of the time. Today, if you want to separate cells you have to modify those cells in some way and use a machine to tease one cell away from another. We are interested in whether it is possible to design surfaces that wouldn't require you to modify the cell. Then you could begin to classify and separate cells on the basis of their functionality rather than on the basis of what they stick to in a machine."

Russell's laboratory is also investigating certain aspects of sugar's energy-generating capacity in the hopes of developing an alternative power source that would help satisfy the world's thirst for electricity. "It is definitely feasible," he says. "Whether it is scalable and how much power you can generate is a different issue. But we can switch on a light bulb with a can of Coke."

JIM BURKE/CIDDE

Another uncommon resource available to Pitt researchers is the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, a Pitt-UPMC entity created in 2001 to better position Pitt and the region in the burgeoning regenerative medicine industry. Alan Russell is the McGowan's director, as well as a University Professor of Surgery in Pitt's School of Medicine. In 1999, Russell founded the successful biotechnology company Agentase LLC, today a subsidiary of ICX Technologies.

From Lab to Bedside

The field of bioengineering is recognized for researchers' ability to move new technologies out of the laboratory into practical use. The Sonic Flashlight™, developed by Pitt Professor of Bioengineering George Stetten, is among the many ideas born in Pitt laboratories that have found their way to the marketplace and patients' bedsides.

The Sonic Flashlight™ is a handheld ultrasound probe with a mirror and miniature display attached to it. The design allows images to be viewed directly by medical practitioners without their having to turn their heads to view a screen, as is required in traditional ultrasound imaging. The probe enables users to see what lies beneath the skin as a real-time, floating image.

UPMC clinical trials demonstrated the value of the device in helping nurses more comfortably and intuitively insert central catheters peripherally into deep veins in patients' arms. Insituvue, a Pittsburgh-based start-up company, is readying the device for market.

Stetten, however, isn't finished exploring the idea behind his high-profile invention. "The basic concept of taking an image with a mirror and putting that image right inside the body in real time so that you can aim scalpels at it doesn't just have to involve ultrasound," he says.

He is now developing guidance systems for eye surgery in collaboration with Joel Schuman, chair of Pitt's Department of Ophthalmology and a professor of bioengineering. The new device, known as an in-situ guidance system, uses optical coherence tomography (OCT) instead of ultrasound; OCT is an imaging modality that employs light waves to produce high-resolution images. It's like ultrasound, but with a laser, and it can peer into the cornea and the retina, where it displays high-resolution 3-D images of what is there.

JOE KAPELEWSKI/CIDDE

Pitt professor of bioengineering George Stetten holds The Sonic Flashlight™, a handheld ultrasound probe with a mirror and miniature display attached to it. Developed by Stetten, the device allows images to be viewed directly by medical practitioners without their having to turn their heads to view a screen, as is required in traditional ultrasound imaging.

Traditionally, OCT hasn't been used during eye surgery because the surgeon would have to turn away from the microscope to view images projected on a screen. Stetten's device, much like the Sonic Flashlight™, displays the real-time images inside the eye, directly in the surgeon's field of vision through the microscope, as if he or she is wearing X-ray glasses.

Studies of the psychophysics of performing such delicate operations, done in collaboration with experts at Carnegie Mellon University, found, not surprisingly, that it is much better for surgeons to be able to aim a scalpel or needle at a target they see in front of them than to have to look away at a screen. "It's more accurate and easier to learn, and it's generally more comfortable to be interacting with in-situ images," says Stetten. "To be able to do microsurgery on the eye having a real-time OCT image right where the tip of your needle is is a big advantage."

Innovative Therapies for Lung Disease and Sepsis

People with lung disease are also finding hope in the technologies being developed by Pitt bioengineers, including a device that could make ventilators unnecessary for some patients.

People with lung disease are also finding hope in the technologies being developed by Pitt bioengineers, including devices that could make ventilators unnecessary and mitigate the effects of sepsis.

For patients whose lung function is weakened by disease, ventilators remove carbon dioxide from blood and add oxygen so that the body and its organs can function. While such respiratory support is critical, it presents problems of its own, including the risk that the process causes additional damage to already-diseased lungs.

Alung Technologies, a Pittsburgh-based start-up, is conducting clinical trials in Europe involving a respiratory-assist device that does the job of a ventilator—without the ventilator. The product was developed in the laboratory of William Federspiel, the William Kepler Whiteford Professor of Bioengineering, Surgery, and Chemical Engineering.

"It takes a small amount of blood outside the body and runs it through an artificial lung cartridge that was specifically designed to be very efficient at removing carbon dioxide from the bloodstream, and it also adds oxygen into the bloodstream," says Federspiel.

Federspiel's laboratory is also exploring the possibility of taking that concept one step further: a device that would perform the same function without having to draw blood from patients. "The idea," he says, "is to have a catheter that sits in a blood vessel and oxygenates and removes carbon dioxide to provide respiratory support." This was the dream of one of Federspiel's early collaborators at Pitt, the late cardiothoracic surgeon Brack Hattler, with whom Federspiel founded Alung Technologies.

Federspiel is also investigating new technologies for treating sepsis, a serious whole-body inflammatory reaction to an

Spotlight on **Research**

JOE KAPELEWSKI/CIDDE

ALung Technologies, a Pittsburgh-based start-up, is conducting clinical trials in Europe involving a respiratory-assist device that does the job of a ventilator—without the ventilator. The product was developed in the laboratory of William Federspiel, the William Kepler Whiteford Professor of Bioengineering, Surgery, and Chemical Engineering. Above, Federspiel (right) stands with Scott Morley (ENGR '04, KGSB '09), ALung vice president for marketing.

infection in blood or tissues. Federspiel's laboratory is working with John Kellum in the School of Medicine's Department of Critical Care Medicine to develop a device that filters a sepsis patient's blood through a cartridge of absorbent beads designed to remove the chemical molecules that orchestrate the body's innate immune system. "By removing them from the bloodstream, we are able to calm the reaction to this infection and mitigate the effects associated with sepsis," Federspiel said.

Matters of the Heart

For patients who experience post-ischemic cardiomyopathy, which is heart failure following a heart attack, the prognosis is rarely good. Scar tissue forms, the wall of the heart thins, and the heart's ability to pump diminishes to the point where extreme measures, such as a transplant, are necessary.

In his laboratory, William Wagner is exploring technologies that could offer such patients a far more attractive option. One is an elastic patch designed to support the damaged part of the heart and help it heal. Another is an injectable gel that at body temperature becomes an elastic girdle to reduce stress on the healing heart tissue.

Both materials are being developed with such tissue-regenerative properties as the ability to deliver drugs that spur healing and the capacity to degrade safely within the body. "We're developing material that will fulfill a function, often a mechanical function—like an internal crutch or girdle—but will go away over time and allow the body, as it heals, to take over that function on its own," says Wagner, deputy director of the McGowan Institute and a professor of surgery, bioengineering, and chemical engineering at Pitt.

Many materials used in biomedical applications today were originally made for other purposes, such as for hosiery or wire insulation. But Wagner's lab designs them from scratch for specific medical situations, aiming for better biocompatibility and function.

For the heart patch, which is surgically implanted over the heart's damaged area, researchers in Wagner's lab engineered a thin sheet of polyurethane with several key properties: the elasticity necessary to protect the healing heart tissue's high stress, the molecular makeup to degrade into materials that are not toxic to the body, and the ability to precisely deliver "growth factors," which are naturally produced proteins that stimulate cell division and promote tissue regeneration.

In addition, Wagner can tweak the material's molecular design to make it softer or stiffer, degrade faster or slower, break down with a specific enzyme, and deliver a specific drug.

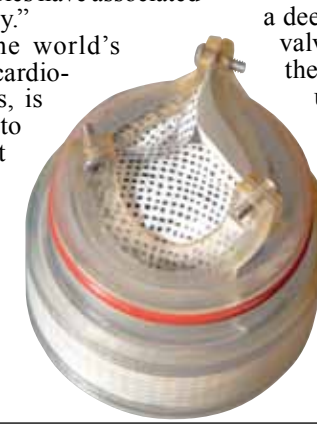
Wagner's team is also exploring a thermoresponsive hydrogel engineered to be a liquid at cold temperatures that quickly forms an elastic patch at body temperature. Such properties make it possible to administer support to a damaged heart by way of injection rather than through open-chest surgery.

"The question we're addressing with all of this is whether there is something we can do to improve the outcomes of these patients before the heart completely fails," says Wagner.

Devices as Living Tissue

In the laboratory of Michael Sacks, the John A. Swanson Endowed Chair in the Department of Bioengineering, advances are being made in understanding the complex structure and function of human heart valves. One long-term goal is for young children with congenital defects to no longer have to endure multiple valve surgeries as they reach maturity. Surgical replacement of the pulmonary heart valve in young children is often initially very successful, yet problems occur as these children literally outgrow the implanted valve. "Pediatric cardiac surgeons have to go in every several years to replace it with another valve," says Sacks. "It often takes multiple surgeries to bring that child to adulthood. One of the big challenges is that all of those surgeries have associated mortality and morbidity."

Sacks, one of the world's leading authorities in cardiovascular biomechanics, is applying his expertise to gaining deeper insight into the heart valves' structure and function—a critical step toward engineering a living replacement valve that will grow with the child, just like a healthy natural valve would.



JIM BURKE/CIDDE

Michael Sacks, one of the world's leading authorities in cardiovascular biomechanics, is applying his expertise to gaining deeper insight into the heart valves' structure and function—a critical step toward engineering a living replacement valve that will grow with the child, just like a healthy natural valve does.

To create a living-tissue replacement heart valve, researchers are investigating a strategy that involves seeding a biocompatible polymer scaffold with cells. The cells, once implanted, would grow a living-tissue valve capable of functioning and developing as a natural heart valve does. The research is a collaborative effort between Sacks' laboratory, a research colleague's laboratory at Children's Hospital Boston, and William Wagner's laboratory at Pitt.

Work on such a replacement valve for children is still in the early stages. One major challenge is to understand what happens when the replacement valve is implanted in a living heart and the body begins the process of remodeling.

"What we have been able to do is gain a deeper understanding of how the native valve works," says Sacks. "In terms of the valve, we've made a lot of strides in understanding how to fabricate the scaffolds, how to model them, and how to seed and grow valve-like tissues. While clinical trials remain a long-term goal, we currently have a much better understanding of what our design endpoints are, how the valve works, and what is necessary to replace it."

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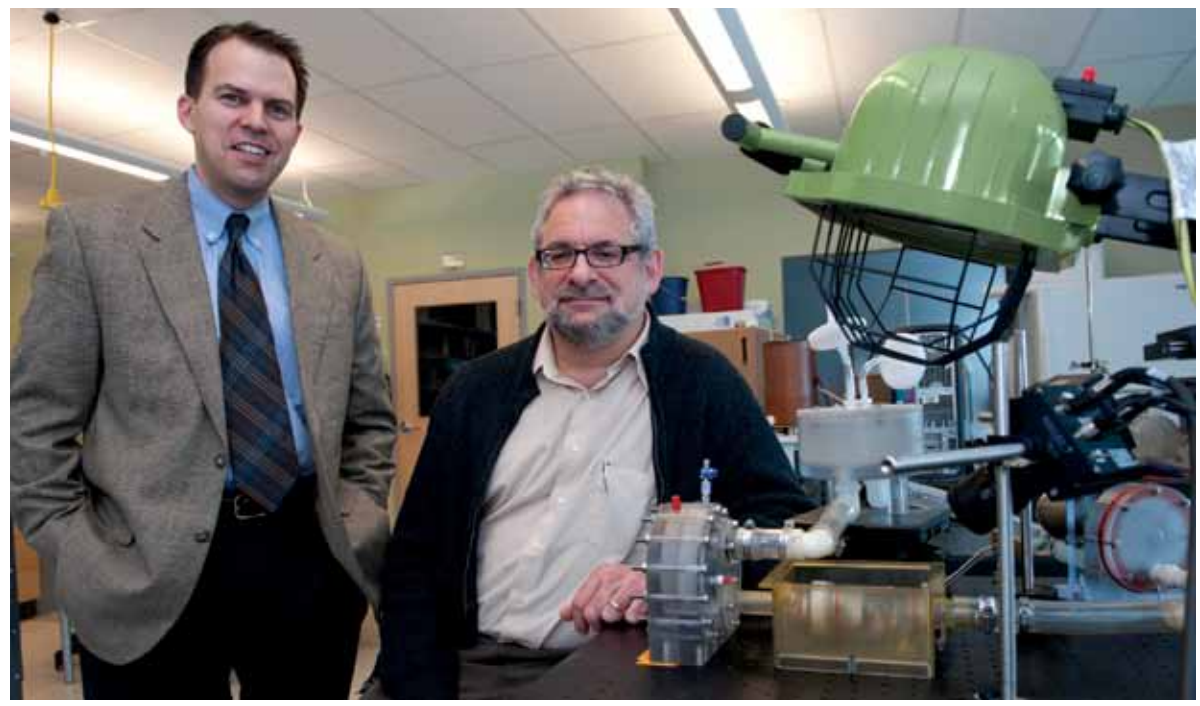
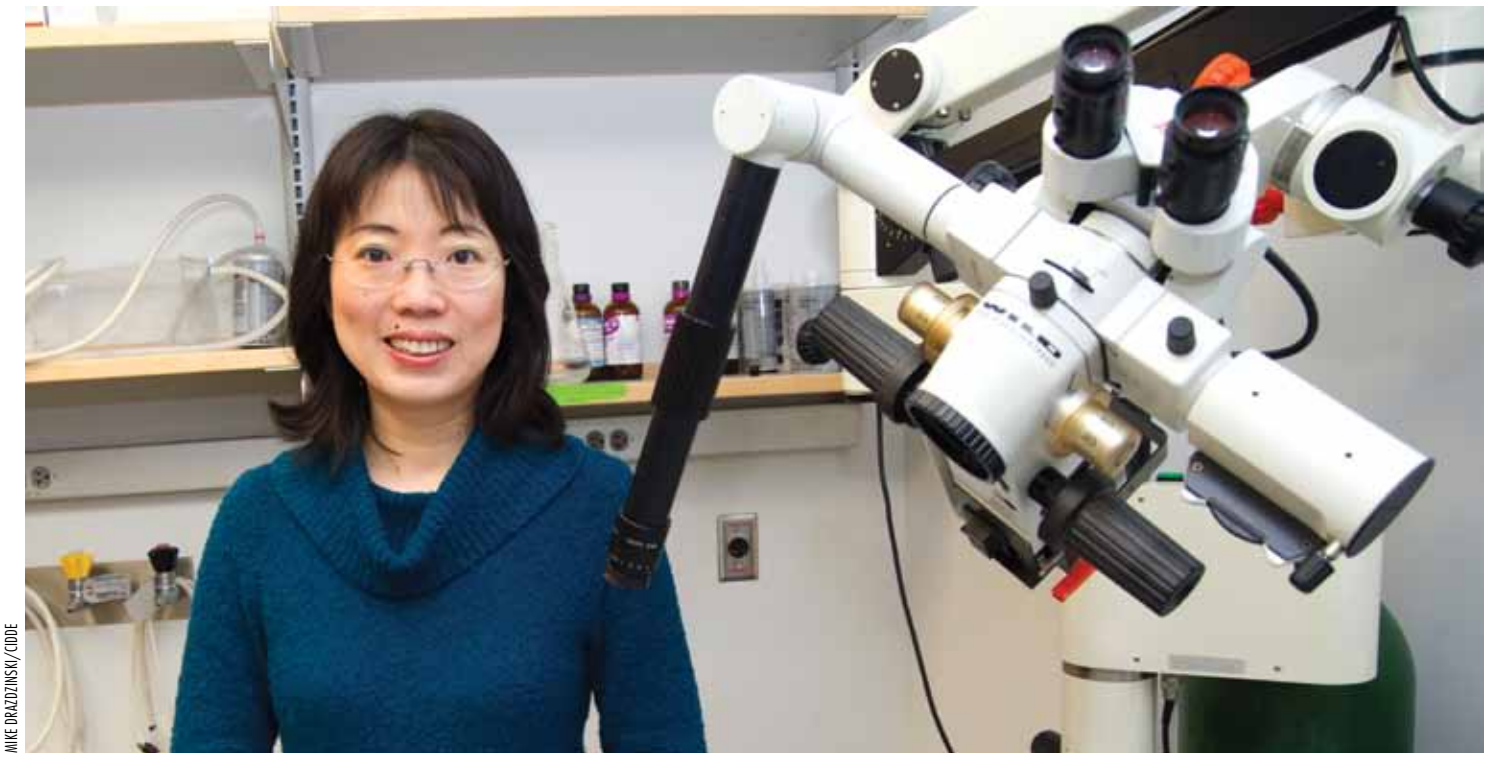


JIM BURKE/CIDDE

Bioengineering is a multi-disciplinary science, as evidenced by a heart-valve project being developed in the labs of principal investigator Michael Sacks (right), the John A. Swanson Endowed Chair in the Department of Bioengineering; William Wagner (left), deputy director of the McGowan Institute and a professor of surgery, bioengineering, and chemical engineering; and a research colleague at Children's Hospital Boston. The team is working to develop a living-tissue replacement heart valve. Wagner's research team is generating new polymer scaffolds that can function in the demanding heart valve environment and investigating how to "seed" these scaffolds (photo above) with cells. The valve scaffold, once implanted, would remodel into a living-tissue valve capable of functioning and growing as a native heart valve does.

Charting the Future Through Bioengineering

Spotlight on **Research**



MIKE DRAZDZINSKI/CIDDE

Engineering healthy neural tissue is one approach to restoring brain-directed functions. To grow such tissue, Tracy Cui, a Pitt professor of bioengineering, and other Pitt scientists are seeding electrically conductive polymer scaffolds (below) with neural stem cells. The hope is that once the scaffold is implanted, electrical current can be used to coax the stem cells into becoming neurons or other cells necessary to restore lost brain activity.

Continued from page 7

Restoring Neural Function

Brain damage from injury or disease can often result in the permanent loss of function, such as the ability to move an arm. But Pitt bioengineers are developing technologies aimed at helping patients regain such abilities and improve their quality of life.

In Tracy Cui's laboratory, researchers are investigating ways to convince the brain to tolerate implantable devices that can, it is hoped, restore some lost function. These researchers are also looking into methods of engineering healthy neural tissue.

Devices implanted in the brain can be rendered useless if the brain rejects them or covers them with scar tissue. Cui's laboratory is trying to ensure a better outcome so an electrode that listens to neurons' electrical signals won't have those signals muted by scar tissue. The goal is to develop a device that enables patients who've lost a certain function to control, for example, a robotic arm with their thoughts.

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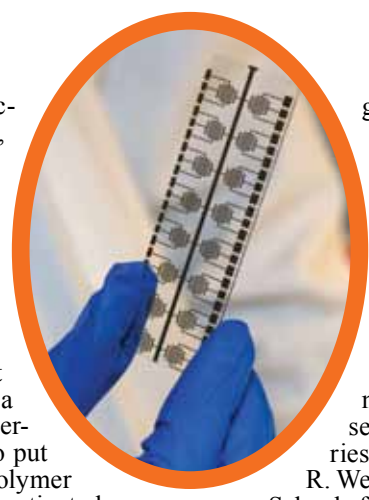


One strategy for creating a more biocompatible electrode is to coat it with proteins that exist in the brain. "Basically, we try to trick the brain tissue into thinking that the chip is not a foreign body," says Cui, a Pitt professor of bioengineering. Another approach is to put an electrically switchable polymer on the electrode that, when activated, pumps an anti-inflammatory drug to control scar tissue or neurotrophic factors to promote neuron health. The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the U.S. Department of Defense fund the research.

Cui's laboratory is also investigating how spinal cord tissue tolerates an implantable device designed to stimulate the neural circuit, restoring arm or leg movement or sensory functions that have been impaired by injury. The underlying concept of the device is similar to that of cochlear implants used to restore hearing loss.

Engineering healthy neural tissue is another approach to restoring brain-directed functions. To grow such tissue, Cui and other Pitt scientists are seeding electrically conductive polymer scaffolds with neural stem cells. The hope is that once the scaffold is implanted, electrical current can be used to coax the stem cells into becoming neurons or other cells necessary to restore lost brain activity.

Soldiers and others who suffer traumatic brain injuries are not the only ones who would benefit, says Cui. "As the population gets older, there's an increasing number of patients with diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. So we really need to find a way to replace and regenerate neurons."

Mending Bone

Prashant Kumta is developing advanced technologies to help overcome severe bone defects and injuries. Kumta holds the Edward R. Weidlein Chair in the Swanson School of Enginnering and is a professor in the Departments of Bioengineering, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science. Using his expertise in bioceramics and biometallurgy, he is developing implantable materials and delivery systems for ceramics, natural and synthetic polymers, and metals and novel nanoparticles. The goal? To be able to repair "critical bone defects," such as a missing segment of bone too substantial for the body to heal on its own.

One such advanced material to be tested in clinical trials is a biocompatible and bioresorbable ceramic cement that is injected into the site of the defect as a scaffold. The scaffolds are designed to provide semi-load-bearing support and promote bone regeneration before they safely dissolve. "With these scaffold structures, the cement can be placed at the defect site, and in eight weeks the cement disappears and you have formed new bone," Kumta says.

The U.S. Department of Defense, which funds the research, is particularly interested in this technology as a way to improve the outcomes of soldiers who have suffered severe craniofacial injuries. Kumta's collaborators on the project include colleagues in Pitt's Department of Bioengineering, School of Dental Medicine, and the McGowan Institute.

The cement comprises a calcium phosphate-based ceramic powder and other additives mixed with a fluid that contains nanoparticles on which researchers are able to bind growth factors and other signaling molecules that help regenerate bone.

The porous nanostructured cement has the potential to greatly improve the prognosis for those with craniofacial injuries. Kumta is also working toward developing new metal-based technologies to regenerate load-bearing bone, which would enable surgeons to repair defects in the femur—for example. magnesium, in particular, has shown great potential for such applications, since it possesses mechanical characteristics identical to those of natural bone as well as the ability to safely dissolve in the body. Kumta and his colleagues are designing novel magnesium-based alloys to tap those characteristics for the benefit of patients with critical bone defects. "The ultimate dream," he says, "is that the metal can be placed into a femur, and in a few weeks' time, when the surgical incision has healed, the patient will be able to stand up and resume normal activities."

More Work Ahead

Pitt bioengineering researchers like Kumta can look forward to continued demand for the kinds of technologies they have developed.

The aging population, a growing focus on health issues, and other factors are expected to sustain the demand for sophisticated materials, devices, and other technologies that emerge from bioengineering laboratories. "I think bioengineering is in the beginning of its growth phase," says Russell. "And I think we are a long way off from seeing any change in that."

MARY JANE BENT/CIDDE

Prashant Kumta is developing advanced technologies to help overcome severe bone defects and injuries. Kumta is the Edward R. Weidlein Chair in the Swanson School of Enginnering and a professor in the Departments of Bioengineering, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science. Using his expertise in bioceramics and biometallurgy, he is developing implantable materials (held in his hand) and delivery systems for ceramics, natural and synthetic polymers, and metals and novel nanoparticles. The goal? To be able to repair "critical bone defects," such as a missing segment of bone too substantial for the body to heal on its own. Inset: a bioresorbable ceramic cement scaffold.

Chancellor Announces 2011 Distinguished Research Awards

Continued from page 1

Machery's remarkable productivity in the six years since he received his PhD greatly impressed the award selection committee. Nordenberg, in his congratulatory letter to Machery, noted that Machery has published more than 60 articles and book chapters in the most prestigious journals in both philosophy and psychology. "This is an exceptional record of accomplishment, particularly for someone in the early stages of his career. You are considered one of the best philosophers of cognitive science in the world, regardless of career stage," the chancellor wrote. Machery is also recognized as one of the leading contributors to the development of experimental philosophy, a new area within the discipline. One nomination letter described Machery as "a force of nature … a strikingly original thinker … ferociously smart, and … astonishingly productive." It is clear, Nordenberg wrote, "that you have achieved national and international eminence as an outstanding scholar in your field."

Marazita is a leader in the field of cleft lip and palate genetics who has made enormous contributions to the understanding of this complex genetic birth defect. "Described as a talented scientist whose work has spanned a variety of disciplines, including statistics, human genetics, psychiatry, and oral biology, you have remained on the forefront of gene identification efforts for over twenty years," the chancellor wrote in his letter notifying Marazita of her award. Marazita helped to establish the School of Dental Medicine nationally as a center for research in oral/dental disease, with particular strengths in genetics and tissue regeneration. "Your contributions to the School of Dental Medicine, as well as the other schools of health sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, cannot be overstated," the chancellor wrote. "You have been awarded 53 grants from federal and state agencies and private foundations, totaling almost $48.5 million and have published more than 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts."

Nordenberg praised **Norton** for his accomplishments in the field of the history and philosophy of science that have earned him national and international esteem as a scholar in the discipline. Norton has a particular interest in the research of physicist Albert Einstein; Norton's work in this area has earned him the distinction of being "the world's preeminent scholar on the genesis of Einstein's theory of general relativity," Nordenberg said in his Feb. 9 letter informing Norton of the award. "The selection committee was particularly impressed with your detailed analysis of Einstein's Zurich notebook and the many papers you have authored on Einstein's thinking on a variety of fundamental questions. … Your contributions to the philosophy of space and time, inductive logic, the role of thought experiments, and the ways scientific theories should be evaluated all are highly regarded. As one fellow scholar stated, 'no one so brilliantly combines these disciplines as does John Norton,'" Nordenberg wrote. Norton also has served as chair of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and as director of the Center for Philosophy of Science.

Star's research has provided innovative contributions to carbon nanotube materials. "[Y]ou were among the first researchers to chemically modify carbon nanotubes in an effort to affect their biological properties, paving the way for their use in medical applications, as well as their safe and effective removal from the environment," the chancellor wrote in Star's award letter. "You also were one of the first researchers to recognize that single wall carbon nanotubes are an ideal platform on which to construct chemical sensing devices." The award selection committee noted that Star's research has been instrumental in fabricating new materials consisting of carbon nanocapsules for use as nanocontainers, which have many potential applications, among them material storage, nanoreactors, drug-delivery vehicles, and chemical sensing. In addition, the chancellor wrote, "Your colleagues have described your investigations as a unique blend of fundamental and applied research that have combined to propel you to the forefront of carbon nanotube research."

Baldisseri, Cooper, and Glasco Win 2011 Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award

Continued from page 4

profession," the chancellor wrote.

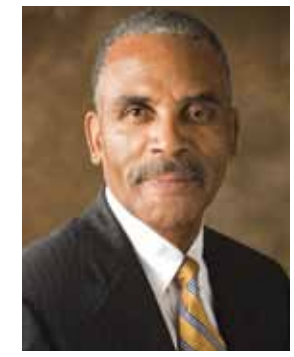
Cooper is being recognized for his dedication to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities and for his leadership in the field of rehabilitation engineering. His academic accomplishments in this arena "have been unparalleled … as evidenced by your distinguished academic appointments, by your nine issued or pending patents, and by your receipt of countless honors, including both The Olin Teague Award and the Paul Magnuson Award, among the highest forms of recognition from the Department of Veterans Affairs," Nordenberg wrote in his notification letter. When he arrived at Pitt in 1994, Cooper founded the Human Engineering Research Laboratories, and, in 1999, the facility became the first, and remains the only, national VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Center of Excellence in Pennsylvania. The chancellor also noted Cooper's creation of, and advising on, a number of programs for people with disabilities. His counseling services to the U.S. Department of Defense helped give Pittsburgh the edge in its selection as host of the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

Glasco is being honored for his innovative efforts on behalf of, and tireless commitment to, preserving the history of Black Pittsburgh and for making that history available to current and future generations. Glasco's dedication and the broad range of his work is evident in the methods he uses to communicate with diverse audiences, including documentaries, exhibitions, writings, presentations, and radio and television appearances. "Your stories serve the public by revealing the significant accomplishments of Frank E. Bolden, K. Leroy Irvis, Teenie Harris, Romare Bearden, and August Wilson, among others, and by celebrating black history in this region. As a result, individual citizens have come together in groups to form a vision for revitalizing their communities based on a collective memory," the chancellor wrote in his notification letter to Glasco. Nordenberg added that Glasco's work has brought national recognition to Pittsburgh as historians focus on the importance of Pittsburgh's African American legacy.

Pitt Alumni Association Names 2011 Distinguished Alumni Fellows

Continued from page 1

and chief operating officer of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation until his death. With his friend William E. Strickland Jr. (A&S '70), Pitt trustee and president and chief executive officer of Manchester Bidwell Corporation, Fife transformed the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild—an organization that offered informal ceramics classes and a small exhibition space—and Bidwell Training Center—a vocational education program that served mostly displaced steelworkers—into the internationally recognized center of arts education and career training that it is today. The organization has improved the lives of numerous men and women and benefited Pittsburgh and communities throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania. Fife also was responsible for directing the corporation's efforts to replicate core Manchester Bidwell programs in such cities as San Francisco, Cincinnati, and Grand Rapids.



Jesse W. Fife Jr.

Joseph F. Weis Jr.

In 1968, Fife was one of 50 students admitted into the University's Project A, an effort to increase the enrollment of underrepresented students at Pitt. As an undergraduate, Fife was passionate about addressing social inequities and advocated for the expansion of Black studies course offerings and the recruitment of more African American students, faculty, and staff.

After graduating from the University with a bachelor's degree in history and political science, Fife worked briefly as an account executive at Procter & Gamble. He joined the Bidwell Training Center as a program counselor in 1973, became vice president of operations in 1975, and, in 1999, rose to the position he held at his death. Fife served as an evaluator for the Pennsylvania Governor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse from 1974 to 1975.

Fife was instrumental in securing funding for the Manchester Bidwell Corporation's state-of-the-art campus, the Drew Mathieson Center for Horticultural and Agricultural Technology, the Harbor Gardens Park office building, and the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, a multidisciplinary arts and learning center, gallery, and auditorium with a concert hall that is a mecca for international jazz artists.

A dedicated community servant, Fife was appointed to the City of Pittsburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment by Mayor Tom Murphy in 1994. Fife also served on the boards of the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation, the Manchester Academic Charter School, the Citizens Advisory Committee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of City-County Government, and the Community College of Allegheny College, whose board's Workforce Development Committee he chaired. At Pitt, Fife was a member of the Alumni Legislative Network and of the board of visitors of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Weis was nominated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in 1973, gaining his current status as senior judge in 1988.

A decorated war veteran, Weis interrupted his undergraduate studies to serve during World War II. He fought in three campaigns with the Fourth Armored Division of General Patton's Third Army in France. Weis was twice wounded in action, suffering near-mortal wounds on Nov. 11, 1944. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster; the Croix de Guerre, presented by the French Republic for acts of heroism in combat; and the National Order of the Legion of Honor, France's highest decoration.

After leaving the Army, Weis completed his undergraduate studies, earning a BA degree from Duquesne University in 1947. He received his JD from Pitt's School of Law in 1950 and partnered with his father to form the Weis and Weis law firm. In his early career, Weis served as president of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County and as vice president of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

Prior to his tenure on the U.S. Court of Appeals, Weis was appointed in 1968 to serve as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County and, a year later, was elected to serve on that court. In 1970, he was appointed to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Weis' significant contributions include service as chair of both the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure and the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He also chaired for the American Bar Association its Appellate Judges Conference, Technology in the Courts Committee, and Committee on the Design of Courtrooms and Court Facilities.

In 1989, then-Chief Justice of the United States William H. Rehnquist appointed Weis chair of the Federal Courts Study Committee to examine issues and problems facing the nation's court system, the first study of its type to be undertaken in nearly 100 years. Under Weis' leadership, the committee produced a monumental report—completed in just 15 months—that was presented to President George H.W. Bush, Chief Justice Rehnquist, the U.S. Congress, and the Conference of State Chief Justices. Many of the recommendations were enacted into law.

Weis authored the *Mannington Mills v. Congoleum Corp.* opinion in 1979, making him a sought-after member of many international legal forums. In the field of legal ethics, Weis authored a number of important opinions, including the 1981 dissenting opinion in *Garden State Bar Association v. Middlesex County Ethics Committee*, which was later reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court. The 1991 majority opinion in *Stretton v. Disciplinary Board* reversed a lower court's ruling that struck down a Pennsylvania judicial ethics rule barring judicial candidates from telling voters about their legal and political views.

Among Weis' many honors include the American Judicature Society's Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, the Allegheny County Bar Association's Philip Werner Amram Award, the Senator John Heinz History Center's History Makers Award, and Pitt School of Law's Distinguished Alumni Award. On the occasion of Weis' 40 years of distinguished service to the federal bench, his judicial colleagues named the federal court library in Pittsburgh in his honor.

Weis has served as an adjunct professor in Pitt's School of Law and as a member of the advisory board of the law school's Center for International Legal Education.

Awards&More

Two Pitt undergraduate students in the School of Arts and Sciences have been selected to receive the 2011 Woodrow Wilson-Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowship for Aspiring Teachers of Color. Pitt seniors **Paulina Gonzales,** an English literature and history major, and **James Spears,** an English literature major with a minor in history, are among 25 individuals nationwide selected for the second cohort of teaching fellowships.

Chosen through a competitive selection process, each fellowship provides a $30,000 stipend to complete a master's degree in education, preparation to teach in a high-need public school, support throughout a three-year teaching commitment, and guidance toward teaching certification.

Spears, of Zelienople, Pa., will enter the Pitt School of Education's Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program this fall. The MAT program is designed to give students a complete school-year internship (with intern certificate) while taking two terms and two summer sessions of course work at the University in teaching methodology. In addition to receiving Pennsylvania state teacher certification, students completing this program will fulfill the requirements for the Master of Arts in Teaching degree.

In addition to pursuing his Pitt studies, Spears tutors both graduate and undergraduate students in Pitt's Writing Center and serves as an undergraduate teaching assistant for the University's peer tutoring course.

Gonzales, of Riverside, Calif., has yet to decide on her choice of graduate schools. At Pitt, Gonzales is business manager and tutor for Pitt's Keep It Real. Her duties include tutoring resettled Somali-Bantu and Burmese middle-school-age refugees and assisting with arts projects at Arsenal Middle School in Lawrenceville.

Software giant Microsoft selected **Mengmeng Li,** a computer science doctoral student in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, as one of 10 aspiring women in computer science from the United States and Canada to receive the 2011 Microsoft Research Graduate Women's Scholarship. The scholarship is intended to increase the number of women pursuing PhD degrees in computer science, a field traditionally dominated by men.

The one-year award includes $15,000 for the 2011-12 academic year, a $2,000 travel grant to a professional conference of the recipient's choice, and a possible Microsoft Research internship. Li—whose research interests include networking, computer security, and piracy—was honored along with women postgraduate students from such institutions as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Toronto.

Richard M. Kyle

Richard M. Kyle, a third-year student in the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, has been named a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow for 2011-12. As a Bosch Fellow, Kyle will engage in intensive German language study as well as seminars with key German and European decision makers. He was one of 20 chosen nationwide from among more than 600 applicants.

In September 1984, the first group of Robert Bosch Foundation Fellows participated in a nine-month professional development program in Bonn. Now in its 26th year, the prestigious Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship accepts 20 exceptional young professionals from the fields of public policy, law, business, and journalism as fellows.

The fellowship seminars will take place in major cities throughout Germany and across Europe to expose participants to the elements of the German government and the larger European Union. Each fellow will complete a high-level work placement in the public and private sectors. Kyle plans to work in the area of commercial legal reform and international dispute resolution in the German federal government and in a large German law firm.

A Fulbright Scholar in Germany in 2007-08, Kyle has participated in the extensive offerings of the Pitt law school's Center for International Legal Education (CILE). He received a Pitt European Studies Center Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship and was a member of Pitt law's 2010 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot team that competed in Vienna.

In addition, Kyle has assisted Pitt's Ronald Brand—professor of law, founding director of the CILE, and the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair—in training students from Bahrain, Egypt, and Qatar for the 2011 Vis Arbitration Moot, traveling to Qatar, Bahrain, and Austria in a project for the Commercial Law Development Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

STUDENT RETENTION SYMPOSIUM

MARY JANE BENT/CIDDE

Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences hosted the "African American Student Retention Symposium: From Theory to Practice" on Feb. 10 at the University Club. Freeman A. Hrabowski (center), president of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, delivered the keynote address, "Beating the Odds—Best Practices and Lessons Learned for African American Student Achievement." Hrabowski is pictured with Kathy W. Humphrey, Pitt vice provost and dean of students, and Juan J. Manfredi, Pitt vice provost for undergraduate studies.

Happenings

Westmoreland Museum of American Art,
American Landscapes: Treasures From the Parrish Art Museum,
through April 24,

Hill, Main Street, Gloucester, ca. 1916 by John Sloan (American, 1871–1951) Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, N.Y., Littlejohn Collection

Concerts

The Overtones, Pitt coed student *a cappella* choir, noon **Feb. 25,** Cup & Chaucer Café, ground floor, Hillman Library, Emerging Legend Series, Pitt Library System, Calliope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, www.calliopehouse.org.

Honeck Conducts Beethoven Masterpieces, *Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral)* and, with soloist Lars Vogt, *Piano Concerto No. 1*, 8 p.m. **Feb. 25,** also **Feb. 26-27,** 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.

Symphonie Fantastique, free Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra performance of this Berlioz work as well as works by Bizet and Mozart, 2 p.m. **Feb. 26,** Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, tickets required for admission, 412-392-4872, www.pyso.us.

Benjamin Beilman, Bellefield Hall, February 27

Concerto Festival, McKeesport Symphony Pops performing works by Mozart, Vivaldi, and Bruch, 2:30 p.m. **Feb. 27,** McKeesport Area High School, 2225 5th Ave., McKeesport, 412-664-2854, www.mckeesportsymphony.org.

Benjamin Beilman, award-winning violinist performing Bach, Strauss, Carter, Tower, and Hubay, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 27,** Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Bellefield Hall Recital Series, Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society, 412-624-4129, www.pittsburghchambermusic.org.

Exhibitions

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

University Art Gallery, *Mind Space, Maximalism in Contrast,* presented by Pitt's Department of the History of Art and Architecture, **through March 18,** Frick Fine Arts Building, 412-648-2400.

Frick Art Museum, Frick Art & Historical Center, *Storied Past: Four Centuries of French Drawings From the Blanton Museum of Art,* featuring more than 60 drawings produced over a 400-year period, **through April 17,** 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-0600, www.frickart.org.

Westmoreland Museum of American Art, *American Landscapes: Treasures From the Parrish Art Museum* and *At the River's Edge: Paintings by Patrick Ruane,* **through April 24,** 221 N. Main St., Greensburg, 724-837-1500, www.wmuseumaa.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art, *Andrey Avinoff: In Pursuit of Beauty,* **Feb. 26-June 5,** *Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective,* **through May 1,** 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.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, **through June 2011,** 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Heinz History Center, *America's Best Weekly: A Century of* The Pittsburgh Courier, **through Oct. 2,** 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

Films

Film Series About Humanitarian Issues in Sudan, the Congo, and Chad, *War Child: The Emmanuel Jal Story,* **Feb. 23;** *3 Points: Peace, Protection, Punishment*, **Feb. 25;** *The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo*, **Feb. 28;** all films begin at 7 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, with introduction before and Q&A afterward led by John Prendergast, cofounder of an initiative to end genocide and crimes against humanity, Pitt's Ford Institute for Human Security, 412-648-7434, www.fordinstitute.pitt.edu.

Lectures/ Seminars/ Readings

TIES Informational Luncheon for Researchers and Research Assistants, talk on Text Information Extraction System (TIES), Rebecca Crowley, director, Biomedical Informatics Graduate Training Program, Pitt School of Medicine, 11 a.m. **Feb. 23,** UPMC Cancer Pavilion, Suite 301, Conference Room 308, open to Pitt and UPMC faculty, staff, and students, Pitt Department of Biomedical Informatics, 412-623-4753.

"Eight Conversations About Race and Ethnicity," Hazel Markus, Davis-Brack Professor in the Behavioral Sciences, and Paula Moya, associate professor of English, both from Stanford University, noon **Feb. 23,** School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning, Reed Smith Lecture Series, Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems, 412-624-7382, www.crsp.pitt.edu.

"Eye on Sudan: The Promise and Perils of Secession," John Prendergast, cofounder of the Enough Project, an initiative to end genocide and crimes against humanity, 12:30 p.m. **Feb. 23,** Room 3911, Posvar Hall, Ford Institute Speaker Series, 412-648-7434, www.fordinstitute.pitt.edu.

"Syphilis and Sodomy in Argentina and the United States, 1870-1940," Julien Comte, doctoral student, Pitt Department of History, 3 p.m. **Feb. 23,** 2201 Posvar Hall, Women's Studies Program Lecture Series, Pitt Women's Studies Program, www.wstudies.pitt.edu.

"'Edo Era Robots?!' The Art of Karakuri-ningyo," Armen Bakalian, Pitt graduate student in East Asian studies, noon **Feb. 24,** 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.

"Invisible Ink: Atomizing Textual Materialism in the Seventeenth Century," Daniel Selcer, associate professor of philosophy, Duquesne University, 4:30 p.m. **Feb. 24,** 501G Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, Cultural Studies Program, www.medren.pitt.edu.

"Transparency 2011—The Budget and Your Career," symposium, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Feb. 25,** University Club, American Association for Budget and Program Analysis, Pitt Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, free, registration required, www.aabpa.org.

Heinz History Center, ***America's Best Weekly:*** **The Pittsburgh Courier, through October 2**

"Decades of Asynchrony: Europe & Central Asia and the Dissolution of the Soviet Union," 8th annual international graduate student conference of Pitt's Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia, 1:30-5:45 p.m. **Feb. 25** and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Feb. 26,** 4130 Posvar Hall, free and open to the public, Center for Russian and East European Studies, Pitt Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, goseca.2011@pitt.edu, www.goseca.blogspot.com.

Opera/Theater/ Dance

Mahalia Jackson: Standing on Holy Ground, written and directed by Vernell A. Lillie, **Feb. 24-March 12,** 7th-Floor Auditorium, Alumni Hall, Pitt's Kuntu Repertory Theatre, 412-624-8498, www.kuntu.org.

Riverdance, celebration of Irish music, song, and dance, **Feb. 24-26,** Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Churchill in Short(s)? Tommy Costello directing three lesser-known yet thoroughly contemporary one-act plays by Caryl Churchill, **through Feb. 27,** Henry Heymann Theatre in the Stephen Foster Memorial, Pitt Repertory Theatre, Department of Theatre Arts, 412-624-6568, www.play.pitt.edu.

Black Angels Over Tuskegee, Layon Gray's historical drama based on real-life experiences of the Tuskegee Airmen—the celebrated African American air squadron during World War II, 4 p.m. **Feb. 27,** also **Feb. 28,** Byham Theater, 101 Sixth Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Guest Attraction, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Yanhong Yang, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry, "Fluorous Membrane Based Separations and Reactions," 10 a.m. **Feb 22,** 307 Eberly Hall.

Rachel R. Bailey, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology, "Modeling the Epidemiologic and Economic Impacts of Nosocomial Infection Prevention Strategies," 3 p.m. **Feb. 23,** Parkvale Annex Conference Room, First Floor.

Chad M. Shade, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry, "Lanthanide-Containing Nanomaterials: Utilizing Lanthanide Luminescence for Biological Applications," 10 a.m. **Feb. 23,** Room 135 Chevron Science Center.

Yvonne Chao, School of Medicine's Cellular and Molecular Pathology Graduate Program, 11 a.m. **Feb. 24,** "Mesenchymal to Epithelial Reverting Transition in Breast Cancer Metastases: A Key Role For Re-Expression of E-Cadherin," 1495 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower.

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Promise and Perils

Pitt's Ford Institute Plans Talk, Film Series to Highlight Situation in Sudan

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

The University of Pittsburgh's Ford Institute for Human Security, focusing on the questions and issues facing Sudan, will offer a lecture by a veteran human-rights advocate as well as a film series about humanitarian issues in Sudan, the Congo, and Chad.

John Prendergast, the cofounder of the Enough Project, an initiative to end genocide and crimes against humanity, will deliver a free public lecture titled "Eye on Sudan: The Promise and Perils of Secession" at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, in 3911 Posvar Hall. Prendergast will be a Visiting Fellow at Pitt's Ford Institute for Human Security in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) beginning today through March 4. The lecture is part of the Ford Institute Speaker Series.

Prendergast will discuss the uncertainties faced by the people of southern Sudan following their peaceful vote to secede after two decades of war failed to bring independence. Despite Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's acceptance of the vote's outcome, the prospect for peaceful secession remains unclear. Prendergast will discuss some of the challenges that the Sudanese people are facing. Among them are disputes involving the north-south border and how to share oil wealth; Sudan's oil fields are in the south and export facilities are in the north. He also will discuss the possibility of widespread fighting sparked by communal disputes in the regions of Abyei, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile.

John Prendergast

The Ford Institute for Human Security will also host a free public three-part film series Feb. 23-28 featuring documentaries selected and presented by Prendergast. Each film screening will be introduced by Prendergast and followed by a question-and-answer session. Screenings will be held at 7 p.m. in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. A schedule and description of the films follow:

• *War Child: The Emmanuel Jal Story* (C. Karim Chrobog, 2008) will be shown Wednesday, Feb. 23. The film chronicles the odyssey of Emmanuel Jal, a former child soldier of Sudan's civil war. Now an emerging international hip-hop star, he shares a message of peace for his beloved Africa. (93 min., PG-13)

• *3 Points: Peace, Protection, Punishment* (Josh Victor Rothstein, 2009) will be shown Friday, Feb. 25. When Tracy McGrady of the National Basketball Association heard about the challenges children from Darfur were facing in the Chad refugee camps, he traveled to Chad. *3 Points* highlights the Darfuri refugees' quest for quality education in the camps. Following his trip, McGrady cofounded the Darfur Dream Team with Prendergast. (60 min., PG-13)

• *The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo* (Lisa F. Jackson, 2007) will be shown Monday, Feb. 28. The film attempts to shatter the silence that surrounds sexual violence as a weapon of conflict. Tens of thousands of women and girls have been systematically kidnapped, raped, mutilated, and tortured by soldiers from foreign militias and from the Congolese army. Jackson, herself a victim of gang rape, tells her story while relating the stories of several other Congolese women. (76 min., Not Rated)

Prendergast is a veteran human rights advocate who has worked on Capitol Hill, in the White House, and at the U.S. State Department. In the nongovernmental sector, he has worked at UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, the International Crisis Group, and the U.S. Institute of Peace.

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For more information on the events or the Ford Institute for Human Security (www.fordinstitute.pitt.edu), contact Diane Roth Cohen at 412-648-7434 or drc51@pitt.edu.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Feb. 28. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 11) should be received at least two weeks prior to the event 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.