

## Pitt Alumnus Bert O'Malley Awarded Ernst Schering Prize

By Anita Srikameswaran

University of Pittsburgh alumnus and Pittsburgh native Bert O'Malley has been awarded the 2011 Ernst Schering Prize for international excellence in medicine and basic biological and chemical research. One of the most prestigious German science honors, the annual prize, which carries a cash award of €50,000, was established by the Ernst Schering Research Foundation in 1991 and is bestowed internationally for particularly outstanding basic research in the fields of medicine, biology, or chemistry.

The prize will be awarded Sept. 20 at an invitation-only ceremony in Berlin. It honors O'Malley's pioneering work on the actions of steroid hormones and nuclear receptors, as well as his training of more than 250 students and postdoctoral fellows who now serve as professors, deans, and chief executive officers for research centers around the world.

O'Malley, currently the Tom Thompson Distinguished Service Professor and chair of molecular and cellular biology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, helped uncover the workings of estrogen and progesterone and the regulation of eukaryotic gene expression. He described the molecular events that allow hormones to influence genes to make proteins, and discovered "coactivator" and "corepressor" gene regulators that profoundly influence tissue development and physiology.

"This is a significant and much-



Bert O'Malley

deserved honor," said Arthur S. Levine, Pitt's senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine. "Dr. O'Malley has made outstanding contributions to our understanding of how

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## University Honors 290 Scholar-Athletes at Annual Awards Breakfast

By Sophia Duck

The Pitt Alumni Association honored 290 scholar-athletes Feb. 21 at its annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Breakfast in Alumni Hall. Assistant Athletic Director for Student Life Penny Semaia served as the master of ceremonies; Alumni Association President Jack Smith (CAS '69, MED '73) was among the invited guests.

Members of Pitt's Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes handed out Blue and Gold awards to students who earned at least a 3.0 GPA in 2010. One-hundred-sixty student-athletes had a GPA of 3.0-3.49, and 130 earned a 3.5 or higher GPA, including 25 students who achieved a perfect 4.0.

"When you think about the demands placed upon student-athletes at a great University, for 290 of our students to achieve a grade point average of more than 3.0 is extremely impressive," Pitt Athletic Director Steve Pederson said. "Special thanks should be extended to the coaches and staff, who encourage and support this kind of excellence. We also are proud of the many good works of our student-athletes, including their more than 2,700 hours of community service and their commitment to making a difference in the lives of others."

The 4.0 student-athletes were: Elizabeth Adams (tennis), Kellyn Black (cheer and

dance), Kimmy Borza (women's tennis), Jonathan Buchanan (men's swimming and diving), Meagan Dooley (volleyball), Minh Evans (tennis), Kaitlyn Flynn (women's track and field), Aaron Hassett (football), Morie Kephart (women's soccer), Rousseau Kluever (men's swimming and diving), Philip Konieczny (baseball), Sarah Looney (women's swimming and diving), Cookie McIntyre (women's swimming and diving), Kristen McMullan (women's swimming and diving), Pierre-Antoine Meunier (men's swimming and diving), Alyssa O'Connell (softball), Bradley Rocco (men's track and field), Krista Rubini (gymnastics), Ben Rubino (cheer and dance), Allison Sanders (cheer and dance), Daniel Schneider (football), Ryan Tomei (wrestling), Leah Ulizio (women's track and field), Samson Weiser (men's track and field), and Lauren Zammerilla (cheer and dance).

"For 25 students to achieve a perfect 4.0 GPA is astounding," Pederson added. "While we admire and appreciate their successes in their chosen sport, we value their commitment to education more."

Pederson also announced the Academic Team Awards. The Most Improved Team was softball, which earned a cumulative 2.92 GPA.

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## Pitt Named "Best Value" University by Princeton Review

By John Harvith

The University of Pittsburgh is Pennsylvania's only public institution of higher education in a Princeton Review list of both the nation's 50 "Best Value" public colleges and universities and 50 "Best Value" private colleges and universities. The Princeton Review teamed with *USA Today* to present the list in a Web posting titled "The Princeton Review Best Value Colleges for 2011."

The lists of 100 "Best Value" institutions are posted on the Web sites of both The Princeton Review ([www.princetonreview.com/best-value-colleges.aspx](http://www.princetonreview.com/best-value-colleges.aspx)) and *USA Today* ([bestvaluecolleges.usatoday.com](http://bestvaluecolleges.usatoday.com)).

The lists of 100 "Best Value" institutions are posted on the Web sites of both The Princeton Review and *USA Today*.

In its profile of Pitt on *USA Today's* Web site, the editors at The Princeton Review commend the University for producing Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Udall, Goldwater, Churchill, and Gates Cambridge scholars; for the PITT ARTS program that "links students to cultural amenities in the city"; for holding "the distinction of being home to one of just 10 European Union Centers of Excellence in the United States funded by the European Commission"; for "earning... a top ranking in the Top American Research Universities

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## Chancellor Lauds Jamie Dixon as Dapper Dan Sportsman of the Year



From left: Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Women's basketball Head Coach Agnus Berenato, Men's basketball Head Coach Jamie Dixon, and Athletics Director Steve Pederson at ceremony celebrating Coach Dixon as the Dapper Dan Sportsman of the Year.

*(Jamie Dixon, the head coach of Pitt men's basketball, was named the Dapper Dan Sportsman of the Year during a Feb. 9 presentation at the Pittsburgh Convention Center. This is the print version of Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg's introductory remarks for Coach Dixon.)*

Jamie Dixon has been the focus of much sports media attention in recent years. Last October, though, he was the subject of a different kind of story. While driving home from his office, he saw an SUV swerve across two lanes of traffic, strike a concrete barrier, roll over, and come to rest on its side. Jamie stopped his own car, rushed to the smoking, overturned vehicle and broke open a window, helping to rescue the two women who were trapped inside.

In his typically humble fashion, he later said that he had just done what "anyone else in Pittsburgh would have done given the situation." One of the rescued women strongly disagreed. From her hospital bed, she said, "He's my hero. My kids want to hug him."

A few days later, our Executive Vice

Chancellor Jerry Cochran and I were discussing this incident. A single statement that passed between us captured our shared feelings perfectly: "As if we did not already have enough reasons to love Jamie Dixon." And over the course of his nearly eight years as the head men's basketball coach at the University of Pittsburgh, Jamie has given all of us plenty of reasons to love him—as a highly accomplished professional and as a very special person.

In what was not only Jamie's first year as our head coach but his first year as a head coach anywhere, his team won its first 18 games, the third-best start for a rookie coach in NCAA Division I history; won 31 games overall, a Pitt record; won the Big East regular season title; and advanced to the NCAA's Sweet Sixteen. And rookie coach Jamie Dixon, who many had thought was not ready for the job, was named Big East Coach of the Year.

That extraordinary start was a sign of the good things to come, because Jamie just kept building. In every one of his

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# Chancellor's 2011 Staff Awards Announced



James P. Gallagher

Christine E. Miller

Bryan M. Valentine

Marian E. Wencil-Tracey

Kazi Islam

David W. Nanz

Laurie A. Sallows

Dorothy Shallenberger

Kathleen Sidorovich

By Alex Russell

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg has announced the winners of the 2011 Chancellor's Awards for Staff for Excellence in Service to the Community and to the University.

The Award for Staff for Excellence in Service to the Community recognizes staff members whose work in the community surpasses the expectations of the organizations they serve and whose commitment and effort have made significant impacts on the community. The four award recipients are:

**James P. Gallagher**, research systems manager for the School of Dental Medicine;  
**Christine E. Miller**, administrative assistant, Department of Health and Physical Activity in the School of Education;  
**Bryan M. Valentine**, director of student life at the University of Pittsburgh at

Johnstown; and

**Marian E. Wencil-Tracey**, assistant to the executive director of enrollment management at the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville.

The Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the University recognizes staff members who not only exceed job standards and expectations in performing their duties but also make a significant impact on the University through their commitment and performance. The following five Pitt staff members were chosen to receive the award:

**Kazi Islam**, manager of Peptide Synthesis Core Facilities, Center for Bioengineering;  
**David W. Nanz**, officer, University of Pittsburgh Police Department;  
**Laurie A. Sallows**, office administrator, Office of General Counsel;  
**Dorothy Shallenberger**, administrator, Department of Music; and  
**Kathleen Sidorovich**, financial research administrator, Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences.

All award recipients' names were recognized during Pitt's Feb. 25 Honors Convocation. Each awardee will receive a \$2,500 cash prize and have his or her name added to a plaque displayed in the William Pitt Union that is inscribed with the names of all recipients of the Chancellor's Awards.

#### Public Service to the Community

The award selection committee was impressed by the more than 20 years of service that **Gallagher** has given to the Boy Scouts of America and, more specifically, to Troop 296. In addition to the time he devotes to weekly troop meetings, weekend

activities, and a two-week summer camping trip, **Gallagher** also serves on the Steel District Training Committee and is actively involved in mentoring Scout leaders. "However, perhaps your greatest impact has been the work you have done that has helped more than 300 young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout," the chancellor wrote in his notification letter to **Gallagher**. "It is no wonder, then, that you are known as 'the heart and soul of Troop 296,'" Nordenberg added.

**Miller** particularly impressed the selection committee with her devotion to the Crescent Hills Civic Association and to making her neighborhood a better place. The committee praised the many hours she contributed to anti-litter campaigns, including work with her local school district to engage students and teachers in statewide and local clean-up days and to encourage the addition to the school curriculum of a waste management program. Nordenberg, in his congratulatory letter to **Miller**, he was particularly pleased to learn that **Miller** successfully lobbied to have Penn Hills included as one of the communities visited by Pitt students on "Pitt Make a Difference Day," and that she actively participates alongside them. In addition to serving her own community, she devotes herself to Pitt's Volunteer Pool, including work for Pitt's "Day of Caring" and "Christmas Day at Pitt."

Nordenberg said the award selection committee was impressed by **Valentine's** dedication and commitment to Habitat for Humanity. "Through your role as director of student life, you have been very active in encouraging Pitt-Johnstown students to become involved with Habitat. In that same

**The Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the University recognizes staff members who not only exceed job standards and expectations in performing their duties but also make a significant impact on the University through their commitment and performance.**

vein, Committee members were particularly impressed by your personal involvement in not only building houses, but also in recruiting and coordinating volunteers—including staff and faculty, as well as students." **Valentine** also serves as president and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Westmoreland Habitat for Humanity Chapter. **Edward D. Ford**, the former president of the Westmoreland organization, wrote in his nomination letter that "Under [Bryan's] leadership, the formerly floundering board of directors became a cohesive unit, dedicated to eliminating poverty housing and homelessness in Western Pennsylvania." **Valentine** previously received the Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the University, in 2005.

**Wencil-Tracey** was honored for her

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**The Award for Staff for Excellence in Service to the Community recognizes staff members whose work in the community surpasses the expectations of the organizations they serve and whose commitment and effort have made significant impacts on the community.**

## UPCI Plans March 10 Cancer Genomics Symposium

By Alex Russell

The University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) will hold a full-day symposium, "Cancer Genomics and the Impact of Next-Generation Sequencing," on March 10 in the Herberman Conference Center, UPMC Cancer Pavilion, UPMC Shadyside, 5150 Centre Ave.

**Nancy E. Davidson**, director of UPCI and UPMC Cancer Centers and an internationally renowned expert in breast cancer research and treatment, will deliver the introductory remarks for the March 10 event, the second of three symposia celebrating UPCI's 25th Anniversary.

Topics and presenters for the March 10 symposium organized by **Michael Becich**, chair and professor, Department of Biomedical Informatics, follow.

• "Mining the Cancer Methylome," **Peter W. Laird**, associate professor and

director, USC Epigenome Center, University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine, Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center;



Nancy E. Davidson

• "Adventures in the Cancer Genome," **Richard K. Wilson**, director, The Genome Center at Washington University in St. Louis;

• "Whole Genome Approaches to Identify Pharmacogenomic Markers in Oncology," **M. Eileen Dolan**, professor of medicine in the Section of Hematology/Oncology at the University of Chicago;

• "Personalized Genomic Analyses of Human Cancer," **Victor E. Velculescu**, associate professor of oncology and director of cancer genetics for the Ludwig Center at Johns Hopkins, co-director of cancer biology at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center;

• "Personalized Genomic Medicine: The Future is Now," **Mark S. Boguski**, associate professor, Center for Biomedical Informatics, Harvard Medical School, and the Department of Pathology in Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; and

• "Structural Rearrangements in Breast Cancer Genomes," **Adrian V. Lee**, visiting professor of pharmacology and chemical biology, director for the Womens Cancer Research Center at UPCI and Magee-Womens Research Institute.

The event is free and is open to Pitt faculty, students, and staff. For more information and to register, visit [www.upci.upmc.edu/symposia/cancer\\_genomics/](http://www.upci.upmc.edu/symposia/cancer_genomics/) or call 412-623-3205. Deadline to register is March 3.

The final symposium will be held on May 5 and is titled "Personalized Medicine, in Honor of Jeffery Shogan, MD." **Shogan (MED '82)**, who died in January 2010 at age 56, was a clinical professor of medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine and the director of business services and chief business officer for UPMC Cancer Centers.

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# BlackHistoryMonth

Community, Family Ties

## Common Pleas Judge Joseph K. Williams III Crafts a Life Based Upon Preparation and Opportunity



Judge Joseph K. Williams III

By Jane-Ellen Robinet

The hallways leading to the courtroom of Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Judge Joseph K. Williams III offer a cacophony of human drama: lawyers talking in hushed tones on cell phones, young parents struggling to keep bored toddlers under control, handcuffed defendants heading to trial with a police officer on either side, worried family members anxiously waiting for their case to be called.

But enter Williams' office just off his courtroom, and the tone is quiet, orderly—quite a contrast to the human free-for-all outside. Many of the office decorations represent the 160 years of Williams family history in the Manchester area on Pittsburgh's North Side, and of the solid upbringing he received there. Art work—including a lithograph of the Saint-Gaudens Civil War sculpture of the Massachusetts 54th Infantry from his grandfather's vestibule, another of Market Square during the 1950s, as well as a pen-and-ink work by the recently deceased Pittsburgh artist, T-More—adorns the walls. All of art, Williams said, helps him to keep his “perspective of the world I came from.” An elegant Diamond Bijan Kurdish carpet cushions the surface of an immaculate mahogany desk that features a clock, some neatly stacked notes, a pen, and a Bible, open to Ecclesiastes 3:1: “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven ...”

Williams laughs heartily when asked whether he reads his Bible often. “I read it a lot more since I’ve become a judge,” he says quickly, adding

that he was reading Ecclesiastes recently as he reflected upon his birthday. “I get introspective around my birthday each year ... I assess the issues that are important to me. I start measuring where I am on some type of meter.”

By just about anyone's measurement, though, Williams has excelled. Born and raised in Manchester with three brothers and two sisters, Williams grew up in a house on Decatur Street, an alleyway that also was called home (at different times) by Common

Pleas Judge Michael E. McCarthy and Pennsylvania Superior Court Senior Judge Robert E. Colville. The Williams home housed an extended family, with relatives and friends coming, staying, and going all the time. And in a twist of familial fate, Williams' paternal grandfather worked as a janitor in the Allegheny County Courthouse, cleaning the floors of what would one day become Williams' courtroom. Williams' father was

a building engineer in the Federal Building, just a few blocks away, on Grant Street, Downtown.

“Each time I put my robe on, I’m putting it on for the three of us,” Williams says.

Living in a working-class neighborhood with hardworking parents, Williams attended the Pittsburgh Public Schools. A turning point in his academic life came early and incredibly: In 10th grade, he won an academic scholarship that allowed him to attend Yale University during his junior and senior years of high school.

It was 1968, and Williams left a politically charged Manchester to head northeast to New Haven. For an African American teenager from Manchester, going to Yale “was such a change of scenes and a

change of my reality. For the first time, I began to see what I could do,” Williams says. His professors included, among others, *Roots* author Alex Haley and A. Bartlett Giamatti, a well-known scholar and professor of comparative literature who went on to become nationally renowned as president of Yale and then Commissioner of Baseball. Truman Capote was frequently sighted on campus.

“It was at Yale that I learned for the first time that ‘luck’ happens when preparation and opportunity converge,” he said. It was one of many sayings from his father, Joseph Williams Jr., that still stick with the judge today.

Williams returned to Pittsburgh after finishing high school at Yale; he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh, respectively. In 1985, he graduated from Duquesne University School of Law.

The path leading from law school to his 2008 donning of judicial robes included devoting 24 years to a private, Manchester-based legal practice, marrying and moving out to a farm in Verona 22 years ago to raise his

family, and pursuing a host of volunteer work and personal hobbies. Williams has developed several historically significant properties in Manchester, including an 1884 Queen Anne home, which housed his legal offices on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Chateau Street. He is also a collector of Persian and Caucasian carpets and was once a serious dog breeder and competitor in the international dog sport of Schutzhund (testing and training dogs for police-type work). His expertise and dedication to the latter helped him pay his way through law school.

Williams took the oath of office for his judgeship on Nov. 10, 2008, after he was appointed by then-Governor Edward Rendell to fill an unexpired term on the Court of Common Pleas. In November 2009, Williams was elected to a 10-year term and continues to serve on the Criminal Division bench.

He said that serving on the bench “feels very natural and as though all the pieces have come together.”

The teachings of his parents and grandparents have given Williams an unerring sense of right and wrong. “My father used to tell me that ‘you have to move to the light. No matter what people do to maintain the status quo, you have the responsibility to do what’s fair and just.’”

A lifetime of legal work and observing life itself have shown him the frailty in us all—and the amazing ability of some to recover from bad mistakes. Williams said he frequently tells defendants standing before his bench that “we all fall down from time to time. But the issue is: ‘Do you learn from it?’ Some of us learn from falling, others curl up in a fetal position and stay down for the rest of their lives.”

Meanwhile, outside the quiet retreat of Williams' office, the courtroom is filling up. He gets up from his desk, gathers his robe, and heads through a side door into the cacophony that awaits: attorneys talking to his clerks, families whispering among themselves, and everyone waiting anxiously for the judge to be seated at the bench.



Williams' courthouse office is filled with personal keepsakes, including artwork that the judge said keeps him mindful of his family roots in Manchester. Above, a painting of Market Square during the 1950s; right, a pen-and-ink work by the late T-More that was a gift from an owner of the Hill District's Crawford Grille.



# Pitt Honors 290 Scholar-Athletes During Feb. 21 Annual Breakfast

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The Top Men's Academic Award for the second year in a row was the men's soccer team, boasting a collective 2.89 GPA. The women's tennis team earned the Top Women's Team and Overall Team award for the first time ever. The team recorded an impressive 3.32 GPA overall, with seven members earning a 3.5 GPA or better and three earning a 4.0 GPA.

## PERFECT 4.0 GPA AWARDS

### Baseball

Philip Konieczny

### Cheer and Dance Team

Kellyn Black, Ben Rubino, Allison Sanders, and Lauren Zammerilla

### Football

Aaron Hassett and Daniel Schneider

### Gymnastics

Krista Rubini

### Men's Swimming and Diving

Jonathan Buchanan, Rousseau Kluever, and Pierre-Antoine Meunier

### Men's Track and Field

Bradley Rocco and Samson Weiser

### Softball

Alyssa O'Connell

### Tennis

Elizabeth Adams, Kimmy Borza, and Minh Evans

### Women's Swimming and Diving

Sarah Looney  
Cookie McIntyre  
Kristen McMullan

### Women's Track and Field

Kaitlyn Flynn and Leah Ulizio

### Women's Soccer

Morie Kephart

### Volleyball

Meagan Dooley

### Wrestling

Ryan Tomei

## GOLD AWARDS (3.5-4.0 GPA)

### Baseball

Matt Iannazzo, David Kaye, Philip Konieczny, and Kevan Smith

### Men's Basketball

Ashton Gibbs, J.J. Richardson, and Nick Rivers

### Women's Basketball

Abigail Dowd and Kate Popovec

### Cheer and Dance Team

Kellyn Black, Juliana Bursic, Chelsie Conn, Brittany Ferrone, Jillian Grossman, Cathryn Hoel, Brittany Jackson, Nicole Jackson, Erin Kenny, Marissa Lee, Kyle Loftus, Alyssa Miller, Kayla Missigman, Ben Rubino, Iovanna Ritter, Allison Sanders, Hannah Scrim, Adam Slabicki, Tiana Smith, Kristin Weir, Zara Wroblewski, and Lauren Zammerilla

### Football

Pat Bostick, Myles Caragein, Pat Costello, John Fieger, Kolby Gray, Kevin Harper, Aaron Hassett, Dan Schneider, Mike Shanahan, Andrew Taglianetti, Tyler Tkach, Christopher Yankoski, and Tyler Yonchiuk

### Women's Gymnastics

Alyssa Adrian, Danielle Bryan, Jennifer Liberato, Molly Moyer, Krista Rubini, Lisa Taylor, and Sarah Thompson

### Men's Soccer

Justin Boehm, Orane Gordon, Andrew Kalas, Daniel Mark, Zachary Matthews, and Joe Prince-Wright

### Women's Soccer

Abigail Baldys, Lauren Berbert, Alison Finch, Ashley Habbel, Morie Kephart, Katheryn Kunugi, Katelyn Lippert, Emily Peters, Kristina Rioux, Katelyn Ruhe, and Morgan Sharick

### Softball

Ciera Damon, Keli Gaynor, Alyssa O'Connell, Reba Tutt, and Kayla Zinger

### Men's Swimming and Diving

Jonathan Buchanan, Andrzej Dubiel, Charles Hauser, Rousseau Kluever,

## PITT'S 4.0 SCHOLAR ATHLETES



Seated, from left, Kimmy Borza (tennis), Sarah Looney (swimming and diving), Cookie McIntyre (swimming and diving), Kristen McMullan (swimming and diving), Minh Evans (tennis), Lauren Zammerilla (cheer and dance) and Kellyn Black (cheer and dance). Standing, from left, are Pitt Alumni Association President Jack Smith, Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia Beeson, Ben Rubino (cheer and dance), Dan Schneider (football), Aaron Hassett (football), Leah Ulizio (track and field), Kaitlyn Flynn (track and field), Philip Konieczny (baseball), Brad Rocco (track and field), Pierre-Antoine Meunier (swimming and diving), Rousseau Kluever (swimming and diving), Elizabeth Adams (tennis), and Pitt Athletics Director Steve Pederson. Not pictured are: Jonathan Buchanan (swimming and diving), Meagan Dooley (volleyball), Morie Kephart (soccer), Krista Rubini (cheer and dance), Allison Sanders (cheer and dance), Ryan Tomei (wrestling) and Samson Weiser (track and field).

Adam Maczewski, David McLaren, Hussein Mohamed, Geoffrey Morgan, Pierre-Antoine Meunier, and Charles Zettel

### Women's Swimming and Diving

Victoria Alland, Sophie Cross, Emily DeStefano, Allison Horvath, Ryann Kishbaugh, Veronica Lee, Tamara Lelli, Sara Looney, Tiff any Malatesta, Lauren Matevish, Lisa McDonnell, Cookie McIntyre, Kristen McMullan, Beth Newell, Megan Sisko, Elena Spak, Sara Sullivan, Caitlin Trant, Yolandi Van Der Merwe, and Yolandi Van Rooyen

### Men's Track and Field/Cross Country

Chase Broussard, Vincent DePalma, Kyle Kaminski, Garrett Larkin, Maka Mudekunye, Bradley Rocco, Samson Weiser, and Patrick Wylie

### Women's Track and Field/Cross Country

Janelle Adams, Sarah Anderson, Ogadinma Anyanwu, Kathryn Bannantine, Emily Barno, Shannon Casey, Kaitlyn Flynn, Robin Gilmore, Kari Hedderick, Rachel Hess, Anita James, Lindsey Kramer, Elizabeth Kline, Amanda Kuhl, Susan Martinez, Carrie Mavrikis, Korinne Piper, Stephanie Powers, Emily Setlock, Victoria Toso, Leah Ulizio, and Kelsey Voltz

### Women's Tennis

Elizabeth Adams, Kimmy Borza, Adela Aprodu, Melissa Bostwick, Minh Evans, Jocelyn Lu, and Karma Parbhu

### Women's Volleyball

Meagan Dooley, Lauren Hartman, Allyson Hodnik, Rachel Kalberer, Tara Rohall, Melissa Stadelman, and Amy Town

### Wrestling

Christian Fagan, Zachary Grove, Donald Tasser, Ryan Tomei, and Tyler Wilps

## BLUE AWARDS (3.0-3.49 GPA)

### Baseball

Ray Black, David Chester, Jonathan Danielczyk, Anthony DeFabio, Zach Duggan, Lucas Ellex, Chris Harner, Brad Lalli, Jeff Kelly, J. R. Leonardi, John Schultz, Josh Smith, Travis

Whitmore, and Derik Wilson

### Men's Basketball

Gilbert Brown, Tim Frye, Aron Nwankwo, Lamar Patterson, Dante Taylor, Austin Wallace, and Cameron Wright

### Women's Basketball

Chelsea Cole, Kyra Dunn, Selena Nwude, and Shayla Scott

### Cheer and Dance Team

Nicolette Benick, Joe Bickel, Hannah Brady, Katie Casella, Brianna Clare, Amanda Eggert, Dorinda Fella, Justin Gilbert, Katie Hall, Caylen Harris, Olivia Heidenfelder, Emma Holmes, Jessica Litten, Caitlyn McCann, Corey McMillen, Danielle Narlesky, Brianna Norris, Michael Nuzzo, Fallon O'Donnell, Madisyn Pina, Brittany Post, Michelle Proviano, Kajsa Siewczak, Brooke Slemmons, Jeralyn Smith, Alyssa Standlee, Anna Sweeney, Caitlin Timoney, Kyle Yurkewicz, and Julie Wislie

### Football

Kevin Barthelemy, Jeremiah Davis, Dom DeCicco, T. J. Clemmings, Jacob Delmonico, Jarred Holley, Henry Hynoski, Andrew Janocko, Adam Lazenga, John Malecki, Chris Mike, Randel Morris, Marco Pecora, Tristan Roberts, Tino Sunseri, Joseph Trebitz, Kristopher Wildman, Manny Williams, Matt Yoklic, and Brett Zuck

### Women's Gymnastics

Kelsey Ainsworth, Mallory Brewer, Jessica Byich, Kori Macdonald, Shannon McConnell, Laura Rigney, Shannon Vafiadou, and Amy Varela

### Men's Soccer

Wils Alpern, Matt Baker, Alex Betancourt, Terence Boland, Andrew Clifford, John Cordier, Alex Fischetti, Keegan Gunderson, Sam Luff y, Connor Malone, Ethan Talbott, and Michael Whitaker

### Women's Soccer

Klarissa Ames, Danielle Benner, Elizabeth Carroll, Kathleen Caslin, Ashley Cuba, Alexandra Jaffe, Morgan Masci, and Lyndsay Pierson

### Softball

Ashley Amistade, Cory Berliner,

Kristen Cheesebrew, Niki Cognigni, Courtney Derus, Amanda Heitmeier, Kelly Hmiel, Jessica Rhodunda, and Krista Rodgers

### Men's Swimming and Diving

Christoph Berger, Aidan Considine, Jonathan Du, Jason Erdeljac, Collin Forner, Zane McLain, and Jacob Van Roekel

### Women's Swimming and Diving

Laura Barnes, Megan Bender, Kimberlee Cadell, Kimberly Ciotti, Kelsey DiGilio, Brittany DiSanti, Alyssa Ferraro, Leah Harper, Christina Lisella, Mallory Mullady, Liz Tabor, Margaret Walker, and Leah Waltz

### Men's Track and Field/Cross Country

Andrew Cerrito, Josh Christopher, Dontave Cowsette, Kevin Hull, Folarin Ijelu, Gregory Kareis, Idris Kasumu, Dan Kwiatkowski, Jermaine Lowery, Caleb Matthews, Edward Miller, Daniel O'Toole, Elliot Rhodes, Bryce Rupp, and Kevin Wilbank

### Women's Track and Field/Cross Country

Anyssa Barbour, Kaetlyn Brown, Brianna Broyles, Heather Calisto Marsden, Brittany Carroll, Jessica Catalano, Nicole Cherry, Kelsey Coates, Rachel Erny, Brittany Giannotti, Julia Koloski, Alyssa Kunkel, Megan Leake, Alicia Lichvar, Rachael McIntosh, Taylor Myers, Lanesha Pugh, Jacquelyn Rucker, Kari Weimerskirch, Alexis Wilder, and Ashley Woodford

### Women's Tennis

Marie Eanes-Fennelly, Brittney Russell, and Sabrina Visram

### Women's Volleyball

Margaret Acton, Alexa Campbell, Melanie Feldman, Imani Harper, Alyssa King, Maria Nicholas, and Michelle Walker

### Wrestling

Adam Counterman, Kyle Flick, Victor Konno, Tyler Nauman, Mark Powell, Troy Reaghard, Philip Sorrentino, Michael Tully, Andrew Vaughan, and Anthony Zanetta

Below: Thirty-three members of Pitt's football team who had GPA averages between 3.0 and 4.0 were honored as scholar-athletes during last week's ceremony. Among them were, from left, T.J. Clemmings, Pat Bostick, Manny Williams, and Jeremiah Davis.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PITT ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT



# Pitt: A Powerful Force in Building Brighter Tomorrows



Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

**This is the print version of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg's Winter 2011 Report to Pitt's Board of Trustees, delivered on Feb. 25.**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning, everyone. It always is great to be with you. I want to open my remarks in a somewhat different way today—by showing you a five-minute video from a program called *The Circuit*, which is sponsored by the U.S. Air Force. The segment features Micah Toll, who is a senior mechanical engineering major in our Swanson School of Engineering.

As you can tell from that clip, Micah is a very special young person. Here at Pitt, he has been a two-time winner in the Big Idea Competition sponsored by the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence in the Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration. I should note that support for this competition has been provided, from the very start, by Trustee Bob Randall and his wife, Rita. Recently, Bob and Rita made a more permanent commitment to this initiative, which is designed to stimulate and reward innovative ideas from within our student body, and it now will be known as The Randall Family Big Idea Competition. Thank you, Bob!

Returning to Micah Toll, in 2009, he

received a first-place “Big Idea” award for developing the disaster-recovery building materials featured in his profile on *The Circuit*. In that same year, he and a friend also won first place in a sustainable design contest sponsored by the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation for developing a lightweight, inexpensive, portable wind turbine that generates enough electricity to light several rooms or power appliances. They hope to sell kits so that people can build their own turbines for about \$100.

In 2010, Micah won another first-place Big Idea award for developing a kit to test for toxins in imported Chinese drywall. His kit is more accurate and far less expensive than others on the market. He also won five awards at the 2006 and 2007 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and is developing his third company, based on his design for a personal electric vehicle. Please join me in acknowledging this impressive young Pitt inventor and entrepreneur.

As I said from the outset, Micah obviously is a very special student. But what I know you have come to appreciate is that Pitt is full of students who are special in a broad range of ways. Let me give just two additional examples of very recent forms of high-level recognition.



Richard Kyle

- Richard Kyle, a third-year law student, has been named a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow. The Bosch program is designed to enhance German-American relations and transatlantic understanding. Richard was one of just 20 fellows chosen from more than 600 applicants and will spend the next year in Germany, working on commercial legal reform and international dispute resolution.

- Paulina Gonzales and James Spears, undergraduates in the School of Arts and Sciences, have been chosen to receive 2011 Woodrow Wilson-Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowships for Aspiring Teachers of Color. These fellowships help fund the completion of a master's degree in education, preparation to teach in a high-need public school, and a

three-year teaching assignment. This was the first year that Pitt was invited to nominate candidates, and Paulina and James won

two of just 25 fellowships awarded nationally.

Beyond these award winners, as I have said on many past occasions, there are countless University of Pittsburgh students who are producing prize-winning performances every day as they engage in a broad range of activities that add richness to their Pitt experiences and contribute to their overall growth. We will have the chance to recognize some of them at today's Honors Convocation.

Pitt students sit at the top of the list of our shared reasons for being so deeply committed to the work that is done here. They top that list not only because of our current respect for them, but because of our belief in their potential.

And because we regularly see that powerful potential realized in the achievements of our alumni, that faith is far from blind. Let me give two inspiring examples from just this month.

- Wen-Ta Chiu, who earned both his master's degree and his Ph.D. from our Graduate School of Public Health, was

named Taiwan's minister of health, effective Feb. 1. Dr. Chiu had been president of Taipei Medical University. He returned to campus in 2009 as a Legacy Laureate. Here, he is shown with his wife and son, who was a student in the Graduate School of Public Health at the time. Dr. Chiu's father also was a graduate of the School, making his a three-generation Pitt family.

- And just last week, it was announced that Bert O'Malley, who earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from Pitt, has been selected to receive the 2011 Ernst Schering Prize for international excellence in medicine and basic biological and chemical research. Dr. O'Malley is known as the father of molecular endocrinology and as a pioneer in the development of “team science.” His work has helped advance, among many other things, our understandings of reproduction, genetic disease, and endocrine cancers. He was named a Pitt Legacy Laureate in 2007, received the National Medal of Science in 2008, and was our Commencement speaker in 2009.

Of course, even though their records of accomplishment stand out, Dr. Chiu and Dr. O'Malley do not stand alone. Instead, they stand in the midst of the more than 277,000 living alumni of our University—a group that includes other nationally and internationally acclaimed achievers but that also



Wen-Ta Chiu; his wife, Juan; and their son, Jason, in a photo taken during the 2009 Legacy Laureate dinner at Pitt.

includes even larger numbers of people who have used the power of higher education, often in less public ways, to elevate their own lives and to contribute to the lives of those around them.

Even after more than three decades at Pitt, I regularly am amazed by the almost countless ways and often surprising locations in which our graduates are making a difference, here and in more distant locations. On Sunday, for example, I received a photograph taken at the first meeting of the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission Working Group on Child Protection, held in Moscow just last week.

The U.S. delegation was organized by Luke Dembosky, who sits just to the right of the redhead with glasses. Mr. Dembosky is a 1994 Pitt law school

graduate who has been assigned by the Department of Justice to our embassy in Moscow. The Russian delegation was led by Pavel Astakhov, who sits just to the left of the redhead with glasses. Mr. Astakhov is the national commissioner for children's rights in Russia.

Mr. Astakhov earned his Master of Laws degree at Pitt in 2002, and his stay among us could have been viewed as a form of temporary political refuge. At the time, he was under great pressure in his own country, tied to his legal defense of a Penn State professor who had been charged with espionage. That professor was convicted

*Continued from page 6*

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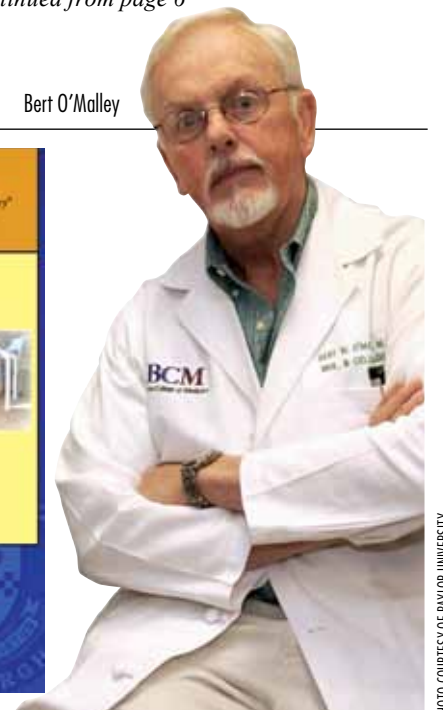
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Pitt Board of Trustees Chair Stephen R. Tritch (ENGR '71, KGSB '77), Pitt senior Micah Toll, and John A. Swanson (ENGR '66G), Pitt trustee and School of Engineering Distinguished Alumnus. Right: One of Toll's two award-winning Big Idea projects.



Bert O'Malley



# Pitt: A Powerful Force in Building Brighter Tomorrows

## PITT ALUMNI MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Luke Dembosky (J.D. '94) and Pavel Astakhov (LL.M. '02) are Pitt School of Law graduates who headed up the U.S. and Russian delegations, respectively, of the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission Working Group on Child Protection. The group held its first meeting in Moscow last week. Dembosky is seated second from right and Astakhov, fourth from right.

In Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg's remarks to the Board of Trustees on Feb. 25, he commented on the work of two Pitt law alumni who are "making a difference."

Those alumni, Luke E. Dembosky and Pavel Astakhov, were part of the first meeting of the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission Working Group on Child Protection, held in Moscow last week. The U.S. delegation was organized by Dembosky, and the Russian delegation was led by Astakhov.

Dembosky, a 1994 graduate of Pitt's School of Law, is currently fulfilling a multiyear assignment as a U.S. Department of Justice resident legal advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. In this capacity, Dembosky represents the Department of Justice to Russia on all matters of transnational crime and regularly meets with Russian law enforcement and other government officials to build cooperation between the two countries. Recently, he led the U.S. delegation in discussions of child abduction matters. Dembosky has served as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Pennsylvania, since 2002, specializing in prosecuting cybercrime and other white-collar crimes.

In December, Dembosky received the Department of Justice Director's Award for dedication to carrying out the mission of the department. Specifically, Dembosky was recognized for leading the extensive undercover, Internet-based investigation and successful prosecution of Max Ray Butler, the largest cybercrime prosecution in U.S. history to that time; Butler was sentenced in February 2010 to 13 years in federal prison and ordered to pay \$27.5 million in restitution to his victims.

Prior to working for the Department of Justice, Dembosky served as a law clerk for the Honorable Richard L. Nygaard of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and practiced at the law firm of Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin in Philadelphia.

Dembosky earned his undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1990.

High-profile Russian attorney Astakhov is a 2002 graduate of the Pitt School of Law Center for International Legal Education's LL.M. Program for Foreign Law Graduates. In 2009, Astakhov was appointed children's rights commissioner for the president of the Russian Federation. He is leading talks with the United States on the future of U.S. adoptions of Russian children. The talks partially stem from the public case of a Tennessee nurse who returned her adopted seven-year-old son to Russia.

Astakhov appears on three Russian television legal-education programs, including *Hour of Judgment*, which is similar to *The People's Court* in America; he also runs a legal-aid center linked to the show. He is the author of more than 35 books about law and at least five novels.

"Pavel is the ultimate legal entrepreneur," Pitt law professor Ronald Brand said of Astakhov in a May 2, 2010, *Washington Post* article. Brand, recently named Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair, also said that students from Russia often say that Astakhov "probably has done more to help ordinary people in Russia understand the rule of law than anybody else."

Astakhov is a 2001 recipient of the Merited Lawyer of Russia award, given to only a handful of lawyers by the Moscow Bar Association's Russian Lawyers Guild to recognize service on behalf of human rights protection. Fluent in five languages, Astakhov is a member of the Moscow Bar Association and the American Society of International Law.

In 2000, Astakhov defended Edmond Pope, a former U.S. naval intelligence officer and American businessman who was convicted of espionage in Russia. Pope's account of his 253-day incarceration in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison before being pardoned from a sentence of 20 years at hard labor was published in the book *Torpedoed* (Little, Brown, and Company, 2001). —By Patricia Lomando White

but then pardoned—a sequence of events not unusual in the Russian criminal system. Mr. Astakhov then came here to get away, to study and to reshape his career, something that he has successfully done. Before leaving campus, as a sign of his gratitude to the University, he presented me with his own oil painting of the Cathedral of Learning.

Examples of alumni who are making a difference, whether those examples come from the halls of government in Moscow or the neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, help fuel our passion for higher education. And over the course of our long history, state government has embraced and helped advance that special mission.

Back at the time of our founding, the preamble to the Act of Feb. 28, 1787, which established our first charter, declared that "the education of youth ought to be a primary object with every government." And 45 years ago, when Pitt became a state-related university, the Commonwealth assumed a new, and more central, role in supporting our high-quality programs of higher education.

Unfortunately, as we have discussed on many past occasions, that support has eroded significantly over an extended period of time—with our appropriation representing more than 30 percent of the University's budget in the mid-1970's, less than 20 percent by the mid-1990's, and just under 10

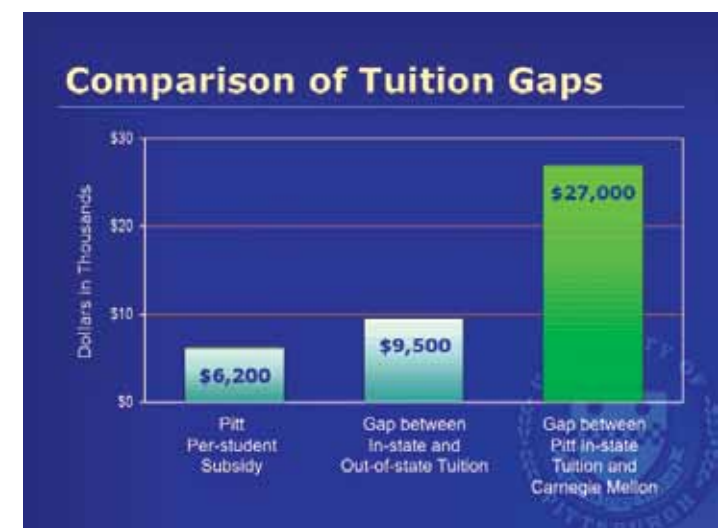
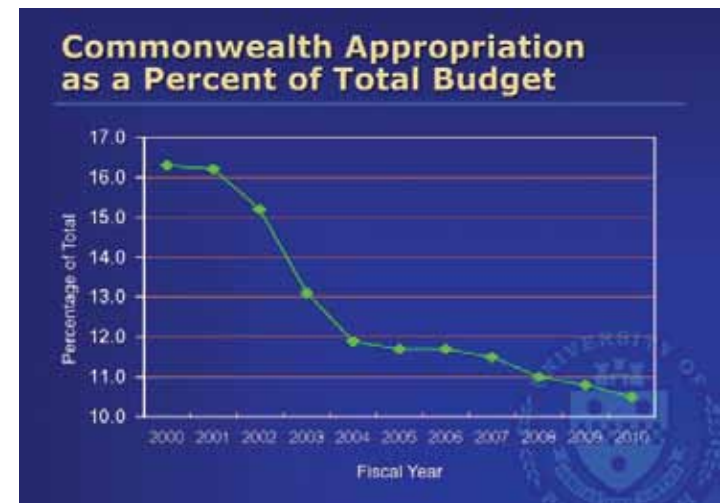
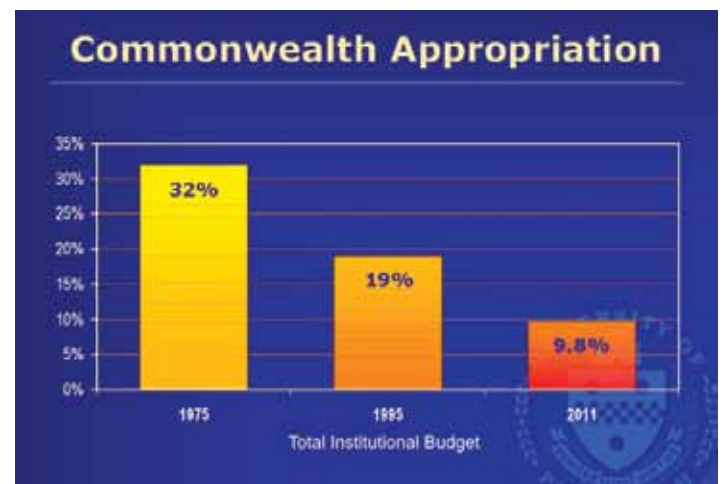
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percent today. The last eight years were particularly difficult—with inflation rising by more than 20 percent, state spending increasing by close to 40 percent, and state support for basic education climbing by more than 60 percent, but with support for higher education remaining flat.

Let me revisit a calculation—which, though rough, accurately advances a basic point. Our general appropriation is about \$164.5 million. If that admittedly large amount—in its entirety and with no reductions for the overhead contributions envisioned in 1966 or any other adjustments of that type—is divided by 26,500, the total number of in-state students enrolled at Pitt, the result is about \$6,200. That might, then, be viewed as the high-end calculation of a per-student, in-state subsidy, provided principally to keep resident tuition down.

That is a sizeable number. However, the tuition currently charged for an in-state undergraduate student enrolled in the School of the Arts and Sciences is about \$14,100, while the tuition currently charged for an out-of-state undergraduate student enrolled in the School of the Arts and Sciences



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is more than \$23,700. That is a difference of about \$9,600, or more than 1.5 times that attributed subsidy.

But the difference becomes even more stark when viewed in its true historical context. In that regard, it is important to remember that the essence of the mid-1960's agreement between the state and Pitt was that state support would be provided in amounts sufficient to enable Pitt to charge in-state students less than the private university tuition that it had been charging to that point. It would seem most directly relevant, then, to compare Pitt's in-state tuition to the tuition charged by its private peers.

Pennsylvania is the home to four AAU research universities. Two—Pitt and Penn State—are public, and two—Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pennsylvania—are private.

At CMU, undergraduate tuition for the current academic year is \$41,500. That is almost three times higher than Pitt's in-state charge. And the single-year dollar gap between CMU's private-university tuition and Pitt's in-state tuition is more than \$27,000, almost enough to pay for two years of in-state tuition at Pitt.

It is harder to compare Penn, which adds a very large general fee to its stated tuition charge. But however one sorts that out more precisely, Penn's charges, too, are more than \$40,000—over \$25,000 more than Pitt's in-state tuition and more than four times larger than the attributed subsidy.

Put most simply, what that means is that Pitt has consistently delivered on its end of that 1966 understanding—to keep in-state tuition comparatively lower. To be clear, our in-state tuition is high by public university standards, and we know that it presents challenges for some families. However, the differences between in-state and out-of-state tuition and public- and private-university tuition are essentially tied to the level of public subsidy. That is the essence of being a public university. And by that measure,

because our subsidy is relatively low, we have done very well.

Unfortunately, the erosion of state support almost certainly is going to get even worse, for public universities and for their students, during the year ahead. That, I should make clear, is a product of the revenue and expense structure inherited by Governor Corbett. To state the obvious, the \$4 billion budget deficit that Pennsylvania now faces was not created by our new governor during his first few weeks in office, even though he and his team must now deal with it.

Their lack of fault, though, will not make life any easier for those who will be adversely affected by the cuts to come, and that unfortunate group almost certainly will include Pennsylvania's public research universities and their students. To express even more directly a point earlier made, the University of Pittsburgh did not benefit by a single dollar from the run-up in state spending in recent years. In fact, because some costs traditionally borne by the state were shifted to the federal government, the current investment of state dollars in Pitt actually is lower than it was eight years ago. However, large portions of the state budget cannot be meaningfully reduced, at least in the short-term—so, fair or not, we almost certainly will be expected to help balance the state budget.

What is not clear—in Washington or in Harrisburg—is what priorities will shape either the size of these looming cuts or the longer-term recovery from them. As one legislative leader said to me last week, when you are facing a \$4 billion budget deficit, there are no good choices. That almost certainly is true. However, there are better choices—or at least “less bad” choices—and it needs to be remembered that even short-term cuts can have long-term consequences.

To frame the responsibilities of government in everyday terms, it has become customary, particularly for those most committed to deficit reduction, to draw an analogy to the basic constraint faced by every family—the need to live within its means. But the comparison almost always stops at that point, without encompassing the even

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**In the 1960's, the Commonwealth became an active partner in creating broader access to higher education. Its commitment, over time, was reflected in a range of actions—involving not only the state-related universities, but also community colleges, the State System of Higher Education, and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. The direct beneficiaries of these actions were the young people of my generation and their parents. I wonder how many of us have forgotten about those boosts as we retreat from the responsibility to make such opportunities available, on roughly equivalent terms, to the young people of today, including those who are less fortunate.**

more telling aspects of the analogy—the values that shape family priorities and the parental struggles to advance those priorities once they have been set.

The families whose approaches to life we traditionally have honored are those in which the highest parental priority is helping to build the foundation for better lives for their daughters and sons—their next generation. Moving this a bit “closer to home,” as a society, we always have celebrated, in particular, the efforts of parents who sacrifice spending on themselves, or who find ways to generate more family income by taking on additional work, in order to provide their children with a college education.

Today, the application of the family analogy to governmental budgets rarely seems to reach that second stage. Elected officials do regularly say that we cannot, in good conscience, leave our children and

grandchildren to deal with the crushing government debt that continues to grow, and it would be hard for anyone to disagree with that. But comparatively little attention is paid to the crushing personal debts that may be incurred by many members of our society's next generation if public support for public higher education is further slashed. It also is rare for there to be any express acknowledgment of the fact that our children and grandchildren collectively will be less well equipped to deal with the world that we leave them if public higher education moves beyond the means of large segments of society.

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Of course, as noted, this is not just a matter of supporting the educational aspirations of individual citizens. It also is a matter of building collective strength, because Pennsylvania itself has been a major beneficiary of its investments in higher education.

In arguing for the creation of an academy in Pittsburgh some 225 years ago, our founder observed that “the strength of a state greatly consists in the superior mental powers of its inhabitants.” Whatever may have been the case in those frontier days, we all know how true that statement is today. And we also see tangible benefits that flow directly from the higher-education enterprise

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# Pitt: A Powerful Force in Building Brighter Tomorrows

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and extend beyond the general benefits of a well-educated citizenry.

Among other things,

- they include an education and health services sector that is the largest and fastest-growing employment super-sector in the Pittsburgh region;

- they include five vibrant campuses that are economic anchors in their home communities of Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville, as well as Pittsburgh; and

- they include the impact of Pitt as a research powerhouse that attracts four dollars in research funding for every one dollar of state appropriation (probably an unequaled return on state investment) and that is recognized as a primary source of the ideas that will define our economic future.

As important as building the economy of the future may be, these research initiatives also have the potential to produce other benefits that can only be described as amazing. Think, for example, about the headlines from last week—announcing that Pitt researchers would receive nearly \$7 million in federal support over the next three years to test two different types of brain implants designed to advance work that would permit paralyzed individuals, including “wounded warriors,” to control prosthetic limbs through the power of their own thoughts. As we think about the world that we would like to leave to the next generation, are we really prepared

**However, it also is important to remember that we really are in the future-building business. By the work that we do with our students, we equip them to build their own futures while advancing the greater good. And through our research and public service missions, we contribute in unique and meaningful ways to the progress of our home communities and to the building of a better world.**

**For 224 years, Pitt has been a powerful force in building brighter futures. As we move further into a new century characterized by a rapidly changing and highly competitive world and faced with the need to nurture a vibrant society and to rebuild a strong and sustainable economy, Pennsylvania cannot afford to let that light go dim.**

to say, as a society, that work of this type will no longer be a priority?

Abraham Lincoln, who had a few problems of his own to deal with as a highly placed elected official, once said, “The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.” In moving through what looms as a succession of difficult days, those words may occasionally be a source of comfort, as we meet some of our big challenges by breaking them down and tackling them one piece at a time.

However, it also is important to remember that we really are in the future-building business. By the work that we do with our students, we equip them to build their own futures while advancing the greater good. And through our research and public service missions, we contribute in unique and meaningful ways to the progress of our home communities and to the building of a better world.

As we engage, not only as discussants but also as advocates, in conversations regarding the priorities that will shape more limited public investments in the years ahead, I suggest that we return, again and again, to the wisdom of Benjamin Franklin. The man whom many consider to be the greatest Pennsylvanian of all once said, “An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”

More than two centuries of intervening history have shown that Mr. Franklin was right about his civic investment strategy, just as he was right about so many other things. And what we know about Pitt’s recent history, more specifically, adds 21st-

century meaning to Franklin’s 18th-century advice. Pioneering research advances, public service initiatives of impact, and what our bicentennial biographer described as “an annual harvest of young people admirably trained to earn a living, to make a contribution to their community, their profession, and their country” have become broadly recognized and widely respected hallmarks of our University.

Efforts to further develop these qualities tie directly back to the statement of aspiration, publicly adopted by this Board more than a decade ago. Though you probably need no reminders, this, in part, is what we said then:

*Our overarching goal is to be among the best in all that we do. . . . By aggressively supporting the advancement of Pitt’s academic mission, we will clearly and consistently demonstrate that this is one of the finest and most productive universities in the world.*

We have traveled an enviable distance in our pursuit of that never-ending goal, even though the path that we have traveled rarely has been easy. As we face what could

be our most significant set of challenges yet, I look forward to pushing ahead with you and with all of the other groups that have been such significant contributors to the progress that has been a well-earned source of pride here at Pitt—faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends.

As we do move forward, I have no “Lincoln-esque” or “Franklin-like” wisdom to offer, but I do have a well-developed sense of recent Pitt history. That recent history began with Pitt in a deep hole. It was not easy, but we managed to climb out of it. And, then, we continued climbing higher and higher, whatever challenges came our way. I have no doubt, then, that we will continue to find ways to further elevate the quality and enhance the impact of Pitt, even in the face of emerging challenges.

However, as we enter a new era of government, we can only hope that our leaders not only find ways to shrink our accumulated budget deficits, which we know they must do, but also find ways to help us secure the dreams that are the key to our shared future.

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**\$737 Million**  
**in Research**  
**Fiscal Year 2010**

**Pitt Is No. 15 Among U.S. Public Universities in 2010-11 Times Higher Education World University Rankings**

**Pitt Scores in Latest Princeton Review College Guide**

**Pitt Is Again Ranked in Very Top Cluster Of America’s Public Research Universities**

**Pitt Chronicle**



# Chancellor's 2011 Staff Awards Announced

Continued from page 2

service to the March of Dimes, including serving as cochair of one of the organization's fundraising campaigns that raised close to \$500,000. "The Committee was struck by your efforts to ensure that a group of teenagers with special needs had a prom night of their own," Nordenberg wrote in his notification letter. Wencil-Tracey secured donations of a limousine from a local business and a dinner from a local resort. The chancellor added that he "was personally moved when I learned that it was not winning the award that was important to you, but, rather, you hoped that your story would inspire others to service," just as Wencil-Tracy "has inspired her own children to give back to the community."

## Public Service to the University

**Islam** was commended by the award selection committee for his extraordinary dedication to the University and his equally impressive contributions to research, particularly to the development of cancer vaccines. He was praised by many of Pitt's internationally recognized researchers for the impact he has made on the development of pioneering peptide production techniques. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has employed the quality-control standards that Islam developed for its approval of peptides for use in human clinical trials of cancer vaccines. Islam worked directly with the FDA to develop an FDA-compliant scheme for the synthesis of these peptides and was able to develop a successful protocol. The chancellor, in his Feb. 15 letter notifying Islam of his award, quoted Paul Wood, assistant director of Core Facilities, who said that "not only did the FDA deem his [Islam's] protocol valid, they also adopted his system as its standard for certified peptides." Wood added that Islam "was able to save investigators on the order of \$100,000 on every peptide taken to clinical trial."

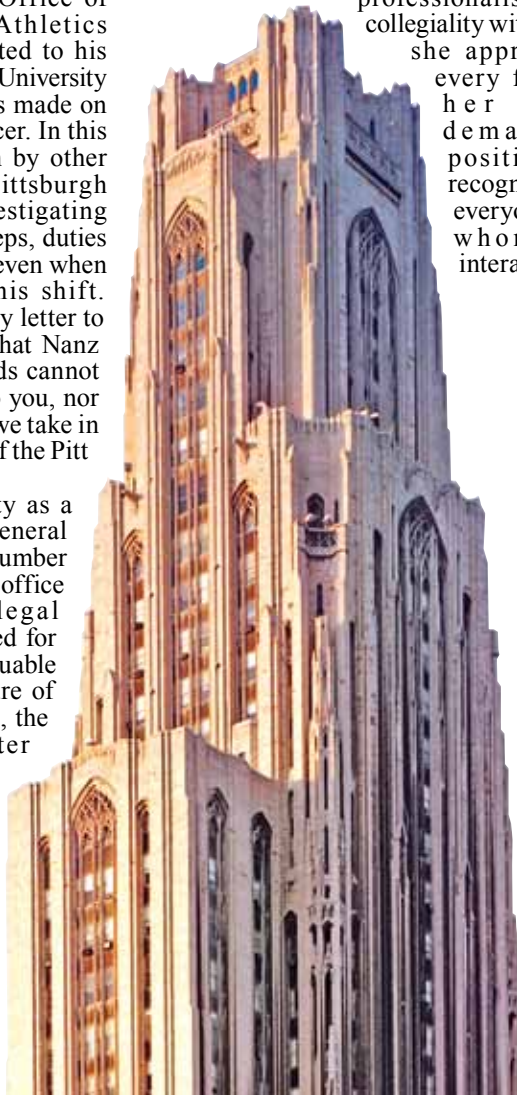
**Nanz** received letters of support for his nomination from his Pitt Police colleagues, as well as from members of the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office, the Office of General Counsel, and the Athletics Department, all of whom attested to his "above and beyond" service to the University and to the broader impact he has made on the community as Pitt's K-9 officer. In this role, Nanz is often called upon by other police forces in the greater Pittsburgh community to assist with investigating bomb threats and explosive sweeps, duties that he has been happy to fulfill even when called upon before or after his shift. Nordenberg, in his congratulatory letter to Nanz, recounted the two lives that Nanz saved in 2011, adding that "words cannot possibly express our gratitude to you, nor can words express the pride that we take in knowing that you are a member of the Pitt family."

Since joining the University as a receptionist in the Office of General Counsel, **Sallows** has received a number of promotions and now serves as office administrator and a paralegal professional. Sallows is renowned for her grace under pressure—a valuable trait, given the contentious nature of many of the matters she handles, the chancellor noted in his letter informing her of the award. "In writing in support of your nomination," he added, "Yvonne Keafer, Director of Risk Management and Insurance, noted, 'Among the attributes that set Laurie apart and make for truly "excellent" service to the University is that she sees no boundaries to her work. Anyone needing help is treated just the same—she does everything in her power to find

a solution to their problem.'"

**Shallenberger** was commended for always going the "extra mile" for the Department of Music's faculty, staff, and students. Nordenberg said the award selection committee was impressed by Shallenberger's initiative in creating the "Piano Replacement Project" after recognizing that not only were the department's pianos in disrepair, but they lacked even a single professional quality piano that could be used for performances, teaching, or practicing. She wrote grants, designed a brochure for the campaign, developed mailing lists, and personally met with patrons, eventually raising all the money required to purchase quality pianos for the department. Shallenberger also created the "Love Award" to thank individuals who have provided excellent service to the Department of Music, including computer technicians, building engineers, electricians, and piano technicians. They received certificates of thanks and cakes. "It is my pleasure, then, to have the opportunity to say 'thank you' to you, Dorothy, for your own service to the University," the chancellor wrote.

**Sidorovich** has the honor of being the only two-time winner of this award. The award selection committee said that since Sidorovich joined the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences, she has continued to build a record of exceptional service. Her willingness to share her expertise in research compliance and grant administration to anyone in the University particularly stood out. The chancellor, in his Feb. 15 letter to Sidorovich, noted that Chief Financial Officer Arthur Ramicone wrote, "She is always at the forefront of emerging issues that affect the day-to-day grant operations of the University on an operating and financial basis, and she leads any required process change implementation." Arthur Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, added, "The great dedication, professionalism, and collegiality with which she approaches every facet of her very demanding position are recognized by everyone with whom she interacts."



# Chancellor Lauds Jamie Dixon as Dapper Dan Sportsman of the Year



Coach Jamie Dixon (center) is surrounded by some of his players, including (from left) Travon Woodall, Dante Taylor, Gilbert Brown, and Ashton Gibbs.

Continued from page 1

years as our head coach, his team has won at least 20 games and has won at least 10 conference games and has played in the NCAA tournament. In 2009, to give one telling example, he broke the all-time record for the most wins by a coach in his first six seasons as a head coach, a record that had stood since 1952.

Jamie built that record, it should be noted, while coaching in the toughest conference in college basketball. If you doubt that, just check this week's coaches' poll. There are four Big East teams in the nation's top 10 and seven in the top 15. Think about that for a minute—the seventh-ranked team in the Big East is ranked in the country's top 15.

Jamie has the highest conference winning percentage of any coach in Big East history. Trailing him, in positions two through five, are John Thompson, Jim Calhoun, Jim Boeheim, and Lou Carnesecca—all Hall-of-Fame coaches. In head-to-head contests against Jim Calhoun and Jim Boeheim, the two active Hall-of-Fame coaches in the conference, his record is 16-7.

Jamie was named Naismith National Coach of the Year in 2009 and Phelan National Coach of the Year in 2010. He was head coach of USA Basketball's Under-19 Team in the 2009 World Championships and led that team to a 9-0 record and a gold medal, which had not been accomplished by a U.S. team at that age level in nearly 20 years. For that achievement, he also was named USA Basketball's National Coach of the Year.

Jamie was an all-conference player and also earned all-academic honors at Texas Christian University. He remains a YouTube sensation for a half-court shot he made to beat Texas. He was voted TCU's Senior Male Scholar-Athlete and has been inducted into that University's athletic hall of fame.

In addition to receiving his bachelor's degree in finance from TCU, Jamie earned a master's degree in economics from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is the consummate teacher-coach who is committed to the overall growth of his student-athletes.

Jamie's life has included tragedy as well as triumph. We witnessed his strength, his grace, and his vulnerability when his younger sister Maggie died, at the age of 29, shortly after the two of them had become the first brother and sister to coach their teams into the NCAA tournament in the same year. Jamie was a driving force in creating the Maggie Dixon Classic—which supports cardiac awareness and is played annually at Madison Square Garden in her memory. And Jamie has been an active advocate for a wide range of other worthy causes.

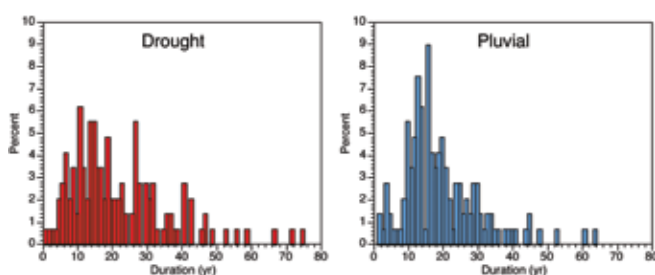
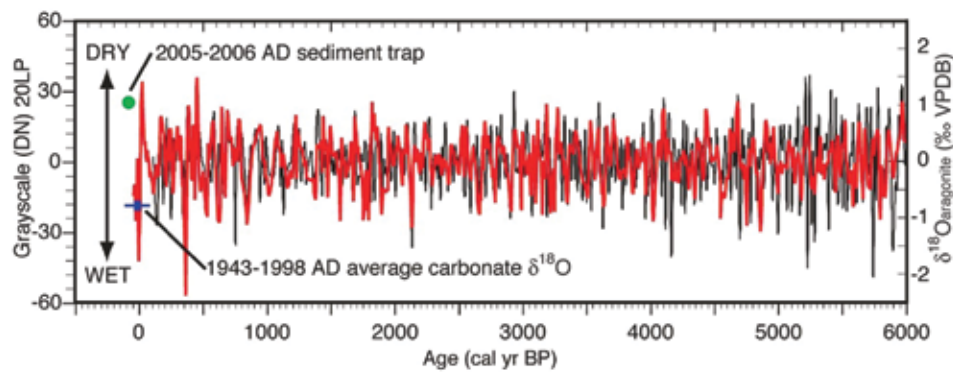
Jamie is devoted to his family. His son and daughter are fixtures at the Petersen Center for Pitt home games. I know he is pleased that his wife Jacqueline and his father Jim are both here tonight. And I suspect that we will see his mother Marge and sister Julie at the Garden next month.

Jamie and I first talked about the possibility that he might become Pitt's head coach over brunch in New Orleans during the 2003 Final Four. Among the things he said to me that morning was this: "As an assistant coach, one of my main jobs is to make the head coach look good. If you give me this opportunity, I promise that I will make the University look good." What an understatement! Jamie Dixon has made his University, his sport, and everyone around him look good—both by what he has done and by the way in which he has done it.

It is my great honor to proudly present the 2010 Dapper Dan Sportsman of the Year—University of Pittsburgh Head Men's Basketball Coach Jamie Dixon.

**Jamie was named Naismith National Coach of the Year in 2009 and Phelan National Coach of the Year in 2010. He was head coach of USA Basketball's Under-19 Team in the 2009 World Championships and led that team to a 9-0 record and a gold medal, which had not been accomplished by a U.S. team at that age level in nearly 20 years. For that achievement, he also was named USA Basketball's National Coach of the Year.**

# Pitt-Led Researchers Report 6,000-Year Climate Record Suggests Longer Droughts, Drier Wet Periods for Pacific Northwest



Above: Measurement of oxygen isotope ratios (red) and grayscale (black) arranged to show drought cycle duration and intensity with 20th-century wet period indicated.

Left: Duration of dry and wet cycles by percentage over 6,000-year period.

By Morgan Kelly

University of Pittsburgh-led researchers extracted a 6,000-year climate record from a Washington lake that shows that the famously rain-soaked American Pacific Northwest could not only be in for longer dry seasons, but also is unlikely to see a period as wet as the 20th century any time soon. In a recent report in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the team linked the longer dry spells to the intensifying El Niño/La Niña climate pattern and concluded that Western states will likely suffer severe water shortages as El Niño/La Niña wields greater influence on the region.

The researchers analyzed a sediment core from Castor Lake in north central Washington to plot the region's drought history since around 4,000 BCE and found that wet and dry cycles during the past millennium have grown longer. The team attributed this recent deviation to the irregular pressure and temperature changes brought on by El Niño/La Niña. At the same time, they reported, the wet cycle stretching from the 1940s to approximately 2000 was the dampest in 350 years.

Lead researcher Mark Abbott, a Pitt professor of geology and planetary science, said those unusually wet years coincide with the period when western U.S. states developed water-use policies. "Western states happened to build dams and water systems during a period that was unusually wet compared to the past 6,000 years," he said. "Now the cycle has changed and is trending drier, which is actually normal. It will shift back to wet eventually, but probably not to the extremes seen during most of the 20th century."

Abbott worked with his former graduate student, lead author and Pitt alumnus Daniel Nelson, as well as Pitt professor of geology and planetary science Michael Rosenmeier; Nathan Stansell, a Pitt PhD graduate now a postdoctoral researcher at Ohio State University; and Pitt geology and planetary science graduate student Byron Steinman. The team also included Pratiya Polissar, an assistant research professor at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory; Joseph Ortiz, associate professor of geology at Kent State University; Bruce Finney, a professor of geology at Idaho State University; and Jon Riedel, a geologist at North Cascades

National Park in Washington.

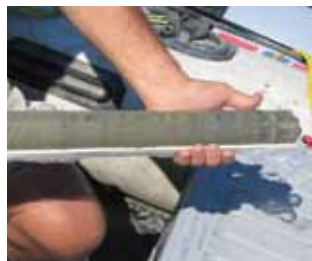
The team produced a climate record from the lake mud by measuring the oxygen isotope ratios of the mineral calcite that precipitates from the lake water every summer and builds up in fine layers on the lake floor. More calcite accumulates in wet years than in dry years. They reproduced their findings by measuring grayscale, or the color of mud based on calcite concentration, with darker mud signifying a drier year.

The record in the sediment core was then compared to the Palmer Drought Severity Index, which uses meteorological and tree-ring data to determine drought cycles dating back 1,500 years, Abbott explained. The Castor Lake core matched the Palmer Index reconstructed with tree-ring data and expanded on it by 4,500 years, suggesting that lakebeds are better records of long-term climate change, the authors contend.

Analysis of the sediment core revealed that the climate of the Pacific Northwest fluctuated more or less evenly between wet and dry periods for thousands of years, the researchers wrote. Droughts tended to be lengthier, with 25 percent of dry periods during the past 6,000 years persisting for 30 years or more and the longest lingering for around 75 years. Wet periods tended to be shorter, with only 19 percent lasting more than 30 years and the longest spanning 64 years.

But since around 1000 CE, these periods have become longer, shifted less frequently, and, most importantly, ushered in more extreme conditions, Abbott said. The two driest cycles the researchers detected out of the past 6,000 years occurred within only 400 years of each other—the first in the 1500s, and the second during the Great Depression. Wet periods showed a similar pattern shift, with five very wet eras crammed into the past 900 years. The wettest cycle of the past 6,000 years began around the 1650s, and the second-most sodden began a mere 300 years later, in the 1940s.

The change in cycle regularity Abbott and his colleagues found correlates with documented activity of El Niño/La Niña. When the patterns became more intense, wet and dry cycles in the Pacific Northwest became more erratic and lasted longer, Abbott said.



Core recovered from Castor Lake showing the fine sediment layers.

# Pitt Alumnus Bert O'Malley Awarded Ernst Schering Prize

Continued from page 1

hormones work and how their expression is regulated, which is critical to many areas of medicine, including endocrinology and cancer."

Often called the father of molecular endocrinology, O'Malley grew up in Wilkinsburg, Pa., and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1963. Before joining Baylor in 1973, he held positions at the National Institute of Child Health and Development, part of the National Institutes of Health, and at Vanderbilt University. He completed his clinical residency at Duke University Medical Center.

O'Malley is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and many awards, including the 2007 National Medal of Science. O'Malley has been elected to membership in the National Academy

of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Microbiology. He has published more than 650 papers and holds 22 patents in the fields of gene regulation, molecular endocrinology, and steroid receptor action. Established in 2002 by Schering AG, Berlin, the independent nonprofit Ernst Schering Foundation aims to promote science and art with a special focus on the natural sciences and contemporary art. In addition, the Foundation promotes the scientific and cultural education of children and youth and the dialogue between science and society.

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# Pitt Named "Best Value" University by Princeton Review

Continued from page 1

annual report for four consecutive years"; and for its Outside the Classroom Curriculum program "designed to help students systematically gain experiences in a wide range of areas that can contribute later to successful job searches."

The profile adds, "Students interested in the biological sciences in particular will have amazing opportunities to conduct hands-on research at Pitt, as the university is ranked fifth for receipt of National Institutes of Health grants for research. (It was Pitt researchers who discovered the polio vaccine.)"

According to The Princeton Review, the selection of the schools in its "Best Value Colleges for 2011" was based on academics, cost of attendance, and financial aid. "The methodology examined more than 30 factors using data from the company's surveys of administrators and students at 650 colleges with strong academic programs," The Princeton Review states in its news release announcing its lists, adding, "Most of the data analyzed came from surveys conducted from fall 2009 through fall 2010: all cost and financial aid data came from fall 2010 surveys."

Princeton Review Senior Vice President for Publishing Robert Franek said, "While a

college education is undeniably a valuable investment, paying for college is challenging for most parents. Among the 12,000 respondents to our 2010 'College Hopes & Worries Survey' of college applicants and their parents, 86 percent told us financial aid would be 'very necessary' to foot the bill. For them and for all families seeking academically outstanding colleges that have been exceptional at meeting their students' needs for financial aid, we're pleased to have teamed up with *USA Today* to identify and recommend these 100 institutions as 'Best Value' colleges."

*USA Today's* Web site features a database that allows users to view in-depth details about the schools by clicking on an interactive map to explore criteria, including cost of attendance and financial aid data, enrollment size, location, and The Princeton Review's analysis of why each school was chosen as a "Best Value" college.

The Princeton Review, which is not affiliated with Princeton University and is not a magazine, is known for its college, business, and law school rankings in several categories reported on its Web site and in its books. They are based on the company's surveys of higher education of students attending the schools.

The Princeton Review's editors commend the University for producing Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Udall, Goldwater, Churchill, and Gates Cambridge scholars; for the PITT ARTS program that "links students to cultural amenities in the city"; for holding "the distinction of being home to one of just 10 European Union Centers of Excellence in the United States funded by the European Commission"; and for "earning... a top ranking in the Top American Research Universities annual report for four consecutive years."

# Happenings



Carnegie Museum of Art,  
Paul Thek: *Diver, A Retrospective*,  
through May 1

## Concerts

**Cohen & Grigsby Trust Presents KODO**, traditional Japanese drum performance, 7:30 p.m. **March 1-2**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

**University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**, performing Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, 8 p.m. **March 2**, free concert, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

**Tortelier & The Firebird**, with conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier performing works by Stravinsky and Tower, and, with violinist Nicola Benedetti, works by Chausson and Ravel. **March 3-5**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

**T. Mitchell Bell**, blues and bluegrass, noon **March 4**, free performance, The Cup & Chaucer Café, ground floor, Hillman Library, Emerging Legends Concert Series Spring 2011, Pitt University Library System, Calliope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, www.calliopehouse.org.

**Music on the Edge: Entelechron/Music of John Cage**, 8 p.m. **March 5**, Andy Warhol Museum, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, Pitt Department of Music, Andy Warhol Museum, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

**BNY Mellon Jazz Presents Hiromi**, Japanese pianist and composer, 8 p.m. **March 5-6**, BNY Mellon Jazz, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Hall, 1815 Metropolitan St., Manchester, MCG Jazz, 412-322-0800, www.mcjjazz.org.

**Marvin Does Marvin**, showcase of Marvin Hamlisch's award-winning hits and personal journey. **March 10-13**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

**Music on the Edge: (counter) induction**, 8 p.m. **March 13**, Andy Warhol Museum, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, Pitt Department of Music, Andy Warhol Museum, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

## Exhibitions

**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.

Marvin Does Marvin,  
Heinz Hall,  
March 10-13

**Carnegie Museum of Art, Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective**, **through May 1**; *Andrey Avinoff: In Pursuit of Beauty*, **through June 5**; *You Are Here: Architecture and Experience*, **March 5-May 29**; *Ragnar Kjartansson: Song*, **March 11-Sept. 25**, 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.

## Film

**Film Series About Humanitarian Issues in Sudan, the Congo, and Chad**, *The Greatest Silence: Rape in Congo*, 7 p.m. **Feb. 28**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, with an 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.

**An Evening With Video Artist Monica Enriquez-Enriquez**, free film screening of *un/binded desire* and a director's talk, 7-9 p.m. **March 2**, Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave., East Liberty, Contemporary Queer Cinemas Public Film Series Spring 2011, Pitt Women's Studies Program, 412-624-6485, www.wstudies.pitt.edu.

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**"How to Feel as Bright and Capable as Everyone Seems to Think You Are,"** Valerie Young, internationally known workshop leader and public speaker, noon **Feb. 28**, 102 Benedum Hall, Swanson School of Engineering's Office of Diversity, 412-624-9842, eodadmin@pitt.edu.

**"The Art of Leadership,"** Pitt Trustee William Strickland, president and CEO,

Manchester Bidwell Corporation, and recently appointed member of President Obama's Council for Community Solutions, 3 p.m. **Feb. 28**, Zero Level Auditorium, Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, 300 Halket St., Oakland, Black History Month celebration, www.upmc.com, 412-641-6700.

**"Religion in India: Ancient Concepts and Current Issues,"** Milica Bakic-Hayden, visiting lecturer, Pitt-Greensburg Department of Religious Studies, 7 p.m. **Feb. 28**, 118 Village Hall, Pitt-Greensburg La Cultura Lecture Series, www.greensburg.pitt.edu.

**"Guide Principles and Explanatory Model in NS,"** José Díez, visiting scholar, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 12:05 p.m. **March 1**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Colloquium, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittctr@pitt.edu.

**Wilma Subra**, world-renowned green chemist and environmental activist, with introduction by Terrence J. Collins, Teresa Heinz Professor of Green Chemistry, Carnegie Mellon University, 7 p.m. **March 2**, Kresge Theatre, Carnegie Mellon University, Carlow University's Women's Studies and Diversity Initiative, Pitt Women's Studies Program, 412-578-6391, kjhogan@carlow.edu.

**"Saving Lives: Responding to the World's Worst Humanitarian Crises,"** speakers include John Prendergast, author and human rights activist, 6-8 p.m. **March 2**, Bricolage Theater, 937 Liberty Ave., Downtown, entry fee, World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh's Political Salon, www.worldaffairspittsburgh.org, 412-281-1259.

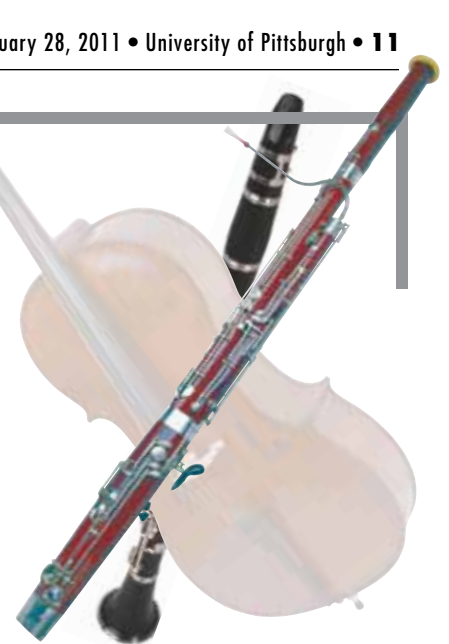
**"The Real of the Real: Kyoto Vegetables and Discourses of Authenticity,"** Greg de St. Maurice, doctoral candidate, Pitt Department of Anthropology, noon **March 3**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**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, **Feb. 28**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Guest Attraction, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

**Circle Mirror Transformation** by Annie Baker, how a beginner's drama workshop brings out unexpected truths,

**"The Art of Leadership,"** Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, **February 28**



University of Pittsburgh Symphony  
Orchestra, Bellefield Hall,  
March 2

**March 3-April 3**, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Ballet Hispanico**, performing a fusion of Latin dance with elements of classical and contemporary forms, 8 p.m. **March 5**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Dance Council, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

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

**Precious Little** by Madeleine George, play about the beauty and limits of interpersonal communication, **March 12-April 3**, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Amy Kubichek**, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Sociology, 1 p.m. **Feb. 28**, "The Effects of Economic Development, Urbanization, Women's Rights Programs, Women's Microcredit Programs, and Women's Market-Oriented Programs on Gender Inequality in India," 2431 Posvar Hall.

**Nikole Patson-Huffman**, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Psychology, 1 p.m. **Feb. 28**, "The Specification of Plurals," Glaser Auditorium, Learning Research and Development Center.

**Samuel Shin**, School of Medicine's Center for Neuroscience Graduate Program, 11 a.m. **March 1**, "The Effect of Nicotine on Striatal Dopamine Signaling After Traumatic Brain Injury," Conference Room, Safar Center for Resuscitation Research.

**Ting Wang**, School of Medicine's Center for Neuroscience Graduate Program, 2:30 p.m. **March 1**, "Neurturin's Role in Sensory Neuron Plasticity," 1495 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower.

**Lei Liu**, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry, 3 p.m. **March 2**, "Structurally and Stereochemically Diverse Tetrahydropyran Synthesis via DDQ-Mediated Oxidative Carbon-Hydrogen Bond Activation," Room 228 Eberly Hall.

**Kelly Matthew Austin**, School of Education's Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, 2 p.m. **March 3**, "Parental Influences on First-Generation College Students: Case Studies of Enrollment and Persistence Among Trio Participants," 4321 Posvar Hall.

**John Maciejewski**, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry, 3 p.m. **March 3**, "New Methods in Heterocycle Preparation," 307 Eberly Hall.

**April Chambers**, Swanson School of Engineering's Department of Bioengineering, 2 p.m. **March 10**, "The Impact of Slip Exposure on Gait," Room 229 Benedum Hall.



A Panoply of Inventions

# Self-Cooling Tennis Shoes, Nifty Water Purifier Will Be Showcased During Pitt's High School Innovative Design Competition

By Morgan Kelly

To high school students lamenting the supposed impracticality of secondary education, the University of Pittsburgh has some self-heating socks designed by their peers that might persuade otherwise. Or perhaps a backpack/water purifier that ensures a clean drink even while tromping through the wilderness.

Such feats of practicality and invention are the centerpiece of Pitt's Sixth Annual High School Innovative Design Competition slated for 9 a.m. March 2 in Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, 4141 Fifth Ave., Oakland. The event is open to the public.

Sponsored by Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering and the Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC), the competition concludes a yearlong Pitt program that trains area high school teachers and students to think like scientists and engineers by devising creative solutions to everyday problems. Thirty student teams from five area high schools will present their inventions, and the winning team will receive a paid internship in Pitt's John A. Swanson Center for Product Realization. The students' work will be judged by Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University faculty members, as well as by representatives from local industries.

Amy Landis, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering in the Swanson School, and Christian Schunn, an LRDC research scientist and professor of psychology, launched the program with a National Science Foundation grant and with support from the Quality of Life Technology Center, a collaborative project between Pitt and Carnegie Mellon. Landis and Schunn initiated the project with LRDC research associate Birdy Reynolds.



The most recent program began in spring 2010, when the Swanson School hosted an accelerated 12-week engineering course for eight science teachers from Wilksburg, North Catholic, Woodland Hills, and McKeesport high schools, as well as from Pittsburgh Public Schools' Science and Technology Academy. The teachers enrolled in the Product

Realization and Development course through the Swanson School's John A. Swanson Center for Product Innovation, where they worked with an external client to solve a current research problem. These same teachers then spent four weeks in the summer at the LRDC translating their design experience into class lessons and projects for their students to work on in the fall.

Student designs draw from physics, chemistry, biology, and environmental science to address common needs. The 2011 competition includes such designs as:

- athletic shoes cooled by an internal fluid pump;

Sponsored by Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering and the Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC), the competition concludes a yearlong Pitt program that trains area high school teachers and students to think like scientists and engineers by devising creative solutions to everyday problems.

- an emergency water-purification kit that can clean at a rate of three gallons per minute; and
- a reflective device for senior citizens with diabetes—who often experience inflexibility and a limited range of motion—that lets them examine all sides of their feet easily.

More information on the design program and competition is available on Pitt's Web site, or by contacting LRDC project coordinator Kevin Topolski at 412-624-7469 or topolski@pitt.edu.

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published March 14. 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](mailto: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](mailto:robinet@pitt.edu).