Alumni James and Noel Browne Share
Financial Success by Establishing Endowed Chair in Pitt School of Social Work

By Susan Zavage-Grinnow

James J. Browne (SOC WK ’73G) understands the importance of getting a strong return on investment. The longtime financial planner and his wife, Noel (SOC WK ’74), recently made a substantial investment in the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work with their financial commitment to establish both the James J. and Noel W. Browne Chair and the Browne Leadership Program.

The couple believes that its contributions have the potential to yield tremendous benefits by supporting a scholar whose teaching will influence future leaders who have the potential to make a major impact on society.

"Whether the cause is where you are born, the color of your skin, the wealth of your family, or your religion, significant inequities exist in our system," said James Browne, a principal of Allegheny Financial Group and Allegheny Investments, an investment advisory and financial planning firm he cofounded in 1976. “Social justice and capitalism need a level playing field for the artist, the entrepreneur, and the scholar.

In the Act of Feb. 28, 1787, establishing the frontier academy that would become the University of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania legislature unambiguously declared that “the education of youth ought to be a primary object with every government.”

Continued on page 6

Armstrong, Pfenning Win 2011 Tina and David Bellet Teaching Excellence Awards

The University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences has named Drew Armstrong, director of architectural studies and assistant professor in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture, and Nancy Pfenning, senior lecturer in the Department of Statistics, winners of the 2011 Tina and David Bellet Teaching Excellence Award. The Bellet Awards were established in 1998 and endowed in 2008 with a $1.5 million gift from Arts and Sciences alumnus David Bellet (CAS ’67) and his wife, Tina, to recognize outstanding and innovative undergraduate teaching in the School of Arts and Sciences. A committee appointed by the Arts and Sciences associate dean for undergraduate studies evaluates teaching skills based on student teaching and peer evaluations, student testimonials, and dossiers submitted by the nominees. Full-time faculty who have taught in Arts and Sciences during the past three years are eligible. Each award recipient receives a cash prize.

Armstrong joined the University in 2005. Prior to that, he served as an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Toronto from 1992 to 1993, he was the assistant to the University Architect. In 2001, Armstrong spent a year as a teaching fellow in art humanities in Columbia University’s Department of Art History and Archaeology, working with Robin Middleton and Barry Bergdoll on travel and the discovery of Greek architecture in the 18th century.

Armstrong’s work investigates approaches to observation and the experience of art and architecture in the 18th and 19th centuries. He is especially interested in the construction of the “self” and how this concept shapes the relationship of the individual to temporal and spatial phenomena. Armstrong is working on the book Julien-David Leroy and the Making of Revolutionary Architecture under contract with Routledge; it will be published in June 2011. In the book, Armstrong explores French traveler and theorist Leroy’s contributions to late-18th-century neoclassical and revolutionary architecture. A related project, titled Mediterranean Exploration in the Early

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Chancellor Decrees the "Stunningly Deep Cuts" in Proposed State Budget’s Appropriation Funding

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg decries the "stunningly deep cuts" in proposed state budget funding for education. The chancellor’s announcement came on March 8. The chancellor delivered his response to the media and members of the University community during a news conference at 3 p.m. March 8 in the Lower Lounge of the William Pitt Union.

Just last week, the University of Pittsburgh celebrated the 224th anniversary of its founding. It was a time to recognize the accomplishments of students, faculty, staff, and alumni. It was also a time to gratefully reflect on the wisdom of our pioneering predecessors—who, well over two centuries ago, saw that education was key to building the future whose promise had brought them to what then was the very edge of the American wilderness.

We sometimes think that we have big problems in 2011, but compare, just for a moment, the world of 1787. Today, we complain about potholes; but they did not even have roads. Today, we mourn the loss of airport connections, while their fastest means of transportation was canoe. We bridle at the inefficiencies of modern government, while they were working hard to build the basic structures of American democracy.

But even in the midst of those tough—some might even say “primitive”—times, our determined predecessors, who had nothing material by today’s standards, did have something that really mattered and that is missing from the budget proposal that has brought us together today—a commitment to invest in the next generation. In the Act of Feb. 28, 1787, establishing the frontier academy that would become the University of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania legislature

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Pioneer in Study of Bridge-Fatigue Damage to Speak at Pitt on March 17

John W. Fisher, a professor emeritus at Lehigh University and a renowned structural engineer who pioneered the study of fatigue stress in bridges, will deliver the 2011 Lands-Epic Lecture hosted by the Pitt Swanson School of Engineering’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

In his lecture, “Fatigue and Fracture: A Challenge for Existing and Future Steel Bridges,” Fisher will review the ongoing efforts to study and prevent fatigue-based damage, as well as building practices from the past that actually encourage bridge deterioration today. The free public talk will be held at 4:30 p.m. March 17 in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. A reception will follow.

When Fisher began his work in the late 1960s, fatigue was not considered the serious bridge-performance issue it is now. Limited, small-scale tests comprised the experimental knowledge of fatigue cracking, and certain building practices unwittingly encouraged fractures; for instance, a rule adopted after World War II that avoided welding to tension flanges has resulted in extensive cracking and damage in bridges today. Fisher was among the first researchers to conduct large-scale tests and accurately determine the stress range of bridge welds and components. (Fisher’s professor of civil and environmental engineering Kent Harris, one of the many engineers influenced by Fisher’s work, conducts related large-scale research.) Fisher’s work prompted the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, which sets building standards for U.S. highways, to adopt in 1974 codes related to fatigue. He basic data serve as the basis for bridge codes worldwide.

—Morgan Kelly

Dallas Morning News Mexico Bureau Chief to Speak on Mexican Violence

Alfredo Corchado, Mexico bureau chief for the Dallas Morning News, will be the featured speaker for the University of Pittsburgh’s American Experience Distinguished Lecture Series of the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy and the University of Pittsburgh School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

The lecture, titled “Midnight in Mexico: Descent into Darkness,” gives Corchado’s personal account of how that society collapsed in front of their eyes. While taking steps to eliminate inequality, the Cuban revolution suppressed discussions of race. Since its conception, the exhibition has been open to the public, but seating is limited. Anyone for International Security Studies, the event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Anyone interested in attending must RSVP with name, phone number, and name(s) of additional attendees by visiting the American Experience Web site at http://usa.honorscollege.pitt.edu. For more information on the lecture series, call 412-624-1514.

Discussion moderators will include Pitt alumni and trustee Dol. Thormburn (LAW ’57), formerly governor of the

Queloides Exhibition Featured in New York City Gallery

The Cuban art exhibition Queloides: Race and Racism in Cuban Contemporary Art, which just ended a critically acclaimed run at the Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh, will be shown at The 8th Floor, a private art gallery in New York City, beginning April 12. Cosponsored by the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), the New York City exhibition runs through July.

Queloides, curated by Pitt professor Alejandro de la Fuente, addresses the debate about the persistence of racism in contemporary Cuba and throughout the world. While in New York, Queloides will be part of the Cuban arts and culture festival ¡Sí Cuba! While taking steps to eliminate inequality, the Cuban revolution suppressed discussions of race, claiming that discrimination had been forever eliminated from the island. After decades of being considered taboo, discussions about race and racism occur more openly in contemporary Cuba. In the early 1990s, artists, scholars, and writers in Cuba began to do the unthinkable: denounce the persistence of racial discrimination in Cuban socialist society.

“Queloides is the answer of a group of Cuban visual artists and intellectuals to these changing realities,” says de la Fuente, a University Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies colleague. “Since its conception, the exhibition has been a product of collaboration between Cuban artists and intellectuals and American institutions, such as Pitt’s CLAS and the Mattress Factory museum,” adds de la Fuente.

From March to June, 14 New York institutions are convening to celebrate the rich artistic vitality of Cuba by presenting the ¡Sí Cuba! festival, a showcase for the diversity of Cuban culture from the traditional to the modern. For the complete lineup of ¡Sí Cuba! festival events, visit Queloides-exhibit.com.

For additional information on Queloides, visit queloides-exhibit.com.

—Amanda Leff Ritchie

Pitt’s School of Education to Celebrate 100 Years of Excellence

“Pitt’s School of Education opened its doors at a time when a national sentiment was emerging—that good teachers needed to learn how to teach as well as to know the subjects they taught; about 20 years ago, that same sentiment emerged again. Our education faculty members take students who are well informed in the subjects they aspire to teach and teach them how to teach. They also prepare leaders in child care and those who will manage the affairs of schools, school districts, colleges, and universities.”

—Alan Lesgold

Keynote speaker for the May 5-6 Motivation and Engagement Conference will be Pedro Noguera, the Pitt’s Peter A. Agnew Professor of Education at New York University. The conference will be available on WebEx and will include virtual discussions and conference follow-up. For more information on the free, public conference, contact Linda Berardi-Demo, assistant dean of operations and enrollment management in Pitt’s School of Education, at 412-648-1782 or lberardi@pitt.edu.

To celebrate 100 years as a school that has trained some of the nation’s top educators, the University of Pittsburgh School of Education will host a Centennial Gala at 6 p.m. April 2 in the Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland. In addition, the school will present a Motivation and Engagement Conference May 5-6 on Pitt’s campus.

Tickets for the gala—which is open to the public and includes dinner, awards, and dancing—are $100. Those wishing to attend must RSVP by March 18. For more information about the gala, contact Michael Haas, the school’s director of constituent relations, at mha26@pitt.edu or 412-648-1789.

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Women’s History Month

Selected Highlights of Women’s History at the University of Pittsburgh

1895 Sisters Margaret and Stella Stein are the first women to enter the Western University of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pittsburgh) as full-time sophomores, when the University was on O’Hara Hill in Allegheny City (now Pittsburgh’s North Side). The Stein sisters have an advantage over previous female applicants because Chancellor William Jacob Holland believes that two women could look after each other and keep each other company. The sisters take all the mathematics courses offered, plus astronomy, mathematical chemistry, and surveying.

1910 The Stein sisters return to Pitt for their master’s degrees, another first. Stella went on to teach modern languages and mathematics at South High School, and Margaret was principal at Beaver High School until she married.

1914 Women constitute 25 percent of Pitt’s student body with 600 female students attending.

1914-15 Women’s basketball organizes, the first competitive sport for women at Pitt.

1918 Pitt hires its first woman faculty member, Blossom Henry.

1919 Virginia Proctor Powell Florence is the first African American woman in the United States to complete a professional education program in librarianship. She graduates in 1923 from the Carnegie Library School, which later became part of Pitt’s School of Information Sciences. In 2004, a plaque honoring Florence is installed in the Information Sciences Building lobby.

The Women’s Athletic Association forms to manage intramural sports.

1924 Pitt’s 1924 women’s basketball team sweeps its home game opponents and loses only one game.

1916 Chancellor Wesley Posvar creates the Advisory Committee on Women’s Opportunities to address the agenda of the newly formed University Committee for Women’s Rights.

1972 The Pitt Women’s Studies Program is founded.

1973 Pitt establishes the Women’s Center to serve as an advising center to campus and community women.

1988 Stella and Margaret Stein graduate, tied for first place in their class at Pitt. The sisters decide Stella should be the valedictorian.

1989 Shortly after the University moves to Oakland, Pitt opens the School of Education. Women flock to the new program, the number of women students at Pitt jumping from about 40 to more than 300 in the first year. Teacher training continues to be an academic haven for female students for more than 60 years.

1990 Pi Theta Nu, the first sorority, forms in 1908. Women’s organizations are rare until 1910.

1990 Roberta Luxbacher is elected the first woman to be named a Swanson School of Engineering Distinguished Alumni, an award presented annually since 1946. Luxbacher, who also serves on the Swanson School’s Board of Visitors, received her bachelor’s in chemical engineering in 1978 and is currently the general manager of corporate planning for ExxonMobil.

1996 Pitt establishes a Faculty Medical and Family Leave Policy, which, among other benefits, allows new and expecting mothers time off.

2000 Katherine Detre, Distinguished Professor of Epileptology in Pitt’s Graduate School of Public Health, begins leading a national study—involving 2,368 patients at 40 sites across the United States—to determine the best way to treat people with both Type 2 diabetes and early coronary artery disease. The study attracts funding for the largest combined grant in Pitt history, $65 million.

2004 Wangari Muta Maathai, who earned the Master of Science degree in biology at Pitt in 1965, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her 30-year effort to reforest her native Kenya and improve the economic status of women there, while fighting for democracy and against corruption and tribulation. Pitt conferred an Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree during an Oct. 26, 2006, ceremony in Alumni Hall.

Under the leadership of Irene Friese, professor of psychology and then-president of the University Senate, the Senate sponsored a plenary session on the roles of women at Pitt that led to three Senate ad hoc committees addressing women’s concerns: the Committee for the Support and Advancement of Women at Pitt (2004-06); the Committee for the Promotion of Gender Equity (2007-08), and the Committee for the Promotion of Gender Equity II (2009-2010).

2005 The director of Pitt’s European Union Centre, Alberto Sbragia, is named Jean Monnet Chair ad personam by the European Commission, which also designates Pitt’s Center a European Center of Excellence. Sbragia, a Pitt professor of political science and then-director of Pitt’s European Union Centre, is one of only two academics to be named Jean Monnet Chair ad personam in 2005. In 2006, Sbragia is named the inaugural holder of the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair and in 2010 a vice provost for graduate studies.

2006 Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg tells the University’s Board of Trustees that Pitt will honor Helen S. Faison—Pitt alumna, emerita trustee, and trailblazing educator—by creating the Dr. Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education, the first endowed chair in the 96-year history of Pitt’s School of Education, where Faison earned her B.S., M.Ed., and Ph.D. degrees in 1946, 1955, and 1975, respectively.

Susan A. Amara delivers a Provost’s Inaugural Lecture Nov. 21 to mark her formal installation as the Dr. Thomas Detre Endowed Professor in Pitt’s School of Medicine. Amara, who also chairs the school’s Department of Neurology, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2004.

Anna Balazs, a Pitt Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering, was honored by the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania with a Woman in the Material World Award both for her research and for providing an example of the careers young women and girls can pursue through math and science.

2007 Anna Quider, a Pitt Honors College student majoring in physics and astronomy, the history and philosophy of science, and religious studies, is named a Marshall Scholar for 2007. Quider is the tenth Pitt student to win a Marshall Scholarship, one of the most competitive and prestigious merit scholarships available to graduating American seniors.

2010 Patricia E. Beeson is elected the first female provost and senior vice chancellor of Pitt by the University’s Board of Trustees. Beeson was recommended by Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg for her successful 23-year career as a Pitt faculty member and administrator.

2011 Roberto Luckbocher is the first woman to be named a Swanson School of Engineering Distinguished Alumni, an award presented annually since 1946. Luckbocher, who also serves on the Swanson School’s Board of Visitors, received her bachelor’s in chemical engineering in 1978 and is currently the general manager of corporate planning for ExxonMobil.

Katherine Wisner, Pitt Professor of Psychiatry and director of Women’s Behavioral Health/CARE at the Western Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, receives the 2011 Women in Science Award from the American Medical Women’s Association. Since 1993, the annual award honors a woman physician who has made exceptional contributions to medical science, especially in women’s health.
Chancellor Nordenberg addresses the media and members of the Pitt community during his March 8 news conference in the Lower Lounge of the William Pitt Union.

In practical terms, the proposed cuts are a renunciation of the commitment made by the Commonwealth to Pennsylvania families with college-age children in the mid-1960’s, when Pitt and Temple, followed later by Lincoln, joined Penn State as state-related universities. That earlier action was driven by the belief that creating larger numbers of reasonably priced, but high-quality, university opportunities was not only critical to the individual aspirations of the daughters and sons of Pennsylvania but was a key to our collective, long-term well-being. In fact, this drive to keep bright young Pennsylvanians in Pennsylvania might be viewed as an early, preemptive strike against what we now call the “brain drain.”

The proposed cuts also visibly reinforce an all-too-common, and ultimately self-defeating, characteristic of state spending— that excellence and impact seldom are rewarded. The universities that are so heavily penalized under this proposal not only make unique and significant contributions at the local, regional, and statewide levels, but stand out for the national and international recognition they have earned for the quality of their programs. They provide undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs in areas of particular need—including science, math, and engineering. One measure of the success of the state-related universities is that we now enroll in excess of 150,000 Pennsylvania students, more than any other sector of higher education. Obviously, this success is not being rewarded.

The proposed cuts also represent a puzzling retreat from the Governor’s own economic agenda, which had emphasized the development of competitive advantages in the emerging innovation economy and placed a high priority on nurturing a business climate that fosters job creation. In fact, in his address today, he described that agenda in three words—jobs, jobs, and jobs. Research universities, of course, are centers of innovation, major employers in their own right, a frequent source of support for large numbers of other regional jobs, and generators of the ideas that spawn new companies and create even more jobs.

In this region, in fact, the education and health care sector not only is the largest employment supersector (to use a term of art employed by the U.S. Department of Labor) but is the only sector to have consistently added jobs over the course of the past 15 years. UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh already are the region’s two largest employers, and both have demonstrated their further capacity for growth.

In his inaugural address, Governor Corbett sounded similar themes— praising “industry rooted in innovation”; foreseeing a future for Pennsylvania “that embraces innovation in emerging frontiers of energy,
life sciences, and biotechnology"; and expressing his own belief that "the best way to embrace innovation—the best way to make us competitive—is to make us competitive in education." Today's budget proposal, on the other hand, targets the very institutions that are exemplars in innovation, acknowledges the importance of such areas as energy, life sciences, and biotechnology, and internationally respected providers of the highest quality education. In his inaugural address, the Governor also praised, as an example of "Pennsylvania's tradition of character and courage . . . the single mother who works an extra job so that she can send her children to a better school." Under today's budget-reduction proposal, though, the Commonwealth essentially abandons that single mother and countless other Pennsylvania parents—leaving them to deal with the large tuition increases that inevitably will result from these massive reductions in support for public higher education. And if we celebrate the sacrifices made by that single mother to advance her next generation, how can we be so comfortable adding to her burdens in that collective expression of values known as governorship?

Let me make clear that I have known, liked, and respected Governor Corbett for many years. Not just because of his great success in his new office but am easier, as he knows, to support him in forging new forms of governance for Pennsylvania. And to state the obvious, developing a plan to close a multimillion dollar budget gap is a difficult responsibility. Still, it can hardly stand before you today without respectfully—but clearly and forcefully—questioning the choices upon which this budget proposal has been built. These are choices that will make it far harder for the young people of Pennsylvania to use the power of education to build better lives; choices that will put a real financial squeeze on Pennsylvania families, often still reeling from the effects of the Great Recession; mathematics, poetry. Pitt alumni were recognized with such prestigious awards as the Nobel Peace Prize, the Pulitzer Prize in Medicine, the National Medal of Science, the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the Fritz Medal in Engineering, and the Huber Prize in Architecture.

Most important perhaps, in that same decade, 76,000 new Pitt degrees were awarded to students in Pittsburgh, Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville—students using the power of a Pitt education to elevate their own lives and to prepare themselves to contribute to their communities. It is those now following in their footsteps, or hoping to do so, that stand in need of the stable economic framework from the deep budget cuts that have been proposed. In a very real sense, therefore, we all stand in need.

Customarily, the public release of today's proposal would mark the beginning of a collaborative process in which its recommendations could be considered, discussed, and, at least in some cases, improved. Unfortunately, that process has been cut out of the case through this year's budget cycle. Certainly, we will welcome any opportunity to provide input to the Governor's legislative leaders as that process moves forward. In doing so, we will do our best to represent the interests of our students and of their families and of the many communities that we serve. We also will work to maintain our momentum as an engine of economic development and as an important source of the people, ideas, and programs that make Pennsylvania stronger today and will help shape a better future for those who follow.

Regional Resilience Expert
Kathryn A. Foster to Speak at Pitt March 24

Innovative local and regional governance will be the subject of a lecture at the University of Pittsburgh to be delivered by Kathryn A. Foster, professor of urban and regional planning at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, and director of that university's Regional Institute for Public Policy, "The Art and Science of Regional Resilience," the lecture will take place at 9 a.m. March 24 in Ballroom A of the University Club. It is a part of the Spring 2011 Wherrett Lecture Series and is sponsored by Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA).

Foster's areas of expertise include regions, governance, and regional decision making. Her current work examines regional resilience, focusing on the role of governance in shaping outcomes. In 2007, Foster was selected by Business First as its Woman of Influence in public policy, and she was appointed to the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency (NYSCALGE).

Cosponsored by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and the Congress of Northeastern Communities, among others, the GSPIA Center for Metropolitan Studies' Wherrett Lecture Series is brought together government, academic, nonprofit, and private-sector leaders in an effort to identify, address, and solve problems in the region.

The event is free and open to the public, though an RSVP is required. A continental breakfast will be provided 30 minutes prior to the event. For more information or to RSVP, contact the Center for Metropolitan Studies at 412-648-2282 or gsapia@pitt.edu.

Pitt Law School's March 21 Lecture to Feature Lani Guinier and Gerald Torres

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law's Lawyering for Social Change Lecture Series will present a lecture by Lani Guinier, the Bennett Boskey Professor of Law in Harvard Law School, and Gerald Torres, Bryant Smith Chair in Law in the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law on March 21. Guinier and Torres' talk, titled "Changing the Wind: Demosprudence of Law and Social Movements," is based on their forthcoming book of the same title to be published by Pitt Law Press. The event is free and open to the public.

Lani Guinier

Drew S. Days, President Clinton nominated her in 1993 to be the first Black woman to head the Civil Rights Division, but attacks on her views of democracy and voting led Clinton to write his nomination withdrawal, a confirmation hearing. This incident influenced Guinier to address some of the open issues regarding race, gender, and democratic decision making and to call for candor public discourse on these issues.

Guinier has authored numerous books and articles, including a personal and political memoir, Voice: Turning a Civil Rights Setback Into a New Vision of Social Justice (Simon and Schuster, 1989), in which she used the nomination debate as a window on the civil rights movement's past, present, and future. Guinier has won numerous awards and accolades, including the Champion of Democracy Award from the National Women's Political Caucus. The quality of her teaching earned her the 1994 Harvey Women's Political Caucus. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Law Institute.

Among Torres' honors is the 2004 Legal Service Award from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund for his work to advance the legal rights of Latinos, Native Americans, and African Americans. Torres and Guinier are coauthors of The Miner's Canary: Enlisting Race, Resisting Power, Transforming Democracy (Harvard University Press, 2002), which Publishers Weekly described as "one of the most provocative and challenging books on race politics in years."

For more information on the March 21 lecture, visit the law school's Web site, www.law.pitt.edu. This program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board for one-and-one-half hours of substantive CLE credit. Cost for CLE credit is $25.

By Patricia Lamothe White

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Armstrong, Pfenning Win 2011 Tina and David Bellet Teaching Excellence Awards

Continued from page 1

to improve the human condition for all of us. This is what social justice means to us.” Although both James and Noel Browne are graduates of the School of Social Work, choosing a career path outside the field created by their father was a one-time Catholic priest, to provide such generous support for the social work values he and his wife have always embraced.

“Most social workers who share Jim’s values do not acquire his level of financial success,” said Robert E. Davis, dean of the School of Social Work, Donald M. Henderson Professor, and director of the Center on Race and Social Problems at Pitt. “He is an exceptional graduate who is able to bestow those financial rewards back to the school.

The James J. and Noel W. Browne Chair, which will be one of the more than 90 endowed chair positions at Pitt that have been created as part of the University’s Building Our Future Together capital campaign, will not only raise the school’s stature, but it will also accommodate the hiring of a dynamic faculty member whose efforts are expected to have a significant impact on the School of Social Work.

“Browne acknowledges the talented faculty members who told him the School of Social Work an edge for attracting and influencing the best and brightest of our students,” Browne said.

Pitt School of Social Work Recognized For Its Work in Helping Problem Gamblers

The University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work was recognized for its support of problem gamblers and for its research on gambling addiction with a Special Recognition Award by the Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania (CCGP), a nonprofit affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling.

By Sharon S. Bloke

The March 8 award ceremony was held as part of a by-invitation-only luncheon at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Ave., Oakland, and occurred during National Problem Gambling Awareness Week, March 6-11.

Rafael Engel, a professor of social work at Pitt, will accept the award from James Pappas, executive director of CCGP.

Pitt’s School of Social Work, under the leadership of Dean Larry E. Davis, has been at the forefront of training counselors specifically in the area of gambling addiction. In February 2008, it launched a unique six-month training program for human service professionals to obtain national certification in gambling addiction counseling. Approximately 150 clinicians have received certification to date, most from Western Pennsylvania. The school also surveyed other schools of social work to determine the extent to which social work students are learning about issues associated with problem gambling.

In 2008, more than a year before the opening of the Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh, the school also released a report, “Raising the Stakes: Assessing Allegheny County’s Human Service Response Capacity to the Social Impact of Gambling,” which surveyed 137 agencies to discover whether they offered or were preparing to offer gambling prevention, intervention, and treatment services. The report’s findings suggested that more than 75 percent of the agencies surveyed did not screen for or treat problem gambling and that most agencies did not feel problem gambling was an issue for their clients. Engel, Pitt professor of social work Daniel Rosen, and school director of continuing education Tracy Soska authored the report.

James and Noel Browne Establish Endowed Chair in School of Social Work

Continued from page 1

As Browne led the School of Social Work, I hope, “Funding an endowed system,” Browne said. “Funding an endowed chair in the School of Social Work, I hope, will increase that awareness and lead to the development of new ideas to help find solutions to the social problems we face.”

In addition to creating the chair, the Brownes have separately funded the “Browne Leadership Program,” new this year in the School of Social Work. It is a cross-disciplinary program consisting of introductory coursework followed by social-problem analysis skill-building and culminating with a six-to-eight-week experiential summer program aimed at addressing a pressing social issue. The students will complete a white paper to summarize their work.

The goal is for students from diverse academic backgrounds to learn to think about and discuss questions in any topic that can be imagined—business, neuroscience, pop culture, etc.

Among the courses Pfenning has taught are Basic Applied Statistics, Applied Statistical Methods, and the Training Seminar for Statistics TAs. She also has taught the Graduate Student Teaching Seminar, Honors Applied Statistical Methods, Statistics in the Modern World, and Statistics and Probability for Business Management.

Pfenning recently published a textbook on statistics, Elementary Statistics: Looking at the Big Picture (Cengage Learning, 2010). She also is the author of Chances Are...Making Probability and Statistics Fun to Learn and Easy to Teach (Prufrock Press, 1999).

Her honors include a Pitt Chancellor’s Scholarship in 1974-78 and induction into the school’s Kappa Omega chapter in 1978; she also received research and teaching assistantships at Carnegie Mellon University from 1978 to 1984.

Pfenning earned a BS degree from Pitt in 1978 and MS and PhD degrees in mathematics from Carnegie Mellon in 1979 and 1984, respectively.

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Concerts

Samoon Cuts and The Plat Maps, free musical performance, noon

Tribute Concert: A Symphonic Celebration of African American Culture, Thomas Hong, conductor, and Angela Brown, soprano, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m.

Exhibitions

University Art Gallery, Mind Spots: Maximalism in Contrast, through March 17, Frick Fine Arts Building, 412-684-2400.

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, 7272 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-0600, www.frickart.org.


University Art Gallery, Mind Spots: Maximalism in Contrast, through March 17


Lectures/Seminars/Readings


“Creating and Testing Social Innovations,” Michael Sherraden, Benjamin F. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis, noon
March 15, School of Social Work Conference Center, 20th floor, Cathedral of Learning, World Social Work Day Lecture, lunch provided, registration not required but requested, 412-624-6337.

“Now to Weigh Evidence,” Heather Douglas, visiting fellow University of Tennessee, 12:05 p.m.
March 15, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/~pittcen.

Environment as World History,” 9:15 a.m.-5 p.m.
March 20, 817 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, registration not required but requested, cwb223@pitt.edu, www.pitt.edu/~pittcen.

Embodiment and Adaptation Workshop, 9:15 a.m.-5 p.m.
March 20, 817 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, registration not required but requested, cwb223@pitt.edu, www.pitt.edu/~pittcen.

11th Annual Computer Science Day, educators, students, alumni, and industry gather for a day of computing fun, 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
March 18, 5th and 6th floors of Swanson School of Engineering, Department of Computer Science, www.cs.pitt.edu.

Embodiment and Adaptation Workshop, 9:15 a.m.-5 p.m.
March 20, 817 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, registration not required but requested, cwb223@pitt.edu, www.pitt.edu/~pittcen.

“Midnight in Mexico: Descend Into Darkness,” Alfredo Corchado, Dallas Morning News Mexico bureau chief, 8 a.m.

“Fatigue and Fracture: A Challenge for Existing and Future Steel Bridges,” John W. Fisher, professor emeritus of civil engineering, Lehigh University, 4:30 p.m.

Miscellaneous

“What’s New in Blackboard 9.1?” one-shot workshop, 10 a.m.
March 15, B23 Alumni Hall, Pitt Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education, register online at www.cdie.pitt.edu/workshop-registration.

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Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Carrie Veyockey, Swanson School of Engineering Department of Bioengineering, “Development and Evaluation of a Novel Method for In-Situ Medical Image Display,” 2:30 p.m.
March 16, Room 102 Benedum Hall.

Vanessa Chun, School of Medicine Center for Neuroscience/Neurobiology Graduate Program, “The Behavioral and Neurophysiological Effects of Acute Dopamine Receptor Blockade in the Macaque Striatum,” 10 a.m.
March 18, 4th-Floor Conference Room, Biomedical Engineering Tower 3.

Carnegie Museum of Art

Theatre/Museum

Shek The Musical, comic bringing popular animated film character to life on stage.


Opera/Theater/Dance


Previous Little by Madeleine George, play about the beauty and limits of impersonation communication, through April 3, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

“Is Plato’s Political Philosophy Totalitarian?” Wolfgang Baur, professor, Heinrich Schliemann-Institut, University of Bonn, 4:30 p.m.
March 18, 244A Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of Classics, www.classics.pitt.edu.
The University of Pittsburgh held its 35th annual Honors Convocation on Feb. 25 in Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland. 1. Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson was the event’s keynote speaker. 2. Joseph F. Wis Jr. (LAW ’50), senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, prepares to receive a plaque recognizing him as a 2011 Distinguished Alumni Fellow. From left, Pitt Alumni Association President Jack Smith (at lecturn), Wis, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, and Pitt Board of Trustees Chair Stephen R. Trich. 3. Pitt School of Education Dean Alan Leugold (left) talks with William E. Stockland Jr. (A&S ’70), Pitt trustee, and President and chief executive officer of Manchester Bidwell Corporation. 4. The chancellor stands with Meloney L. Fife (left) and Valerie Johnson Fife (right), the daughter and wife, respectively, of the late Jesse W. Fife Jr. (A&S ’72), who was also named a Pitt Distinguished Alumni Fellow for 2011. Fife, who knew of the honor before his passing on Dec. 6, 2010, was the executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation until his death.

Pitt Honors Convocation 2011

PHOTOS BY JIM BURKE/CIODE

PUBLICATION NOTICE: The next edition of Pitt Chronicle will be published March 21. Items for publication in the newspaper’s Happenings calendar (see page 7) should be received at least two weeks prior to the event date. Happenings items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to chron@pitt.edu, faxed to 412-624-4895, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail robinet@pitt.edu.