

## Chancellor Makes Pitt's Case Before Legislators On "Damaging" PA State Budget Proposal



Legislative committee hearing on the Governor's proposed education funding cuts: The heads of Pennsylvania's four state-related universities, including Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, testified March 16 before the state Senate Appropriations Committee in Harrisburg. From left are Graham Spanier, Pennsylvania State University; Chancellor Nordenberg; Ivory Nelson, Lincoln University; and Ann Weaver Hart, Temple University.

In testimony before the Appropriations Committee of the Pennsylvania Senate last week, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg labeled proposed cuts to the University's appropriation as "deep...disproportionate...and damaging." The hearing originally

had been scheduled for March 28 but was moved to March 16 in light of the steep cuts to higher education funding proposed by the Governor in his March 8 budget address. Also offering testimony were the presidents of the Commonwealth's three other state-

related universities—Ann Weaver Hart, Temple University; Ivory Nelson, Lincoln University; and Graham Spanier, The Pennsylvania State University.

In responding to questions posed during the two-and-one-half-hour session, Nordenberg underscored the importance of higher education, both in elevating individual lives and in sustaining the collective strength of the Commonwealth; emphasized the special role played by the state-related universities, which today educate more than 150,000 Pennsylvania students and also are important research centers; and described the positive impact of Pitt, through its programs of education, research, and public service and as an engine of economic growth.

Under the Governor's proposal, the University would suffer a 50 percent reduction, or \$80 million, to its general educational appropriation; would face the complete elimination of nearly \$17 million in funding for four programs in the health sciences—the School of Medicine, the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, the Dental Clinic, and the Center for Public Health Practice; will lose more than \$7.5 million in stimulus funding; and is concerned about the possible loss of more than \$9 million in annual research grants from the tobacco settlement fund. In total, those cuts exceed well over \$100 million.

As he has done in other public statements, the Chancellor labeled the proposed 50 percent reduction to the University's general appropriation as a "fundamental retreat" from the basic agreement struck in the mid-1960s, when Pitt became a state-related university. At that time, the Commonwealth committed to providing an appropriation of sufficient size to support large numbers of university

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opportunities for Pennsylvania students at a more affordable tuition rate than private universities charge. Today, Pitt not only maintains a sizeable differential between in-state and out-of-state tuition but charges roughly \$25,000 per year less than peer private universities.

One collective message delivered by the presidents was that the entire weight of these large cuts could not be

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## Pitt Wages Record-Breaking United Way Campaign in 2010

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

The University of Pittsburgh's 2010 United Way campaign was the most successful in the University's history, raising \$609,023. The total surpassed the annual fundraising effort's goal by more than \$9,000 and marked a 12 percent increase from the 2009 campaign.

It broke the University's previous record, \$607,221, which was set in 2001.

Pitt's 2010 United Way *Live United for a Greater Pittsburgh* campaign featured a significantly higher number of new donors, increased contributions from repeat donors, and a record-breaking number of online contributions via [www.mypitt.edu](http://www.mypitt.edu), which brought in 82 percent of Pitt's total.

Pitt has participated in the United Way of Allegheny County campaign for the past 14 years. It is the most comprehensive fundraising effort on campus—involving faculty and staff from every department in every school and administrative unit at Pitt, including the schools of the health sciences. Each of Pitt's campuses conducts separate

United Way campaigns; the record-breaking total was raised entirely by the Pittsburgh campus.

Much of the 2010 United Way campaign's success at Pitt can be attributed to its steering committee, which includes representation from all areas of the University. The cochairs for the campaign were G. Reynolds ("Renny") Clark, vice chancellor for community initiatives and chief of staff for Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, and Margaret C. McDonald, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs for the schools of health sciences.

In addition, Clark praised the efforts of Anne Franks, executive director of administrative services in Pitt's Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) and Pitt's United Way campaign manager, as well as Michelle Page, human resources manager for IA and the United Way campaign coordinator at Pitt. Franks has

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## Pitt Rises in U.S. News' Best Graduate Schools Rankings

By John Harvith

In the latest edition of U.S. News & World Report Media Group's *Best Graduate Schools*, Pitt has advanced in several of its graduate programs and maintained its high rankings in a number of its schools and other graduate programs, according to the publication's 2011 methodology.

These rankings appear in highlights form in the *Best Graduate Schools* book, available for newsstand purchase on April 5, and for purchase online; visit [www.usnews.com/grad](http://www.usnews.com/grad) for more information.

Within the School of Medicine Specialties category, Pitt rose to No. 3 in Women's Health, up from No. 4 last year; and to No. 11 in Pediatrics, up from No. 13 last year. It was No. 10 in Geriatrics, the same as last year. Pitt's School of Medicine maintained its ranking of No. 14 in the overall Schools of Medicine-Research category.

The School of Nursing, last ranked in 2007, retained its ranking of No. 7 this year, tied with Duke, Oregon Health and Science University, and Yale; and Pitt did

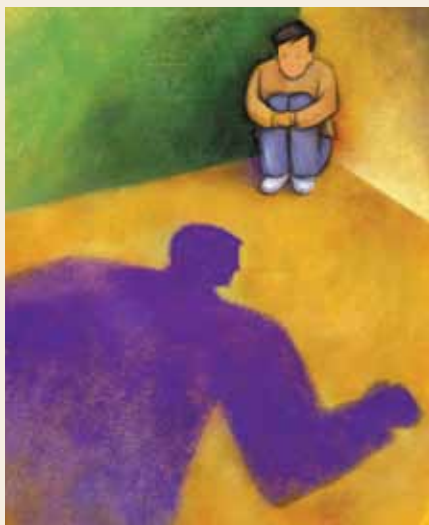
consistently well in the area of Nursing Specialties, advancing from 5th in 2007 to 3rd this year in Nursing-Anesthesia, tied with Rush University; from 9th in 2007 to 6th this year in Adult Nurse Practitioner; and from 6th in 2007 to 4th this year in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. Pitt retained its 2007 ranking of No. 6 in Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist and was ranked No. 9 this year in Nursing Service Administration.

The Graduate School of Public Health, last ranked in 2007, retained its No. 11 position, tied with Boston University.

Among engineering specialties, the Swanson School of Engineering maintained its 2007 rankings of No. 12 in Biomedical/Bioengineering, tied this year with Berkeley and Michigan, and No. 17 in the Industrial/Manufacturing category, tied with Arizona State, Lehigh, Illinois, and Texas.

In addition, the School of Education retained its No. 23 ranking, tied with Illinois and Maryland.

# BrieflyNoted



## A Call to End Child Abuse in Three Generations Is Subject of March 22 Rubash Lecture

Victor Vieth, a national expert on child abuse prevention, will deliver a free public lecture titled "Unto a Third Generation: A Call to End Child Abuse in Three Generations" from noon to 2 p.m. March 22 in the Teplitz Memorial Courtroom, Barco Law Building.

The talk is part of the Rubash Distinguished Lecture Series in Law and Social Work.

Vieth is director of the National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC), a state-of-the-art training complex at Winona State University (WSU) in Minnesota. The NCPTC houses five moot courtrooms, four forensic interview rooms, and a "mock house" in which to conduct simulated child abuse investigations. Vieth has trained thousands of child-protection professionals from across 50 states and around the world. He and his staff provide intensive instruction for professionals and students in the field on how to better recognize and respond to children who are being abused.

Vieth, who gained national recognition when he was a prosecutor for his work in addressing child abuse in rural Minnesota communities, has been named to the President's Honor Roll of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

Vieth graduated magna cum laude from WSU and earned his JD degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minn. While studying there, he received the American Jurisprudence Award for achievement in the study of Constitutional law and served as editor-in-chief of the Law Review. He authored a paper titled "Unto the Third Generation," which outlines the steps necessary to eliminate child abuse in America in three generations.

The Rubash Distinguished Lecture Series was established through gifts from Norman J. Rubash, a 1957 graduate of Pitt's School of Law, and his wife, Alice Chapman Rubash, a 1956 graduate of Pitt's School of Social Work. Each year a distinguished individual in these fields is invited to Pitt to present a public lecture.

The lecture is approved for two hours of continuing legal education credit. For more information, call 412-624-5176.

—Sharon S. Blake

## Pitt's World History Center to Present March 22 Lecture on Evolving Concept of Civilization

The University of Pittsburgh World History Center will present a seminar featuring Sucheta Mazumdar, associate professor in the Department of History at Duke University in Durham, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. March 22 in Room 3703 Posvar Hall.

In her lecture, titled "The Civilizational Model of World History and the Challenge of the Global," Mazumdar will explore the invention of the concept of civilization and its evolution and development since the late 18th century in Europe and America.

Mazumdar is trained in Chinese and Indian history and Asian American studies. Her publications include *From Orientalism to Postcolonialism: Asia-Europe and the Lineages of Difference* (Routledge, 2009); *Sugar and Society in China: Peasants, Technology and the World Market* (Harvard University Press, 1998, translated into Chinese, 2009); and *Antinomies of Modernity, Essays on Race, Orient, and Nation* (Duke University Press, 2003). She was one of the editors of *Making Waves: Writings By and About Asian American Women* (Beacon Press, 1989). She is currently at work on the monograph *From the Slave Trade to the Opium Rush: "China Trade" in the Making of the Americas*.

She is founding editor of the *South Asia Bulletin*, serving from 1981 to 1993, and of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, serving from 1993 to 2002.

Mazumdar received her BA, MA, and PhD degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. For more information, visit [www.worldhistory.pitt.edu](http://www.worldhistory.pitt.edu).

—Patricia Lomando White



Victor Vieth

## Pitt Annual Latin American, Caribbean Festival Set for March 26

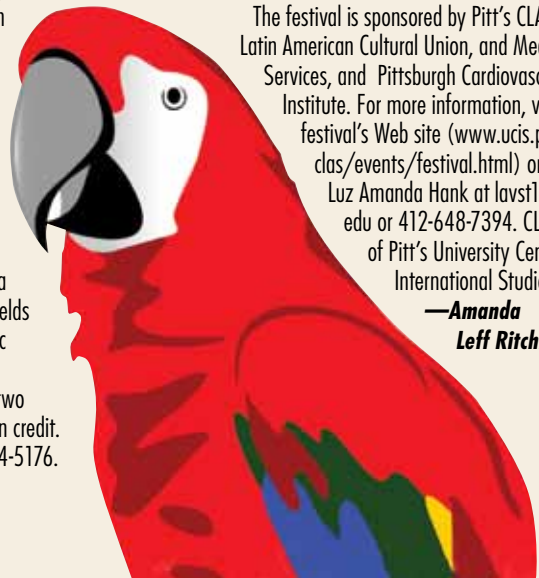
The Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) at the University of Pittsburgh will host the 31st Annual Latin American and Caribbean Festival on Saturday, March 26, in the William Pitt Union (WPU) from noon to midnight. The festival is one of Pittsburgh's signature cultural events, attracting thousands of individuals from the multicultural community to enjoy local and

international musicians, handmade arts and crafts, authentic Latin American cuisine, traditional dance performances, and children's activities.

This unique gathering showcases the many organizations, businesses, and cultural groups that make up Pittsburgh's diverse and growing Latin American community. While activities are ongoing throughout the day, highlights include the Colombian band *Bésame* and the Brazilian dance/martial art group *Axé Capoeira Pittsburgh*. Visitors can shop at booths offering a variety of goods or serving specialty dishes from Latin American and Caribbean nations.

The festival is sponsored by Pitt's CLAS, the Latin American Cultural Union, and Med Health Services, and Pittsburgh Cardiovascular Institute. For more information, visit the festival's Web site ([www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/events/festival.html](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/events/festival.html)) or contact Luz Amanda Hank at [lavst12@pitt.edu](mailto:lavst12@pitt.edu) or 412-648-7394. CLAS is part of Pitt's University Center for International Studies.

—Amanda Leff Ritchie



## CHANCELLOR'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AWARD 2011

Nominations are being solicited for this Universitywide award to recognize a University program area or individual that has made a significant contribution in Affirmative Action. Among the factors to be considered in the selection process are:

- Innovative approaches to increasing diversity within the University community in areas such as recruitment, retention, promotion, academic and other programming, and business activities or enterprises; and
- A consistent record of commitment and success in affirmative action efforts, diversity programs, and related initiatives within the University community. Greater consideration will be given to those nominations that include multiple years of documented advancements for the reviewing committee to consider.

Nominations can be made by individuals, groups, students, or alumni. Self-nominations are allowed. Please submit nominations to the **Office of the University Senate**, 1234 Cathedral of Learning, on or before **May 3, 2010**. The nomination should include:

- The name, address, and phone number of the program area or individual being nominated;
- The name, address, and phone number of the nominator;
- A 3-5 page description of the program, initiative, effort, or individual contribution that warrants recognition for advancing affirmative action; and
- A supplemental dossier which, where possible, contains illustrations, supportive information, and other relevant documentation on the impact of the program area or individual being nominated for this award

For more information, contact the Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Inclusion, 412 Bellefield Hall, 412-648-7860.



University of Pittsburgh

## Pitt Publishes New E-Journal on French Philosophy

Academic manuscripts and essays on French philosophy are being solicited for *The Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy* (JFFP)—a new e-journal published by the University of Pittsburgh's University Library System (ULS), a national leader in Open Access digital publishing.

JFFP (<http://jffp.pitt.edu>) is an international, bilingual peer-reviewed journal devoted to the study of French and Francophone thought. Though rooted in the discipline of philosophy, the journal also publishes interdisciplinary extensions and explorations of French and Francophone thought and accepts peer-reviewed academic articles and book reviews written in both English and French. In keeping with its mission, JFFP will consider publishing essays on prominent or lesser-known figures in French and Francophone philosophy.

Founded in 1989, the journal will now be positioned to gain maximum visibility in an Open Access model of distribution. Current and past content will be fully searchable and available in full text. The e-journal's goal is to foster international communication and collaboration between francophone scholars.

JFFP is edited by Scott Davidson and John Drabinski, under the direction of an editorial board comprising leading scholars in the field. The journal operates in coordination with the Société Américaine de Philosophie de Langue Française.

Pitt's E-Journal Publishing Program is part of ULS' D-Scribe Digital Publishing Program. The ULS is the 23rd-largest academic library system within the United States. Under the administration of the Hillman University Librarian and ULS director, it includes 21 libraries and holds more than 6.2 million volumes and world-class specialized collections, among them the Archive of Scientific Philosophy and the

Archives of Industrial Society, as well as major foreign-language materials totaling 1.4 million volumes. The ULS offers state-of-the-art facilities and services, with innovative digital library collections and capabilities. For more information about the E-Journal Publishing Program, visit <http://www.library.pitt.edu/e-journals/>.

—By Sharon S. Blake

## PittChronicle

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# Women's History Month

For Everyone's Benefit

## Nancy Gilkes Gives Her All in Helping Pitt Employees and Retirees

By Sharon S. Blake

It's not unusual to see office lights shining well into the evening on Craig Hall's second floor. That's where Nancy Gilkes, benefits relationship manager in the University of Pittsburgh's Office of Human Resources, works at her desk long after other Pitt employees have gone home. Gilkes said she likes to be able to return calls after hours when helping clients who prefer to talk from home instead of in the office or who live in other time zones.

Now in her 43rd year as a Pitt employee, Gilkes has become a go-to person for anyone with employee benefits questions at the University. Her clientele is a large and diverse group of Pitt people—prospective students and employees, active employees, deans, officers, all retirees, and family members of deceased Pitt employees.

"We deal with a lot of 'What if...' questions in this office," explained Gilkes, a petite and friendly woman who listens intently to others.

Callers may ask: "What if I retire before I'm 65?" or "What if my research grant runs out?" While most of the questions are readily answered by the 10-person Benefits Office staff, Gilkes is frequently called upon to research more difficult questions or scenarios.

"I think I'm good at conceptualizing," she said. "If I don't know the answer, I can figure out a strategy or course of action to get the answer." Known for her painstaking attention to detail and problem-solving abilities, Gilkes will spend as many hours as it takes researching a case to find the correct information. In addition to staying late, she also is known to work early morning hours from home when colleagues in administrative offices can easily reach one another. This work ethic helped her garner the Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the University in 2008.

Gilkes, a North Side native but an Oakland resident for 40-plus years, has worn many hats at Pitt, working mostly with personnel issues, employee relations, and project analysis and implementation. In her current job, she is alternately a researcher, compliance officer, gentle recruiter, and, at times, a hand-holder. She helps to ensure that Pitt's medical insurance programs comply with University policies as well as those of insurance companies. She talks frequently with finalist candidates who are being considered for faculty or executive positions. If the candidate wants to talk confidentially about Pitt benefits before he or she accepts the job, Gilkes accommodates them, even if it's early on a Saturday morning.

In the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s, Gilkes helped bring about important changes at Pitt. Her duties ranged from serving on committees about affirmative action—where she analyzed policy, drafted reports, and monitored implementation—to helping oversee the change from manual coding to computer automation, which increased the efficiency of record keeping for thousands of faculty and staff. She also served on committees that brought about equity in benefit programs between



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"There were things that needed to be done and those in charge found I was available to do them," said Gilkes, who has a bachelor's degree in social science from Pitt and earned a Pitt master's degree in library science while a University employee.

Gilkes' willingness to assist others extends far beyond the office. She helped launch the University's successful Christmas Day at Pitt program, which provides a hearty meal and winter hats and gloves for those in need. When the steel mills were shuttered in the 1980s, she spearheaded local clothing and toy collection efforts as part of broader

philanthropic initiatives in the Mon Valley.

"Nancy Gilkes is a remarkable person who has remained in the background while giving assistance to hundreds of individuals. She never toots her own horn," said Gwen Watkins, community activities coordinator for Pitt's Office of Community and Governmental Affairs. "She is exceptional at guiding individuals in the right direction for staff information on benefits and educational resources."

"Life is filled with unusual circumstances, and many times they involve benefit-related issues," said Assistant Vice Chancellor for Benefits John Kozar. "Regardless of the time of day or night, Nancy will pursue a resolution to that issue."

When she is not burning the midnight oil, Gilkes can be found in any one of a number of activities—usually all of them involved with assisting others. She has, for example, eased the transition of East End high school students to college, whether by helping them shop for books or complete financial aid paperwork. She and her husband, a practicing attorney, are active in the outreach program of Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church, doing fundraising for enrichment programs for area children. Every Sunday, and sometimes on a weekday evening, she visits her elderly father to aid him with everyday needs and paperwork.

Strangers are often a part of Gilkes' life as well. For as long as she can remember, Gilkes said, she and her husband have hosted people in need of short-term housing, including high school cultural exchange students and college students. She remembers one night in particular when she was awakened at 3 o'clock by a knock on her door. She peered out the window and saw a man in a long coat and scarf, and when she went to investigate, the man told her Gilkes' brother had told him, "If you're ever stranded in Pittsburgh, go to my sister's house." Sure enough, Gilkes looked at the piece of paper the man held and recognized her brother's handwriting.

Graduate students studying opera stayed briefly with the couple and had their recitals at the family home. The Gilkeses were also asked to host members of the St. Petersburg (Russia) Youth Chamber Choir, the Christ Church Cathedral Choir of Oxford (England), and the Texas Boys Choir when their tours brought them to Pittsburgh.

Gilkes' philanthropic nature may have been instilled in her during her formative years. As an adolescent, she lived with her family in rural Washington County, where she pitched in when her mother and neighbors prepared meals for farmworkers. When rain threatened, she helped farmers hoist hay bales into wagons.

"I can still throw a 40-pound bale, if needed," she said, laughing.

But for now, the 25,000 Pitt employees and retirees whom the Benefits Office serves are grateful that Gilkes has chosen to stay right where she is.

# Pitt Cosmologists Part of New Project to Create Largest-Ever Map of Universe



Mayall telescope in Arizona's Kitt Peak National Observatory

By Morgan Kelly

Pitt's prolific cosmology group in the School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Physics and Astronomy will again lend its expertise to a multi-institutional endeavor to investigate the distant universe, further expanding Pitt's role in the most ambitious efforts to unravel the inner workings of deep space.

The National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO)—the R&D arm of the National Science Foundation that oversees ground-based astronomy—recently granted conditional approval for the BigBOSS Collaboration to observe the universe for 500 nights using one of the world's largest telescopes, the Mayall 4-meter Telescope housed in Arizona's Kitt Peak National Observatory. A pivotal first step, NOAO's approval means that BigBOSS can now move into the final design stage, said Jeffrey Newman, a Pitt assistant professor of physics and astronomy, who joined the project shortly after it was conceived in 2009 and was involved in the crucial proposal to NOAO.

Led by the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, BigBOSS—or the Big Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey—will peer back into the past 10 billion years of the universe's lifespan to find precise locations for almost 20 million galaxies and quasars. The project gets its name from baryon acoustic oscillations, which are the leftover imprint of sound waves that moved through the early universe when it was hot and dense. This imprint causes galaxies to bunch up at roughly 500-million-light-year intervals. This unique signature provides a high-precision test of the nature of the mysterious dark energy that is causing the universe to expand at an ever-accelerating rate.

The linchpin of the project is a massive new instrument, the BigBOSS spectrograph, capable of studying the light from 5,000 galaxies or stars at one time. Observations captured with the spectrograph—roughly 10,000 of them—will then be compiled into the largest map of the universe ever created. The next steps for BigBOSS are to secure funding, construct the spectrograph, and,

with luck, begin observations as early as 2017, Newman said.

Five Pitt cosmologists will take part in BigBOSS, constituting one of the largest contingents of scientists from a single institution after the Berkeley Lab, Newman said. Joining Newman are professors Arthur Kosowsky and Regina Schulte-Ladbeck, assistant professor Michael Wood-Vasey, and assistant professor Andrew Zentner.

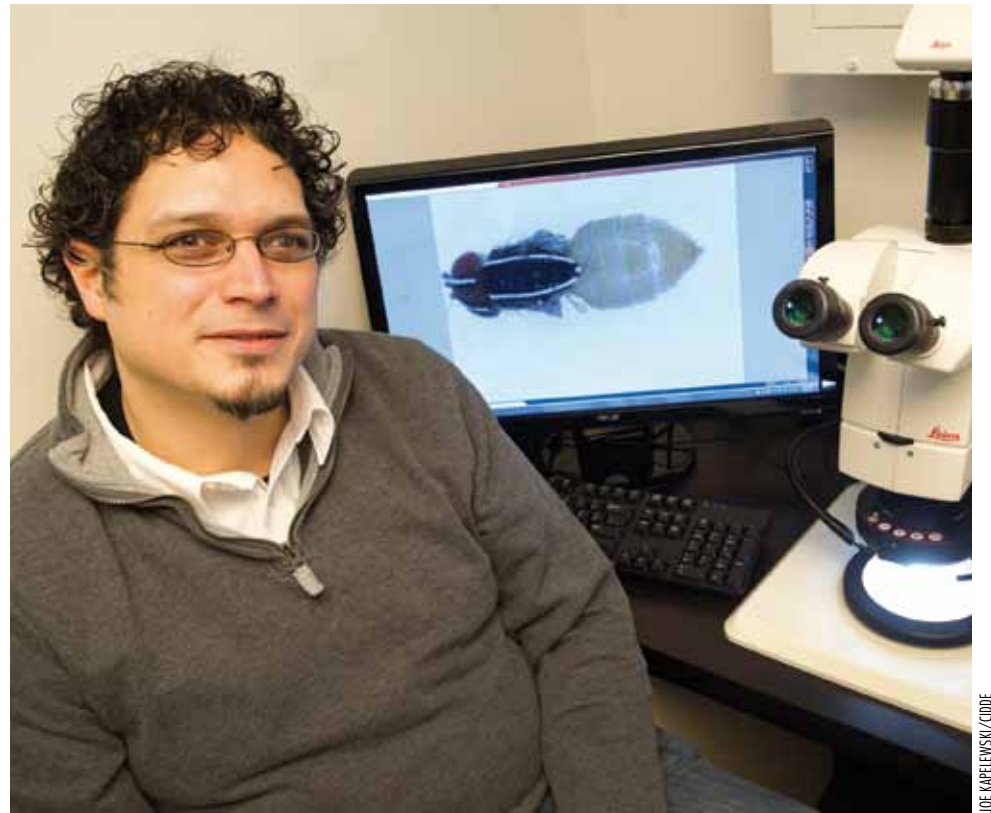
The Pitt team will take on various projects within BigBOSS, including using the resulting data to study the nature of dark energy and the development of galaxies over time, identifying the particular galaxies and quasars the survey should investigate, and developing new methods and tools to handle the immense data processing requirements and huge databases that will result from BigBOSS. This last objective will draw on the department's collaboration with Pitt's Department of Computer Science and the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center.

Pitt's involvement in BigBOSS also sustains the University's long involvement in large-survey astronomy that began in 1994 with the most influential survey project, the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS). Pitt cosmologists now help lead or participate in approximately a dozen different projects that document the active lives of celestial bodies—from colliding galaxies and tremendous explosions to star-gobbling black holes—in an effort to better understand cosmic objects and the universe's evolution.

These projects include: SDSS III (Wood-Vasey), an international effort to better understand dark energy, the structure of planetary systems, and the genesis of the Milky Way; CANDELS (Newman), the longest single project ever carried out with the Hubble Space Telescope; and the half-billion-dollar Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (Kosowsky, Newman, Wood-Vasey, and Zentner), a 14-year collaboration between 23 institutions to construct the world's largest digital camera (with 3 billion pixels) to record the movement and development of the universe over 10 years in a color movie of the sky.

**Led by the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, BigBOSS—or the Big Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey—will peer back into the past 10 billion years of the universe's lifespan to find precise locations for almost 20 million galaxies and quasars.**

# Hunt for Genetic Roots of Evolution Earns Mark Rebeiz Honor of Being Named 2011 Sloan Foundation Fellow



Mark Rebeiz

By Morgan Kelly

How did the elephant first get its trunk or the turtle its shell? These are the types of questions University of Pittsburgh biologist Mark Rebeiz hopes to answer with his research. Rebeiz looks for that moment when a gene's function and expression change to produce "novelties," characteristics with no genetic precedent, such as the horn of a beetle or the eyespots on a butterfly's wings.

His pursuit of errant gene activity recently earned Rebeiz, an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, the honor of being named a 2011 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellow, a distinction that carries a two-year, \$50,000 grant. In being named a Sloan Fellow, Rebeiz joins 118 young scientists from 54 universities in the United States and Canada, among them Cornell University, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Pennsylvania. Rebeiz is the fourth Sloan Fellow from Pitt in the past three years.

Rebeiz works at the forefront of evolution, comparing the genes of an individual with a new trait to the genes of its predecessors. Genes contain regulatory switches that activate gene expression and, ultimately, the characteristics a genetic code will produce. A newly evolved characteristic is often simply the result of an old gene being expressed in a new way, Rebeiz explained. He seeks to understand how and why regulatory switches change to produce novelties.

Many novelties like beetle horns

evolved too long ago to detect such slight mutations in regulatory switches. Instead, Rebeiz examines recent developments in fruit flies, for which evolution can be traced in the laboratory. For instance, his lab is beginning to examine the development of the posterior lobe, a microscopic appendage

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found in only four fruit fly species that a male wields during mating to grasp onto his chosen female. Rebeiz plans to compare the genome of fruit flies sporting this feature to those without it to determine the genetic alterations that gave rise to the lobe. Rebeiz said that his work could be applied beyond the private lives of fruit flies to human genetics as a way to better understand how switches are altered in ways that can lead to disease and deformities.

"When you look molecularly at how an existing biological structure develops, it is incredibly complex, with lots of moving parts," Rebeiz said. "However, we know that these entities evolved through simple steps. The goal in my lab is to understand those short strides that generate the complex world around us."

Other Pitt researchers recently named Sloan Fellows include 2010 Fellow Gurudev Dutt, an assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy; and 2009 Fellows Brent Doiron, an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, and Michael Grabe, an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. Rebeiz is the 33rd Pitt researcher to be selected as a Sloan Fellow since the awards were established in 1955.

## Chancellor Makes Pitt's Case Before Legislators on "Damaging" PA State Budget Proposal

Nordenberg continued to express respect for the Governor and an appreciation for the difficult task he faces in dealing with the budget deficit that he inherited. "I've never had to close a \$4 billion deficit, and I've never had to do it in six weeks," Nordenberg told the committee. "I do understand the pressures under which the administration was operating. I also do understand that all of us will need to do our share to bring things into better alignment economically."

*Continued from page 1*

passed on to students. However, they also added that tuition increases that are far larger than usual, particularly for in-state students, seem inevitable in the absence of legislative relief and that dramatic reductions in state support could lead to a basic re-examination of the current tuition structure.

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Committee members, to a person and regardless of their party affiliation, seemed strongly supportive of the case made by the state-related universities. Sen. Jim Ferlo (D-38th District) noted that Pitt had helped rebuild Pittsburgh after the 1980s collapse of the steel industry. "It would not have happened without the energy and resources of the universities," he said, adding that securing adequate funding for the Commonwealth's institutions of higher education "is not a Republican or Democratic issue."

Sen. John Rafferty (R-44th District), a graduate of Pitt-Johnstown, and Sen. John Yudichak (D-14th District) have formed a bipartisan caucus to advocate for more adequate funding for the state-related universities. Sen. Rafferty spoke of the proposed budget cuts as an undesirable change in policy. "We're saying in this budget document... that we do not value higher education in Pennsylvania, that we do not see it has a role to play in economic growth. That goes against every study I've ever read about the evolution of a knowledge-based economy."

There also was an express recognition that, because of a no-increase pattern of funding for public higher education,

the state-related universities had not contributed to the current state budget deficit. Senator John Pippy (R-37th District) noted that funding for the state-related universities had remained flat over the course of the last decade, even while inflation and funding for many other programs had risen, and stated, "So you've been carrying a pretty heavy burden already. With the economic impact you have on our communities, it just doesn't make sense that you are getting targeted" for funding cuts.

In concluding the hearing, Sen. Jake Corman (R-34th District), the Committee's chair, stated that the Governor's proposal has forced Commonwealth residents to think about higher education and its relative value to other items in the annual budget. "Now the public is going to get engaged and hopefully put higher education at a higher level of priority in our budget." Interestingly, polling results released two days after the hearing by the Center for Opinion Research at the Floyd Institute for Public Policy at Franklin and Marshall College found that only 28 percent of respondents favored balancing the state budget by "cutting state funding in half for the state's public universities."

Pitt and the other state-related universities will have the opportunity to take their case to Harrisburg again on March 28, when they appear before the Pennsylvania House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Rep. Bill Adolph (R-165th District). In an interview following the Senate hearing, Adolph said the higher education budget reduction proposals came as a "complete shock" to the Legislature. "That will be looked at very closely, and we will get the information of how that will affect tuition and how that would affect the overall fiscal stability of the state system, and we will certainly evaluate that proposal," he said. "I have always been an advocate for funding of higher education. I'm only speaking for myself, [but] I just don't see how a 54 percent decrease can work."

This year's "Pitt Day in Harrisburg" will take place on April 5, when members of the University community, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni, will meet with legislators. Additional information about "Pitt Day in Harrisburg" can be found at <http://www.govtrel.pitt.edu/events.html>. Information about Pitt's efforts in Harrisburg and other issues related to the budget can be found

at the Pitt's Progress Web site, [www.progress.pitt.edu](http://www.progress.pitt.edu).

Nordenberg said that he left the Senate hearing encouraged by the strong expressions of support that came from Committee members. However, he also cautioned that the hearing was just one step in what continues to loom as a very challenging budget process. "Even if we are able to attain some meaningful level of restoration to our appropriation," he said, "the state's funding challenges could leave us with a sizeable deficit. Therefore, we need to continue advocating for the cause of higher education, and for all of the many people who depend upon our universities, until the budget has been finalized so that we are as well positioned as possible to press forward with our important work."

## Pitt Deserves Better

The proposed state budget cuts would put a first-class education out of reach for many Pennsylvanians, writes Pitt Board chair

By Stephen R. Tritch

*This article originally appeared on page 1 of the Sunday Forum section of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on March 13, 2011. It is reprinted courtesy of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.*

As a young man of modest means who grew up in Butler, I was able to attend the University of Pittsburgh, the school of my choice, because of the low tuition for in-state students that resulted from Pitt's transition from a private university to a public university the year before I began. As both an engineering undergraduate and an MBA student there, I found the quality of the education and the total student experience to be life-changing.

Many years later, as chairman and CEO of Westinghouse, one of the state's most-respected international corporations, I discovered anew the power of Pitt's programs of education and research. In fact, partnerships with Pitt helped drive the decision to build Westinghouse's new corporate campus here in Western Pennsylvania, even in the face of attractive offers from out of state.

These personal and civic experiences drive my sense of deep concern at the just-announced state budget proposal, which includes devastating cuts to Pitt's appropriation. Direct and other state support would be reduced by more than \$100 million.

Anyone who attended Pitt or whose life was touched in some other way by the university—working there or for its suppliers or spin-off companies; benefiting from its medical research; attending its cultural events; being helped by its community outreach; living in Oakland, where its police protection extends to all; or in uncountable other ways—almost certainly shares those feelings as the state budget ax is poised to fall on us all.

In 1966, when the state agreed to convert Pitt to a public university, it promised that the Commonwealth subsidy would help keep tuition low. That promise has eroded dramatically since then.

As a percentage of Pitt's budget, the Commonwealth appropriation stood at more than 30 percent in the mid-1970s. By the mid-1990s, it was less than 20 percent. Today, it is less than 10 percent. The most recent budget proposal represents the sixth cut in Pitt's appropriation in the last 10 years.

Meanwhile, Pitt has kept its end of the bargain, providing high-quality education at costs that are far below its peer private universities. Pitt tuition is just more than \$14,000 per year, while comparable private universities charge more than \$40,000 per year. Pitt was the state's only public institution of higher education to be included in The Princeton Review/USA Today list

of the nation's "best value" colleges and universities. But with the state's dwindling support, how long can this last?

Pitt is today a principal driver of Southwestern Pennsylvania's economy, contributing \$1.74 billion in total university-related spending; \$1.3 billion in personal income from 33,800 Pitt-supported jobs; \$737 million in sponsored research expenditures,

representing well in excess of four dollars in research support for every dollar of our state appropriation; and \$145.2 million paid to local governments, including sales, wage, and real estate taxes.

In this economy, when the state should be rewarding job generators like Pitt, the governor's budget proposal would do just the opposite. And while I'm convinced that this level of reduction is both unwarranted and counterproductive, I'm not saying that the University expects to be exempt from the sacrifices that all are

sharing in these difficult economic times.

In the past eight years, in fact, the University has reduced its budget by \$21.1 million and implemented a salary freeze in fiscal year 2010 for all staff and faculty, restructured its retiree medical benefits program for a savings of \$390 million over 20 years, and made a host of other cutbacks.

We understand the difficult situation in which the state's \$4 billion deficit places the Commonwealth. But the solution to the problem should not be the dismantling of one of the state's primary economic engines and diminishing educational opportunities for the state's young people for generations to come.

If Pitt is forced to raise tuition to cover the enormous state cuts, the university would be less accessible to a wide range of students throughout the state, shutting off their options for careers in medicine, science, technology, engineering, and other important fields. Until now, Pitt's strong performance has helped reverse the brain drain from Pennsylvania, but this proposed budget would unleash an exodus of talent that would harm

the entire economic region.

Looking back at my own situation some 40 years ago, I am left with grave concerns about the ability of a young person like I was, thirsting for a great education, to be able to afford Pitt, one of the world's preeminent institutions of higher education, if these devastating cuts in the proposed state budget were to be enacted.

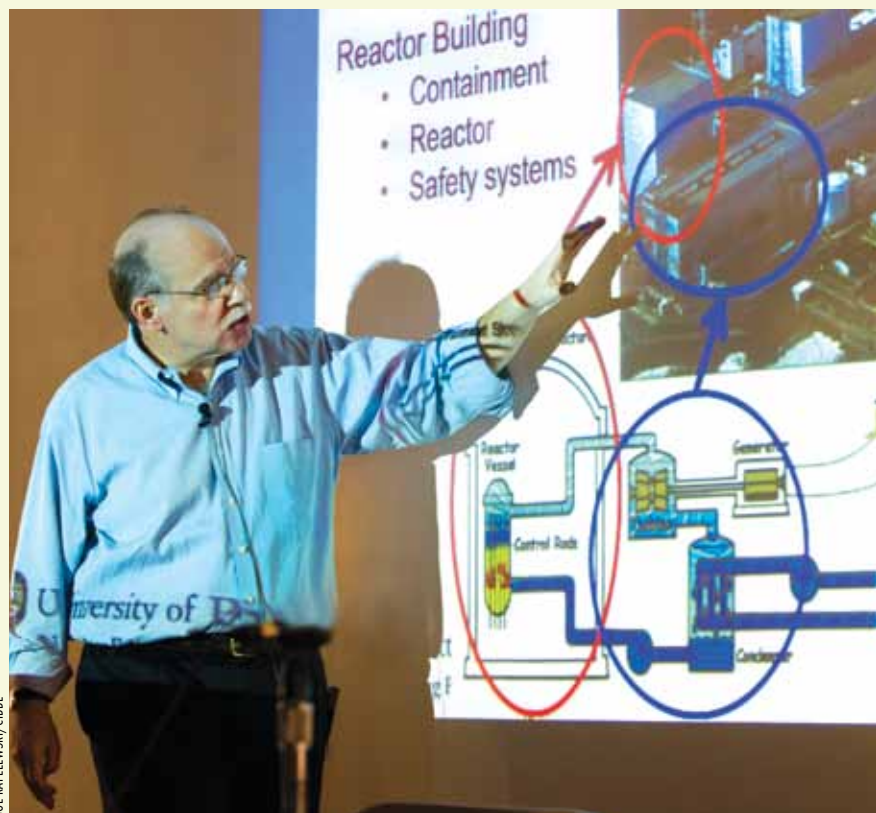
Stephen R. Tritch retired from Westinghouse Electric Company as chairman in 2010 after a 39-year career with the company and has chaired the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees since 2009.



Stephen R. Tritch

Many years later, as chairman and CEO of Westinghouse, one of the state's most-respected international corporations, I discovered anew the power of Pitt's programs of education and research. In fact, partnerships with Pitt helped drive the decision to build Westinghouse's new corporate campus here in Western Pennsylvania, even in the face of attractive offers from out of state.

## ASSESSING JAPAN'S NUCLEAR PROBLEM



JOE KAPELWSKI/CODE

John Metzger (above), a professor in Pitt's Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science and director of Pitt's Nuclear Engineering Program, spoke during a March 16 lecture and discussion about the extent and danger of the damage sustained by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station during Japan's March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Presented by the Nuclear Engineering Program and the Center for Energy in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, the free public event in Benedum Hall drew a large group of engineering students as well as members of the public. David Helling, an adjunct faculty in Pitt's Nuclear Engineering Program, also spoke. Kent Harries, a Pitt professor of civil and environmental engineering, addressed the seismic issues associated with the event.

## Freddie Fu Recognized for Advancing Diversity in Orthopaedics

By Stacey Simon

Freddie H. Fu, Distinguished Service Professor and David Silver Professor and Chair in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and renowned UPMC orthopaedic surgeon, was recently selected as the 2011 Diversity Award winner by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS). The Diversity Award recognizes members of the academy who have distinguished themselves through their outstanding commitment to making orthopaedics more representative of and accessible to diverse patient populations.

A native of Hong Kong, Fu was one of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery's first Asian residents when he came to Pitt during the 1970s. As an assistant professor and fellowship director at UPMC, he helped found the UPMC Center for Sports Medicine in 1982 and subsequently trained a diverse group of clinical fellows in a then-new orthopaedic specialty—sports medicine. Fu became chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the late 1990s and began to diversify the residency program and department faculty.

"As an immigrant, I have seen firsthand where it may be harder for someone who is a bit different to find opportunities and receive mentorship. Over the years, I've tried to understand and respect people of different backgrounds and to reach out to them," Fu said.

Under his leadership, the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery has become noted for its gender equity. Nationwide, only 4 percent of board-

certified orthopedic surgeons and less than 10 percent of orthopedic residents are women, according to the AAOS. In the Pitt Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, however, women represent 20 percent of the full-time faculty and 30 percent of the orthopaedic residency program.

"Although much has changed over the years, our tradition of attracting the best and brightest faculty to provide quality patient care, teaching, and innovative research remains the same," Fu said.

Fu also has completed several traveling fellowships, lectured internationally, and has trained more than 600 orthopaedic and sports medicine fellows worldwide through the Pitt Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Fellowship Program he developed.

A world-renowned orthopaedic surgeon, Fu has become a leader in anatomic ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) reconstruction surgery. He and his colleagues are currently

conducting a large clinical trial to compare patient outcomes of two types of anatomically correct ACL reconstructions, known as anatomic single-bundle surgery and anatomic double-bundle surgery. Though more research is necessary to compare the outcomes of these two procedures, preliminary studies have shown that both restore knee anatomy and function better than the one-size-fits-all approach of ACL surgery typically performed today.

Fu has been the David Silver Professor and Chair in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery since 1998. He also is chair of the UPMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, which currently is ranked eighth in the *U.S. News & World Report* annual Best Hospitals survey.



## Pitt Wages Record-Breaking United Way Campaign in 2010



Anne Franks (left) and Michelle Page

JOE KAPELWSKI/CODE

Continued from page 1

worked on the United Way campaign for six years, ensuring, according to Clark, that it is well structured and operates according to best practices. She and Page interacted frequently with the campaign's 400 volunteers across the University.

Clark, who has been a cochair for the campaign for the past 10 years, said, "The success of our campaign is due singularly to the generosity of the Pitt faculty and staff. Our campaign steering committee members developed creative workplace programs and events to raise the awareness of their fellow employees to the services that the United Way agencies provide to individuals in local neighborhoods and communities who struggle with life every day. Reaching a new record of giving during these difficult economic times is a tangible example of the care and compassion that exist within the Pitt family."

In addition to raising the most money for the United Way in Pitt's history, the 2010 campaign featured other positive numerical trends, including 450 Pitt faculty and staff who increased their gifts from previous years, 718 new donors, and a 9 percent increase in leadership gifts (donations of \$1,000 or more). The online donation option—made possible by the efforts of Pitt's Computing Services and Systems Development—was another strong factor in the 2010 campaign's success.

Prior to joining Pitt, both Franks and Page had worked in the nonprofit sector for United Way-supported agencies. Their experiences there helped to make them true believers in the organization's cause, they commented.

"We've been on the other side—working at these nonprofit agencies that depend on

funding from the United Way to survive and run their programs," said Franks. "When people ask why they should donate, I feel perfectly comfortable telling them why."

Franks also reviews agencies and their proposals seeking to be accepted as official United Way organizations. "I know what a stringent process you have to go through to receive United Way funding," she added.

The top three agencies that Pitt staff and faculty support through the United Way campaign are Catholic Charities, the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, and the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

Individual departments within the University get very creative with their fundraising efforts. Franks said her favorites have included flea markets, recycling programs for electronics such as cell phones, silent auctions, the creation and sale of cookbooks, and snack carts.

"I see these fundraising activities as real team-building exercises," she said.

Plans for a successful 2011 campaign are already under way. This

is the time of year when Franks and her team reflect on the previous year's campaign—discussing its challenges and strategizing ways to overcome them in the upcoming campaign.

"It's exciting to see the generosity of the University community—to see how people really step up, even when budgets are tight and everyone is struggling," Franks said. "Pitt demonstrated its commitment to *Live United for a Greater Pittsburgh* by raising more than \$600,000 to support the people in our region who really need our help."

**Pitt has participated in the United Way of Allegheny County campaign for the past 14 years. It is the most comprehensive fundraising effort on campus—involving faculty and staff from every department in every school and administrative unit at Pitt, including the schools of the health sciences. Each of Pitt's campuses conducts separate United Way campaigns; the record-breaking total was raised entirely by the Pittsburgh campus.**

# Happenings



## TURANDOT

*Turandot,*  
Benedum Center,  
March 26 and 29, April 1 and 3

### Concerts

**Steve Weber and Phil Smith,** acoustic blues and folk music by two Pitt professors, noon **March 25**, free concert, 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.

**Jeff Lorber,** composer, producer, and keyboard legend, 7 and 9:30 p.m. **March 25**, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Hall, 1815 Metropolitan St., Manchester, MCG Jazz, 412-322-0800, www.mcgjazz.org. PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Scheherazade** by Rimsky-Korsakov, with Andris Nelsons conducting that symphonic suite as well as a work by Mendelssohn and, with pianist Jonathan Biss, Beethoven's Concerto No. 2, 8 p.m. **March 25 and 27**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org. PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**The Gospel at Colonus,** conceived and adapted by Lee Breuer, music composed by Bob Telson, featuring the Mt. Ararat Music Ministry, **March 25-27**, August Wilson Center, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, 412-456-1390, www.operatheaterpittsburgh.org.

### Exhibitions

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

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

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

**through 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**, 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

***In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee*** (Deann Borshay Liem, 2010), film screening with discussion to follow, 7:30 p.m. **March 23**, 349 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Asian Studies Center, Film Studies Program, and Women's Studies Program, www.english.pitt.edu.

***Bad Education*** (Pedro Almodovar, 2004), free film showing, 7:45 p.m. **March 23**, 3415 Posvar Hall, Contemporary Queer Cinemas Public Film Series Spring 2011, Pitt Women's Studies Program, 412-624-6485, www.wstudies.pitt.edu.

### Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**"Quantum Deviation From Einstein Dilation of Unstable Quantum Lifetimes,"** Gordon Fleming, professor emeritus of physics, Penn State University, 12:05 p.m. **March 22**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittentr@pitt.edu.

**"The Civilization Model of World History and the Challenge of the Global,"** Sucheta Mazumdar, associate professor, Duke University's Department of History, 2 p.m. **March 22**, 3703 Posvar Hall, Pitt World History Center, www.worldhistory.pitt.edu.

**"In Search of the 'Clew of Ariadne' (Zachary Coke): Logic, Literature, and Falling From Grace in the Seventeenth Century,"** Emma Wilson, Pitt postdoctoral fellow in the Department of English, 4 p.m. **March 22**, Humanities Center, 602 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Medieval

and Renaissance Studies, www.medren.pitt.edu.

**"De Arte Gladiatoria: Recovering Gladiatorial Tactics From Artistic Sources,"** Steven L. Tuck, associate professor of classics, Miami University, 4:30 p.m. **March 22**, 202 Frick Fine Arts Building, Pitt Department of Classics, Pittsburgh Archaeological Institute of America, www.classics.pitt.edu.

**"Leadership in a Crisis,"** in honor and celebration of Admiral Thad Allen (ret.), Johnson Institute Exemplary Leadership Award Recipient, 3 p.m. **March 23**, Ballroom B, University Club, Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership, Pitt Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, RSVP 412-648-1336, gspiaji@pitt.edu.

**"The Child and the Memorized Poem: Recitation and Pedagogy in Great Britain and the United States, 1870-1940,"** Catherine Robson, associate professor of English, New York University, 4:30 p.m. **March 23**, 501 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of English's Children's Literature Program, www.childrenslit.pitt.edu.

**"Myth, Legend, Reality—Edwin L. Drake and the Early Oil Industry,"** William Brice, Pitt-Johnstown professor emeritus in geology and planetary science, 5 p.m. **March 23**, University Club Library, 412-648-1329, leers@pitt.edu.

**"The Art and Science of Regional Resilience,"** Kathryn A. Foster, director of UB Regional Institute, 9 a.m. **March 24**, Ballroom A, University Club, Pitt Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Leadership Pittsburgh, Allegheny Conference, gspiaic@pitt.edu.

**"High Returns, Low Aspirations? Social Norms and Education in Village India,"** Annemie Maertens, Pitt assistant professor of international affairs, noon **March 24**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, University Center for International Studies, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.

**"Comparing the Japanese and Korean Languages: Culling Borrowed Words,"** J. Marshall Unger, professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, The Ohio State University, 4 p.m. **March 24**, Martin Room, 4217 Sennott Square, Japanese Speakers Series, Asian Studies Center, 412-648-7763, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

**"Organizational Research and Public School Reform,"** Carrie R. Leana, George H. Love Chair in Organizations and Management, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, 4 p.m. **March 24**, 2500 Posvar Hall, Provost's Inaugural Lecture, Office of the Provost, 412-624-5750.

**"Strontium Isotope Tracking of Fossil Fuel-Related Water Contamination,"** Elizabeth Chapman, graduate student, Pitt Department of Geology and Planetary Science, 4 p.m. **March 24**, Room 11, Thaw Hall, 2011 Colloquium Series, dbain@pitt.edu.

**"Virtual Worlds, Virtual Property,"** Dan L. Burk, Chancellor's Professor of Law, University of California-Irvine School of Law, 4 p.m. **March 24**, 107 Barco Law Building, Distinguished Intellectual Property Lecture, Pitt School of Law's Innovation Practice Institute, www.law.pitt.edu.

**Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry,** reading, 7 p.m. **March 24**, August

Wilson Center for African American Culture, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown; also 2 p.m. **March 25**, 501 Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series, Pitt Department of English, Book Center, University of Pittsburgh Press, 412-624-6508, www.creativewriting.pitt.edu.

**"The News: Who's Going to Pay for This?"** panel discussion featuring news professionals from around the country, 7:30 p.m. **March 24**, University Club, Pitt University Honors College, uhcevent@pitt.edu.

**"Mortgage Delinquencies in Pennsylvania: Are Loan Modifications Stemming the Tide?"** Lisa Nelson, senior policy analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, noon **March 25**, 2nd-floor conference room, University Center for Social and Urban Research, Brown Bag Research Series, register pncis@pitt.edu.

**"Philosophical Issues in Psychiatry,"** Kenneth Kendler, professor of psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University, 3:30 p.m. **March 25**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Annual Lecture Series, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittentr@pitt.edu.

### Miscellaneous

**31st Annual Latin American and Caribbean Festival,** local and international musicians, handmade arts and crafts, authentic Latin American cuisine, traditional dance performances, and children's activities, noon to midnight **March 26**, William Pitt Union, Pitt Center for Latin American Studies, 412-648-7394, www.ucis.pitt.edu. (See page 2).

**What's New in Blackboard 9.1,** workshop on the Blackboard Learning Management System, 2 p.m. **March 23**, B23 Alumni Hall, Pitt CIDDE, register online at www.cidde.pitt.edu.

**TIES Informational Luncheon for Researchers and Research Assistants,** talk on Text Information Extraction System (TIES), Rebecca Crowley, director, Biomedical Informatics Graduate Training Program, Pitt School of Medicine, 11 a.m.-noon **March 30**, UPMC Cancer Pavilion, Suite 301, Conference Room 341, open to Pitt and UPMC faculty, staff, and students, registration required, http://ties.upmc.com/register/index.html, 412-623-4753.

### Opera/Theater/Dance

**Turandot** by Giacomo Puccini, **March 26 and 29**, also **April 1 and 3**, Benedum Center, 803 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-456-6666, www.pittsburghopera.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

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

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

### Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Ellen P. Motohashi,** School of Education's Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, 11 a.m. **March 21**, "Kakehashi or Bridging the Divide: The Power of Pedagogic Philosophy and Innovative Practice to Drive Culturally Responsive Reforms for Japanese-Brazilian Children in a Rural Public Elementary School in Japan," 4321 Posvar Hall.

**David Sturman,** School of Medicine's Center for Neuroscience, noon **March 21**, "Neural Correlates of Adolescent Behavior," A219B Langley Hall.

**Xia Zhang,** School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Anthropology, 3 p.m. **March 21**, "Carrying out Modernity: Migration, Work, and Masculinity in China," 3106 Posvar Hall.

**James Stark,** Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology, 9 a.m. **March 23**, "Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Influenza," Room 110, Parran Hall.

**Constance Demore Palmer,** School of Education's Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, 11 a.m. **March 23**, "A Phenomenological Study of Informal Teacher Leadership From the Perspective of Those Who Choose to Lead," 4321 Posvar Hall.

**Wendy Sink,** School of Education's Department of Instruction and Learning, 10:30 a.m. **March 25**, "Pedagogical Content Knowledge Planning Tools: How Are They Transformed and What Factors Impact Those Changes?" 5511 Posvar Hall.

**Joost Wagenaar,** Swanson School of Engineering, 1 p.m. **March 25**, "Using Primary Afferent Neural Activity for Estimation of Limb Kinematics," S120 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower South.

**Ashley Felix,** Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology, 2:30 p.m. **March 25**, "Tumor-Stromal Interactions in Type I and Type II Endometrial Cancer: The Role of CXCL12/CXCR4 and HGF/c-MET/bFGF in a Large Cohort of Endometrial Cancer Patients," 109 Parran Hall.



**Bad Education,** Posvar Hall, **March 23**



**31st Annual Latin American and Caribbean Festival,** William Pitt Union, **March 26**



# Pitt's Berg Center Develops Scorecard to Measure Food Security in City Communities



By Amanda Leff Ritchie

The David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership at the University of Pittsburgh has developed a new scorecard—the Food Abundance Index (FAI)—to measure food security within a neighborhood or geographic area. The index was created to

determine the access to and availability of healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food and to eliminate food deserts—areas where healthy, affordable food is difficult to obtain.

“While awareness of the growing

number of communities that are impacted by low-food security has increased, existing tools to detect the presence of food deserts and measure the levels of food security have numerous limitations,” said Audrey Murrell, coauthor of the FAI report, director of the Berg Center, and a professor of business administration and psychology at Pitt. “The FAI attempts to combine the strengths of existing measures of food access and availability and examine food security based on five criteria: access, diversity, quality, density, and affordability.”

The technical report that outlines the creation, use, and impact of the FAI as well as the potential contributions it can make and benefits that can accrue through its deployment is available through the Berg Center. In addition, the center offers a user’s toolkit and training workshops in an effort to eliminate food deserts. The report provides an overview of the FAI scorecard to help individuals, communities, and regions lay the foundation for improving food security and raising communities’ economic status, health, and overall well-being.

The Berg Center has recognized three Pittsburgh-area organizations for their work to improve food distribution and access within their respective communities: Hill House Economic Development Corporation (Hill District), Kingsley Association (East Liberty), and Blackberry Meadows Farms (Braddock).

For more information about the FAI or to schedule training, call 412-648-2169 or

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Audrey Murrell

visit [www.business.pitt.edu/berg](http://www.business.pitt.edu/berg).

The Berg Center is part of Pitt’s Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration.

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published March 28. 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](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).