

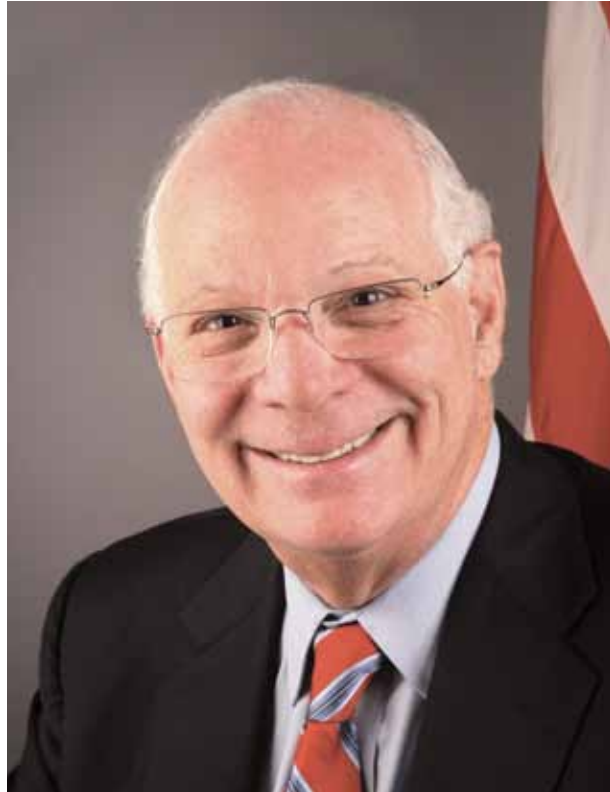
Pitt Alumnus and U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin to Speak at Commencement Ceremony May 1

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (A&S '64), a renowned national leader regarding such issues as health care, retirement security, the environment, and fiscal policy, will be the featured speaker at the University of Pittsburgh's 2011 Commencement on May 1. The ceremony, which will include the presentation to the Senator of an honorary doctoral degree, will begin at 1 p.m. in the Petersen Events Center.

"Senator Ben Cardin began laying the foundation for a lifetime of leadership in public service during his years as a Pitt undergraduate," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "A respected national leader on many of the most critical issues of our times, Senator Cardin has worked tirelessly to shape legislation that affords more Americans with access to the American dream. It will be a privilege to welcome this distinguished Pitt honors alumnus back to campus as our University's 2011 commencement speaker."

Cardin was elected from Maryland to the U.S. House of Representatives (D-3rd District) in 1986 and to the U.S. Senate in 2006. Since 1993, he has been a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (also known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission), serving as chairman in the 111th Congress and cochairman in the 112th Congress. In the 112th Congress, he chairs the Environment and Public Works Committee's (EPW) Water and Wildlife Subcommittee and the Foreign Relations



Benjamin L. Cardin

Committee's International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection Subcommittee. Cardin currently serves on the EPW, Finance, Foreign Relations, Budget, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship committees.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Cardin brings with him the expertise he developed while serving for 17 years on the Ways and Means Committee in the U.S. House. During that time, many of

Continued on page 6

Chancellor Says Pitt Willing to Accept "Fair Share Of Sacrifice" in Proposed Budget Cuts, but Asks PA Legislature Not to Abandon Higher-Education Funding

(This is Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg's written testimony that was submitted to the Senate's Appropriation Committee on March 16, 2011. The Chancellor is making a presentation to the Pa. House's Appropriations Committee today, March 28.)

In the preamble to the Act of Feb. 28, 1787, which established the academy that would become the University of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania legislature declared that "the education of youth ought to be a primary object with every government." For nearly 225 years, state support for Pitt has been built on a basic belief in the power of education, not only as an essential element of individual growth but also as a key to building community vitality and economic strength.

Forty-five years ago, when Pitt became a state-related university, the Commonwealth assumed a more central role in supporting high-quality programs of higher education. That new role created larger numbers of reasonably priced opportunities to meet the higher aspirations of Pennsylvania families. It also reflected the recognition that a competitive state economy would require an increasingly well-educated citizenry. The basic understanding was straightforward—the state would provide an appropriation large enough to enable Pitt to set a tuition rate for Pennsylvania students that was markedly lower than what it had been charging, and would have continued to charge, as a private university. In the process, the state also would provide support to an institution that would become increasingly central to the Commonwealth's collective progress.

Unfortunately, levels of Commonwealth support have fallen significantly over an extended period of time—with our appropriation representing more than 30 percent of the University's budget in the mid-1970s, less than 20 percent by the mid-1990s, and just under 10 percent today. Comparisons to the levels of support



Mark A. Nordenberg

Unfortunately, levels of Commonwealth support have fallen significantly over an extended period of time—with our appropriation representing more than 30 percent of the University's budget in the mid-1970s, less than 20 percent by the mid-1990s, and just under 10 percent today.

provided by many other states are striking. For example, most of the institutions that have been grouped with Pitt in the very

Continued on page 4

Only the Weak Survive? Pitt-led Researchers Devise Model For Stronger Self-Healing Materials by Adding More Give

By Morgan Kelly

Conventional rules of survival tend to favor the strongest, but University of Pittsburgh-based researchers recently found that in the emerging world of self-healing materials, it is the somewhat frail that survive.

The team presents in the journal *Langmuir* a new model laying out the inner workings of self-healing materials made of nanoscale gel particles that can regenerate after taking damage and are being pursued as a coating or composite material. Moreover, the researchers discovered that an ideal amount of weak bonds actually make for an overall stronger material that can withstand more stress.

Although self-healing nanogel

materials have already been realized in the lab, the exact mechanical nature and ideal structure had remained unknown, explained Anna Balazs, corresponding author and Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering. The team's findings not only reveal how self-healing nanogel materials work, but also provide a blueprint for creating more resilient designs, she said. Balazs worked with lead author and Pitt postdoctoral researcher Isaac Salib; Chet Gnegy, a Pitt chemical and petroleum engineering sophomore; German Kolmakov, a postdoctoral researcher in Balazs' lab; and



Anna Balazs

Krzysztof Matyjaszewski, a chemistry professor at Carnegie Mellon University with an adjunct appointment in Pitt's Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering.

The team worked from a computational model that Gnegy, Kolmakov, and Salib created based on a self-healing material Matyjaszewski developed known as nanogel, a composition of spongy, microscopic polymer particles linked to one another by several tentacle-like bonds. The nanogel particles consist of stable bonds—which provide overall strength—and labile bonds, highly reactive bonds that can break and easily reform, that act as shock absorbers.

The computer model allowed the researchers to test the performance of various bond arrangements. The polymers were first laid out in an arrangement similar

to that in the nanogel, with the tentacles linked end-to-end by a single strong bond. Simulated stress tests showed, however, that though these bonds could recover from short-lived stress, they could not withstand drawn-out tension such as stretching or pulling. Instead, the team found that when particles were joined by several parallel bonds, the nanogel could absorb more stress and still self-repair.

The team then sought the most effective concentration of parallel labile bonds, Balazs said. According to the computational model, even a small number of labile bonds greatly increased resilience. For instance, a sample in which only 30 percent of the bonds were labile—with parallel labile bonds placed in groups of four—could

Continued on page 2

Briefly Noted



Pitt Jazz Ensemble to Hold Annual Spring Concert March 29

The Pitt Jazz Ensemble—a University of Pittsburgh student ensemble of 27 musicians—will hold its annual spring concert at 8 p.m. March 29 in the Assembly Room of the William Pitt Union.

Larry Coryell, one of jazz guitar's masters, will appear as a special guest. Other performers will include local jazz musicians Cecil Washington, Latin drums; Jeff Grubbs, bass; Craig Davis, piano; and Roger Humphries, drums.

Concert tickets are \$10 general admission and \$5 for students and are available at the WPU box office or at the door the night of the concert. For more information, call 412-624-4187.

—Sharon S. Blake

Noted Biochemist, Former Pitt Professor to Discuss DNA Research April 4

Renowned biochemist and former Pitt professor Nigel Grindley will deliver the 2011 Tousimis-Lauffer Distinguished Lecture sponsored by the Department of Biological Sciences in the School of Arts and Science. A professor in the Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University, Grindley will discuss his ongoing study of the enzymes that initiate DNA replication and rearrangement. His lecture, "Holding Hands While Doing the Twist: A Nano-Scale Rotational Bearing in DNA Recombination," is open to the public and will be held at 4 p.m. April 4, Room 169, Crawford Hall. A reception will follow in Room 219B, Langley Hall, which is connected to Crawford.

Grindley's noted career began during his doctoral studies at London University where he contributed to the discovery and characterization of transposons—or jumping genes—that facilitate the spread of bacterial resistance to antibiotics. This discovery initiated a long and productive quest to discover the molecular mechanisms through which transposons can jump from one part of a genome to another. Grindley's work has led to both an atomic-level description of the specialized proteins that are involved and a nanoscale understanding of the dynamic process of DNA strand exchange.

Grindley earned his PhD degree from London University in 1974 and conducted his postdoctoral research at Carnegie Mellon University and at Yale. He joined Pitt's biological sciences department as an assistant professor in 1978 before taking his position at Yale in 1980.

—Morgan Kelly



Nigel Grindley

Health Book Center Relocates To The Book Center

The Health Book Center has relocated from its location at 3527 Forbes Ave. to inside The Book Center, 4000 Fifth Ave., effective Monday, March 28.

General books from the Health Book Center are located alongside other general books on The Book Center's first floor, while textbooks for health sciences classes are located in the textbook department. The Book Center will also continue to offer health-related supplies and gift items.

This change comes in response to the rapidly changing book/publishing industry, said Debra Fyock, director of The Book Center. With an increased variety of delivery methods, such as eBooks and rentals, and the rise of Internet book sales, the Health Book Center no longer required the amount of space it had needed in the past. In addition, Fyock said, the convenience of one-stop shopping at The Book Center was an added incentive to relocate.

—Alex Russell

School of Pharmacy, Steeltown Entertainment to Showcase Competition's Polio-Related Videos April 3

The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and Steeltown Entertainment Project will showcase a number of videos that are part of a competition involving the region's middle-school and high-school students. The event, which is open only to students who have submitted their work to the competition, will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. April 3 in the School of Pharmacy, Room 402, Salk Hall. Titled "Take a Shot at Changing the World," the competition was launched last year and invited students to create videos connecting the collective effort that fostered the development of the Salk polio vaccine at Pitt 55 years ago to current efforts to eradicate polio from the planet.

The initiative was inspired by the documentary *The Shot Felt 'Round the World* produced in 2010 by Pitt Film Studies Program faculty member Carl Kurlander. The film tells the story of the Pitt research team's and the Pittsburgh community's roles in the creation of the Salk polio vaccine.

Kurlander said students from 55 schools are participating in the competition. During the April 3 event, a number of videos will be showcased for attending students as well as Peter Salk, a son of Jonas Salk and a featured interviewee in *The Shot Felt 'Round the World*, who will attend as a special guest. Also expected to attend are other members of the documentary cast, including Randy P. Juhl, Pitt's vice chancellor for research conduct and compliance and Distinguished Service Professor of Pharmacy.

The winning video will receive \$5,000, divided between the student filmmaker and his or her school. Four finalists will receive \$1,000 each, with each of the cash awards also divided between the student finalist and his or her school. The winning video will air on WQED-TV and be posted on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Web site. More information is available at www.takeashotcontest.org.

—Alex Russell

Katherine L. Wisner to Receive Prestigious 2011 Women in Science Award

By Megan Grote Quatrini

The American Medical Women's Association has named Katherine L. Wisner, a professor of psychiatry, obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, and epidemiology in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, as the recipient of the 2011 Women in Science Award.

The award is given to a female physician who has made exceptional contributions to medical science, especially in women's health, through her basic and/or clinical research, her publications, and through leadership in her field.

"I'm honored to have contributed to research in perinatal mental health over the last 25 years, as it has gone from being essentially unknown in the U.S. to a field of great interest among investigators and clinicians," Wisner said. "I accept the award in honor of the many women who have participated in research studies so that our knowledge about perinatal mental disorders and treatments could advance."

Wisner is director of the Women's Behavioral HealthCARE program in the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC. She also serves as an investigator at the Magee-Womens Research Institute. Her research focuses on the psychiatric treatment of women of childbearing age, and she is internationally recognized as an expert in the treatment of depression during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

Wisner has received funding from the National Institute of Mental Health as a

principal investigator since 1988. She studies the impact of both exposure to major depression during pregnancy, as well as treatment with a class of antidepressant medications called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors on maternal and infant outcomes. Wisner is also studying pregnancy outcomes for women with bipolar disorder and the pharmacokinetics of treatment with lithium during pregnancy. In an effort to increase treatment options for women with postpartum depression, she is currently conducting a clinical trial



Katherine L. Wisner

for postpartum depression that includes treatment with an estradiol skin patch, the antidepressant sertraline, or a placebo. Her team has screened more than 10,000 new mothers from Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC for depression and found a 14 percent positive rate.

Wisner will receive her award in a presentation during the American Medical Women's Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on April 2.

The American Medical Women's Association is an organization of women physicians, medical students, and other persons dedicated to serving as the unique voice for women's health and the advancement of women in medicine. The organization was founded by Bertha VanHoosen in 1915 in Chicago, at a time when women physicians were an underrepresented minority.

"I accept the award in honor of the many women who have participated in research studies so that our knowledge about perinatal mental disorders and treatments could advance."

—Katherine L. Wisner

Only the Weak Survive?

Continued from page 1

withstand pressure up to 200 percent greater than what could fracture a sample comprised only of stable bonds. A film shows that as this sample is stretched, the labile bonds (red) rearrange themselves to hold the material together. The clip is available on Pitt's Web site at www.pitt.edu/news2011/Balazs_selfhealcells.avi.

On the other hand, too many labile linkages were so collectively strong that the self-healing ability was cancelled out and the nanogel became brittle, the researchers report.

The Pitt model is corroborated by nature, which engineered the same principle into the famously tough abalone shell, Balazs said. An amalgamation of microscopic ceramic plates and a small percentage of soft protein, the abalone shell absorbs a blow by stretching and sliding rather than shattering.

"What we found is that if a material can easily break and reform, the overall strength is much better," she said. "In short, a little bit of weakness gives a material better mechanical properties. Nature knows this trick."

PittChronicle

Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

PUBLISHER	Robert Hill
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER	John Harvith
EXECUTIVE EDITOR	Linda K. Schmitmeyer
EDITOR	Jane-Ellen Robinet
ART DIRECTOR	Gary A. Cravener
STAFF WRITERS	Sharon S. Blake John Fedele Morgan Kelly Amanda Leff Anthony M. Moore Patricia Lomando White
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS	Greg Hotchkiss Megan Grote Quatrini Alex Russell
HAPPENINGS EDITOR	Baindu Saidu

The *Pitt Chronicle* is published throughout the year by University News and Magazines, University of Pittsburgh, 400 Craig Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, Phone: 412-624-1033, Fax: 412-624-4895, E-mail: chron@pitt.edu Web: www.chronicle.pitt.edu

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution that does not discriminate upon any basis prohibited by law.

Women's History Month

Paying it Forward

AAAC President Linda Wharton Boyd Balances High Profile in D.C. and at Pitt

By Patricia Lomando White

Linda Wharton Boyd, president of the University of Pittsburgh's African American Alumni Council (AAAC), has parlayed her doctoral degree in communication from Pitt into a career filled with high-profile executive positions.

Wharton Boyd (A&S '72, '75G, '79G) is the founder and chief operating officer of The Wharton Group, a family-owned-and-operated communications company in Washington, D.C., that serves government agencies and educational organizations. In January 2011, she took a leave from her company to become the director of communications for the new mayor of the District of Columbia. Wharton Boyd has also served as chief communications officer for the Washington, D.C., Public Schools, interim director of the D.C. Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications, and director of communications for the Human Services Agencies under the D.C. Deputy Mayor for Children and Youth, D.C. Department of Human Services.

Similarly, Wharton Boyd has taken a high profile on her alma mater's Oakland campus; her dedication to Pitt is evident in the work she does on behalf of alumni and the University as a whole in her role as AAAC president.

"I was enriched as a Pitt undergraduate because I was able to immerse myself in a Pitt family," said Wharton Boyd, who attended the University on a scholarship as one of the first Malcolm-Martin-Marcus (3M) scholars, part of a Pitt program, begun in 1968 to increase the enrollment of underrepresented groups at the University.

Wharton Boyd's Pitt "family" included other 3M students and coordinators with whom she spent time when she was not attending class, studying, participating in the activities of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, or teaching dance at the Selma Burke Art Center. Her love of dance led her to cofound the Pittsburgh Black Theater Dance Ensemble with the late Bob Johnson, a professor of dance in the former Black Studies department and a professional dancer from New York City.

Academically, Wharton Boyd also excelled. One of her mentors was Pitt Distinguished Service Professor of Communication Jack L. Daniel, a

Pitt PhD graduate in 1969 and a leader of a group of African American Pitt students who occupied the University's computer center on Jan. 15, 1969, calling for the University to increase the number of Black students, faculty, administrators, and staff at Pitt; to provide better academic support and resources for Black students; and to recognize the significance of African American life and culture on campus.



Linda Wharton Boyd

Daniel was eventually appointed interim director of Pitt's newly created Black Studies Program. Wharton Boyd began her freshman year in the summer of 1969, and Daniel was her undergraduate advisor. Under his guidance, Wharton Boyd decided to enter Pitt's PhD program in communication, forgoing a plan to attend law school.

About 10 years ago, in the thick of her demanding career, Wharton Boyd became involved in Pitt's alumni efforts, beginning with Pitt's Alumni Association. In 2005, she ran for and won the AAAC presidency.

Under Wharton Boyd's leadership, the AAAC has made great strides, including a near tripling of AAAC-registered alumni. When she became president, the AAAC database had fewer than 6,000 alumni; it now has 16,000.

"I was enriched as a Pitt undergraduate because I was able to immerse myself in a Pitt family," said Wharton Boyd, who attended the University on a scholarship as one of the first Malcolm-Martin-Marcus scholars. She also participated in the University Challenge for Excellence Program, begun in 1968 to increase the enrollment of underrepresented groups at the University.

"With the advent of social media, we are able to reach more and more alumni," Wharton Boyd noted. "AAAC's programs to reconnect its alumni have had great importance to the success of our efforts as well."

One such effort involves Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg traveling to different cities to meet with Pitt's AAAC alumni, called Chancellor Connections. About 300 alumni attended the AAAC event in Washington, D.C., in May 2007, and similar events were held in Atlanta and Pittsburgh in 2009. This year, AAAC alums in Philadelphia, New York, and Chicago will have the opportunity to meet the chancellor.

"Key to AAAC's success is the partnerships we've formed with various entities at the University," said Wharton Boyd. "I cannot say enough about Chancellor Nordenberg and his willingness and openness to support our efforts. It has been a true testament to our success, and his efforts have helped us in what we have done."

In 2009, AAAC celebrated 40 years of diversity during Pitt's annual Homecoming weekend and it launched its first major



Wharton Boyd (left), stands with Gail Austin, former director of Pitt's Academic Resource Center, and Ludwick "Luddy" Hayden Jr. (A&S '66, EDUC '68G), a former AAAC Distinguished African American Alumni Award winner and the president and founder of the consulting firm Luddy Hayden and Associates. Austin received the special Sankofa Jean Hamilton Walls Award during AAAC's 2010 Sankofa Homecoming weekend.



Linda Wharton Boyd talks with students at the Barack Obama International Studies Academy in East Liberty on Oct. 29, 2010. The event, which took place during the AAAC's Sankofa Homecoming Weekend 2010, was part of AAAC's annual Apple Seed program, where alumni mentor young students.

gifts campaign, a \$3 million AAAC student financial assistance fundraising effort. About \$2 million in gifts and pledges was raised in less than one year, prompting organizers to increase the goal to \$5 million.

Each year, AAAC hosts a number of programs during its Sankofa Homecoming Weekend, including honoring alumni with the AAAC Distinguished Alumni Award and taking part in the Appleseed Program, in which alumni visit Pittsburgh schools to read to children and to talk about career and educational opportunities and life experiences.

In addition, AAAC is involved in helping new students get off on the right foot at Pitt. "Welcome Freshmen to Pitt" cookouts are held at the homes of AAAC alumni to offer new students from a given region opportunities to meet one another. The cookouts began in D.C. and the idea has spread to Baltimore, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Cleveland.

As part of Pitt's Arrival Survival activities for incoming freshmen and their families, AAAC holds a reception for families, said Wharton Boyd, who comes to Pittsburgh from D.C. to be a part of the festivities. "We have about 200 or 300 people attend. Programs like this help to alleviate the fears of students and parents."

Wharton Boyd said she finds her AAAC volunteer work rewarding, and she

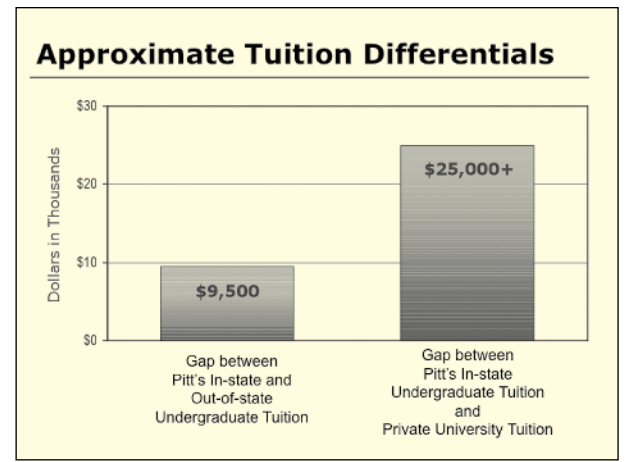
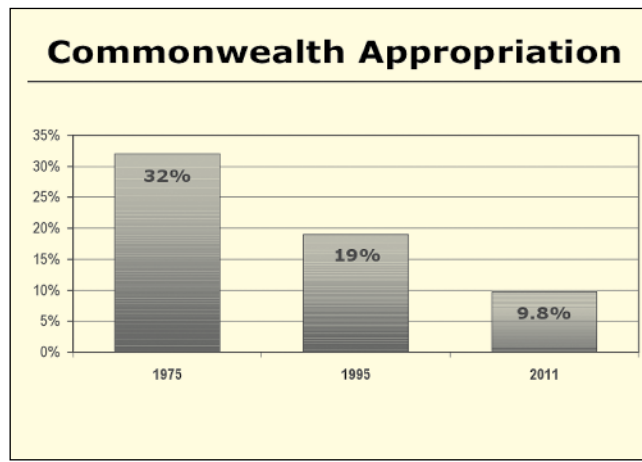
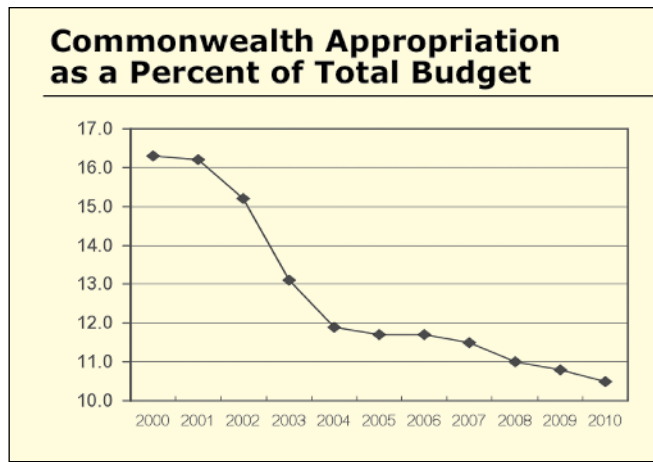
believes it's important to be involved, especially in student-support initiatives.

"Students need to have somebody that they can relate to, and it's important to give them a good idea of what to expect," she said. "Other African American alumni groups—[in Pitt's schools of] pharmacy, engineering, medicine—are doing some of the things we've been doing to reach out to incoming students and their families. We've done trailblazing work at Pitt, and none of it could have been done without the support of Mark Nordenberg."

Wharton Boyd's advice for today's African American undergraduates is to take advantage of every opportunity—she recalled her own travel to Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zanzibar as an undergraduate.

When asked which of her accomplishments she was the most proud of, Wharton Boyd said she can't single one out, but that her AAAC work has been extremely rewarding in a number of ways, among them "seeing the organization grow as quickly as it has, knowing that we are touching so many lives, and realizing that I have given a major part of my life to the University. What is life if you can't give back? I tell students, 'What I do for you, you should do for somebody else.'"

Chancellor Willing to Accept "Fair Share of Sacrifice" in Budget Cuts, but Asks PA Not to Abandon Higher-Education Funding



Continued from page 1

top cluster of public research universities in the annual assessment of The Top American Research Universities enjoy markedly higher levels of support: Berkeley—26 percent; Florida—32 percent; North Carolina—22 percent; and Wisconsin—18 percent. Within that top group, only Michigan, at 7 percent, lagged behind Pitt.

Pitt's appropriation was cut in six of the last 10 fiscal years, and trend lines for the last eight years are revealing—with inflation rising by more than 20 percent, state spending increasing by nearly 40 percent, and state support for basic education climbing by more than 60 percent, but with support for higher education remaining flat. It is absolutely clear, then, that Pitt's no-growth appropriation did not contribute in any way to what some have described as the state spending run-up of the last eight years. In fact, when inflation is factored in, the University suffered significant losses to the purchasing power of its appropriation.

Even with this erosion in state support, Pitt has continued to honor its end of the tuition-differential agreement that sits at the heart of its state-related status. Pennsylvania is home to four universities that are members of the Association of American Universities, widely regarded as the top 63 research universities in the United States and Canada. Two—Pitt and Penn State—are public, and two—Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pennsylvania—are private.

At Pitt, the tuition charged an undergraduate student enrolled at the University's main campus is slightly in excess of \$14,000 per year—which is high by national public university standards, reflecting comparatively low levels of state support. Penn State's tuition is comparable. However, charges at our private AAU counterparts exceed \$40,000 per year—a gap of more

Pitt's appropriation was cut in six of the last 10 fiscal years, and trend lines for the last eight years are revealing—with inflation rising by more than 20 percent, state spending increasing by nearly 40 percent, and state support for basic education climbing by more than 60 percent, but with support for higher education remaining flat.

than \$25,000. Put another way, that single-year gap between public and private university charges is almost enough to pay for two full years of Pitt's in-state tuition.

Unfortunately, the proposed budget for the next fiscal year would dramatically accelerate this pattern of erosion by slashing state support for public higher education, disadvantaging Pennsylvania families and putting the collective good of the Commonwealth in jeopardy. From our review of that proposal, the steep and sweeping cuts in support for Pitt would include:

- a 50 percent, or \$80 million, reduction to our general education appropriation, funds that are used mainly to support the education of the next generation of Pennsylvanians;
- the complete elimination of nearly \$17 million of support for programs in the health sciences, including our top-ranked School of Medicine, the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, our Dental Clinic, and our Center for Public Health Practice;
- the apparent (because here the budget documents may be confusing) loss of annual biomedical research support, competitively awarded, of more than \$9 million from the

anticipated loss of more than \$7.5 million in stimulus funding. The short and sad message is that Pitt

has been targeted for cuts in excess of \$100 million.

To be clear, the daunting budget deficit that Pennsylvania now faces was not created by the current administration, just as it was not created by Pitt, and it has been said that when seeking to close a \$4 billion budget deficit there are no good choices. Even if that is true, however, there are better choices—or at least "less bad" choices—and the stunningly deep cuts proposed for higher education are not among them.

To frame the responsibilities of government in everyday terms, it has become customary to draw an analogy to the basic constraint faced by every family—the need to live within its means. But the comparison almost never extends to the even more telling aspects of the analogy—the values that shape family spending priorities and the parental struggles to advance those priorities once set. The families whose approaches to life we traditionally have honored are those in which the highest parental priority is helping to build the foundation for better lives for their daughters and sons—their next generation. As a society, we always have celebrated, in particular, the efforts of parents who sacrifice spending on themselves, or who find ways to generate more family income by taking on additional work, in order to provide their children with a college education.

Today, the application of the family analogy to governmental budgets rarely seems to reach that second stage. Elected officials do regularly say that we cannot, in good conscience, leave our children and grandchildren to deal with the crushing government debt that continues to grow, and it would be hard to disagree with that. But little attention is paid to the crushing personal debts that may be incurred by many

members of our society's next generation if public support for public higher education is further slashed. It also is rare for there to be any acknowledgment of the fact that our children and grandchildren will be less well equipped to deal with the world that we leave them if public higher education moves beyond the means of large segments of society.

In the 1960s, the Commonwealth became an active partner in creating broader access to higher education. The most direct beneficiaries of its actions were the young people of my generation and their parents. We now seem on the verge of retreating from the responsibility to make such opportunities available, on at least roughly equivalent terms, to the young people of today.

Of course, as noted, this is not just a matter of supporting the educational aspirations of individual citizens. It also is a matter of building collective strength, because Pennsylvania itself has been a major beneficiary of its investments in public higher education. In arguing for the creation of an academy in Pittsburgh some 225 years ago, our founder, a member of this Legislature, observed that "the strength of a state greatly consists in the superior mental powers of its inhabitants." Whatever may have been the case in those frontier days, we all know how true that statement is today. And we also see tangible benefits that flow directly from the higher-education enterprise and extend beyond the general benefits of a well-educated citizenry.

Looking just at the impact of the University of Pittsburgh, those benefits include:

- an education and health services sector that is the largest and fastest-growing employment supersector in the greater Pittsburgh region;
- five vibrant campuses that are eco-

Over the Last Eight Years:

- ▶ **20%+** increase in inflation
- ▶ **About 40%** overall increase in state spending
- ▶ **60%+** increase in state support for basic education
- ▶ **NO** increase for higher education

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

By John Horvath

The University of Pittsburgh has placed 15th among U.S. public institutions of higher education, 38th among all U.S. universities, and 64th worldwide in the London-based 2010-11 Times Higher Education World University Rankings, issued on Sept. 16.

Other institutions among the top 15 public U.S. universities in the rankings include UC Berkeley, UCLA, Michigan, the University of Washington, North Carolina, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Among the private institutions in the top 38 U.S. universities are Harvard, Caltech, MIT, Stanford, Princeton, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Cornell, Columbia, Penn, Carnegie Mellon, Duke, Northwestern, Brown, and NYU.

"We would like to congratulate the University of Pittsburgh for its performance in this year's rigorous rankings," commented Ann Mroz, editor of *Times Higher Education* (THE) magazine, publisher of the rankings, which uses a new methodology the magazine describes as quantitative. As global higher education is becoming more competitive than ever, inclusion in this year's rankings is an impressive achievement for any institution. These rankings are the gold standard for world-class research institutions."

—Phil Doty

Pitt Scores in Latest Princeton Review College Guide

The University of Pittsburgh has been ranked in the very top cluster of the nation's public research universities in the recently released 2009 edition of *The Top American Research Universities*. This is the third time in four years that Pitt has earned that high ranking. Only six other universities were placed in the very top group of public research universities this year—the University of California at Berkeley, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Illinois, the University of Michigan, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Wisconsin.

The report clusters universities based on their comparative strength in research, private support, faculty, doctorates, post-doctoral appointees, and undergraduate quality, as assessed across nine objective measures. Reflecting a core belief that

the best independently produced assessment of institutional strength—in part, because it does rely on objective and well-targeted measures. To be performing at levels that place us in such a distinguished top cluster is a real achievement."

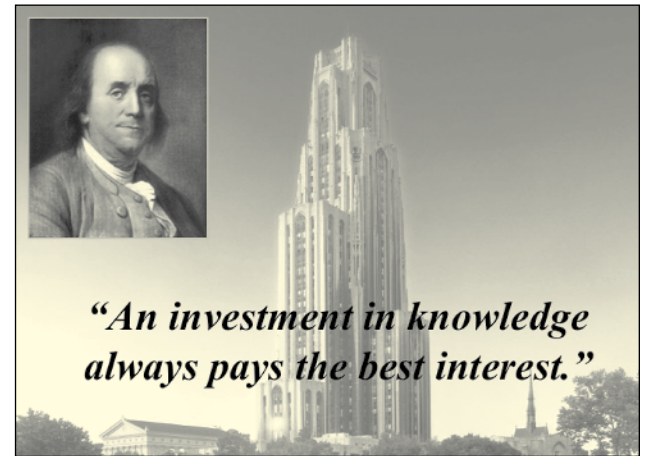
In 2000, the University of Pittsburgh was ranked in the study's fourth cluster of public research universities. That group included such other strong universities as Ohio State, Purdue, and the University of Virginia. To rise to the top cluster, Pitt had to improve its performance compared to those institutions and to another 12 of the country's finest public research universities.

In the initial *Top American Research Universities* report, its editors placed

"at the top of the distribution." Consistent with the approach taken by this report—which clusters universities, rather than ranking them sequentially—Chancellor Nordenberg stated that "it always is possible to find bases to argue about distinctions between institutions that are drawn too finely." However, he continued by noting that "our University's momentum in rising to claim and then retain a place in the top cluster for three of the last four years is an unmistakable measure of our progress and should be a source of pride for all of the many Pitt people who have contributed to building our outcome



\$737 Million
in Research
26,500+
Local Jobs



conomic anchors in their home communities of Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville, as well as Pittsburgh; and

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

As important as building the economy of the future may be, these research initiatives also have the potential to produce other benefits that can only be described as amazing. Consider, for example, recent headlines announcing that Pitt researchers would receive nearly \$7 million in federal support over the next three years to test two different types of brain implants designed to advance work that would permit paralyzed individuals, including our “wounded warriors,” to control prosthetic limbs through the power of their own thoughts. As we think about the world that we hope to leave to the next generation, are we really prepared to say, as a society, that work of this type will no longer be a priority? What would we think of our predecessors if they had not supported the

Pitt-based efforts that led to the Salk polio vaccine or the development of the surgical techniques and drug therapies that made human organ transplantation possible?

As we engage in the process of setting the priorities that will shape more constrained public investments in the years ahead, we should return, again and again, to the wisdom of Benjamin Franklin. The man considered by many to be the greatest Pennsylvanian of all once said, “An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”

More than two centuries of intervening history have shown that Mr. Franklin was right about his civic investment strategy, just as he was right about so many other things. And Pitt’s recent history adds 21st-century meaning to Franklin’s 18th-century advice. Pioneering research advances, public service initiatives of impact, and programs that permit current students to use the power of education to build better lives have become broadly recognized and widely respected hallmarks of the University of Pittsburgh.

To be absolutely clear, the University stands ready, as it always has, to accept its fair share of the sacrifice that will be required to rein in the deficit. Evidence

For nearly 225 years, Pitt has been a powerful force in building brighter futures. As we move further into a new century characterized by a rapidly changing and highly competitive world and faced with the need to nurture a vibrant society and to rebuild a strong and sustainable economy, Pennsylvania cannot afford to let that light go dim.

of that fact can be found in the existing record. As noted above, the University’s appropriation has been cut in six of the last 10 years. However, the cuts now proposed are disproportionately deep and would not only do damage to the dreams of young Pennsylvanians and to the plans of their families but would undermine much of the progress that has been made to position the Commonwealth for future success in the emerging innovation economy.

As we enter a new era of government, we must work together not only to find ways to shrink our accumulated budget deficits,

which we know must be done. We also must search for ways to secure the progress that is the key to our shared future. For nearly 225 years, Pitt has been a powerful force in building brighter futures. As we move further into a new century characterized by a rapidly changing and highly competitive world and faced with the need to nurture a vibrant society and to rebuild a strong and sustainable economy, Pennsylvania cannot afford to let that light go dim. Regrettably, the dramatic budget cuts that have been proposed would do just that.

Letting Their Voices Be Heard ...



JOHN M. BUTLER II



JOE KAPELEWSKI/CDDC

University of Pittsburgh students have mounted a letter-writing campaign to express their opposition to the Corbett administration proposed budget’s 50 percent cut in state funding for higher education. Pitt’s Student Government Board (SGB) and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly organized a March 22 campaign launch and a March 23 letter-writing day, both held in the William Pitt Union. In photo on left: Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (right) talks with SGB President Molly Stieber and President Pro-Tempore Matthew Riehle. The chancellor was invited to the March 22 meeting to address the impact of the proposed funding cuts. Photo on right: The leadership and members of Pitt’s Staff Association Council (SAC) collaborated with the SGB on the daylong letter-writing event, helping to staff a table for those needing assistance. From left, Deborah Walker, student conduct officer in Pitt’s Division of Student Affairs; Angela Coldren, SAC treasurer and assistant director, administration and business, in Pitt’s Department of Housing; Karen Coulter Perkins, manager of marketing/communications in the Graduate School of Public Health; MaryBeth Mengel, SAC secretary; and Gwen Watkins, SAC president and community activities coordinator for Pitt’s Office of Community and Governmental Affairs.

"MIDNIGHT IN MEXICO: DESCENT INTO DARKNESS"

JOHN W. BUTLER II

Alfredo Corchado (right), Mexico bureau chief for the *Dallas Morning News*, was the featured speaker for the University of Pittsburgh American Experience Distinguished Lecture Series of the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy and the University Honors College on March 16 in the Twentieth Century Club. The lecture, "Midnight in Mexico: Descent Into Darkness," gave Corchado's personal account of Mexico's accelerating violence and a search for hope from both sides of the border amid the bloodiest period since the 1910 Mexican revolution. Discussion moderators included Pitt alumnus and trustee Dick Thornburgh (LAW '57), former governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, attorney general of the United States, and U.N. Undersecretary General, who is now counsel to the international law firm K&L Gates in its Washington, D.C., office.

Benjamin L. Cardin to Speak at Commencement Ceremony May 1

Continued from page 1

his proposals were enacted into law, including increasing the amount Americans can save for retirement, expanding Medicare to include preventive benefits, and improving the foster care system.

During the 111th Congress, Cardin supported the Affordable Care Act and was successful in getting a guaranteed dental benefit included in the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program. The America Recovery and Reinvestment Act included his amendments to provide first-time homebuyers with an \$8,000 tax credit and to raise the cap on surety bonds for small businesses from \$2 million to \$5 million. He also introduced the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act to give states and local governments new enforcement tools to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

In 2001, *Worth Magazine* named Cardin among the top "100 people who have influenced the way Americans think about money." In 2004, he was named to *Treasury and Risk Management's* list of "100 Most Influential People in Finance." In the 110th Congress, he received an "A" grade from the NAACP and a score of 100 from the Human Rights Campaign. In both the 110th and 111th Congress, Cardin received a 100 percent rating from the League of Conservation Voters.

From 1987 to 2007, Cardin represented Maryland's 3rd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition to serving on the House Ways and Means Committee, he served on the Judiciary and Budget committees, the Committee on Standards and Official Conduct (the Ethics Committee), and the Select Committee on Homeland Security. He also served as the senior Democrat on the Trade and the

Human Resources subcommittees of the Ways and Means Committee.

In addition to receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree (cum laude) from Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, Cardin graduated

In addition to receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree (cum laude) from Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, Cardin graduated first in his class from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1967. He holds honorary degrees from the University of Baltimore School of Law (1990).

first in his class from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1967. He holds honorary degrees from the University of Baltimore School of Law (1990), University of Maryland at Baltimore (1993), Baltimore Hebrew University (1994), Goucher College (1996), and Stevenson University (formerly Villa Julie College) (2007).

Cardin currently serves on the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy and is a trustee of the James Madison Fellowship Foundation and the Baltimore Council on

Foreign Affairs. He is a former trustee of St. Mary's College of Maryland and Goucher College. In addition, Cardin has served on the St. Mary's Center for Study of Democracy Advisory Board and on the Johns Hopkins University's Institute for Policy Studies' National Advisory Board.

Cardin has received many awards, among them the Congressional Leadership Award, American College of Physicians; Legislative Leader Award, Humane Society of the United States; Anti-poverty Award, UNESCO Center for Peace, Frederick County Community Action Agency; Lifetime Achievement Award, University of Maryland School of Law's Law & Health Care Program; Congressional Voice for Children Award, National PTA; Leadership Award, Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition; Congressional Champion Award, National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems; and Congressional Advocate of the Year Award, Child Welfare League of America.

Jamie Dixon Honored as National Coach of the Year By *Sporting News*



Travon Woodall and Coach Jamie Dixon during a Big East game

By Greg Hotchkiss

University of Pittsburgh Head Men's Basketball Coach Jamie Dixon has been named *Sporting News's* 2010-11 National Coach of the Year, one of college basketball's highest honors.

The 2010-11 season marks the third consecutive season—and fourth time—that Dixon has garnered a National Coach of the Year award. The other honors were the 2010 Jim Phelan National Coach of the Year, 2010 USA Basketball National Coach of the Year, and 2009 Naismith National Coach of the Year awards.

Dixon is only the second head men's basketball coach at Pitt to garner *Sporting News's* National Coach of the Year award. Former Pitt Head Men's Basketball Coach Ben Howland received it for the team's 2001-02 season.

Dixon guided his 2010-11 Pitt team to a Big East regular season championship with a school-best 15-3 league record, a 28-6 overall record, and the program's second No. 1 seed in the NCAA Championship. Dixon also set the NCAA Division I record for most wins after eight seasons as a head men's basketball coach.

In his eight-year career as Pitt's head men's basketball coach, Dixon has:

- Amassed a 216-60 career record and

.783 winning percentage;

- Guided Pitt to three Big East championships (2003-04 regular season, 2007-08 tournament, and 2010-11 regular season);

- Led Pitt to two 30-win seasons (31 in both 2003-04 and 2008-09) and eight consecutive 20-win overall and 10-win Big East seasons;

- Directed the Panthers to one NCAA Elite Eight (2009) and three NCAA Sweet Sixteen appearances (2004, 2007, and 2009) and is the only coach in school history to guide Pitt to eight straight NCAA Tournament berths (as of 2011); and

- Propelled Pitt to its first-ever No. 1 national ranking (2009) and two No. 1 seeds upon entering the NCAA Tournament (2009 and 2011).

In addition, Dixon concluded the 2010-11 season as the winningest men's basketball coach in Big East history with a current .708 winning percentage in league games (109-45). Following Dixon on that list are such legendary names as Georgetown's John Thompson (.653), Syracuse's Jim Boeheim (.643), Connecticut's Jim Calhoun (.641), and St. John's Lou Carneseca (.635). His .783 overall winning percentage also rates third among active winningest men's basketball coaches at the NCAA Division I level.



Jamie Dixon

COURTESY OF ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

BATIK ART



MARY JANE BENTY/CODE

An exhibition of Gambian artist Saihou Njie opened March 18 in the William Pitt Union's Kimbo Art Gallery. Njie is a resident artist working in the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts' Artist Residency Program. The exhibition runs through April 2.

Happenings



IonSound Project: Pitt Graduate Composers Concert, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, March 28

Cinemas Public Film Series Spring 2011, Pitt Women's Studies Program, 412-624-6485, www.wstudies.pitt.edu.

Tapestries of Hope, documentary by filmmaker Michealene Cristini Risley exposing sexual myth widespread in Zimbabwe that results in startling number of rapes each year, 12:15 p.m. **March 31**, Frick Fine Arts Building, Pitt's Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership and the Ford Institute for Human Security within the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, RSVP requested to gspiapf@pitt.edu or 412-648-1336.

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

"Robust Decision Making and the Dilemma Objection to the Precautionary Principle," Daniel Steel, professor, Michigan State University's Department of Philosophy, 4:40 p.m. **March 30**, 1500 Posvar Hall, Alumni Lecture, Pitt Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittentr@pitt.edu.

"Teaching and Learning English in China and Indonesia," Sara Bularzik, graduate student, Pitt School of Education, noon **March 31**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, University Center for International Studies, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.

"Achieving Equal Pay, What Will It Take?," Heidi Hartmann, president, Institute for Women's Policy Research, 3:30 p.m. **March 31**; followed at 4:30 p.m. by **Iris Marion Young Award for Political Engagement** ceremony, Ballroom A, The University Club, Pitt Women's Studies Program, Center for Metropolitan Studies, GSPIA, University Center for Social & Urban Research, Cultural Studies Program, Department of Sociology, 412-624-6485, wstudies@pitt.edu.

Miscellaneous

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.

What's New in Blackboard 9.1, workshop on the Blackboard Learning Management System, 2 p.m. **March 31**, B23 Alumni Hall, Pitt CIDDE, register online www.cidde.pitt.edu.

11th Annual Pitt Integration Bee, open to all Pitt undergraduates, 7 p.m. **April 1**, 343 Alumni Hall, Pitt Department of Mathematics, contact jonrubin@pitt.edu to enter competition, 412-624-6157.

As You Like It, Charity Randall Theatre, April 1-10



Concerts

IonSound Project: Pitt Graduate Composers Concert, 8 p.m. **March 28**, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

Pitt Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert, featuring Pitt student ensemble of 27 musicians and jazz guitarist Larry Coryell, 8 p.m. **March 29**, Assembly Room, William Pitt Union, Pitt Jazz Studies Program, 412-624-4187.

Jeff Miller, guitar songwriter and performer, noon **April 1**, 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.

African Music and Dance Ensemble, 8 p.m. **April 1**, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

Schumann & Richard Strauss, with conductor Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos and, in Liszt's Concerto No. 2, pianist Jorge Federico Osorio, 8 p.m. **April 1** and 2:30 p.m. **April 3**, 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.

Pitt Men's Glee Club, 8 p.m. **April 2**, First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, 159 N. Bellefield Ave., Oakland, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

IonSound Project, performing Nathan Currier's *A Kafka Cantata*, 8 p.m. **April 2**, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

Exhibitions

University Art Gallery, Studio Arts Student Exhibition, **March 30-April 30**, Frick Fine Arts Building, Pitt

Department of Studio Arts, 412-648-2430.

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.wmusemaa.org.

Silver Eye Center for Photography, *Future Forward*, first annual members' exhibition, **through May 7**, 1015 E. Carson St., South Side, 412-431-1810, www.silvereye.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art, *Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective*, **through May 1**; *You Are Here: Architecture and Experience*, exhibition, **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

The Bubble (Eytan Fox, 2006), free film showing, 7:45 p.m. **March 30**, 3415 Posvar Hall, Contemporary Queer

Opera/Theater/Dance

Turandot by Giacomo Puccini, **March 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.

As You Like It by William Shakespeare, directed by Sam Turich, **April 1-10**, Charity Randall Theatre in Stephen Foster Memorial, Pitt Repertory Theatre, Department of Theatre Arts, 412-624-6568, www.play.pitt.edu.

The Amish Project, written by and starring Jessica Dickey, based on the 2006 shooting at an Amish schoolhouse in Lancaster, Pa., **April 2-May 8**, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

Bad Hamlet, written by Lillian DeRitter and Anthea Carns, 2 p.m. **April 3**, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pitt Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, www.medren.pitt.edu.

Circle Mirror Transformation by Annie Baker, on a beginner's drama workshop bringing 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

Maha Mohammad, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences' Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology, 9 a.m. **March 28**, "The Gaze Stabilization Test: Reliability, Performance Characteristics of Normal Subjects, Performance of Patients with Concussions," 6050 Forbes Tower.

Jason Fitzgerald, School of Education's Department of Instruction and Learning, noon **March 28**, "Comprehending Historical Narrative: Exploring the Relationship Between Casual Language and Students' Mental Representations of History," 5140 Posvar Hall.

Meghan Wilson, School of Medicine's Center for Neuroscience/Neurobiology Graduate Program, noon **March 28**, "Protein Biomarkers for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: Characterization and Implications for Disease Pathogenesis," 1495 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower.

Nemesio Valle, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Music, 1 p.m. **March 28**, "A Coalescence of Liturgical Consensus in the Mass for the Dead From Its Origins Through the Fourteenth Century," 114 Music Building.

Yan Du, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology, 12:30 p.m. **March 29**, "Polymorphisms in Inflammation-Related Genes and Risk of Smoking-Associated Lung Cancer and COPD," 109 Parran Hall.

Pornsri Khlangwiset, School of Public Health's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, 1 p.m. **March 30**, "Reducing the Risks of Aflatoxin Through Public Health Interventions," 5th-floor conference room, Bridgeside Point Building.

Benjamin Brewer, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Music, 3:30 p.m. **March 30**, "The Birth of Musicology From the Spirit of Evolution: Ernst Haeckel's Entwicklungslehre as Central Component of Guido Adler's Methodology for Musicology," 302 Music Building.

Virginia Hall, School of Education's Department of Instruction and Learning, 2 p.m. **March 31**, "The Representation of Culture in Award-Winning Picture Books From the United States, Australia, and Great Britain (1960-2010)," 5140 Posvar Hall.

Allison Kuipers, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology, 1 p.m. **March 31**, "Genetic Epidemiology of Subclinical Cardiovascular Disease and Osteoporosis Indices in African Ancestry Families," 109 Parran Hall.

Maggie Rehm, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of English, 9 a.m. **April 1**, "The Art of Citizenship: Suffrage Literature as Social Pedagogy," 527 Cathedral of Learning.

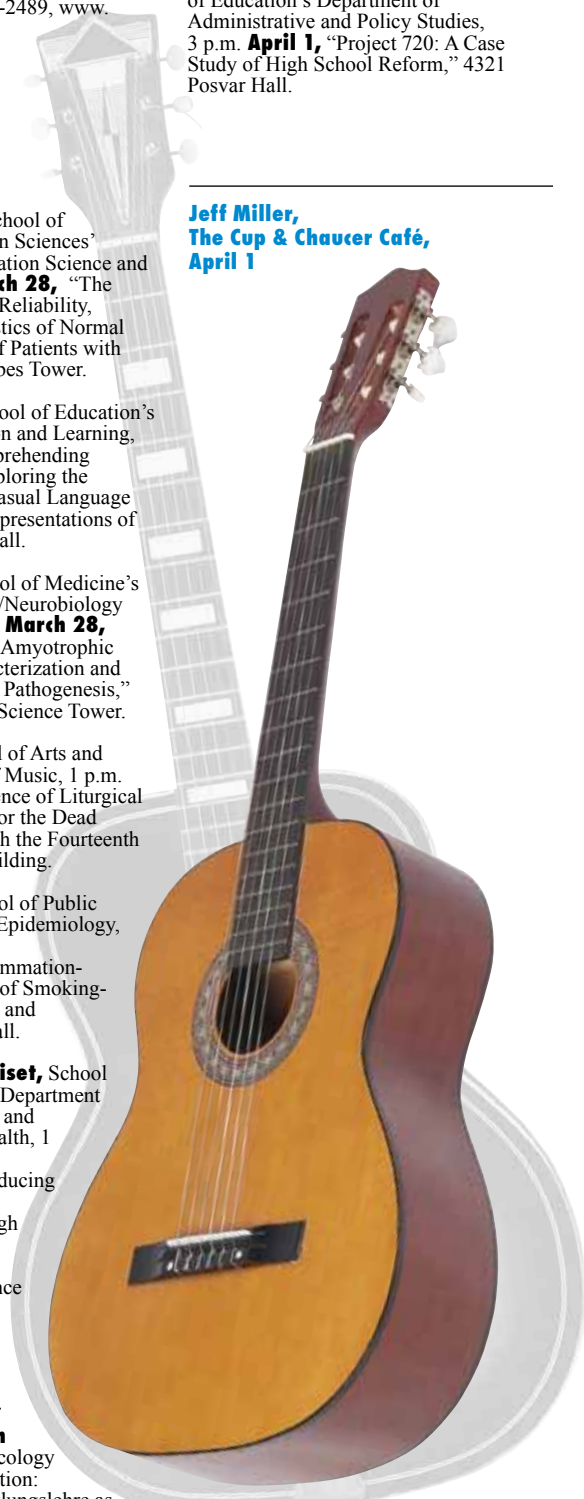
Brandi Neal, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Music, 1 p.m. **April 1**, "The Sacred Multivoice Music of Nicolas Gombert: A Critical Examination," Room 302, Music Building.

Jessica A. Thomas, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry, 1 p.m. **April 1**, "Structure and Dynamics of Biomolecules in the Gas Phase Using Vibrationally and Rotationally Resolved Electronic Spectroscopy," 228 Eberly Hall.

Sung Hee Kim, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Biostatistics, 2:30 p.m. **April 1**, "A Correlated Random Effects Hurdle Model For Excess Zeros with Clustered Data Based OB BLUP (REML) Estimation," 109 Parran Hall.

Robert Postupac, School of Education's Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, 3 p.m. **April 1**, "Project 720: A Case Study of High School Reform," 4321 Posvar Hall.

Jeff Miller, The Cup & Chaucer Café, April 1





IBM's Watson Comes to Pitt, Carnegie Mellon



Several students from the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) will have a chance to match their wits against Watson—the IBM computer that trumped *Jeopardy!* champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter in February—as part of a daylong symposium Wednesday, March 30, on the Pitt and CMU campuses.

The symposium—which kicks off IBM's national tour of universities in celebration of its centenary—includes a series of discussions with leading Pitt and Carnegie Mellon experts in technology, health care, and law and includes students from the two universities putting their skills to the test in a demonstration of IBM Watson's question-and-answer (QA) capabilities. This is the first time students will have the chance to face Watson's powerful analytical capabilities in a practice exhibition session.

Watson, named after IBM founder Thomas J. Watson, was built by a team of

IBM scientists who set out to build a computing system that rivals a human's ability to answer questions posed in natural language with speed, accuracy, and confidence.

The daylong event begins at 9 a.m. in Pitt's University Club, Ballroom B, with a panel discussion titled "Natural Language Process in the World of Business, Law, and Medicine." Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and Randy Bryant, dean and University Professor in Carnegie Mellon's School of Computer Science, will deliver welcoming remarks.

Panelists include David Ferrucci, principal investigator of the DeepQA/Watson Project for IBM; Diane Litman, a Pitt computer science professor and a senior research scientist in Pitt's Learning Research Development Center (LRDC) who is a leading authority on natural language processing; and Eric Nyberg, a professor in CMU's Language Technology Institute. The discussion will

be moderated by Bernard Meyerson, vice president for innovation and global university relations for IBM.

Three Pitt presenters also will discuss the real-world applications of natural language processing technologies: Donald Burke, dean of Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health, UPMC-Jonas Salk Chair of Global Health, and associate vice chancellor for global health; Brian Butler, a professor of business administration in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and in the School of Medicine whose research interest include information technology's impact on food systems and other geographically embedded markets; and Kevin Ashley, professor of law, a research scientist in LRDC, and adjunct professor of computer science who is an expert on the use of computing for legal reasoning.

The Pitt symposium is open to all Pitt faculty, staff, and students.

Carnegie Mellon also will host its own symposium beginning at 11:15 a.m. in Rangos Ballroom of CMU's University Center, titled "Deep Dive Into Deep QA and Natural Language Technology." Welcoming remarks will be made by Daniel Mossé, chair of computer science in Pitt's School of Information Sciences, and CMU's Nyberg, which will be followed by a technical presentation by Ferrucci.

The afternoon session begins at 1:30 p.m. in CMU's McConomy Auditorium, with a keynote speech by Ferrucci titled "Watson Has a New Job." Welcoming remarks will be made by Ronald Larsen, dean of Pitt's School of Information Sciences, and Rick McCullough, vice president for research at CMU.

The day's capstone event will be the Pitt/CMU student practice session Wednesday afternoon beginning at 2:45 p.m. in McConomy Auditorium: "Let's Play *Jeopardy!*"

Participating Pitt students are University Honors College undergraduates

Danielle Arbogast, a junior majoring in political science; Richard Kester, a senior majoring in history and neuroscience with a minor in chemistry; and Brian Sisco, a junior majoring in computer science with a minor in math. Seating is limited and will be available to Pitt students, staff, and faculty on a first-come, first-served basis (Pitt I.D. required.)



Following the match, Eric Brown, a researcher on IBM's Watson Project; Ferrucci; and Nyberg will field questions from the audience, along with Pitt's Diane Litman and Scott Fahlman, CMU research professor of computer science and language technologies.

Pitt faculty and students are also invited to attend a Webcast of the matchup at the University Club, Ballroom A.

A closing panel discussion from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. in McConomy Auditorium will wrap up the symposium. Panelists include Brown; Fahlman, a professor in CMU's Language Technology Institute; Ferrucci; and Litman; Nyberg will moderate.

Select symposium sessions and interviews will be webcast live from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at www.livestream.com/IBMWatson.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published April 4. 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.