

Pitt Chronicle

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COMMENCEMENT 2011



Pitt to Hold 2011 Commencement May 1 in Petersen Events Center

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg will welcome graduating members of the Class of 2011, faculty, trustees, alumni, staff, and invited guests, families, and friends attending Pitt's 2011 Commencement at 1 p.m. May 1 in the Petersen Events Center.

University of Pittsburgh alumnus 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 deliver the University's 2011 commencement address. At the ceremony, Pitt will confer upon Cardin the degree of Doctor of Public and International Affairs Honoris Causa.

Chief University Marshal Michael R. Pinsky will open the ceremony, leading a procession of members of the graduating class, faculty, staff, the Council of Deans, trustees, and administrative officers in full academic regalia; Pinsky is a professor of critical care medicine and bioengineering in the School of Medicine and president of the University Senate. The University Symphonic Band, under the direction of Pitt Director of Bands Jack R. Anderson, will provide music.

After the awarding of diplomas—presented by Chancellor Nordenberg, Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson, and the deans of the schools and colleges—David M. Gau will speak on behalf of the graduating class. Gau, a graduating senior in the University Honors College and School of Arts and Sciences, will receive the Bachelor of Philosophy and Bachelor of Science degrees during the commencement ceremony. His talk will be followed by an address from Jack D. Smith (A&S '69), president of the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association, who will welcome the graduates as Pitt's newest alumni.

In all, Pitt will confer approximately

7,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees this year at its five campuses; Pitt-Bradford, Pitt-Greensburg, Pitt-Johnstown, and Pitt-Titusville will hold their own commencement ceremonies.

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 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 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

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Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin

Pitt's ALN Works to Ensure Pa. Legislators Understand University's Viewpoint, Concerns

By Anthony M. Moore

Bruce D. Mountjoy (CGS '91) was among more than 500 members of the University of Pittsburgh community who assembled in Pennsylvania's State Capitol rotunda on April 5 as part of the annual Pitt Day in Harrisburg. With chants of "P-I-T" echoing through the Capitol's marbled halls, the voices of University of Pittsburgh alumni, faculty, staff, and students were heard loudly and clearly by state lawmakers.

"It's always encouraging to see so many people with a vested interest in Pitt coming together for the good of the University," said Mountjoy, who was attending his fourth consecutive Pitt Day in Harrisburg event. Last year, Pitt's Alumni Association recognized Mountjoy with the 2010 Volunteer of the Year award.

Considered the marquee event of the University's Alumni Legislative Network (ALN), the annual Pitt Day in Harrisburg gives University supporters the opportunity to talk about higher-education issues with state legislators.

Such grassroots political advocacy is the

basis of all ALN activities. A joint program of Pitt's Alumni Association and the Office of Governmental Relations, ALN is a nonpartisan organization comprising more than 700 members of the Pitt community who voice their support for the University to their local lawmakers.

Founded in the mid-1990s, ALN evolved from a number of Alumni Association-sponsored efforts to connect students and graduates with state lawmakers.

"Legislators pay close attention when they hear from someone in their district. When they know it's a constituent and a potential voter, they listen," said Paul A. Supowitz, Pitt vice chancellor for governmental relations. "It is important for the University that lawmakers are able to say, 'I frequently hear from

people in my district who have graduated from Pitt, who love Pitt, and who carry convictions about the future well-being of Pitt.'"

Founded in the mid-1990s, ALN evolved from a number of Alumni Association-sponsored efforts to connect students

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AAAC, Pitt Athletics to Host May 10 Event, "Athletics at Pitt: The Forefront of a Century of Change"

By Anthony M. Moore

In recognition of the centennial of the first African American student-athletes at the University of Pittsburgh, the Pitt Alumni Association's African American Alumni Council (AAAC) and Pitt's Department of Athletics will present a May 10 event titled "Athletics at Pitt: The Forefront of a Century of Change" in the Petersen Events Center.

The event will be hosted by sportscaster Bob Costas, winner of 21 Emmy Awards and one of the most celebrated figures in sports broadcasting. With NBC Sports since 1979, Costas has covered nearly every major sport and is best known for his coverage of baseball and the Olympics.

Linda Wharton Boyd, AAAC president, said, "The contributions of African Americans in every facet of the University's life are voluminous. This first and long overdue salute to Pitt African American athletes is a tremendous source of Pitt pride that marks a milestone in the history of the University. I hope this event will lead to even more celebrations of the African American influence and contributions at Pitt."

Wharton Boyd said the idea for the centennial celebration stemmed from her recent travels around the country to help reconnect more alumni to the University. She added that when she approached Pitt trustee Herbert P. Douglas Jr. (EDUC '48, '50G) about chairing the event, he suggested staging the celebration in 2011, marking a century since Pitt's first African American student-athlete graduated.

"This is a monumental event for the University of Pittsburgh, embracing both the past and the future," said Pitt's Athletics Director Steve Pederson. "We are excited and honored to be welcoming back many Panther greats to this celebration."

Douglas, a bronze medalist in the long jump at the 1948 Olympic Games in London and one of the first three African Americans to play football for Pitt in 1945, said, "The contribution of African American student-athletes has been significant in the history of the University of Pittsburgh. This event is an evening to celebrate where we are and where we have come in the last 100 years."

Event cochairs are Dave Garnett (A&S '71), a Pitt football player from 1968 to 1970; Pitt trustee Bryant Salter (A&S '71), a Collegiate All-American in Track and Field, a Pitt football player from 1968 to 1970, and an NFL player from 1971 to 1976; and Jennifer Bruce Scott (NURS '86), the second all-time leading scorer in Pitt women's basketball history and a 1985 Kodak All-American.

The evening's festivities will begin with a VIP and photography reception at 5:30, followed by a general reception at 6, and a formal dinner at 7. After dinner, there will be a world-premiere viewing of the documentary *Athletics at Pitt: The Forefront of a Century of Change*.

In recognition of their accomplishments as Panthers, all of Pitt's former student-athletes have been invited to the celebration. Among those Pitt legends expected to attend are:

- Ruben Brown (A&S '95), first team All-American and No. 1 selection in the 1995 NFL draft;
- Tony Dorsett (A&S '77), NFL Hall of Famer, three-time first team All-American, and Heisman Trophy winner;
- Hugh Green (CGS '81), three-time All-American in football, consensus four-time All-East selection;
- Bobby Grier (KGSB '57), first African American to play in the Sugar



Marcedes Walker

Bowl, in 1956;

- Roger Kingdom (CGS '85), Olympic Gold medalist in the 110 meter hurdles in both 1984 and 1988;
- Brandin Knight (A&S '05), a two-time All-American men's basketball player, current assistant coach for Pitt men's basketball team;
- William R. "Billy" Knight (A&S '74), men's basketball All-American, 11-year NBA veteran, former executive vice president and general manager of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks;
- Julius Pegues (ENGR '59), Pitt's first African American men's basketball player;
- Wanda Randolph (A&S '80), holder of the Pitt record for rebounds (1,107) for 29 years;
- Darrelle Revis (A&S 2004), first-round NFL draft selection in 2007, All-Pro cornerback for New York Jets;
- Charles Smith (A&S '88), 10-year NBA veteran, Pitt's all-time leading scorer;
- Trecia-Kaye Smith (EDUC '99, SHRS '02G), the 2007 NCAA Division I Most Outstanding Student-Athlete, winner of seven national and Big East titles in track and field; and
- Marcedes Walker (CGS '08), all-time leading rebounder in Pitt women's basketball history.

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SeniorProfile

Andrew, Corey, and Stephen Churilla

Triple Talent

Andrew, Corey, and Stephen Churilla excel in engineering—
with some help from healthy sibling competition

By Morgan Kelly

“What program do you use?” Stephen Churilla asks, interrupting his brother Andrew, who was discussing his new job creating three-dimensional, virtual models as an engineer at Richardson Cooling Packages in New Castle, Pa.

“MATLAB,” Andrew replies unsuspectingly.

“MATLAB is the poor man’s C+,” Stephen says with a smirk.

“Well, not really...” Andrew begins, leading the two into a five-minute digression on the merits of various engineering software. Their brother Corey is eventually drawn in, too, never one to forgo a debate with his brothers.

Of the 611 young engineers receiving their degrees from Pitt’s Swanson School of Engineering today, Andrew, Corey, and Stephen Churilla must defy some kind of odds—they are triplets, and all three have distinguished themselves academically in a difficult field. Corey and Andrew graduated *magna cum laude* and *cum laude*, respectively, finishing their coursework in August 2010, earning bachelor’s degrees in mechanical engineering and materials science. Stephen finished his coursework for a bachelor’s degree in electrical and computer engineering in December 2010 with as much distinction, but missed *magna cum laude* by a mere two credits. Andrew and Corey plan to pursue their master’s degrees in mechanical engineering at Pitt.

But forget about odds. That exchange about engineering software programs during a recent mid-evening meet-up in the lobby of Pitt’s Benedum Hall exhibited the true components of their academic success: A genuine proclivity for engineering blended with competitiveness—born of the need to stand apart from the two people on the planet most like the other—that has provided as much support as it has motivation.

Both elements began early. “As kids, we would build things from LEGOs and then argue about whose was better,” said Corey, who is finishing an internship with Thar Geothermal, LLC, a Pittsburgh-based alternative energy company, before he starts his graduate studies.

Their mild rivalry resulted from their being treated as three variations of the same person, from identical outfits in childhood family portraits to academic expectations. “When we were in school, it was always, ‘Your brothers are doing well, why aren’t you?’ I’d suck it up and say, ‘Good for them,’ but in my heart I hated it,” Corey said with feigned drama.

Each brother’s reaction to this dynamic is in keeping with his personality. Corey confronts annoyances with dismissive sarcasm and a touch of self-deprecation—in high school he was “the dumb one,” with a 3.69 GPA. Stephen prefers an open disdain that is particularly biting with his cool enunciation: “Our entire lives people have treated us as one thing. Some twins and triplets are like that, but those are people who don’t care about being an individual...”

“Calm down, it’s okay,” jokes Andrew, the mild-mannered complement to his brothers’ flares of intensity. While a spirited competitor, Andrew approaches the fraternal



From left: Stephen, Corey, and Andrew Churilla

contest amicably. Because he’s hearing impaired, Andrew is superficially different from his brothers. He contended with the impairment throughout his life—in middle school, he made a deal with his hearing-support teacher that if he got straight A’s, he could ditch a cumbersome hearing device that entailed a wireless transmitter he wore and a microphone his teachers had to wear. He achieved the high grades and rid himself of the device once he showed he could still be an accomplished student without it.

In turn, said Stephen, Andrew’s flawless grades prompted him to achieve the same shortly after. “We strive to be better or equal because we’re compared to each other, but it has always been a motivator, too,” he said.

Corey agreed. “I guarantee that if I had gone to another university, I would not have studied and worked as hard as I did at Pitt,” he said. “I would not have had the drive.”

At the same time, their common pursuit comforts them—whenever one has a difficult time, he knows the other two can relate and help.

The brothers came to Pitt via the 3-2 Engineering Program offered by Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa. Students begin as majors in mathematics at Saint Vincent and then, after three years, transfer to an engineering program at Pitt, Penn State, or the Catholic University of America for two more years. After five years, students receive a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Saint Vincent and a bachelor’s degree in engineering from their chosen institution.

Andrew, Corey, and Stephen all received their mathematics degrees from Saint Vincent in 2010. At one point, though, Andrew had doubted his future in engineering during a troublesome bout with electromagnetism in his Physics II course.

“I felt that I would not do well in engineering if I did not pass,” he said. “I actually considered switching to just a math major, but I stuck with engineering on my brothers’ advice, and they helped me through the class. Without their support and help, I don’t think I would have fared as well.”

All three brothers needed and provided that support at some point, Stephen said. In the end, they wanted to be engineers, and it was challenging. Now an engineer at Bechtel Plant Machinery, Inc., in Monroeville, Pa.—which undertakes classified projects for the U.S. Navy and required a three-month background check—Stephen knows the drudgery was worth it. He sometimes returns to Saint Vincent to talk with aspiring engineers and mathematicians in the class of the brothers’ favorite mathematics professor, Michael Botsko Jr.

“Everything I’ve done, I’m glad I did it. Even the classes that I thought were awful were an experience,” Stephen said. “I remember taking Dr. Botsko’s linear algebra class and wondering when any of it comes into play. When I got to Pitt, I took a class in linear circuits that made sense to me when it didn’t to a lot of other students because of that class. You never know. Now, I have a job that when people ask me what I do, I get

But forget about odds. That exchange about engineering software programs during a recent mid-evening meet-up in the lobby of Pitt’s Benedum Hall exhibited the true components of their academic success: A genuine proclivity for engineering blended with competitiveness—born of the need to stand apart from the two people on the planet most like the other—that has provided as much support as it has motivation.

to say, ‘I’m sorry, that’s classified.’ It makes life so much more interesting.”

“But I probably do more engineering than you do,” Corey said, smiling.

“We like to talk over each other,” Stephen explained. Andrew began, “Like how you cut me off earlier when...”

“Yeah,” Stephen cut in, “like that.”

SeniorProfile

Carey Caginalp

Young Scholar

Graduating from Pitt at 17, Carey Caginalp already has the math world abuzz

By Diane Hernon Chavis

Shortly before his 17th birthday last fall, Carey Caginalp, a University of Pittsburgh graduating senior, received exhilarating news. The French Academy of Sciences had accepted an announcement of his first paper for its prestigious *Comptes Rendus Mathématique*, an internationally renowned journal that disseminates significant mathematical discoveries with rapid speed. Caginalp's research paper, titled "Analytical and Numerical Results for First Escape Time," described his groundbreaking application of the century-old Brownian motion theory to an embryonic area of applied mathematics.

Identifying a cutting-edge problem in a discipline with roots in antiquity is challenging, according to Xinfu Chen, a professor in Pitt's Department of Mathematics who supervised two of Caginalp's independent study courses (vector calculus and methods of applied math) and served as his University Honors College thesis advisor and collaborator. "I have known Carey for a number of years," said Chen. "He's very smart, he's self-disciplined, and he understands what he is learning and the direction he needs to go. I know he has a bright future."

Caginalp's fascination with numbers and quantitative measures emerged during his toddler years. "When I was little and my family finished eating dinner, I would run to the basement and watch the numbers on the water meter change as the dishwasher ran," Caginalp recalled with a smile.

When he was five or six, Caginalp asked his parents—Pitt professor of mathematics Gunduz Caginalp and his wife, Pitt alumnus Eva Caginalp, who earned her master's degree in applied math here—about "private numbers," explaining that the number 2 hops onto 4, then 6, then 8, just like the number 3 hops onto 6, then 9, then 12. "But no numbers hop onto number 17," the youngster explained.

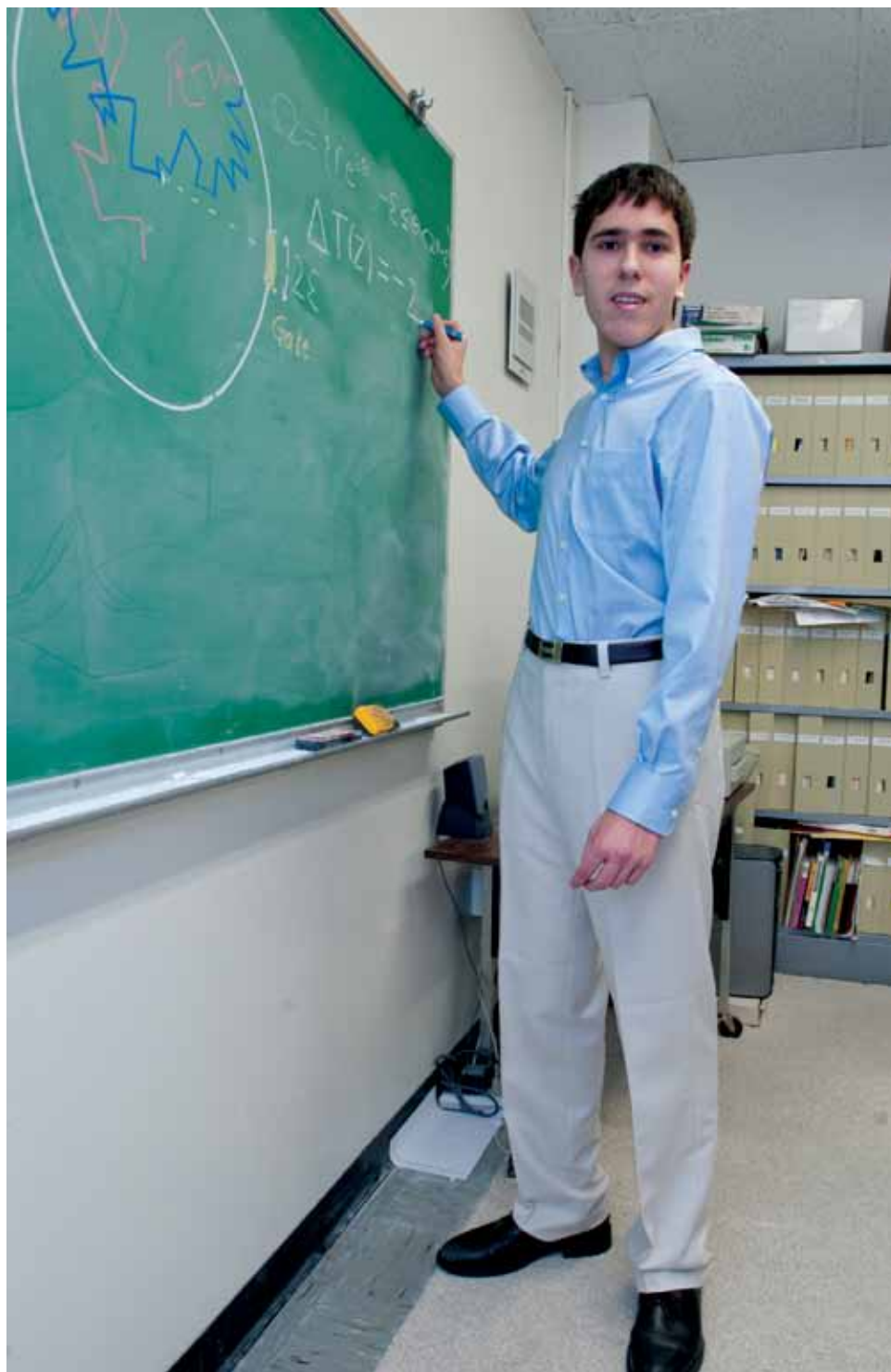
"We knew then that Carey had somehow discovered 'prime numbers,'" said his father, "but neither of us had taught him about 'primes,'" integers that can only be exactly divided by themselves and by 1.

Around this same time, Prof. Caginalp recalled, "We bought Carey a book about the planets, which he began to read in the car. After a while, Carey said he couldn't understand something."

"The diameter of Mars is about half of the Earth's diameter," the youngster told his parents, "but Mars' mass is tiny compared to Earth's," suggesting that Mars was made of much lighter material, which contradicted the book's description.

"It turned out that the book contained a typo for the mass of Mars," explained Prof. Caginalp. "More important, my wife and I now knew that it was a good time to officially introduce Carey to the concept of density."

Born, raised, and home-schooled in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill community, Carey Caginalp was 10 years old when he enrolled in his first Pitt course, "Discrete Mathematical Structures," through the University's Accelerated High School (AHS) program. Not surprisingly, he earned an A+.



Carey Caginalp

Jackie Batt, who directs Pitt's AHS and College in High School programs, has seen less than a handful of 10-year-olds enrolled in college courses during her almost 20 years at the University. "Carey is delightful!" she exclaimed as she described the young man who will join the other members of the Class of 2011 during Pitt's graduation ceremonies today. "He's polite, well-rounded, and mature," she added, "and he has done extremely well here."

Among his list of honors and awards is the 2010 Pitt Department of Mathematics Culver Prize, awarded for excellence in math, and a 2010 Brackenridge Summer Research Fellowship, named in honor of

Pitt's founder—Hugh Henry Brackenridge. Brackenridge fellows are selected on the basis of their academic records and the originality and promise of their proposed projects, as well as their aspiration to both create and participate in an interdisciplinary community of students in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and applied disciplines. Young Caginalp made the cut and under the guidance of his faculty sponsor, Professor Chen, began his ambitious research in an area with far-ranging implications.

The tall, lean Caginalp presented this work last summer at the 2010 annual meeting of the Society for Industrial and

Applied Mathematics and again in the fall during Pitt's Applied Analysis Seminar. He also submitted a second paper to the *Archive for Rational Mechanics and Analysis*, which provides full publication for research of exceptional moment, depth, and permanence.

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This summer, when he's not playing tennis or golf, Caginalp will be furthering his work with support from Prof. Chen's National Science Foundation's (NSF) research grant.

In August, Caginalp will embark upon another leg of his incredible 17-year journey as he leaves the "City of Champions" to begin his PhD program in applied mathematics at Brown University in Rhode Island, thanks to a recently announced competitive award he received from the NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP), which recognizes outstanding students in NSF-supported mathematics, science, technology, and engineering disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions. The GRFP will provide the young scholar with a \$30,000 stipend a year for three years, plus full tuition and fees.

JIM BURKE/CORBIS

SeniorProfile

Parvaneh Aghamussa Torkamani

A Cultural Touch

Pitt's Parvaneh Aghamussa Torkamani aims to create sanctuary for homeless Iranian women in the United States



Parvaneh Aghamussa Torkamani

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

Parvaneh Aghamussa Torkamani (A&S '88) enrolled in the graduate program of Pitt's School of Social Work with the goal of opening a shelter for homeless Iranian women. Graduating today with her master's degree, Torkamani is one step closer to making that dream a reality thanks to her Pitt education.

Born in 1963 in Tehran, Iran, Torkamani said she enjoyed a peaceful childhood, surrounded by family and friends. However, peace gradually gave way to chaos in the years leading up to the 1979 Iranian Revolution. By age 14, Torkamani became increasingly aware of the gravity of her country's political situation: Iran was heading toward civil war as strong opposition to the nation's monarchy gained momentum.

Torkamani remembers participating in her library's modern poetry readings during this time. Older teens would give her and her friend controversial literature about the revolution. While her friend's mother would take the literature away from her friend, Torkamani read the literature and became familiar with revolutionary thought. The literature focused on the plight of the poor, the ruling class' exploitation of power, and the country's wealth that led to a lack of resources and inequality for many.

Torkamani developed extreme sensitivity towards these issues.

"It was very dangerous to be speaking out or thinking differently during the Shah's time," says Torkamani. "It is worse now. But during that time, they would search your house—and if they found banned literature, they would take you to prison.

"You would see graffiti on the walls one or two years before the revolution, encouraging people to resist and *do something*," she adds.

It wasn't long before the strikes and daily blackouts began. Soon people were pouring into the streets by the millions. Zhaleh Square, the main hub of the revolution, was located directly behind Torkamani's house. "Lots of people were killed on that square," she says.

Following the Shah's departure from Iran in January 1979, Torkamani's mother passed away from chronic bronchitis complications. Torkamani then began a life journey that took her to Los Angeles and Germany, allowing her to become fluent in both English and German. She was fortunate to connect with an established Iranian community in L.A., but despite having good friends and good grades as she finished high school in L.A., she struggled

with homesickness and bouts of depression. Her father passed away in Iran in 1982 while she was living in Germany, and because Torkamani had siblings living in the U.S., she was able to obtain a U.S. visa from the consulate in Munich in 1983. She had friends living in Pittsburgh, so she chose to enroll at Pitt.

After receiving her bachelor's degrees in English and philosophy in 1988, she spent time in Washington, D.C., and in New York City, where she was involved with poetry circles and the theater. Torkamani met homeless Iranian women in both of these large cities—leading her to believe there were many others like them in need of help.

"Iranian women require culture-specific help—help from people who understand them," says Torkamani. "There are American social services that can help [them], but some things would be lacking."

Torkamani explained that women who became homeless abroad were likely oppressed by their brothers, fathers, and husbands, who encourage them to stick to their roles as housewives. For that reason, many homeless Iranian women may lack the ambition that most people would expect of American women—and thus require "a different kind of help," she says.

Torkamani explained that women who became homeless abroad were likely oppressed by their brothers, fathers, and husbands, who encourage them to stick to their roles as housewives. For that reason, many homeless Iranian women may lack the ambition that most people would expect of American women—and thus require "a different kind of help," she says.

"I started having a vision of setting up a shelter for these women that would be a holistic type of place—to teach them English; to help them stay with their kids and family, keep their family together, and develop self-esteem; to help them recognize that there are opportunities here that they can take advantage of; and to help them achieve those ambitions and eventually become independent."

Torkamani explained that ideally, her vision would not be a short-term shelter. "This would be a place where some of these women would need to stay for long periods of time—because the process of self-realization for these women with such backgrounds of oppression and lack of encouragement is not a quick process," she says. "It takes years."

Torkamani returned to Pittsburgh in 1992 and again suffered from several episodes of debilitating depression. Once she recovered, she said, it was time to pursue her dream.

"I needed to know the ropes," she says. "I realized that I had no idea where to begin. That's when I decided I would pursue my graduate degree in social work at the University of Pittsburgh."

Now that she is graduating with her MSW, her next step is to work at a nonprofit for two years to gain more experience with issues surrounding homelessness. In the meantime, she will begin the process of establishing her own nonprofit.

Torkamani says she would like to pursue a PhD to enable her to teach one day.

"I have gotten so much encouragement at Pitt from my professors, who recognized my talents and encouraged me in a direction," she says. "Whether it was writing, philosophy, or social work—if it wasn't for the positive ways that these professors approached me, I wouldn't have gained the kind of confidence that I have in my academic career at this moment."

SeniorProfile

Robert Bowden

Rebuilding His Urban Playground

With a Master of Social Work degree in hand, Robert Bowden is poised to give back to the Hill District

By Sharon S. Blake

Robert Bowden can recall peering at the Cathedral of Learning from his window when he was growing up in the Aliquippa Terrace housing project on the Oakland/Hill District border. He also gazed up at the 42-story structure many times from the Fifth Avenue yard of what was then Frick Elementary School, where he was a student.

"To me, it looked like a monument that soared right up into the clouds," Bowden says with a faint smile.

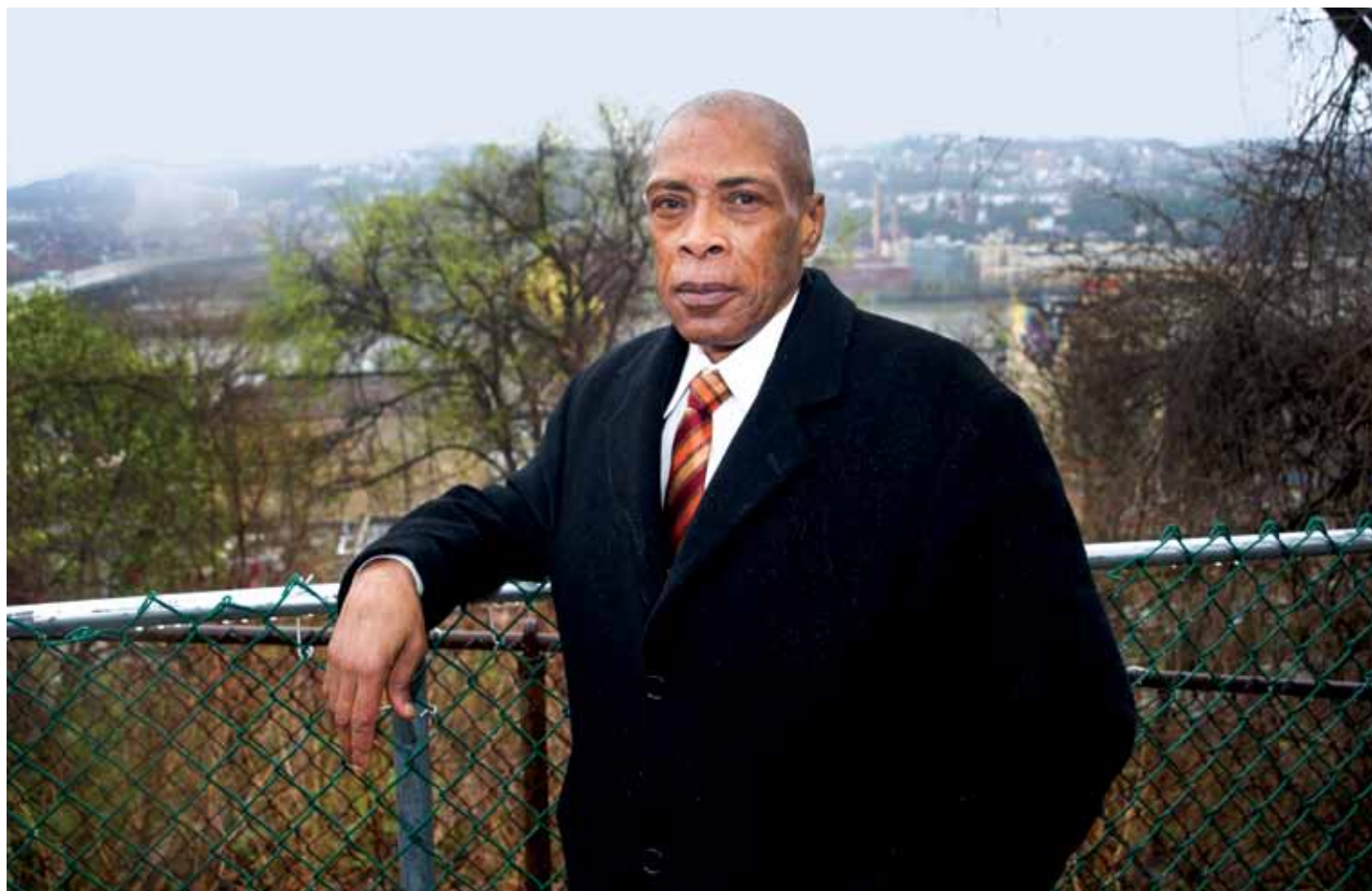
Decades later, after enduring the hardship of growing up in the inner city with few role models, Bowden today is graduating as a University scholar with a master's degree in social work. The achievement stems from long hours of studying in the Cathedral, honing his skills in nonprofit management and community organizing.

"I can't honestly say this is something I've worked for all my life," Bowden says. "In fact, I'm absolutely stunned to be in this position. I was the underdog—the long shot."

Raised by his mother, who worked two and three jobs to support Bowden and his two sisters, the Hill District native graduated from Schenley High School and began working as a custodian in a Downtown jewelry store. Early on, he had developed the habit of reading the dictionary and thesaurus to help him better express himself in conversation. While on a break in the store basement one day, he was engrossed in *Webster's Dictionary* when his boss came downstairs. Furious, the man flung a wet toilet brush at the book, splashing Bowden, and said, "That's your job! Don't bring any books in here!"

For Bowden, who was 21 at the time, it was a defining moment. He left Pittsburgh shortly afterward to enroll in Howard University in Washington, D.C. But he said he took his "inner-city baggage" with him and struggled in class. Eventually he returned home.

Bowden held a series of jobs and kept "pushing through the fodder," as he says, trying to figure life out. It was Emma Lucas Darby, a Hill District neighbor and then-director of Carlow University's social work program, who finally reignited Bowden's interest in academics. He attended the Community College of Allegheny County and then Carlow, where he earned a bachelor's degree in social work in 2008. The following year, he applied to the Pitt School of Social Work's master's degree program, and he entered as an advanced standing student—that is, he received credit for his foundational studies



Robert Bowden

Another important part of Bowden's development involves becoming a role model for young Black men. When he tries to connect with them occasionally on Hill District streets, he says he "can see the longing in their eyes. I say to them: 'Whatever it is you think you're winning, you're not winning. You can get out of deep dark holes. You can overcome barriers.'"

he completed while earning his BASW.

Bowden says he blossomed at Pitt. Two fulfilling internships with the Hill House Association put him squarely back in his old neighborhood. He earned a stipend and had scholarship support while logging 24 hours a week in the community as a Hill House Fellow. The Provost-funded fellowship helped Bowden accelerate his studies. He worked on the *Find the Rivers!* initiative, an effort to connect the Hill District with Frank Curto Park on Bigelow Boulevard, to redefine trails and green space and to build Cliffside Park, which is evolving into a community gathering place. Bowden says the project taught him how important community space is to one's health and well-being.

"If you come out of your house in a good space, there's an attachment to the space,

the neighborhood, and the community," he says. "You want to contribute to it and make

it better. People take on the dynamics of their own physical space."

Bowden's second internship gave him insight into local politics. He contributed to the Hill Consensus Group, which hammered out the Community Benefit Agreement regarding the Pittsburgh Penguins' new hockey arena in the Lower Hill. Bowden helped get people to meetings, collected data, gained insight into policymaking, and learned who the community leaders were and how they got things done. During his time at Pitt, he also compiled focus group information for the Homewood Children's Village, recruited participants for nutrition programs, and helped counsel individuals on recovering from drug addiction.

Bowden says he relishes social work because of its wide array of professional possibilities and because he has always enjoyed helping people.

Tracy Soska, director of continuing education and chair of the community-organizing arm of Pitt's School of Social Work, is impressed by Bowden's enthusiasm.

"He has a sense of urgency about him that fuels his passion for study, as if making up for lost time in his life," says Soska, who was also his adviser and one of his instructors. "His dedication to learning, coupled with his passion to do good work, makes for a successful social worker."

Another important part of Bowden's development involves becoming a role model for young Black men. When he tries to connect with them occasionally on Hill

"He has a sense of urgency about him that fuels his passion for study, as if making up for lost time in his life. His dedication to learning, coupled with his passion to do good work, makes for a successful social worker."—Tracy Soska

District streets, he says he "can see the longing in their eyes.

"I say to them: 'Whatever it is you think you're winning, you're not winning. You can get out of deep dark holes. You can overcome barriers.'"

Bowden and a younger sibling reside with and care for their elderly mother, who worked 47 years at Children's Hospital and is now impaired by a stroke. But she has watched and understood every step of his journey, he says. And he admits he owes a lot to the woman who fed, nurtured, and loved the little boy who was looking out his window at the tall building that soared into the clouds.

"I've learned that no matter what stands in front of you—racism, domestic problems—you have to navigate it nonetheless," says Bowden. "And grinding away at it taught me character, humility, great maturity, and a mandate . . . to give."

SeniorProfile

Nina Weaver

Traveling the World

Nina Weaver heads to Tanzania on Rotary Scholarship

Fluent in both Swahili and French, Nina Weaver possesses a worldview comprising scenes ranging from Oakland and Plum Borough to London and Tanzania.

An industrious student with a 4.0 GPA, Weaver is one of four Pitt students to have received a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship this year. (See story page 9.) She graduates today with a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in international and area studies and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history through Pitt's Honors College and School of Arts and Sciences.

The Rotary Scholarship will provide Weaver with a year of study at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

A native of Plum Borough, east of Pittsburgh, Weaver has been interested in things international since her high school days when she toyed with the idea of a career in international business. As a student at Plum High School, she was part of a volunteer organization called Girls Leaders Association (GLA). She became interested in international nonprofit and humanitarian aid work, with a focus on East Africa. Soon, the idea of specializing in educational development in foreign countries took root. Today, Weaver is interested in developing countries' educational systems—in particular, the issues of access to education, health, emergency aid, and refugee education.

At Pitt, she continued to volunteer, joining "Keep it Real," an after-school tutoring program. She has tutored a Somali-Bantu refugee family—with seven children, ranging in age from 1 to 21—since she was a sophomore. Twice a week, Weaver tutors the oldest child, a young woman who is now married and living in Lawrenceville, and five of the younger siblings. Until coming to the United States through a United Nations resettlement program, the children had spent all of their lives in refugee camps.

"I've grown very close to them. Sometimes I eat dinner with them and help the mother with the bills and advise her on various things," said Weaver, who visits the family during the summer when the Pitt program is on hiatus.

And during a six-week summer intern-

ship through the Pitt African Studies' Pitt in Tanzania program last year, Weaver met with one of the family's cousins.

Through Pitt in Tanzania, Weaver studied Swahili. The intensive language program earned her the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Undergraduate Fellowship. She is currently enrolled in Swahili IV at Pitt.

Weaver studied French at Pitt for six semesters but said, "I assure you, I'm much better in Swahili."

In addition to visiting Tanzania in 2010, Weaver traveled to London in 2009 on a Savina S. Skewis Pitt Nationality Room Study Abroad Scholarship. While there, she studied British literature and popular culture and was an intern at The Baytree Centre, assist-

ing with its youth program and working as a public relations liaison.

As a student at the University of Dar es Salaam this year, Weaver will have the support of the local Tanzanian Rotary Club. She said she looks forward to learning from Tanzanian professors and working with Tanzanian students. She also plans to work with nonprofit agencies in the East Africa nation.

Upon Weaver's return from Tanzania, graduate school and a master's degree are next on the list. Her goal is to work in international educational development and education reform in foreign countries.

"I'm grateful to the Honors College, African Studies, and Global Studies (both part of Pitt's University Center for International Studies) for all the support I've gotten," said Weaver, who received several scholarships through those programs, including the FLAS and a Global Studies Tuition Remission Fellowship.

Weaver takes time to have a little fun, too. She is a member of Pitt's Panther Equestrian Club and served as its vice president for two years. Weaver noted that one of the best things about student organizations is that they help students to make friends and become a part of a community.

"I've been really lucky to find the kinds of communities and opportunities Pitt offers," said Weaver. "I received a great education."

—By Patricia Lomando White



Nina Weaver

2011 Commencement May 1

Continued from page 2

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.

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 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).

ALN Helps Legislators Understand University Concerns

Continued from page 2

and graduates with state lawmakers. Today, the organization regularly sponsors events that connect the Pitt community with elected officials, including offering workshops on effective ways to interact with legislators.

The organization's leaders emphasize that membership is open to all members of the Pitt community, not just alumni.

"This year's Pitt Day in Harrisburg was our most successful, and we wouldn't have been able to achieve that level of success without an energized student body," said Jeff Gleim, Pitt associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and executive director of the Pitt Alumni Association. "This organization looks for die-hard lovers of this University who are ready to advocate on its behalf."

Those advocacy efforts take on a special urgency during the state's annual budget process.

While Pitt Day in Harrisburg routinely attracts enthusiastic crowds, the 2011 visit to the capital had an added importance because of the governor's state budget proposal that calls for 50 percent cuts in state appropriations to Pitt and the three other state-related universities—Penn State, Temple, and Lincoln.

"You could tell there was a legitimate sense of urgency in the air this year," Mountjoy recalled. "There are very real concerns about how this budget could impact people's lives, and events like this are invaluable because they give those affected, both directly and indirectly, an opportunity to voice their concerns in a productive manner."

ALN sprang into action immediately following the governor's March 5 budget address, which called for cuts of more than

\$104 million from Pitt's state appropriation. ALN initiated a mass letter-writing campaign, urged members to call their legislators, and worked to make the 2011 Pitt Day in Harrisburg the biggest in the event's history.

According to Supowitz, state legislators routinely seek feedback from their constituents about legislative issues. They're anxious to hear from parents, students, and alumni about the proposed cuts to higher education, said Supowitz, who encourages Pennsylvania residents to contact their legislators so lawmakers can better understand their views about Pitt's value to the state's students and to the Commonwealth. Information on how to contact legislators can be found on Pitt's governmental relations Web site, www.govrel.pitt.edu/advocacynetwork/resources.html.

"This is not the first time the University has faced a battle with the budget or with a piece of legislation that would be detrimental to Pitt's interests, and it certainly will not be the last," said Supowitz. "The important thing is that we were able to mobilize on the grassroots level to make our voices heard."

ALN's leaders are quick to point out that the network's mission is not just to influence state legislators, but also to educate them on pertinent issues.

"We want our volunteers to continuously remind lawmakers of the big picture, the positive impact that fully funding higher education will have on Western Pennsylvania," said Gleim. "Funding higher education provides a broad impact that supports jobs, future leaders, and medical breakthroughs. Taking funding from higher education is the equivalent of sacrificing the future for what may be a short-term gain."

Somerset, Pa., Native First Pitt Student to Win Huntington Award

By Patricia Lomando White

Cory J. Rodgers, a University of Pittsburgh Honors College senior who is majoring in biological sciences, history and philosophy of science, and Africana studies, has been named a 2011 Samuel Huntington Public Service Award winner. Rodgers, of Somerset, Pa., is being recognized for a project that will assist people living with HIV and AIDS in Tanzania, Africa.

One of three students out of 70 applicants from colleges and universities across the country to win the Samuel Huntington award, Rodgers is the first student from Pitt to receive the honor.

The Samuel Huntington Public Service Award provides a \$10,000 stipend to a graduating college senior to pursue public service anywhere in the world. The award allows recipients to engage in a meaningful

public service activity for one year before attending graduate school or beginning a career.

"We were all very impressed with Cory's project, his presentation at the interview, and his obvious determination to make a difference in the lives of those living with HIV and AIDS in Tanzania," said Jennifer Huntington, chair of the Samuel Huntington Fund.

Rodgers' project, titled "The Poultry Program for People Living With HIV and AIDS in Rwambaizi," is patterned after a

project for women's groups implemented by Karagwe Development and Relief Services (KADERES), which has been providing services to the people of the Karagwe District of Tanzania for more than a decade.

Rodgers' poultry program will build



Cory J. Rodgers

Continued on page 10

Congratulations New Alumni!

The Pitt Alumni Association acts as the voice of more than 277,000 University of Pittsburgh alumni worldwide. Now that you have graduated, we act as your voice as well. Commencement doesn't signal the end of Pitt's involvement in your lives. We want to encourage you to make the most of Pitt as you continue to thrive and explore the world, wherever you go.

It's easy to stay connected! Visit our Web site and find out about **alumni news and events**. Follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and join our alumni-exclusive group on **LinkedIn**. You can also join our online community to contact classmates, receive updates from the association as well as from your school or college, and participate in **career networking** with students and other alumni.

Becoming a **Pitt Alumni Association member** helps to support both the association and the University! Membership dues also help to support association scholarships and alumni events. In addition, members receive special benefits and discounts, including discounts at the Book Store and the Pitt Shop.

If you're leaving the Pittsburgh area, visit our Web site and find out whether there's a **Pitt Club** near your new home. It's a fun and easy way to stay connected to Pitt. Alumni clubs sponsor events across the country, from networking to golf outings and sports-watching events. The Pitt Alumni Association is your lifetime connection to the University, and your support helps keep the University strong.

For more information on staying connected, stop by the **Pitt Alumni Association** offices at 140 Alumni Hall, call 1-800-ALU-PITT, or visit www.alumni.pitt.edu.

Hail to Pitt!



Pitt's Phi Beta Kappa Chapter Inducts 98 Into 2011 Class

By Alex Russell

The University of Pittsburgh chapter of Phi Beta Kappa inducted 98 Pitt students into its 2011 class during an April 30 initiation ceremony in the Teplitz Memorial Courtroom of the Barco Law Building.

Founded in 1776 at the college of William and Mary, Phi Beta Kappa is America's oldest college honor society. Election to Phi Beta Kappa is considered by many to be the most prestigious honor of academic excellence that can be conferred upon students majoring in one of the liberal arts and sciences. Among the organization's past inductees are 17 U.S. Presidents, 38 U.S. Supreme Court Justices, and 136 Nobel Laureates.

Local chapters work within the organization's national guidelines to establish their own criteria for election to the society. At Pitt, eligibility requirements include, among others, proficiency in a foreign language as well as completion of a demanding, broadly distributed program of course work spanning the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Completing a well-distributed program of course work is more important than a 4.0 grade point average. Grade point average requirements range from 3.5 to 3.9, with the lower criterion applying to students who have earned

at least 90 liberal arts credits at Pitt and the higher criterion applying to those who have earned 60 liberal arts credits at Pitt.

Pitt seniors graduating in 2011 who were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 2010, when they were juniors, are Philip Carullo, He Chang, Elizabeth Hocking, Rebecca A. Kerner, Andrea Kostura, Gabrielle Langmann, Grace Lindsay, Sarai Martinez-Suazo, Molly McLaren, Sumir Pandit, Natalie Reizine, Cory Rodgers, and Juliette Yedimenko.

Pitt's Phi Beta Kappa Class of 2011 inductees are:

Mikaela Alger
Krutika Amin
Elizabeth Anger
Amanda Aninwene
Benjamin Armon
Jaclyn Bankert
Utsav Bansal
Allyson Barnett
Sonya Bohaczuk
Hannah Bonville
Elizabeth Calabrese
Lauren Campbell
Abigail Cartus
Laura Caton
Laura Cifrese
Christine Clark
Kathleen Costello

Angela Curcio
Scott Curran
Michael Daniel
Georgina DeCesare
Leslie Denlinger
Andrew Dilla
Samantha Evanoff
Rachel Frank*
Timothy Gallagher
Allison Garda*
Sultan Ghuman
Elizabeth Gilje
Laura Hagan
Noah Haibach*
Laura Hatz
Kenneth Hobbs
Charles Horowitz
Karen Jakubowski
Jonathan Janiczek
Stacy Jones*
Sagar Kamprath
James Kaus
Jennifer Klunk*
Gerald Kosoff*
Samuel Kramer
Stephanie Krowka
Raaka Kumbhakar*
Michelle Larzelere
Katherine Lasky
Cory Linfield
Margaret Lott
Hei Ma
Waqas Malick*

Nana Marfo
Courtney Matisko
Maddalena McDonnell
Clifton McKee
Taylor McKelvie
Meghan McLaughlin
Casey McRoy
Ashley Miller*
Jeffrey Moulton
Nicholas Naro*
Erin Nichols
Anna Nwokelo*
Elizabeth O'Neill
Kristen Painter
Nathaniel Pancoast
Eric Peterson
Irene Pien
Sheila Pierson

Sean Piper*
Lindsay Plavchak
Justina Pope
Victor Pope
Niveditha Prabhakaran
Jonathan Rubin*
Alexa Sabreda
Sarah Sandrian
Rachel Saunders
Jeanette Schroeder
Andrew Sekhon
Gregory Sencak*
Yeohan Song
Anna Statkiewicz*
Ashley Sterchele
Lauren Swanson
Allyson Tesson
Rebecca Theophanous

Founded in 1776 at the college of William and Mary, Phi Beta Kappa is America's oldest college honor society. Election to Phi Beta Kappa is considered by many to be the most prestigious honor of academic excellence that can be conferred upon students majoring in one of the liberal arts and sciences

Samantha
Tieszen
Miranda
Velikoff
Kora Vidnovic
Ketelyn Walzer
Ying Wang
Cody Weiss
Gavin White
Louise Wolgat
Kathryn Wright
Jennifer Young
Lauren
Zammerilla
Audra Zimmer
(*Pitt juniors)

ODK 2011 Senior of the Year Award Goes To Pitt Honors College Student David Gau

By Ashley Gredzinski

University of Pittsburgh senior David Gau, majoring in bioengineering, mathematics, and economics, has been named the 2011 Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Senior of the Year.

Gau is graduating today from Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, School of Arts and Sciences, and Honors College.

ODK, founded in 1914 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., is an honorary society that recognizes students who maintain a high standard of leadership in collegiate activities. The award is given to students who possess and exhibit outstanding leadership qualities in service to the University.

As a student, Gau was involved in numerous leadership activities, including the founding of the Pitt Association for Leadership and Success, a leadership development organization that works to improve the University in sustainability, technology, residence life, and campus life. He also served as president of the engineering honors society Tau Beta Pi and president pro-tempore of the Student Government Board.

Gau's many honors include the Golden Panther Award, given by Pitt's Office of Student Affairs to a student highly involved in campus activities; the George and Stella Seewald Scholarship, a merit-based scholarship given annually to a student serving as a Pitt ambassador through



ODK, founded in 1914 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., is an honorary society that recognizes students who maintain a high standard of leadership in collegiate activities. The award is given to students who possess and exhibit outstanding leadership qualities in service to the University.

Pitt Pathfinders; and the Wellington C. Carl Pittsburgh Foundation Scholarship, presented by Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering for excellent academic standing.

Gau also has participated in teaching and research opportunities while at Pitt. He has served as an undergraduate teaching assistant for General Chemistry, General Chemistry 2, Trigonometric Functions, and Algebra. As an undergraduate researcher in Pitt's Center for Biotechnology, he has researched cell migration, with a concentration in breast cancer cell migration.

Gau has traveled to Vietnam to visit a variety of engineering firms—including civil, biological, and computer—to better understand how globalization affects individual companies and the problems they face as they expand abroad. He also traveled to China to learn how Chinese engineering operations compare to U.S. engineering companies.

Following graduation, Gau plans to travel to Australia for a year to continue his research on breast cancer.

The ODK award was announced at Pitt's 35th annual Honors Convocation in February.

Pitt Seniors, Graduate Students Receive NSF Research Fellowships

University of Pittsburgh graduating seniors and current graduate students have been named recipients of National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships through the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP); the nine fellowship awards go to four new Pitt graduates and to five students who are pursuing graduate studies at Pitt.

The fellowships have been designed to ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science and engineering in the United States and to reinforce its diversity. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in the United States.

As the oldest graduate fellowship program of its kind, the GRFP has a long history of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers. The prestige of the GRFP fellowships helps support recipients to become lifelong leaders who contribute significantly to both scientific innovation and teaching.

Fellows receive a three-year annual stipend of \$30,000 along with a \$10,500 cost-of-education allowance for tuition and fees, international research and professional development opportunities, and the freedom to conduct research at any accredited U.S. institution of graduate education.

Pitt's winners in the undergraduate category are:

Carey Caginalp, of Pittsburgh, Pa., a mathematics major, who today earns a Bachelor of Philosophy degree and will pursue a PhD at Brown University in applied mathematics;

Edlyn Levine, of Pittsburgh, Pa., a physics major, who today earns a Bachelor of Science degree and will pursue a PhD at Harvard University studying condensed matter physics;

Alex Patterson, of Washingtonville, Pa., an electrical engineering major with a minor in physics, who today earns a Bachelor of Science degree and will pursue a PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology studying electrical and electronic engineering;

Andrew Savinov, of Upper St. Clair, Pa., a chemistry and molecular biology major with a minor in physics, who today earns a Bachelor of Philosophy degree and will pursue a PhD in the biophysics graduate program at Stanford University.

Pitt winners in the graduate category follow:

Stephen Balmert, of Cranberry Township, Pa., who earned his BS in bioengineering with a minor in chemistry at Pitt and is a first year PhD student in bioengineering;

William Barone, of Greensburg, Pa., who earned a BS in engineering and bioengineering at Pitt and is a first year PhD student in bioengineering;

Catharine Fairbairn, of Belmont, Mass., who earned her BA in psychology and music at Barnard College and has completed her second year of study towards a PhD in psychology;

Matthew Koski, of Midland, Mich., who earned a BS in the University of Michigan's Program in the Environment and is pursuing a PhD in biological sciences; and

Naima Sharaf, of North Andover, Mass., who earned a BS in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a second-year graduate student studying molecular biophysics and structural biology.



Four Pitt Graduating Seniors Receive Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships to Study Abroad

By Patricia Lomando White

Rotary International has selected four University of Pittsburgh graduating seniors to receive Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships to study abroad for the 2011-12 academic year. The students are among more than 400 recipients from 40 countries selected for the award. Three of the four recipients hail from Pennsylvania.

Pitt ties for second place in the U.S. in terms of the number of Rotary scholars it will be sending abroad. Also claiming four Rotary scholars were Chapman University, the United States Naval Academy, and Vanderbilt University.

Pitt's Rotary scholars are **Aaron Cantor** of Coatesville, Pa., who will receive today a BS in microbiology and history and philosophy of science and will study at the University of Queensland in Australia; **David Gau** of Kennett Square, Pa., who receives a BPhil in bioengineering and a BS in mathematics and economics and will study at the University of New England in Australia; **Nina Weaver** of Plum Borough, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pa., who receives a BPhil in international and area studies and a BA in history and will study at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania; and **Liz Van Loon** of Simsbury, Conn., who receives a BS in nursing and will study at the University of Nairobi in Kenya.

As one of the world's largest privately



Aaron Cantor



David Gau



Nina Weaver



Liz Van Loon

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER CHIDON

sponsored international scholarship programs, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships focus on humanitarian service, personal diplomacy, and academic excellence. Since 1947, approximately 40,000 students from 130 countries have received scholarships from the program at a cost of more than \$532 million through the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships provide undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to study at universities in the 200 countries and geographical areas where Rotary clubs are active. While abroad, scholars participate in community service projects and speak at local Rotary club meetings and conferences, schools, civic organizations, and other forums where they serve as "goodwill ambassadors" for their home countries.

Cantor will use the Rotary award to

work on a research project that aims to determine how an anticancer compound isolated from an Australian plant works and its efficacy against several human cancer types. He also will volunteer for community skin-cancer awareness and patient care programs through the Queensland Cancer Council and help with remaining efforts to repair damage caused by January 2011 flooding.

Cantor, who also earned a certificate in Conceptual Foundations of Medicine, has had numerous medical internships and fellowships, including a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Research Fellowship. As a project assistant and Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Fellow in UPMC's Department of Dermatopathology and Histology, **Cantor** authored a case report that was published in a July 2010 issue of *Dermatology Online Journal*. He was an autopsy pathology intern in UPMC's Autopsy Service and a mentee and volunteer at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

Cantor's leadership activities include serving as the volunteer coordinator and activities chair of Pitt's Chapter of the American Medical Student Association. He is also a member of the Pittsburgh Undergraduate Review Editorial Board, C. F. Reynolds Medical History Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Sigma Alpha Lambda, and Golden Key, as well as the Hillel Jewish University Center. After completing his Rotary study in Australia, **Cantor** plans to enter Penn State College of Medicine.

Gau will use the Rotary award to continue his research on breast cancer and to encourage minorities in Australia to participate in science and engineering via outreach programming to various local schools.

At Pitt, **Gau** worked as an undergraduate researcher in the Center for Biotechnology, studying cell migration in breast cancer. He has coauthored several papers and posters and presented his work at conferences and symposiums. **Gau** traveled to Vietnam and Taiwan through Pitt's INNOVATE program to study the effects of globalization on those countries. He also spent time in China, gaining exposure to Chinese engineering and business practices.

Gau is founder of the Pitt Association for Leadership and Success, a leadership development organization that works to improve the University in sustainability, technology, residence life, and campus life. He is president of Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society, and president pro tempore of Pitt's Student Government Board. **Gau** also has served as an undergraduate teaching assistant at Pitt. A Pitt Pathfinder, **Gau** has conducted tours of the University and city for potential Pitt students and their families.

Among **Gau's** many honors are being named Pitt's 2011 Omicron Delta Kappa Senior of the Year. He has received an Alma Newlin Education Fund award given to students from southern Chester County, a Wellington C. Carl Pittsburgh Foundation Scholarship from Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, and the George and Stella Seewald Scholarship, a merit-based scholarship given annually to a student

serving as a Pitt ambassador through Pathfinders.

Weaver will use her Rotary award to continue her study of educational systems in developing countries. She said she looks forward to learning from Tanzanian professors and working with Tanzanian students. She also plans to work with nonprofit agencies in the African nation.

At Pitt, **Weaver** worked in the Global Studies Office, served as a Nationality Rooms Program tour guide, and was a student library assistant in the GSPIA and business school libraries. **Weaver** also was a member of Pitt's Panther Equestrian Club, having served as its vice president for two years. As a volunteer through Pitt's "Keep it Real," an after-school tutoring program, **Weaver** has been tutoring a Somali-Bantu refugee family—with seven children ranging in age from 1 to 21—since she was a sophomore.

Fluent in French and Swahili, **Weaver** studied Swahili during summer study abroad last year in Karagwe, Tanzania. In addition, **Weaver** traveled to London in 2009 on a Savina S. Skewis Pitt Nationality

Rooms Study Abroad Scholarship. While there, she studied British literature and popular culture and was an intern at The Baytree Centre, assisting with its Youth Program and working as a public relations liaison.

Weaver's honors include a Foreign Language and Area Studies Undergraduate Fellowship, a Study Abroad Office Scholarship, and service as an Undergraduate

Class Marshal for the School of Arts and Sciences at today's commencement.

Van Loon will enroll in the Master of Public Health program in the University of Nairobi's School of Medicine with her Rotary award. Her goal is to become involved in infectious disease research and to volunteer in the health field using her skills as a registered nurse.

Van Loon has served as a patient care technician in UPMC's Neuro/Ortho/Trauma Unit 8G. She also served as a Pitt Pathfinder. A recipient of a 2009 summer Brackenridge Research Fellowship, **Van Loon** organized and trained a student research team traveling to Lilongwe, Malawi. Her extracurricular activities include serving as president of Student Leaders in International Medicine, as both a participant and group leader for Project Malawi on two separate occasions, and as a member of the Pitt Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity's Service Committee.

Van Loon took a 'gap year' from school to volunteer at the Alejandro Magno Children's Home in Bolivia, caring for underprivileged children. She also shadowed Bolivian social workers during weekly visits to impoverished villages.

Van Loon is the recipient of the Ann M. J. Reed Memorial Scholarship from Pitt's School of Nursing for leadership in the nursing field.

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships Alumni include former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker Jr., former U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom Philip Lader, Goucher College President Sanford Ungar, former U.S. Ambassador to India David Mulford, and Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Roger Ebert.

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship International is the world's first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs worldwide. Rotary members are volunteers who work locally, regionally, and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace, and eradicate polio under the motto Service Above Self.

Pitt Students Present Their Work at National Conference On Undergraduate Research

Twenty-one Pitt undergraduates presented their research at the 25th Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) held at Ithaca College March 31-April 2. With research ranging from an analysis of Henri Cartier-Bresson's portrait photography to searching for the biomarkers of pancreatic cancer, Pitt undergraduates gave papers and posters on their in-depth and faculty-guided research at the national event.

"We are very proud of our students who presented their research to a national audience of their peers at NCUR this year," said Pitt Senior Vice Chancellor and Provost Patricia Beeson. "Their energy and enthusiasm is truly exemplary, and they represent the many talented undergraduates engaged in research across all our schools and fields at the University."

Founded in 1987, NCUR promotes undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity across all fields, bringing together participants from more than 300 national colleges and universities. The organization's national conference attracts more than 2,000 undergraduate and faculty participants, the largest such symposium in the country.

Presenting at this national conference provided Pitt students with an opportunity to showcase what they have learned from sustained and extensive faculty-mentored research experiences to a national audience.

Student presenters and their faculty advisors are as follows:

Abena N. Afriyie (Bruce Y. Lee, Department of Epidemiology, Graduate School of Public Health);

Gwendolin J. Bandi (Leonora Kivuva and Clyde Mitchell-Weaver, Department of Africana Studies, School of Arts and Sciences);

Jillian Bonaroti (Michael T. Lotze, Department of Surgery, School of Medicine);

Laura M. Caton (Michael D. West, Department of English, Arts and Sciences);

Shana Cooperstein (Josh Ellenbogen, Department of the History of Art and

Architecture, Arts and Sciences);
Katherine L. Delle and **Michelle S. Maramag** (Eileen R. Chasens, Department of Health and Community Systems, School of Nursing);

Laura Duff (Tony Novosel, Department of History, Arts and Sciences);

Tracy Fan and **Bethany Seidel** (Ann M. Mitchell, Health and Community Systems, School of Nursing);

Rebecca Hayes (Michael W. Dickey, Department of Communication Science and Disorders, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences);

Devin Knisely (Paula R. Sherwood, Department of Acute and Tertiary Care, School of Nursing);

Mark T. Kozlowski (Nathaniel L. Rosi, Department of Chemistry, Arts and Sciences);

Rebecca Murin (Kathleen W. Christian, the History of Art and Architecture, Arts and Sciences);

Rebecca Schroeder (NCUR Board of Governors member Joseph J. Grabowski, Department of Chemistry, Arts and Sciences);

Joshua Scieurba (Louis J. Vuga, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine);

Joanna L. Sterling (Jeffrey Cohn, Department of Psychology, Arts and Sciences);

Anthony Stewart (Mark Collins, Department of Geology and Planetary Science, Arts and Sciences);

Dana Stiles (Adriana Helbig, Department of Music, Arts and Sciences);

Jesse D. Thomason (Jingtao Wang, Department of Computer Science, Arts and Sciences); and

Marie Williams (Barbara McCloskey, the History of Art and Architecture, Arts and Sciences).

Project abstracts and more information are available on the NCUR 2011 conference Web site at www.ithaca.edu/ncur2011

More information on undergraduate research at Pitt is available on the University's Web site at www.undergradresearch.pitt.edu.

Pitt ties for second place in the U.S. in terms of the number of Rotary scholars it will be sending abroad.

Alexis Nolfi Is Named Emma Locke Award Winner

By Ashley Gredzinski

University of Pittsburgh Honors College senior Alexis Nolfi has been awarded the 2011 Emma Locke Award. Nolfi graduates today with a BS degree in bioengineering from Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering and a BS degree in psychology with a minor in chemistry from the School of Arts and Sciences.

Established in 1946 by Charles A. Locke in memory of his mother, the Emma W. Locke Award is presented annually to a graduating senior in recognition of high scholarship, character, and devotion to the ideals of the University. The student must have at least a 3.85 GPA and plan to continue his or her education after graduation.

Nolfi has gained extensive internship and research experience during her time at Pitt, including a research internship at the bioengineering company ICx-Agentase, where she participated in a project to create a color-changing sprayable enzymatic sensor for the detection of biochemical warfare agents.

While an intern with the Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative, Nolfi taught basic tissue-engineering concepts to middle schoolers in Pittsburgh and underrepresented

high school students in North Carolina. In addition, she assisted in research at the Adipose Stem Cell Center, part of UPMC's Division of Plastic Surgery and Pitt's School of Medicine.

The summer following her junior year, Nolfi traveled to Brazil with Engineering for a Better Environment—a study-abroad program offered through Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering—to study sustainable and renewable energy sources. In her senior year, she studied globalization and market interdependence in Vietnam and Taiwan.

Nolfi has been an undergraduate teaching assistant in Pitt's Department of Chemistry for the past four years. She is a member of Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society and the Society for Women Engineers and served as a historian for Phi Sigma Rho Engineering Sorority.

Nolfi scholarships include the Honors College Tuition Scholarship, the Honors Engineering Scholarship, and the School of Engineering Study Abroad Scholarship.

The Emma Locke Award was announced during Pitt's Honors Convocation in February.



Alexis Nolfi

Five Pitt Students Receive DAAD Graduate Scholarships

The DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst/German Academic Exchange Service) has awarded five Pitt students the DAAD Graduate Scholarship for Study and/or Research.

DAAD is the German national agency for the support of international academic cooperation that represents the German higher-education system abroad. The service promotes Germany as an academic and research destination and helps build ties between institutions around the world.

"We are delighted that our students have taken advantage of the wonderful opportunity for study and research in Germany with the DAAD," said George Klinzing, vice provost for research at the University of Pittsburgh. "The program is very competitive, providing students in the United States and around the world the chance to study and do research at premiere universities and laboratories in Germany. Our students winning these awards points to the exceptional students we have here at Pitt. We are very proud of their accomplishments."

DAAD offers a variety of educational and research opportunities, including the funding of long- and short-term study abroad, the facilitation of internships within German laboratories and research divisions, and academic exchanges for professors. Pitt is a DAAD partner university.

Grace Lindsay, a senior from Lockport, Ill., received a long-term (10 months) award. A neuroscience major with minors in chemistry and religious studies, Lindsay will study mathematical/computer models of the hippocampus with Ad Aertsen at the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience in Freiburg and will take classes at the University of Freiburg.

Noah Willumsen, a 2010 Bachelor of Philosophy degree graduate from Pitt's Honors College, won the long-term award. A high school graduate from Upper St. Clair, Pa., Willumsen majored in German, philosophy, and art history with minors in physics and mathematics. Willumsen plans to attend Humboldt University of Berlin and earn a master's degree in German literature.

Sara Nichols, from New York City, is a doctoral candidate in clinical/developmental psychology. She won a short-term (three months) award for research collaboration at

the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig. Nichols' research will involve conducting a study exploring the role of siblings in the early development of children's prosocial behavior.

Lidio Marx Carvalho Meireles, from Aracaju, in Sergipe, Brazil, is a doctoral candidate in Pitt's School of Medicine. Meireles is in a joint Carnegie Mellon University-University of Pittsburgh PhD Program in computational biology. He won a short-term (four months) award to conduct research for a project on enhancing a fragment-based drug design software (ReCore) developed by Professor Matthias Rarey at the University of Hamburg.

Ian Blecher, from Oberlin, Ohio, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Philosophy. He will engage in a short-term (four months) study of philosophy at the University of Leipzig under the direction of Professor Andrea Kern. Blecher's project is connected with Kant's writings on the question of what it means to exist. He will participate in seminars and a colloquium series that draws on a number of philosophers from around the world.

an HIV-positive individual's capacity to raise free-range chickens as a sustainable and growing source of food and income. Further, existing social structures within the Rwambaizi AIDS Support Group would be extended, such that neighboring group members would help one another with livestock maintenance, especially during times of sickness or when individuals must travel for medical reasons.

In 2010, Rodgers conducted a research project through KADERES to identify the barriers created by HIV and AIDS, interviewing those affected, getting their perspectives, and capturing their experiences. KADERES plans to use Rodgers' report in planning for its microfinancing programs, which provide loans to local peasants and small-holder farmers, funding for area clinics, and building projects.

For 2nd Year in a Row, Pitt Seniors Receive Whitaker Scholarships for International Research and Study

By Patricia Lomando White

University of Pittsburgh Honors College seniors Nicholas V. Apollo and David Gau have been named recipients of the 2011 Whitaker International Fellows and Scholars Program award, designed to bring international experience and insight to the field of biomedical engineering. This is the sixth year of the Whitaker award competition and the second year Pitt students have applied.

Pitt's only undergraduate applicants for this year's Whitaker, Apollo and Gau are among 21 graduate-level Whitaker Fellowship winners chosen from a total of 38 selectees, which includes 17 postdoctoral scholarship winners.

Beginning in 1975, The Whitaker Foundation has supported the development and enhancement of biomedical engineering in the United States, contributing nearly \$700 million to universities. When the foundation closed in 2006, it committed its remaining funds to the Institute of International Education to create the Whitaker International Fellows and Scholars Program, with the goal of enhancing international collaborative ties between the emerging leaders in the U.S. biomedical engineering field and their counterparts abroad.

With his Whitaker award, Apollo, of Aliquippa, Pa., will be working at Bionic Vision Australia with Lauren Ayton, optometrist and clinical project coordinator, to improve a retinal prosthetic device designed to return sight to patients with retinitis pigmentosa. Additionally, he will be volunteering with a group at Bionic Vision that works to make the City of Melbourne more accessible and safe for residents who are blind.

Gau, of Kennett Square, Pa., will use his award to conduct supervised research at the University of New England in Armidale, Australia, on the molecular properties of cell migration in breast cancer under the direction of Pierre Moens, senior lecturer in New England's School of Science and Technology. Gau will be continuing the work he began at Pitt under the direction of Partha Roy, a Pitt professor of bioengineering and pathology and Moens' collaborator.

During Pitt's commencement ceremony today, Apollo will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in bioengineering from the Swanson School of Engineering.

Apollo has held numerous internships, among them serving as a volunteer and lab assistant at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC; as a research associate, co-op student, and intern at Cook MyoSite, a tissue engineering company in Pittsburgh; as a research student and volunteer at the Hillman Cancer Center in Pittsburgh;

as a tutor at Pitt's Academic Resource Center, tutoring Pitt students in general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology, and mathematics; and as a research student and volunteer at SMILE (Sensory Motor Integration Laboratory and Engineering) Laboratory in Pittsburgh.

Apollo has presented his research at Pitt's Freshman Engineering Conference, Bioengineering Intramural Internship Research Symposium, and, most recently, at Pitt's Bioengineering Departmental Seminar, where his talk was titled "Engineering Co-Op Experience: Advice for Undergraduates."

Active in various organizations, Apollo is a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, vice president of Pitt's undergraduate chapter of the Biomedical Engineering Society, a national member of the Pre-Professional Health Society and the Biomedical Engineering Society, and Pitt's African Drumming Ensemble. In 2010, Apollo traveled to El Salvador to build a home for a local family. A volunteer at UPMC Shadyside in ER/Neurology, Apollo received the UPMC Above & Beyond Award given to one hospital volunteer each year for work with patients.

Gau also is graduating today, earning a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in bioengineering and a BS in mathematics and economics through Pitt's Honors College, Swanson School of Engineering, and School of Arts and Sciences.

At Pitt, Gau worked as an undergraduate researcher in the Center for Biotechnology, studying cell migration in breast cancer. He has coauthored several papers and posters and presented his work at conferences and symposiums. Gau traveled to Vietnam and Taiwan through Pitt's INNOVATE program to study the effects of globalization on those countries. He also spent time in China, gaining exposure to Chinese engineering and business practices.

Gau is founder of the Pitt Association for Leadership and Success, a leadership development organization that works to improve the University in sustainability, technology, residence life, and campus life. He is president of Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society, and president pro tempore of Pitt's Student Government Board. Gau also has served as an undergraduate teaching assistant at Pitt.

Among Gau's many honors are being named Pitt's 2011 Omicron Delta Kappa Senior of the Year. He has received an Alma Newlin Education Fund award given to students from southern Chester County and a Wellington C. Carl Pittsburgh Foundation Scholarship from Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering.

Somerset, Pa., Native First Pitt Student to Win Huntington Award

Continued from page 7

Rodgers' 2010 research experience in Tanzania included study in Swahili, cultural immersion, and service learning. In 2009, he also studied at the National University of Mongolia in Ulaabaatar, Mongolia, through a Pitt Honors College program.

An undergraduate laboratory researcher in chemistry, Rodgers also takes time to volunteer. Through the Pitt tutoring program "Keep It Real," he has been tutoring a Somali-Bantu refugee family; has served as a Hospice volunteer, assisting in daily patient care; and worked with Habitat for Humanity through Pitt's Alternative Spring Break program. Rodgers also served in UPMC Patient Transport.

Among Rodgers' many honors are a University Honors College Full Tuition Scholarship, Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Brackenridge Undergraduate Fellowship from Pitt's Honors

Rodgers' 2010 research experience in Tanzania included study in Swahili, cultural immersion, and service learning.

College, Helen Pool Rush Award from Pitt's Nationality Rooms Summer Study Abroad Scholarship Program, Foundation for Asia Pacific Education Scholarship, Sigma Phi Epsilon Balanced Man Scholarship Award, and membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

In August, Rodgers is slated to receive a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in Africana Studies and the History and Philosophy of Science and a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences.



Pitt's School of Education to Hold Conference May 5-6 in Celebration of Its Centennial

By Patricia Lomando White

To celebrate 100 years as a school of education and address major barriers to the universal education of America's youth, the University of Pittsburgh School of Education will present a motivation and engagement conference May 5-6 at Pitt's University Club.

The free public conference, titled "Designing for Motivated Learning" will examine such issues as attendance, attention to learning, and persistence in study. A renowned and diverse set of scholars who focus broadly on ways to understand, address, and design learning environments and community supports to foster learners' engagement in and out of school settings will participate.

Keynote speaker for "Designing for Motivated Learning" will be Pedro Noguera, the Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education at New York University. An urban sociologist, Noguera conducts research that focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions in the urban environment.

He has authored more than 150 research articles, monographs, and reports on such topics as urban school reform, conditions that promote student achievement, youth violence, the potential impact of school choice and vouchers on urban public schools, and race and ethnic relations in American society, many of which have appeared in major research journals.

Noguera also is the author of *The Imperatives of Power: Political Change and the Social Basis of Regime Support in Grenada* (Peter Lang Publishers, 1997), *City Schools and the American Dream* (Teachers College Press, 2003), *Unfinished Business: Closing the Achievement Gap in Our Nation's Schools* (Josey Bass, 2006), *City Kids, City*



Pedro Noguera

Teachers, with Bill Ayers and Greg Michie (New Press, 2008), and *The Trouble With Black Boys...and Other Reflections on Race, Equity and the Future of Public Education* (Wiley and Sons, 2008). Noguera appears as a regular commentator on educational issues on CNN, National Public Radio, and other national news outlets.

Also speaking at the conference are researchers whose work focuses on the sociology of learning, literacy, the social lives of learners, the design of learning environments, exercise in learning, informal learning ecologies, school reform, and prosocial youth development. They include:

- Peter Benson, president of Search Institute in Minneapolis, Minn.;
- Daniel Edelson, vice president of education at the National Geographic Society;

• John T. Guthrie, professor emeritus in the University of Maryland College of Education's Department of Human Development;

• Kris D. Gutierrez, professor and provost's chair at the University of Colorado-Boulder's School of Education;

• Charles H. Hillman, associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health's Neuroscience Program and associate professor in the Departments of Psychology and Internal Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign;

• Glynda Hull, professor of language and literacy, society, and culture in the University of California-Berkeley's Graduate School of Education;

• Avi Kaplan, associate professor of educational psychology, psychological studies in education, in Temple University's College of Education;

• Carol D. Lee, Edwina S. Tarry Professor of Education and Social Policy and professor in the Learning Sciences and African American Studies departments in Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy;

• David Osher, principal investigator at the American Institutes for Research in Washington, D.C.;

• Russell Skiba, professor of counseling and educational psychology in the Indiana University Center for Evaluation and Education Policy; and

• Reed Stevens, professor of learning sciences in Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy.

An explicit goal of the conference is to begin an ongoing conversation about ways to incorporate contemporary views of motivation and engagement into the design

Keynote speaker for "Designing for Motivated Learning" will be Pedro Noguera, the Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education at New York University. An urban sociologist, Noguera conducts research that focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions in the urban environment.

and support of learning experiences.

To register or for more information, visit www.education.pitt.edu.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published May 23. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 11) should be received at least two weeks prior to the event date. *Happenings* items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to chron@pitt.edu, faxed to 412-624-4895, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail robinet@pitt.edu.