University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg will welcome graduates and Pitt staff, 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 economic issues, and president of the University of Maryland, 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, and students of the schools and colleges—David M. Gau will speak on behalf of the graduating class, Gau, a graduate of the School of Engineering, has served as Pitt’s Director of Bands. Jack R. Anderson, Pitt Director of Bands, will provide music.

After the awarding of diplomas—presented by Chancellor Nordenberg, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Bensinger (A&S ’76)—Petersen Events Center. Last year, more than 700 members of the Pitt community attended the school’s Harrisburg event. Last year, more than 700 members of the Pitt community attended the school’s Harrisburg event. An estimated 7,000 people will attend the 2011 Commencement.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Cardin brings with him expertise he developed while serving for 17 years on the Means and Ways Committee in the United States 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 businesses.

Cardin’s priorities include health care, retirement security, the environment, and economic issues. He is a leader on Medicare and Social Security, and he is dedicated to ensuring Pitt’s financial security.

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 (a.k.a. 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 Operations Protection Subcommittee. Cardin currently serves on the EPW, Finance, Foreign Relations, Budget, Energy, Small Business and Entrepreneurship committees.

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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 Packaging Systems 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 LEGO toys 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 3.89 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’ flare of intensity. While a spirited competitor, Andrew approaches the fraternal 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.”

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Senior Profile
Carey Caginalp

By Diane Rennon 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.”

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 “prime 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 of Pittsburgh’s Accelerated High School (AHS) program. Not surprisingly, he earned an A+

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.

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

Young Scholar

During Pitt’s Applied Analysis Seminar. The Pitt Chronicle • May 1, 2011

By Diane Rennon Chavis

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.”

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The tall, lean Caginalp presented his 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.

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.
Parvaneh Aghamussa Torkamani

A Cultural Touch
Pitt’s Parvaneh Aghamussa Torkamani aims to create sanctuary for homeless Iranian women in the United States

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.

“By age 14, Torkamani became increasingly aware of the gravity of her country’s political situation: Iran was heading toward civil war,” says Torkamani.

By one or two years before the revolution, they would take you to prison. And if they found banned literature, 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.

“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 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.

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“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.

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“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 inner city. 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 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 foster,” 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 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. 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 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.”
Traveling the World
Nina Weaver heads to Tanzania on Rotary Scholarship

Fluent in both Swahili and French, Nina Weaver possesses a worldview comprised of the experiences of her family’s childhood in Oakland and Plum Borough to London and Tanzania. An industrious student with a 4.0 GPA, Weaver said Pitt provided students to have received a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship this year. (See story page 9) She graduates today with a Bachelor’s 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 permit her to spend 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 diplomacy. 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.

The planet of Weaver is now married and living in Lawrenceville, and five of the younger siblings, ranging in age from 1 to 21—

“Keep it Real,” an after-school tutoring program. She has tutored a Somali-Haitian refugee family—seven children, ranging in age from 1 to 21—

Since Weaver 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, ranging in age from 1 to 21—

She works with 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 in the 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 kind of communities and opportunities Pitt offers,” said Weaver. “I received a great education.”

By Patricia Lomando White

Senior Profile

Nina Weaver

2011 Commencement May 1

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.

“Pitt alumni are a successful group, and we want there to be a place to get together and talk about things that are important to us,” said Supowitz.

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continued from page 2

“Traveling the World
Nina Weaver heads to Tanzania on Rotary Scholarship

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To receive this scholarship, students are ranked on the basis of volunteer work at existing organizations or plans to volunteer at new organizations. Students are interviewed by the committee, which consists of faculty and administration. Students are selected based on their academic performance, leadership qualities, and their potential to make a contribution to the community.

The Pitt Alumni Association (PAA) is the official alumni association of the University of Pittsburgh. It was established in 1901 and is one of the oldest alumni associations in the country. The PAA serves as the voice of Pitt alumni and provides opportunities for alumni to connect with each other, Pitt, and the world.

The PAA's mission is to strengthen Pitt's global community and advance Pitt's mission by engaging alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends in meaningful ways. The PAA provides programming and events that allow alumni to stay connected to Pitt and to each other, as well as opportunities to give back to Pitt through volunteering and fundraising.

The Pitt Alumni Association's core values are:

- Leadership: We are committed to leadership in Pitt's mission, to the Pitt community, and to the world.
- Integrity: We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards.
- Diversity: We celebrate and embrace the diversity of the Pitt community.
- Service: We serve the Pitt community, each other, and the world.
- Stewardship: We are stewards of Pitt's resources and legacy.

The Pitt Alumni Association offers a variety of programs and events, including annual reunions, alumni award events, and networking events. The association also provides resources and information to help alumni stay connected to Pitt and to each other.

The Pitt Alumni Association's website is https://www.pitt.edu/alumni/.
Pitt’s Phi Beta Kappa Chapter Inducts 98 Into 2011 Class

By Alex Russell

University of Pittsburgh senior David Gau, a major 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. Gau was involved in numerous leadership activities, including the founding of the Pitt Association for Leadership, Ethics, and Success, a leadership development organization that works to improve the University in sustainability, technology, residence life, and campus life. He also serves 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 Alumni Affairs, which recognizes 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 at least 90 liberal arts credits at Pitt and the highest 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 McLean, Samir Pandit, Natalie Reizine, Cory Rodgers, and Juliette Yedimenko.

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

- Michaela Alger
- Krutika Amin
- Elizabeth Anger
- Amanda Annwene
- Benjamin Armon
- Jaclyn Bankert
- Utsav Bansal
- Allyson Barnett
- Sonya Bohaczuk
- Hannah Bonville
- Elizabeth Calabrese
- Lauren Campbell
- Abigail Cartus
- Laura Caton
- Laura Cifres
- Christina Clark
- Kathleen Costello
- Angela Curcio
- Scott Curran
- Michael Daniel
- Georgina DeCesare
- Carrie Delinger
- Andrew Dilla
- Samantha Evanno
- Rachel Frank
- Timothy Gallagher
- Allison Gardner
- Sullivan Graham
- Elizabeth Gilpe
- Laura Hagan
- Noah Hanbich
- Laura Hart
- Kenneth Hobbs
- Charles Horowitz
- Karen Jakubowski
- Jonathan Janieczek
- Stacy Jones*
- Sagar Kamprath
- James Kaus
- Jennifer Klunk*
- Gerald Kozlowski
- Samuel Kramer
- Stephanie Krowka
- Raaka Keya
- Michele Larzelle
- Katherine Laskey
- Cory Linfield
- Margaret Lott
- Hei Ma
- Waqas Matlick*
- Nana Marfo
- Courtyn Matisko
- Maddalena McDonnell
- Clifton McKee
- Taylor McKevie
- Meghan McLaughin
- Casey McRory
- Ashley Miller
- Jeffrey Moulton
- Nicholas Naro*
- Erin Nichols
- Anna Nicholas
- Elizabeth O’Neill
- Kristen Painter
- Nathaniel Pancoast
- Irene Pien
- Sheila Pierson
- Sean Piper*
- Lindsay Plavchak
- Justina Pope
- Victor Pope
- Niveditha Prabakaran
- Jonathan Rubin*
- Alexa Sabreda
- Sarah Sandran
- Rachel Schroeder
- Jeannie Schroeder
- Andrew Sekhon
- Gregory Senack*
- Yeohan Song
- Anna Statkiewicz*
- Thomas Stobbe
- Lauren Swanson
- Allyson Tessim
- Rebecca Theopouhas

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 29 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 to establish a pool of lifelong leaders who contribute significantly to both scientific innovation and teaching.

As in the previous year, Pitt students were selected for the competitive three-year fellowship program at a rate that places the University among the top 20 institutions in the United States.

Pitt winners in the graduate category are:

- Carey Caginalp, 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.

- Stephen Balmer, 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 is pursuing a PhD at Pitt and a first-year PhD student in bioengineering.

- Catharine Fairbairn, of Belmont, Mass., who earned her BS in psychology and music at Bard 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 environmental sciences.

- 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.

- 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 in the biophysics graduate program at Stanford University.

- Catherine Fairbairn, of Belmont, Mass., who earned her BS in psychology and music at Bard College and has completed her second year of study towards a PhD in psychology.

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Four Pitt Graduating Seniors Receive Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships to Study Abroad

By Patricia Ronaldo White

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

Four Pitt Graduating Seniors Receive Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships to Study Abroad

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Pitt's Rotary scholars are Aaron Canton of Coatesville, Pa., who will receive today a BS in microbiology and history and of Plum Borough, a Wellington C. Carl Pittsburgh County, a Wellington C. Carl Pittsburgh County, named Pitt's 2011 Omicron Delta Kappa Alumni Newlin Education Fund award with seven children ranging in age from 1 to 21 — since she was a sophomore.

Jillian Bonaroti, a participant and group leader for Project Pathfinders. She also plans to work with students. She also plans to work with students.

Jillian Bonaroti

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 organized and trained a student group of 14 students in two separate occasions, and as a member of the Pitt Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi, the 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 J. M. S. Feuerman Award 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 G. Knight, and President Sanford Ungar, former U.S. Ambassador to India David Mulford, and Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Roger Ebert.

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Alexis Nolfi Is Named Emma Locke Award Winner

By Ashley Grzegzicki

University of Pittsburgh Honors College senior Alexis Nolfi has been awarded the 2010 Emma Locke Award (four months) for research collaboration at the University of New England in Armidale, N.S.W., Australia, on the molecular properties of cell migration in breast cancer under the direction of Professor Moens.

Nolfi has been an undergraduate research assistant in Pittsburgh, and is now conducting a study exploring the role of siblings in the early development of children’s prosocial behavior.

The DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst) is Germany’s 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.

“The 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. The program is competitive, providing students in the United States with the world the chance to study and do research at premier universities and laboratories in Germany. Winning these awards points to the exceptional students we have here at Pitt. We are very proud of their accomplishments. The 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.”

By Patricia Lomando White

Among Gau’s many honors are being named Pitt’s 2011 Omicron Delta Kappa Serna scholar, receiving 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 Africana Studies and the History and Philosophy of Science from southern Chester County and a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences. 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 Rwanda in Kigali, Rwanda, through Pitt’s Global Connections program. He is a member of Pitt’s Honors College program.

As an undergraduate laboratory researcher in neuroscience, Rodgers studied how motor disorders are related to changes in the brain, and how these changes contribute to motor disorders. After receiving his undergraduate degree, Rodgers plans to attend medical school and pursue a career in neurosurgery, with a focus on Parkinson’s Disease research.

For 2nd Year in a Row, Pitt Seniors Receive Whitaker Fellowships

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 second year in a row that Pitt students have applied.

Apollo is currently studying for a Bachelor of Science degree in bioengineering and a BS degree in psychology from Pitt’s Swanson School of Engineering. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi, the National Engineering Honor Society and the Society for Women Engineers and served as a student representative in the undergraduate program. He is currently undergoing the Oklahoma project through KADERES (Kiwairu, Kansen, Detik, and Enabling Retreats through Engineering) Research and Education Program.

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Twisted Storybook Favorites, is free, but tickets required, download at Lee, cello soloist, 2 p.m. with Lawrence Loh, director, and Eleanor Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

Lectures/Seminars/Readings
May 1; Paul Thek: Journeys in Music, June 5; through July 31; America's personal side of one of our founding
In Search of a Better World, explores
inaugural recipient of LRDC's Distin -
Archaeology, China's Periphery and Beyond:
412-624-7451 or visit www.lrdc.pitt.edu/
St., Oakland. For more information, call
May 3, Family," Financial Parenting for the Business
Studies Center, allard@iup.edu, www.ucis.
History of Art and Architecture, Pitt Asian
and open to public, Pitt Department of the

Concerts


Alash Ensemble, Tuvan throat singers from Central Asia, 7:30 p.m. May 19, Katz Performing Arts Center, Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, 5738 Darlington Ave., Squirrel Hill, 412-473-8800, www.edgewoodsymphony.org.

Exhibitions
Carnegie Museum of Art, Paul Thel- Diver, a Retrospective, through May 7- basketball and skateboarding. An image of his shoe.”
through May 3, Point Museum, 1201 Penn Ave., Downtown. The exhibit pays tribute to the

Lectures/Seminars/Readings
“Assessing Multiple-Source Compre- hensive Assessment,” 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 2, LRDC Gaiser Auditorium, 3939 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh. Questions and answers will be taken from the floor.

China’s Periphery and Beyond: Perspectives from Art and Archaeology, conference organized in honor of Prof. Anthony C. K. Li, a distinguished scholar of Chinese art and archaeology, May 6-7, Room 309, Carnegie Museum of Art, through May 26. The conference will feature presentations on a wide range of topics related to Chinese art, archaeology, and history, including the role of art in shaping cultural identity and the significance of archaeological sites in the study of Chinese history.

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. 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 (Jossey Bass, 2006), City Kids, City Teachers, with Bill Ayers and GregMichie (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 and support of learning experiences.

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

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