State Senate Appropriations Panel Visits Pitt Today
Hearing to Focus on Higher Education Issues, Pitt’s Value as a State-Related University

The Pennsylvania Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing at the University of Pittsburgh at 1 p.m. today to discuss Pitt’s role as a highly ranked higher-education institution and a powerful engine of economic growth. The hearing will be held in Alumni Hall’s J.W. Connolly Ballroom.

In addition to hearing from Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, the public event will include testimony from two panels. Addressing the committee on Pitt’s role as a provider of high-quality higher education will be a panel comprising Molly Stieber, president of Pitt’s Student Government Board; Graham Hatfull, Eberly Family Professor, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor, and former chair of the School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Biological Sciences; and Stephen Tritch (MBÂ ’77), chair of the Pitt Board of Trustees. The second panel, which will discuss Pitt’s roles as one of the nation’s leading research universities and a driver of regional economic development, will include Dennis Yablonsky, CEO of the University of Pittsburgh; and John T. Yudichak, chair of the Pitt School of Medicine’s Department of Computational and Systems Biology.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is traveling to the campuses of the four state-related universities—Pitt, Penn State, Temple, and Lincoln—during September and October for hearings to learn more about the important work done by these institutions and the funding challenges that they face. Pitt’s hearing follows a Sept. 7 hearing at Penn State. Sessions at Temple and Lincoln are to follow on Oct. 12 and 13, respectively.

“Our goal is to learn more about how the state-related universities operate and their role in our higher education system,” said Sen. Jake Corman, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee. “Like our other institutions of higher learning, they have been forced to do more with less during these difficult fiscal times—these hearings with state-related universities are an opportunity to talk about how they are meeting these challenges.”

In recent years, the Senate Appropriations Committee has worked with Pitt and Pennsylvania’s other state-related universities to increase funding, including supporting Pitt’s new Engineering Research Laboratory.

In the year before Pitt became state-related, its annual research expenditures stood at slightly less than $23 million. By 1995, those expenditures had increased tenfold, to more than $230 million, and, by last year, they had climbed to more than $800 million. In fact, Pitt attracted more than $5.50 in research support for every $1 of its appropriation—a return that probably cannot be matched by any other state investment.

Continued on page 2

State-Related Universities Caucus Guards Interests of Pitt, 3 Other Pa. Schools

Pennsylvania’s four-state-related universities—including the University of Pittsburgh—have a pair of legislative champions looking after their interests in Harrisburg.

State Senators John C. Rafferty Jr. (R-Luzerne) and John T. Yudichak have formed and are cochairing the State-Related Universities Caucus in Harrisburg to discuss budget issues and other topics affecting the four state-related universities: Pitt, Penn State, Temple, and Lincoln.

The move came in the midst of budget negotiations earlier this year after the governor announced a proposed budget containing massive cuts in state funding for public higher education. While some of those proposed cuts were eventually removed from the final state budget, Pitt’s state appropriation, for example, was slashed by more than $40 million, or 22 percent, for the current fiscal year.

“We formed the caucus to keep in front of the Senate the importance of the state-related universities as educational institutions and as the economic development engines that they are for the Commonwealth,” Rafferty said.

The caucus has 15 members, both Republicans and Democrats—and the majority of its members are alumni of one of the four state-related universities. Rafferty received his bachelor’s degree from Pitt-Johnstown and his law degree from Temple. Yudichak received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Penn State.

“Our state-related universities are the cornerstone of higher education in Pennsylvania,” Yudichak said. “It is imperative that we ensure that these universities maintain their status as premier research institutions, nationally renowned teaching hospitals, and distinguished institutions of higher learning.”

Continued on page 2

Pitt Alum Terrance Hayes to Open Pitt’s Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series 2011-12 Season Sept. 19

By Patricia Londando White

The University of Pittsburgh Writing Program’s Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series will open its 2011-12 season with a reading by 2010 National Book Award Winner for Poetry Terrance Hayes, this year’s William Block Sr. Writer, at 8:30 p.m. Sept. 19 in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium.

A professor of English at Carnegie Mellon University and a Pitt alumus (MBÂ ’97), Hayes won the National Book Award for his fourth collection of poetry, Lighthead (Penguin, 2010). Hayes earned his BA degree from Coker College in Hartsville, S.C.

Hayes’ other books of poetry are Wind in a Box (Penguin, 2006), which was named one of the best 100 books of 2006 by Publishers Weekly; Hip Logic (Penguin, 2002), winner of the 2001 National Poetry Series Open Competition and a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award; and Muscular Music (Tia Chucha, 1999), winner of the Kate Tufts Discovery Award.

While at Pitt, Hayes served as Pitt Professor of English Toi Derricotte’s graduate assistant and as the Studio Poet-in-Residence for Cave Canem, a nationwide fellowship founded in 1996 by Derricotte and poet Cornelius Eady that cultivates the artistic and professional growth of African American poets.

Among Hayes’ many honors are the Pushcart Prize, a Whiting Writers Award, three Best American Poetry selections, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation.

His work has appeared in American Poetry Review, Poetry, and The New Yorker and has been featured on the PBS NewsHour.

At Carnegie Mellon, Hayes developed Out Poetry, a readings-in-poetry course that explores the intersections of poetry and the public sphere. He has conducted workshops in prisons, in high schools, and at colleges and universities throughout the country.

The complete schedule for the 2011-12 season is below.

Terrance Hayes

Continued on page 2
Pitt and the other state-related institutions mounted a campaign to restore a significant amount of the funding slated for elimination in the initial proposed budget. The final budget for the fiscal year that began July 1 cut Pitt’s Education and General appropriation by 19 percent of the state’s funding, or about $4 million, a cut of 22 percent. That 22 percent reduction compared to a reduction in overall state spending of 4 percent. Thus, while the cuts imposed on Pitt were far less steep than those proposed in March, they were both deep and disproportionate. To place the funding levels in context, current cuts take Pitt’s appropriation back to the Fiscal Year 1995 level. If federal matching dollars built into this appropriation are not considered—since no such matches were built into state appropriations in the mid-1990’s—the level of the state’s commitment takes the University back to FY 1994, when many of Pitt’s 2011 incoming freshmen were being born. Obviously, the University’s operating costs have risen dramatically since then. From 1995 to the present, the Consumer Price Index rose by nearly 53 percent and the Higher Education Price Index, a more accurate measure of university costs, rose by more than 72 percent. In crafting the University’s current annual operating budget, Chancellor Nordenberg stressed the University’s continuing efforts “to ensure competitive compensation and long-standing need to ‘do more with less’. It is the clear commitment to maintain tuition levels that are as competitive as possible in a state with widely varying tuition levels in institutional quality and on support for the high-performing members of our faculty and student work. Pitt makes Pitt an attractive choice for talented and motivated students and for knowledgeable funders seeking the best possible research teams in an increasingly competitive market-place.”

In addition to confronting the $40-plus million cut to its state appropriation, the University faces unavoidable expense increases in such areas as health insurance, facilities costs, and technology investments and licensing fees, as well as the need to make additional reductions in spending, some driven by growing enrollments and others by the levels of quality that must be maintained to be competitive as a high-value provider. Pitt is taking all the expenses that can be met through such alternative revenue sources as research grants, the University expects these additional cost increases and investments to total about $30 million. When added to the $40 million cut to Pitt’s state appropriation, the budget gap that the University had to close this fiscal year, then, was $70-plus million. Consistent with the University’s expressed commitment not to place the entire burden of this year’s state budget crisis on the shoulders of its students, Pitt is covering 60 percent of that gap through a combination of central and unit-level budget reductions and adjustments.

Hayes Opens Pitt’s Contemporary Writers Series

Continued from page 1

Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series follows.

Sept. 19—William Block Senior Writer Terrance Hayes (Kokil) 8:30 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

Hayes is the 2010 National Book Award for Poetry recipient.

Sept. 27—John D’Agata 8:30 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium D’Agata is the author of Halls of Fame (Graywolf Press, 2001), a collection of poetry, and About a Mountain (W.W. Norton & Company, 2010), a creative nonfiction work, and is the editor of two essay collections: Oct. 20—Toi Derricotte and Dawn Lundy Martin 8:30 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium Derricotte is the author of several collections of poetry, including Tender (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1997) and Captivity (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1989). Martin’s books of poetry include A Gathering of Matter/A Matter of Gathering (University of Georgia Press, 2007) and Discipline (Nightboat Books, 2011).

Nov. 3—Fred R. Brown Literary Award Reading 8:30 p.m., G-24 Cathedral of Learning Wells Tower, the 2011 Fred R. Brown Literary Award winner and short story and nonfiction author, will give a reading.

Jan. 26—Wayne Koestenbaum and John Dwyer 8:30 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium Koestenbaum is the author of several collections of poetry, including Odes to Anna Moths and Other Poems (Persea, 1990), Best Selling Jewish Porn Films (Turtle Point, 2004), and Model Homes (BOA Editions, 2004). Kim’s books of poetry include The Bounty (Chax Press, 1996) and Under Flag (Kelsay Books, 1991).

Mar. 22—Eula Biss 8:30 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium Biss is artist in residence at Northwestern University and founding editor of Essay Press, which is dedicated to innovative nonfiction.

Apr. 5—Ron Carlson 8:30 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium Among Carlson’s books are A Kind of Flying (W.W. Norton, 2003), The Speed of Light (HarperCollins, 2003), and At The Jim Bridger (Fiction Collective, 2001).

The 2011-12 Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series season is cosponsored by Pitt’s Writing Program and The Book Center.

All Writers Series events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Sten Carlson at CarlsonST@pitt.edu or visit www.chaoACITY.edu.
**Concerts**

**Mozart de Monde: A World of Music With Anne-Sophie Mutter**, Grammy Award-winning violinist, who opens PSO season with Music Director Manfred Honeck in a program featuring works by Mendelssohn, Ravel, and Manfred Honeck in a program featuring Sarasate, 7 p.m.


Problems (CRSP) kicks off its Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC Fall 2011 Speaker Series Sept. 19 with a noon lecture by Jeannette South-Paul, Andrew W. Mathieson Professor and chair of Pitt’s Department of Family Medicine.

South-Paul, a widely recognized speaker and author on the impact of race, ethnicity, and culture on health, will deliver a lecture titled “Disparities in Healthcare for Minorities: Institutional or Personal?”

South-Paul’s talk will take place in the School of Social Work Conference Center on the 20th floor of the Cathedral of Learning. It is free and open to the public, and registration is not required; lunch will be provided. For more information, call 412-624-7382.

South-Paul, the first woman to serve as the permanent chair of a Pitt School of Medicine department, is one of a small number of African American chairs at medical schools nationwide.

She has written and published numerous articles on infant nutrition; treatment strategies for osteoporosis; the biological, social, and behavioral factors associated with premenstrual syndrome; exercise during pregnancy; and exercise-dependent physiologic function in obesity. In 2005, South-Paul was honored in a special National Library of Medicine traveling exhibition, “Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians,” which traveled to 61 libraries across the United States.

South-Paul has, beyond her family medicine research focus, an interest in sociocultural issues in health care and health care in special populations, as well as cultural diversity and academic medicine. She is interested in the development of faculty from underrepresented populations.

Prior to assuming her position at Pitt, South-Paul served for 22 years as a physician in the U.S. Army. She also served as chair of the Department of Family Medicine in the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, Md. She is a former chair of the minority affairs section of the Association of American Medical Colleges. South-Paul is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Pitt’s School of Medicine.

The University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) kicks off its Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC Fall 2011 Speaker Series Sept. 19 with a noon lecture by Jeannette South-Paul, Andrew W. Mathieson Professor and chair of Pitt’s Department of Family Medicine.

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CRSP’s annual Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC Fall Speaker Series provides an opportunity for faculty, students, and members of the community to engage in race-related discussions of mutual interest. Three more lectures are scheduled through early December.
By Patricia Lomando White

The Pittsburgh Consortium for Adoption Studies at the University of Pittsburgh will hold a film symposium titled “Adoption on Film: Families Lost and Found” Sept. 16 and 17 in Pitt’s Frick Fine Arts Auditorium.

The symposium opens with director Stephanie Wang-Breal introducing her film Wo Ai Ni Mommy (I Love You Mommy, 2010) at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 16. Wang-Breal’s film is a documentary about an 8-year-old girl taken from a foster home in China to live with her new parents on Long Island, N.Y. The film follows their first moments together through their first year and a half as a family.

A schedule and brief descriptions of the other films follow.

By Patricia Lomando White

September 17
1 p.m.
Adopted: For the Life of Me (2010, Jean Strauss)
Documentarian Jean Strauss follows two older men in search of their first families. Shown on PBS stations in 2010, Adopted: For the Life of Me is especially timely given pending Pennsylvania legislation that addresses closed birth records.

3 p.m.
To Each His Own (1946, Mitchell Leisen)
Olivia de Havilland stars in an Academy-Award winning performance as Jody, a mother managing the complexities of life with and without her out-of-wedlock son, Griggsy, whom she shares with his adoptive mother and her friend, Corinne. To Each His Own is described as a sublime women’s film of the Studio Era revealing a sophisticated sense of a birth parent’s loss while demonstrating the sensibilities of the era and genre.

7:30 p.m.
Secrets and Lies (1996, Mike Leigh)
Leigh’s Secrets and Lies is described as a contrast to the usual dramatic representation of adoption and loss. Nominated for five Oscars, Secrets and Lies has won 29 other awards, including the Palme d’Or.

The film symposium is presented by Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences, Department of English, Film Studies Program, and Women’s Studies Program as well as the Pittsburgh Consortium for Adoption Studies and Three Rivers Families With Children From China.

The Pittsburgh Consortium for Adoption Studies is a group of scholars and writers in the Pittsburgh area who work to advance the understanding of adoption in both academic and nonacademic settings. Faculty members from the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Carlow University, and Carnegie Mellon University participate. Through a coordinated series of events, the consortium provides a prominent forum for students and faculty whose research, writing, and/or teaching deals with adoption, spreads information about adoption-related courses, and serves the public need for more understanding of this institution.

For more information, contact mnmny@pitt.edu or alp30@pitt.edu or visit www.pitt.edu/~asac/adoption-studies/index.html.