Two University of Pittsburgh faculty members, an alumnus of Pitt’s School of Medicine and a School of Arts and Sciences, and a medical researcher who completed his residency training at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, have been elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM), an honor that is considered among the highest in the field.

The IOM, during its 41st annual meeting on Oct. 17, announced the election of the following Pitt people:

- **Nancy E. Davidson**, Pitt professor of medicine, Hillman Professor of Oncology, associate vice chancellor for cancer research, and director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and UPMC Cancer Centers;

- **Jeanette E. South-Paul**, Pitt’s UPMC Andrew W. Mathieson Professor and chair, Department of Family Medicine;

- **Jonathan D. Gitlin** (A&S ’74, MED ’78), the James C. Overall Professor and Department of Family Medicine; Andrew W. Mathieson Professor and chair, Department of Family Medicine; and director of the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. Gitlin returned to campus as a symposium presenter during Pitt’s three-day 2005 observance of the 50th anniversary of the announcement that the Pitt research team’s Salk polio vaccine was “safe, effective, and potent.”

In a statement, IOM President Harvey V. Fineberg said, “Each of these new members stands out as a professional whose research, knowledge, and skills have significantly advanced health and medicine, and their achievements are an inspiration.”

Current IOM members select new ones from the health sciences, medicine, and public health with special emphasis on Africa, Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa by tracing the genealogies of the concept of Black Power and challenging the limitations of Black Power scholarship.

The University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees Nominating Committee recommended that Pitt alumni George A. Davidson Jr. (ENG ’61), retired chair of major energy producer and transporter Dominion Resources Inc., and David B. Fawcett Jr. (LAW ’53), senior partner in the Pittsburgh-based law firm Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, each be elected an emeriti trustee. The full board will act on the committee’s recommendations at its Oct. 28 fall meeting.

African Diaspora’s Challenges, Opportunities Are Focus of Pitt International Conference Nov. 3-6

By Patricia Lomando White

Richard Wright’s 1954 novel *Black Power* opened a new chapter in the long history of political and intellectual dialogue across the African Diaspora—the dispersal of people of African descent throughout the world—one that revealed both the convergences and ruptures among people of African descent, both on the African continent and in Diaspora.

To further that dialogue, the University of Pittsburgh’s World History Center will host the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora’s (ASWAD) 6th Biennial Conference, titled “African Liberation and Black Power: the Challenges of Diasporic Encounters Across Time, Space, and Imagination.” The four-day event will take place Nov. 3-6 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Ave., and Pitt’s University Club.

Conference presenters will examine the Diasporic dimensions and articulations of Black Power with special emphasis on African, Europe, the Caribbean, Latin America, and Asia by tracing the genealogies of the concept of Black Power and challenging the limitations of Black Power scholarship.

Among the 270 presenters are Maulana Karenga, creator of Kwanzaa and professor of Africana Studies at California State University, Long Beach, who will take part in a roundtable titled “Rethinking Malcolm X: Imagination and Power, Biography and Historiography.”
Pitt Goes Green for Office-Supplies Delivery

Four tons of waste, 15,000 boxes. That’s the amount of waste the University of Pittsburgh expects to save this academic year through Office Depot’s new GreenerOffice delivery program.

In August, more than 3,700 businesses, governments, and universities in Pittsburgh have been receiving their Office Depot supplies in reusable bags or bins rather than paper bags or corrugated boxes. Both types of transporting containers are made from postconsumer recycled materials and are used by carriers to transport the office supplies from delivery trucks to customers’ offices.

“The University, for some time now, has been looking for whatever processes or steps that can be taken to becoming greener and more sustainable,” said Carl DePasquale, procurement specialist in Purchasing Services.

Even though the green delivery program costs the same as regular delivery, savings will be seen in sustainable ways. GreenerOffice eliminates the need for Office Depot to cut down nearly 20,000 trees a year for necessary wood-based resources for corrugated boxes and bags.

Nationwide, the program is expected to replace 4.5 million pounds of cardboard boxes with less than a million pounds of paper.

—B. Rose Huber

Linda Lane to Speak Nov. 4 At Pitt’s Center on Race and Social Problems

The University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) continues its Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney PC Fall 2011 Speaker Series Nov. 4 with a noon lecture by Linda Lane, superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS).

Lane’s talk, titled “ Equity is NOT an Office,” 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.

In December 2010, Lane was named superintendent of the PPS in a district with more than 26,000 students and 64 schools. Since her appointment, Lane has invested in Pittsburgh’s teachers and school leaders as the catalyst for change in the schools. She was recognized nationally for her Empowering Effective Teachers plan—one of only four such programs selected for funding last year by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Lane joined the PPS in 2006 as deputy superintendent for instruction, assessment, and accountability. During her tenure as deputy superintendent, the district achieved Adequate Yearly Progress for the first time in its history. Prior to her move to Pittsburgh, she served as deputy superintendent of the Des Moines Public Schools and was the first woman from an underrepresented population to hold the position of chief operating officer.

Lane holds a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Iowa as well as a master’s degree in education administration and a doctorate in education from Drake University. A lifelong educator, Lane was an elementary school teacher from 1971 to 1982. 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.

—Kerry Byrnes

Pitt to Host 21st Annual Slovak Heritage Festival Nov. 6

The University of Pittsburgh Slovak Studies Program and the Pitt Student Slovak Club will present the 21st Annual Slovak Heritage Festival from 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 6 in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning.

The free event will include performances by such local artists as the Pittsburgh Slovakians, the Slavjane Folk Ensemble, the Pittsburgh Avea Slovaks, and the University of Pittsburgh Ceremhon Ensemble. Also among the festival’s many performers are returning professional Slovakian artists The Singing Revíťák Family and Jozef Ivalka. The Singing Revíťák Family has received numerous awards in nationwide laureate folklore competitions in Bratislava and Zlina, Slovakia. The ensemble has produced many CDs, which will be available for purchase at the festival. Ivalka, the other featured Slovakian artist, also will have his CDs available. Ivalka, who is making his fifth concert tour of the United States, performs with the Metropolitan Operetta Theatre in Baden, Austria. Among his other accomplishments was discovering the rock group Sirius in the early ’80s. The festival also will feature cultural displays and lectures, ethnic foods and pastries, and vendors with merchandise from Slovakia and neighboring European countries.

For more information, contact Christine Metil at 412-624-5906 or metil@pitt.edu.

—E. Maxine Bruhns

E. Maxine Bruhns Sets Oct. 31 Ghost Watch

As Halloween nears, E. Maxine Bruhns is preparing her spot—and her spooky stories. Bruhns, director of Pitt’s Nationality Rooms Program, has made a ghoulish tradition of staking out a spot in the Cathedral of Learning’s Early American Room on Halloween night. The affability stems from Bruhns’ notion that Room 328 is haunted by her grandmother, Martha Jane Poe (who was related to Edgar Allan Poe). Bruhns will preside over this year’s Ghost Watch from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31, in Room 328. It’s free and open to the public. Bruhns may be joined by a special cat, Catula, who dresses for the evening in a Dracula cape. The creature is featured in a book of the same name, written by Melissa Hayes, a Pitt alumna (A&S ’02) and personal friend of Bruhns.

Room 328’s ghostly occurrences began in the 1990s after Bruhns donated some of her grandmother’s belongings, including a wedding quilt and a photo frame, to the room. Bed covers were pulled down when no one had been in the room; corn hanging on the fireplace fell mysteriously two times; a baby cradle began rocking on its own. Bruhns will recount the sightings and answer questions, but no doubt visitors’ eyes and ears will be attuned to more ephemeral occurrences.

—Jean-Ellen Robinet
Memorializing Alum John Woodruff’s 1936 Olympic Gold Medal

An interactive display showing the Gold Medal won by University of Pittsburgh alumnus and track star John Woodruff at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin was unveiled Oct. 14 on the first floor of Pitt’s Hillman Library. University Library Director and Hillman Librarian Rush Miller and Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill hosted the event; Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and other Pitt officials delivered remarks. 1. From left, Chancellor Nordenberg; John Woodruff Jr., a New York City attorney; and Miller. 2. From left, Melanie Hartold, a Grand Prairie, Texas, teacher whose eighth-grade math class calculated that Woodruff set a world record when he won an 800-meter race in 1937 against the world-record holder Elroy Robinson. Amateur Athletic Union officials revoked Woodruff’s record, claiming that the track was not of regulation length. She is accompanied by her daughter, Nicole Hartold. 3. From left, Alonso Webb, head coach of Pitt’s track and field team; Chancellor Nordenberg; Woodruff Jr.; Pitt trustee Heilfort P. Douglas Jr. (EDD ’48, ’50G), a bronze medalist in the long jump at the 1948 Olympics; and Steve Pederson, Pitt athletic director. 4. Roger Kingdom (CGS ’02), winner of two Olympic gold medals (1984 and 1988) in the 100-meter hurdles, talks with Ashley Comer, Big East champ in the triple jump (left), and Ashley Woodford, who holds Pitt’s school record in the 4×100 event. 5. From left, Woodruff Jr. and Hill flank the interactive display. 6. From left, Kingdom, Arnold M. Sowell Sr. (BUS ’51), who set an indoor world record for the 880-yard run in 1957, outrunning gold medalist Tom Courtney, and Douglas.

Davidson and Fawcett as Pitt Emeriti Trustees

Continued from page 1

the George A. Davidson Jr. MBA Endowed Scholarship Fund, and the George Davidson Graduate Fellowships in Chemical Engineering. He is a Golden Life Member of the Pitt Alumni Association, a member of the Cathedral of Learning Society and the Brackenridge Circle, and a volunteer for the Swanson School of Engineering, including service as cochair of the engineering school’s capital campaign.

In 2003, the American Gas Association presented Davidson with its Distinguished Service Award, the association’s highest honor, for his contributions to the natural gas industry. His contributions have also been recognized by the University of Pittsburgh: He is a Legacy Laureate, the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Swanson School, and the recipient the Bicentennial Medallion of Distinction.

Most recently, the Board of Trustees recognized Davidson’s service as a trustee with the Trustee Medallion. Davidson and Fawcett have contributed significantly to Pitt’s progress in a range of ways ...

—Mark A. Nordenberg

Details Unveiled for Pitt Jazz Seminar, Concert Nov. 1-5

One of the region’s premier jazz events celebrates 41 years this November, as the University of Pittsburgh hosts its annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert Nov. 1-5.

Founded in 1971 by Pitt Jazz Studies Program director Nathan Davis, the event features a stellar group of international jazz musicians, who will hold free on-campus lectures, master classes, and community venues, and convene for the annual concert at 8 p.m. Nov. 5 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland.

Musicians taking part this year include Pitt alumnus Geri Allen (A&S ’73G), pianist Randy Brecker, trumpet; Maurice Brown, trumpet; Billy Cobhdam, drums; Larry Coryell, guitar; Quaomon Fowler, tenor saxophone; Curtis Fuller, trombone; Donald Harrison, Jr., alto saxophone; and Abrahm Laboriel, bass. They will perform under the direction of Davis.

By Sharon S. Blake

By Sharon S. Blake

Details on Pitt Jazz Week events follow.

Jazz Concert

The Nov. 5 concert is a one-of-a-kind performance, given the diverse playing styles and the show’s impromptu nature. Tickets are $18; students with a valid ID pay $8. Tickets are available through ProArtTickets at 412-394-3353 or www.proartstickets.org, or at the William Pitt Union (WPU) box office, Oakland. Student tickets are only available at the WPU. Tickets will be on sale the evening of the concert at Carnegie Music Hall for $20 and $10, respectively, cash only. Transactions at the WPU box office on Nov. 5 are also cash only.

Continued on page 6

Maurice Brown

From left, Chancellor Nordenberg; Woodruff Jr.; and Hillman Librarian Rush Miller and Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill hosted the event; Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and other Pitt officials delivered remarks.

From left, Melanie Hartold, a Grand Prairie, Texas, teacher whose eighth-grade math class calculated that Woodruff set a world record when he won an 800-meter race in 1937 against the world-record holder Elroy Robinson.

From left, Heilfort P. Douglas Jr., a bronze medalist in the long jump at the 1948 Olympics; and Steve Pederson, Pitt athletic director.

Roger Kingdom (CGS ’02), winner of two Olympic gold medals (1984 and 1988) in the 100-meter hurdles, talks with Ashley Comer, Big East champ in the triple jump (left), and Ashley Woodford, who holds Pitt’s school record in the 4×100 event.

From left, Alonso Webb, head coach of Pitt’s track and field team; Chancellor Nordenberg; Woodruff Jr.; and Pitt trustee Heilfort P. Douglas Jr.

Arnold M. Sowell Sr. (BUS ’51), who set an indoor world record for the 880-yard run in 1957, outrunning gold medalist Tom Courtney.
**ACOUSTICALLY ISOLATED LABS**

![Image of acoustic isolation lab](image_url)

**Pitt to Offer PhD in Film Studies**

The University of Pittsburgh Film Studies Program in the School of Arts and Sciences will offer a newly created PhD degree in Film Studies, beginning Fall 2012. The interdisciplinary and interdepartmental degree stresses the history, theory, and aesthetics of international cinema, video, television, and new media.

“The new interdepartmental PhD allows Pitt to take advantage of its highly published and renowned graduate faculty in Film Studies as well as its substantially enhanced courses in order to attract students dedicated to pursuing media studies as their primary doctoral field,” said Lucy Fischer, Distinguished Professor of English and Film Studies at Pitt.

While students in the degree program will earn Film Studies PhDs, granted by Film Studies, each student also will be a full member of one of six associated departments—English, French, German, Hispanic Languages and Literatures, History of Art and Architecture, or Slavic Languages and Literatures—fulfilling the respective department’s requirements, many of which will overlap with those of Film Studies.

The name of the associated department will appear on an Area of Concentration on the student’s transcript, giving the graduating student a PhD in Film Studies as well as expertise in a secondary area.

For more information about the Film Studies PhD, visit www.films.studies.pitt.edu/graduate/phd.html or contact Lucy Fischer at filcherr@pitt.edu.

---

**Eliezer South-Paul, Beaumont South-Paul, Elliot, and Offit Elected to IOM**

The University of Pittsburgh European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE) has again been reconstituted a European Union Center of Excellence by the Delegation of the European Union to the United States.

The renewed designation includes a grant totaling $300,000 euros (about $403,000), which will help fund the center and its activities through 2014.

The EUCE promotes the study of the European Union and EU-U.S. relations. Through this grant and University funding, the center supports teaching programs, scholarly research, and outreach activities in Pittsburgh and throughout Western Pennsylvania.

The EUCE is part of a dual center, joined with the European Studies Center (ESC) as part of the University Center for International Studies. The EUCE/ESC is directed by Pitt political science professor Ronald H. Linden.

Established in 1998 in the first national competition, Pitt’s EUCE has successfully renewed with each subsequent institution. Ten institutions were designated this year, including the University of California at Berkeley and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The European Commission funds the EUCE initiative as part of a broader effort to promote people-to-people ties across the Atlantic.

For more information about Pitt’s EUCE, visit www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce.

---

**Ellen Frank Receives IOM Award for Approaches to Treating Mood Disorders**

Ellen Frank, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Professor of Psychology in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, received the 2011 Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health from the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The prize, including a medal and a $20,000 award, recognizes Frank’s decades-long efforts to enhance treatment and the understanding of mood disorders.

She was one of two researchers nationwide selected for the prize, presented Oct. 17 during IOM’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

“Our understanding of depression and other mood disorders and our ability to help people overcome these debilitating and potentially fatal illnesses owes much to the work of Ellen Frank and fellow award recipient William Bunney,” said IOM President Harvey F. Fineberg. “Their research and clinical studies have not only directly contributed remarkable new knowledge to the field, but also spurred an abundance of findings by other researchers inspired by their work.”

Frank’s conceptualization and testing of novel psychotherapeutic approaches to mood disorders has led to far-reaching improvements in knowledge about and treatment of depression and have changed the nature of clinical practice in the United States and throughout the developed world. Her work has demonstrated the psychosocial components of mood disorders and their effects on circadian rhythms and other biological processes that contribute to such disorders.

She developed interpersonal and social rhythm therapy (IPSRT), which blends interpersonal psychotherapy with behavioral intervention and is effective in teaching patients how to order their lives and stabilize their social routines in new episodes of depression or mania. In response to other professionals’ interest in receiving training in IPSRT, Frank established a training institute to disseminate the intervention both nationally and abroad.

In addition, Frank’s clinical trial, investigating patients suffering from experiencing recurrent depression, challenged the conventional practice of lowering medication dosage after depression has subsided. Now, maintaining full-dose pharmacotherapy for patients with recurrent depression is the standard of practice throughout the developed world.

Since 1992, the IOM has presented the Sarnat Prize to individuals, groups, or organizations that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in improving mental health. The prize recognizes—without regard for either discipline or nationality—achievements in basic science, clinical application, and public policy that lead to progress in the understanding, etiology, prevention, treatment, or cure of mental disorders or to the promotion of mental health.

The award is supported by an endowment created by the late Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat of Los Angeles. Rhoda Sarnat is a licensed clinical social worker, and Bernard Sarnat is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon and researcher. The Sarnats’ concern about the destructive effects of mental illness inspired them to establish the award. Nominations for potential recipients are solicited every year from IOM members, mental health professionals, and others. Final decisions regarding the awards are made by a selection committee. Additional information on the Sarnat Prize can be found at www.iom. nstitute.

---

**Newsof Note**

In Film Studies

Pitt to Offer PhD

The University of Pittsburgh Film Studies Program in the School of Arts and Sciences will offer a newly created PhD degree in Film Studies, beginning Fall 2012. The interdisciplinary and interdepartmental degree stresses the history, theory, and aesthetics of international cinema, video, television, and new media.

“The new interdepartmental PhD allows Pitt to take advantage of its highly published and renowned graduate faculty in Film Studies as well as its substantially enhanced courses in order to attract students dedicated to pursuing media studies as their primary doctoral field,” said Lucy Fischer, Distinguished Professor of English and Film Studies at Pitt.

While students in the degree program will earn Film Studies PhDs, granted by Film Studies, each student also will be a full member of one of six associated departments—English, French, German, Hispanic Languages and Literatures, History of Art and Architecture, or Slavic Languages and Literatures—fulfilling the respective department’s requirements, many of which will overlap with those of Film Studies.

The name of the associated department will appear on an Area of Concentration on the student’s transcript, giving the graduating student a PhD in Film Studies as well as expertise in a secondary area.

For more information about the Film Studies PhD, visit www.films.studies.pitt.edu/graduate/phd.html or contact Lucy Fischer at filcherr@pitt.edu.

---

**Ellen Frank Receives IOM Award for Approaches to Treating Mood Disorders**

Ellen Frank, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Professor of Psychology in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, received the 2011 Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health from the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The prize, including a medal and a $20,000 award, recognizes Frank’s decades-long efforts to enhance treatment and the understanding of mood disorders.

She was one of two researchers nationwide selected for the prize, presented Oct. 17 during IOM’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

“Our understanding of depression and other mood disorders and our ability to help people overcome these debilitating and potentially fatal illnesses owes much to the work of Ellen Frank and fellow award recipient William Bunney,” said IOM President Harvey F. Fineberg. “Their research and clinical studies have not only directly contributed remarkable new knowledge to the field, but also spurred an abundance of findings by other researchers inspired by their work.”

Frank’s conceptualization and testing of novel psychotherapeutic approaches to mood disorders has led to far-reaching improvements in knowledge about and treatment of depression and have changed the nature of clinical practice in the United States and throughout the developed world. Her work has demonstrated the psychosocial components of mood disorders and their effects on circadian rhythms and other biological processes that contribute to such disorders.

She developed interpersonal and social rhythm therapy (IPSRT), which blends interpersonal psychotherapy with behavioral intervention and is effective in teaching patients how to order their lives and stabilize their social routines in new episodes of depression or mania. In response to other professionals’ interest in receiving training in IPSRT, Frank established a training institute to disseminate the intervention both nationally and abroad.

In addition, Frank’s clinical trial, investigating patients suffering from experiencing recurrent depression, challenged the conventional practice of lowering medication dosage after depression has subsided. Now, maintaining full-dose pharmacotherapy for patients with recurrent depression is the standard of practice throughout the developed world.

Since 1992, the IOM has presented the Sarnat Prize to individuals, groups, or organizations that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in improving mental health. The prize recognizes—without regard for either discipline or nationality—achievements in basic science, clinical application, and public policy that lead to progress in the understanding, etiology, prevention, treatment, or cure of mental disorders or to the promotion of mental health.

The award is supported by an endowment created by the late Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat of Los Angeles. Rhoda Sarnat is a licensed clinical social worker, and Bernard Sarnat is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon and researcher. The Sarnats’ concern about the destructive effects of mental illness inspired them to establish the award. Nominations for potential recipients are solicited every year from IOM members, mental health professionals, and others. Final decisions regarding the awards are made by a selection committee. Additional information on the Sarnat Prize can be found at www.iom. nstitute.
Homecoming 2011

University of Pittsburgh alumni, friends, and their families celebrated Homecoming 2011 over the Oct. 13-16 weekend.

1. The Pitt Program Council’s Oct. 14 fireworks and laser show was a crowd pleaser.

2. Many alumni gathered in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room during the Oct. 14 Pitt Alumni Association Welcome Back Reception for all alumni.

3. The Pitt Panthers faced the Utah Utes on Oct. 15 at Heinz Field; Pitt running back Ray Graham (No. 1) is the nation’s second-leading rusher.

4. From left, Jack Smith, president of the Pitt Alumni Association; Homecoming King Andrew Kaylor and Homecoming Queen Ansley Ashnon; and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

5. Members of Pitt’s African American Alumni Council (AAAC) visited with students at the Barack Obama International Studies Academy in East Liberty. The Oct. 14 visit was part of AAAC’s Appleseed Project, where alumni visit city schools to talk with students about their career goals. Far left, Nkemjika N. Ofodile (A&S ’02) from Washington, D.C.; front row center, Linda Wharton-Boyd (A&S ’72, ’75G, ’79G); and right, Valerie Njie (EDUC ’71), AAAC President, Pittsburgh Affiliate; back row left, C. Diane Colbert, AAAC member, and Tony Fountain (A&S ’70), AAAC national president.

African Diaspora’s Challenges, Opportunities Are Focus of Pitt Conference

Local Organizing Committee cochairs are Patrick Manning, Andrew Mellon Professor of World History at Pitt and director of Pitt’s World History Center, and Brenda F. Berrian, Pitt professor of Africana studies, English, and women’s studies. ASWAD is an organization of international scholars seeking to further understand the African Diaspora. There are more than 80 sessions throughout the four-day conference.

Poet and author Abena Busia, director of ASWAD, professor in the Department of Women’s & Gender Studies at Rutgers University and daughter of Kofi Abrefa Busia, the former prime minister of the Republic of Ghana, also will present. In addition, Busia will give welcoming remarks at a reception to be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 4 at the Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland.

Local Organizing Committee cochairs are Patrick Manning, Andrew Mellon Professor of World History at Pitt and director of Pitt’s World History Center, and Brenda F. Berrian, Pitt professor of Africana studies, English, and women’s studies. Berrian will give the presentation “A Rare Sense of Freedom: Wasis Diop’s Film Score for ‘Hyènes’” during a panel titled “Performance and Black Power: Agency, Resistance, and the Cultural Politics of Identity in Africa and Its Diasporas.”

The more than 80 conference sessions throughout the four-day program include:

• “Around the World and Black Again: Examining Constructions of Blackness and Diaspora in Four Different Contexts”
• “Migration, the Power of Identity, and the Creation of Black Transnational Spaces: An Exploration of the Key Issues in Black and Muslim Immigration in the United States and Canada”
• “Womanism and Diasporic Activism”
• “Challenges of Black Power”
• “Challenges of Black Power”
• “A Call to Arms: Strategy and Tactics in the Black Power Movement”
• “Hip-Hop and Musical Expression Across the Diaspora”
• “Pittsburgh and the African Diaspora.”

ASWAD is an organization of international scholars seeking to further understand the African Diaspora. Through the examination of history, dance, anthropology, literature, women’s studies, education, geography, political science, sociology, language, art, music, film, theater, biology, photography, etc., ASWAD seeks to share the most recent research both within and across disciplinary and other conventional boundaries by way of conferences and symposia held periodically, as well as through publications.

Pitt’s World History Center emphasizes research, teaching, and international collaboration on the global past, with attention to policies for the global future. The center is located within the Department of History in Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences and is affiliated with Pitt’s Global Studies Center and University Center for International Studies.

Pitt’s Department of Africana Studies conducts multidisciplinary scholarship and teaching on the African diaspora. The Local Arrangements Committee includes 20 members from these and other departments at Pitt and other Pittsburgh institutions, including Carnegie Mellon and Chatham universities.

VanKirk, Harper Move City Law Firms to Support Pitt Law School

Details Unveiled for Pitt Jazz Seminar, Concert Nov. 1-5

By Lynn Shea

While the value of a Pitt law degree is widely accepted, few take the time to consider the collective worth of the Pitt law school's many alumni, who together have had an astounding impact on the Pittsburgh business and legal communities.

"If you realize the monumental contributions Pitt law graduates make to our region, you begin to realize how significant the school is and what a vital role it plays in ensuring the continued success of our city," says Thomas L. VanKirk, who should know. He is the chair and immediate past chief executive officer of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, one of Pittsburgh's largest law firms. Over the course of his nearly 40-year career, he has worked closely with many of the city's most important business and civic leaders.

VanKirk and Buchanan Ingersoll partner Robert T. Harper share a high opinion of Pitt's law school. While neither of them is a Pitt alumnus—VanKirk earned his JD degree from Penn State's Dickinson School of Law and Harper received his from the Duke law school—the pair has made a remarkable commitment to promote Pitt's School of Law by launching an initiative that in just 18 months has helped generate nearly $1 million in new philanthropic commitments to the school.

In November 2009, VanKirk hosted a dinner that brought the key decision makers from law firms within the city's largest law firms together to hear a presentation by Mary Crossley, dean of Pitt's School of Law, and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, who served as dean of the School of Law from 1985 to 1993. Their appeal for support for student scholarships, faculty assistance, improved facilities, and expanded programs resonated with the firms and led directly to increased philanthropic support in the months that followed.

"We are very grateful to Tom VanKirk and Bob Harper, both for their support of Pitt Law and for their leadership efforts in generating support for our law school from within the Pittsburgh legal community," says VanKirk, who has been recruiting lawyers from Pitt for more than 30 years. Of the 400 attorneys his firm employs, 38 are Pitt law graduates. Not only was he eager to help, he believed that there were many others in the legal community who would understand the need and support the cause.

"This initiative exemplifies how successful Pitt Law has been in establishing effective partnerships with the local practicing bar that have a profound impact on both our students and faculty," says Crossley.

VanKirk says that Crossley and Nordenberg are making his job easy. "When you hear the passion they have for law and for Pittsburgh, it's hard not to get behind this.

To date, more than 30 attorneys from VanKirk's firm have made collective commitments of $250,000 to the Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney Faculty Scholar Award for faculty who undertake ambitious scholarly work of high impact. VanKirk's firm have made collective commitments of $320,000 in collective commitments from its attorneys to establish the K&L Gates Fund for Innovation, which supports more broadly initiatives in areas relating to the energy, sciences, and innovation.

VanKirk explains that while he began the effort by approaching a select group of large firms, he intends to continue meeting with representatives from more of the city's law firms and leading corporations. He is confident that the entire region, especially those in the legal community, will realize enormous benefits by supporting the Pitt Law School through the creation of a network of leaders and supports the common goals of the profession and Southwestern Pennsylvania.

While the value of a Pitt law degree is widely accepted, few take the time to consider the collective worth of the Pitt law school's many alumni, who together have had an astounding impact on the Pittsburgh business and legal communities.

"If you realize the monumental contributions Pitt law graduates make to our region, you begin to realize how significant the school is and what a vital role it plays in ensuring the continued success of our city," says Thomas L. VanKirk, who should know. He is the chair and immediate past chief executive officer of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, one of Pittsburgh's largest law firms. Over the course of his nearly 40-year career, he has worked closely with many of the city's most important business and civic leaders.

VanKirk and Buchanan Ingersoll partner Robert T. Harper share a high opinion of Pitt's law school. While neither of them is a Pitt alumnus—VanKirk earned his JD degree from Penn State's Dickinson School of Law and Harper received his from the Duke law school—the pair has made a remarkable commitment to promote Pitt's School of Law by launching an initiative that in just 18 months has helped generate nearly $1 million in new philanthropic commitments to the school.

In November 2009, VanKirk hosted a dinner that brought the key decision makers from law firms within the city's largest law firms together to hear a presentation by Mary Crossley, dean of Pitt's School of Law, and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, who served as dean of the School of Law from 1985 to 1993. Their appeal for support for student scholarships, faculty assistance, improved facilities, and expanded programs resonated with the firms and led directly to increased philanthropic support in the months that followed.

"We are very grateful to Tom VanKirk and Bob Harper, both for their support of Pitt Law and for their leadership efforts in generating support for our law school from within the Pittsburgh legal community," says VanKirk, who has been recruiting lawyers from Pitt for more than 30 years. Of the 400 attorneys his firm employs, 38 are Pitt law graduates. Not only was he eager to help, he believed that there were many others in the legal community who would understand the need and support the cause.

"This initiative exemplifies how successful Pitt Law has been in establishing effective partnerships with the local practicing bar that have a profound impact on both our students and faculty," says Crossley.

VanKirk says that Crossley and Nordenberg are making his job easy. "When you hear the passion they have for law and for Pittsburgh, it's hard not to get behind this.

To date, more than 30 attorneys from VanKirk's firm have made collective commitments of $250,000 to the Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney Faculty Scholar Award for faculty who undertake ambitious scholarly work of high impact. VanKirk's firm have made collective commitments of $320,000 in collective commitments from its attorneys to establish the K&L Gates Fund for Innovation, which supports more broadly initiatives in areas relating to the energy, sciences, and innovation.

VanKirk explains that while he began the effort by approaching a select group of large firms, he intends to continue meeting with representatives from more of the city's law firms and leading corporations. He is confident that the entire region, especially those in the legal community, will realize enormous benefits by supporting the Pitt Law School through the creation of a network of leaders and supports the common goals of the profession and Southwestern Pennsylvania.


Concerts


“Open Access: Greater Impact for Your Research,” opportunity for Pitt faculty to learn how to share their research and leverage its discovery, use, and impact on an international stage, 2-3 p.m. Oct. 24, 15th floor of University Library, Ballroom B, part of Open Access Week 2011, the University Library’s Office of Scholarly Communication and Publishing, occp@pitt.edu.


Michele Rhee, former chancellor of Washington, D.C., schools, 8 p.m. Nov. 2, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Robert Morris University’s Student Lecture Series, through Nov. 13, 12:05 p.m. Order to Andy Warhol 8:30 p.m. Nov. 2, G-24 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt’s Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series 2011-12, www.english.pitt.edu.

Miscellaneous

20th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival, featuring song and dance performances by Slovakian artists, 3 to 5 p.m. Nov. 6, www.slovakheritage.org.

SAC Fall Assembly, 12:05 p.m. Nov. 8, www.pitt.edu/students/counseling/service/assembly.


Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, Oct. 25, 12:05 p.m. “Enlightening Falsehoods,” Dennie Troll, dean of the School of Communication Science, 412-624-4988, cmsgspia@pitt.edu.


“Reflections on Civil Engagement: The Case of Climate Change Policy at the City/ Metropolitan Level,” Daniel A. Czarnaszek, director of Judith and John Redden Center on Governance and the Public Enterprise, University of Southern California, 10:30 a.m. Oct. 25, Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland, Pitt Center for Metropolitan Studies, free and open to public but RSVP required, 412-648-2282, cmgs@pitt.edu.

“Some Venues of Mental Contention,” John Campbell, Willis S. and Marion shafter Professor of Philosophy, University of California at Berkeley, 3:30 p.m. Oct. 26, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Center for Philosophy of Science’s Annual Lecture Series 2011-12, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/philosophy.


Kimelitz, Pitt’s Dance Ensemble full dance concert, 7 p.m. Nov. 3-4, Trees Hall, Downtown, 412-624-8262, gillis@pitt.edu.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Joseph Pecker, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Communication, 9 a.m. Oct. 31, “Because We Are Alone: Arguments for Humans as the Universe’s Only Intelligent Life Form From Ancient Philosophers to Today’s Scientists,” 1128 Cathedral of Learning.

Melanie J. Grechish, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Graduate Program in Pharmacology, 12-30 p.m. Nov. 1, “TGFB-Dependent Production of ROS Influences Purinarie Communications Between Stromal and Epithelial Cells in the Prostate,” 1195 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower.

Kristin M. Pelczarski, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences’ Department of Communication Science and Disorders, 9:30 a.m. Oct. 31, “Phonological Processing Abilities of Speakers Who Stutter,” 4065 Forbes Tower.

Stibborn Gregg, School of Medicine’s Cell Biology and Molecular Physiology graduate Program, 2 p.m. Nov. 4, “Endogenous DNA Damage Drives Cellular Senescence and Promotes Aging,” S100A Starzl Biomedical Science Tower.
Pitt Rep and Pitt’s Music Department Collaborate To Present Sweeney Todd Nov. 3-13

By Sharon S. Blake

Pitt’s Charity Randall Theatre is abuzz with activity this fall. More than 50 actors, set designers, technicians, and others are in rehearsals for one of the most ambitious plays ever presented by Pitt Repertory Theatre—Stephen Sondheim’s adaptation of the macabre musical thriller Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.

A block away in Bellefield Hall, members of the University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra also are rehearsing. About 60 Pitt musicians will provide the musical accompaniment to the dramatic story of a deranged barber who cuts his customers’ throats and then serves them as meat pies baked by his accomplice Mrs. Lovett.

The production, which will run Nov. 3-13, marks the first collaboration between Pitt Rep and Pitt’s Department of Music. It kicks off Pitt Rep’s 2011-12 season, which is titled Bodies of Evidence.

Sweeney Todd will star Richard Teaster, director of the Pitt Men’s Glee Club, in the title role; local actor and Pitt teaching artist-in-residence Theo Allyn as Mrs. Lovett; and Pitt teaching artist-in-residence Andy Nagraj as Judge Turpin. A dozen undergraduate students round out the cast, whose members are getting intensive training in dance and vocals, as well as physical workouts with a fight choreographer.

While not technically an opera, Sweeney Todd places operatic demands on the singer-actors. “There’s going to be a lot of give and take between the musicians and actors,” says director and Theatre Arts faculty member Lisa Jackson-Schebetta, who first met with orchestra director Roger Zahab about the project in the summer of 2010.

Zahab says there is underscoring throughout Sweeney Todd, but the biggest challenge for his musicians will be responding to what is happening on stage. “The orchestra is a very important part of the drama,” says Zahab. “It is another character.” Whereas a film score is fixed, Zahab explains that actors in a live on-stage play strive to keep performances fresh every time. He calls it “the soul of live theater.” And the musical score, he says, is the “ocean of sound in which the characters swim.”

While the production team and crew work to pull the show together, there are costume fittings under way as well as work by another team to design and produce props. “It takes a ton of people to create this world . . . and it’s very exciting,” says Jackson-Schebetta.

Performances of Sweeney Todd will be at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call 412-624-0933.

Information on the other plays in Pitt Rep’s season follows.

The Gammage Project (World Premiere) Feb. 9-19, 2012
Henry Heymann Theatre, Stephen Foster Memorial
Written by: Attilio Favorini
Directed by: Mark Clayton Southers
On Oct. 12, 1995, Johnny Gammage, cousin of former Pittsburgh Steeler Ray Seals, was stopped by a Brentwood, Pa., police officer. Seven minutes later, Gammage was dead. This original docudrama goes beyond issues of Black and White to expose the failures of public policy that still trouble the city of Pittsburgh.

Harvest March 29-April 7, 2012
Henry Heymann Theatre, Stephen Foster Memorial
Written by: Manjula Padmanabhan
Directed by: Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson
In near-future Mumbai, India, a family struggles to survive in a world in which the economy has deteriorated beyond repair and the only way to survive is to sell yourself, piece by piece. Harvest, a dark speculative satire, explores the human experience in a world in which life can be packaged, bought, and sold. Just don’t ask yourself how much life really costs.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of Pitt Chronicle will be published Nov. 7. Items for publication in the newspaper’s Happenings calendar (See page 7) should be received at least two weeks prior to the event date. Happenings items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to chron@pitt.edu, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail robinet@pitt.edu.