Pitt Alumnus, Trustee, and Former Board Chair William S. Dietrich II, Who Gave the University the Single-Largest Gift in Its History, Dies

Dietrich’s $125 million pledge to Pitt was one of the 10 largest gifts made by an individual to a public university in the United States.

Mr. Dietrich’s generosity was celebrated during a special ceremony at Pitt’s Sept. 24 football game against Notre Dame, when the Heinz Field crowd gave him a standing ovation and he received national television coverage.

The Gold Medal won by University of Pittsburgh alumnus and track star John Woodruff at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin is the focus of a new interactive display that will be unveiled at 2 p.m. Oct. 14 on the first floor of Pitt’s Hillman Library.

The event marks the 75th anniversary of Woodruff’s dramatic finish of the 800-meter race at the 1936 games. Sponsored by Pitt’s African American Alumni Council, the ceremony is one of the highlights of Pitt’s Homecoming Week activities.

The display, a square obelisk more than six feet high, will include an interactive multimedia touchscreen featuring film narratives, a photo gallery, and selections from Woodruff’s personal family scrapbook. Many of the materials have never been on public view before.

Pitt Chancellor Wesley W. Posvar presented John Woodruff with the University’s Distinguished Graduate Medal award in 1982. Eight years later, Woodruff donated his 1936 Olympic Gold Medal to Pitt during the halftime of a 1990 Pitt/Notre Dame game in the old Pitt Stadium. Posvar received the medal on the University’s behalf.

About the 1936 Olympic Games

There was talk of an Olympic boycott because of racial policies in Germany, but some Black newspapers objected, saying it was a racial policy in Germany, but some Black newspapers objected, saying it was un-American.

Continued on page 4
Call for Fall 2011 University Senate Plenary Posters

The University Senate’s Community Relations Committee is accepting posters for the Fall 2011 Plenary titled “Community and Campuses Partnerships for Health and Wellness.” The deadline is midnight Oct. 15. Community engagement projects must include a mutually beneficial community-academic partnership. Participants can showcase their community engagement projects during the plenary’s showcase from 3 to 4 p.m. Oct. 16 in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room.

Interested parties should e-mail an abstract of fewer than 250 words describing their project to Denise Chorzum at dchosum@pitt.edu. Submissions should include the names of applicants; departments or organizational affiliations; e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Student applicants should include the name and contact information for their mentors. Additional information is available at www.opcd.org.

—By John Fedele
Engineering Professor Emeritus J. Thomas Cain and Jacquelyn Cain Pledge $2 Million to Fund Endowed Chair

By Susan Zavage Grivnow

J. Thomas and Jacquelyn Cain

Cain has served on the University Senate Council, and his research has received numerous grants, resulting in the publication of many articles in scholarly journals. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1994.

“The common perception is that the students learn from us,” Cain said, “but it’s really a two-way street.”

“The Ca...
Pitt-CMU Team Developing Materials, Processes to Improve Industrial Transformers for Power Converter Technologies

By Karen Hoffmann and Christine Swoney

The University of Pittsburgh’s Gregory Reed and colleagues have received a three-year, $1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop new materials and processes for improving the efficiency of multicore transformers for energy conversion systems. The work is expected to impact the economic success and global competitiveness of America’s manufacturing sector.

The research could help substantially reduce the size of a standard industrial grid transformer and also improve efficiencies of power electronics conversion systems.

“Reed, professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of the Power and Energy Initiative in Pitt’s Swanson School of Engineering, will assess complete systems engineering and turnkey installation aspects of the advanced converter technology for renewable energy applications, including economic impacts.

“This grant is an important component of the continued growth of Pitt’s electric power and energy research for grid infrastructure efforts, and we are excited to be part of this talented team,” Reed said.

“This research will ultimately help make power transformation in renewable energy conversion more economical and efficient in our complex energy grid system,” said lead researcher Michael McHenry, a professor of materials science and engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. “Our work aims to bridge materials development, manufacturing, component design, and economic analysis in one cohesive multidisciplinary team.”

Other team members include Joe Huth, head of research at Pittsburgh-based Spang Inc., a world leader in the production of soft magnetic materials and cores for industrial control applications, and Michael Bland, an engineer and team member from the Los Alamos National Lab.

The Power and Energy Initiative in Pitt’s Swanson School of Engineering, a major component of the University’s Center for Energy, focuses on partnering to meet industry needs in workforce and technology development through innovative education and collaborative research.

The initiative’s electric power research group is engaged in a comprehensive range of activities in the development of advanced electric power grid technologies and systems, including emerging technology development, system needs for grid-level power electronics technologies and supporting systems and components for both AC and DC system infrastructures. The group also conducts research in areas of renewable energy integration, energy storage, and smart grid applications.

William S. Dietrich II, Who Gave The University the Single-Largest Gift in Its History, Dies

Internationally renowned jazz greats, including Pitt alumus and pianist Geri Allen (A&S ’83G), will converge at the University of Pittsburgh Nov. 3-5 for the 41st annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert. The first academic jazz event of its kind in the country, Pitt’s Jazz Seminar traditionally features international artists connecting with an audience in a lecture format, then performing together as an ensemble.

Musicians taking part this year include Allen, piano; Randy Brecker, trumpet; Maurice Brown, trumpet; Billy Cobham, drums; Larry Coryell, guitar; Quannon Fowler, tenor saxophone; Curtis Fuller, trombone; Donald Harrison Jr., alto saxophone; and Abe Laboriel, bass. They will perform under the direction of Nathan Davis, saxophonist, founder of the Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert, and director of Pitt’s Jazz Studies Program. The musicians will conduct free lecture/demonstrations on the Pitt campus, provide miniclincs at area schools, and visit community centers. Details, including dates, times, and locations, will be forthcoming.

At the conclusion of Pitt’s jazz week, the guest musicians will perform in concert at 8 p.m. Nov. 5 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland. Concert tickets are $18 general admission and $8 for students with a valid ID. General admission tickets are available for purchase through ProArtsTickets at 412-394-3353 or www.proartstickets.org, or at the William Pitt Union box office. Student tickets are only available at the WPU box office. Tickets will be on sale the evening of the concert at Carnegie Music Hall for $20 and $10, respectively, cash only.

Woodruff’s Gold Medal on Display at Hillman

Continued from page 1

hypecrical to boycott the Berlin Olympics without first addressing the problems of discrimination against Blacks in the United States.

Ultimately, 18 Black athletes competed—16 men and two women—triple the number that had competed in the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The 1936 group included Owens, who set a new record that year by winning four gold medals.

A lanky 21-year-old who lacked international running experience, Woodruff got boxed in by slower runners 300 meters into the 800-meter contest. Realizing he would be disqualified if he fouled another runner, Woodruff stopped running, moved to the track’s third lane, let the other runners pass by, and began again. As he started from the back of the pack, his nine-foot stride lengthened, and he passed one rival after another. He was leading when the finish line came into view, and he sprinted through the tape at 1:52.9.

The New York Herald Tribune called Woodruff’s stop-and-restart technique “the most daring move ever seen on a track.” Woodruff was the first African American to win a Gold Medal at the 1936 Olympic Games.

Woodruff, who earned his Pitt Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology in 1939, last visited the University during Homecoming Week 2006, when he was honored for the 70th anniversary of his Olympic victory. He died on Oct. 30, 2007, at age 92.
Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, the Honorary British Consul in Pittsburgh, hosted a Sept. 19 reception and lecture to celebrate the opening of the Carnegie Museum of Art exhibition Palladio and His Legacy: A Transatlantic Journey. Andrea Palladio (1509-1580) was one of the most influential architects in the Western world. A number of his drawings, books, and models are held in a collection owned by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), which organized the traveling exhibition. In the front row, from left, are Harry Rich, the RIBA’s chief executive; Irena Murray, director of the RIBA Sir Bannister Fletcher Library; and Tracy Myers, curator of architecture and curatorial liaison for exhibitions at the Heinz Architectural Center in the Carnegie Museum of Art. In the back row, from left are Stephen Phillips, chair, British Architectural Trust; Charles Hind, associate director and H. J. Heinz Curator of the Drawings and Archives Collection at the RIBA; and Chancellor Nordenberg. The reception was held in the Connolly Ballroom, Alumni Hall.

PALLADIO’S LEGACY

Larry Davis, dean of Pitt’s School of Social Work, Donald M. Henderson Professor, and director of the Center on Race and Social Problems at Pitt, and Laurenka Glasso, a Pitt history professor, participated in an Oct. 1 community panel discussion about David Mamet’s play Race. Performed by the Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre (PICT) in the Stephen Foster Memorial’s Henry Heymann Theatre from Sept. 8 through Oct. 1, Race has been described as an incendiary story about perceptions and realities and the subtle shades between being a victim and being victimized. From left, Gale McGlinn, panel moderator and PICT development and education director; Davis; Barbara Wolvovitz, a civil rights attorney; Tony Norman, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist and associate editor; and Glasso.

TALKING ABOUT RACE

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, the Honorary British Consul in Pittsburgh, hosted a Sept. 19 reception and lecture to celebrate the opening of the Carnegie Museum of Art exhibition Palladio and His Legacy: A Transatlantic Journey. Andrea Palladio (1509-1580) was one of the most influential architects in the Western world. A number of his drawings, books, and models are held in a collection owned by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), which organized the traveling exhibition. In the front row, from left are Harry Rich, the RIBA’s chief executive; Irena Murray, director of the RIBA Sir Bannister Fletcher Library; and Tracy Myers, curator of architecture and curatorial liaison for exhibitions at the Heinz Architectural Center in the Carnegie Museum of Art. In the back row, from left are Stephen Phillips, chair, British Architectural Trust; Charles Hind, associate director and H. J. Heinz Curator of the Drawings and Archives Collection at the RIBA; and Chancellor Nordenberg. The reception was held in the Connolly Ballroom, Alumni Hall.

PITT PRESS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

From left, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Cynthia Miller, director of the University of Pittsburgh Press, and Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson are pictured during a reception celebrating 75 years of the University of Pittsburgh Press. The Sept. 28 event was held in The Book Center. The Press was founded in 1936 with funding from the A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, the Buhl Foundation, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the University of Pittsburgh.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF MR. ROGERS’ NEIGHBORHOOD

Producers and actors from Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood, including actor and Pitt alumnus David Newell (CGS ’73), who played the character Mr. McFeely, the show’s associate producer, alumna Hedda Sharpan (SOC WK ’67G), as well as other producers and Fred Rogers Company president Bill Isler, offered a behind-the-scenes look at the beloved children’s show during a Sept. 16 presentation in the William Pitt Union Ballroom. Seated from left are Newell; Sharpan; Joanne Rogers, Mr. (Fred) Rogers’ wife; and Carl Kurlander, executive producer of Steeltown Entertainment Project and a senior lecturer in Pitt’s English department. The event was presented by Pitt in Hollywood and Steeltown Entertainment Project along with the Pitt English department’s Children’s Literature Program and Film Studies Program.

“SILENT NO MORE”

Pitt hosted an international conference titled “Silent No More: Rape as a Weapon of Political Violence” on Sept. 17-20 in Posvar Hall. The event focused on Zimbabwean women and girls who, while rarely called upon to physically fight in the country’s internal or external conflicts, suffer as victims of politically motivated sexual violence. Annamore Matambanadzo, (inset left) a research assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine in Pitt’s School of Medicine and a native of Zimbabwe, organized the conference. Participating in one of the conference’s panels were (from left) Alan Martin, research director, Partnership Africa Canada; Christopher Kwangwari, a clinical specialty pharmacist who teaches at Florida Keys Community College; and Jerome Taylor, chair and a professor of Africana Studies at Pitt. Angela Ford, (inset right) associate director of Pitt’s Center for Minority Health, also participated in the panel discussion.
Continued from page 3

Pitt Board’s Property and Facilities Panel Approves $152 Million in Construction, Renovation

A $1.33 million project to renovate the first and second floors of 3343 Forbes Ave. to accommodate the relocation of the University Center for Social and Urban Research, formerly housed on the site of what will be the new freshman residence hall;

A $1.29 million renovation to the second floor of Eberly Hall to create a wet laboratory and a spectroscopy laboratory for physical chemistry research in bio-nanostructures; and

A $2.48 million project to create in the basement of OEH a quantum transport laboratory capable of low-temperature physics research.

The committee also approved nine leases or lease extensions at the meeting:

A two-year lease extension through June 30, 2013, for Student Health Services in the Medical Arts Building, 3708 Forbes Ave.;

A five-year lease renewal for the School of Medicine’s Departments of Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology for research, clinical, and office space in the Eye and Ear Institute Building at 201 Lothrop St., through June 30, 2016;

A 16-month lease renewal and expansion for the School of Medicine’s Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics in the Bridgeside Point One building on Second Avenue in the Pittsburgh Technology Center, through Sept. 30, 2016;

A five-year lease for the Graduate School of Public Health to relocate functions being affected by the Parran and Crabtree halls construction to the Keystone Building, 3520 Fifth Avenue, through April 20, 2016;

A three-year lease renewal for research laboratory space for the Department of Urology in the Shadyside Medical Center, 5200 Center Ave., through June 30, 2014;

A five-year lease renewal for three programs in the Department of Epidemiology in the Belfield Professional Building, 330 N. Belfield Ave., through Dec. 31, 2016;

A seven-year, four-month lease for the Department of Medicine’s Research Administration Office in the Forbes Allies Center, 3109 Forbes Ave., through June 30, 2019;

A five-year lease extension that combines two subleases for the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute in the Magee Women’s Research Institute, 204 Craft Ave., through Sept. 30, 2016; and

A 20-year lease for the Physical Activity and Weight Management Research Center to relocate its research operations to the Oak Hill Town Center Building, Oak Hill Drive, through July 31, 2032.

University of Pittsburgh faculty, staff, and students and their families could be found both high and low during Pitt’s 21st annual Kennywood Picnic Day on July 30. The University’s Staff Association Council coordinated the event, which included a discounted all-day FunDay Pass and a catered lunch.
**Happenings**

**Concerts**


**Lectures/Seminars/Readings**


**“Reform and Competency-Based Medicine Education: Changing Forces and Realities”**, Eric Holmboe, adjunct professor of medicine at Yale University and senior vice president of the American Board of Internal Medicine, noon Oct. 14, Schaff Hall 4th floor, Lecture Room 3, Medical Education Grand Rounds, Office of the Vice Dean, Pitt School of Medicine, 412-648-9000, www.megm.pitt.edu.

**“Dorrell Hammond: KaBoom! How One Man Built a Movement”** Hammond is founder and CEO of KaBOOM!, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring play space for children, 3:30 p.m. Oct. 14, Schenley Ballroom, Holiday Inn Pittsburgh University Center, Oakland, Pitt Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

**Exhibitions**


**Miscellaneous**

**Second Annual Pitt Film & Media Graduate Conference, Reimagining War and Symphonic Orchestras of Conflict**, presented by Pitt Film Studies Graduate Student Organization, Oct. 14-16, 501 Cathedral of Learning, free and open to the public; keynote speaker is Stephen Prince, renowned film scholar at Virginia’s inaugural Lecture Series, www.cmoa.org.

**“Biological Revolution and Paradigm Changes: Transforming Science, Technology, and Knowledge Transfer via Commercialization”**, Leroy Hood, president and CEO of the new biotechnology company, Helixis Inc., PITT ARTS, 412-648-1336, gspa@pitt.edu.


**Ballroom With a Twist**, Heinz Hall, October 13-16.

**Opera/Theater/Dance**

**The End of the Affair**, dramatization of Graham Greene’s iconic novel about a passionate affair that highlights the impossibility of knowing someone and the ways in which we order our morality, Oct. 4-30, former Emma Kaufmann Clinic, 3028 Beér Street, Polish Hill, Quantum Theatre, 412-677-2929, www.quantumtheatre.com.


**La Traviata**, Verdi’s music set to libretto based on Dumas’ *Carmen*, Gildas A. Ofoulhast-Othamot, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh, 412-624-9413, www.oed.pitt.edu.

**Time Stands Still** by Donald Margulies, adventurous couple shares love of reporting from war zones until one of them is seriously wounded, Oct. 12 through Nov. 6, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, City Theatre Company, 412-431-4400, www.citytheatercompany.org.

**Electra**, Sophocles’ drama that brings to life the myths of ancient Greece while telling the timeless tale of one family’s tragedy, through Oct. 30, O’Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, www.ppt.org.

**Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses**


**The Kruger Brothers, Carnegie Lecture Hall**, October 15.

**Trillium String Quartet, Nordy’s Café, William Pitt Union, October 12**

**Austin & The Band of Gold**, Ballroom With a Twist, October 13-16.
Pitt Biologists Find ‘Surprising’ Number of Unknown Viruses in Sewage

Though viruses are the most abundant life form on Earth, our knowledge of the viral universe is limited to a tiny fraction of the viruses that likely exist. In a paper published last week in the online journal mBio, researchers from the University of Pittsburgh, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of Barcelona found that raw sewage is home to thousands of novel, undiscovered viruses, some of which could relate to human health.

There are roughly 1.8 million species of organisms on our planet, and each one is host to untold numbers of unique viruses, but only about 3,000 have been identified to date. To explore this diversity and to better characterize the unknown viruses, Professor James Pipas, Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences Roger Hendrix, and Assistant Professor Michael Grabe, all of the Department of Biological Sciences in Pitt’s School of Arts and Sciences, are developing new techniques to look for novel viruses in unique places around the world.

With coauthors David Wang and Guoyan Zhao of Washington University in St. Louis and Rosina Girones of the University of Barcelona, the team searched for the genetic signatures of viruses present in raw sewage from North America, Europe, and Africa.

In the paper, titled “Raw Sewage Harbors Diverse Viral Populations,” the researchers report detecting signatures from 234 known viruses that represent 26 different families of viruses. This makes raw sewage home to the most diverse array of viruses yet found.

“What was surprising was that the vast majority of viruses we found were viruses that had not been detected or described before,” says Hendrix.

The viruses that were already known included human pathogens like Human papillomavirus and norovirus, which causes diarrhea. Also present were several viruses belonging to those familiar denizens of sewers everywhere: rodents and cockroaches. Bacteria are also present in sewage, so it was not surprising that the viruses that prey on bacteria dominated the known genetic signatures. Finally, a large number of the known viruses found in raw sewage came from plants, probably owing to the fact that humans eat plants, and plant viruses outnumber other types of viruses in human stool.

This study was also the first attempt to look at all the viruses in the population. Other studies have focused on bacteria, or certain types of viruses. The researchers also developed new computational tools to analyze this data. This approach, called metagenomics, had been done before, but not with raw sewage.

The main application of this new technology, says Hendrix, will be to discover new viruses and to study gene exchange among viruses. “The big question we’re interested in is, ‘Where do emerging viruses come from?’” he says. The team’s hypothesis is that new viruses emerge, in large part, through gene exchange. But before research on gene exchange can begin in earnest, large numbers of viruses must be studied, the researchers say.

“One thing you have to see the forest before you can pick out a particular tree to work on,” says Pipas. “If gene exchange is occurring among viruses, then we want to know where those genes are coming from, and if we only know about a small percentage of the viruses that exist, then we’re missing most of the forest.”