**Pitt’s Board Thanks the Late William S. Dietrich**

During its Oct. 28 meeting, Pitt’s Board of Trustees honored the late William S. Dietrich II with a moment of silence—and then a standing ovation—following the approval of a Board resolution changing the name of Pitt’s largest school to the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, in honor of Mr. Dietrich’s father. Prior to his death on Oct. 6, William S. Dietrich—Pitt alumnus, trustee, and former Board chair, as well as a well-known and highly respected business leader—gave the largest single gift to Pitt in its 225-year history, a $125 million fund. Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg unveiled the first of three new wall plaques to be mounted in the Cathedral of Learning, one on the first floor opposite the Engling-Scheinly Room, and the other prominently displayed on the ninth floor, the home of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. From far left, Chancellor Nordenberg; Trustee Sam Zacharias; N. John Cooper, Pitt’s Bettye J. and Beeson; Trustee Eva Tansky Blum; and Board Chair Stephen R. Tritch.

**Blue, Gold, and Green: Sustainability at Pitt**

By B. Rose Huber

By Fall 2013, incoming freshmen will have not only a convenient place to live, but a sustainable one as well. Among the construction projects approved by the Pitt Board of Trustees on Oct. 28 was the Freshman Housing Project, a 10-story building being erected at the corner of Fifth Avenue and University Place that will house 559 beds and contain an array of sustainable features.

The $59 million project was identified as a priority in the University’s facilities plan, adopted in 2006, which sought to provide more space for Pitt’s increasing number of incoming freshmen while, at the same time, remaining eco-friendly.

“The housing project was conceived around the concept of sustainability, specifically in terms of promoting student-based initiatives,” said Christin White, senior project manager in Pitt’s Department of Planning, Design, and Construction and a specialist in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

“The project is giving students the tools they need to live greener lifestyles.”

Among those tools are spacious community areas, recycling on all floors, and monitoring of energy usage within the building to encourage peer-to-peer energy competitions. Commercial retail shops are planned for the first floor, while a Wellness Center will be located on the second floor. Pitt officials hope the building’s sustainable environment—and central location on campus—will promote a sense of community for incoming freshmen.

“Because of the building’s convenient location, students will know what’s in close proximity to them; they will have access to public transportation and will be able to get around and really feel like this is home,” said Canard Grigsby, project manager in the Department of Planning, Design, and Construction.

The Freshman Housing Project is on track for a LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, the second of four certification levels related to sustainable practices. Below is a list of the project’s sustainable features:

- Access to 20 bus stops with 23 different bus lines within a quarter-mile radius;
- High-efficiency plumbing fixtures that will save energy;
- Toleration of drought-tolerant plants, which require no irrigation;
- High-efficiency plumbing fixtures that will save energy;
- High-efficiency heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems;
- A 24-hour staff member;
- A food service provider;
- A fitness center;
- A 24-hour staff member;
- A food service provider;
- A fitness center;
- A 24-hour staff member;
- A food service provider;
- A fitness center; and
- A 24-hour staff member.

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**New Research**

Nearly $9 million for New Research

The University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Late Life Depression Prevention and Treatment has received nearly $9 million from the National Institute of Mental Health to further its work in depression prevention and treatment in later life. Under the direction of Charles F. Reynolds, the federally funded Center of Excellence will conduct three new research studies in depression prevention among vulnerable older adults, in addition to continuing existing research.

“Depression erodes quality of life, productivity in the workplace, and fulfillment of social and familial roles,” said Reynolds, professor of psychiatry and of behavioral and community health science in Pitt’s School of Medicine and Graduate School of Public Health. “In knowledge- and service-driven economies, the population’s mental capital becomes both more valuable and vulnerable to depression’s impact across the life cycle, including later life. Depression prevention research and practice have progressed from a pioneering stage to one in which investments on a larger scale are necessary and appropriate to diminish depression’s global illness burden. This center will push the field forward to the benefit of older adults and their caregivers.”

The first of three new depression-prevention studies will look at the use of learning-based interventions to help seniors who receive supportive services and face a variety of psychosocial vulnerabilities that put them at risk for depression. One group at high risk is older adults receiving aging services through Medicaid waiver programs. This three-year study will test the effectiveness of enhancing problem-solving skills and of teaching ways to sleep better as measures to prevent depression in these seniors.

The second study will adapt problem-solving strategies for use by people living with mild cognitive impairment and for their caregivers as an intervention for preventing major depression. In addition, an exercise intervention will be used in both groups to enhance protection from depression.

The third study focuses on osteoarthri-
Children’s-Led Research Team Finds Ways to Cut Computing Energy Consumption While Saving Money

By B. Rose Huber

Lowering energy consumption associated with computer data storage (specifically, cloud computing) and saving millions of dollars are possible now, thanks to new memory technology, a field that researchers at the University of Pittsburgh have been exploring for the past two years through a $7.9 million, four-year National Science Foundation grant titled “Large: Storage Class Memory Architecture for Energy Efficient Data Centers.”

Despite its advantages, cloud computing still requires extreme amounts of power; Data centers around the world use 100 billion kilowatts per year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Pitt’s research team—professors and students from the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Computer Science and the Swanson School of Engineering’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering—has demonstrated how to effectively produce large amounts of memory while maintaining low electricity usage.

Unfortunately, today’s memory technology—dynamic random-access memory (DRAM)—is rapidly reaching its limit in power consumption and capacity for data-center-sized applications, said Bruce Childers, a Pitt professor of computer science and principal investigator on the project.

With the growing demand for faster, more reliable memory technology, Pitt researchers have combined a smaller DRAM (for fast retrieval) with a larger, slower phase-change memory called PCM, a new technology similar to but faster than the flash drives used in a computer’s USB port. The result is a memory system that is fast enough for most software programs and has more storage space, but it also drastically reduces power consumption.

“Pitt’s innovations in memory circuits have led to an eightfold reduction in power cost. These innovations have also improved PCM lifetime, permitting this technology to last long enough for several years of usage in a data center, something that was not possible previously,”

—Bruce Childers

The tools developed throughout the project will continue to have an effect through a tutorial and software release to be unveiled during the “Symposium on Microarchitecture,” which is scheduled for Dec. 3-7 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and is one of the premier forums for presenting, discussing, and debating techniques for advancing computing systems.

Working closely with industry leaders, Pitt is developing an operational prototype, “memory of the future,” for use in data center computers.

Members of the Pitt research team are, in addition to Childers, Sangyeon Cho, a professor of computer science, Daniel Mosse, professor and chair in the computer science department, Rami Melhem, professor of computer science; Jun Yang, professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Youtao Zhang, professor of computer science. Six Pitt graduate students will assist the faculty researchers.

For the remaining two years of the grant, the team plans to expand upon solutions related to energy consumption.

Pitt’s Center for Late Life Depression Receives Nearly $9 Million for New Research

Continued from page 1

its pain and associated disability as risk factors for major depression. The first stage will compare the relative effectiveness of treating pain with either cognitive behavioral therapy or physical therapy. The second stage will adapt interventions based on a participant’s response to the first stage.

Each of the studies will collect information about biomarkers, such as measures of inflammation, which may enhance the identification of older adults at high risk for depression and provide information about whether and how interventions may be protective against the onset of depression. Data from the three clinical trials will be pooled together to further develop models of personalized intervention.

The Center for Late Life Depression Prevention is located at the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health and Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC.
eButton Prototype, Created by Pitt Researchers, Helps to Combat Obesity by Monitoring Food, Exercise, and Lifestyle

By B. Rose Huber

People attempting to lose weight won’t need to track their daily food intake anymore, thanks to a wearable, picture-taking device created at the University of Pittsburgh. eButton—a device worn on the chest (like a pin) that contains a miniature camera, accelerometer, GPS, and other sensors—captures data and information on health activities, eliminating the need for daily self-reporting. The ebutton prototype was the result of research from a four-year National Institutes of Health Genes, Environment, and Health Initiative grant that ended this year.

“eButton was created to combat obesity, which has become a widespread problem in the United States,” said Mingui Sun, lead investigator and Pitt professor of neurosurgery and electrical and computer engineering. “This disease affects 60 percent of people and costs our country upwards of $225 billion in direct and indirect costs.”

The eButton’s reporting extends even further than food and exercise: It can determine the amount of time wearers spend watching TV or sitting in front of a computer screen and how much time they spend outdoors. It tracks where food is bought, how meals are prepared, which restaurants are visited, and what items are ordered. The device analyzes how long the wearer spends eating, what foods and beverages are consumed, and how the wearer interacts with family or friends at the dining table. According to Sun, all of these factors determine participants’ caloric intake and expenditure.

“This multidimensional approach looks at the overall health of eButton wearers, which is more important than just food and exercise alone,” said Sun. “We have to take into account how people live, not only what they eat or how they exercise at the gym.”

Retrieving the results of eButton is convenient, according to Sun, who says it’s as easy as transferring pictures from a digital camera onto a computer. To protect participants’ privacy, the data are coded so they cannot be read until scanned by a computer to block human faces.

Although not available commercially, the device is currently being used in a pilot study estimating the caloric intake and physical activity levels of the participants. Findings of the eButton monitoring system were featured in Eat Right, a publication of the American Dietetic Association.
Pitt Researchers to Tap the Energy Potential of Offshore Wind

By Karen Hoffman

In the search for renewable energy resources, offshore wind power holds tremendous potential for the United States, a country that is not only surrounded by two oceans and the Gulf of Mexico, but also is home to the Great Lakes. However, this type of energy still makes up only a very small proportion of U.S. energy resources.

Now, with a $900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the University of Pittsburgh and experts from four other influential institutions aim to assess what technological advances are necessary to enhance the power delivery capability from offshore to onshore in order to make the economic value proposition more viable.

“As we look at a combination of traditional and advanced electric power delivery options—including state-of-the-art power electronics-based transmission technologies, integrating AC and DC power converters, and undersea cable systems—to assess the most effective integration of offshore wind into onshore networks,” says Gregory Reed, Pitt professor of electric power engineering, associate director of the University’s Center for Energy, and director of the Power and Energy Initiative in Pitt’s Swanson School of Engineering.

Reed and colleagues at companies ABB Inc., and Duke Energy and at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (part of the DOE) will research existing technologies so they can recommend which new technologies and engineering advancements are necessary to make that integration more efficient and cost effective. Additionally, the group will provide data to produce a road map of the DOE’s goals for the United States, with the primary hope of achieving 34 gigawatts of deployed offshore wind generating capacity by 2030.

Benefits
One of the benefits of offshore wind energy is that locations with high-wind potential are closer to major population centers. Therefore, the long-distance transmission required to connect wind into the grid from where the higher potentials are on land—say, the Great Plains States of the Midwest—aren’t as much of an issue.

“If we only have to transmit that wind energy 10, 15, 20 miles off the shoreline to the East Coast, where population centers and major networks are located, that alone is saving a tremendous cost as opposed to having huge wind farms in Wyoming, Kansas, or Nebraska, where fewer people live and from where we would have to transmit the energy hundreds, even thousands of miles,” says Reed.

However, Reed notes that the cost of the technology is currently a barrier in some instances: “If you’re in the middle of the ocean dealing with undersea infrastructure and technologies, that’s more complex and expensive than if the windmill is sitting on a mountain ridge connected directly to overhead lines,” he says.

Additional issues to be investigated include the stochastic aspect of wind—that is, its intermittency and inconsistency in reliably generating power at all times and when it is needed. “The potential for reduced intermittency [starting and stopping] from offshore resources could be a benefit,” says Reed.

Finally, the researchers will examine the role of energy storage options as a means to more effectively integrate wind energy. In the case of implementing storage, energy can be harnessed during high-wind periods (i.e., during hurricanes or other harsh weather systems), stored, and then used when demand is at its peak.

“‘Greener’ Technology Practices at Pitt

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to all types of sustainability efforts, whether it is the garbage that is picked up or the computers that are touched. A sampling of technological sustainability, courtesy of Pitt’s Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD):

Self-Service Printing

For students, printing is free, easy, and convenient on campus. Now, thanks to self-service printing, the number of print jobs left on the printer tray has been significantly reduced. The service, which is 20 times less wasteful than full-service printing, requests students to use an ID card to print documents. Since its introduction two years ago, 325,000 sheets of printed (and then discarded) sheets of paper have been saved. Self-service printing is available in all seven of Pitt’s computer labs and in a number of other student-centered buildings across campus.

Don’t want to receive paper through University mail? Faculty and staff can receive many University paper-based mailings directly via e-mail (with no attachments) to their computer screen. Simply log onto my.pitt.edu, open the profile page, and select “Read Green.”

Server Consolidation

Pitt now allows one machine to do the job of many. CSSD has consolidated 300 servers onto a VMware cluster comprising just 30 computers. Fewer computers mean less energy usage, and virtual server hosting has helped departments pay only for the hardware resources they need, lowering costs across the board. Contact the Help Desk (412-624-HELP) for more information.

—R. Rose Huber

Continued from page 1

should reduce overall water use by more than 35 percent;

• Third-party engineering team verification to ensure the actual design, installation, and operation are correct and done according to the father’s needs to optimize energy efficiency;

• A final building composed of 20 percent post-industrial paper-consumer recycled-content materials;

• Twenty percent of building materials sourced, extracted, manufactured, and assembled within 500 miles of the project;

• More than 50 percent of the construction waste was diverted from landfill;

• Usage of low-volatile organic compounds as well as safe construction components and finishes to promote better air quality;

• Lighting and thermal comfort controls; and

• Exterior envelope design to provide improved energy performance.

The lead architectural firm on the project is Mackey Mitchell Architects, a group that has extensive experience with sustainability and has worked with such other top institutions of higher education as the University of Notre Dame, the University of Colorado-Boulder, and Washington University in St. Louis. The lead contractor is P.J. Dick.
Pitt Students Win State Planning Award for Analysis of Pittsburg's Quality of Life

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) has chosen a University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSIPA) capstone class project to receive its 2011 Student Project Award. The award was announced at the chapter's 2011 annual conference Oct. 18 in Scanton, Pa.

This is the sixth time GSIPA professor Sabrina Delitnick's capstone class report has been recognized by APA's Pennsylvania chapter.


—By Audrey M. Marks

### Awards & More

#### Primack-Led Study Finds U.S. Kids Heavily Exposed to Alcohol Brands in Music

By Jennifer C. Yates

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine have found that the average U.S. adolescent is heavily exposed to alcohol brand references in popular music, according to a study published online Oct. 20 in the international journal Addiction.

Brand-name alcohol references are most common in rap, R&B, and hip hop songs, and are often associated with a luxury lifestyle characterized by degrading sexual activity, wealth, perceived power, and the use of drugs, according to the study, which was led by Brian Primack, assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics in Pitt’s School of Medicine.

Researchers analyzed 793 of the most popular songs in the youth market between 2005 and 2007 and reported that a brand name was included in a song about alcohol 64 percent of the time. Alcohol was mentioned, representing about 3.4 alcohol brand references per song-hour. Given that the adolescent is exposed to about 2.5 hours of popular music per day, young people’s annual exposure to alcohol brand references in popular music is substantial, the study reported. Consequences associated with alcohol were more often positive than negative (41.5% vs. 17.1%). Alcohol brand appearances were commonly associated with wealth (63.4%), sex (58.5%), luxury objects (51.2%), partying (48.9%), other drugs (43.9%), and vehicles (39%).

“Frequent exposure of young people to brand-name references in popular music may constitute a form of advertising and could encourage substance use among adolescents,” Primack said.

Primack said brand-name references to alcohol are typically strongly aligned with positive feelings and associations, which are often the goal of advertisers. The brands found in music represent the same distilled spirits brands that are increasingly marketed to teenagers by underage drinkers, especially women.

The authors suggest that the relatively high level of brand-name alcohol appearances in popular music may be a consequence of strengthening ties between the alcohol and music industries. Some alcohol companies have formally entered the music industry, such as Seagram’s ownership of Universal and Polygram, between 1993 and 2001.

#### Teaching Award to Provide State-of-the-art Labs and Equipment for Pitt’s Department of Computer Science

The University of Pittsburgh’s Department of Computer Science in the School of Information Sciences has been selected as a 2011-12 Compute Unified Device Architecture (CUDA) Teaching Center. Pitt, an NVIDIA world leader in visual and high-performance computing, will provide grants to two Pitt faculty members to purchase equipment and fund faculty teaching to graduate students in the School of Information Sciences. The award represents a teaching grant provided by NVIDIA for high-performing educational institutions. Pitt is the first university selected for the award.

David H. Perlmutter, the Vira I. Heinz Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and scientific director and physician-in-chief at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, has received the 2011 Shwachman Award from the National Academy of Engineering for his contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition (NASPAGHAN). The Shwachman Award is given annually to an individual who has made major, lifelong scientific or educational contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology or nutrition in North America. Perlmutter received the award during NASPAGHAN’s annual meeting last month.

#### Pitt Office of Public Affairs Receives 19 Awards From Pittsburgh IABC Chapter

The University of Pittsburgh’s Office of Public Affairs received seven Awards of Excellence and 12 Awards of Honor from the Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) during its 32nd annual Golden Triangle Awards ceremony, held Oct. 6 at the DoubleTree Hotel, Downtown.

IABC/Pittsburgh presented Pitt’s Office of Public Affairs projects and/or staff members with the following Awards of Excellence:

- Communication Skills/Publications/Newsletters:
  - Public Affairs projects and/or staff.
  - DoubleTree Hotel, Downtown.
- Graphic Design: Book and Magazine Covers:
  - Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) during its 32nd annual Golden Triangle Awards ceremony, held Oct. 6 at the DoubleTree Hotel, Downtown.

IABC/Pittsburgh presented Pitt’s Office of Public Affairs projects and/or staff members with the following Awards of Honor:

- Communication Skills/Publications/Newsletters:
  - Public Affairs projects and/or staff.
  - DoubleTree Hotel, Downtown.
- Graphic Design: Book and Magazine Covers:
  - Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) during its 32nd annual Golden Triangle Awards ceremony, held Oct. 6 at the DoubleTree Hotel, Downtown.

#### News of Note

By Jennifer C. Yates

**Amy Landis and Melissa Bieke**

Both assistant professors of engineering, were selected as part of the University of Pittsburgh’s brightest early-career faculty members for the National Academy of Engineer’s third Frontiers of Engineering Education Symposium, Nov. 13-15. The event, held in California, recognizes educators for developing and implementing innovative educational approaches in their curriculums. Both Pitt sustainability professors were nominated based on their inclusion of collaboration and multidisciplinary approaches in the classroom.

David H. Perlmutter, the Vira I. Heinz Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and scientific director and physician-in-chief at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, has received the 2011 Shwachman Award from the National Academy of Engineering for his contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition (NASPAGHAN). The Shwachman Award is given annually to an individual who has made major, lifelong scientific or educational contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology or nutrition in North America. Perlmutter received the award during NASPAGHAN’s annual meeting last month.

By Jennifer C. Yates

**Denise Chisholm**, a professor in Pitt’s Department of Occupational Therapy, was awarded the Pitt School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences 2010-11 Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award for her commitment to scholarship and her students’ well-being, as well as for practicing occupational therapy with compassion and dignity.

Pittsburgh City Council declared Oct. 21 My Tale of Two Cities Day, honoring the nationally recognized film directed by Pitt’s Carl Kurlander, a Visiting Distinguished Senior Lecturer in Pitt’s Film Studies program. My Tale of Two Cities tells Pittsburgh’s story as a city that has survived tough times to redefine its reputation. Kurlander is also a Hollywood screenwriter, television writer and producer, and author.
Pitt junior Whitney White (left) explains her Science 2011-Next Gen project, “Unraveling the Function of Beta-Hairpins in the Eukaryotic Replicative Helicase,” which focuses on the intricacies of how human cells undergo the critical process of DNA replication. Science 2011 was the University’s 11th annual showcase of the region’s latest research in science, engineering, medicine, and computation. It was held Oct. 6-7 in Alumni Hall; White appeared during the undergraduate research poster reception on Oct. 6.

Pitt alumnus and Taiwan Department of Health Minister Wen-Ta Chiu (right) met with Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg during Chiu’s Aug. 25 visit to the University’s Pittsburgh campus. Chiu received his master’s and doctoral degrees in public health from Pitt’s Graduate School of Public Health in 1987 and 1989, respectively. Chiu is a highly distinguished neurosurgeon, medical researcher, academic leader, and public health advocate. He served as the president of Taipei Medical University from 2008 to 2011, stepping down in February after being named health minister.

John M. Wallace (left), Philip Hallen Chair in Community Health and Social Justice, Pitt School of Social Work, delivered an Oct. 18 lecture titled “Making Pittsburgh ‘Most Livable’ for All: Lessons Being Learned From the Homewood Children’s Village.” The presentation in Posvar Hall was part of the Provost’s Inaugural Lecture Series. The Homewood Children’s Village is a project designed to improve the lives of Homewood youngsters and re-weave the fabric of their community. It is modeled after Geoffrey Canada’s internationally acclaimed Harlem Children’s Zone, which serves more than 10,000 children in a 100-block area of central Harlem. Standing next to Wallace, from left: Philip Hallen, who served as president of the Maurice Falk Medical Fund for 35 years, and Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson.

The 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games were held in Pittsburgh Aug. 1-6, and Pitt hosted the Games’ swimming events in the Trees Hall pool. Pitt’s Rory Cooper won five gold medals in swimming events; Cooper is a Distinguished Professor and FISA-Paralyzed Veterans of America Chair in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology, within Pitt’s School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. In addition, Cooper is director of Pitt’s Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL). HERL staff volunteered in many capacities during the Games—including, among other things, assisting athletes and working on a number of Veterans Affairs-funded research projects aimed at improving quality of life for wheelchair users. Cooper is pictured above, second from left, in the front row, with the HERL staff.

Ambassador Shigeyuki Hiroki (center), the ambassador and consul-general of Japan in New York, visited the Japanese Nationality Room in the Cathedral of Learning on Nov. 3. He met with Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (left) and Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson (right), as well as E. Maxine Bruhns (not pictured), director of Pitt’s Nationality Rooms Program. His visit coincided with the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania (JASP) Annual Dinner at The Duquesne Club, Downtown, later that evening. Hiroki was the featured guest speaker at the dinner, which marked the JASP’s 25th anniversary.
Happenings

5th floor of Hunt Library, 4000 Fifth St., Carnegie Mellon University, 412-588-2434, http://huntlib.andrew.cmu.edu/

The Frick Art & Historical Center, Phipps: The Holender Family Collection, more than 100 objects made by Russian artist- jeweler Carl Faberge, goldsmith and jeweler to the Russian court, through Jan. 15, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-6060, www.thefrick.org/pittsburgh.


Lectures/Seminars/Readings


"Approximation and Idealization: Why the Difference Matters," John D. Norton, director of Pitt's Center for Philosophy of Science and professor in Pitt's Departments of History and Philosophy of Science, 12:05 p.m. Nov. 8, 517RG Cathedral of Learning, Center for Philosophy of Science Lunchtime Talks, www.pitt.edu/~pittcpl.


"Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Indian and Maharashtrian Immigrants in North America," Balwant Dhillon, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, Pitt School of Pharmacy, noon Nov. 9, 4120 Povaz Hall, Asian Studies Center, 412-644-7730, asia@pitt.edu.


"A Brother’s Tale," Col. Edward Shibles, Staff Parachute Infantry Regiment, 511th Airborne Division, 6 p.m. Nov. 9, O’Hara Student Center ballroom, Pitt Office of Veterans Services, College of General Studies Student Government, free, RSVP at dr416@pitt.edu or 412-624-7646.


Miscellaneous

Model United Nations Simulation, 15th annual UN simulation for high school students, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 11, William Pitt Union, Pitt University Center for International Studies, Pitt Model UN Club, 624-647-797, www.pitt.edu/~modelun.

"Reasoning With Cases in the Social Sciences," Center for Philosophy of Science two- day workshop, Nov. 11-12, 817 Cathedral of Learning, registration requested but not required, www.pitt.edu/~pittcpl.

2nd Annual Run for the Wounded Warrior, 5K and 5-Mile Walk/Run fundraiser to assist service members injured in the line of duty, with $5K beginning at 9:15 a.m., 5-mile at 9 a.m. Nov. 12, North Park Boulhouse, Allison Park, Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative, register at www.rai.com, contact Charleston Ewing for more information, cempts@pitt.edu.

Digital Literacy and Education Conference, addressing reading and writing in the digital age, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 12, 2531 Student Recreation Center, sponsored by Pitt School, Pitt School of Education, and The Western Pennsylvania Writing Project, free and registration information available at www.pitt.edu/~wpwp/Digital_Literacy_Conference/Digital_Literacy_Conference.html.

Senator John Heinz History Center Heritage Holidays Weekend, family-friendly event celebrating region’s cultural diversity, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 12 and 14, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration, Ruth Drechsler, Holocaust survivor, will speak about her memories of Kristallnacht as a child in Germany in 1938, 4:30 p.m. Nov. 14, 208 B Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Jewish Studies Program and Department of German, open to the public, 412-624-2280, www.jewishstudies.pitt.edu.

TIES Informational Lunchen for Researchers and Research Assistants talk on Text Information Extraction System (TIES), Rebecca Crowder, director, Department of Biomedical Informatics Graduate Training Program, School of Medicine, 11 a.m. Nov. 16, Magee-Women’s Hospital, Conference Room 231, open to Pitt and UPMC faculty, staff, and students, registration required, http://bips.ties.upmc.com/register/index.html, 412-623-4753.


Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Brendan Oller, School of Medicine, 11 a.m. Nov. 8, 602 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, Pitt Humanities Program, 412-624-3246.

Chromatographic Separation of Neurochemicals," 307 Eberly Hall.

Giancarlo Marcon, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Anthropology, 11 a.m. Nov. 11, "Political Strategies and Domestic Economy of the Lote B Rural Elite in the Prehispanic Lurin Valley," Pitt Place Pavilion.

Jaeong Youn Lim, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Biostatistics, 3 p.m. Nov. 11, “Inference on Censored Survival Data Under Competing Risks,” A622 Crabtree Hall.
The number of University of Pittsburgh innovations that have moved from the lab to commercialization increased by 31 percent in fiscal year 2011, resulting in 105 licenses or options to industry and two start-up companies for Pitt technologies. This increase in commercialization activity also included 37 U.S. patents that were awarded to the University in 2011 and the submission of 257 new invention disclosures by Pitt faculty, according to Pitt's Office of Technology Management (OTM).

The OTM released its annual report Oct. 12 at Pitt's 7th Annual Celebration of Innovation reception. The event celebrated OTM’s 15 years of operation and honored researchers whose innovations were licensed/optioned in 2011. More than 400 Pitt researchers submitted invention disclosures in FY 2010-11. Among them was Martin Mickle, the Nicholas A. DeCicco Professor in the Swanson School of Engineering, whose research led to the 2011 start-up company, Ortho-Tag, Inc. The company designs radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology for tracking and monitoring prosthetic joints. Wireless chips, or tags, are attached to implanted prostheses, allowing orthopaedic doctors to obtain specific information about a joint by waving a wand over the prosthesis to capture recorded data. Another business, LINC Design LLC, was started by Linda van Roosmalen, a former visiting professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology in Pitt's School of Health and Rehabilitation Science, along with Michael Turkovich, a bioengineering doctoral student at Pitt. They developed a new barrier system to contain wheelchairs and restrain wheelchair-seated passengers when they are traveling in large accessible transit vehicles. Their technology forms the basis of LINC Design.

The launching of Ortho-Tag and LINC Design raises the total number of start-up companies established from Pitt technologies to 80 since the OTM’s inception in 1996. Other notable inventions featured in the 2011 annual report included a way to give asthma suffers an alert to a possible attack, an improved method of diagnosing gastroesophageal reflux disease during infancy, and software that calculates cancer mortality risks by studying a person’s demographic, geographic, and work history.

The University of Pittsburgh’s 7th Annual Celebration of Innovation, held on Oct. 12 at the University Club, honored 53 Pitt researchers with Innovator Awards, including Marlin Mickle (second from left), the Nicholas A. DeCicco Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Earlier this year, Mickle and his research team created Ortho-Tag, Inc., a company that makes tags imbued with radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology that, once attached to prosthetic joints, allows doctors to track and monitor the artificial joints with a wave of a wand. From left, Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson; Mickle; Arthur S. Levine, dean of Pitt’s School of Medicine and senior vice chancellor for the health sciences; and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.