

## Pitt Researchers Using Mathematics to Target Parkinson's Disease Symptoms

By B. Rose Huber

University of Pittsburgh mathematicians have been collaborating with Pitt's School of Medicine to find ways to stop the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, thanks in part to a four-year, \$1.86 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and a five-year \$1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NSF grant began in 2007 and has funded a number of research projects within Pitt's Department of Mathematics; the NIH grant is in its first year.

Pitt mathematicians, working with neurobiology researchers, are using computational models, experiments, and analysis of models and data to study the way that signals are transferred between the basal ganglia, a collection of nuclei found in the brain that helps with motor control, and the thalamus, its downstream target in the brain. Although scientists can't yet prevent the cell death associated with Parkinson's, their study of mathematical patterns could guide the development of less invasive treatments that block the motor symptoms of the disease.

"For Parkinson's patients, there are more spurts and pauses in neural activity, and the firing of groups of neurons becomes more coordinated, leading to tremor and other symptoms," said Jonathan Rubin, Pitt professor of mathematics and one of the principal investigators on the project.



"The neuronal activity is like a woodpecker knocking on a tree outside your window; it distracts you when it first starts pecking, and then the silence grabs your attention when the pecking suddenly stops. Similarly, the starts and stops in the neuronal activity can become disruptive to signal processing in the brain."

Rubin said this firing pattern may be what leads those with Parkinson's to experi-

ence shaking, rigid muscles, and difficulty in making quick movements. Currently, if side effects of drug treatments become too strong, surgeons fight these symptoms with deep brain stimulation, an aggressive but commonly used surgical treatment in which an implanted electrode literally penetrates the brain and sends out electrical impulses.

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## Supercomputing Center's Blacklight Is Key Tool for Pitt, U.S. Researchers

By B. Rose Huber

Blacklight, the world's largest shared-memory system that the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (PSC) acquired in July 2010, is proving to be a vital research tool for Pitt and other scientists and engineers across the nation.

Blacklight's memory capacity is capable of holding three times the printed text in the Library of Congress. With 32 terabytes of memory, Blacklight's technology is giving researchers the memory space necessary to help advance such research fields as astrophysics, geophysics, nanomaterials, machine learning, among others.

"As we expected, Blacklight has opened new doors to high-performance computation in many research communities, and it is rapidly becoming a force across a wide and interesting spectrum of fields," wrote PSC scientific directors Michael Levine and Ralph Roskies in a statement released last week.

PSC is a collaboration between the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and Westinghouse Electric Company. It provides university, government, and industrial researchers access to several of the most powerful systems for high-performance computing, communications, and data handling available for unclassified research to scientists and engineers nationwide.

Acquired with help from a \$2.8 million National Science Foundation award, Blacklight has already helped astrophysicists make discoveries about black holes. Because the storage system can hold an entire space snapshot in memory (which requires between three to four terabytes of data), researchers were able to discover "cold gas flows," a phenomenon that contributes to supermassive black holes and that has been puzzling researchers for decades.

At Pitt, Cecilia Lo, the inaugural chair of the School of Medicine's Department of Developmental Biology, and Michael Barmada, a professor of human genetics, have been using Blacklight to "read" sequences of DNA to better understand the order of nucleotide bases. A process that used to take two weeks now takes just eight hours with the help of Blacklight. In addition, Lo said, capillary sequencing can be accomplished in one to two weeks instead of years—a great advancement to genome studies.

Geophysicists have been able to use Blacklight to better understand magnetic reconnection, which can disrupt satellites, spacecraft, and power grids on Earth. Blacklight's architecture is critical for this analysis, because "one run" (or, visual simulation) can generate 200 terabytes.

Blacklight has also been proven to be an effective tool for processing the unending text available on the Internet (natural language processing). The memory system's rapid expression of algorithms helps computer scientists better understand the language and work with more complex language models.

To learn more about the PSC, visit [www.psc.edu](http://www.psc.edu).

## Pitt Is Again a Top Producer of Fulbright Grant Winners

By John Harvith and Kelly Byrnes

For the second consecutive year, the University of Pittsburgh is a top producer of Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant winners among research universities, placing 7th among U.S. public research universities and 17th among all U.S. universities, public and private, outperforming its 2010 record, when it placed 12th among publics and 27th among all U.S. universities.

This year, of Pitt's 38 applicants, 14 Pitt students—nine undergraduates and five graduate students—won Fulbrights, the most in Pitt's history of competing for the award. Pitt also was among the top two U.S. research institutions in the percentage of winners, with 37 percent of applicants receiving awards; only Maryland scored higher, with 39 percent of applicants receiving awards. With its 14 student awards, Pitt was tied with Brown, Cornell, Princeton, Rutgers, and Penn; it

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scored higher, for instance, than Berkeley, Notre Dame, Emory, Wisconsin, Washington University in St. Louis, William and Mary, Duke, UCLA, and NYU. Among the other research institutions in the top 17 spots were Michigan, Northwestern, Yale, Stanford, Chicago, Washington, Columbia, Harvard, North Carolina, and Johns Hopkins.

The award is granted through the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. More than 1,600 U.S. citizens are traveling abroad for the 2011-12 academic year through the program. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership in their potential fields. The program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide.

Three Pitt students won Fulbright awards of special note. Izabel Gal- liera, a graduate student in Pitt's Depart-

ment of the History of Art and Architecture, received the only Bulgaria-Romania grant offered; Paulina Gonzales (A&S '11) earned one of only two Malta English Teaching Assistant spots offered; and Karen Melis (A&S '79, ENGR '83) was selected for one of only two placements available in Slovakia.

In addition, Jonas Caballero, a 2010 College of General Studies (CGS) graduate, who earned his BPhil through Pitt's Honors College, is the first CGS student to win a Fulbright award. He is studying in the United Kingdom (UK).

Of the approximately 600 applicants for the UK Fulbright—the largest pool of applicants for any country—only 38 were awarded.

A list of this year's Pitt undergraduate recipients as well as their areas of study follows.

**Sesi Aliu**, a 2011 graduate of the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, received a BA in French and African studies with certificates in global studies and African studies. An Austin, Tex., native, Aliu is in France to research the political mobilization and activism of sub-Saharan African workers in France from 1960 onward.

**Nick Apollo**, a 2011 graduate of the Swanson School of Engineering, earned his BS in bioengineering with a minor in

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# Briefly noted

## Donations of New Hat-and-Glove Sets Needed for Pitt Annual Christmas Dinner

Pitt's Volunteer Pool and the Salvation Army are collecting new hat-and-glove sets to distribute to adults and children during the 4th Annual Salvation Army Christmas Dinner on Dec. 25. Invited guests include the homeless, the needy, and international students who may not have an invitation for a Christmas meal. The dinner will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Litchfield Towers' Marketplace cafeteria, lower level.

Each guest will receive a gift bag that will include, among other items, a hat-and-glove set. Pitt's Volunteer Pool is seeking donations of the sets for male and female children and adults; sets can be dropped off at 710 Alumni Hall until Monday, Dec. 12.

Additional information is available by contacting Gwen Watkins, community activities coordinator for Pitt's Office of Community and Governmental Relations, 412-624-7702 or gwatkins@pitt.edu.

## Robert Reischauer To Speak Dec. 6

Robert D. Reischauer, economist and president of the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., will be the featured speaker for the University of Pittsburgh American Experience Distinguished Lecture Series at 4 p.m. Dec. 6 in the O'Hara Student Center, formerly the Concordia Club. The lecture is sponsored by the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy and the University Honors College.

The lecture, "This Time Really Will Be



Robert D. Reischauer

Different: Adapting to Fiscal Reality," will be followed by an audience discussion moderated by Pitt alumnus and trustee Dick Thornburgh (LAW '57). Thornburgh is a former governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, attorney general of the United States, and U.N. undersecretary general, and is now of counsel to the international law firm K&L Gates in its Washington, D.C., office.

The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Those interested in attending must RSVP with name, e-mail address, and number of attendees by visiting the American Experience Web site at <http://ae.honorscollege.pitt.edu>. For more information on the lecture series, call 412-624-1514.

Reischauer has served as president of the Urban Institute, a nonprofit and nonpartisan governmental policy research and education organization, since 2000. He has held two senior fellowships in the economics studies program of the Brookings Institute, from 1986 to 1989 and again from 1995 to 2000. Reischauer also served as director of the Congressional Budget Office from 1989 to 1995 and was the senior vice president of the Urban Institute from 1981 to 1986.



Late Pitt faculty member Robert G. Hazo created the American Experience program 40 years ago to offer Pittsburgh's mid-to-high-level managers the opportunity to gain insight into political and economic thought with the intent of enlightening the public's political discourse. The program's current director is Edward L. McCord, director of programming and special projects in Pitt's Honors College and director of the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy.

—By Anthony M. Moore

## Pitt Nationality Rooms' Holiday Open House to Be Held Dec. 4

The University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms Program will host its annual holiday open house featuring ethnic song and dance performances and food and gift tables from noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 4 in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. The event is free and open to the public.

The 27 Nationality Rooms, on the first and third floors of the Cathedral of Learning, will be decorated in traditional fashion with guides in ethnic dress.

Performances by various ethnic groups will be presented every 15 minutes in the Commons Room, craft demonstrations will be held throughout the Cathedral, with the Pittsburgh Bobbin Lace being presented in the Croghan Schenley Room.

Twenty-three of the Nationality Rooms' committees will provide ethnic foods and items for purchase.

In addition to the open house, the decorated Nationality Rooms can be viewed

via taped tours on Saturdays—Nov. 26 and Dec. 3, 10, 17—from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. On Sundays—Nov. 27 and Dec. 11 and 18—taped tours will be available from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

On Nov. 25 and Dec. 27 through Dec. 31, guided tours will be offered. Tours begin at 10:30 a.m., and the last tour will be dispatched at 2:30 p.m. Tours commence every half hour. Taped tours are unavailable during these times.

The University is closed Nov. 24, Dec. 24, 25, and 26, 2011, and Jan. 1, 2012.

Tickets can be purchased at the Gift Shop on the first floor of the Cathedral of Learning; reservations are not accepted. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for youths ages 8-18. For more information, visit [www.pitt.edu/~natrooms](http://www.pitt.edu/~natrooms) or call 412-624-6000.

—By Patricia Lomando White



# Center Established to Support Postdoctoral Trainees in the Health Sciences

By Anita Srikameswaran

An innovative guidance center has been created to help postdoctoral trainees at the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences receive regular evaluation from their faculty supervisors as well as develop and achieve their career goals.

The Center for Postdoctoral Affairs in the Health Sciences was established Oct. 1 within the Office of Academic Career Development, Health Sciences. The new center is directed by Darlene F. Zellers, who also was appointed associate dean of postdoctoral affairs in the School of Medicine.

A postdoctoral appointment provides recent PhD graduates with opportunities to continue developing their research skills while working under the supervision of senior research faculty members. These new postdoctoral trainees, usually called postdocs, can make significant contributions in a university setting, including discovering new knowledge and providing research guidance to graduate and undergraduate students.

Pitt's Health Sciences' postdocs will have three months to develop a career-development plan with their faculty supervisor, and will have a formal evaluation after nine months as part of the process of renewing the position. Trainees who are already in the program will enter the goal-setting and evaluation procedure at the time of renewal, so everyone will be in the new system within a year, Zellers said. As of the end of September, there were more than 650 postdocs in

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the health sciences, and 90 percent of them are in the School of Medicine.

"Postdocs are somewhat in limbo between student life and the workplace," Zellers noted. "This center is intended to serve as a human resources office that will manage administration and payroll, but also will address career development, including

building skills for jobs in sectors other than the academic community."

Some experts predict that fewer than 30 percent of postdocs will find work in academic settings, which means the majority must consider a future in industry, government, or another field, Zellers said. Those prospects must be taken into account when structuring a postdoc's training experience.

The center will also assist faculty members in implementing evaluation strategies to provide constructive feedback using a new, standardized format called the Postdoctoral Progress Assessment—which will assess core competencies and progress toward stated goals, and provide conflict resolution when required. Postdocs will have a mentoring team that will include two faculty members or professionals in addition to the supervising faculty member, and the option of developing a plan for an independent research project. An advisory committee also has been established for ongoing oversight of postdoctoral affairs in the health sciences.

"We have very talented early career investigators in our postdoc community, and this focused effort to support their career aspirations will attract other promising trainees to the University," Zellers said.

The University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences include the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and the Graduate School of Public Health.

The schools serve as the academic partner to the UPMC (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center).

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# Scholars & Stewards



## Alum Jane Allred's Endowment Helps Give Voice to Future Generations of Writers

By Mimi Koral

Whenever Pitt graduate Jessica Szakos (CAS '10) had a case of writer's block, she knew the cure: Spend a Friday afternoon at the Writers' Café, where composition exercises and fellowship helped her rediscover her voice.

"I always thought of it like a therapy session," jokes Szakos, a budding novelist who majored in fiction writing and was a regular at the café, one of several facets of the Writing Center in Pitt's Department of English. "It was very refreshing. They really try to encourage you to get out of your mind, which is one of the biggest things you need to do as a writer."

Considered one of the hidden jewels of the Pitt campus, the Writing Center is home to peer and faculty tutors, workshops, and other resources designed for both reluctant and experienced writers.

Launched as the Writing Workshop during the 1960s, it was originally housed in the Early American Room of the Cathedral of Learning before moving to the Cathedral's fifth floor, then to Thaw Hall, and ultimately to its current quarters in the O'Hara Student Center.

Now under the direction of Geeta Kothari, the center reaches close to 9,000 students through its various programs and employs anywhere from 21 to 35 tutors, including both faculty members and peers.

"We're just there to show them they have the knowledge already; we're not there to give it to them," explains Kothari. "Eventually, they don't need us anymore. That's the way we like to think of the Writing Center. We're teaching students strategies for approaching their own writing."

For Jane Allred, who earned her Pitt BA in creative writing in 1971, the center turned out to be the perfect beneficiary of a six-figure University endowment that she funded after selling her business, Allred Marketing Inc.,

in 2004. In the back of her mind was the idea that she could help solve a paradox that she had seen repeatedly during her career: People who understood technology often didn't have the ability to communicate its benefits.

In conversations with N. John Cooper, Pitt's Bettye J. and Ralph E. Bailey Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Allison Quick, executive director of principal gifts in Pitt's Office of Institutional Advancement, she learned about the Writing Center. Not only did the center help young authors like Szakos polish their craft, it also gave confidence to nonwriters who needed help completing compositions, research papers, presentations, and essay questions for graduate school applications.

"I thought, 'Wow, I could take that initial endowment and really do something special with it,'" recalls Allred. "I thought that kind of contribution would make a huge difference. They [Cooper and Quick] were really excellent in helping to guide my thoughts."

Under the terms of Allred's gift, the principal remains part of Pitt's capital campaign, while the Writing Center receives the interest. Allred says she felt personally connected because she credits her writing education with launching her career. Early on, a boss tapped her to help build a corporate communications department, an opportunity that put her on the path to eventually owning her own company.

"I learned how to think when I was at Pitt," she explains. "I learned how to extrapolate and extract from very complex technological pieces that were developed for engineers."

But despite that personal connection, the magnitude of the gift did not really hit home until the fall of 2010, when Allred toured the center with her husband and sister on a trip to campus.

She walked in to see a tutor working with an engineering student on a term paper, organizing thoughts and guiding the flow of information from premise to con-



Jane Allred

"As adults, we get into our careers and we forget those moments of awakening that happen to us at places like Pitt. We tend to forget that that was a time of great discovery for us. When you are in the midst of young people who have their whole lives and careers ahead of them, that is very rewarding."

—Jane Allred

clusion. "That opportunity to be engaged with the students right at the functional level of the center just made my heart sing," she recalls. "I didn't expect that. I thought I was going to do my duty, walk through, and say, 'That's nice.'"

But because writing is so dear to Allred, seeing the staff open those floodgates for other people "was beyond any expectation that I had," she says. "As adults, we get into our careers and we forget those moments of awakening that happen to us at places like Pitt. We tend to forget that that was a time of great discovery for us. When you are in the midst of young people who have their whole lives and careers ahead of them, that is very rewarding."

Gail Kim, a biology major who expects to graduate in 2012, has used the center for everything from freshman compositions to the personal statement she is using in dental school applications. Because Korean is her first language, she is still not completely certain about her ear for English, although she admits, "after I go see somebody at the Writing Center, I feel more confident."

Peer tutor James Spears, who graduated from Pitt in 2011, has worked with enough nervous students to develop a technique for putting them at ease.

"I let them know that I don't have all

of the answers," he says. "Writing isn't some kind of gift. I don't work here because I'm exceptionally talented. I wasn't born a writer, but anyone can do it. I make mistakes, too; I have the same questions. I grab a dictionary or a reference book. Once they see that this guy is human too, it gets a lot more comfortable."

Initially a math major, Spears switched to literature as a freshman and now plans to attend a graduate school of education. In November 2010, the Writing Center sent him to Baltimore for the International Writing Centers Association conference, where Spears presented a paper that discussed how to use metaphors to work more effectively with students who are not English majors.

That is the kind of work that Allred sees being done with her gift, and she believes she has been rewarded tenfold.

As for her advice to other alumni, Allred says: "If they have something that is very dear to their heart—whether it might be something in memory of a parent who helped finance their education or, as in my case, want to make a difference in the life of someone else—there are really some wonderful ways to be involved."

## "African Liberation and Black Power"



The University of Pittsburgh World History Center hosted 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 was held Nov. 3-6 in Pitt's University Club and the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. Conference presenters and panelists examined the Diasporic dimensions of Black Power with special emphasis on Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, Latin America, and Asia. **1.** From left, ASWAD conference cochair Patrick Manning, Pitt's Andrew W. Mellon Professor of World History and director of the Pitt World History Center; ASWAD director Abena Busia, associate professor in the Departments of English and Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University; ASWAD conference plenary speaker Micere Githae Mugo, Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence Professor of African American Studies, Syracuse University; and conference cochair Brenda Berrian, Pitt professor of Africana Studies. **2.** One of the conference's panels, "Pittsburgh and the African Diaspora," explored topics ranging from the persistence of slavery and indentured servitude in Pittsburgh to the social history of Black Pittsburgh. From left are panel members Joe Trotter, Giant Eagle Professor of History and Social Justice at Carnegie Mellon University; Robert Hill, Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs; James T. Johnson, founder and executive director of the Afro-American Music Institute, Inc.; and Laurence Glasco, a Pitt history professor. **3.** Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg attended the "Pittsburgh and the African Diaspora" panel discussion. The chancellor and Hill each hosted receptions for conference attendees.



# University Is Again a Top Producer of Fulbright Grant Winners

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chemistry. Apollo, from Aliquippa, Pa., is studying retinal prosthetic implants for retinitis pigmentosa patients at Bionic Vision in Australia.

**Joseph Baranoski**, a 2011 graduate of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., received a BS in mathematics with a minor in German. Baranoski is researching cosmological fluid dynamic models at the Free University in Berlin.

**Jonas Caballero**, a 2010 College of General Studies and Honors College graduate, earned his BPhil through Pitt's Honors College in international affairs and area studies and media and professional communications with a certificate in corporate and community relations. A Pittsburgh, Pa., native, Caballero is in the United Kingdom to research Britain's involvement in Middle Eastern society and culture.

**Jay Evick**, a 2011 graduate of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, received a BA in Russian and linguistics with a certificate in Russian and Eastern European studies. From Waynesburg, Pa., Evick is serving as an English teaching assistant at the Tyumen State University of Oil and Gas in Tyumen, Russia.

**Paulina Gonzales** earned her BA in English literature and history with a minor

in religious studies from the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. She is teaching English and serving as a mentor in an English-language teaching program for refugees who have been granted asylum in Malta. Gonzales is from Temecula, Calif.

**Elise Hannon**, a 2011 graduate of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, earned a BA in English literature with minors in German and Spanish. Hannon, from Westford, Mass., is teaching English at the Wolfgang-Borchert Oberschule in Berlin.

**Karen Melis** received a BS in biological sciences from the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and a BS in chemical engineering from the Swanson School of Engineering. A Pittsburgh, Pa., native, Melis is studying Slovak emigration from 1870 to 1914 from a village perspective in Slovakia.

**Claudia Taylor**, a 2011 graduate of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, earned her BS in economics and a BA in Hispanic languages and literature with a Portuguese minor and a certificate in Latin American studies. From Christiansburg, Va., Taylor is taking business classes at the Instituto Tecnológico y Autónomo de Mexico and working full-time in a development pro-

gram to preserve the Mesoamerican Reef in Mexico City.

A list of this year's Pitt graduate recipients as well as their areas of study follows.

**Greg de St. Maurice**, a graduate student in Pitt's Department of Anthropology in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, is working towards a PhD in cultural anthropology with a graduate certificate in Asian studies. A native of Latrobe, Pa., de St Maurice is studying people who are actively reinvigorating traditional food culture in Kyoto, Japan.

**Izabel Galliera** is a PhD candidate studying contemporary art and critical theory. From Stamford, Vt., Galliera is working in Bulgaria and Romania to research how socio-politically engaged and community-oriented contemporary art practices have contributed to the emergence of democratic forms of civil society and citizenship in the post-Communist transitional era.

**Robert Gradoville Jr.**, a 2011 graduate of the Swanson School of Engineering, earned his MS in civil engineering with a concentration in sustainable engineering. From North Haven, Conn., Gradoville is analyzing the Energy, Infrastructure, and Basic Services program of the humanitarian aid organization Practical Action in Peru.

**John Round**, a 2011 graduate of the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and Swanson School of Engineering's joint-degree program, earned an MBA/MS in bioengineering. Round, of Manchester, Mass., is examining the potential for an economic, biofuel-based energy system in India and researching the technologies that may contribute to it.

**Chelsea Wentworth**, a graduate student in Pitt's Department of Anthropology in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, is working toward a PhD in anthropology

with graduate certificates in Asian studies and women's studies. She is researching how economic, environmental, and social factors affect mothers' decision-making processes in making food choices and create pluralistic understandings of appropriate infant and child-feeding practices in Vanuatu, in the South Pacific. Wentworth is from Traverse City, Mich.

According to the Fulbright Web site, 122 graduate and undergraduate students at Pitt have won Fulbright awards since 1993, which is when the database began.

Since its establishment in 1946 under legislation introduced by late U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright program has given approximately 300,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Fulbright alumni have achieved distinction in government, science, the arts, business, philanthropy, education and athletics. Forty Fulbright alumni from 11 countries have been awarded the Nobel Prize, and 75 alumni received Pulitzer Prizes. Prominent Fulbright alumni include: Muhammad Yunus, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize recipient and managing director and founder of Grameen Bank; John Atta Mills, president of Ghana; Lee Evans, Olympic Gold Medalist; Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University; Riccardo Giacconi, physicist and 2002 Nobel Laureate; Amar Gopal Bose, chair and founder of Bose Corporation; Renee Fleming, Metropolitan Opera soprano; Gish Jen, writer; and renowned architect Daniel Libeskind.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is administered by the Institute of International Education.

## Newsmakers

### LATIN AMERICA AFTER 9/11



John R. Beverley (left), Distinguished Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literatures in Pitt's Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, delivered the lecture "Latin America After 9/11: Some Reflections on Cultural Politics and Geopolitics" on Nov. 8 in Posvar Hall. The lecture was part of Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson's Inaugural Lecture Series, talks given by Pitt's Distinguished Professors. As is tradition, Beeson (right) presented Beverley with a medallion specially struck for a professor's inaugural lecture.

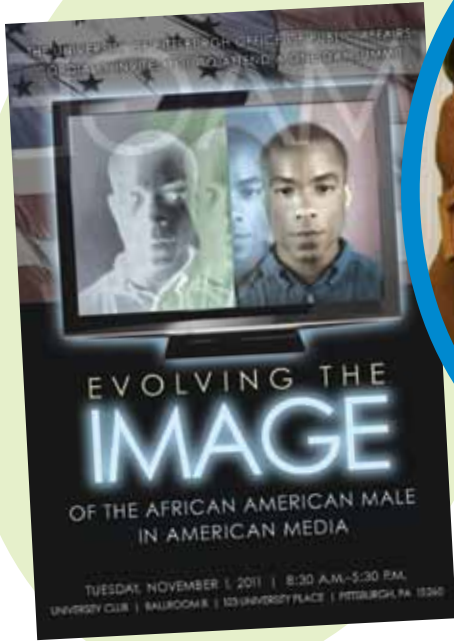
### L'IDÉE DE LA FRANCE



The Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures in Pitt's Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences hosted The Idea of France (*L'Idée de la France*) International Conference in the Cathedral of Learning and the Holiday Inn University Center. Domna Stanton (middle), Distinguished Professor of French at the City University of New York, delivered a talk titled "The Exclusive Nation Challenged: Universalism and Cosmopolitanism vs. the French Republican Subject." Laurence Grove (right), French program director and director of the Centre for Emblem Studies at the University of Glasgow, was another featured speaker, presenting the lecture "The Idea of France in Comics Old and New." Todd Reeser (left), a Pitt professor of French and acting director of Pitt's Humanities Center, coordinated the Nov. 10-12 conference.



# Pitts Evolving the Image Summit Delves Into Media's Portrayal of Black Males



The University of Pittsburgh's Office of Public Affairs sponsored a one-day summit to assess the coverage of young Black males in the American news media. The Nov. 1 by-invitation event at the University Club was organized by Robert Hill, Pitt's vice chancellor for public affairs, and supported by a generous grant from the Heinz Endowments. The conference presented perspectives from journalism scholars, major media news executives, Black-owned media news executives, and young Black men. **1.** Lorraine Branham, dean of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, moderated a panel, "A Conversation Among the News Decision Makers." **2.** Members of that panel, from left, were Shirley Carswell, deputy managing editor of *The Washington Post*; James N. Crutchfield, associate professor of journalism and multimedia arts at Duquesne University and former president and publisher of the *Akron Beacon Journal*; Rick Henry, retired president and general manager of WTAE-TV; and David Shribman, executive editor of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. **3.** Pitt Vice Chancellor Hill made opening remarks and introduced the keynote speaker. **4.** Larry E. Davis, dean of the School of Social Work, Donald M. Henderson Professor, and director of the Center on Race and Social Problems at Pitt, addressed the psychological impact on Black men of negative stereotypes promulgated by the media. **5.** Paula Poindexter, vice president of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and associate professor of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin, moderated the "Imagery in the News" panel and also served as a consultant to the summit. **6.** Marc Lamont Hill delivered the day's keynote address. He is an associate professor of English education at Teachers College of Columbia University and host of the nationally syndicated TV show *Our World With Black Enterprise*. **7.** George E. Curry, president and CEO of George Curry Media, moderated the panel titled "A Conversation Among Black Media Executives." **8.** The panel "A Conversation Among Black Media Executives" comprised, from left, John B. Smith Sr., publisher and chief executive officer of *The Atlanta Inquirer*; Tené Croom, president of Tene Croom Communications and a former news director for the American Urban Radio Networks; and Rod Doss, editor and publisher of the *New Pittsburgh Courier*. **9.** Panelists for "A Conversation Among Young African American Males" were, from left, Antoine Allen, freshman journalism major at Syracuse; Amani Davis, senior at Winchester Thurston School; Jasiri X, Pittsburgh-based word artist and community activist; Ashton Gibbs, senior communication major at Pitt and member of Pitt's varsity basketball team; Raymont Hopkins, a Pittsburgh youth who attended Pittsburgh Carrick High School; Jay Oriola, senior psychology major at Pitt; and Tosen Nwadei, sophomore business administration major at Pitt.





# Awards & more



**Jonas T. Johnson**, the Dr. Eugene N. Myers Professor and Chairman of Otolaryngology in the Pitt School of Medicine, is the recipient of the 2011 Dr. Rodman E. Sheen and Thomas G. Sheen Award. The \$25,000 award, established in 1968, is granted annually to a doctor or doctors to advance the study and science of medicine and to reward those who have made outstanding achievements in the medical profession. The award will be presented by the Bank of America on Dec. 3 during the annual convention of the New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Surgeons in Iselin, N.J.



Jonas T. Johnson



Steven R. Little

**Steven R. Little**, assistant professor of biochemical engineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, received the 2012 Young Investigator Award from the Society

for Biomaterials. The award annually recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in the field of biomaterials research within 10 years of achieving his or her terminal degree or formal training. Little accepted the award at the society's 2012 Fall Symposium in New Orleans in early October.

**Ketki Raina**, assistant professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences' Department of Occupational Therapy, received the 2011 Academic Educator Award from the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association. Recognized for her excellence in innovations in education, Raina is known for her clinical expertise and research in rehabilitation related to cardiac care and fatigue.

## Rory Cooper Receives 2011 AAAS Mentor Award

Rory Cooper, Distinguished Professor and FISA-Paralyzed Veterans of America Chair in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology in Pitt's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS), has been selected to receive the 2011 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Mentor Award.

The award, which will be presented to Cooper during the Feb. 17 AAAS annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, honors individuals who demonstrate extraordinary leadership in increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in science and engineering. During his time as a Pitt faculty member, Cooper has mentored nearly 100 undergraduate students, 69 master's degree students, 37 PhD degree students, and 17 postdoctoral fellows; half of



Rory Cooper

these 200-plus students and fellows have come from underrepresented groups.

Cooper came to Pitt in 1994, founding the Human Engineering Research Laboratories. In 1999, the facility became the first, and remains the only, national VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Center of Excellence in Pennsylvania.

Cooper attended California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering. He earned his PhD in electrical and computer engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He did his postgraduate fellowship at the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Center in the Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Affairs Hospital in Hines, Ill.

## 2011 New Pittsburgh Courier Men of Excellence Awards

Eric W. Springer, a retired health care attorney who was also a pioneer Black faculty member in the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Health (GSPH), was recognized as the *New Pittsburgh Courier's* 2011 Legacy Honoree. Springer was awarded the distinction during the *Courier's* annual Men of Excellence Awards reception Oct. 27 in the Fairmont Pittsburgh Hotel, Downtown.

Springer was a founding partner of Horty, Springer & Mattern, P.C., one of the first health care law firms in the country, which pioneered the establishment of health care and hospital law nationwide. He was the first African American head of the Allegheny County Bar Association. In addition to his position in Pitt's GSPH, Springer held a faculty position in Pitt's School of Law. Springer also wrote columns for *The Courier* newspaper.

A total of 50 honorees were named Men of Excellence for their significant contributions to their professions as well as the Pittsburgh community. In addition, five men were honored posthumously, including the late **David E. Epperson**, dean emeritus and professor emeritus in the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.

Epperson (A&S '61, SOC WK '64, A&S '70G, '75G) was recognized by the *Courier* in Memoriam. He led Pitt's School of Social Work to national prominence during his 29-year tenure, and he was the longest-

serving dean at Pitt and the longest-serving dean of any American school of social work when he retired. He passed away in June.

The *Courier* honored the following Pitt faculty and staff members as Men of Excellence in three categories:

Healthcare: **Mario C. Browne** (GSPH '05), director of Pitt's Office of Health Sciences Diversity, and **Kevin F. Gibson**, medical director for Pitt's Dorothy P. and Richard P. Simmons Center for Interstitial Lung Disease;

Sports: **Kirk M. Bruce** (EDUC '76), Pitt associate athletic director for sports administration; and

Education: **Grady H. Roberts** (SOCWK '65G, GSPH '71, EDUC '74G), associate dean emeritus of the School of Social Work.

The following Pitt alumni were named Men of Excellence:

Corporate: **Carlos T. Carter** (CGS '94), senior vice president for Bank of America Merrill Lynch;

Finance: **Charles T. Curry** (EDUC '98G), vice president for finance and administration for Slippery Rock University;

Social Service: **Kenneth J. Nesbit** (CGS '96, SOCWK '03G), Section 3 specialist for

the Coalition of Organized Residents of East Liberty; and

Healthcare: **Anthony G. Robins** (GSPH '97), an epidemiologist and former director of federal program compliance for the Woodland Hills School District.



Eric W. Springer

A total of 50 honorees were named Men of Excellence for their significant contributions to their professions as well as the Pittsburgh community.

## Pitt Researchers Using Mathematics to Target Parkinson's Disease Symptoms



Jonathan Rubin

"It's not quite understood how deep brain stimulation works. But it may be similar to the white noise of a window fan: It's right there in your window next to you, so it's potentially more distracting than a woodpecker. But actually, the regularity of the rhythm is less disruptive for you and your brain."

—Jonathan Rubin

Continued from page 1

"It's not quite understood how deep brain stimulation works," said Rubin. "But it may be similar to the white noise of a window fan: It's right there in your window next to you, so it's potentially more distracting than a woodpecker. But actually, the regularity of the rhythm is less disruptive for you and your brain."

Pitt researchers are trying to understand the neuronal activity patterns so they can improve the deep brain stimulation procedure, making it more individualized and efficient.

Along with Rubin, the principal investigators of the NSF award for the study of complex biological systems across multiple space and time scales are G. Bard Ermentrout, Distinguished University Professor of Computational Biology and professor of

mathematics at Pitt; David Swigon, Pitt professor of mathematics; and Ivan Yotov, professor and chair in Pitt's Department of Mathematics. The NSF grant partially funded the work of mathematics graduate student Pamela Reitsma, who carried out preliminary computational studies on the flow of signals from the basal ganglia under the supervision of Rubin and Brent Doiron, Pitt assistant professor of mathematics.

The principal investigators of the NIH grant are Pitt researchers Robert Turner, professor of neurobiology at Pitt; Brent Doiron, assistant professor of mathematics; and Rubin.



# Happenings



The Frick Art & Historical Center, Fabergé: The Hodges Family Collection, through January 15

## Exhibitions

**The Frick Art & Historical Center, Fabergé: The Hodges Family Collection**, more than 100 objects made by Russian artist-jeweler Peter Carl Fabergé, goldsmith and jeweler to the Russian court, **through Jan. 15**, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-0600, www.thefrickpittsburgh.org.

**University Art Gallery, The Imprint of War: Responses in Print**, **through Dec. 5**, exhibition showcasing artwork by war-inspired artists Jacques Callot, Nicolas Naughton, and Sandow Birk, sponsored by students in Pitt's Museum Studies Seminar course, Frick Fine Arts Building, 650 Schenley Dr., Oakland, 412-648-2400.

**Carnegie Museum of Art, Palladio and His Legacy: A Transatlantic Journey**, **through Dec. 31**; **Teenie Harris, Photographer: An American Story**, **through April 7**; **Picturing the City: Downtown Pittsburgh, 2007-2010**, **through March 2**; 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

**The Warhol, Fifteen Minutes: Homage to Andy Warhol**, **through Jan. 8**; **I Just Want to Watch: Warhol's Film, Video, and Television**, **ongoing**, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, www.warhol.org.

**The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Botany and History Entwined: Rachel Hunt's Legacy**, rare gems from the original collection of founder Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt (1882-1963), **through Dec. 15**, 5th floor of Hunt Library, 4909 Frew St., Carnegie Mellon University, 412-268-2434, http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/.

**Wood Street Galleries, Cell Phone Disco**, **ongoing**, Tito Way, Downtown, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**Ann Patchett**, author, will discuss her new novel, *State of Wonder*, 7:30 p.m. **Nov. 21**, Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Drue Heinz Lectures, 412-622-8866, www.pittsburghlectures.org.

**"The New Quantum Logic,"** Robert B. Griffiths, professor of physics, Carnegie Mellon University, 12:05 p.m. **Nov. 29**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science's Lunchtime Colloquium Series, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/~pittentr.

**"Individual Susceptibility to the Most Common Infectious Noncontagious Disease of Humankind: Caries,"** Alexandre R. Vieira, assistant professor of oral biology and of pediatric dentistry, Pitt School of Dental Medicine, and assistant professor of human genetics, Pitt Graduate School of Public Health, noon **Dec. 2**, Auditorium 6, Scaife Hall, Senior Vice Chancellor's Research Seminar Series, 412-383-7382, www.svc-seminar.pitt.edu.

## Miscellaneous

**Pittsburgh Songwriters Circle CD Release**, join in celebrating the release of the group's seventh album, 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 2**, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, 6300 Fifth Ave., Shadyside, Calliope Center Stage Concerts, 412-361-1915, www.calliopehouse.org. PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Anthropology in the Era of Globalization: Ethnography, Ethnology, and Comparative Analysis**, day-long conference marking 50 years of anthropological research, teaching, and graduate training at Pitt, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. **Dec. 9**, followed by 6-9 p.m. reception, keynote address by Sidney Mintz, Johns Hopkins University research professor, locations at both Posvar Hall and Frick Fine Arts Building, Department of Anthropology, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences; full schedule available at www.anthropology.pitt.edu, 412-648-7530.

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**, Max the Dog narrates as the mean and scheming Grinch decides to steal Christmas, **Nov. 22-27**, Benedum Center, 237 7th St., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Mask of Moriarty** by Hugh Leonard, Sherlock Holmes and the faithful Dr. Watson come up against their most dastardly malefactor, **Dec. 1-17**, Charity Randall Theatre within Stephen Foster Memorial, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre, www.picttheatre.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Red**, 2010 Tony Award-winning Best Play about artist Mark Rothko, **through Dec. 11**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Fat Beckett** by Gab Cody in collaboration with Rita Reis, a sly female response to the great Samuel Beckett's men who wait, two heroines are on a journey of time-and-space-travel to find their beloved goat, **Dec. 1-18**, Old School House, 4830 Hatfield St., Lawrenceville, Quantum Theatre, 412-362-1713, www.quantumtheatre.com, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**The Nutcracker**, ballet danced to music by Tchaikovsky, favorite family holiday tradition, **Dec. 2-23**, Benedum Center, 237 7th St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, www.pbt.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Defending the Caveman**, Broadway comedy that tackles contemporary feminism and masculine sensitivity, **through Jan. 8**, CLO Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh CLO Cabaret, 412-325-6766, www.pittsburghclo.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Young Joo (Kevin) Kim**, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences' Department of Rehabilitation Science, 9 a.m. **Nov. 21**, "Problem-Solving



The Hunt Institute, Botany and History Entwined: Rachel Hunt's Legacy, Hunt Library, Carnegie Mellon University, through December 15



World Music Festival, William Pitt Union, December 4

## Concerts

**Honeck and a Waltz Tradition**, a program with waltzes and polkas by Johann Strauss Jr., and Beethoven's First Piano Concerto featuring acclaimed Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, **Nov. 25 and 27**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, www.pittsburghsymphony.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Ken Hatfield**, jazz guitarist and composer, noon **Nov. 30**, free, Nurdy's Café, ground floor, William Pitt Union, Artful Wednesdays Concert Series Fall 2011, PITT ARTS, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Ken Hatfield Trio**, jazz guitarist and composer, 8 p.m. **Dec. 1**, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, 6300 Fifth Ave., Shadyside, Guitar Society of Fine Art, 412-396-5486, www.gsfapittsburgh.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Too Tall Americanos**, indie folk-pop duo, noon **Dec. 2**, free, Cup & Chaucer Café, ground floor, Hillman Library, Calliope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, www.calliopehouse.org/legends.htm.

**Handel's Messiah**, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Music Director Manfred Honeck and renowned opera/theater director Sam Helfrich join forces, **Dec. 2-4**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, www.pittsburghsymphony.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**Pitt Women's Choral Ensemble Holiday Concert**, 8 p.m. **Dec. 2**, Heinz Chapel, Music at Pitt 2011-12, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

**A Billy Taylor Tribute**, presented by JazzMobile, 8 p.m. **Dec. 3** and

2:30 p.m. **Dec. 4**, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, 1815 Metropolitan St., Manchester, 412-323-4000, mcgjazz.org.

**World Music Festival**, featuring Pitt's Gamelan, African Music and Dance Ensemble, and Carpathian Ensemble, noon **Dec. 4**, William Pitt Union Ballroom, Music at Pitt 2011-12, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.



Ken Hatfield, Nurdy's Café, William Pitt Union, November 30



Pitt Women's Choral Ensemble Holiday Concert, Heinz Chapel, December 2

Therapy to Reduce Chronic Fatigue in Cardiac Arrest Survivors," 4065 Forbes Tower.

**Elizabeth Chapman**, Dietrich School of Arts and Science's Department of Geology and Planetary Science, 2 p.m. **Nov. 21**, "Fossil Fuel-Related Water-Rock Interaction in the Appalachian Basin, Pennsylvania and New York: A Geochemical and Strontium Isotope Investigation," 214 Space Research Coordination Center.

**An-Hung Edmund Yeh**, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry, 1 p.m. **Nov. 22**, "Fluorous Mixture Synthesis of Four Isomers of 4, 8, 12-Trimethylnonadecanol and the Development of an NMR-Based Method for Determining Configurations of Polysoprenoid Structures," 307 Eberly Hall.

**Christine Young**, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Philosophy, noon **Nov. 28**, "Grounding Mental Content," 1001B Cathedral of Learning.

**Grace A. Colletti**, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Biological Sciences, 2 p.m. **Nov. 29**, "Acute Downregulation of the Lysosomal Ion Channel TRPML1 Induces Cathepsin B and Bax Dependent Apoptosis," A219B Langley Hall.

**Jing Ji**, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, 3 p.m. **Nov. 29**, "Neuronal Survival After Traumatic Brain Injury: Cardiolipin—a Critical Target," 5th-Floor Conference Room, Bridges Point, 100 Technology Dr., Hazelwood.

**Sergey Sosnovsky**, School of Information Sciences' Information Science and Technology Program, 10 a.m. **Nov. 30**, "Ontology-Based Open-Corpus Personalization for E-Learning," 522 Information Sciences Building.

**Ethan I. Huang**, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences' Department of Communication Science and Disorders, 1 p.m. **Nov. 30**, "On the Mechanism of Response Latencies in Auditory Nerve Fibers," 5047 Forbes Tower.





# 41st Annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert

Pitt marked its 41st Annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert on Nov. 1-5 with a week of lectures and community appearances, capped off with a stellar concert at a packed Carnegie Music Hall. **1.** Drummer Billy Cobham **2.** Pianist Geri Allen (A&S '83G) **3.** Guitarist Larry Coryell and bassist Abraham Laboriel **4.** From left, Maurice Brown, Randy Brecker, Curtis Fuller, Donald Harrison Jr., and Quamon Fowler perform under the direction of Pitt Jazz Studies Director Nathan Davis, far right. During the concert intermission, N. John Cooper, Bettye J. and Ralph E. Bailey Dean of Arts and Sciences, presented the 2011 Pitt Jazz Seminar Committee Award to Allen; Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson presented a Pitt Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award to Fuller; and Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill inducted the names of two musicians—the late composer George Russell and trumpeter and bandleader Gerald Wilson—into the Pitt International Academy of Jazz Hall of Fame.



**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Dec. 5. 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](mailto: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](mailto:robinet@pitt.edu).