Pitt’s Cory J Rodgers Is Named 2012 Rhodes Scholarship Winner

By Patricia Lomando White

Cory J. Rodgers—who has been studying for a University of Pittsburgh Honors College and Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences BPhil degree in African studies and the history and philosophy of science for a Dietrich School BS degree in biological sciences with a minor in chemistry—has been named a 2012 Rhodes Scholarship winner.

Rodgers is the seventh winner of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to have received a Pitt undergraduate education, the fourth in the past seven years. There are only 14 universities in the United States who have claimed the award at least once in the past seven years. Pitt is one of only two public institutions to have done so; the other 12 are private schools.

Rodgers is a first-generation university student from Somerset, Pa. In 2011, he was Pitt’s inaugural recipient of the 2011 Samuel Huntington Public Service Award. He is spending this year in Tanzania on a project through Karagwe Development and Management Center, which utilizes participatory design techniques to manage water resources to improve the Manzese area. He and two HIV support groups are using innovative farming techniques, raising free-range chickens, and managing water resources to improve the groups’ capacity to generate a sustainable source of food and income. The project utilizes participatory design techniques to involve group members at all stages of project research, planning, and implementation.

In 2010, Rodgers conducted a research project through Karagwe Development and Management Center in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, working on an urban agricultural project for people with HIV/AIDS in the low-income Manzese area. He and two HIV support groups are using innovative farming techniques, raising free-range chickens, and managing water resources to improve the groups’ capacity to generate a sustainable source of food and income. The project utilizes participatory design techniques to involve group members at all stages of project research, planning, and implementation.

“Cory Rodgers has the extraordinary curiosity and drive that characterize the finest undergraduate students at the University of Pittsburgh,” said Pitt Honors College Dean Edward Stricker. “He has sought opportunities, both at Pitt and abroad, in which he could explore disease modeling, administration of palliative care, and health policy, and his knowledge and application of medical anthropology at Oxford will further that education. The Rhodes Scholarship is recognition of his commitment to academic excellence and leadership in his journey to becoming an outstanding physician and global health practitioner.”

People who eat baked or broiled fish on a weekly basis may be improving their brain health and reducing their risk of developing Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and Alzheimer’s disease, according to a study published in the May 2012 issue of *Neurology*, the journal of the American Academy of Neurology. The findings show that the consumption of baked or broiled fish on a weekly basis may be improving their brain health and reducing their risk of developing Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and Alzheimer’s disease, according to a study published in *Neurology*, the journal of the American Academy of Neurology. The findings show that the consumption of baked or broiled fish on a weekly basis may be improving their brain health and reducing their risk of developing Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and Alzheimer’s disease, according to a study published in *Neurology*, the journal of the American Academy of Neurology. 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The Pelusis have a special interest in the community service aspect of the life-skills program, believing that changing people's lives for the better only allows those involved to help others' lives for the better in the future. John Pelusi recalled that former Pitt football coach John Majors said it is a great thing that football players spend time visiting Children's Hospital. “Because of that, I learned early on how my trials and tribulations paled in comparison to those of others,” said Pelusi.

Pelusi said Majors was one of the best teachers he had. It is not surprising that Majors and his wife, Mary Lynn, were among several individuals whom the Pelusis have chosen to honor through gifts to the life skills program.

Other gifts have been made in honor of John’s parents, John and Jean Pelusi, Sr., Chancellor Mark Nordenberg and his wife, Nikki Nordonberg; Frances and Charles “Corky” Cost; Ryta and Sam Sciullo; Jacqueline and Pitt men’s basketball coach Jamie Dixon; and the 1976 national champion Panther football team.

The Pelusis have also acknowledged their Pitt undergraduate teammates. “They share great ideas and resources that football players spend time visiting and participating in other campus programs.” They are also in the spotlight and therefore bear the responsibility of representing the University.

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Pitt clinicians, educators, and researchers link forces to break new ground through the Aging Institute

By Tricia Pill and Daniel Bates

Forty years ago, a 65-year-old American had only a 14 percent chance of reaching the age of 90. Today, thanks to healthier lifestyles, better medical treatments, and wide-ranging geriatric research, that person’s chances have doubled to almost 30 percent. And that eye-opening statistic certainly is not lost on Allegheny County, Pa., which includes the City of Pittsburgh. With nearly 205,000 residents above the age of 65, Allegheny County boasts the second-oldest population in the United States.

A healthcare challenge, indeed, for the region—but an absolute boon for the University of Pittsburgh and its collaborative, multidisciplinary teams of geriatric researchers. These teams have worked with the region’s unique demographic population to develop and grow a diverse and world-renowned aging research program at Pitt.

“Given Pittsburgh’s demographic, what we do here matters to the rest of the nation, whether in basic, clinical, social and economic sciences, or in the development of new models of care for older adults and their caregivers,” says Charles “Chip” Reynolds III, director of the Aging Institute of the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Senior Services and a professor of geriatric psychiatry and behavioral and community health sciences at Pitt. “Pittsburgh will be a microcosm for the rest of the nation in 15 to 20 years. Our opportunity to serve as a pacesetter and innovator in aging science and clinical programs—and in new methods to take them to scale—is second to none.”

The University launched the Aging Institute in 2000 largely to address this burgeoning demographic and the attendant complexity of health-care issues. Since then, the institute has grown in scope and renown and is said to provide one of the nation’s largest and most diverse portfolios of aging-related research and one of the most extensive geriatric and gerontological education programs in the country. In addition, the institute’s multidisciplinary network of comprehensive clinical care is also one of the nation’s largest.

In fiscal year 2010 alone, the University received more than $79 million in aging-related research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study cellular aging mechanisms, cell death and recovery, prevention and treatment of balance and mobility disorders, mood disorders, health services research, degenerative diseases such as osteoporosis and Alzheimer’s, and even bioethics.

“The Aging Institute has helped to nurture, link, and leverage research expertise across the University,” says Neil Reyman, Pitt’s Thomas Detre Professor of Medicine and chief of the UPMC Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology as well as a founder and former director of the Aging Institute.

Even before the institute’s creation, Pitt had been laying its foundation for aging research with the establishment of two National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded centers of excellence in aging research: the Alzheimer Disease Research Center and the Intervention Research Center for Late Life Mood Disorders. Other researchers were developing a major research program on sleep, circadian rhythms, and aging. Still others had launched what became known as the Cardiovascular Health Study and the Health, Aging, and Body Composition (HeArBC) Study. To date, thousands of older adults from the Pittsburgh region have participated in those and other ongoing studies.

“These are just a few of the outstanding examples that characterize the longstanding tradition of excellence in NIH-sponsored aging research at Pitt,” says Reynolds, who also is director of Pitt’s Intervention Research Center for Late Life Mood Disorders. “The rich and diverse research base we cultivated throughout the late 1980s and 1990s naturally lent itself to the establishment of a formal Aging Institute.”

Since 2000, institute-affiliated researchers have established at least 21 aging research-related centers of excellence at Pitt, focusing on everything from Alzheimer’s disease, bioethics, chronic disorders, integrative medicine, and epidemiology to geriatric medicine and psychiatry, rehabilitation technology, health-equity research, patient care, and social and urban research. The research programs spanning out of those centers have proven broad and diverse.

A study-rich demographic

Pittsburgh’s aging demographic has served Lewis Kuller and other Pitt researchers well over the years. Kuller, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology, is known for his establishment of the Healthy Women’s Study, the first and longest study of women from pre- to post-menopause. He also continues to direct the Pittsburgh site of the multicenter Cardiovascular Health Study (CHS)—which has been at Pitt since 1988 and is following about 6,000 people ages 65 and older until their deaths. For more than 40 years, Kuller has been studying risk factors in people with heart disease and diabetes and in menopausal women, as well as investigating the prevention of cancer and cancer’s risk factors.

Kuller also has championed the use of non-invasive technologies to predict, for instance, the prevalence of disease in populations over time. He was among the first to use bone density measurements to study osteoporosis; carotid artery ultrasound to measure vascular disease risk; and brain imaging to explore dementia epidemiology.

Aging’s new challenge: longer lives, but shorter memories

Kuller says that some of his most recent research suggests that the landscape of aging and disease has begun to change rapidly because of healthier lifestyles. But that raises “an interesting new problem now,” he says. “We have participated in those and other ongoing studies.

Continued on page 4
Focus on Healthy Aging
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Now that we have a generation of people living into their 80s and 90s, the most worrisome thing to them is the loss of cognitive ability. The CHS Cognition Study, one of the nation’s largest studies on dementia, identifies risk factors and brain changes that might predict dementia before its onset.

have gotten so good at treating and preventing cardiovascular disease that we now have a generation of people living into their 80s and 90s, and the most worrisome thing to them is losing cognitive ability. Loss of physical function may be depressing and unpleasant, but there is nothing worse than finding out that you can’t remember or can’t understand something someone said.”

Such findings have motivated Kuller to delve more deeply into cognitive research, in collaboration with Oscar Lopez, professor of neurology in Pitt’s School of Medicine and director of Pitt’s Alzheimer Disease Research Center. As part of that endeavor, Kuller over the past 20 years has been leading the CHS Cognition Study, one of the nation’s largest prospective dementia studies, which uses magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to identify risk factors and brain changes that might predict the onset of dementia long before it manifests itself in patients.

Among the rising research stars emerging from Kuller’s CHS Cognition Study is Cyrus Raji, a newly minted MD/PhD graduate of Pitt’s School of Medicine. In November 2010, at the annual meeting of the Radiological Association of North America, Raji and his colleagues presented findings from the 20-year study, which included 426 elderly adults, linking increased physical activity to greater brain volume and reduced risk for cognitive impairment.

Specifically, cognitively impaired individuals, the study showed, need to walk at least 58 city blocks—approximately five miles—a week to maintain brain volume and significantly reduce their risk for cognitive decline. Healthy adults, the study concluded, should walk at least 72 city blocks—or six miles—a week.

Alzheimer’s and Pittsburgh Compound-B

Professors William Klunk and Chester Mathis have developed their own way to predict and diagnose the early onset of Alzheimer’s disease: They have pioneered a radioactive imaging agent, which they call Pittsburgh Compound-B, that has gained international attention because it now allows doctors to diagnose Alzheimer’s early in a patient rather than postmortem. Pittsburgh Compound-B helps doctors using a positron-emission tomography imaging scan to spot beta-amyloid deposits in the brain—a telltale sign of Alzheimer’s. The scanning process can be done early in a person’s development of Alzheimer’s and then used to monitor the disease’s progression.

As a result of their efforts, Klunk, a professor of psychiatry in Pitt’s School of Medicine, and Mathis, a professor of radiology in the medical school, earned the American Academy of Neurology’s Potamkin Prize (known as the “Nobel Prize for Neurology”). Meanwhile, GE Healthcare licensed their innovation from the University and has adapted it; the company is currently running Phase III clinical trials of the product.

Aging more gracefully

Since 1996, Anne Newman, a professor and chair in the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Epidemiology, has led another large aging-related study, called the Health ABC Study. It’s a longitudinal investigation of 1,500 older adults nationwide that assesses the relationship between aging-related physical changes and functional decline. Ultimately, her research promotes the benefits of healthy aging, finding that cardiovascular fitness, a healthy body composition, and regular physical activity help maintain a person’s physical and cognitive health and function in old age. So far, she has parlayed her work...
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into more than 300 scientific journal articles on aging, health and longevity.

“We when first started doing our work, many older people were not taking care of themselves,” explains Newman, who is a colleague of Kuller. “They didn’t expect to live past 70, so they figured a healthy lifestyle wasn’t worth the effort. This too-late, too-much-trouble attitude was pervasive throughout the older population.”

Newman, of course, challenged those beliefs and the results were transformative. “Our work found that this same group of people, who previously didn’t have preventive health services because, contrary to popular belief, older people’s bodies are remarkably responsive,” she says. “Research has shown that even 90-year-olds with severely atrophied muscle mass can improve their strength by 100 percent.”

In a 2010 Journal of Aging and Health article, Newman and her colleagues, including Kuller, published a report on one of their most recent studies, titled “The 10 Keys to Healthy Aging.” The study examined the effectiveness of a comprehensive, low-cost prevention program in improving adherence to preventive health care goals and overall health for older adults. At the end of the 12-month study, Newman says, the participants had achieved significant health improvements, including lower cholesterol levels, improved control of high blood pressure, better blood-glucose control in diabetics, and higher rates of colon cancer screening.

Plasticity and the aging brain

Another professor of epidemiology, Caterina Rosano, has been undertaking her own longitudinal population studies. She uses MRI technology and mathematical modeling methods to better understand the relationship between the aging brain and cognitive and physical function. “There’s something mysterious about older adults,” Rosano muses. “Why do some adults live longer and better, surviving against all odds?”

In a pilot study, which she published in 2010 in the Journal of Gerontology, Rosano reported that seniors older than 70 years who committed to physical activity over a two-year period—defined as walking at least 150 minutes a week—took cognitive tests faster, made fewer errors, and showed higher brain activation on MRI brain scans than those who remained sedentary. However, in another study examining data from the MRI scans and pen-and-pencil tests of 6,000 aging adults, she found that an estimated 20 percent of participants scored poorly on brain MRI scan measures but extremely well on the cognitive tests.

“Many of the people we look at completely escape any sort of prediction, and this is what is fantastic to me,” Rosano says. “These people function and move around very well, but their brain MRIs don’t look good, and we don’t understand why.”

The effects of skeletal health

Also taking a toll on the aging population’s health and quality of life are degenerative bone diseases that can leave sufferers fragile and at greater risk of injury. Jane Cauley, a professor of epidemiology, has spent 25 years studying skeletal health in aging adults and researching ways to prevent fractures in older men and postmenopausal women. She serves as the principal investigator for the Pittsburgh arm of the Study of Osteoporotic Fractures, a multicenter study funded by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. Cauley also leads the Osteoporotic Fractures in Men study in Pittsburgh, a multicenter, observational study of nearly 6,000 men to determine risk factors for osteoporosis, fractures, and prostate cancer in older men. At the time of this photo, frauding Shaw (left) and Francesco Amici (right) were postdoctoral researchers at Pitt, working on a project titled “Epidemiological Study of Bone Marrow Fat and Osteoporosis.”

Resnick’s research has shown that incontinence results not only from lower urinary tract dysfunction but also from the body’s inability to compensate for it—problems that occur even with relatively normal bladder function. His studies further demonstrate that, contrary to popular belief, incontinence in older adults is not part of normal aging or dementia—and a broad diagnostic and therapeutic approach focused on compensatory mechanisms leads to superior results not just for incontinence, but for other geriatric conditions as well.

Resnick says these findings have helped to inform his work with Medicare and the World Health Organization to devise a now widely applied approach to geriatric incontinence that minimizes the need for invasive testing and highly specialized consultative expertise. That is, Resnick’s team now is exploring the brain’s role in incontinence.

Continued on page 6

As part of his own aging research, Neil Resnick works to dispel myths, unravel causes, and devise new treatments for one of the most common syndromes affecting older adults—incontinence. Historically, he says, research on incontinence has been focused solely on the lower urinary tract. But after discovering the age- and disease-related changes that occur in the bladder, as well as identifying a previously unknown cause of geriatric incontinence, Resnick says he found that this approach was too narrow.

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Of course, osteoporosis and other degenerative bone diseases can contribute significantly to other serious problems in older adults—in particular, falling, which can lead to broken bones and long-term debilitation. But as Stephanie Studenski, a professor of geriatric medicine who has built her research career around the issue of falling, notes, this health threat often stems from several issues.

“Falls are a serious problem and a leading cause of accidental death, disability, and institutionalization in older people,” Studenski says. “Most people who fall, though, fall because they have several conditions that affect their ability to stay upright and have good balance.”

Studenski, an expert on mobility, balance disorders, and falls in older adults, serves as director of Pitt’s Claude D. Pepper Center, a National Institute on Aging-funded center of excellence. She currently leads a group of more than 50 researchers from across Pitt’s schools of the health sciences who have similar expertise.

Aging and incontinence

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Focus on Healthy Aging
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Continued from page 5

Desitigmatizing depression

Recognizing that depression in older adults is an increasingly common problem, particularly among hospitalized patients, Aging Institute Director Reynolds has become an internationally recognized expert on the topic. In short, Reynolds urges older adults and their caregivers to support a less stigmatizing approach to depression.

“People use different words to describe depression symptoms and psychotherapy to help get and keep people well,” he explains. “Because late-life depression is a chronic, recurrent condition, just like hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or diabetes, it’s important that patients and family caregivers take a long-term view. We can’t cure depression, but we can manage it very successfully.

The preliminary results are so promising, Reynolds says, that the study has been extended to include at-risk older adults as well as healthcare providers. The researchers plan to publish their findings soon.

Chronic care considerations

Ultimately, age and a host of debilitating health problems do catch up with some older adults, leaving them to suffer for long periods with chronic illness. As such, Resnick has teamed up with Edmund Ricci, a professor of health services research and community health sciences and associate director of the Aging Institute, to tackle what he considers one of the most challenging and understudied minority populations. In fact, the National Institute of Mental Health recently awarded his team to establish a five-year “center of excellence” focusing on late-life depression prevention.

Aging care is about enhancing communication among providers, patients and caregivers, and those with depression in particular,” Arnold explains. “Traditionally, palliative care is offered only as a consult service. However, we are starting to recognize the need to provide palliative care support services in the outpatient setting. It’s important to understand what’s going on in the hospital, and then allow for things to happen in a collaborative way.”

Palliative care and communication

Late-life depression is a chronic disease just like hypertension, COPD, or diabetes says Aging Institute Director Reynolds, and it’s important to take a long-term view. We can’t cure depression, he says, but we can manage it very successfully.

On the other side of the issue of chronic illness are the patients’ personal caregivers, whether spouses or other family or friends, who experience their own quiet suffering. Richard Schulz, professor of psychiatry and director of the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), has been researching the connections between mind and body and between caregiver and patient for more than a decade. Schulz, who also is associate director of the Aging Institute, has earned his place among the nation’s top experts on the social behavior and health largely because of his UCSUR-based research team’s study of the impact of illness and disability in late life on people and their partners.

One such study, led by Schulz and published in 2009 in the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, focused on the prevalence and incidence of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in the spouses of people suffering from illness. Among the 1,330 older married couples in the study, husbands whose wives reported high levels of suffering were nearly twice as likely to have CVD and depression as compared to those whose wives did not report suffering.

In another laboratory-based study, Schulz and a team of collaborators from across Pitt’s academic disciplines explored the physiological pathways by which exposure to a loved one’s suffering leads to CVD.

Caregiver Stress

Taken together, the growing aging population, the complexities of aging-related health care, and the politics affecting it, provide ample directive for Pitt researchers to continue to make aging research an internationally recognized academic and clinical priority at the University of Pittsburgh.

Spotlight on Research

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Toxic summary

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The politics of aging

Given the fast-growing population of aging adults in the United States, it should come as no surprise that this demographic and its associated health issues have become a serious political target, particularly with regard to health-care reform. As Julie Donohue, a professor in the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Health Policy and Management, can attest, national health-care policy changes can affect medical treatment profoundly for older adults suffering from chronic illnesses. She is conducting research on the effects of recent changes in health-care policy on medication access and spending among older adults with depression and other chronic medical conditions.

In January 2006, for instance, a new drug benefit plan from Medicare, known as Part D, expanded access to beneficiaries who previously had limited or no prescription drug coverage. Donohue’s early studies, she says, indicate that Part D not only has reduced out-of-pocket drug expenditures, but also has increased medication use. However, until recently, no breakdown by clinical condition, such as depression, had been performed.

As part of her study, Donohue says she analyzed medical and pharmacy insurance claims data throughout Western Pennsylvania over a four-year period from more than 30,000 Medicare beneficiaries with a diagnosis of depression. Her outcome included the initiation of antidepressant therapy, duration of therapy, and adequate adherence before and after implementation of Part D. Her results, published in the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, found that Medicare Part D was associated with improvement in antidepressant use and adherence by depressed older adults who previously had no or limited drug coverage.

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Yo-Yo Ma with the PSO, world-renowned cellist with conductor Manfred Honeck performing Dvořák’s Cello Concerto, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

The Frick Art & Historical Center, Fairbury: The Hodges Family Collection, more than 100 objects made by Russian artist-inventor Peter Carl Fabergé, goldsmith and jeweler to the Russian court, through April 7, 1227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-6600, www.thefrickpittsburgh.org.


Lectures/Seminars/Readings


Entanglement and Uncertainty,” 6116 Biomedical Science Tower 3, 3rd-floor conference room, Bridgeside Point, 100 Technology Drive, Hazelwood.

December 5, 2011 • University of Pittsburgh •
Implications for Treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy,” Jan. 7-9, 4151 Osgood Hall, School of Medicine’s Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, 3 p.m.


Theater of War: Tales of War, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. following, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 9, O’Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-361-1600, www.pitt.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Defending the проверку, Broadway comedy that tackles topics of feminism and masculine sensitivity, through April 7, 2434, http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/.


Pitt’s annual holiday presentation, bring lunch, 12-1:30 p.m. through Jan. 8; 2-4 p.m. through Jan. 18; 7-9 p.m., Mon. through Wed., and Fri., 624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.


Exhibitions

University Art Gallery, The Imprint of War: Responses in Print, through Dec. 8, exhibition showcasing artwork by war-inspired artists Jacques Callot, Nicholas Naughton, and Sandow Birk, sponsored by students in Pitt’s Museum Studies Seminar course, Frick Fine Arts Building, 650 Schenley Dr., Oakland, 412-624-6000.

The Frick Art & Historical Center, Fairbury: The Hodges Family Collection, more than 100 objects made by Russian artist-inventor Peter Carl Fabergé, goldsmith and jeweler to the Russian court, through April 7, 1227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-6600, www.thefrickpittsburgh.org.


Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Jing Ai, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, 3 p.m. Dec. 5, “Neural Survival After Traumatic Brain Injury: Cardiolipin, A Critical Target,” 3rd-floor conference room, Bridgeman Point, 100 Technology Drive, Hazelwood.

Jorge Zavala Belotero, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Department of Anthropology, “Inequality, Violence, Marginalidad, Memoria y Nuevos Escenarios Globales en Ventiún Violencia, Marginalidad, Memoria y Nuevos Escenarios Globales en Ventiún,” 1528 Cathedral of Learning.

Amy M. Ford, School of Medicine’s Cell Biology and Molecular Physiology Graduate Program, 2 p.m. Dec. 8, “The Role of smDNA Damage in Mitochondrial Dysfunction,” 1355 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower.


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University of Pittsburgh

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Newsmakers

PITT AND WUHAN UNIVERSITY

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (left) and Wuhan University President Li Xiaohong signed a student-exchange agreement during their Nov. 16 visit to Nordenberg’s Cathedral of Learning office. Under terms of the accord, select Wuhan students can participate in a 3+2 program within the Pitt Swanson School of Engineering’s Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science. These select students will complete three years at Wuhan University and then finish their senior year and master’s degree at Pitt. Instrumental in achieving this agreement were Gerald D. Holder, Pitt’s U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering and a professor of chemical and petroleum engineering; Lawrence Feick, director of Pitt’s University Center for International Studies; Larry L. Shuman, senior associate dean for academic affairs and a professor of industrial engineering, and Minking K. Chyu, Leighton and Mary Orr Chair Professor and Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science.

PITLRDCCONFERENCE

Courtney Cazden, professor emerita of education in the Harvard Graduate School of Education, addresses more than 120 researchers and scholars from U.S. and international universities who attended a Sept. 23-25 education conference at Pitt. Titled “Socializing Intelligence Through Academic Talk and Dialogue,” the conference was convened and hosted by Pitt’s Laura B. Resnick, University Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Science, senior scientist and project director in Pitt’s Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC), and former LRDC director. Research presented during the conference solidified evidence for the growing theory of dialogic interaction and its effect on disciplinary knowledge, transfer, and academic language development, as well as other skills.

PUBLICATION NOTICE
The next edition of Pitt Chronicle will be published Jan. 9. Items for publication in the newspaper’s Happenings calendar (See page 7) should be received at least two weeks prior to the event date. Happenings items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to chron@pitt.edu, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail robinet@pitt.edu.