

## Saxena, Skrzycki Win 2012 Tina and David Bellet Teaching Excellence Awards

By B. Rose Huber and Patricia Lomando White

The University of Pittsburgh Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences has named Sunil Saxena, a professor in the Department of Chemistry, and Cynthia Skrzycki, a senior lecturer in the Department of English, winners of the 2012 Tina and David Bellet Teaching Excellence Award. The Bellet Award recipients will be honored during a by-invitation-only dinner at 6 p.m. April 5 in Pitt's University Club.

The Bellet Awards were established in 1998 and endowed in 2008 with a \$1.5 million gift from Dietrich School alumnus David Bellet (A&S '67) and his wife, Tina, to recognize outstanding and innovative undergraduate teaching in the Dietrich School. A committee appointed by the Dietrich School associate dean for undergraduate studies evaluates teaching skills based on student teaching and peer evaluations, student testimonials, and dossiers submitted by the nominees. Full-time faculty members who have taught in the Dietrich School during the past three years are eligible. Each award recipient receives a cash prize.

Saxena joined the University in 2001. Previously, he served as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1999 to 2001. From 1997 to 1999, he was a postdoctoral scholar at the California Institute of Technology.

Saxena's work includes the development of pulsed electron spin resonance (ESR) methods and their application to otherwise inaccessible problems in biophysics and materials sciences. Through the use of ESR, Saxena and his team have been able to produce rich information about the electronic, structural, and dynamic properties of various types of molecules, including organic, inorganic, biological, solid state, and surface molecular species.

Additionally, Saxena's lab creates methods to measure the precise distance between two units in a protein in order to determine the protein's folding patterns—the ways in which a protein assumes its functional shape—and conformational dynamics. These studies could provide insight into allergies or diseases, as allergies are actually caused by the misfolding of proteins, and the immune system does not produce antibodies for certain protein structures. Saxena's group is continuing to develop applications of these spectroscopic rulers, including capturing the essence of structural changes—such as misfolding—in proteins.

From 2004 to 2009, Saxena was selected to participate in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Program, which is the NSF's most prestigious award in support of junior faculty who "exemplify the role of teacher-scholars" through outstanding research, education, and the integration of

**Saxena's work includes the development of pulsed electron spin resonance methods and their application to otherwise inaccessible problems in biophysics and materials sciences.**



Sunil Saxena



Cynthia Skrzycki

education and research within the context of the mission of their institutions. Saxena's research has been featured in many publications, among them *Applied Magnetic Resonance*, *Biochemical Journal*, and *Biophysical Journal*.

Saxena earned a Bachelor of Science degree with honors from St. Stephen's College in New Delhi, India, and his Master of Science degree from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur. He earned his PhD in chemistry from Cornell University.

Skrzycki joined Pitt's Department of English in 2004. Under her guidance, Pitt students have landed internships with such organizations as Bloomberg News, Dow Jones News Service, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *The Washington Post*, CBS, CNN, NPR, *Congressional Quarterly*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, and *U.S. News & World Report*.

Skrzycki is also a business correspondent for *GlobalPost.com*, a news service based in Boston. Prior to joining Global Post in 2009, she was a business columnist for Bloomberg News.

Skrzycki was on staff at *The Washington Post* for 18 years, covering federal regulatory issues, management, and technology. Her special expertise in federal regulation and lobbying led to her writing a weekly column titled "The Regulators" for more than a decade.

Before joining *The Washington Post*, Skrzycki was an associate business editor

at *U.S. News & World Report*, specializing in transportation issues, and a Washington correspondent for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, where she covered the gamut of business topics. She also worked in the Washington bureau of *Fairchild News Service*, covering the steel industry, and was a business writer for *The Buffalo News*.

Skrzycki is the author of the book *The Regulators: The Anonymous Power Brokers Who Shape Your Life* (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2003).

Last year, she was among 15 women in the media honored by the Women and Girls Foundation for "leading the way in print, radio, PR, TV, film, and on the Internet, and those utilizing multiple media to promote and amplify the voices of women and girls."

**Skrzycki joined Pitt's Department of English in 2004. Under her guidance, Pitt students have landed internships with such organizations as Bloomberg News, Dow Jones News Service, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, The Washington Post, CBS, CNN, NPR, Congressional Quarterly, The New Republic, The New Yorker, and U.S. News & World Report.**

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., Skrzycki is an honors graduate of Canisius College, where she was a member of the DiGamma Honor Society. Skrzycki holds a master's degree in public affairs and journalism from American University in Washington, D.C. A former two-term member of Canisius College's board of trustees, she also is a board member of the Three Rivers Youth Orchestra in Pittsburgh and a former member of *The Pitt News Advisory Board*.

## Eight Pitt People Win 2012 Carnegie Science Center Awards

By B. Rose Huber

Eight University of Pittsburgh people are recipients of the 2012 Carnegie Science Awards, given annually by the Carnegie Science Center to celebrate the accomplishments of individuals and organizations that work to improve lives through their commitment and contributions to science and technology in Western Pennsylvania. In addition, one organization led by a Pitt alumnus is an awardee, and one Pitt graduate student with a Pitt undergraduate degree earned an honorable mention.

The honorees were announced Feb. 2; they will be recognized in a formal ceremony at Carnegie Music Hall on May 11.

### Advanced Manufacturing Award

Paul Ohodnicki (A&S '05, ENGR '05), senior research associate, PPG Industries. He and three PPG colleagues created, developed, and commercialized Solarban R100 glass, a novel solar-control low emissivity coated architectural glass.

### Advanced Materials Award

Eric Beckman, Bevier Professor of Engineering in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering, and codirector of the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation.

Beckman developed TissueGlu, a biodegradable surgical adhesive designed to complement traditional tissue suturing techniques in medicine.

### University/Post-Secondary Educator Award

Melissa Bilec (ENGR '97, '07G), assistant professor of engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering; assistant director for education and outreach of Pitt's Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation; and director of the Construction Management Program and Green Construction Project at Pitt.

Amy Landis, assistant professor of engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the Swanson School of Engineering.

Both Bilec and Landis promote sustainability as it relates to engineering issues in their research and the classroom. Bilec is currently conducting research on green building metrics with a team of students. Landis is performing biofuel research and environmental modeling.

### Catalyst for Professional & Community Education Award

Evan Waxman, assistant professor of ophthalmology and vice chair of the medical and resident education program in Pitt's School of Medicine.

Waxman and Pitt's ophthalmology residents donate their time to conduct clinics and provide comprehensive eye exams to people in need in Western Pennsylvania.

### Emerging Female Scientist Award

Lillian Chong, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry in Pitt's Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, who is an expert in computational biophysics, molecular dynamics simulations, and protein structure and function.

Chong's lab is pursuing protein-related

# Pitt's K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month Celebration Honors Sculptor, Pitt Alumnus Thaddeus Mosley

The University of Pittsburgh celebrated the life and artistic career of Thaddeus Mosley, the renowned Western Pennsylvania sculptor who is a 1950 graduate of Pitt's Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. The Feb. 1 program and reception at the Twentieth Century Club was cohosted by Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill. The event was the University's annual K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month Program, named to honor the memory of the legendary Pennsylvania legislative leader and Pitt alumnus (LAW '54) and trustee. Irvis, who in 1977 became the first African American speaker of the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania and the first Black speaker of any state house since Reconstruction, sponsored in 1966 the bill that made Pitt a state-related institution of higher education. The 45-minute documentary was the work of filmmaker and Pitt alumnus Kenneth Love (A&S '71).

**1.** Three wooden sculptures, created by the self-taught Mosley, were on display for the benefit of the 600 audience members who attended the reception following the documentary screening.

**2.** From left, Nordenberg, Love, and Mosley. **3.** Mosley and artist Teruyo Seya. **4.** From left, Pitt Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kathy W. Humphrey, Hill, and Pitt School of Social Work Dean Larry E. Davis, who is also Donald M. Henderson Professor and director of the Center on Race and Social Problems at Pitt. **5.** From left, Pitt trustee Herbert P. Douglas Jr. (EDUC '48, '50G); Nikki Nordenberg (EDUC '88G); Arnold M. Sowell Sr. (BUS '57); and Nordenberg. Both Douglas and Sowell were featured in the evening's documentary.

**6.** From left, Nancy Bolden, widow of the late *Pittsburgh Courier* reporter and editor Frank Bolden (EDUC '34); Crystal McCormick Ware, coordinator for communications and diversity, Hillman Library; Camara Watkins; and K. Chase Patterson (A&S '07).



HARRY GIGLIO



PHOTOS BY MARY JANE BENT/CODE EXCEPT AS NOTED



# BlackHistoryMonth

## Pitt Chemical Engineering Student Empowers Young Scientists



Brittany Chambers

By B. Rose Huber

More than once, University of Pittsburgh junior Brittany Chambers has been called a “motivator.”

Academically, she challenges high school students from underrepresented populations by tutoring them in engineering, math, and science through her involvement with Pitt’s EXCEL and INVESTING NOW programs.

Spiritually, she ministers on and off campus through the Pitt chapter of Anointed Steps of Faith, a Christian step team.

Personally, she engages young people in harnessing the power of their own education, something she has done since high school.

“In the beginning, there wasn’t a sense of urgency toward education in the students I tutored,” Chambers says. “I’m working toward making sure they don’t miss out on opportunities just because they don’t know about them. That’s why I teach.”

Chambers came to Pitt on an engineering scholarship in 2008, immersing herself in the Swanson School of Engineering’s opportunities. Through EXCEL and INVESTING NOW, both of which help to educate underserved youth in the sciences, she has been able to add the role of tutor to her résumé. Thinking back to her own mentor at Penn Hills Senior High

School—a teacher who taught her Honors and Advanced Placement Chemistry—Chambers says she has gravitated toward the challenges offered in tutoring. Twice a week, she meets with students for two hours to teach chemistry.

Chambers says she feels honored to be a tutor in INVESTING NOW—an organization whose Web site says that its students have a 99 percent success rate in enrolling in college and that 52 percent choose majors in science, engineering, and math. Seeking to emulate her own mentor, Chambers says she tries to spark an unquenchable interest in education in the students she tutors.

“I was lucky that I had people to help me navigate my education,” says Chambers. “My parents and high school teachers were instrumental in getting me to this place. Not every child has that, so I hope to be that person for these students.”

A high school experience with The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh presented Chambers with another navigation tool. Through a career-shadowing opportunity offered by the league, she visited Bayer Corporation to better understand how medicines are produced and administered. That day in the laboratory changed Chambers’ life: She realized how much she enjoyed watching the process of ensuring that the compounds were manufactured to

meet coded standards.

Throughout high school, Chambers says she visited the University’s Pittsburgh campus through Urban League-sponsored events. When it came time to choose a college, Chambers, who was in the top tier of her high school class, selected Pitt because of its “home-like environment.” She says she visited so often that the University felt like a safe haven where she could learn, motivate others, and open herself up to a new academic journey.

“Pitt gives you a unique sense of family that I’m not sure exists elsewhere,” Chambers comments. “As soon as I opened myself up, I began noticing how many people were rooting for me. I have a handful of advisors whom I can look to for guidance at any given time.”

Chambers credits the Pitt chapter of The Anointed Steps of Faith team for helping her to get more involved in student life. The troupe practices once a week and performs routinely on campus and in the Pittsburgh community. Most often, the members are asked to dance at churches around Pittsburgh. Chambers says she enjoys the opportunity to minister in a different motivating way and hopes to capture the attention of young people.

Chambers is also a member of the Pitt chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), and she plans to attend the organization’s 38th annual convention, which will be held in Pittsburgh March 28 through April 1.

Chambers says her fellow students provide a high level of comfort for her on campus. People associated with Pitt are moved to do “big things,” she says, and she hopes to be among their ranks. Chambers can’t pinpoint just one direction for her future right now. With her field of chemical engineering, there are numerous opportunities:

She’s considering graduate school, working in her field, or teaching. Eventually, she says, she hopes to have done all three.

Inspired to achieve from an early age, Chambers gives credit to her father, an electrical engineer, who provided ample proof that many opportunities exist within engineering. Her mother, meanwhile, “instilled in me a sense of focus for which I am so grateful.” Now Chambers has the important task of mentoring her two younger sisters, both in high school, who are also interested in the sciences. With her experience over the past two years, she is more than up to the challenge.

**“Pitt gives you a unique sense of family that I’m not sure exists elsewhere. As soon as I opened myself up, I began noticing how many people were rooting for me. I have a handful of advisors whom I can look to for guidance at any given time.”**

—Brittany Chambers



Brittany Chambers tutors an Oakland Catholic High School student in advanced chemistry.

# Science & Technology

## Breakthrough Model Reveals Evolution of Ancient Nervous Systems Through Analysis of Seashell Color Patterns

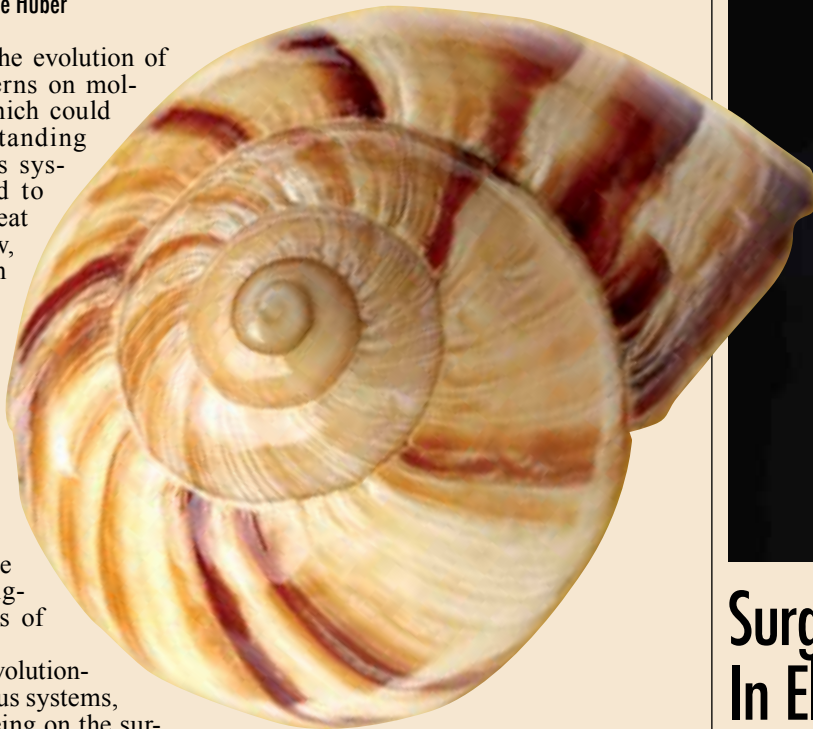
By B. Rose Huber

Determining the evolution of pigmentation patterns on mollusk seashells—which could aid in the understanding of ancient nervous systems—has proved to be a challenging feat for researchers. Now, however, through mathematical equations and simulations, University of Pittsburgh and University of California, Berkeley, researchers have used 19 different species of the predatory sea snail *Conus* to generate a model of the pigmentation patterns of mollusk shells

“There is no evolutionary record of nervous systems, but what you’re seeing on the surface of seashells is a space-time record, like the recording of brain-wave activity in an electroencephalogram (EEG),” said project coinvestigator G. Bard Ermentrout, Pitt Distinguished University Professor of Computational Biology and a professor in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Mathematics.

Seashells differ substantially between the closely related *Conus* species, and the complexity of the patterns makes it difficult to properly characterize their similarities and differences. It also has proven difficult to describe the evolution of pigmentation patterns or to draw inferences about how natural selection might affect them. In a paper published in the Jan. 3 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) Online*, Ermentrout and his colleagues attempt to resolve this problem by combining models based on natural evolutionary relationships with a realistic developmental model that can generate pigmentation patterns of the shells of the various *Conus* species.

In order for UC Berkeley scientists to create simulations, Ermentrout and his collaborators developed equations and a neural model for the formation of the pigmentation patterns on shell



**“In the future, we hope to use similar ideas to understand other pattern-forming systems that are controlled by the nervous system. For instance, we would really like to develop models for some of the cephalopods like the cuttlefish and the octopus, which are able to change patterns on their skin in an instant.”**

—G. Bard Ermentrout



G. Bard Ermentrout

the octopus, which are able to change patterns on their skin in an instant.”

The National Science Foundation provided funding for this research. To read the paper, visit [www.pnas.org](http://www.pnas.org).

surfaces. With the equations in hand, Zhenqiang Gong, a UC Berkeley graduate student in engineering, used a computer to simulate the patterns on the shells, hand fitting the parameters to create a basic model for the patterns of a given species.

The results of this study have allowed the researchers to estimate the shell pigmentation patterns of ancestral species, identify lineages in which one or more parameters have evolved rapidly, and measure the degree to which different parameters correlate with the evolutionary development and history of the organisms. Since the parameters are telling the researchers something about the circuitry of the mollusks’ nervous system, this is an indirect way to study the evolution of a simple nervous system.

“We’ve found that some aspects of the nervous system have remained quite stable over time, while there is a rapid evolution of other portions,” said Ermentrout.

“In the future, we hope to use similar ideas to understand other pattern-forming systems that are controlled by the nervous system,” Ermentrout added. “For instance, we would really like to develop models for some of the cephalopods like the cuttlefish and



## Surgery for Common Heart Valve Condition In Elderly Is Safe, Restores Longevity

By Jennifer C. Yates

Mitral valve repair in the elderly is safe and should be considered not as a last resort but as a treatment option for patients older than 65 suffering from mitral regurgitation, according to findings of a large, multicenter study that analyzed more than 14,000 valve repair operations among this age group.

Mitral regurgitation, or a leaking mitral valve in the heart, can significantly limit long-term life expectancy and reduce quality of life because of its secondary effects. Young patients suffering from mitral regurgitation have their valves repaired as a first course of treatment. However, current treatment guidelines in elderly patients call for medical treatments to be tried first because advanced age was believed to put these patients at high risk for complications and little was known about their long-term outcomes. Mitral valve repair often was only done in the elderly once symptoms worsened.

“We found that mitral repair in older individuals is well tolerated, with low mortality and low morbidity, and that reoperations are uncommon. Most importantly, following mitral repair, a patient’s 10-year survival is restored to the normal matched U.S. population,” said Vinay Badhwar, a professor of surgery in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery in Pitt’s School of Medicine and the study’s lead author. Badhwar presented the findings as the J. Maxwell Chamberlain Memorial Paper for Adult Cardiac Surgery at the opening of the annual meeting of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Jan. 30.

Researchers in the study analyzed clinical data from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Adult Cardiac Surgery Database matched to longitudinal claims data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; they identified 14,604 isolated

nonemergent primary mitral valve repair operations between 1991 and 2007. The cases were studied for mortality, mitral reoperation, and readmissions for heart failure, bleeding, and stroke.

The number of patients who died during or soon after surgery was only 2.6 percent and survival during follow-up was 74 percent. After adjusting for the statistical impact of late mortality, the researchers found that mitral repair was durable, with reoperation occurring in only 5 percent of cases.

“The results indicate that age alone should not be a marker of high risk in isolated mitral valve disease, and that there should be some careful thought given when medical therapy is considered over mitral repair in older patients,” said Badhwar, who is also codirector of both the UPMC Center for Mitral Valve Disease and the UPMC Center for Atrial Fibrillation. “Based on these data, guideline recommendations for medical therapy for symptomatic mitral regurgitation based on age alone should be re-evaluated.”

Also participating in the study were researchers from All Children’s Hospital, Cardiac Surgical Associates of Florida, The Congenital Heart Institute of Florida, the Duke Clinical Research Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, the University of Colorado, the University of Florida, the University of Maryland, the University of Michigan, and the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

The study was supported by The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Research Center through the Adult National Cardiac Database and the Duke Clinical Research Institute.



Vinay Badhwar

# Pitt's School of Education Receives Nearly \$4 Million to Fund Three Special Education Projects



By Patricia Lomando White

The University of Pittsburgh School of Education has been granted nearly \$4 million from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Programs for three separate five-year projects that focus on personnel development designed to improve services and outcomes for children with disabilities.

Faculty in the special education program of the Pitt School of Education's Department of Instruction and Learning received funding for the three projects, whose titles are "Apprenticeship in Special Education Instruction, Research, and Leadership" (ASPIRE), "Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Autism Specialization," and "Restructuring and Improving Special Education" (RISE).

ASPIRE, funded for \$1.25 million, focuses on the preparation of leadership personnel in special-education research. Beginning in Fall 2012, a cadre of full-time doctoral candidates will be trained to provide in-service and preservice preparation for teachers of high-need students with disabilities. The project's design emphasizes an apprenticeship model in which fellows are mentored into the field of special education by supportive training and opportunities for supervised independence in research, teaching, and leadership. Additionally, the program requires a leadership internship in which fellows will spend a minimum of one semester being mentored by special education leaders who work in a high-poverty, high-needs school.

ASPIRE coprincipal investigators are Naomi Zigmond, Distinguished University Professor; Louise Kaczmarek, professor; Christopher Lemons, assistant professor; Douglas Kostewicz, assistant professor; and Amanda Kloof, research assistant professor, all in Pitt School of Education's

Department of Instruction and Learning. Applicants interested in learning more about the program can visit [http://dl.dropbox.com/u/16700889/ASPIRE\\_Pitt\\_SPED\\_Doc-Study.pdf](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/16700889/ASPIRE_Pitt_SPED_Doc-Study.pdf) or contact Christopher Lemons at [lemons@pitt.edu](mailto:lemons@pitt.edu).

The second project, "Early Intervention/Early Childhood," also awarded \$1.25 million, will provide support for master's degree students specializing in early intervention for children with autism. It will address state and national needs for more appropriately trained early interventionists and early childhood special educators to work with children

under age 5, primarily in urban and suburban settings. This preservice program will prepare 40 early interventionists and early childhood special educators who also will receive specialized training in intervention strategies for young children with autism, including parent-implemented interventions.

"Early Intervention/Early Childhood," coprincipal investigators are Louise Kaczmarek and Diana Knoll, research associate in the Department of Instruction and Learning.

RISE, funded for \$1.495 million, is designed to revise and redesign Pitt's Special Education Pre-K-Grade 8 program, developing a new dual certification master's level program in special education and secondary content areas.

A minimum of 100 teaching candidates will fulfill a field experience enhanced by collaborative general and special education mentors. Program graduates will participate in an intensive induction program for multiple years while working in high-need schools.

RISE coprincipal investigators are Christopher Lemons; Sheila Conway, clinical assistant professor; Amy Srsic, program coordinator; Douglas Kostewicz; and Steven Lyon, professor, all in the Department of Instruction and Learning.

**Faculty in the special education program of the Pitt School of Education's Department of Instruction and Learning received funding for the three projects, whose titles are "Apprenticeship in Special Education Instruction, Research, and Leadership," "Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Autism Specialization," and "Restructuring and Improving Special Education."**

# 2012 Carnegie Science Center Awards

Continued from page 1

questions that cannot be addressed by traditional laboratory experiments, developing approaches for accurate computational analysis of protein structure and function.

## Leadership in STEM Education Award

The Math and Science Collaborative, which provides innovation and evidence-based, regional approaches to the teaching and learning of mathematics and science from preschool through university levels. The collaborative was formed in 1994 at the Carnegie Science Center and supports all schools in 11 Southwestern Pennsylvania counties. Pitt alumnus Nancy Bunt (EDUC '74G, '97G) is the collaborative's program director.

## Life Sciences Award

Joel Schuman, Eye and Ear Foundation Professor and chair of ophthalmology in the Pitt School of Medicine and director of the UPMC Eye Center.

A leading expert on glaucoma, Schuman has been recognized for making contributions to science and technology in Western Pennsylvania. Schuman was selected spe-

cifically for improving lives through his scientific innovations.

## University/Post-Secondary Student Award

Douglas Nelson (A&S '09, ENGR '09), graduate teaching assistant in the University of Pittsburgh Simulation and Medical Technology R&D Center.

Nelson's research includes 3-D tracking technologies, gesture-based interfaces, and methods to incorporate intelligent tutoring systems into medical training.

## University/Post-Secondary Student Honorable Mention

Sam Rothstein (ENGR '11), PhD candidate in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering of Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering.

Rothstein invented a more efficient method for designing time-release medications and championed its development through successful preclinical testing of several dosage forms. With these patent-pending formulations, a drug that would normally require daily doses could be taken safely just once a month or even once a year.

## Newsmakers

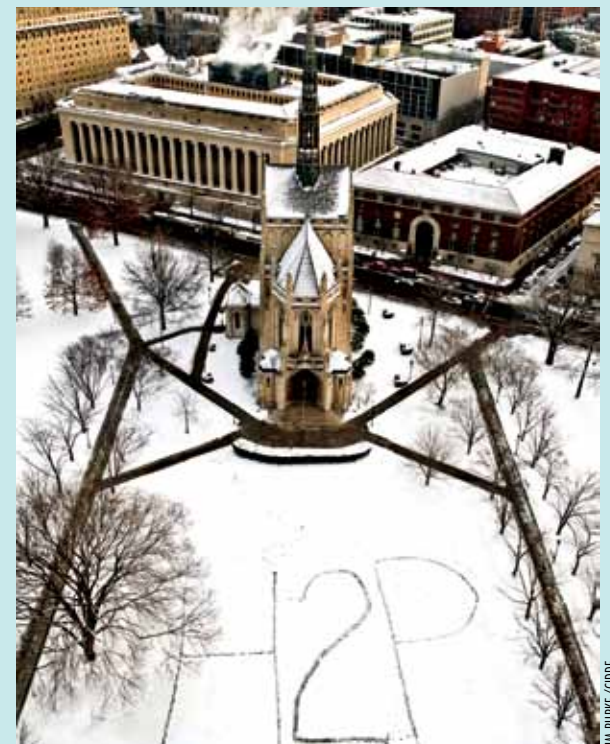
### FRENCH AMBASSADOR VISITS PITT



French Ambassador Francois Delattre (right) visited the University of Pittsburgh campus on Jan. 18 and spoke to an invited audience of 150 gathered in the second-floor ballroom of the University Club. Delattre said that France is inspired by the ability of American cities like Pittsburgh to reinvent themselves. The breakfast briefing, titled "New Opportunities for the Franco-American Partnership and for the Transatlantic Relationship," was sponsored by Pitt and the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (left) welcomed the ambassador and delivered opening remarks.

### A WARM WINTER GREETING

No doubt someone's love of newly fallen snow—and a touch of creativity—produced a Panther salutation for Pitt faculty, staff, and students who looked out the windows on the eastern side of the Cathedral of Learning one recent morning. "H2P," the footstep tracks whispered: Hail to Pitt! A posting of the photo on Pitt's official Facebook page garnered more than 100 comments, including "Hail to Pitt! Memories of my wonderful years at Pitt ... fun times!" Two other women separately reminisced about their long-ago weddings in Heinz Chapel. And one poster jokingly credited the snow art to a Peregrine falcon.



# Awards & More

## Camillus Receives Distinguished Alumnus Award From Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

By Audrey M. Marks

John C. Camillus, Donald R. Beall Professor of Strategic Management in Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration, has been awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), where Camillus earned his diploma (the equivalent of an MBA degree) and was a gold medalist in the school's Post Graduate Programme. IIM-A, which has been ranked as the top business school in India, is listed as No. 11 in the *Financial Times Global MBA Rankings 2012*. *The Economist* has identified IIM-A as the most selective business school in the world.

Camillus recently accepted the IIM-A award during a ceremony that coincided with the school's 50th anniversary. Previously, as the first alumnus to obtain a faculty position at the school—he had served there as a professor of management—Camillus received IIM-A's first-ever Best Teacher Award. At Pitt, Camillus—a member of the Katz faculty since 1977—has been honored with the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award and the Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award. He is an authority on strategic planning and management control.

"IIM-A transformed my profes-



John C. Camillus (left) receives his award from Samir Barua, director of IIM-A.

sional life," Camillus says. "My two years as a student were a marvelous and energizing time. Three professors, in particular, were wonderful mentors during my time as a student and even afterwards. They taught me how to analyze complex problems, how to visualize and affect organizational outcomes, and how to seek and find simple solutions that work."

Camillus received his Bachelor of Technology degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, and earned his Doctor of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School. He is devoted to the Pittsburgh arts community, serving as a trustee of the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh and executive vice chair of the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council.

## Pitt Undergraduate Receives 2012 Woodrow Wilson-Rockefeller Brothers Fund Teaching Fellowship

By Patricia Lomando White

Christell Boyd-Abner, a University of Pittsburgh senior in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences who is majoring in psychology with related studies in sociology, has been selected to receive the 2012 Woodrow Wilson-Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowship (WW-RBF) for Aspiring Teachers of Color. Boyd-Abner is among 25 individuals nationwide selected for the third cohort of WW-RBF recipients.

Chosen through a competitive selection process, each WW-RBF aspiring teacher receives a \$30,000 stipend to complete a master's degree in education, preparation to teach in a high-need public school, support throughout a three-year teaching commitment, and guidance toward teaching certification.

The Pitt School of Education's Master of Arts in Teaching program is among the graduate school programs Boyd-Abner, of Philadelphia, is considering.

A first-generation college student, Boyd-Abner is an active member of Pitt's Reaching Inside of Yourself for Excellence (RISE) Mentoring Program, which works to boost retention and graduation rates of underrepresented

groups in postsecondary institutions. She received RISE's Stand-Out Student Award given to those who exemplify hard work and dedication to "upholding the standards of a RISE student."



Christell Boyd-Abner

Boyd-Abner has served as a volunteer in Philadelphia Freedom Schools and, prior to transferring from the Pitt-Bradford regional campus to the University's Pittsburgh campus, tutored Bradford students in College Algebra 2. Through WeDoBigThings-Philadelphia, whose mission is to "socioeconomically diversify post-secondary institutions," Boyd-Abner mentors inner-city youth who are aspiring college/university enrollees. This past fall, she was inducted into Psi Chi: The International Honor Society in Psychology.

Established in 1992 by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF), the Fellowships for Aspiring Teachers of Color were created to help recruit, support, and retain individuals of color as public education teachers and administrators. Since the program's inception, RBF has awarded nearly \$8 million in grants and financial assistance to 400 fellows. In January 2009, it transferred the program to the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

## Pitt Public Affairs Office Wins CASE Awards

The University of Pittsburgh's Office of Public Affairs won four awards—including one Gold—from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II in that organization's 2012 Accolades Awards Program competition. The honors were presented during the Jan. 22-24 CASE District I and District II annual conference in New York City.

*Pitt Med*, the Pitt School of Medicine magazine, won a Gold Award in the category of Visual Design in Print, Covers, for the cover of its Spring 2011 issue, featuring the story "None of My Memories Are My Own," an article about traumatic brain injury.

*Pitt Med* also received a Silver Award in the Staff Writing category.

Another Silver Award, in the category of Visual Design in Print, Multiple-Page Publications, was given to the Office of Public Affairs' 2010 *Blue Gold & Black*, a biennial publication dedicated to chronicling the achievements of Black Pitt students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

Receiving an Honorable Mention in the category of Community Relations Programs, Projects, and Special Events was Pitt's 2011 K. LeRoy Irwin Black History Month celebration of *America's Best Weekly: A Century of The Pittsburgh Courier*, an exhibition at the Senator John Heinz History Center that explored the nationwide impact of *The Pittsburgh Courier* newspaper throughout the past 100 years. Pitt and the History Center launched the exhibition's opening with a Feb. 10 private reception and program at the History Center, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District. The exhibition ran from Feb. 11 through Oct. 2, 2011.

District II is CASE's largest division, which includes 700 institutions and 3,000 individual members from Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Canadian Province of Ontario.

**The University of Pittsburgh's Office of Public Affairs won four awards—including one Gold—from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District II in that organization's 2012 Accolades Awards Program competition. The honors were presented during the Jan. 22-24 CASE District I and District II annual conference in New York City.**

## Bookshelf

### Peacemaking and the Imagination: Papua New Guinea Perspectives

There are two opposing views of violence in human affairs. One contends that violence is an ingrained propensity and, therefore, there are inherent problems in peacemaking. The other contends that people are inclined toward cooperative and peaceful behavior and violence represents an abnormal breakdown of this state of relationships. In *Peacemaking and the Imagination: Papua New Guinea Perspectives* (University of Queensland Press, Penguin Australia, 2011), Andrew Strathern and Pamela J. Stewart from the Department of Anthropology in Pitt's Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences argue that in communities where violence must be paid for through compensation, violent conflict can be contained.

With a primary reference to the Highlands of Papua New Guinea and by drawing comparisons to cases from Africa, Pakistan, and other arenas of tribal social formations, the authors explore how rituals such as wealth disbursement, oath taking, sacrifice, and formal apologies are often used as a means of averting or transcending acts of revenge after

violence. Strathern is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Anthropology and Stewart a senior research associate at Pitt.

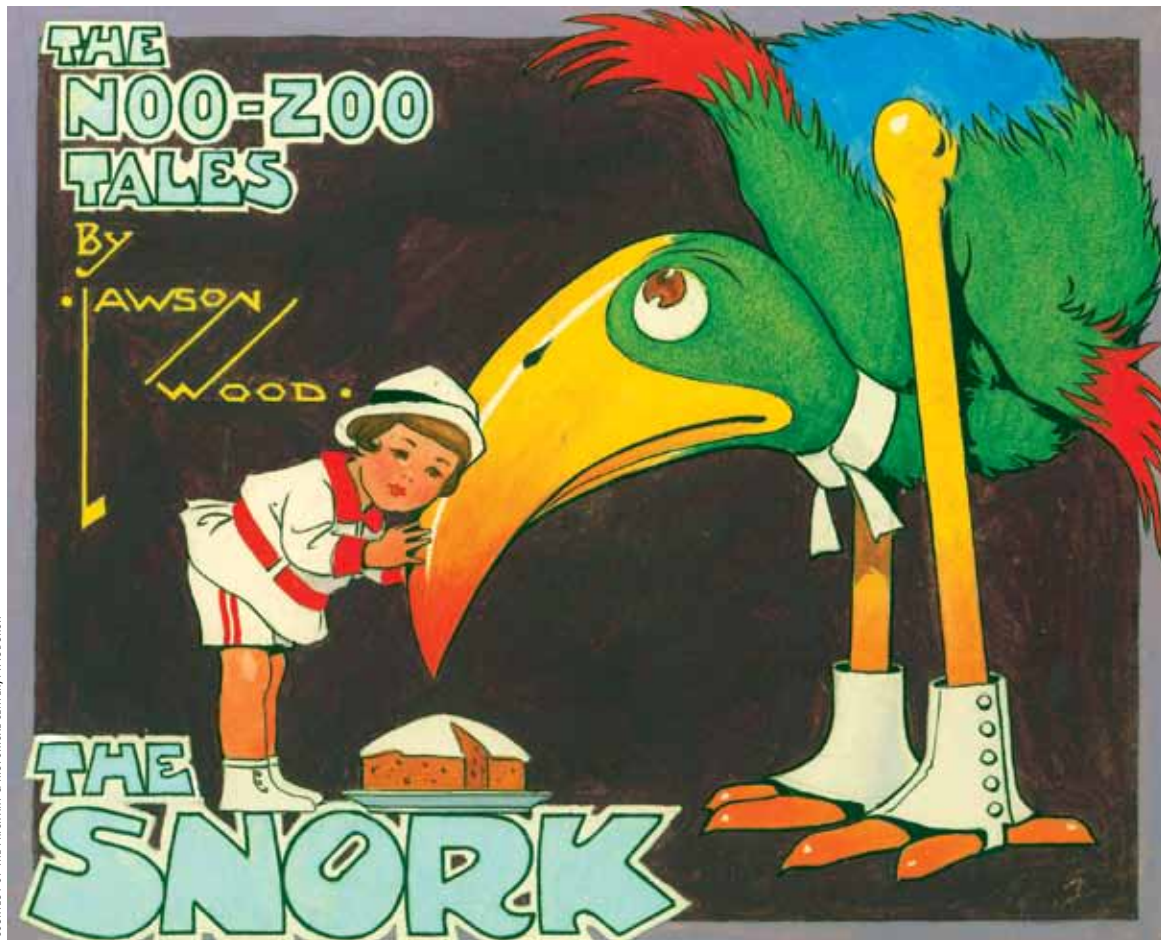
"More than 40 years of field research and writing have gone into the making of this book," the authors said. "Writing *Peacemaking and the Imagination* was the occasion for us to revisit and rework many themes from our earlier work on violence, but this time with the focus on peace, not war."

The book is the third title in the University of Queensland Press' *New Approaches to Peace and Conflict* series, which publishes new theory, research, and strategies for effective peace building and the transformation of violent conflict.

Strathern and Stewart are a husband-and-wife research team with a long history of joint publication and research. They are frequently invited as international lecturers and have carried out long-term fieldwork in the Pacific, Asia, and Europe in a wide range of subjects, including conflict and violence.



# Happenings



Noo-Zoo Tales, *The Snork*, an illustration from the 1920s by Larson Wood

**Draw Me a Story: A Century of Children's Book Illustration,**  
The Frick Art & Historical Center,  
February 11-May 20

## Concerts

**Meklit Hadero**, mix of jazz and folk with African flourishes, with opener Joy Ike, 8 p.m. **Feb. 7**, Shadow Lounge, 5927 Baum Blvd., East Liberty, Calliope Collaborations, Calliope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, [www.calliopehouse.org](http://www.calliopehouse.org).

**Cedric Watson et Bijou Creole**, emerging artist in Cajun/Creole music, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 8**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Cohen & Grigsby Trust Presents Series, [www.trustarts.org](http://www.trustarts.org), 412-456-6666, PITT ARTS Night begins at 6:30 p.m., PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**The University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**, performance of Robert Schultze's *Legend* for string orchestra and Brahms' *Symphony No. 2*, 8 p.m. **Feb. 8**, free, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Music at Pitt Series, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125.

**Julieta Ugartemendia**, singer and clarinetist, accompanied by pianist Tom Roberts and the Tangueros de Ley ensemble, performing tangos and other Argentinian music, 7 p.m. **Feb. 9**, free, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt's Center for Latin American Studies, 412-648-7394.

**The Parker Sisters**, old-time Appalachian fiddle music duo, noon **Feb. 10**, free, Cup & Chaucer Café, ground floor, Hillman Library, Calliope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, [www.calliopehouse.org](http://www.calliopehouse.org).

**Beethoven, Mozart, & Respighi**, Manfred Honeck, conductor, with soloist Lars Vogt in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 16, **Feb. 10 and 12**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org), PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Chamber Choir Festival**, performances by chamber choirs from area high schools, 3 p.m. **Feb. 12**, free, Heinz Memorial Chapel, Heinz Chapel Choir, 412-624-4125.

## Exhibitions

**The Warhol**, *About Face*, a series of three-dimensional large-format portraits by photographer Anne Svenson; *Warhol and Cars: American Icons*, examines Warhol's enduring fascination with automobiles as products of American consumer society, both **through May 13**; *I Just Want to Watch: Warhol's Film, Video, and Television*, **ongoing**, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, [www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org).

**Carnegie Museum of Art**, *Maya Lin*, imaginative recreations of natural forms transformed into objects of contemplation, **Feb. 11-May 13**; *Picturing the City: Downtown Pittsburgh, 2007-2010*, **through March 2**; *Teenie Harris*, *Photographer: An American Story*, **through April 7**; *Hand Made: Contemporary Craft in Ceramic, Glass, and Wood*, **ongoing**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org).

**The Frick Art & Historical Center**, *Draw Me a Story: A Century of Children's Book Illustration*, survey of drawing styles and techniques spanning more than 100 years, including detailed watercolors, expressive pen drawings, and experimental combinations from



**Beethoven, Mozart, & Respighi,**  
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra,  
Heinz Hall,  
February 10 and 12

artists like Randolph Caldecott, Chris van Allsburg, Ernest Shepard, and Maurice Sendak, **Feb. 11-May 20**, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-0600, [www.thefrickpittsburgh.org](http://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org).

**Westmoreland Museum of American Art**, *The Art of Seating: 200 Years of American Design*, includes The Jacobsen American Chair Collection, a comprehensive private collection of iconic and historic chairs from the mid-1800s to pieces from today's studio movement, **through April 8**, 221 N. Main St., Greensburg, 724-837-1500, [www.wmuseum.org](http://www.wmuseum.org).

**Wood Street Galleries**, *Cell Phone Disco*, **ongoing**, Tito Way, Downtown, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**"Segregating Conscious Vision,"** Wayne Wu, assistant professor of philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University, 12:05 p.m. **Feb. 7**, 12:05 p.m., 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science Lunchtime Talks Series, [www.pittcenter/pitt.edu](http://www.pittcenter/pitt.edu), [www.pitt.edu/~pittcenter/](http://www.pitt.edu/~pittcenter/).

**"Consensus Organizing: Building Communities of Mutual Self Interest,"** Michael Eichler, executive director of the Consensus Organizing Center, San Diego State University, noon **Feb. 8**, School of Social Work Conference Center, 20th floor, Cathedral of Learning, Pitt School of Social Work, 412-624-6304, [www.socialwork.pitt.edu](http://www.socialwork.pitt.edu).

**"Waltzing With the Big Boys: Evolution of the Coalition-Building Strategy of the Philippines in the World Trade Organization,"** Sharon M. Quinsa, doctoral student, Pitt Department of Sociology, noon **Feb. 9**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, [jennm@pitt.edu](http://jennm@pitt.edu), [www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc).

**"A Behavioral Medicine Perspective on the Development of Cardiovascular Disease,"** Karen A. Matthews, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry in Pitt's School of Medicine, 4 p.m.

**Feb. 9**, 1105 Scaife Conference Center, Pitt Provost's Inaugural Lecture Series, [www.pitt.provost.edu](http://www.pitt.provost.edu).

**"The Transformative Power of Role Modeling and Coaching in Medical Education,"** Scott M. Wright, professor of medicine and director of Miller-Coulson Academy of Clinical Excellence, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, noon **Feb. 10**, Lecture Room 3, 4th Floor Scaife Hall, Medical Education Grand Rounds, Office of the Vice Dean, Pitt School of Medicine, 412-648-9000, [www.megr.pitt.edu](http://www.megr.pitt.edu).

**"Women, Power, and Peacemaking in Africa,"** Aili Mari Tripp, professor of political science and of gender and women's studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1:30 p.m. **Feb. 10**, Sociology Colloquium Room, 2432 Posvar Hall, held in honor of the late 2004 Nobel Peace Prize recipient and Pitt alumnus Wangari Muta Maathai (A&S '65G), Iris Marion Young Lecture Series on Civic Engagement, 412-624-6485, [wstudies@pitt.edu](mailto:wstudies@pitt.edu).

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**Uncommon**, choreographed by Dwight Rhoden to the music of J. S. Bach, **Feb. 9-11**, August Wilson Center for African American Culture, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, [www.pbt.org](http://www.pbt.org), 412-281-0360, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Classical Indian Dance National Competition 2012**, hosted by Pitt's classical Indian dance team, Nrityamala, which won the 2011 classic, 6 p.m.



Plate, 1982 by Viola Frey

**Carnegie Museum of Art,**  
*Hand Made: Contemporary Craft in Ceramic, Glass, and Wood,*  
Ongoing

**Feb. 11**, Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum, 4141 Fifth Ave., Oakland, [www.laasyacompetition.com](http://www.laasyacompetition.com).

**The Gammage Project** by Attilio "Buck" Favorini, an original docudrama exposing emotions that affect race relations in Pittsburgh, **Feb. 9-19**, Henry Heymann Theatre inside the Stephen Foster Memorial, **March 2-4**, August Wilson Center, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pitt Repertory Theatre, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company, 412-624-7529, [www.play.pitt.edu/content/gammage-project](http://www.play.pitt.edu/content/gammage-project).

**Billy Elliott The Musical**, a celebration of one young boy's triumph against the odds, musical score by Elton John, **through Feb. 12**, Benedum Center, 803 Liberty Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org), 412-471-6070, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**As You Like It** by Shakespeare, **through Feb. 19**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-8219, [www.ppt.org](http://www.ppt.org), PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Ruthless! The Musical**, featuring the crazy antics of a homicidal eight-year-old aspiring actress, **through May 6**, CLO Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh CLO Cabaret, [www.pittsburghclo.org](http://www.pittsburghclo.org), 412-325-6766, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Jacob Pollock**, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences' Department of History, "The Geographical Compass: History, Authority, and Utility in the English Voyage Account, 1660-1730," 11 a.m. **Feb. 9**, 3703 Posvar Hall.



Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg congratulates Maathai during her 2006 visit to campus, when she received an honorary Pitt doctorate.

**"Women, Power, and Peacemaking in Africa,"**  
in honor of the late  
2004 Nobel Peace Prize recipient  
and Pitt alumnus  
Wangari Muta Maathai,  
2432 Posvar Hall,  
February 10

**The University of Pittsburgh**  
Symphony Orchestra,  
Bellefield Hall Auditorium,  
February 8



## Pitt Repertory to Present World-Premiere Production of *The Gammage Project*

By Sharon S. Blake

Pitt Repertory Theatre will present an original docudrama, *The Gammage Project*, written by Attilio “Buck” Favorini, professor and director of graduate studies in Pitt’s Department of Theatre Arts. The world-premiere production will be directed by Mark Clayton Southers, founding and producing director of the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company.

Produced in conjunction with Pittsburgh Playwrights, *The Gammage Project* initially will run from Feb. 9 to Feb. 19 in the Henry Heymann Theatre in Pitt’s Stephen Foster Memorial. It also will be presented March 2-4 at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown.

The play is based on actual events from 1995 that drew national media attention. Jonny Gammage, a cousin of former Pittsburgh Steeler defensive end Ray Seals, was in town for a visit. Driving along State Route 51, Gammage was stopped by a Brentwood police lieutenant, because, according to court trial testimony, he had been repeatedly applying the car’s brakes. The Brentwood police lieutenant was assisted by four other officers, all of whom are White; Gammage was Black. Gammage died at the scene; the cause of death is listed as asphyxiation caused by pressure applied to the chest and neck.

A coroner’s jury recommended that homicide charges be brought against the five officers, but only two were charged with involuntary manslaughter. After two mistrials, the charges against the two were dropped. A third officer was tried separately and found not guilty.



Following every performance, Favorini or a guest will moderate talkback sessions between the audience, one or two of the cast members, and individuals who have a connection to the Gammage case. Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, except for the Sunday, March 4, matinee, which begins at 1 p.m. For tickets or for more information, call 412-624-PLAY (7529) or visit [www.play.pitt.edu/content/gammage-project](http://www.play.pitt.edu/content/gammage-project).

“Our hope is that *The Gammage Project* will bring to light the suppressed facts and feelings that continue to affect race relations today,” said Favorini. “No less important, we look to position our play in the millennia-old tradition of deploying drama to address issues of civic consequence. We want to create a play that invites all to think deeply and to feel honestly.”

Favorini, who served as founding chair of Pitt’s Department of Theatre Arts, was

also founder and producing director of this region’s Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival (1980-92). He wrote the grant that helped establish the City Theatre at Pitt, and he served as its executive producer from 1979 to 1988. A PhD graduate of Yale University, he is the former editor of *Theatre Survey*, the American journal of theater history.

Southers is an award-winning playwright, photographer, set designer, producer, and stage director. His roots in theater go back to 1980, when he was a photographer, actor, and playwright for Pitt’s Kuntu Repertory Theatre. He has produced more than 100 full-length and one-act plays for Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company, including eight consecutive plays from August Wilson’s Pittsburgh cycle of dramas. In November 2010, Southers was named the August Wilson Center’s artistic director for theater initiatives.

## PittChronicle

Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Robert Hill
<b>ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER</b>	John Harvith
<b>EXECUTIVE EDITOR</b>	Linda K. Schmittmeyer
<b>EDITOR</b>	Jane-Ellen Robinet
<b>ART DIRECTOR</b>	Gary Kohr-Cravener
<b>STAFF WRITERS</b>	Sharon S. Blake John Fedele B. Rose Huber Audrey M. Marks Patricia Lomando White
<b>CONTRIBUTING WRITERS</b>	Baindu Saidu Jennifer C. Yates
<b>HAPPENINGS EDITOR</b>	Baindu Saidu

The *Pitt Chronicle* is published throughout the year by University News and Magazines, University of Pittsburgh, 400 Craig Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Phone: 412-624-1033, Fax: 412-624-4895. E-mail: [chron@pitt.edu](mailto:chron@pitt.edu) Web: [www.chronicle.pitt.edu](http://www.chronicle.pitt.edu)

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution that does not discriminate upon any basis prohibited by law.

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Feb. 13. 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).