Chancellor Nordenberg Names Winners of Distinguished Teaching, Research, and Public Service Awards

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg has announced the winners of the 2012 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching, Research, and Public Service Awards. The following five Pitt faculty members will receive the 2012 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award:

- Alice M. Blazek, assistant professor and vice chair for administration in the Department of Acute and Tertiary Care within the School of Nursing;
- Jason J. Dechant, instructor and course developer in the School of Nursing's Department of Health Promotion and Development;
- Prakash Mirchandani, professor of business administration in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration;
- John C. Ramirez, senior lecturer in the Department of Computer Science of the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences; and
- Manuel C. Vallejo, professor of anesthesiology and director of obstetric anesthesia within the School of Medicine.

The following six Pitt faculty members have been named recipients of the 2012 Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award:

- Yuan Chang, professor in the School of Medicine's Department of Pathology and codirector of the Tumor Virology Lab in the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI), and Patrick Moore, professor in the School of Medicine's Department of Microbiology and Medical Genetics, director of the Cancer Virology Program, and codirector of the Tumor Virology Lab, both within UPCI, who will share one award;
- Brent Doiron, assistant professor in the Dietrich School's Department of Mathematics;
- Steven Little, assistant professor and Bicentennial Alumni Faculty Fellow in the Departments of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering and of Bioengineering in the Swanson School, in the School of Medicine's Department of Immunology, and in the Pitt-UPMC McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine;
- Eric Moe, professor of music in the Dietrich School and codirector of Pitt's Music on the Edge; and
- William Wagner, interim director of the Pitt-UPMC McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine as well as a professor of surgery in the Pitt School of Medicine and of bioengineering and chemical engineering in the Swanson School. Chang, Moore, Moe, and Wagner are being honored in the senior scholar category, which recognizes “an outstanding and continuing record of research and scholarly activity,” while Doiron and Little are being honored in the junior scholar category.

The three winners of the 2012 Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Awards (pictured on page 4) are:

- Diego G. Chaves-Gnecco, assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, and a developmental-behavioral pediatrician in the Division of General Academic Pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC;
- David V. Miller, professor and director of the Center for Metropolitan Studies in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; and
- Edward K. Muller, professor in the Department of History within the Dietrich School.

Each awardee will receive a $2,000 award.

Honors College to Mark Anniversary With Feb. 25 Forum

Established by the University of Pittsburgh trustees in 1986 and dedicated during the University's Bicentennial Celebration on Founders Day in February 1987, the University Honors College (UHC) will commemorate its 25th anniversary with a daylong forum, including presentations and musical interludes, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in Pitt's Bellefield Hall. This event is being coordinated with Pitt’s 225th anniversary celebration, which begins with Honors Convocation on Feb. 24 and continues through the 2012 Homecoming festivities in October.

“We are proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Honors College,” says Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patrick E. Beeson. “It is fitting that we do so in concert with this year's special Honors Convocation on Founders Day, which observes the 225th anniversary of the University of Pittsburgh. The Honors College was dedicated on Pitt's Bicentennial Founders Day in 1987 as a way of highlighting the values held throughout the University. Today, the Honors College continues to embody the educational ideals that make our undergraduate programs among the very best in the nation. It represents our dedication to quality and our commitment to continually challenge our students and strengthen our academic performance.”

“In the 25 years since its founding, the UHC has contributed substantially to the University’s mission regarding undergraduate education,” said Edward M. Stricker, dean of the Honors College and a Distinguished University Professor of Neuroscience. “It has done so in many practical ways, which collectively help to enhance the University’s national reputation. But that’s not nearly the sum of it. The UHC also fosters the highest educational standards and values while providing numerous opportunities for students and faculty members to do their best work. And it prepares students to become learners and thinkers for the rest of their lives. In short, I view the UHC as emblematic of what the University of Pittsburgh and the whole institution of education stand for.”

UHC alumni and University faculty and students will deliver remarks on the spirit and ideals for which the UHC has stood in promoting quality undergraduate education, and they also will discuss the college’s role in the future of undergraduate education at Pitt.

Stricker will open and close the forum, and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg will deliver interjections. In recognition of the 25th anniversary, 25 Pitt undergraduates will introduce the speakers and facilitate the day’s presentations. Musical interludes will take place intermittently throughout the event.

Colin Stewart, managing director of the Bank of America in New York and son of the late G. Alec Stewart, founding dean of the UHC, will give the opening talk, titled “Community College: Observations on Place, Culture, and Companionship in..."
Two original Pennsylvania charters—one dated Feb. 28, 1787, that led to the establishment of the progenitor of today’s University of Pittsburgh, The Pittsburgh Academy, in a small log house on the edge of the American frontier, and one dated Feb. 18, 1819, that rechartered the school as the Western University of Pennsylvania—will be on display beginning Feb. 27 in Pitt’s Hillman Library as part of the University’s 225th anniversary celebration.

This is the first time that the original first pages of both charters will be exhibited in Pittsburgh; they will be shown in the Audubon display case near the library’s ground-floor elevators, and reproductions of all the charters’ pages will be mounted on the walls nearby. Those displays, and a related one in the Hillman Library’s ground-floor lobby, will be on view until May 18. (See Happenings, page 7.) The original four pages of the 1787 charter will also be on display 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. outside the William Pitt Union’s Assembly Room for the Feb. 24 meeting of the Pitt Board of Trustees.

The charts, somewhat torn and tattered when they arrived at Pitt, have been mended and cleaned by the University Library System (ULS) Department of Preservation. It was Pitt Assistant University Librarian Michael Dabrishus who first wondered whether the Pennsylvania State Archives might house the old Pitt records. Recalling the official charters from other universities he had seen while employed as an archivist for the Texas State Archives, Dabrishus approached Linda Ries, head of the Arrangement and Description Section of the Pennsylvania State Archives.

“I checked the stacks, and I found them,” said Ries, who explained that prior to coming to the Archives in 1906, the documents were kept by the Pennsylvania State Department, the official keeper of all state laws created by the General Assembly when it was based in Philadelphia. Eventually, all laws passed prior to 1800 became the property of the State Archives. The October 1908 decree that ultimately changed the University’s name to University of Pittsburgh was merely a name change and didn’t involve the state.

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By Sharon S. Blake

Two Original Pitt Charters to Be Displayed in Hillman Library

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Larry Davis, Tranforming Social Work for a New World

Larry Davis, the University’s Donald M. Henderson Professor and dean of Pitt’s School of Social Work, is a seasoned world traveler. By age 26, he had climbed Tanzania’s Mt. Kilimanjaro and been to every country in Western Europe. And while moving to Pittsburgh in 2001 to accept his current position at Pitt may have seemed tame at the time, the past decade has offered its own kind of adventures.

“This is the only job I’ve ever had that has afforded me the opportunity to use all of my skills,” says Davis, whose job might find him in a foundation president’s office one day and a bustling food bank the next, “I get to use my creativity and my social skills, and I get to meet different kinds of people. I like negotiating the world and coming up with new ideas.”

Davis has worked diligently to refashion the School of Social Work’s doctoral program for the 21st century, continually updating the curriculum so that newly minted PhD graduates gain the latest in top-notch teaching and research methodology skills. He downsized the program from 14 to 6 students a year, added a doctoral student lecture series, and received administrative support to fully fund doctoral students for all four years of their education, making it one of the best-funded social work programs in the United States.

Davis also updated the Master of Social Work degree program, requiring students to go into the region’s neighborhoods earlier to fulfill practicum requirements. He has hired half of the school’s 30 current faculty, helped to establish three endowed chairs, supported the creation of a minor in social work, and begun recruitment into the School of Social Work’s Browne Leadership Program, a cross-disciplinary initiative created in 2011 with a financial gift from James J. Browne (SOC WK, ’73G) and his wife, Noel (SOC WK ’74). The program selects as its participants Pitt undergraduates in nonsocial work majors, who are given the opportunity to attend monthly symposia and to do a summer service project. The goal is for students to implement the values and ethics of social work training into their own fields. An art history major, for example, could experience the rewards of spearheading a community mural project. Assisting Sharpsburg residents with waterways issues might be a good fit for an engineering student. The idea is to encourage all students to think more humanely and holistically, no matter their chosen career path.

In 2002, Davis founded Pitt’s Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP), which, through a popular spring and fall lecture series, brings in scholars from across the United States to visit with Pitt grad students and then address the community on topical issues ranging from racial housing segregation to obesity in Black communities.

Davis also has placed more of an emphasis on scholarly work. When he arrived at Pitt, the school ranked 40th in the number of published articles per year; now it ranks fourth.

The whole intellectual climate of the school has changed,” says Davis, who has immersed himself in his leadership of the school, which is building on its legacy of valuing activists and organizers as well as scholars and thinkers.

Davis earned the Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Michigan State University and a master’s degree in social work, a master’s degree in psychology, and a Ph.D. in both social work and psychology from the University of Michigan. In 1977, he was the first Black person to graduate from this joint-degree program.

In 2009, Davis created the groundbreaking Journal on Race and Social Problems. A multidisciplinary periodical, it is designed to unite scholars who may previously have been divided by fields of study. In addition, Davis is coeditor-in-chief of the 20th edition of the Encyclopedia of Social Work (NASW Press/Oxford University Press, 2008; coauthor of Measuring Race and Ethnicity (Springer, 2011) and Race, Gender, and Class: Guidelines for Practice With Individuals, Families, and Groups (Prentice Hall, 1989); and author of Black and Single: Finding and Choosing a Partner Who Is Right for You (Agate, 3rd edition, 2004).

Alberto Godenzi, professor and dean in Boston College’s Graduate School of Social Work, calls Davis a “primus inter pares [first among equals] among social work deans.”

“He is not only revered for his vision—leadership, scholarly record, and outreach to communities,” Godenzi, “but he is also the powerful voice that reminds us that education and social justice are two sides of the same coin.”

Davis also finds his deep community connections a satisfying part of his profession. Unlike his previous home base of Michigan, Pittsburgh is thriving in an urban center and helps find solutions to urban issues.

“We can have an impact,” says Davis, referring to Pitt social work professor John Wallace’s Homewood Children’s Village, an initiative to improve the academic outcomes and well-being of children. Or Pitt social work professor Hide Yamato’s work to help chained prisoners make the jail-cell-to-neighborhood adjustment.

“I like to say that social work is one of the few professions in which the elevator goes all the way to the ground,” says Davis. “We can go into a community and make things happen.”

Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Police Chief Nate Harper, Public School Superintendent Linda Lane, and Urban League chapter president Esther Bush are just a few of the community leaders who know Davis and also know the quality of social workers and community organizers his school is producing.

In his rare spare time, Davis enjoys attending cultural events and traveling with his sons Amani, 17; Naeem, 16; and Keanu, 14. Or he tosses his attention to a book he is writing with the working title If We Were Slaves, Why Are They Angry At Us? It’s not unusual for him to rise early on a Saturday morning, don casual clothes, grab a breakfast-to-go on his way to Oakland from his Highland Park home, and spend the morning hunkered down in his Catholic Library of Creative developing what he calls “a personal history of race and social science.” It’s a book written for the layperson with Davis’ ideas of “how race works like it does in this country.”

Davis has enjoyed exploring other countries and cultures in order to learn more about people, he says. As a VISTA volunteer in New York City from 1969 to 1972, Davis ran a community center for teens, organized block parties, and produced plays against a backdrop of Martin Luther King’s work training into their own fields. An art history major, for example, could experience the rewards of spearheading a community mural project. Assisting Sharpsburg residents with waterways issues might be a good fit for an engineer- ing student. The idea is to encourage all students to think more humanely and holistically, no matter their chosen career path.

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cash prize and a $3,000 grant for the support of his or her teaching or research. The awardees will be recognized during Pitt’s 36th annual Honors Convocation on Friday, Feb. 24, and their names also will be inscribed on plaques to be displayed in the William Pitt Union.

**Distinguished Teaching Award**

Blazeck was recognized for developing innovative teaching methods in the School of Nursing. “Your educational expertise has been recognized by your school with your receipt of two Distinguished Clinical Scholar Awards and the 2011 Dean’s Distinction in Teaching Award when you were also honored as a fellow of the American academy of admiral clinicians. As evident from your excellent student evaluations, your commitment to incorporating teaching and creating engaging learning situations in your classroom is well appreciated by your students,” Pitt alumnus Blazeck (NS’75) was also named the 2011 Nightingale Award Winner for Nursing Education by the Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania Foundation that recognizes leaders in the medical profession.

The chancellor, in his Feb. 6 letter informing Dechant of his award, praised the initiative and leadership he demonstrated during his teaching mission of the School of Nursing. “You have revised the anatomy and physiology curriculum, introducing an innovative two–semester course, and have written and taught with more traditional educational methods,” Nordenberg wrote. Dechant, in his dossier submitted for the award judging panel, and he works hard to gain students’ interest. One example of this is bringing fresh sheep lungs into the anatomy classroom to allow students to actually see the respiratory system. Students also do a wide variety of hands–on learning activities utilizing cadaveric materials. The chancellor noted that Dechant’s student evaluations reflected his engaging teaching style and his commitment to the achievement and optimization of each student and optimizing learning in the classroom. In 2004, Dechant received the School of Nursing Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

**Distinguished Research Award**

Karpov’s research interests involve cardiovascular engineering efforts that provide fundamentally new ways to incorporate tissue engineering, biomaterials, and computational methods to design more effective treatment regimes. Specifically, Little was recognized for his pioneering research that has impacted the controlled release of drugs, which creates more effective treatment regimes. Specifically, Little was noted for his creation of a groundbreaking “toolbox” to design more effective control over therapeutics. In his letter to Little, Nordenberg wrote, “You have developed fundamentally new ways to incorporate diagnostic imaging into arbitrary particles and thereby achieve results that cannot be produced by the previous state–of–the–art release vehicles. Your very recent research into biocompatible and bioactive materials or ‘patchy’ particles, is also pioneering in its implications for developing a new paradigm for controlled release. Your particles actively communicate with the environment, as opposed to the current paradigm, in which polymer degradation is the passive outcome of the environment.” Little has been named to receive the 2012 Young Investigator Award from the Society for Biomatials.

In his letter to Moe, the chancellor wrote, “With more than 80 works to your credit, your music is widely performed by the most accomplished soloists and ensembles in the U.S. and internationally. Your diverse output includes works for large orchestras, chamber music, solo instrumentals, vocal and choral, electroacoustic, and multimedia compositions. Your colleagues laud your accomplishments, calling you ‘one of the most consistently impressive and committed composers of his generation.’” Last year, Moe was one of only 10 composers nationwide selected for a prestigious Aaron Copland Award residency at Copland House in Mt. Kisco, N.Y. Moe codirects the University’s Music on the Edge program, which presents about six concerts each year featuring visiting artists as well as the Music on the Edge Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Pitt music faculty member Roger Zahab.

**Wagner’s research interests involve the application of engineering and materials science principles to develop technologies that solve critical problems in cardiovascular disease. His research group’s cardiovascular engineering efforts include projects that address cardiac regenerative medicine, biomechanical design and tissue engineering, and targeted vascular imaging. In his letter to Wagner, Nordenberg wrote, “Your research group has made substantial and continuing contributions to the field of cardiovascular medicine, particularly in the area of biodegradable, elastic polymers that are essential for soft tissue engineering. The processing and application of these materials as temporary mechanical supports to intervene in cardiovascular disease have the potential to substantially alter how patients are treated following a heart attack, and during surgery for cardiovascular disease.” The most widely utilized ventricular assist device today—the HeartMate II—was evaluated and developed at Pittsburgh techniques designed by Wagner’s group.”

**Distinguished Public Service Award**

Chaves–Gnecco was recognized for his work in bringing medical care and health education to the children of Spanish–speaking families in the greater Pittsburgh region, a population that is rapidly growing but geographically dispersed. In 2002, he founded the clinic that now operates as Salud Para Niños, Health for Children, which provides culturally and linguistically appropriate primary care for children and families.

“You have built your patient base by forming partnerships with local churches, list serves, and a local radio program. You accomplished this as a labor of love, but always with an eye toward building the program in capacity, professionalism, and value to the needs of this special population,” Nordenberg wrote in his letter informing Chaves–Gnecco of his award.

“Your work and service that you deliver is done with characteristic energy and unfailing dedication to providing the best medical care and wellness to children and families.”

As the founder and director of the Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT), Miller has worked to help coordinate the activities of the City of Pittsburgh and the neighboring 35 municipalities that make up the region’s urban core, which hosts more than 350,000 residents. In December 2010, CONNECT was cited by the Pennsylvan ia League of Cities and Municipalities in its “Core Communities” report as a “best practice” for addressing the isolation of core communities within its region.

In a letter congratulating Muller, Nordenberg said Muller “has made a major contribution to research and teaching, for the benefit of the collective interests of the urban core, as well as developing and maintaining a forum for discussion and implementation of new ways to maximize economic prosperity for the region.”

Muller was recognized for his outstanding service contributions that have focused on working to preserve Pittsburgh’s rich cultural and historic assets as well as to create new cultural and historic opportunities for the broader public. In particular, Muller was active during the 1980s and early 1990s in reconceptualizing the use of Pittsburgh’s waterfront industrial sites, which were being vacated by deindustrialization. He was also involved in securing and conserving some of the landmark buildings of southwestern Pennsylvania through such organizations as the Committee on Pittsburgh Archaeology and History, the Senator John Heinz History Center, the Steel Industry Heritage Task Force, and the Steel Valley Trail Council.

“Your dedication to the task of developing your exemplary efforts and very much appreciate the hard work and dedication that you bring to your work,” Nordenberg wrote in his letter informing Muller of his award. “Your work has brought honor to yourself, your profession, and the University of Pittsburgh.”
Pitt’s Honors College—A 25th Anniversary Celebration

On February 20, 2012, the University of Pittsburgh celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Pitt Honors College. The Honors Convocation, scheduled for 8:30 a.m. in the Cathedral of Learning, will feature many speakers and will honor the achievements of faculty, staff, and alumni.

**Continued from page 1**

Horoho, Petersen, Tepper Named 2012 Distinguished Alumni Fellows

Brief biographies of the alumni honor- ees follow.

**Conn. Petersen** also cofounded and was Electric Company for 11 years in Fairfield, from $20 million in 1962 to more than $4.6 years with the Erie Insurance Group, joining leaders. Her achievements and influence on women of the Year in recognition of her distinguished vices. She was named 2009 USO Woman of - a highly decorated officer of the armed ser

**Petersen’s name as well as the words** educators, students who have a B average or less; the others dents of Privacy”; “Social Norms, and Security, “When Can in the U.S. Depart-

**Horoho, a native of Fayetteville, N.C., and now a resident of Virginia, was enrolled at Carnegie Mellon University the benefi- at Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel, P.L.L.C., who holds the distinction of and dean of students, “Students: What They...nastics of Privacy”; “Social Norms, and Security, “When Can in the U.S. Depart-

**Peter Koehler** (A&S ’91, ’98G), a Pitt professor of’s honors program at Pitt, Horoho earned her BA degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a resident graduate of the Army’s Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, where she earned a second MS degree in national resource strategy.

A Pitt 2007 Legacy Laureate, Horoho is a high school math teacher and coach of the armed ser. She was named 2009 USO Woman of the Year in recognition of her distinguished service, and in 2010 she was awarded the Margaret Cochran Corbin Award by the Daughters of the American Revolution for her achievements and influence on women leaders.

**Petersen**, a native of Erie, Pa., spent 33 years with the Erie Insurance Group, joining the company in 1969 as personal lines underwriter and becoming the company’s first investment officer. Under Petersen’s leadership, the company’s investment assets grew from $20 million in 1962 to more than $4.6 billion at the time of his retirement, in 1995. Petersen was also the president and CEO of Petersen was an accountant with the General Electric Company for 11 years in Fairfield, Conn. Petersen also cofounded and was director of Spectrum Control Inc.

**With his wife, Gertrude, Petersen** helped to make Pitt’s John M. and Gertrude E. Petersen Events Center a reality. The Petersen Events Center provides recreation and fitness facilities and hosts concerts as well as the University’s commencement. In 2008, the Petersens cre- ated an endowment supporting research in the University’s Institute of NanoScience and Engineering, now the Gertrude E. and John M. Petersen Institute of NanoScience and Engineering. Most recently, a 2009 gift from the Petersens supported the construction of the Petersen Sports Complex, a 12-acre expansion of Pitt’s upper campus. The complex provides state-of-the-art homes for the Panther baseball, softball, and men’s and women’s soccer teams. While a Pitt student, Petersen, a U.S. Army veteran who attended on the GI Bill, lettered as a member of his Pitt’s swimming and diving team. He also was among the first students to live on campus during a time when most students commuted to Pitt.

A member of Pitt’s Catholic Student Community and Society and a Pitt 2000 Legacy Laureate, Petersen has extended his philan- thropic efforts to other areas of the University, supporting scholarships and activities in the College of Business Administration and the Department of Athletics.

In addition to supporting the University the benefici- ary of their generosity, the Petersens have endowed 31 scholarships for students from the center-city area of Erie who are graduates of either Strong Vincent High School, Mrs. Petersen’s alma mater, or East High School. Mrs. Petersen’s alma mater. The awards generate about $5,000 per student. Four of the scholarship recipients have a B average or less; the others are for students who are accepted to college and work to fulfill their financial need, allowing them to keep the scholarship. The East High School foyer wall displays Petersen's name as well as those of the Principals, Philanthropist, and Student Advo-

**Tepper**—widely recognized as one of Wall Street’s leading investors and one of the nation’s most successful hedge-fund managers—was a native of Pittsburgh’s Stanton Heights neighborhood. In 1993, he cofounded Appaloosa Management, a $3 billion hedge fund investment firm in New Jersey, where he now lives. The firm invests in debt and equity securities on the nation’s most successful hedge-fund manager as a native of Pittsburgh’s Stanton Heights neighborhood. In 1993, he cofounded Appaloosa Management, a $3 billion hedge fund investment firm inNew Jersey, where he now lives. The firm invests in debt and equity securities on behalf of individuals, foundations, universi-

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Pitt Honor Society, Pitt Honors College to Mark 25th Anniversary on Feb. 25 in Forum
Savio Woo Receives 2012 IEEE Gold Medal For Innovations in Healthcare Technology

"Savio Woo is a great scientist and engineer. Dr. Woo has previously been awarded the Olympic Gold Medal in Sports Medicine, the only engineer ever to be so recognized, and this award cements his status as one of the leading healthcare engineers in the world."

— Gerald D. Holder

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) has named Savio Woo, Distinguished University Professor of Bioengineering and founder and director of the Musculoskeletal Research Center (MSRC) in the Pitt Swanson School of Engineering’s Department of Bioengineering, as the 2012 recipient of the IEEE Gold Medal for Innovations in Healthcare Technology.

The prestigious award is presented for outstanding contributions and innovations in engineering within the fields of medicine, biology, and healthcare technology. It is sponsored by the IEEE’s Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society. The IEEE, which is the world’s largest professional association for the advancement of technology, recognized Woo for “pivotal contributions to biomechanics and its application to orthopedic surgery and sports medicine.”

"Savio Woo is a great scientist and engineer," said Gerald D. Holder, the Swanson School’s U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering. "Dr. Woo has previously been awarded the Olympic Gold Medal in Sports Medicine, the only engineer ever to be so recognized, and this award cements his status as one of the leading healthcare engineers in the world."

As a pioneer in biomechanics research and education, Woo is known for having profoundly impacted the field of sports medicine and the management of ligament and tendon injuries, in particular. He and his team have developed the concept of “conditioned motion is good,” showing the benefits of joint movement and early weight-bearing activities during rehabilitation compared to immobilization following surgery. He used robotic technology together with bi-planar fluoroscopy to replicate motions of the knee and shoulder in everyday activities and determined the forces that these motions generate in ligaments and tendons. Such knowledge has led to improved surgical techniques and better recovery time for patients with injuries.

Savio Woo with a robotic/Universal Force Sensor testing system

Pitt, Pitt-Bradford Are Only PA Public Schools in Princeton Review’s 2012 The Best Value Colleges

The University of Pittsburgh’s Pittsburgh and Bradford campuses are the only Pennsylvania institutions to be named “Best Value” public schools of higher education by The Princeton Review. The company regards as the nation’s best undergraduate institutions. The front page, before conservation, of the 1819 State Charter that incorporated the Western University of Pennsylvania—the institution that would later become the University of Pittsburgh.

Continued from page 2

"It's a win-win situation," she said. "Pitt gets to display these wonderful documents for its 225th anniversary celebration, and we get them cleaned up a bit before we return them to the Archives."

Dabrishus drove to Harrisburg to retrieve the documents and delivered them to Pitt's Preservation Department in Point Breeze, where professional conservator Cailla Crisanti, who was hired by ULS, used various hand tools to painstakingly conserve, and thereby prolong the life of, the precious paperwork.

The 1787 charter had been folded in thirds and was torn along the creases. Crisanti used a wheat starch paste to adhere strips of Japanese tissue paper to the back of the document. The acidic iron gall ink used in the 1700s had eaten through the paper in some areas, and there were slight tears and a small hole. Crisanti sprayed the document with a de-acidification solution that conserves the paper and leaves the ink undisturbed.

The 1819 charter was in much better condition but had some small rips. Both documents were dry-cleaned to reduce soiling and staining, and they will be housed in special protective acid-free enclosures custom-made by Crisanti.

"This work is extremely delicate and must be handled by a professional conservator with a background in chemistry and materials science," explained Jeann Haa, head of ULS’s Special Collections and Preservation. She added that it took a full week to complete work on the earlier charter. The content of both charters is available at the ULS Documenting Pitt Web site, http://documenting.pitt.edu.

Dabrishus said the charters will help demonstrate to the public how very far the University of Pittsburgh has come from its modest beginnings. He also was struck by the fact that the Pittsburgh Academy charter and the U.S. Constitution were not only written in the same year—1787—but in the same city, Philadelphia.

"A new nation and a new school developed from the minds of people who had much higher ambitions and expectations," he said. "And I'd say both are pretty successful stories."
**Concerts**


**Distant Worlds: Music From Final Fantasy**, an evening of music from the award-winning Final Fantasy video game series with conductor Arnie Roth and the Distant Worlds Philharmonic Orchestra, Avenue, Oakland, 412-622-3311, cmnhweb@cmnhcm.org.

**Westmoreland Museum of American Art**, The Art of Seating: 200 Years of American Design, includes The Jacobson 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, 724-837-1300, www.wmusae.org.


**The Frick Art & Historical Center**, *Dr. Seuss: The Children’s Book Illustration*, survey of drawing styles and techniques spanning more than 100 years, including watercolors, pen drawings, and experimental combinations from artists including Randolph Caldecott, Chris van Allsburg, Ernesn Shepard, and Maurice Sendak, **through May 20**; 2277 Reynolds St., Pittsburgh, 412-371-0600, www.thefrick.org.


**Lectures/Seminars/Readings**

**“Color Constancy and the Blues,”** Derek Brown, associate professor of philosophy, Brandeis University, 12:05-2 p.m. Feb. 21, 8178 Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Talk: Science of Science, 412-624-1052, pitcsci@pitt.edu.

**“Genome Stability: From Molecules to Men,”** Bennett Van Houten, Richard M. Cyert Chair in Molecular Oncology, Pitt’s School of Medicine, 4 p.m. Feb. 21; lecture Room 6, Scaife Hall, Pitt Provost’s Invitational Lecture Series, www.pittprovost.pitt.edu.

**“Social Movement Spaces and Occupied Spaces in Italy,”** Gianni Piazza, professor of political science, University of Catania, Italy, and Alcina Mattioni, postdoctoral fellow, Pitt Department of Sociology, noon Feb. 22, 2432 Posvar Hall, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

**“Inequality and the American City: Implications of the Neighborhood Effect,”** John Dupre, professor of philosophy of science, University of Exeter, Devon, United Kingdom, 1300 p.m. Feb. 24, 8178 Cathedral of Learning, Annual Lecture Series, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pitcsci@pitt.edu.


**“Europe at 8:00,”** a series of short European films, 8 p.m. Feb. 23, 2370 Posvar Hall, Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems, 20th floor, Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems’ Speaker Series, 412-624-7382.


**“Citizenship Education in Post-Sohrutho Indonesia,”** Suzanna Eddyson, doctoral student, Pitt Department of Sociology, noon Feb. 23, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Series, Pitt Asian Studies Center, 412-648-7370, asia@pitt.edu.


**“Africa-Ameine,”** workshop, G. Reid Andrews, Distinguished Professor and chair in Pitt’s Department of History, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 25, 5604 Posvar Hall, Pitt Department of History, School of Education, and World History Center, www.worldhistory.pitt.edu, summerworkshop.pitt.edu.

**Making Oral Presentations**, workshop to explore a nine-step process for preparing an effective presentation, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 25, Lecture Room 2, Scaife Hall, Pitt Survival Skills and Ethics Program, www.skillsandethics.org, survival@pitt.edu.


**Mississippi**

**Immigration Workshop**, for international students and graduates, 3 p.m. Feb. 22, Ballroom B, University Club, Pitt Department of Immigration Law Clinic, Vibrant Pittsburgh, Cohen & Grigsby, and Global Pittsburgh, 412-281-8615, immigrationlawclinic@pitt.edu.

**“European at 8:00,”** a series of short European films, 8 p.m. Feb. 23, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Center on European Union, Pittsburgh European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

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Newsmakers

Becoming a Just Community

The University of Pittsburgh celebrated the life of Martin Luther King Jr., beginning with an interfaith service at Heinz Memorial Chapel on Jan. 13 and ending with an Equipois Unity Brunch in the O’Hara Student Center on Jan. 20. The weeklong celebration, Becoming a Just Community, was sponsored by Pitt’s Office of Cross Cultural and Leadership Development within the Office of Student Affairs.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE PHIPPS

About 530 Pitt students fanned out across Pittsburgh to perform volunteer projects on Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Among the projects were creating literacy packets for the Jumpstart Pittsburgh early literacy program, renovating the flooring in the community center of St. Matthew’s Church, 5322 Carnegie St., Lawrenceville; and organizing crafts and a social for the residents of Heritage Place, 5701 Phillips Ave., Squirrel Hill. Pictured, from left, are Pitt sophomores Taylor Montague and Dalyce Wilson and Pitt senior Taylor Medlock helping the horticultural staff at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, One Schenley Park, Oakland, install the Tropical Forest India Room.

CIVIL RIGHT ACTIVIST DIANE NASH SPEAKS

Civil rights leader Diane Nash spoke to Pitt students during a Jan. 17 evening in William Pitt Union’s Assembly Room. Nash was a student leader during the 1960s civil rights movement. Among her many efforts were the first successful civil rights campaign to desegregate lunch counters, held in Nashville, Tenn., and the founding of the movement’s Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.