Honoring a Legacy of Building Greatness, Transforming Lives, and Holding Fast to a Faith in Education

This is the print version of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg’s Winter 2012 Report to Pitt’s Board of Trustees, delivered on Feb. 24.

The sainted Mother Teresa said this, among many other memorable teachings: “What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. Build anyway.” Those words have particular significance for Pitt today—as we prepare to celebrate a long and proud 225-year history of building better lives, as we press forward with our own determined efforts to build further on an already impressive institutional legacy; and as we continue to contend with serious threats, through deep and disproportionate budgetary reductions, to a relationship with our home state that has been critical to much of what we have been able to contribute to its people.

On Feb. 28, 1787, the people of Pittsburgh—led by our founder, Hugh Henry Brackenridge, and supported by state government—began building something very special here. Authorized by an act that began with the simple declaration that “the education of youth ought to be a primary object with every government,” they built the wilderness academy that would become our world-class university. They did so when survival was defined in far more basic terms than balance-sheet entries. And they were driven by a clear commitment to future generations and by a belief in the power of education.

Those who succeeded our founders kept building as the Pittsburgh Academy became the Western University of Pennsylvania and, finally, the University of Pittsburgh. They kept building as our principal campus moved downtown, to the North Side, and finally to Oakland and as the University expanded to include important regional campuses in Johnstown, Bradford, Greensburg, and Titusville.

They sustained their important work even when the country was at war. They coped with the ravages of economic disaster more serious than what we have just endured. In the face of damage by flood and fire, they rebuilt. And what they built and rebuilt, by any measure, was very good.

In assessing two centuries of commitment to “the education of youth,” this is what our bicentennial historian concluded 25 years ago. The story of Pitt is “a happy chronicle of a sound and worthwhile accomplishment.

For almost 200 years, there has been an output of a good product: an annual harvest of young people admirably trained to earn a living, to make a contribution to their community, their profession, and their country.”

But from early times, this University became something even greater than that—a place that changed the shape of lives through the transforming power of ideas. Let me offer just a few telling examples that take us across an extended time line.

• In the 1900s, Pitt astronomy professor, Allegheny Observatory director, and aviation pioneer Samuel Langley launched the first power-driven, heavier-than-air flying machines, paving the way for human flight. Today, the Langley name adorns many important Air Force and NASA facilities, just as it adorns our own Langley Hall.
• In the early 1900s, Pitt engineering professor Reginald Fessenden proved that radio waves could be used to transmit the human voice. On Christmas Eve of 1906, he broadcast carols and a violin solo, by radio, across the Atlantic Ocean.
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Although our students and faculty have expanded the limits of human knowledge and understanding in every possible field, there are several achievements that stand out: the first use of X-rays to the human body, by Dr. Jacob Schick; the discovery of the true nature of the universe, by Dr. George Gamow; the world’s first radio broadcast, by Professor Reginald Fessenden; and the invention of television, by Dr. Vladimir Zworykin.

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(Continued on page 6)

Because of the hard work done by so many, the University of Pittsburgh is moving through what should be another banner year, building on its enviable record of impact and accomplishment in education, research, and public service. Pitt also is moving through an historically important year, with next week bringing the 225th anniversary of our founding, as a log-cabin academy situated at the edge of the frontier. Unfortunately, what almost certainly will prove to be most memorable about 2012 is that an already brutal budget year has been made far worse by another proposal for deep and disproportionate cuts. To put that proposal in perspective:

- It would take our cumulative two-year cuts in state support to well in excess of $100 million;
- It would reduce our state support, in absolute dollars, to levels that we have not seen since the mid-1900s, more than a quarter century ago and when the state’s own budget was about one-third its current size; and
- It would reduce our state support, if adjusted for inflation, to the lowest level since Pitt became a state-related university.

In terms of proportionality, perhaps nothing is more telling than the proposed general fund budget’s bottom line. Overall state funding would be reduced by less than one-tenth of 1 percent, or $22.456 million. The cuts proposed just for Pitt are more than double that amount.

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(Continued on page 6)
Alaine Allen Is Investing in the Future of Youth

By Audrey M. Marks

As a student, Alaine Allen excelled in math and science, all the way from elementary school through college. And in her first job as a physics teacher in the Woodland Hills School District, she was confident that she could engage her students in the sciences. Early on in her career, Allen realized that her true passion was more in connecting with and guiding students than in teaching science.

The particular incident brought this realization to the fore: During a fifth-period physics class, a student burst into tears. The student, a teen mother, told Allen that her boyfriend had been shot and hospitalized the night before. Following school protocol, Allen walked with the student to the Student Assistance Program office.

“The woman in the office quickly returned the student to my room and offered to cover [my] class while I talked to the student,” Allen recalled, adding, “I could teach physics and science, but I could engage the students. But I realized that I was more excited and passionate about making a personal connection with the students.”

So, in 1994, Allen left the classroom to work full-time for the University of Pittsburgh’s INVESTING NOW, a program that encourages high school students from underrepresented populations to choose careers in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

Today, she is the director of the Swanson School of Engineering’s Pitt Engineering Career Access Program (PECAP), which helps open the STEM fields to students from underrepresented populations. PECAP comprises both INVESTING NOW and Pitt EXCEL, a program for Pitt students enrolled in the Swanson School of Engineering.

Allen, who earned bachelor’s degrees in physics and secondary education in 1991 from Lincoln University, received her master’s degree in education from Pitt’s School of Education in 1993.

Since returning to Pitt, Allen has made her mark on campus. In 2011, she received the Chancellor’s Affirmative Action Award, given annually to an outstanding University program that promotes the individual that has made a significant contribution to affirmative action. In his letter to Allen informing her of the award, Nordenberg said the selection committee “lauded you as an ideal administrator whose experience with the range of services provided by the Swanson School of Engineering and the University brings the continuity of commitment and vision necessary to maintain both the reach and the depth of PECAP’s affirmative action mission.” Nordenberg also noted that he was “particularly impressed” that Allen’s nomination was supported by two former PECAP participants.

In 2010, Pitt’s African American Alumni Council presented Pitt EXCEL with the 2010 Village Sankofa Award, recognizing the program’s efforts to support the academic success of Pitt’s African American students.

While Allen said the accolades are encouraging, one of her biggest career rewards is watching students succeed. She said she and Darryl Wiley, the INVESTING NOW assistant director, hope to expand the reach of the prepcollege program by increasing the number of students involved and discovering new opportunities to engage high school students in math and science.

The INVESTING NOW program, established in 1988, accepts between 50 and 60 new eighth-grade students each year. Successful applicants must have an academic grade point average of 3.0 or higher, the recommendation of a teacher, healthy standardized test scores, and an interest in a STEM field.

Participating students take summer noncredit math, science, and writing classes in the morning followed by an afternoon class involving them in a hands-on engineering project. With a total of 150 students in the program today, INVESTING NOW works with students as they progress through high school, offering academic enrichment as well as advising, tutoring, hands-on science and engineering seminars, and other opportunities designed to help them make informed college choices.

Some students are the first in their families to attend college and don’t know how to navigate the process,” Allen said. “In other instances, parents may not know the STEM profession or the college admissions requirements to enter those majors. We are here to offer students support and to encourage parent involvement.”

The INVESTING NOW program has impressive results: 94 percent of the most recent class, the Class of 2011, enrolled in college, with 64 percent pursuing STEM-related fields. Of those students, 13 percent enrolled at Pitt.

Allen said she understands the value of teacher encouragement for teens. When she was in middle school, a teacher encouraged her to explore her passion for math and science through a similar program. As an Allderdice High School student, she enrolled in the prepcollege program INROADS, where she attended summer classes at Duquesne University and even a class in Pitt’s Benedum Hall. The math, science, and writing courses helped to strengthen Allen’s academic skills and introduced her to STEM careers.

“Understanding the STEM field through the interaction with teachers and other adults who encouraged me to pursue a career in science,” Allen said. “No one I was connected to personally at the time could help me navigate a career and future in math and science. I was attracted to these prepcollege programs because of the interaction and guidance.”

In addition to reaching students years before they enter college, Allen also works with enrolled students at Pitt through the Pitt EXCEL program. The comprehensive initiative aims to bolster the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of engineering students from underrepresented populations.

Allen describes the Pitt EXCEL Summer Engineering Academy as an academic boot camp for Pitt freshmen, with the students taking math, physics, chemistry, and engineering problem-solving classes. They also learn about campus resources and career development. The sessions include community building and “mandatory fun time,” Allen said, which includes game night, a trip to Kennywood, and a Pirates game.

In addition to the Summer Engineering Academy, Pitt EXCEL offers participants academic counseling, tutoring, peer mentoring and professional development. “The rigor of the engineering program requires a support network,” Allen said. “Students need to understand that they will have a better chance of being successful if they enter it knowing about these supports.”

As a former science major, Allen said she remembers the stress of the academics: “At Lincoln, I had a program similar to Pitt EXCEL and teachers who helped me through the stress and pressure of being a STEM student,” Allen said. “We know Pitt is a large university and students are adults, but it is important to help guide our students through this process.”
In the 1950s, a Pitt team led by the late Jonas Salk and including current Pitt faculty member Julius Youngner developed the vaccine that won America’s long war against the dread disease of polio. This has been widely hailed as one of the greatest accomplishments of the 20th century.

In the early 1960s, a Pitt team led by Panagiotis Katsoyannis synthesized insulin. Until this time, insulin for human treatment was obtained from sheep and cows through a process that was messy, complicated, and expensive.

Building on his Pitt graduate studies in the late 1950s and early 1960s and through work extending into the 1970s, alumnus Paul Lauterbur developed the science upon which magnetic resonance imaging was built. For this contribution, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Beginning in the 1960s and extending through the 1970s, a Pitt professor (and double Pitt graduate) Bernie Fisher led studies concluding that breast cancer is a systemic and not a local disease, which resulted in dramatic and hugely beneficial changes in its treatment. There are those who believe that Dr. Fisher has done more to advance women’s health than any other person in history.

In the 1970s, the recombinant DNA, gene-splicing work done by Pitt graduate and former Trustee Herb Boyer opened up what had been unimaginable possibilities for dealing with disease. That work was said by Time magazine to have “forever changed the course of civilization.” It also led to Herb’s founding of Genentech, marking the beginning of this country’s biotechnology industry.

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The base of human knowledge by building their fields. Our faculty members continue to build an enviable record of doing just that, across wide-ranging disciplines. Often, in fact, we dominate key fields. But I am not sure that I ever have seen such a stark example as the one I am about to share. At its annual meeting in Houston earlier this month, the National Academy of Medicine selected 20 world-renowned intensivists to be the first to receive its highest honor—designation as a Master in Critical Care Medicine. Seven of the 20 members of that inaugural class of honorees came from Pitt, which is just extraordinary.

Three of the seven no longer are in active service with us—the late Peter Safar, the father of CPR, a great human being, and a person who belongs on any list of legendary Pitt faculty members; Professor Emeritus Ake Greenwall, also a giant in his field, a beloved member of this community and, along with John Swanson and John Petersen, surely among the most important Scandinavians in the Pitt family; and Mitchell Fink, the founding chair of our critical care medicine department, who left academia to start a company based on technology that he had developed.

Four of the 20, which still is one-fifth of the entire group, continue to work among us. They are Derek Angus, the current department chair; Pat Kochanek, the director of the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research; Ann Thompson, the associate dean for faculty affairs in the School of Medicine; and Michael Pinsky, who also serves as the president of the University Senate.

Much of our faculty research, particularly in the sciences and health sciences, is supported by outside funding. We continue to rank among the top American universities, both in funding from the National Institutes of Health and in overall federal science and engineering research and development support. Our research expenditures last year exceeded $800 million—an amount that is a widely accepted measure of institutional strength, that advances pioneering work, and that supports, directly and indirectly, some 28,000 local jobs. This is one reason that the education and health
services supersector has been this area’s most consistent source of job growth and now accounts for more than one in five jobs in this region.

It also is important to note that federal agencies are not the only organizations investing in Pitt’s education and research enterprise as an effective means of supporting economic growth. Earlier this month, it was announced that the Richard King Mellon Foundation had awarded a $22 million grant to Pitt’s Center for Energy. Scott Izzo, the executive director of the foundation, said at the time, “The center has tremendous potential to make an impact in Pittsburgh, as energy will be the major driver of our regional economy for years to come.”

In the 1980s, Pitt professors Henry Bahnson and Thomas Starzl performed the world’s first double-organ transplant. During that same period, most of the surgical techniques and drug therapies that made human organ transplantation a widely available treatment option were developed here.

Those actively engaged in the energy sector agreed. Steve Tritch—who was not our Board Chair when he served as CEO of Westinghouse—reminded everyone that a key factor in that major employer’s decision to build its new corporate headquarters in Southwestern Pennsylvania was the presence of Pitt, as a principal educator of its professional workforce and as a partner in energy research. Anthony Cugini, director of the National Energy Technology Laboratory, said that his lab “is charged with advancing energy options to fuel our economy, strengthen our security, and improve our environment” and “Pitt and the Center for Energy are among our most active collaborative partners in this effort.”

With such a strong record of impact—in education, in research, and in public service through economic development—and with testimonials like these, one might expect that the Commonwealth, too, would be stepping forward to say: “We really helped create something special when Pitt became a state-related university in 1966; there is no place that we are getting a higher rate of return on our appropriations; so, let us do the sensible thing and increase our investments in Pitt.”

That approach would be particularly consistent with a belief in “a future that embraces innovation in emerging frontiers of energy, life sciences, and biotechnology,” as described in the Governor’s inaugural address. It also would be consistent with the “certainty” expressed in that same document “that the best way to embrace innovation—the best way to make us competitive—is to make us competitive in education.”

It would be difficult to find many institutions with greater strengths in energy, life sciences, and biotechnology than the University of Pittsburgh. And in Pitt, Pennsylvania can claim, as one of its own public universities, an institution that already has established itself as a respected global competitor in both education and research.

Still, for the second successive year, Pitt, along with Pennsylvania’s other public research universities and public higher education generally, is being asked to bear more than its fair share of the reductions required to balance the Commonwealth’s budget for the next fiscal year. The largest of the proposed cuts has been rather widely publicized—a 30 percent cut to our education and general appropriation, on top of the 19 percent cut already imposed last year. In addition, the proposed budget would reduce our academic medical center lines by 10 percent, on top of the 50 percent cut already imposed last year.

This would reduce our appropriation, in absolute dollars, to levels that we have not seen since 1987, more than a quarter century ago. And today’s overall state budget is three times larger than it was then. Put another way, it would reduce our state support, if adjusted for inflation, to the level of Pitt’s funding when Pitt became a state-related university.

There is an even less complete story, though. In late fall, our annual tobacco-related projects support was cut in half, from $40 million to $20 million. And in January, we were subjected to a midyear cut of 5 percent, or $7 million.

Finally, though little public attention has been paid to it, this budget proposal would quietly, but completely, eliminate the Commonwealth Universal Research Enhancement program—which was established more than a decade ago, during the administration of Governor Ridge—and with the strong support of both houses of the Legislature. The CURE program, as it is known, was created by the Tobacco Settlement Agreement. It has committed a portion of the funds recovered from health-related research with the goal of improving the lives of current and future citizens of Pennsylvania.

CURE funding has supported thousands of good-paying, knowledge-based Pennsylvania jobs focused on the goal of improving future health. Using CURE funds, as the budget proposal envisions, to plug a short-term hole in senior care instead of investing them in research infrastructure and scientific innovation will simply maintain the unsustainable status quo in health care.

To return to language already cited from last year’s inaugural address, it seems almost impossible to reconcile such a budgetary action with a vision for our collective future that has been tied to “innovation in emerging frontiers of energy, life sciences, and biotechnology.”

And with the budgetary approach being employed with what was the most inspiring passage from this year’s budget address—the declaration that “[w]e cannot allow the debts of today to crowd out the dreams of tomorrow.”

Building the best possible future, of course, depends directly upon two of our principal products—education and innovation. An approach to budget balancing built on record-setting cuts for public research universities, then, inevitably does sacrifice tomorrow’s dreams.

In 1831, during his American travels, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote this to a friend in Europe: “The effort made in this country to spread instruction is truly prodigious. The universal and sincere faith that they profess here in the efficaciousness of education seems to me one of the most remarkable features of America.”

Faith in education has been one of the distinguishing features of this country, and it is one of the forces that has helped drive America’s unparalleled record of sustained success. Certainly, the products of that faith have helped not only to shape our home region since the days of Hugh Henry Brackenridge but to positively reshape that region in the face of the challenges of the more recent past.

How tragically ironic it would be to see that long-term faith undermined by budget builders held prisoner to short-term fiscal pressures in the year that brings the 225th birthday of both the structuring of our national government and the chartering of our University. But what better way to celebrate those historic anniversaries than by setting on that faith and working together to restore appropriate levels of support for public higher education—not mainly for our own good, but so that the dreams of all who will follow . . . in the spirit of 1787.

Happy Birthday, to Pitt and to all who care about Pitt . . . including, of course, all of you.
The most thoughtful in a succession of state master plans, issued shortly after the creation of the State System of Higher Education, labeled Pitt, Penn State, and Temple as the “Commonwealth Universities” and described their expected contributions in the form of faculty and graduate education, research, and public service. Along with the major independent universities in the state, the Commonwealth Universities are the principal centers for research and development in Pennsylvania.  

Pitt’s performance in this assigned role has been nothing short of remarkable. The strength of our educational programs at all levels has made us a magnet for ambitious, hard-working, high-potential students from across the country and around the world. However, consistent with our public mission, we have attracted particularly large numbers of Pennsylvania students, increasing the likelihood that, over the long term, they will live, work, and contribute here. We also have become an internationally respected center for pioneering research, ranking among the top 25 American universities in total federal science and engineering research and development support. During the last fiscal year, our research expenditures exceeded $800 million—expenditures that are an accepted measure of institutional strength, fund important work, and support, directly and indirectly, more than 28,000 local jobs.

Though our service mission takes many forms, it has become more important than the role that we play as an engine for economic growth and as a generator of jobs. We sit at the heart of one of the nation’s leading health care and other public service “supersectors”—by far, Southwestern Pennsylvania’s largest employment sector and a source of what has been substantial and dependable job growth. For decades, we have struggled to move through the “jobless recovery” from the Great Recession. To this point, our fiscal year total $67 million. To be more contextually descriptive, let me give that very large number more contextually. As another reminder, this 22 percent reduction in our state support came during a year when overall state spending was flat, yet faculty compensation increased by less than 1 percent. Late in the fall, we also notified that our annual capital projects support would be cut in half, from $40 million to $20 million. Then, in January, we were directed to put another 5 percent—or $7 million—into “budgetary reserve.” To return to the spirit of shared sacrifice, we made up this fiscal year total $67 million. To be fair, the budget pressures faced by state government are daunting. Dealing with them can involve painful funding decisions, with success depending upon a spirit of shared sacrifice. To be clear, Pitt never has resisted doing its fair share. What we must resist—not only for ourselves, but for the many who depend upon us—are disproportionately deep cuts that threaten Pitt’s ability to continue making critical contributions, either to deserving individuals or to a vibrant, more productive region.

As another reminder, this 22 percent reduction to our state support came during a year with severe state spending cuts, yet faculty compensation increased by less than 1 percent. Late in the fall, we also notified that our annual capital projects support would be cut in half, from $40 million to $20 million. Then, in January, we were directed to put another 5 percent—or $7 million—into “budgetary reserve.” To return to the issue of proportionality once again, the state-related universities, whose appropriations account for less than 2 percent of the state’s budget, were directed to shoulder nearly 16 percent, or about eight times that amount, of this mid-year reduction. To this point, our accumulated cuts for this fiscal year total $67 million. To be more contextually descriptive, let me give that very large number more contextually. As another reminder, this 22 percent reduction in our state support came during a year when overall state spending was flat, yet faculty compensation increased by less than 1 percent. Late in the fall, we also notified that our annual capital projects support would be cut in half, from $40 million to $20 million. Then, in January, we were directed to put another 5 percent—or $7 million—into “budgetary reserve.” To return to the spirit of shared sacrifice, we made up

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After a past decade that brought cuts to our appropriation almost every year and a past year that brought the steepest cuts in our history, this year’s budget proposal contains reductions that would be even more devastating.

In his budget address, the Governor declared, “We cannot allow the debts of today to crowd out the dreams of tomorrow.” Unfortunately, it is hard to look at the cuts proposed for Pitt and Pennsylvania’s other public research universities without feeling that this is just what has happened—that dreams are being sacrificed in an effort to deal with current debt.

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg speaks on Feb. 10 to a group of interested students about proposed cuts to Pitt’s state funding that were announced Feb. 6. The University’s Student Government Board is taking an active stance in providing information to students and assisting in advocacy efforts to reverse the proposed reductions.

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and general appropriation for the next fiscal year (on top of the 19 percent reduction suffered this year) and a 10 percent reduction to our academic medical center line items (on top of the 50 percent reduction suffered this year). This would be a blended reduction of about 29 percent (on top of a blended reduction of 22 percent suffered last year), totaling nearly $42 million. This budget proposal also would totally eliminate a long-standing and well-targeted program that has invested tobacco settlement revenues into health-related research. The dollar amounts flowing to Pitt have varied from year to year but have averaged more than $9.2 million annually over the course of the last 11 years and have been vital in building the research facilities that helped Pitt researchers attract record levels of external funding.

Diminished levels of state support stand as the primary contributor to rising public university tuition and its impact on access and affordability. Virtually everyone who has seriously examined these issues has fairly called for colleges and universities to do even more to control their costs in these challenging times but also has recognized that the key culprit is reduced state funding.

In his budget address, the Governor declared, “We cannot allow the debts of today to crowd out the dreams of tomorrow.” Unfortunately, it is hard to look at the cuts proposed for Pitt and Pennsylvania’s other public research universities without feeling that this is just what has happened—that dreams are being sacrificed in an effort to deal with current debt. It might be said, in fact, that our basic activity is the business of building dreams. Pitt does that through the power of higher education as we help position tens of thousands of students, each and every day, to more effectively pursue the dreams that they have for their own lives. And we do it, often more dramatically, through our programs of research. Sixty years ago, all of America was desperately dreaming about a cure for polio, and that dream became a reality through work done at the University of Pittsburgh. Thirty years ago, both physicians and patients were dreaming about a time when human organ transplantation might become a widely available treatment for a range of deadly diseases. That dream, too, became a reality through work done, to a large extent, at Pitt. Today, when people think of a world without Alzheimer’s disease or cancer or diabetes or Parkinson’s disease, they often look to the work of Pitt researchers. The same also can be said about dreams of a world made better by more accessible and less expensive energy or by the miracles of nanotechnology or quantum computing or by any of a number of other advances.

In a very real sense, the Governor perfectly defined our challenge—to not let the debts of today crowd out the dreams of tomorrow. However, the deep and disproportionate cuts proposed will not let us travel to where we hope to be. In the weeks ahead, then, we hope to work with members of the Legislature, as well as with the Administration, to find better ways to continue building the foundation for a strong Pennsylvania, which should be our shared goal.

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and general appropriation for the next fiscal year (on top of the 19 percent reduction suffered this year) and a 10 percent reduction to our academic medical center line items (on top of the 50 percent reduction suffered this year). This would be a blended reduction of about 29 percent (on top of a blended reduction of 22 percent suffered last year), totaling nearly $42 million. This budget proposal also would totally eliminate a long-standing and well-targeted program that has invested tobacco settlement revenues into health-related research. The dollar amounts flowing to Pitt have varied from year to year but have averaged more than $9.2 million annually over the course of the last 11 years and have been vital in building the research facilities that helped Pitt researchers attract record levels of external funding.

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Panther assisting them with career planning, facilitating the Panther Game Plan Life Skills program, innovation of internship development, and encouraging them to participate in community service." Nordenberg wrote. Recently named one of Pittsburgh’s 30 Finest by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Semiai also involved in a number of community service programs, including The Polite Way, which assists single mothers, Big Brothers and Sisters, and Get Involved, for which he serves as president. Writing in support of Semaia’s nomination, Tom Baker, who has known Nordenberg, noted that he found Semaia’s leadership skills and positive attitude the “second to none in Western PA.”

Staff Excellence in Service to the University

Penny Semiai

Semaia was selected for the award because he routinely goes the extra mile for the Swanson School and its engineering students. Nordenberg told Holmes in his notification letter that Blais’ initiative, "Contributing to the Staff Association Council, particularly in her role as the SAC Business Committee chair. The awards committee also noted Blais’ initiative, commitment, and ultimate success in establishing a lactation room in the Graduate School of Public Health—a facility now used by faculty and staff across campus. Her efforts led to Allegheny County Health Department to present the Graduate School with its Breastfeeding-Friendly Peace Award in August 2011. Brooks was commended by Nordenberg and the awards committee for his commitment to Pitt students and for consistently going “above and beyond” by helping students when the need arises. He is also known for his personal skills, depth of personal connection he brings to his position. The chancellor noted in his notification letter, noted Brooks’ willingness to work late into the evening and on weekends. Nordenberg also cited Brooks for his work on projects that go well beyond his duties, such as revamping the University’s Out of the Classroom Curriculum. The chancellor wrote that he was impressed with Brooks’ commitment to helping GSPH students understand how the University through his service as an unpaid adjunct professor at the School of Public Health and as a pro bono advisor to graduate students. Helping students clear their rooms after displacement owing to a flood is just one example of Graham’s sense of responsibility toward Pitt-Bradford’s students, according to the awards selection committee and Chancellor Nordenberg in his notification letter. One former student wrote in his support of Graham’s award application that Graham “worked 12 hours a day and most weekends; she lived to help her students succeed in life, and that is exactly what she did for me.” Nordenberg also cited Graham’s handling of a flooding incident that required Pitt-Bradford to find alternative housing for 370 students. The chancellor wrote that Graham “not only relocated the students, but also stayed with them over night and after days cleaning their rooms the next day. I should add that not only was the commitment impressive with your dedication, but so too was, this Chancellor.”

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Cynthia Miller, Director of University Of Pittsburgh Press, to Retire 2013

“Under Cynthia’s leadership, the University of Pittsburgh Press has grown and thrived. She has overseen the publication of more than 850 titles, the submission of eight long-standing series, and the founding of six more, including world-renowned series in English composition, Latin American studies, creative writing, and the philosophy of science.”

Continued from page 2

Quantum Computing—considered the powerhouse of computational tasks—may have applications in areas outside of pure electronics, according to a University of Pittsburgh researcher and his collaborators.

Working at the interface of quantum measurement and nanotechnology, Gurudev Dutt, assistant professor in Pitt’s Department of Physics and Astronomy in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, and his colleagues report their findings in a paper published online in the Dec. 18 Nature Communications.

The paper documents important progress toward realizing a nanoscale magnetic imager comprising single electrons encased in a diamond crystal.

“The think of this like a typical medical procedure—a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)—but on only single molecules or groups of molecules inside cells and nuclei of the entire body. Traditional MRI techniques don’t work and with such small volumes, so it is important that near-field MRI instrument that could study properties of molecules, materials, and cells in a noninvasive way, displaying where atoms are located without destroying them; current methods employed for this kind of study inevitably destroy the sample. "This would have an immediate impact on our understanding of these molecules, materials, and cells and potentially allow us to create better technologies," says Dutt.

These are the only initial results, says Dutt, but there are further improvements to be made with additional research: “Our work shows that quantum computing methods reach beyond pure quantum physics and can solve problems that, earlier, seemed to be fundamental roadblocks to making progress with high-precision measurements.”

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Each awardee will receive a $2,500 cash prize and have his or her name added to a plaque displayed in the William Pitt Union that is inscribed with the names of all recipients of the Chancellor’s Awards.

By B. Rose Hober

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Quantum Computing Has Applications in Magnetic Imaging, Dutt-Led Research Shows

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