Women’s History Month
Stella Stein, Class of 1898
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COURTESY UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
Building on a History of Success And Courage, University Forges Ahead Despite Challenges

(Humorous print version of the keynote address that Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg delivered during the University’s 36th Annual Honors Convocation on Feb. 24.)

It is wonderful to be with you today—in this magnificent hall and on such a truly auspicious occasion. Our annual Honors Convocation gives us the special opportunity to recognize excellence in our midst. Today, we honor students, staff, faculty, and alumni whose records of accomplishment and impact stand as a source of pride within our University.

And this particular Convocation is special in another way because it marks the start of our celebration of the 225th anniversary of Pitt’s founding. Through the Act of February 28, 1787, the Pennsylvania legislature provided for the creation of the log cabin Pittsburgh Academy that would grow to become the University of Pittsburgh.

Humble Beginnings

Descriptions of the Pittsburgh of that time, an outpost of fewer than 400 inhabitants perched at the edge of the American wilderness, convey some sense of how far we have come in other ways. In his classic history of the city, Stefan Lorant said this: “The buildings were neither elaborate nor were they beautiful. . . . The streets before them were unpaved, dirty, littered with refuse, with dogs and hogs roaming through the mire. On rainy days one waded through the mud, in dry weather the dust rose in clouds.”

A leading citizen described Pittsburgh as a place where “there was no morality or regular order.” Outsiders were even less impressed. One visitor concluded simply that the town was an “excellent place to do penance in.”

Far more positive impressions were held by our University’s founder, Hugh Henry Brackenridge. Born in Scotland and moved to this country at the age of five, he was educated at Princeton. James Madison was a classmate. Brackenridge and another classmate are credited with writing the first American novel. As a young man, Mr. Brackenridge taught, earned a graduate degree, studied divinity, served as a chaplain in George Washington’s army, and founded and edited a monthly magazine. He also “read the law” under Samuel Chase, who signed the Declaration of Independence and later served as a Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

When Mr. Brackenridge moved west from Philadelphia, Pittsburgh became a principal beneficiary. In time, he served both in the state legislature and as a justice of the state supreme court. Among many other achievements, he helped establish the region’s first newspaper, incorporated a nonsectarian church, served on the committee that drafted the bill creating Allegheny County and making Pittsburgh its county seat, and was an advocate for improved roadways to the western part of the state.

In all that he did, Mr. Brackenridge was driven by an extraordinary vision for this region. When he viewed the modest settlement that had become his home, he said, “This town must in future time become a place of great manufactury. Indeed, the greatest on the continent or perhaps in the world.” He further asserted that “[t]he situation of the town of Pittsburgh is greatly to be chosen for a seat of learning.”

Our Founder’s Dream

When Frances Hesselbein was President of the Girls Scouts of America in 1999, President Clinton praised her “openness to innovation, willingness to share responsibility, and respect for diversity.” Hesselbein began her career in leadership in 1960 as a volunteer troop leader for the Girl Scouts. Sixteen years later, she was tapped to become CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA, emphasizing a message of inclusiveness and empowerment. Pitt alum Frances Hesselbein tripled minority membership and revitalized the Girls Scouts organization.

Management guru Peter Drucker later selected Hesselbein as founding president and CEO of his nonprofit leadership organization, the Leader to Leader Institute. Through the institute and as editor of many leadership books, Hesselbein promotes management based on character and ethics, rather than the bottom line.

In 2009, Pitt created the Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement at Pitt, dedicated to producing ethical leaders who will advance social and economic initiatives throughout the world.

For more stories about Pitt’s legacy of achievement or to share your own stories about the University, visit www.225.pitt.edu.
Mr. Brackenridge also saw the link between education and regional prosperity that would emerge even more clearly over time. “I do not know that the legislature could have been led to create a service to the Commonwealth than by endorsing a school at this place,” he said. “It will be known to its known and ability … [and] we well know the strength of a state greatly consists in the superior mental powers of the inhabitants.”

Two-hundred-twenty-five years of history have taught us this about our founder: He was right about Pittsburgh becoming a center of manufacturing might. He was right about education offering a higher learning. And he was right about education offering service as a driver of economic prosperity.

The Brackenridge goal was “to see Pennsylvania at all times able to produce mathematicians, philosophers, ministers, lawyers, statesmen equal to any in the confederacy.” That same goal inspired the founding of the nation’s modern academic mission. In fact, it is our achievement of that goal, through the work of our honorees, that we have gathered to celebrate today.

A Critical Transformation

Just as we honor Hugh Henry Brackenridge for leading us to establish Pitt, so should we recognize K. Leroy Irvis for leading efforts to transform it. Like Mr. Brackenridge, Mr. Irvis was a man of wide-ranging talents—an orator, author, painter, poet, and wood sculptor. And like Mr. Brackenridge, he was a transpient. He attended high school and college in Upstate New York and began his teaching career in New York and began his teaching career in

During more than three decades in the state capitol, Speaker Irvis sponsored some 1,600 bills, including the one that made it possible for us to annually provide tens of thousands of students with access to the highest-quality higher education at a reasonable cost.

In that sense, it is much like the company in this hall today. We have the signature structure and the symbol of our aspirations—was definitely have a future in the Brackenridge days, that our Cathedral was a spot from the Pittsburgh muck and mire about which his contemporaries complained—or that it would take a person of the world’s greatest economic calamity?

And, as a matter of history, such an approach can fairly be viewed as undermining much of what Brackenridge and Irvis and all who embraced their visions built. Particularly in such challenging times, we are fortunate to be a part of an institution with such a noble mission. Everyone connected to the Cathedral of Learning understands the development of human potential, to the enhancement of human knowledge, to the deepening of human understanding, and, in a broad range of ways, to the advancement of the greater good.

We also are fortunate that we have each other. This is a community of exceptional people, whether measured by the power of their brains, the strength of their character, or the size of their hearts.

Particularly in such challenging times, we are fortunate to be a part of an institution with such a noble mission. Everyone connected to this University is contributing to the development of human potential, to the enhancement of human knowledge, to the deepening of human understanding, and, in a broad range of ways, to the advancement of the greater good. We also are fortunate that we have each other. This is a community of exceptional people, whether measured by the power of their brains, the strength of their character, or the size of their hearts.

We rank among the top

We rank among the top American universities both in funding from the National Institutes of Health and in overall federal science research and engineering research and development support. Our faculty continue to claim the highest honors across a broad range of disciplines. And since we became a state-related university, we have imported more than $10.5 billion of research support into the local economy, an amount that is almost unimaginable.

In education, our University has awarded nearly 290,000 degrees and has maintained tuition levels as a fraction of those charged by comparable private universities. Pitt students regularly compete for top national awards with the very best students from the country’s top universities. And Pitt alumni continue to receive the highest honors for their achievements. Particularly at an honors convocation, it seems appropriate to note that just since the dawn of the new century, Pitt graduates have received such awards as the Nobel Peace Prize, the Nobel Prize in Medicine, the National Medal of Science, the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the National Book Award for Poetry, the Fritz Medal in Engineering, the and the Albany and Shaw Prizes in Medicine.

Over that same period, Pitt also has become an internationally respected center of pioneering research. We 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 faculty continue to claim the highest honors across a broad range of disciplines. And since we became a state-related university, we have imported more than $10.5 billion of research support into the local economy, an amount that is almost unimaginable.

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Alumni Association Honors 284 Pitt Scholar-Athletes

The Pitt Alumni Association honored 284 student-athletes during the annual University of Pittsburgh Scholar-Athlete Awards Breakfast, held Feb. 7 in Alumni Hall’s Connolly Ballroom. Pitt Alumni Association President Jack Smith delivered opening remarks, while Austin Ransom, coordinator of Pitt’s Cathy and John Pelusi Family Life Skills Program, served as the master of ceremonies.

“We are extremely proud of our student-athletes and their exceptional performance in the classroom,” Pitt Athletic Director Steve Pederson said. “It takes an incredible amount of commitment, discipline, and sacrifice to achieve scholar-athlete honors at the University of Pittsburgh. These young men and women truly embody the very best of Pitt and Pitt Athletics.”

Members of Pitt’s Academic Support Services for student-athletes handed out blue and gold awards to students who earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher during the 2011 calendar year. There were 163 student-athletes who accumulated a GPA of 3.0-3.49 (blue) and 121 who posted a 3.5-4.0 (gold) — including 18 student-athletes who achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA.

The list of 4.0 student-athletes included Adela Aprodu (tennis), Abbigail Baldys (women’s soccer), Justin Boehm (men’s soccer), Kimmy Borza (tennis), Abby Dowd (women’s basketball), Keli Gaynor (softball), Philip Konicek (baseball), Jennifer Larimore (tennis), Susan Martinez (women’s track), Courtney McIntyre (women’s swimming and diving), Kristen McMullan (women’s swimming and diving), Pierre-Antoine Meunier (men’s swimming and diving), Lauren Mills (women’s swimming and diving), Korinne Piper (women’s track), Lisa Taylor (gymnastics), Ryan Tomei (wrestling), Leah Ulizio (women’s track) and Sarah Zetlmeisl (women’s swimming and diving). Also recognized at the breakfast were Kelllyn Black, a member of Pitt’s Dance Team, and Ben Rubino, Pitt’s “Rose” mascot, both of whom held 4.0 GPAs during 2011. Pederson also announced the Academic Team Awards.

The Most Improved Team was gymnastics, which earned a cumulative 3.10 GPA. Earning the Top Men’s Academic Award for the third-consecutive year was the men’s soccer team. The women’s tennis team was named both the Top Women’s Team and the Overall Team awardee for the second-consecutive year, boasting a collective 3.33 GPA. Seven members of the squad earned a 3.5 GPA or better, including two with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

The tennis team improved its overall GPA from the 3.32 GPA it held during 2010, the first time it won Top Women’s Team and the Overall Team. “On behalf of the women’s tennis team, I would like to thank Athletic Director Steve Pederson, the Provost’s office, and Academic Support Services for the academic award we earned today,” Pitt women’s tennis head coach George Dieffenbach said. “I want to congratulate all of the student-athletes honored today and personally thank them for their discipline and hard work. We also owe thanks to our student-athletes’ parents, who did an outstanding job of instilling in their children pride in the achievement of academic excellence.”

Blue Awards (3.0-3.49 GPA)

Baseball

Graduates: Pat Bostick, Daniel Hutchins, and Henry Hynoshi

Men’s Soccer
Alex Fischetti, Shane Flowers, Robert Iledare, Lee Johnston, Hami Kara, Alex Lowman, Daniel Mark, Dan Prete, and Matt Walbert

Graduates: Alex Betancourt, Chris Cline, and Andy Kalas

Women’s Soccer
Danielle Benner, Ashley Cuba, Kari Cunard, Caroline Keefer, Hayley Neal, and Lauren Yobbi

Graduates: Liz Carroll, Alex Jaffe, and Kat Weiler

Softball
Niki Cognigni, Ciera Damon, Courtney Derus, Amanda Heitmeier, Kelly Himmel, Alicia Keough, Savannah King, Alexa Larkin, Maggie Sevilla, and Holly Stevens

Men’s Swimming and Diving
Austin Caldwell, Collin Forner, Dawid oma Herman, John Kornaga, Karli Minick, Morgan Mohney, Madisyn Pina, Kaja Stiewczak, Doug Stouch, Katie Sullivan, Kristin Weir, and Sara Wroblewski

Football
Kevin Barthélémy, Joshua Brinson, Desmond Brown, Keegan Buck, Malcom Crockett, Zenel Demhașaj, Carl Flem-ing, Hubie Graham, Drake Greer, Kevin Harper, Chris Jacobson, Jack Lippey, Khaynin Mosley-Smith, Bryan Murphy, Marco Pecora, Tristan Roberts, Matt Rotherman, Artie Rowell, Ryan Schlieper, Michael Shanahan, Andrew Tagliandetti, Joe Trebitz, Ryan Turnell, Ray Vinopal, Kris Wildman, and Steve Williams

Gymnastics
Kelsey Ainsworth, Brittany Harris, Maya Ketner, Brittany Marcisoin, Katie O’Rourke, Laura Rigney, and Amy Varela
Goszczycki, Rousseau Kleeve, and Aaron Snyder
Graduates: Alex Kubicek and Alex McLaughlin

WOMEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING
Joanna Badzins, Renee Deschenes, Kelsey DiGilio, Brittany DiSanti, Kate Dunseith, Julie Harrison, Tamara Lelli, and Alec Shaeffer
Graduates: Mallory Mullady and Morgan Speece

WOMEN’S TENNIS
Molly Wickman

MEN’S TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY
Richard Addison, Kurt Barnhart, Alex Bleacher, Antony Holwana, Kevin Hulbert, Jermaine Lowery, Jerome Lowery, Brett Millar, Josh Mindlin, Bryce Rupp, and Aaron Turner
Graduates: Edward Miller and Maka Madekune

WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY
Kalene Anderson, Shannon Casey, Julia Christensen, Kelsey Coates, Ashley Corum, Arielle Fontrose, Robin Gilmore, Jordan Hoyt, Caroline Kirkby, Julia Koloski, Jonnique Lawrence, Casey Meier, Stephanie Powers, Jessica Roco, Natalie Ryan, Veronica Schacht, Chelsea Scott, Brooke Shasteen, Haley Springman, Kristen Stain, Valerie Wilson, and Ashley Woodford
Graduates: Wunmi Fapohunda, Ashley Moore, Shanae Thomas, and Alexis Wilder

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL
Mary Acton, Kisha Legs, Monica Wigno, and Lindsey Zitzke
Graduates: Melanie Feldman, Tara Rohall, and Amy Town

WRESTLING
Nicholas Bonaccorsi, Karl DeCiancio, Zach Grove, Shelton Mack, Jordan Moss, Tyler Nauman, Josh Pascazi, Pat Tassser, Zachary Thomas, Andrew Vaughan, and Matt Wilps

GOLD AWARDS (3.5-4.0 GPA)

BASEBALL
Graduates: David Kaye, John Schultz, and Travis Whitmore

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Loliya Briggs and Marquel Davis

CHEER AND DANCE TEAM
Derek Bradley, Hannah Brady, Julianna Bursic, Samantha Bursic, Teasia Eddy, Dorianda Fella, Marlee Hartenstein, Cat Hoel, Emma Holmes, Mallory Karavolis, Jessica Litten, Danielle Narlesky, Hillary Nickels, Michael Nuzzo, Jill Palski, Brittany Post, Natalie Runco, Ali Sanders, Danielle Scalise, Adam Slabicki, Jeralyyn Smith, Alyssa Standlick, and Anna Sweeney

FOOTBALL
Myles Careage, Devin Cook, Greg Gaskins, Jarred Holley, Adam Lazenga, Michael Theys, Chris Yankoski, Matt Yoklic, and Brett Zuck
Graduates: Jabaal Sheard and Tyler Tkach

WOMEN’S GYMNASTICS
Alyssa Adrian, Bri Hogan, Kori Macdonald, Alexa Riech, and Alicia Talucci
Graduate: Jennifer Liberato

MEN’S SOCCER
Terry Akpa, Andy Clifford, Julian Dickenson, and Keegan Gunderson
Graduate: Joe Prince-Wright

WOMEN’S SOCCER
Madison Gritsch, Katelyn Lippert, Alyssa Meier, Taylor Parisie, Lyndsay Pierson, Kristina Rissee, Katelyn Rahe, and Morgan Sharick
Graduates: Laura Berbert and Morgan Waltz

SOFTBALL
Graduates: Alyssa O’Connell and Reba Tutt

MEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING
Adam Maczewski, Tyler Matheny, Hussein Mohamed, Otto Pagel, John Pidgeon, and Jacob Van Hoekel
Graduates: Andrej Dubiel and Charles Hauser

WOMEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING
Emily Bolek, Tori Brungo, Kimberlee Cadell, Kimberly Ciotti, Kelsey Herbst, Veronica Lee, Lauren Matevish, Jessica Nederlanden, Alison Swafford, Yolandi Van Der Merwe, Yolandi Van Rooyen, and Leigh Waltz
Graduates: Sarah Looney and Caitlyn Trant

WOMEN’S TENNIS
Melissa Bostwick, Minh Evans, Jocelyn Lu, and Karma Parbhoo
Graduate: Elizabeth Adams

MEN’S TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY
Graduate: Joshua Christopher

WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY
Alexa Campbell, Lauren Hartman, and Maria Nicholas
Graduates: Imani Harper, Allyson Hodnik, and Rachel Kalberer

WRESTLING
Victor Konno, Donald Tasser, and Tyler Wilps
Graduate: Christian Fagan

2012 Honors Convocation

1 and 2. Members of the Pitt community gathered for the University’s 36th Annual Honors Convocation on Feb. 24 in Carnegie Music Hall. The event launched the observance of Pitt’s 225th Anniversary, a celebration that will continue through Homecoming Weekend in October. 3, 4, and 5. Pitt’s Alumni Association named three Distinguished Alumni Fellows, all of whom were honored during the convocation: John M. Petersen (BUS ’51), retired president and CEO of Erie Insurance Group; Patricia D. Harris (NURS ’92G), U.S. Army lieutenant general and U.S. Army Surgeon General and commanding general; and David A. Tepper (A&S ’78), president and founder of Appaloosa Management. 6 and 7. Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson addressed the audience, and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg delivered the keynote address. The print version of his address is on page 2.
Selected Highlights of Women's History at the University of Pittsburgh

1924 Women's Varsity Basketball team sweeps its home game opponents and losses only one game on the road.

1942 Eighty-two percent of the students in the professional nursing program enlist in a unit of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps organized by the University. Because of a wartime shortage of nurses, the federal government mandates that nursing schools receiving federal money accept Black students. In 1943, Adena Johnson Davis becomes the first African American admitted to the School of Nursing. She graduates in 1947.

1949 Flora Diemert begins her term as the first female president of Pitt's Student Congress (now Student Government Board).

1950 The student body approves a new student constitution.

1957 Lucille R. Crecelius (EDUC '34, A&S '46) becomes the first female Pitt Alumni Association president. She was also an Alumni Trustee from 1971 to 1974 and Emeritus Trustee from 1977 to 1997.

1969 Chancellor Wesley Duer creates the Advisory Committee on Women's Opportunities to address the agenda of the newly formed University Committee for Women's Rights.

1972 The Pitt Women's Studies Program is founded.

1973 Pitt establishes the Women's Center to serve as an advising center to campus and community women.

1980 Susan G. Amara is elected to the National Academy of Sciences. In 2006, she is named the Dr. Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education.

1984 Eleanor Ott, a Pitt psychology graduate student, becomes the first female Pitt Faculty of Medicine student. During her time at Pitt, Ott tutored refugees who had come to the United States, seeking better lives—and spent her summers working at a refugee camp in Zambia.

1988 The lab of Yuen Chang, a professor of pathology in Pitt's School of Medicine, and Patrick Moore, a Pitt professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, discovers that the Merck polyomavirus causes an aggressive skin cancer. In 2003, she and Moore discovered a herpes virus as the cause of Kaposi's sarcoma, the leading AIDS malignancy.

1992 Pitt receives its first-ever NCAA tournament appearance during the 2006-07 season. The Panthers post a school-record 24 wins that season. The Pittsburgh team later advances to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen in both 2008 and 2009.

1998 Angela Groenendaal, the UPMLI Resident Franklin Professor and Chair in the Pitt School of Medicine's Department of Structural Biology, is elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. She is a leading structural biologist and expert in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

2000 Katherine Detre, Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health, begins leading a national study—involving 2,368 participants of 40 sites across the United States—to determine the best way to treat people with both Type 2 diabetes and early coronary artery disease. The study attracts funding for the largest combined grant in Pitt history, $65 million.

2001 Jeanette South-Poulson (MED '79) is the first female chair of a Pitt medical department and the first Black female chair in the nation of a medical department at a historically black college or university. South-Poulson is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor and chair in Pitt's Department of Family Medicine.

2003 Suzanne Broadhurst is elected vice chair of Pitt's Board of Trustees and continues to serve in that position. She has made countless other contributions to Pitt, including her service as a member of several board committees as well as the boards of visitors of the School of Nursing and the School of Education. Broadhurst is director of corporate giving for Eat’n Park Hospitality Group.

2004 Wangari Muta Maathai, who earned the Master of Science degree in biology at Pitt in 1965, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her 30-year effort to reforest her native Kenya and improve the economic status of women there, while fighting for democracy and against corruption and tribalism. Pitt conferred on Maathai an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree during an Oct. 26, 2006, ceremony in Alumni Hall. Maathai died Sept. 25, 2011, at age 71.

2008 The leadership of Irene Friese, professor of psychology and then-president of the University Senate, the Senate sponsored a plenary session on the roles of women at Pitt that led to three Senate ad hoc committees addressing women’s concerns: the Committee for the Support and Advancement of Women at Pitt (2004-06), the Committee for the Promotion of Gender Equality (2007-08), and the Committee for the Promotion of Gender Equality II (2009-10).

2009 Seung C. Amara, chair of the Department of Neurobiology in Pitt's School of Medicine, is elected to the National Academy of Sciences. In 2016, she is named the Dr. Thomas Dehe Endowed Professor in Pitt's School of Medicine.

2010 The director of Pitt's European Union Center, Alberto Sbragia, is named Jean Monnet Chair ad personam by the European Commission, which also designates her a Center's European Union Center of Excellence. Sbragia, a professor of political science, is one of only two academics to be named Jean Monnet Chair at persons in 2005. In 2006, Sbragia is named the inaugural holder of the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair and, in 2010, a vice provost for graduate studies.

2012 Elodie Ghebret, assistant professor in the Pitt School of Medicine’s Department of Computational and Systems Biology, is named in 2011 MacArthur Fellow. Ghebret, a parasitologist and virologist, said she will use the unrestricted award of $500,000 to expand her parasitology research and explore new avenues in the evolution of RNS viruses, such as HIV and influenza.

2012 Elodie Ghebret (MS '08, PhD '12), professor of biology at Swarthmore College.

More recently...

2012 Elaine Hoffman, professor of political science and director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program, is named University Chair and, in 2010, a vice provost for graduate studies.

2014 Halleh Fazaeli, Pitt's first female Ph.D. student in medicine, is named the first woman to receive a PhD degree from the School of Medicine. Fazaeli is the first woman to do so at the University.

2016 The Pitt women’s basketball team earns its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance during the 2006-07 season. The Panthers post a school-record 24 wins that season. The Pitt team later advances to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen in both 2008 and 2009.

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2019 Elodie Ghebret (MS '08, PhD '12), professor of biology at Swarthmore College.

2020 Patricia E. Beeson is elected the first female provost and senior vice chancellor of Pitt by the University’s Board of Trustees. Beeson, with her successful 27-year career as a Pitt faculty member and administrator, was recommended by Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

2021 Roberto Laskar is the first woman to be named a Swanson School of Engineering Distinguished Alumnus, an award presented annually since 1964. Laskar, who also serves on the Swanson School’s Board of Visitors, received her bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering in 1978 and is currently the general manager of corporate planning for ExxonMobil.

2022 Katherine Winsor, professor of psychiatry and director of Women's Behavioral Health Care at the Western Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, receives the 2021 Women in Science Award from the American Medical Women’s Association. Since 1993, the annual award honors a women physician who has made exceptional contributions to medical science, especially in women’s health.

2022 Patricio S. Corbalán, professor of psychology and director of the Sport & Performance Lab. Corbalán, who also serves on the Swanson School’s Board of Visitors, received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Ottawa. He was named to the position by President Barack Obama May 10 and was later approved by the U.S. Senate.

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Women’s History Month

Margaret Stein

Stella Stein

1895 Sisters Margaret and Stella Stein are the first women to enter the Western University of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pittsburgh) as full-time sophomores. The sisters graduate in 1898, tied for first place in their class, and return to Pitt in 1901 to begin their master’s degrees.

1908 Pi Theta No, the first sorority, forms in 1908. Women’s organizations are rare until after 1910.

1909 Shortly after the University moves to Oakland, Pitt opens the School of Education. Women flock to the new program, with the number of women students at Pitt jumping from about 40 to more than 300 in the first year.

1910 Jean Hamilton Walls receives the bachelor’s degree at Pitt, the first Black woman to do so at the University. In 1938, she becomes the first Black woman to receive the PhD degree at Pitt.

1914 Women constitute 25 percent of Pitt’s student body, with 600 female students attending.

1914-15 Women’s basketball organizes, the first competitive sport for women at Pitt.

1918 Pitt hires its first woman faculty member, Blos- som Henry.

1919 Virginia Proctor Powell Florence is the first African American woman in the United States to complete a professional education program in librarianship. She graduates in 1923 from the Carnegie Library School, which later becomes part of Pitt’s School of Information Sciences. (In 2004, a plaque honoring Florence is installed in the Information Sciences Building lobby.)

The Women’s Athletic Association forms to manage intramural sports.

Pitt’s first Dean of Women, Thyrza Wellthour Amos, arrives from the psychology department at the University of Kansas.

1920 Lantern Night, a candlelight ceremony for freshman women, begins.

Pi Theta No, 1909
Concerts


Dervish, world/truth music, with opening act Callan, 7:30 p.m. March 10, Carnegie Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Calliope Concerts, Calling act Callan, 7:30 p.m. March 10, Carnegie Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Calliope Concerts, Cal- liope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, www.calliopehouse.org.

Happenings


Hillman Library Ground Floor, Pitt-225 Years of Building Better Lives—1787- 2012, exhibition of Vintage photographs, maps, and copies of pages of Pitt’s two original state charters, on loan from Pennsylvania’s state archives, through May 18; also on display in the Art Library, Audubon case are the actual front pages of Pitt’s original state charters, University’s 225th anniversary commemoration, through May 18, 412-532-2899, 412- 648-3839.

The Frick Art & Historical Center, Draw Me a Story: A Century of Children’s Draw- ing styles and techniques spanning more than 100 years, including works by Randolph Caldecott, Chris van Allsburg, Ernest Shepard, and Maurice Sendak. Through May 30, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412- 371-6060, www.thefrickpa.org.


Lectures/Seminars/Readings

“Skeletal Tissue Engineering and Regeneration: Adult Stem Cells, Ham-Hocks, and Biological Regulation,” Rocky S. Tuan, Arthur J. Rosensweig Chair in Sports Medicine, Pitt’s School of Medicine, 4 p.m. March 9, Lecture Room 6, Scaife Hall, Pitt Provo’s Inaugural Lecture Series, wwwProvost.pitt.edu.


“Exploring Residential Segregation With a Telescope and a Microscope,” Maria Krysan, professor of sociology, University of Illinois at Chicago, noon March 13, Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP), 20th floor, Cathedral of Learning, CRSP Speaker Series, 412-624-7382.

“Poetic Unity in Aristotle,” Wolfgang Bernard, professor, Heinrich Schillemann-Institute, University of Bres- rock, Germany, 4 p.m. March 16, 244B Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of Classics, www.classics.pitt.edu.

PhD Dissertation Defenses

Men Yan Wong, School of Medicine’s Molecular Pharmacology Graduate Program, “Delivery and Exonuclease of Neo- tropeptide Vesiicles at the Nerve Terminal,” 9 a.m. March 5, B2, 1395 Starzl Biomedical Science Tower.

Yi Agimi, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, “Role of State Licensing and Physician Reporting Requirements on Older Doctor Supply,” 1:30 p.m. March 9, 2nd-Floor Conference Room, Graduate School of Public Health.

Khalid Awdah A. Alahmari, Schiehallion-Institute, University of Ros- wick, Molecular Pharmacology Graduate Program, “Balance Device,” 9 a.m. March 14, Bioengineering Department, Molecular Pharmacology Graduate Program, “Balance Rehabilitation Unit Assessment Reality and Psychometric Properties of the Balance Rehabilitation Unit Assessment,” 2 p.m. March 14, A2918 Forbes Tower.


Ming Ren, School of Information Sci- ence Graduate Program in Information Science, “Advanced Map Matching Technologies and Techniques for Pedestrian/Wheeled Navigation Systems,” 2 p.m. March 16, 502 Infor- mation Sciences Building.

Mary Lou Versellotti, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Linguistics, “Complexity, Accuracy, and Fluency as Properties of Language Processing and the Development of the Multiple Subsystems Over Time in Relation to Each Other,” 2 p.m. March 16, 335 Cathedral of Learning.


A St. Patrick’s Pop With Natalie MacMaster, Rebecca Hall, March 15-19

Honors College Marks 25th Anniversary

Preparing “students to become learners and thinkers for the rest of their lives.” —Honors College Dean Edward M. Stricker

1. The University Honors College (UHC) celebrated its 25th anniversary on Feb. 25 during a daylong forum that included several presentations and musical interludes. The dinner, held in Alumni Hall’s Connolly Ballroom, and the forum, held in Bellefield Hall, coincided with the weekend launch of Pitt’s 225th anniversary celebration, which began with the Feb. 24 Honors Convocation and continues through the 2012 Homecoming festivities in October. Among the day’s speakers were: 2. Mary Ellen Callahan (A&S, UHC ’90), Pitt trustee and chief privacy officer and chief Freedom of Information Act officer in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. 3. 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. 4. Dick Thornburgh (LAW ’57), former governor of Pennsylvania, former U.S. attorney general, and former U.N. undersecretary general, and now of counsel to K&L Gates in its Washington, D.C., office. 5. Edward M. Stricker, UHC dean and a Distinguished University Professor of Neuroscience.