Chang, Moore, and Strick Are Elected To National Academy of Sciences

By Anita Srikameswaran

In recognition of their scientific contributions and accomplishments, three University of Pittsburgh faculty members have been elected to membership in the prestigious U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS), which was established by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 to provide independent advice to the government on matters related to science and technology.

Elected were the Pitt School of Medicine’s Yuan Chang, Distinguished Professor and American Cancer Society Professor in the Department of Pathology; and Patrick S. Moore, Distinguished Professor and American Cancer Society Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, who together identified two of the seven known human cancer-causing viruses; and Peter Strick, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Neurobiology, whose focus is on understanding the neural circuitry that controls voluntary movement.

The three Pitt Distinguished Professors were among 84 new members and 21 foreign associates from 15 countries who were recognized this year for “their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research,” according to the NAS announcement, which added, “Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors that can be accorded a U.S. scientist or engineer.”

Pitt had the third-highest number of newly elected members of the National Academy of Sciences among U.S. institutions of higher education, tied with Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of California-San Diego, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Washington. Among the universities with fewer newly elected members were Cornell, Harvard, Michigan, Ohio State, Vanderbilt, and Yale; only three had more.

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Peyman Givi Lands $3.7 Million Grant to Simulate Turbulent Combustion in Aerospace Applications

By B. Rose Huber

A research team at the University of Pittsburgh is developing quantum-computing algorithms to better model turbulent combustion in aerospace applications.

A $3.7 million, five-year U.S. Air Force grant was awarded last month to principal investigator Peyman Givi, the James T. MacLeod Professor in the Swanson School of Engineering, who is working with faculty members from Pitt’s Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and Center for Simulation and Modeling.

“Most people think of turbulence as unsettling or chaotic because of their experiences on planes,” said Givi. “But when it comes to engines, the hope is to make it as turbulent as possible. It’s like putting cream in your coffee. The more you mix it, the better it’ll taste or perform.”

The impetus for the Pitt team’s research is centered on the fact that despite its emergence more than two decades ago, quantum computing based on quantum mechanics hasn’t been used in aerospace applications, said Givi. Because of the nondeterministic nature of GivIs classical equations of turbulence, the Pitt research team—Pitt physics and astronomy professors Andrew Daley and Jeremy Levy and the Center for Simulation and Modeling research professor So Levent Yilmaz—thought there might be a way to solve the equations on quantum computers, rapidly speeding up the process of modeling turbulent combustion.

“We’ve developed equations that can model turbulent combustion very accurately, and we’ve been successful in solving them on today’s classical computers,” said Givi. “Now, with the help of this grant, we will formulate these equations in such a way that they can be solved on quantum computers.”

Because quantum computers have yet to be actualized, Daley and Levy will be looking at different concepts on how one might go about building quantum computers so the researchers can make hardware that acts like a quantum machine. And even though Einstein himself advised scientists to avoid the unsolved field of turbulence, the team is hoping the use of quantum computing will make great strides toward solving the problem.

“If some of the things we are thinking do work and eventually we do achieve this, a process that could take weeks or months will transpire in minutes,” said Givi. “Really is a quantum leap.”

The Pittsburgh team also is leading a group involving researchers at the University of Wisconsin, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the University of Vienna.

Administrative Functions Of Bradford, Titusville Campuses Realigned

By John Harvith

As part of the University of Pittsburgh’s ongoing efforts to reduce costs in the face of sharply declining state support, a significant administrative realignment is taking place at the University’s Titusville and Bradford regional campuses. Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson announced May 7.

Effective immediately, both campuses will report to Livingston Alexander, who, as president of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford since 2003, has been credited with strengthening that campus’ position as an institution that provides access to students and fosters success among first-generation college students. Alexander will remain at the helm of Pitt-Bradford and also will become president of the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville. In addition, other major administrative functions for the two campuses will be centralized at the Bradford campus.

“As the result of unprecedented cuts from our Commonwealth appropriation this year and a proposal for further cuts in the coming year, we have been forced to examine areas of previous commitment, including our historic commitment to bring educational opportunities in Titusville and other regions and populations of Western Pennsylvania. We hope that by combining key administrative functions of these two regional campuses, we will better positioned to continue providing educational opportunities in Titusville.”

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Chang, Moore, Strick Are Elected to NAS
Continued from page 1

new members—Berkeley and Princeton (four), and Stanford (six).

“To have a single faculty member elected to the National Academy of Sci-
ences would be a cause for celebration, but to have three colleagues elected in a single year is a remarkable achievement,” said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

“More than anything, this is a well-deserved tribute to the pioneering work being done by Professors Chang, Moore, and Strick. It also is reflective of a culture that supports research of impact at Pitt and is a credit to the research efforts of the Senior Vice Chancellor Dr. Arthur S. Levine, who has brought all five of the National Academy members in our School of Medicine to Pittsburgh.”

“Drs. Chang, Moore, and Strick are outstanding researchers who have greatly added to Pitt’s understanding of challenging biological questions,” said Levine, who also is the dean of the School of Medicine. “Their election to the Academy is indicative of the quality of the research conducted here and the importance of their findings.”

Chang and Moore are co-elders of the Cancer Virology Program at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. In 1994, they discovered the virus known as Kaposi’s sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV), which causes Kaposi’s sarcoma, the most common AIDS-related malignancy. In

2008, they identified Merkel cell polyoma virus, which causes a rare and deadly skin cancer known as Merkel cell carcinoma. Both received their medical degrees from the University of Utah College of Medicine.

Strick is director of the Systems Neurosci-
ences Institute, codirector of the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, and senior VA research career scientist within the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

Strick’s research investigates the neural circuits that are responsible for the control of voluntary movement, cognition, and affect. He developed the use of viruses with an affinity for neurons as a new technique for unraveling connections in the central nervous system. He received his doctorate in anatomy from the University of Penn-
sylvania.

The School of Medicine now is the professional home to five active NAS mem-
bers, the largest number in its history. Susan G. Amara, the Thomas Detre Professor
and chair, Department of Neurology, was elected in 2004, and Angela M. Grotz-
enborn, the UPMC Rosalind Franklin Pro-
fessor and chair, Department of Pathology,
was elected in 2007. In addition, Pitu Distin-
guished Professor of Anthropology
Robert Alter, director of Pitt’s Center for Comparative Archaeology, was elected an NAS member in 2004.

Andrew R. Blair, Pitt Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, to Return to Faculty in September

By Sharon S. Blake

Andrew R. Blair, vice provost for fac-
ulty affairs at the University of Pittsburgh since January 2007, has returned to his adminis-
trative role and return to the Joseph M. Katz
Graduate School of Business as a professor of business administration and econom-
ics in September 2012, Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beseon announced May 10.

“I have known and admired Andy Blair for more than 25 years,” said Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. “I was first impressed by the impor-
tant contributions he made as a member of the leadership team in the Katz School and have worked even more closely with him during his distinguished ser-
vice as vice provost for faculty affairs. Andy is an accomplished profes-
sional, a completely committed member of the Pitt community, and a person who is widely respected for his values. That combination of qualities positioned him to help fuel Pitt’s progress, and we thank him for all of the many things that he has done to make our University a better and stronger place.”

“Andy has had 13 exemplary years of service as vice provost,” said Beseon in making the announcement. “During that time, he helped establish programs that fos-
tered excellence in Pitt faculty and academic admin-
istration, including orientation sessions for new faculty, department chairs, and senior administrators and annual retreats for department chairs. As vice provost, Blair worked closely with Pitt faculty and administrators as he oversaw the development of new processes and procedures. He supervised the faculty appeal processes and the review of appointment, promotion, and tenure guidelines for compliance with University policy. He also advised deans and
campus presidents on policies affecting fac-
ulty members, and he helped develop Pitt’s first faculty governance structure, including postdoctoral scholars and associates and research associates. He also was responsible for monitoring the annual faculty review process and overseeing the faculty evalua-
tions of deans and department chairs.

As chair of the Provost’s Advisory Council on Instructional Excel-
ence and through his work with the Center for Instructional Development and Distance Edu-
cation, Blair contributed to the development and success of such pro-
grams as the Innovation in Education Awards, which foster collabora-
tion among Pitt faculty in developing innova-
tive teaching methods.

Prior to assuming the position of vice pro-
vost, Blair served as associate and then exec-
tutive associate dean of the Katz School and as director of the International Business Center and the Center for International Enterprise Development. During the 1990s, he was significantly involved in Central Europe’s transition to market-oriented economies, serving as one of the Katz School’s principal representatives to three new Western-style management programs that the school helped to fund.

Blair joined the Katz School faculty in 1971, after serving for a decade at Fordham University, where he earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD degrees in economics.

Blair will continue to serve in the Office of the Provost during the Fall Term on a reduced basis to assist during the transition to a new vice provost for faculty affairs; a screening committee will be formed soon with the intention of naming Blair’s suc-
cessor.

225 Stories to Celebrate
Redefining World Culture

In the 20th century, the amount of archaeological research conducted throughout the world surged. At Pitt’s Center for Comparative Archaeology, the goal is to turn raw data into knowledge.

One of the center’s tools for accomplishing this task is its Comparative Archaeology Database, an online resource for collecting and storing information gathered during archaeological fieldwork.

This global database preserves our record of past civilizations and makes these records more widely available for future research.

Research Professor of Anthropology Robert Drennan exemplifies the kind of comparative thinking encouraged by the database. In his work, Drennan campaigns the organization of communities in three areas in which he has done fieldwork: the Alto Magdalena Province in Colombia, the Hongshan culture in Northeast China, and the Valley of Oaxaca in Mexico.

Comparative anthropological research at Pitt also benefits from faculty and students immersing themselves in particular geographic regions. Professor Joseph Alva, for instance, focuses on security, masculinity, and the body in India, while Professor Emeritus Keith Brown has spent decades looking at the organization of small-town Japanese life in Misuzawa, a small city in Northeast-
ern Japan.

For more stories about Pitt’s legacy of achievement or to share your own stories about the University, visit www.225.pitt.edu.

The University of Pittsburgh Office of the Provost’s Advisory Council on Instruc-
tional Excellence (ACIE) has selected seven teaching proposals to fund under the 2012 Innovation in Education Awards Program.

The awards, begun in 2000 by then-Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher, encourage instructional innovation and teaching excellence. The ACIE seeks to identify high-quality proposals that show promise for introducing innovative, creative approaches to teaching that can be adapted for use in other courses.

These creative proposals will be used during a pilot iteration, with the goal of adapting and improving the proposals for adoption by a larger group of students in subsequent semesters.

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University of Pittsburgh and Electric Power Research Institute Researchers Develop Method to Fingerprint Air Pollution

By B. Rose Huber

A team of researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) collected emissions samples from several power plant stacks in the United States and developed a unique method for detecting the isotopic signatures of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions under different configurations. These isotopic signatures will be instrumental in helping to identify emission sources of air pollution across the nation.

NOx emissions are formed during the combustion of fossil fuels in power plants, mix with organic gases in the atmosphere to form ozone and particulate matter, the main components of smog. These emissions eventually settle on surfaces and, the deposited material, primarily nitrate, nitrite, and particulate matter, the main components of smog. The team is conducting a pilot study directed by Elliott is now using these methods to examine isocapic nitrogen in air, water, and across ecosystems.

"Stable isotopes have been used successfully in science for a variety of purposes," said Stephanie Shaw, senior project manager at EPRI. "The characterization of NOx emissions will allow researchers to determine how different sources and different emission-control technologies actually influence air quality."

These results, combined with additional information from other NOx sources, will allow scientists to look at rain samples and determine how much nitrogen comes from power plant stacks as opposed to how much comes from other sources such as motor vehicles, lightning, or soil. J. David Felix, a project team member and doctoral candidate at Pitt, is now working to identify the isotopic composition of other reactive nitrogen emissions sources, including those produced in animal feed lots, fertilizer applications, and emissions produced by vehicles. The team is conducting a pilot study with Pitt's School of Public Health to examine the isotopic composition of nitrogen oxides and determine their sources within the city of Pittsburgh, where exposures relevant to human health may be occurring.

Based on these results, the overall isotopic composition of power plant NOx emissions is expected to change and thus change the isotopic composition of nitrogen oxides in the environment. "It was important for us to understand how the implementation of emission control technologies affects the isotopic nature of the NOx being emitted in order to evaluate its fate in the atmosphere."

The study was published in the March 2012 issue of Environmental Science and Technology. Funding for this study was provided by EPRI and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

NAACP President Benjamin Jealous To Address Pitt’s Center on Race and Social Problems Celebration June 7

By Sharon S. Blake

Pitt’s Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) has devoted the last decade to bringing to the forefront countless social issues ranging from discrimination in hiring to racial profiling — through research, major national conferences, other institutes for social work professionals, and two popular lecture series featuring top scholars from across the United States.

CRSP, based in Pitt’s Social Work School, will celebrate its 10th anniversary from 5 to 8 p.m. June 7 in Pitt’s Alumni Hall. The free public event will feature a keynote address by Benjamin Jealous, the 17th president and CEO of the NAACP. Jealous’ talk is titled “Trayvon Martin: Racial Profiling and the Urgent Need to Heal America.” The doors open at 5 p.m., and the program is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. A reception follows the program. Those wishing to attend the event are asked to RSVP to crsp@pitt.edu.

CRSP was founded in 2002 by Pitt School of Social Work Dean and Donald M. Henderson Professor Larry E. Davis to conduct and disseminate race-related research and program evaluations. It focuses on race-related social problems in seven key areas: economic disparities; educational disparities; health; intergroup relations; mental health; criminal justice; and youth, families, and the elderly.

In its first 10 years, CRSP’s many achievements include:

• Hosting the 2010 national “Race in America” conference, where solutions were proposed for some of society’s most pressing race-related problems;

• Launching in 2009 the groundbreaking academic journal Race and Social Problems, a multidisciplinary periodical with articles that address race and its relationship to today’s psychological, cultural, and socioeconomic problems;

• Hosting a major national conference in 2004, “Fifty Years After Brown: New Solutions for Segregation and Academic Underachievement,” with the goal of mapping a blueprint for tackling academic underachievement in the nation’s inner-city schools;

• Evaluating the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative and determining that providing services to Allegheny County Jail inmates while they are incarcerated and after their release dramatically reduces recidivism;

• Developing graduate courses that have taken students to Cuba, Paris, and London to study firsthand those regions’ race issues;

• Offering summer institutes at Pitt to social workers, foundation leaders, and other professionals on topics ranging from the involvement of Black parents in public education and crime, to training on best practices across the United States to participate in CRSP’s free public lecture series in the spring and fall.

From his early days of organizing voter registration drives through his service as president and CEO of the NAACP, Jealous has been motivated by civic duty and a constant need to improve the lives of America’s underrepresented. As a student at Columbia University, he worked in Harlem as a community organizer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. On campus, Jealous led schoolwide movements, including boycotts and pickets for homeless rights and a successful campaign to save full-need financial aid. These protests ultimately led to the suspension of Jealous and three other student leaders. Jealous used this time off to work as a field organizer helping to lead a campaign that prevented the State of Mississippi from closing two of its three public historically Black universities and converting one of them into a prison. He remained in Mississippi to take a job at the Jackson Advocate, an African American newspaper based in the state’s capital. His reporting was credited with exposing corruption among high-ranking officials at the state prison in Parchman. His investigations also helped to secure a job for a black farmer who had been wrongfully accused of arson.

In 1997, Jealous returned to Columbia University and completed his degree in political science. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, where he earned a master’s degree in comparative social research.

During his career, Jealous also has served as president of the Rosenberg Foundation, director of the U.S. Human Rights Program at Amnesty International, and executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a federation of more than 200 Black community newspapers. He has been president and CEO of the NAACP since 2008.

Newsmakers

TRITCHE RECEIVES HISTORY MAKER AWARD

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (right) presents Pitt Board of Trustees Chair Stephen R. Tritch (ENGR ‘71, KGSB ’77) with a 2012 History Maker Award during the Senator John Heinz History Center’s 20th annual award dinner on April 13 at the Westin Convention Center Hotel. Tritch, the retired chairman and CEO of Westinghouse Electric Company, won the award in the Business and Industry category. The History Center presents the honor annually to distinguished Pittsburghers for their exceptional contributions to the history of Western Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world.
This is the print version of the April 29, 2012, University of Pittsburgh commencement address delivered by Pitt alumna U.S. Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho (NURS ’92G), the 43rd Army Surgeon General and the commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command. Horoho became the first woman and the first nurse to hold these positions when she was sworn in on Dec. 7, 2011, following her nomination by President Obama and her confirmation by the U.S. Senate. During the Commencement ceremony, Pitt conferred upon Horoho the degree of Doctor of Public Service Honoris Causa.

Thank you Chancellor Nordenberg, Provost Beezon, Dr. Smith [Jack Smith, president of the Pitt Alumni Association], distinguished alumni and faculty, guests, family members, friends, and, finally, the University of Pittsburgh graduating class of 2012. It is my honor to be here today. I am humbled to receive this honorary degree from this extraordinary institution and thank you for allowing me to be part of the commencement ceremony.

Also, thank you for allowing Congressman Murphy and me the honor of participating in the commissioning ceremony of nine University of Pittsburgh ROTC cadets yesterday. The Army is proud to welcome them as our newest lieutenants.

I recognize that the last few months here at the University have been difficult, with countless evacuations. Your presence here today, and that of your family and friends, reflects your resolve to challenge and overcome the efforts that have sought to disrupt student life. You celebrate not only the graduating class of 2012, but demonstrate the character of the University of Pittsburgh, the spirit of the city of Pittsburgh, and the resolve of America to overcome adversity.

I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to return to this University that I love.

And in case you think that “love” is too strong a word, let me reassure you, it is not. It was here at Pitt that I met the love of my life, my husband of 22 years, who taught military education here and who joined me walking around the campus yesterday. This was a very special place.

As I sat down to write this speech, I reflected upon the 225-year history of the University of Pittsburgh and my personal experiences in those very seats [you are now occupying] 20 years ago. I remember who spoke at my graduation, so I am under no illusions that what I say will be remembered even as the credits roll now.

What I clearly can remember, even 20 years later, are the people from Pitt, my fellow students, friends, teachers, mentors, and the Pittsburghers who shaped my experience and whose influence continues to shape my life today.

Like me two decades ago, you stand with your toes dangling over the proverbial edge. Behind you are your formative years: your childhood, your education, your life to this point. My task today is to talk about what lies ahead as you step over the edge and into the next phase of your lives. And to reassure you that your feeling today of joy, confidence, and enthusiasm is a good thing. Hold on to it, and use it!

In 1992, at the age of 32, I left Pittsburgh with a master’s degree in trauma nursing. I knew that I was on the path to bigger things, and I was open to new experiences. Maybe, I thought, if all goes well, I could be the chief nurse of a medical center.

I didn’t leave here thinking, “I’m going to be a three-star general, medical advisor to the Secretary of the Army in a time of war, and the leader of one of the most comprehensive medical research and development programs in the world.”

That was not the game plan when I graduated. There is no doubt—I have been on an exciting although admittedly unorthodox journey since I left Pitt.

I don’t know precisely what each of you will face as you move on, but I do know this. You are going to be challenged in ways that you simply cannot imagine—professionally and personally. Trust the journey.

The experiences of your time here at Pitt and your life experiences with your family and friends will be far more instrumental in how you respond to the challenges that await you than you can imagine today.

I didn’t know—and never would have predicted—what I would face after walking off this campus.

Two years after graduating from Pitt, I was serving as the head nurse of the emergency room at Womack Army Medical Center in Fayetteville, North Carolina, the home of the 82nd Airborne Division. One spring afternoon, I was in the ER taking care of a sick child with a high fever and a concerned mom.

Suddenly, the ER “crash” phone went off. I was on the receiving end of one of those phone calls that you remember for the rest of your life. A C-130 cargo plane and an F-16 fighter jet collided in midair. The C-130 was able to recover and land safely. The F-16 pilots ejected from their damaged jet, but their aircraft careened down the runway and collided with a cargo plane loading paratroopers for a training jump. More than 500 paratroopers were in the area when the cargo plane exploded in flames.

Within 15 minutes, casualties were streaming through our hospital doors. Twenty-four soldiers lost their lives that day. Before the afternoon was over, we treated 134 severely burned young soldiers—men and women, younger than most of you graduating here today.

Little did I know that my experiences at this University, including what I thought was adversity, would prepare me for that day.

I had originally planned to do my master’s thesis on “critical incident stress debriefing.”

I don’t know precisely what each of you will face as you move on, but I do know this. You are going to be challenged in ways that you simply cannot imagine—professionally and personally. Trust the journey.

I loved the subject. But, I couldn’t gather enough patients to make this a valid research study.

My second research study subject was alternative treatments for severely burned patients. I couldn’t complete this study either, due to a host of unforeseen circumstances.

Initially, I thought those two stalled efforts were an enormous waste of time and energy.

But right there, while I was standing outside Womack’s emergency room doors, that knowledge, that hard work steadied me as young American soldiers with horrific wounds arrived needing a medical team that knew what worked best for burn victims. And, when the crisis was over, I understood that the injured, and those who cared for them, also needed attention of a different sort.

My education here at Pitt helped build the emotional armor I needed.

Don’t ever forget that your education here—your triumphs and your setbacks—will have done the same for you. It has done more than made you smarter; it has made you stronger. It’s made you ready. Ready to face the challenges and opportunities that await you. Your education has made you ready to be an active contributor building better lives … a mission Pitt has been doing for 225 years.

Building—this is not a word used in the past tense. It tells us that the job of creating and renewing doesn’t end. It never ends.

Better—this is a word filled with hope, filled with expectations and confidence that whatever we face, we can do better.

Lives—that’s an important word. It’s not better careers, or better paychecks, or better houses, but, rather—better lives.

What are the ingredients of a better life? Three simple things—service, health, and renewal doesn’t end. It never ends.

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relationships.

Service comes in many forms.

Service requires that your work have meaning.

Theodore Roosevelt once said: “Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

I would submit that this statement embodies the character of Pittsburgh. This city was founded on that principle. The men and women who built Pittsburgh—for some of you, your grandparents—literally helped build this country. They worked long days—in a city that needed streetlights on during the middle of the afternoon to see through the smog from the smokestacks of the steel mills—in order to defeat Nazism and Fascism.

That work had meaning.

This same spirit transformed Pittsburgh from its steel-mill days to its current status as an economic influencer in the fields of health care, education, technology, financial services, and robotics.

So, if you are heading off to corporate America, provide economic stability to our nation and employment opportunities for a new generation. Wherever you work, make it have meaning.

If you are heading to the West Coast to work in the entertainment industry, PLEASE make us laugh, make us think, make us sing. Make it have meaning.

If you are heading down the street to UPMC or to any other health care organization across the nation, God bless you. There has never been a greater need for medical research and the delivery of quality care. It has meaning. Make it world-class.

The second step to a better life—health.

Your health—and the health of your family, friends, and community. I’m a nurse. I’ve lived most of my life in hospitals. Hospitals are not where health happens. They’re where you go when health doesn’t happen.

There’s a health crisis in this nation, not a hospital crisis. I strongly believe that our country must shift its focus from health care to health. We need to influence behaviors that occur outside of our hospitals and clinics, what I call the “white space.”

People who care about and attend to their health are stronger—not just physically, but mentally. Health is a key component to personal resiliency. You need to take charge of your health. It’s going to help you build a better life, and you can positively influence those around you.

The third step to a better life—relationships.

Relationships matter. Keep cultivating them, just as you did here at Pitt. Don’t just take it from an alum who met her spouse at Pitt.

Studies bear this out. One study I recently read about sought out the characteristics of the happiest 10 percent among us. The researchers found this—and I will quote it: “There was one—and only one—characteristic that distinguished the happiest 10 percent from everybody else: the strength of their social relationships.”

My life was enriched in each of these ways during my time at Pitt. And, I will tell you that all of these things take work—to find the meaning in what you do; to focus on health as a personal goal; to sustain and expand your social relationships, not based on how many Facebook friends you have, but on meaningful, personal connections.

You will be a stronger and more resilient person. You will be an important member of your community. You will build a better life. This University has built better lives over the past 225 years. You follow in a proud tradition. You deserve the congratulations and the recognition that will be showered upon you. Congratulations! God bless each of you, the University of Pittsburgh, and the United States of America.
Continued from page 1

William Shields, who has served since 2005 as president of Pitt-Titusville and who also served as interim president of Pitt-Bradford, is being named an associate vice president.

“We expect to take full advantage of the rich experience and expertise of Dr. Shields in his new role as he works with my office, the regional campus presidents, and the deans of the schools on the Pittsburgh campus to improve the coordination of academic programs across all five campuses,” Beseck stated.

The University of Pittsburgh offers programs through four campuses of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education: the Johnstown-Centre County campus, the Greater Pittsburgh campus, the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, and the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville. Pitt-Johnstown was established in 1927, and the Pitt campuses in Bradford, Greensburg, and Titusville were created in 1963.

Cuts to state support for Pitt in the current academic year totaled approximately $67 million. Those cuts included a 19 percent reduction in state appropriations, 29 percent of the University’s general appropriation and a 50 percent reduction to its academic medical center appropriations at the July 1, 2011, beginning of the fiscal year. Those cuts exceeded $40 million and represented a 22 percent reduction in the University’s combined appropriations. Late in the fall, the University was notified that its capital projects support also would be reduced by 50 percent, or $20 million. Then, in January 2012, the University was directed to put another 5 percent, or $7 million, into “budgetary reserve,” the equivalent of a miller budget cut.

The budget proposed for the next fiscal year would further reduce Pitt’s general appropriation by an additional 30 percent and its academic medical center appropriations by an additional 10 percent. When added together, those proposals would bring nearly $42 million in additional cuts. Those cuts would reduce Pitt’s state appropriations, in absolute dollars, to levels that have not been seen since the mid-1980s, more than a quarter century ago and when the state’s overall budget was about one-third its current size. Those cuts would reduce Pitt’s state appropriations, if adjusted for inflation, to the lowest level since Pitt became a public university in the mid-1960s.

The budget proposed for the next fiscal year also would completely eliminate a decade-old program that has allocated a portion of the Commonwealth’s recovery from the tobacco settlement fund to forwarding health-related research. That program not only has advanced the cause of human health but also has stimulated economic growth throughout Pennsylvania by supporting research work in dozens of institutions. Through two competitive programs, one tied to levels of National Institutes of Health funding and the other tied to specific grant proposals reviewed by the state, Pitt has received research support of approximately $13 million per year from the tobacco settlement fund. The two-year total of cuts made and proposed for Pitt, then, is approximately $120 million.

With nearly 36,000 students enrolled in its programs, Pitt is the largest provider of undergraduate, graduate and professional education in Pennsylvania. Western Pennsylvania alone has an enrollment of approximately 6,000 students. In spring, some 6,000 degrees were awarded in commencement ceremonies on its five campuses.

The University also sits at the heart of what the U.S. Department of Labor calls the “Steel Belt,” the nation’s most heavily industrialized region. With 1.7 million people living within a 30-mile radius, the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville not only has advanced the cause of education and training in this region, but also has been a catalyst for the economic development of the region.

Livingston Alexander

Livingston Alexander was named the third president of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford on April 25, 2003, and officially began his duties on August 1, 2003. In a campuswide strategic planning effort that resulted in a new vision for Pitt-Bradford, eight major strategic directions, and action plans to advance the University’s institutional agenda. Among the major accomplishments resulting from the planning efforts on his campus were the development of new academic majors, successful completion of a $12 million capital campaign, construction of a new academic hall in 2006, and major renovations of two academic halls, major renovations of two academic buildings, development and implementation of an integrated master planning, and an increase in enrollment and retention.

Before becoming Pitt-Bradford’s president, Alexander was the provost and vice president for academic affairs of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, where he was named the 12th president of psychology at Kean University in Union, N.J. During his tenure there, Alexander led the implementation of a revised general education program, widely known for its innovative features.

Alexander began his career in higher education as an assistant professor of psychology at Western Kentucky University and subsequently advanced to the rank of professor. After completing an American Council on Education Fellowship in higher education administration at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, he assumed successive positions as department head at Georgia Southern University, associate vice president for academic affairs and director of graduate studies at Western Kentucky University, and vice president for academic affairs at Troy State University.

During his academic and administrative career, Alexander has written numerous articles and has served on boards, most recently chairing a faculty member and administrator at MacMurray College. He is a member of the board of directors of the American Council on Education’s Commission on Leadership and Diversity for the American Council on Education. The University’s program in leadership and diversity for the American Council on Education is the largest program of its kind.

In Jacksonville, Fitz served on the board of directors of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional's/Young Executive's Committee, and is a member of the Tallahassee Young Professionals, an affiliate of the Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce.

Before becoming MacMurray’s vice president for academic affairs, Fitz was the college’s assistant vice president for academic affairs, interim chair of its Division of Education, chair of the Department of History and Political Science, and a faculty member who taught extensively in the areas of American and international politics. He is a member of the Board of Advisors for Eastern Illinois University, where he served as a visiting assistant professor and was an assistant professor at Macom State University, and as an instructor at the University of Kentucky.

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the traditional reading assignment or complete a V-PIN case, and they will be tested both before and after each session.

Paul W. Leu, assistant professor, and Mary Besterfield-Sacre, professor and Fulton C. Noss Faculty Fellow, Swanson School of Engineering’s Department of Industrial Engineering, “Learning and Experiencing Design Processes That Promote Innovative Outcomes.”

Engineering innovation is essential to growth and competitiveness in a rapidly changing global economy. Design is one of the most challenging outcomes, as articulated by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology’s educational objectives and outcomes. Educators must now teach engineering students to be technically competent not only in design systems, components, and/or products, but also in certain design processes that result in more innovative outcomes. Based upon Besterfield-Sacre’s recent research on innovation in engineering design, this project will develop specific activities and tools to build innovative design teams, strengthen critical design activities, and enhance innovative outcomes. Among those tools will be team-building and brainstorming activities as well as the creation of team wikis, which are programs that allow users to collaborate in creating content and to promote communication between group members.

Jonathan Pearlman, assistant professor, Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, and associate director for engineering at the Human Engineering Research Laboratories, “BETI: Basic Engineering Technology Design for Developing Countries.”

This project will expand to undergraduates a graduate-level series of Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology (RST) courses that focus on global health, assistive devices for people with disabilities. In addition, the courses—which concentrate on design and fabricating orthoses as designing a device for a client—will include an international component, where Pitt students will have the opportunity to perform a service-learning project at one of the many international sites with which RST researchers collaborate. Pearlman said while the graduate-only series of courses were tailored to multidisciplinary students in fields ranging from clinical sciences to engineering, the expanded course offerings will also likely draw students from additional disciplines, including international studies, foreign language, history, social sciences, and others found within the University Honors College.

Andrew T. Rose, professor of civil engineering technology, Pitt-Johnstown, “Development and Implementation of a Civil Engineering Technology Design Project in the Civil Engineering Technology Curriculum Using a Modified Community of Practice Approach.”

Rose will develop a multicourse design project that incorporates real-world aspects of building analysis and design. The design project will incorporate three required courses and two elective courses in the junior and senior years of Pitt-Johnstown’s civil engineering technology (CET) curriculum. The goal is to create a unique learning experience by grouping topics and learning activities from several courses into a single multicourse, multsemester design project that is realistic and consistent with professional-level civil engineering. The project will employ the communities of practice approach—grouping students with a shared interest in CET so they can improve their technical and communication skills through frequent interaction.

Tanya Rutherford-Hamming, an instructor in Pitt’s School of Nursing who will become an assistant professor in that school on July 1, “Simulation to Promote Nurse-Patient-Related Knowledge and Skills (SPARKS).”

This project is intended to ensure that advanced-practice registered nurses—such as nurse practitioners and certified registered nurse anesthetists—are proficient in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, or the act of listening to sounds made by internal organs, particularly the heart and lungs. A Student Auscultation Workshop in the project will be purchased and incorporated into foundational courses for advanced-practice nursing students, allowing them to safely assess and diagnose “real life” medical diagnoses without actual risk to a patient. In addition, it is hoped that SPARKS will increase the complexity of critical thinking required by using a combination of simulation and case studies. Rutherford-Hamming anticipates that SPARKS could be used in nine graduate courses, reaching about 350 nursing practitioners and anesthesiology students.

William R. Schumm, assistant professor of anthropology, Pitt-Budd, “GPS Mapping and Community Development.”

Schumm’s project involves developing an open-deck walking-trail user data for mobile devices that would serve public use and educational purposes in Smethport, Pa. Two Pitt-Budd classes taught in the fall will participate. Students in Applied Anthropology will use readings on anthropological methods and the Appalachian region to understand rural community development strategies in Northwestern Pennsylvania. They will travel to Smethport to create a GPS (global positioning system) map of digitally photograph four trails and also collect this geographic data on Smethport to add to map trails. Students in the second course, Family and Community Relationships, will be exposed to the principles of curricular development in creating Pennsylvania-ready learning content to be used in Pittsburgh or Smethport area schools. The project will also help to fulfill Pitt’s regional mission while training Pitt-Budd students for future careers.


Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses


Brian Regan, one of the premier comedians in the nation, 7 p.m. May 20, Heinz Hall to play with Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. May 25, 4400 Forbes Ave., 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

“20 Years of Lung Cancer Research: How Far Have We Come?” Jill M. Steifgerd, UPB’s Endowed Chair Lung Cancer Research, 4 p.m. May 22, Provost’s Inaugural Lecture Series, Lecture Room 6, Scarl Hall.

Opera/Theater/Dance


Bet Books and Battles Over Literacy in Nineteenth-Century British Print Culture,” 10 a.m. May 17, 527 Cathedral of Learning.

Mandy Jo Bell, School of Nursing, “Gender and body image in pregnancy: A grounded theory study,” 11 a.m. May 22, 415 Victoria Building.

Jill Radkoe Demird, School of Nursing, “Breastfeeding the Later Preterm Infant: A Grounded Theory Study,” 2 p.m. May 23, Room 451, Victoria Building.

Pitt Duck Management Group, and concert and comedy blend music, comics, and còn -


Dutch Women of Jazz—Amina Figarova Saeed & Tineke Postma Quartet, featuring composer-pianist bandleader Amina Figarova and jazz saxophonist Tineke Postma, considered among Holland’s finest female jazz musicians, 8 p.m. May 18, Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild, 315 Metropolitan St., 412-322-1773, me@jazzcafe.org.


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CARSON SCHOLARS FUND LEADERSHIP AWARD

Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill (far left) received the Leadership Award from the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund during that organization’s 8th Annual Awards Ceremony April 22 at the Omni William Penn Hotel, Downtown. Hill, who also delivered remarks during the ceremony, stands beside Carson Scholars Fund founder Benjamin S. Carson (middle), a Johns Hopkins pediatric neurosurgeon who, among his numerous career highlights, performed the first completely successful separation of type-2 vertical craniopagus (conjoined) twins in 1997 in South Africa; and Adam Iddriss (ENGR ’07, A&S ’07), a 2006 Harry S. Truman Scholarship winner at Pitt who was inspired as a child when he read Carson’s autobiography, Gifted Hands (Zondervan, 1990). Founded in 1994 with chapters in 11 cities, the Carson Scholars Fund is dedicated to encouraging students to focus on reading and academics. Scholarships are awarded to students in grades 4 through 11 who exemplify academic excellence and humanitarian qualities.

HELPFUL RECYCLING

University of Pittsburgh at Bradford resident assistants Jahlil Davis-Green, a sports medicine major from Philadelphia, left, and Christopher Barr, a criminal justice major from Bradford, deliver donations to SACKS, a resale shop that benefits the Bradford Hospital Auxiliary. The items were donated by students who were moving out of campus housing at the end of the semester. Donations included laundry detergent and nonperishable food items delivered to the YWCA food pantry, six bags of clothes sent to SACKS, and shelving units, lamps, bedding, and kitchenware dropped off at the Goodwill Store.