Facing the Specter of Enormous Budget Cuts

Because of the wonderful work done by so many of you, 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 the end of this month bringing the 225th anniversary of our founding. 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 today’s proposal for deep and disproportionate cuts emerging from the state capitol. To put that proposal in perspective:

- It would take our cumulative two-year cuts in state support 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-1980s, more than a quarter century ago and when the state’s own budget was about one-third its current size;
- It would reduce our state support, if adjusted for inflation, to the lowest level since Pitt became a state-related university; and
- It would reduce the percentage of our total budget provided by the state appropriation to less than 5 percent, from a high of more than 30 percent in the 1970s, shortly after 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. What follows, then, is a somewhat longer account.

The act of February 28, 1787, chartering the frontier academy that would become our University began with a straightforward declaration that “the education of youth ought to be a primary object with every government.” Even in that earlier, simpler, more physically demanding time, our founder, Hugh Henry Brackenridge, saw the development of the mind as both essential to individual success and critical to our collective progress. “We all know,” he stated, “that the strength of a state greatly consists in the superior mental powers of its inhabitants.” With every government. Even in that earlier, simpler, more physically demanding time, our founder, Hugh Henry Brackenridge, saw the development of the mind as both essential to individual success and critical to our collective progress. “We all know,” he stated, “that the strength of a state greatly consists in the superior mental powers of its inhabitants.”

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225 Stories to Celebrate
Pitt’s Historic Impact
Ending Polio’s Reign of Terror

At its peak in the 1940s and 1950s, polio was killing or paralyzing more than a half-million people worldwide each year, especially children and young adults. The “lucky” survived to walk on crutches. Others were so paralyzed they could no longer breathe on their own. Iron lungs, the mechanical ventilators that sustained them, symbolized polio’s reign of terror.

In 1947, the University of Pittsburgh recruited Jonas Salk (above)—an expert in influenza whose flu vaccine is still in use today—to develop a virus program at Pitt. For more than seven years, his team worked tirelessly to develop an effective killed-virus vaccine. The senior scientist of that team, Julius Youngner, is still an active member of Pitt’s faculty as a Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry.

The efforts of Pitt’s polio research team culminated in the largest national controlled field trial in history. At the trial’s successful conclusion, Pitt alumni, faculty, staff, and students to be honored; Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg to address the convocation

The University of Pittsburgh will launch the celebration of the 225th anniversary of its founding on Feb. 28, 1787, with its 36th Annual Honors Convocation on Feb. 24. The convocation—which recognizes undergraduate, graduate, and professional student academic achievement; student leadership; and the accomplishments of faculty and staff—will be held at 3 p.m. Feb. 24 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland. Mark A. Nordenberg, the University’s 17th chancellor, will deliver the keynote address.

“The University’s commemoration of the 225th anniversary of our founding is an ideal time to reflect on Pitt’s accomplishments in providing individuals with abundant opportunities ‘to build better lives,’ for themselves and their communities,” said Chancellor Nordenberg. “As we celebrate this special anniversary with the theme of ‘225 Years of Building Better Lives,’ it also is a time to look forward to the University—as a leader in education, a pioneer in research, and a partner in regional development—continuing its upward momentum in the years ahead.”

As the University’s chief executive, Chancellor Nordenberg heads one of the nation’s leading public research universities and one of the oldest institutions of higher learning west of the Allegheny Mountains. He joined the faculty of Pitt’s School of Law in 1977 and later served as dean of the law school and interim provost of the University. In 1994, he was elevated to the special rank of Distinguished Service Professor. The University’s Board of Trustees elected him interim chancellor in 1995 and chancellor in 1996. The months-long anniversary celebration will involve an initiative titled “225 Acts of Caring.” It will comprise faculty, staff, students, and alumni participating in community volunteerism and outreach activities.

The University has had a longstanding commitment of outreach to Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities,” said John Wilds, Pitt’s assistant vice chancellor for engagement.
The Center for Energy in the University of Pittsburgh’s Swanson School of Engineering has received a $22 million grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation—one of the largest private foundation grants in Pitt’s history. The gift will accelerate the research and development of clean energy technologies which is dedicated to improving energy technology development and sustainability through the work of more than 70 faculty members and their research teams.

“This region and its citizens have benefited particularly from the transformational impact of the Richard King Mellon Foundation’s philanthropy for more than 60 years,” said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. “The foundation’s well-targeted investments in education, conservation, and health care, among many other areas, have strengthened Southwestern Pennsylvania’s economy and improved the quality of life in our home community. We at Pitt are deeply grateful for this most recent, and extraordinarily generous, gift from an internationally renowned philanthropic institution that continues to dedicate private support to the public good. Finding ways to deal more effectively with a wide range of energy issues has become both a national priority and a regional imperative.

With the support of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, our Center for Energy is particularly well positioned to contribute to our shared progress in this important area. The majority of the Richard King Mellon grant will be used to create new faculty positions and graduate fellowships and to establish a fund for spurring innovative research. The grant—which also will support broader foundation and center operations—is designed to bolster the center’s position as a powerful leader in energy research.

“The level of our investment reflects our confidence in the academic and administrative leadership of the University,” said Scott D. Izzo, director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation. “The center has tremendous potential to make an impact in Pittsburgh, as energy will be the major driver of our regional economy over the course of a long period and is necessary to regional prosperity. With the support of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, our Center for Energy is particularly well positioned to use the impact of carbon-based fuels, and training of the scientific and engineering workforce to create the technologies that will address these issues. In that environment, the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Energy is committed to building on its current strengths to be an internationally prominent, university-based energy program, continuing the University’s and the Swanson School’s 100-year tradition of energy-related research.”

Established in 2008, Pitt’s Center for Energy is dedicated to pursuing studies in energy delivery and efficiency, advanced materials for demanding energy technologies, carbon management, and energy diversification. “With this funding, we will be in a much better position to attract top-notch faculty and students to our region,” said Center for Energy Director Brian Gleeson, the Harry S. Nick Chair in Materials Science and a professor of mechanical engineering and materials science in the Swanson School. “This will advance our creative and productive partnerships with regional and national companies and with national laboratories, particularly our region’s National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL).”

According to NETL Director Anthony Cugini, NETL has enjoyed a particularly strong collaborative partnership with Pitt’s Center for Energy. “NETL is charged with advancing energy options to fuel our economy, strengthen our security, and improve our environment,” said Cugini. “We are a proactive supporter of educational initiatives at all levels, funding hundreds of research and development projects at U.S. universities to advance energy science and technology and to provide a trained workforce for the energy industry of the future. Pitt and the Center for Energy are among our most active collaborative partners in this effort.”

Expanding on the impact of the Richard King Mellon Foundation’s gift, Dennis Yablonsky, CEO of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development said, “Pittsburgh is the new center of innovation in American energy. This region is implementing a new model for collaboration across business, government, and academia to maximize its competitive advantages in energy and related industries. Pitt’s Center for Energy has played a key role in these efforts, and we applaud the Richard King Mellon Foundation’s investment in enhancing the University’s capabilities.”

To date, the Swanson School and University of Pittsburgh have invested $50 million in facilities and programs, and faculty members in energy-related disciplines have attracted more than $35 million in sponsored research. Funds from the Richard King Mellon Foundation grant will be payable over three years.

**Center for Energy**

Established in 2008, the Center for Energy is dedicated to improving energy technology development and sustainability, including energy delivery and efficiency, advanced materials for demanding energy technologies, carbon management and utilization, and energy diversification. Joining the Center for Energy is a team of more than 70 faculty members already working in energy research from the Departments of Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Geology, and Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science for the purpose of leveraging their work and expertise. The Center for Energy’s key goals include attracting more world-class faculty to Pitt, training high-level engineers and scientists to work in key areas of energy research, facilitating technology transfer related to energy for economic development, increasing energy support, and raising the stature of our region as a leader in energy.

**Richard King Mellon Foundation**

For more than 60 years, the Richard King Mellon Foundation has invested in the competitive future and quality of life in Southwestern Pennsylvania and in the protection, preservation, and restoration of America’s environmental heritage. The foundation was created in 1947 by Richard King Mellon (1899–1970), president and chairman of Mellon Bank, a conservationist and leading figure in the financial and civic life of Pennsylvania. With assets of more than $1.7 billion in 2009, the Richard King Mellon Foundation has built on the vision of these founders. The foundation’s current giving priorities primarily serve Southwestern Pennsylvania with a program focus on regional economic development and conservation, along with education and human services and nonprofit capacity building.

**Swanson School of Engineering**

The University of Pittsburgh’s Swanson School of Engineering is one of the oldest engineering programs in the United States. The Swanson School has excelled in basic and applied research during the past decade and is on the forefront of 21st-century technology, including energy systems, bioengineering, microsystems and nanosystems, computational modeling, and advanced materials development. Approximately 120 faculty members serve more than 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students in six departments, including bioengineering, chemical and petroleum engineering, civil and environmental engineering, electrical and computer engineering, industrial engineering, and mechanical engineering and materials science. For the two most-recently reported consecutive years, 2009 and 2010, the Swanson School has had the second-highest percentage of doctoral degrees awarded to women in North America, according to the American Society for Engineering Education.
Curtiss E. Porter, Penn State Greater Allegheny Chancellor, Leads Campus as It Expands Its Degree Offerings, International Scope

In addition to performing his administrative role, Porter also teaches. His course offerings at Penn State Greater Allegheny include African Americans in the 20th Century and Civic and Community Engagement.

By Patricia Lomando White

Curtiss E. Porter taps into a number of skills he’s honed throughout his career as he handles the responsibilities of his current job: chancellor of Penn State Greater Allegheny. His shaping of that position is defined, in part, by a panoply of roles and occupations he’s held throughout his life: senior administrative leader, teacher, U.S. Air Force veteran, college and graduate student, Black activist, and son, to name a few.

Prior to joining Greater Allegheny, Porter’s career placed him in various positions, including service as an instructor in Black studies at California University of Long Beach; president and CEO of the Urban League of Southwestern Connecticut; director of diversity programs for Greenwich, Conn., Country Day School; vice president for affiliate development for the National Urban League; and director of the University of Connecticut’s Stamford campus.

The Pitt alumnus (A&S ’69, EDUC ’84) moved to Penn State Greater Allegheny in 1999, and as chancellor he oversees operations in McKeesport and White Oak.

The Penn State Greater Allegheny campus is continually evolving, and among the changes and developments that Porter has steered are:

• The initiation of four-year degree programs on the campus, including degrees in business, communication, English, information science technology, and psychology, among others;
• The building of the 27,000-square-foot, $6.25 million Student Community Center, as well as the $1.7 million refurbishing of the 2,000-square-foot Fitness and Cultural Center;
• The management of fundraising campaigns totaling $9.2 million;
• The school’s receipt of numerous grants, including $900,000 from the Pittsburgh Foundation for Greater Allegheny’s University Center for Community Engagement and Partnership and $550,000 annually from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for vocational education and career and training.

Porter said one of his biggest challenges is to make higher education more accessible to more people—something that has been difficult during these economic times, as public resources for higher education dwindle.

The Penn State Greater Allegheny chancellor also said he hopes to increase the number of four-year programs offered at his campus so that more graduates can make an impact on the community. The school’s STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) summer bridge program recently received the support of EQT Corporation, which will provide funding to allow the program to continue.

Porter said he also works to connect his campus to the wider world, with the school recruiting in South America, Asia, and Africa. An agreement with a Vietnamese institution allows for that Southeast Asian institution’s faculty to be taught American classroom and business techniques.

Universities have a significant role to play within their communities, Porter said. Penn State Greater Allegheny’s University Center for Community Engagement and Partnerships, for example, recently received Heinz Foundation funding for a program to work with African American males. In addition, the school teaches courses on civic and community engagement, provides a forum for ideas to be presented in a community format, and engages faculty and students in contributing to a green environment.

In addition to performing his administrative role, Porter also teaches. His course offerings at Penn State Greater Allegheny include African Americans in the 20th Century and Civic and Community Engagement.

Are today’s students different than students were when he was in school? “They are different by virtue of the crucibles that have shaped them,” Porter answered. “The social issues shaped us—segregation, discrimination, and moving from accommodation to outright challenge. For them [today’s students], the context for discrimination is subtle. They still have that youthful passion and energy and approach issues of racism as not necessary. There is not the day-to-day awareness of racism for them, and when they do encounter it, the response is, ‘This is ridiculous.’”

That world view contrasts sharply with the atmosphere and burgeoning racial tensions that were sweeping college campuses, including Pitt’s, during the late 1960s and 1970s. Porter’s college career began in 1964 on the Penn State Greater Allegheny campus, then known as Penn State McKeesport. (As chancellor, Porter would be instrumental in changing the school’s name to Penn State Greater Allegheny in 2007 to more accurately reflect the campus’ expanded mission.) He enrolled as a freshman at Penn State after serving for five years in the U.S. Air Force and then working in the H.J. Heinz Company’s data processing department.

In his junior year, Porter transferred to Pitt, where he joined the Pittsburgh campus’ Black Action Society (BAS). The BAS sought major change at Pitt by seeking to convince the administration to increase the number of African American students, staff, faculty, and administrators, as well as social, academic and community-based programming.

In 1969 turnover of Pitt’s computer center, in which Porter participated, was BAS’ best-known stand. University administrators negotiated with BAS members and agreed to recruit more Black students, add additional Black administrators, and create a Department of Black Studies.

Pitt’s administration negotiated with the students and ultimately asked Porter and Jack L. Daniel, a 1969 Pitt PhD student who is now a Pitt Distinguished Service Professor of Communication, to help develop a framework for the department and its curriculum. A Black studies department was created, and Porter chaired it from 1975 to 1981. It is now the Department of Africana Studies, housed in Posvar Hall.

Porter grew up in Braddock near U.S. Steel’s Edgar Thompson works, where his father worked and where, out of the family’s home, his mother operated a bistro. He describes his mother as a “strongly independent woman who was successful for her time and status.”

Porter said he learned the value of working hard from both of his parents. “My mother’s and father’s examples were of ordered perspective and outcomes,” he added.

When asked about his accomplishments, Porter said: “When there was a time for people to stand and be counted against the blatant evils of racism and discrimination, I stood. Every outcome is in the process of standing for who we are as opposed to who we are not.”

And reflecting upon his Pitt days, he noted, “The thing I cite most often is the fact that we generated the Africana Studies department. It is there. The institutional changes we fought for have become part of the institution.”

LINDA CURINGA

Center, as well as the $1.7 million
From Log House Academy to Leader in Education, Pioneer In Research, and Partner in Regional Development

The University of Pittsburgh: 225 Years of Building Better Lives

By Diane Herman Chavis

The Formative Years

Two hundred twenty-five years ago, in 1787, delegates meeting at Philadelphia’s State House replaced the agreement creating a loose confederation of sovereign states with an enduring blueprint for democracy—the Constitution of the United States. That same year, educator, attorney, author, and distinguished member of Pennsylvania’s General Assembly Hugh Henry Brackenridge successfully urged his legislative colleagues to establish a seat of higher learning in Pittsburgh. His passionate pleas—“Academies are the furnaces which melt the natural ore to real metal; the shops where the thunderbolts of the orator are forged”—engendered “An Act for the Establishment of an Academy or Public School in the Town of Pittsburgh” on Feb. 28, 1787. The preamble to the act declared the legislature’s intent: The education of youth ought to be a primary object with every government … Be it enacted … that there be erected … and established … an Academy or School for the education of youth in useful arts, sciences and literature, the … name and title of which shall be “The Pittsburgh Academy.”

Thus was chartered Pitt’s progenitor log house academy, a private school of higher learning and—in the words of founder Brackenridge—“a candle lit in the forested wilderness.” With a curriculum that included “the Learned Languages, English, and Mathematicks,” and, later, astronomy, philosophy, and logic, the Academy became one of the first institutions of advanced learning west of the Allegheny Mountains.

In the 1790s, the Academy trustees used a $5,000 legislative grant to construct a two-story, three-room brick schoolhouse on a corner lot in what now is the heart of downtown Pittsburgh. It—and a second building, adjoining the first and erected in the early 19th century—replaced the original log house, according to Pitt historian Robert C. Alberts, who penned Pitt’s bicentennial commemoration volume, Pitt: The Story of the University of Pittsburgh 1787–1987 (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1986).

From Academy to University

In much the same way that a budding nation required a new form of government that would be more responsive to its emerging needs, so, too, did the community of Pittsburgh—whose population had multiplied six times between 1794 and 1820—eventually require an academic institution with full university powers to better accommodate the region’s rising generations. Pitt historian Agnes Lynch Starrett, in her volume Through One Hundred and Fifty Years – The University of Pittsburgh (1937), reported that by 1819, “boys who became the leading men of Pittsburgh had been graduating from the Pittsburgh Academy for nearly thirty-five years” and, yet, they had to travel hundreds of miles to the east to enroll in a university.

That changed on Feb. 18, 1819, when the Pennsylvania legislature, upon the request of the Academy trustees, rechartered the school as the Western University of Pennsylvania. Its first principal, the Scottish-born Reverend Robert Bruce, supervised enlargement of the curriculum and, with a five-year legislative grant of $2,400 per annum, oversaw construction of a three-story freestone-fronted college building adjacent to the Academy on Third Street and Cherry Way. It became the University’s new home in 1830.

Fifteen years later, Pittsburgh’s Great Fire of 1845 destroyed several frame houses, along with the University’s records, books, and building. Classes met in the basement of the nearby Trinity Church during construction of a new site on downtown’s Duquesne Way. But in 1849, calamity struck a second time when fire destroyed that structure and its contents. Disheartened, the trustees temporarily suspended University operations until 1855, when the Western University reopened in a 16-room new brick building at the corner of Ross Street and Diamond (later renamed Forbes Avenue) in the city’s center.

An 1852 fire destroyed the Allegheny County Court House, and Western University sold its Ross and Diamond property to the county and relocated across the river to Allegheny City (today’s North Side), where it remained for more than 25 years. During that time, the University achieved racial integration—William Hunter Dammond earned a degree in civil engineering, with honors, in 1893 and became the University’s first African American graduate—and became coeducational, graduating its first female student—sisters Margaret and Stella Stein—in 1898 and its first Black female student, Jean Hamilton Walls, in 1910.

Building a Permanent Home

When the cornerstone for the first building on the school’s new Oakland campus was laid in October 1908—to accommodate what was envisioned to become one of the finest institutions in the land—the Western University of Pennsylvania publicly was renamed the University of Pittsburgh.

An artist’s drawing representing the Pittsburgh’s Academy original 1787 log house.

The two-and-a-quarter-century journey that Pitt has traveled, from a private three-room frontier log academy to a nationally ranked, world-renowned public research university with a tripartite mission—leader in education, pioneer in research, and partner in regional development—includes milestones at virtually every turn. Among them are the following:

• Pitt’s School of Medicine—founded as the Western Pennsylvania Medical College in 1886—opened admission to women 100 years ago, in 1912.

• The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, one of the first regional campuses of a major U.S. university, was established 85 years ago, in 1927. A half-century ago, Pitt trustees approved the creation of regional campuses in Bradford, Greensburg, and Titusville.

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From Log House Academy to Leader in Education, Pioneer in Research, and Partner in Regional Development: The University of Pittsburgh: 225 Years of Building Better Lives

Continued from page 5

most as the “Father of Transplantation”—who performed the world’s first human liver transplant and the world’s first double transplant, the latter in Pittsburgh in 1984.

Twenty years later, in 2004, Starzl was awarded the National Medal of Science, this country’s highest scientific honor, “for his pioneering work in liver transplantation and his discoveries in immunosuppressive medication that advanced the field of organ transplantation.” Starzl received the presidential honor at a White House ceremony in 2006. Closer to home, Pitt’s Transplantation Institute, the University’s original biomedical science tower, and an Oakland Street all have been named after Starzl.

Joining the cast of Pitt luminaries are faculty, students, and alumni who are leading the way in areas as diverse as biotechnology, engineering, computer modeling, creative writing, the performing and visual arts, education, gerontology, regenerate medicine, health sciences, government, law, nanotechnology, business, international studies, social innovation, philosophy of science, urban education, sustainability, sports, and public service, among many other areas.

State-Related University

One of the most important and influential public servants in Pennsylvania’s rich history, in fact, was K. Leroy Irvis, a 1954 alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and a longtime Pitt trustee, who, as Pennsylvania’s first African American speaker of the House, was the nation’s first Black speaker of any state House of Representatives since Reconstruction. Irvis sponsored more than 1,600 pieces of legislation throughout his more than 30 years in public life. Chief among them was the Higher Education Enactment of 1966, that made Pitt a state-related university and saved it from financial disaster.

According to Pitt historian Robert Albright, this so-called “joint venture in public-private support for higher education” relieved the Commonwealth of the huge capital investment that would have been required to build a state university that would educate Pennsylvania’s students. The partnership, which dramatically increased the University’s tax-exempt status and its endowment from Commonwealth funds, also enabled Pitt to lower its tuition for Pennsylvania residents, causing a surge in freshman applications.

Among the students attracted to Pitt was the legendary Tony Dorsett, a native of Aliquippa and one of the greatest running backs in college and pro football history. Starring at Pitt from 1973 to 1976, Dorsett led the Panthers to the 1976 national championship with a season record of 12-0. That triumph earned him the Heisman Trophy, “one of the greatest teams of all time,” and Dorsett’s stellar performance made him the runaway choice for the 1976 Heisman Trophy.

The following year, 1977, marked the arrival at Pitt of someone who would become another Pitt champion—Mark A. Nordenberg, who was preparing to begin a nine-month stint as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Some 35 years later, he remains at Pitt; and for nearly 17 of the past 25 years, he has served as the University’s chancellor.

“One of the finest and most productive universities in the world”

During Mark Nordenberg’s first year of service, as interim chancellor, the Board of Trustees commissioned an external review of Pitt that highlighted problems such as falling enrollment, low morale, and inefficient business practices. In response, the Board in early 1996 adopted five priority statements that committed Pitt to aggressively pursue excellence in undergraduate education, maintain excellence in research, partner in community development, ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness, and secure an adequate resource base. By 2000, with Pitt already having achieved some measure of success, the Board more generally declared that “[b]y aggressively supporting the advancement of Pitt’s academic mission, we will clearly establish that this is one of the finest and most productive universities in the world.”

Holding fast to those broad and enduring statements of aspiration has yielded striking and measurable results, among them:

- Pitt enrolled its strongest freshman class from its largest applicant pool ever at the beginning of this academic year, and the level of student talent continues to soar. This past December, for example, Cory J. Rodgers became the seventh winner of a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to have received a Pitt undergraduate education, and the fourth in the past seven years. That victory made Pitt one of only two public institutions in the United States to have claimed the award at least four times in the last seven years.
- Pitt’s robust record of educating outstanding students who earn the highest awards of national and international recognition also includes since 1995 six Marshall Scholarships, five Truman Scholarships, five Udall Scholarships, one Gates Cambridge Scholarship, one Churchill Scholarship, and 35 Goldwater Scholarships.
- Pitt’s high-achieving faculty regularly have won exceptional honors—including, in recent years, the National Medal of Science; the Charles S. Mott Prize, widely regarded as the highest honor in cancer research; and the MacArthur “Genius” Award, for extraordinary originality and dedication in creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction. Faculty also have been elected to membership in esteemed groups, among them the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Pitt’s annual research expenditures last year topped a record-setting $800 million, a well-acknowledged sign of institutional strength. In fact, Pitt ranks fifth among all U.S. universities in terms of the competitive grants awarded to its faculty by the National Institutes of Health and ranks in the top 10 nation-

ally in total federal science and engineering research and development support.
- Pitt was the nation’s top-ranked public “Best Neighbor” university in the 2009 edition of Saviors of Our Cities: A Survey of Best College and University Civic Partnerships. Best neighbor universities are distinguished by their longstanding efforts with community leaders to reinvigorate the cities around them, to influence community revitalization and cultural renewal, and to encourage economic expansion, urban development, and community service.
- Pitt’s Building Our Future Together capital campaign—already the largest and most successful fundraising campaign in the history of Western Pennsylvania—has exceeded $1.9 billion in gifts and pledges and is well within range of its landmark $2 billion goal. The impact of that giving includes ever-growing levels of endowed scholarship, fellowships and faculty support as well as other key investments in Pitt’s people, programs, and facilities.

Any university makes many of its most important contributions through the work of its graduates,
and Pitt alumni are no exception. Some of their work, which has extended well beyond Pitt’s campuses, has contributed to the greater good and improved the human condition. Think of Pitt graduate Paul Lauterbur, who was named a 2003 Nobel Laureate in Medicine for his groundbreaking work in the science of magnetic resonance imaging, or of Pitt graduate Wangari Muta Maathai, who a year later received the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her contributions to sustainable development, democracy, women’s rights, and peace.

Among the many other important forms of recognition that Pitt graduates have won for the quality and impact of their lives’ work are the National Medal of Science, the Shaw and Albany Prizes in medicine, the Fritz Medal in engineering, the Templeton Prize, the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, the National Book Award for Poetry, the Grammy award, the Goi Peace Prize, the MacArthur Fellowship, and the Grainger Challenges Prize for sustainability.

“Leader in education. Pioneer in research. Partner in regional development.” The tripartite mission of the 21st-century center of higher learning known as the University of Pittsburgh bears repeating—and particularly now, as Pitt, which already has touched four centuries, celebrates its 225th birthday by further extending its long and proud history of building better lives.
education has long been viewed as a key to individual pursuit of the American dream, and a well-educated populace is universally considered essential for national and regional prominence and prosperity. These twin beliefs drove the construction of many of the mega-menu proposed by private universities, to state-related status already claimed by Penn State. In effecting this change, there was a desire to meet the growing demand from Pennsylvanians for reasonably priced, but high-quality, university experiences, and there was a desire to invest in anchor institutions that could drive the economies of Pennsylvania’s two major urban areas.

Together, these institutions are the principal centers for research and educational contributions tied to the work of related universities, whose appropriations account for less than 2 percent of the state’s budget, were directed to shoulder nearly 16 percent of state spending decreased by only 4 percent. Late in the fall, we also were notified that our annual capital projects support would be cut in half, from $40 million to $20 million. Then, just last month, we were directed to put another 5 percent—or $7 million—into “budgetary reserve.” This is a polite term for an art for a mid-year budget cut. And to return to the issue of proportionality, 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 midyear reduction.

To this point, then, our accumulated cuts for this fiscal year total $67 million. Without meaning to generate unnecessary anxiety but wanting to be more contextually descriptive, let me try to give that very big number more practical significance. If we had tried to deal with a $67 million cut solely through work-force reductions, that would have required us to eliminate more than 1,000 Pitt staff jobs carrying average levels of compensation and benefits. Or if we had tried to deal with a $67 million cut solely through tuition increases, that would have required an average tuition increase of about $2,600 for each of our in-state students.

Both the Governor and the Secretary of Education have personally committed to me that there will be no attempt to advance preconceived policy results through this process. And in a fair and open process, the unique contributions tied to the work done by public research universities should provide a strong case for enhanced, not reduced, support.

The Governor has proposed an additional cut of 30 percent to our education and general appropriation for the next fiscal year and a 10 percent reduction to our academic medical line items, a blended reduction of about 29 percent and totaling nearly $42 million.

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Successive Waves of Deep Cuts

To be fair, the budget pressures faced by our elected leaders are daunting. Dealing with them can involve painful funding decisions, with success depending upon a spirit of shared sacrifice. But to be clear, those of us at Pitt never have resisted doing our fair share. And what we must resist—not only for ourselves but for everyone who depends upon us—are disproportionately deep cuts that threaten our ability to continue making critical contributions, both to deserving individuals or to a vibrant, more productive society.

To repeat what I said earlier and what you know: the creation of that frontier—once again are being targeted for primary education, where we’ve become accustomed to seeing growth. The scope and quality of their programs and their geographic distribution permit them to serve the needs of the state and nation in the fields of undergraduate, graduate and first professional education, research and public service. Along with the major independent universities in the state, the Commonwealth Universities—among the nation’s centers for research and development in Pennsylvania—once again are being targeted for dramatically disproportionate budget cuts.

Successive Waves of Deep Cuts

FACING THE SPECTER OF ENORMOUS BUDGET CUTS

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, the budget proposal released today hits us very hard again. The Governor has proposed an additional cut of 30 percent to our education and general appropriation for the next fiscal year and a 10 percent reduction to our academic medical line items, a blended reduction of about 29 percent and totaling nearly $42 million.

To this point, then, our accumulated cuts for this fiscal year total $67 million. Without meaning to generate unnecessary anxiety but wanting to be more contextually descriptive, let me try to give that very big number more practical significance. If we had tried to deal with a $67 million cut solely through work-force reductions, that would have required us to eliminate more than 1,000 Pitt staff jobs carrying average levels of compensation and benefits. Or if we had tried to deal with a $67 million cut solely through tuition increases, that would have required an average tuition increase of about $2,600 for each of our in-state students.

Successive Waves of Deep Cuts

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Facing the Specter of Enormous Budget Cuts

or in almost any other way.

process that has targeted among the chops rather than prunes, and it is a fruit. And that fruit is jobs.

that essential pruning on all branches into a tangle of limbs and leaves. But it budget deficit in the following way:

delivered one year ago, the Governor purposes or to reduce tuition levels.

were awarded and are not a source of be spent on the projects for which they tion about such funds—which can only be avoided.

by mathematical penalty on a its [Pitt’s] operating cut itself and refer-

of the appropriation, which accu-

priation, which accu-

our general appro-

Pitt example, those 

from year to year but have averaged tobacco settlement fund revenues into

...of difficult challenges.

ence Board stated, “The Chair of the National Sci-

ation’s recent release of its report,

sage was supported by the

a strong case for enhanced,

tributions tied to the work

cess. And in a fair and open

results through this pro-

And the con-

investment are a decline in quality-and-student denied affordable access to higher education.

To be sure, colleges need to be smarter about how they spend their money. But the challenges con-

fron the public higher education go far beyond the savings that can be realized through effi-

ciency. A commitment of ideas and resources [is] needed if America is to continue its grand tradi-

tion of its citizens bettering themselves—and itself—through education.

Pushing Forward

One can never predict how a group process ulti-

tively turns out, since the institu-

tions of research universities. Sixty years ago,

America was desperately dreaming about a cure for polio, and that dream became a reality through work done at the University of Pitts-

ary. It might be said, in fact, that our basic activity is the business of building dreams. We do that through the power of higher education, as we help position tens of thousands of students, each and every day, more effectively pursue their own goals for life. And we do it, often more dramatically, through our programs of research. Sixty years ago, all of America was desperately dream-

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 future time when human organ transplantation might become a widely available treat-

ment for a range of deadly diseases. To a large extent, that dream, too, became a reality through work at Pitt. Today, when people think of a world with-

out Alzheimer’s disease or cancer or diabetes or Parkinson’s disease, they often look to the work of Pitt researcher-

ers. 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 quantum computing or by any of a number of other advances.

In a very real sense, the Governor perfectly defined our challenge, but the deep and disproportionate cuts to our state funding. Still, if the commission lives up to its potential, it could shape the face of public higher education in Pennsylvania for years to come. And if returns on investment are fairly assessed, then Pitt and other public research universities should occupy an even more prominent position as we move further into the new century.

Even while that assessment process is getting under way, there are other important tasks at hand. This is just the beginning of the state’s budget-building process. We will now move through legislative hearings and will seek to advance our case in other ways. Knowing the daunting challenge that we now face, we need to build upon the outstanding advocacy efforts undertaken by students, faculty, staff, and alumni during the budget-building process last year. Officers of the University Senate, the Staff Association Council, the Student Government Board, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, and the Pitt Alumni Association already have stepped forward to express their desire to be advo-

cates for Pitt. In the end, though, the success depends upon even broader participation throughout the University community.

In the weeks ahead, we also will need to move forward with the processes of fashioning an operating budget for the next fiscal year. Sadly, we will do so knowing that the budget almost certainly will be built on a foundation of substantially diminished state support. But we also move forward knowing that we already have built a record of successfull

In today’s 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 universities without feeling that this is just what has happened—that dreams have been sacrificed in an effort to deal with crushing current debt.

It might be said, in fact, that our basic activity is the business of building dreams. We do that through the power of higher education, as we help position tens of thousands of students, each and every day, more effectively pursue their own goals for life. 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.

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Continued from page 2

Panther Central is reminding Pitt faculty, staff, and students who use the Port Authority Transit (PAT) that the grace period for card-reading problems on PAT vehicles ends April 1. After that date, any commuter whose Pitt ID does not work on a PAT bus or trolley will have to pay full fare.

Panther Central “hopes to resolve any problems that Pitt commuters have with the new technology before the April 1 deadline, to help commuters avoid the inconvenience and embarrassment of having their ID denied,” said John Fedele, a Pitt spokesperson.

Any commuter who experiences a problem with his or her Pitt ID on PAT vehicles should collect the following information and bring it, along with the Pitt ID, to Panther Central’s offices in Littlefield Towers:

- The rider’s name, phone number, and Pitt ID number (located on the back of the ID above the magnetic strip);
- The four-digit bus number, located on the back and sides of the bus;
- The date and time of the occurrence;
- The route number, and whether the bus was going inbound or outbound;
- The bus stop location, or nearest cross streets; and
- The error message on the electronic fare box.

Grace Period for PAT Card Problems Ends April 1

Desmond King to Address Current Politics Of Race in U.S. as Pitt’s 2012 Roscoe Robinson Jr. Memorial Lecturer Feb. 16

By Audrey Marks

Despite President Barack Obama’s election as the first African American U.S. president, Desmond King, the Andrew Mellon Professor of American Government at Nuffield College—a social sciences graduate college of Oxford University in the United Kingdom—argues that the role of race continues to define American politics. King will deliver the 2012 Roscoe Robinson Jr. Memorial Lecture on Diversity and Public Service at 6 p.m. Feb. 16. The lecture, titled “Race and Politics in Obama’s America,” will take place in Ballroom A of the University Club.

King will discuss how Obama’s election did not usher in a new postracial America and how race plays a role in the current presidential campaign. King is the author of Separate and Unequal: African Americans and the U.S. Federal Government (Oxford University Press, 2007) and coauthored Still a House Divided: Race and Politics in Obama’s America (Princeton Studies in American Politics, 2011) with Rogers M. Smith, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania.

King is an Emeritus Fellow of St. John’s College and a Fellow of the British Academy, the U.K. national body for the humanities and social sciences. He specializes in the study of the American state in U.S. executive politics, race, politics in American political development, comparative welfare politics, and labor market policy, democratization, and immigration policy.

The third annual Roscoe Robinson Jr. Memorial Lecture on Diversity and Public Service is hosted by the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. The lecture recognizes the late Roscoe Robinson’s impact on diversity in public service and the U.S. military. A Pitt alumnus, Robinson (GSPIA ’64G) was the first African American four-star general in the U.S. Army.

For more information about the lecture, visit www.gspia.pitt.edu.

Desmond King

Annual Honors Convocation Feb. 24 Launches Observance of the 225th Anniversary of the Founding of the University of Pittsburgh

By Audery Marks

The University has an active Volunteer Pool, which is part of Pitt’s Office of Community and Governmental Relations, and this year’s anniversary volunteer projects vary in scope. They will include overarching institutional efforts, like Pitt’s United Day of Caring and the student-led Pitt Make A Difference Day, and those conducted by student organizations and clubs, such as the Pitt Sigma Chi Fraternity’s Feb. 4 Wrap Up Pittsburgh event, in which more than 300 students participated, resulting in the donation of nearly 2,000 blankets to the Salvation Army.

Also part of the anniversary commemoration will be the 225th anniversary Web site that includes some 225 of the most notable events and accomplishments in Pitt’s storied history.

PIT POLICE, STUDENT ATHLETES TAKE THE “POLAR PLUNGE” TO RAISE $2,600 FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Two dozen University of Pittsburgh police officers helped to raise $2,600 for the Special Olympics of Pennsylvania on Dec. 11 during the organization’s annual “Polar Plunge” event. Members of Pitt’s Swimming and Diving team also participated in the plunge, raising $595 at Pitt’s $2,600 total for the event. Most of the University’s police officers, organized by Lieutenant Holly Lamb, boarded the cold Allegheny River: from left, Lieutenant Dave Basile, Sergeant Dan Popple, Officer Heather Camp, and Officer Cory Rogers emerge from the river. The event’s host, former Pittsburgh Steeler Lynn Swan, praised the Pitt officers for the stylish fur hats they all wore on dry land to celebrate their underwater feat. The day’s event raised a total of more than $360,000 for the Special Olympics, twice the amount raised last year.

About 400 people attended Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg’s annual luncheon for faculty and staff alumni. The gathering was held Jan. 25 in Alumni Hall’s Connolly Ballroom. The chancellor told his audience that every member of the Pitt community is helping to shape the current chapter of the University’s history. He said that challenges posed by the dramatic cuts in the state appropriation exist, but that his early birthday wish for the community—heartfelt of the official start of its 225th anniversary observance—is for the University community to stick together and advocate for Pitt’s noble mission, to succeed, and to keep moving forward.

CHANCELLOR’S ALUMNI FACULTY-STAFF LUNCHEON

Desmond King

Desmond King

Desmond King
**Happenings**

**Orchestra in Stucky's**

Music as Inspiration, free-improvisational quartet from New electroacoustic org/legends.htm.


Shadyside, The Roots Cellar: Music on Center for the Arts, 6300 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh ensemble of local org/legends.htm.


Feb. 14, on a musical journey through an Voyage D'Amour, Sean Jones Valentine's Day: Soiree

Concerts

Sean Jones Valentine's Day: Seiree Voyage O'Damour, award-winning jazz musician, Seiree Jones takes the audience on a musical journey through an evening of love, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Feb. 14, Cabaret at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Jazz Live ith The Cabaret, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.trustarts.org.


**Lectures/Seminars/Readings**

“Building Sustainable Neighborhoods: Powering Sustainable Development in Allegheny County,” symposium with local artists, innovators, and industry experts about Allegheny County’s potential as a leader in sustainable growth and energy development, keynote address by Mike Doyle, U.S. Congressman for the 14th District of Pennsylvania, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 12, Phipps Conservatory, One Schenley Park, Oakland. Pitt School of Law’s Innovation Practice Institute and Pittsburgh Journal of Environmental and Public Health Law, www.law.pitt.edu/events.


“Bell Inequality and Common Causes Explained in Algebraic Quantum Field Theory,” Gabor Hoffer-St glowing, visiting fellow and Bohai Researcher of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 12:05 p.m. Feb. 14, 3737 Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Talk Series, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, pittcore@pitt.edu.

“The Fire of Inflammation Driving the Genesis of New anti-inflammatory Drugs,” Bruce A. Freeman, UPMC/Irwin Friedsch Chair in Pharmacology in Pitt’s School of Medicine, 4:30 p.m. Feb. 14, Lecture Room A, www.pittprovost.pitt.edu.


“Why We Kill: Lebanese Fighters in Everyday Life,” Sami Hermez, visiting assistant professor, Mount Holyoke College, 11:30 a.m. Feb. 17, 6430 Pohrson Hall, Pitt Global Studies Center, Center for International Legal Education, tla@pitt.edu.

“The Wars of Paradise: Powering Sustainable Development in Allegheny County,” symposium with local artists, innovators, and industry experts about Allegheny County’s potential as a leader in sustainable growth and energy development, keynote address by Mike Doyle, U.S. Congressman for the 14th District of Pennsylvania, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 12, Phipps Conservatory, One Schenley Park, Oakland. Pitt School of Law’s Innovation Practice Institute and Pittsburgh Journal of Environmental and Public Health Law, www.law.pitt.edu/events.

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Midwinter Russian Classics, classic Russian theater, poetry, music, and refreshments with proceeds benefiting the Nationality Rooms scholarship fund, 8 p.m. Feb. 17, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, The Intercultural Project, http://theinterculturalproject.blogspot.com, mrclassics@pitt.edu.

**Miscellaneous**

Midwinter Russian Classics, classic Russian theater, poetry, music, and refreshments with proceeds benefiting the Nationality Rooms scholarship fund, 8 p.m. Feb. 17, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, The Intercultural Project, http://theinterculturalproject.blogspot.com, mrclassics@pitt.edu.

**Opera/Theater/Dance**


Eve Esler’s The Valerie Monologues, a benefit production to raise funds for and awareness of violence against women and girls, proceeds donated to Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 16-18, 7th-Floor Auditorium, Alumni Hall, V-Day University of Pittsburgh, Pitt Campus Women’s Organization, pittjuwathes@gmail.com.

Dance Works Rotterdam’s Anatomie, an exploration of danger, beauty, and consciousness of the human body by a leading modern dance company from the Netherlands, 8 p.m. Feb. 16, Heinz Hall, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-656-6666, www.trustarts.org.


**Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses**

Ben Xiong, Kenneth P. Bierich School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Chemistry, “UV Resonance Raman Spectroscopy of Peptide Folding, Peptide Fibillization and C3-H12 Charge Transfer Transition,” 1 p.m. Feb. 13, 307 Eberly Hall.

Collin Diedrich, School of Medicine’s Molecular Virology and Microbiology Graduate Program, “Human Influenza Infection of Host Cells,” 11 a.m. Feb. 13, 307 Eberly Hall.

Claudia Hecke, Kenneth P. Bierich School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Chemistry, “Avoiding Dystopia. Documenting Warfare, Cloning and the intercultural project.blogspot.com,” 10 a.m. Feb. 13, 307 Eberly Hall.


**307 Eberly Hall.**


**World and Cars: American Icons, The Warhol, through May 13.**

**Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900.**

Music as Inspiration, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, February 17-19.

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More Than Half of Hookah Tobacco Web Sites Don’t Include the Word “Tobacco,” Primack-Led Study Finds

By Jennifer C. Yates

Of the growing number of businesses promoting hookah tobacco smoking on the Internet, fewer than 1 percent included a tobacco-related warning about the practice on the first page of their Web sites, according to a University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine study available online in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. The study also found that, while cigarette-related Web pages often are required to verify users’ ages, none of the hookah tobacco Web pages required any type of age verification. Researchers say the findings suggest more health education may be valuable in countering misinformation about smoking tobacco through hookahs.

Brian Primack, a professor of medicine and pediatrics in Pitt’s School of Medicine who led the study, said many Web sites stated or implied that smoking tobacco through the pipes was safer than cigarette smoking. In fact, only 26 percent of the Web sites included the word “tobacco” somewhere on their opening Web pages.

“The more we’ve been able to gather information about hookahs, the more it becomes clear that there is a misconception that it’s safer,” Primack said.

Primack and his team believe that one session of smoking tobacco through a hookah can deliver about 50 to 100 times the smoke volume, 40 times the tar, and twice the nicotine usually delivered by a single cigarette.

As for the study, “Hookah smoking has been linked to serious diseases like cancer and cardiovascular disease, and people should be aware of these risks,” Primack said.

Researchers examined the contents of 144 Web sites that promote hookah smoking establishments. They coded them for their content and format. Researchers found many of the hookah businesses had similar characteristics that glorified hookah smoking as a fun, social activity: 79 percent served food, 41 percent served alcohol, 53 percent offered live dancing and 37 percent offered live music. Many also had a social media presence, with 31 percent having Facebook pages and 15 percent having Twitter.

“Many people seem to have the misconception there is no tar or nicotine associated with this type of tobacco use. I think we need to step up our educational efforts to help them understand what the risks may be,” Primack said.

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The study was funded by the National Cancer Institute.