

Chancellor Names 2008 Staff Excellence Awardees

By Anthony M. Moore

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg has named the winners of the 2008 Chancellor's Awards for Staff Excellence in service to the community and to the University.

Each awardee will receive a \$2,500 cash prize and will be recognized during Pitt's 32nd annual Honors Convocation on Fri., Feb. 29. Their names will also be inscribed on plaques to be displayed in the William Pitt Union.

The four winners of the Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the Community are:

Peter J. Buchheit, director of facilities management at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford;

John V. Collins, parking operations manager in Pitt's Department of Parking and Transportation;

Harriet R. Puchone, coordinator for the Office of Education and Curriculum in the School of Dental Medicine; and

Gwendolyn Watkins, special events coordinator for Pitt's Office of Governmental and Community Relations.

The three winners of the Awards for Staff Excellence in Service to the University are:

Nancy Gilkes, benefits relationship manager for the Department of Benefits;

Carol J. Lynch, assistant to the associate dean for undergraduate studies in the School of Arts and Sciences; and

Frances E. Nagy, graduate student coordinator in the Department of Chemistry.

Excellence in Service to the Community

Buchheit frequently offers his expertise in facility management to the Bradford community through volunteer work with professional and community organizations.

He has been a member of the Bradford Township Volunteer Fire Department for almost 20 years, serving in a number of positions, including president, station captain, and treasurer. While serving on the board of directors of the Bradford Family YMCA, Buchheit guided the organization through a \$4 million renovation and expansion project. Buchheit is very involved with the St. Bernard Catholic Church in Bradford and received the Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great—the highest honor a lay person can receive from the Roman Catholic Church.

In a letter supporting Buchheit's nomination, Rev. Leo Gallina, pastor of St. Bernard's, wrote, "Peter is one who gives of his time, his talents, and abilities whenever needed and is so generous to do so. He is willing to help out and never counts the time, which he gives so freely."

Collins, who came to Pitt in 1993, is not only a well-respected professional but a humanitarian whose causes have enriched

the lives of people in the local community. Collins is president of the Pennsylvania Parking Association and a member of the International Parking Institute

(IPI). He completed IPI's Certified Administrator of Public Parking certificate program, a rigorous program requiring a minimum of two years of study.

Collins has volunteered with charitable organizations, including the Plum Boro Athletic Association, the East Suburban YMCA, and The Businessmen, a well-known local musical group. The Businessmen perform at a number of charitable events throughout the year and donate all proceeds from their performances and CD sales to charity. Through his work with The Businessmen, Collins has helped to raise more than \$150,000 for groups such as Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, The Autism Society of Westmoreland County Conductive Education, and The Westmoreland County Alzheimer's Association.

Puchone, who joined Pitt in 2001, has displayed a remarkable commitment to others in her relatively short time at the University.

Also a student in Pitt's College of General Studies (CGS), Puchone chose to include an internship with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She devoted more than 250 hours to her internship project, "Light Up A Child's Life"—twice the number that is normally required to earn three credits. In addition to her work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, she has volunteered at the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership Light-Up Night, Phipps Conservatory, Project Bundle-Up, and Special Olympics.

In addition, Puchone mentors fellow students, volunteers at numerous CGS events, and serves as vice president for Alpha Sigma Lambda, a national honor society for nontraditional students. She was nominated for the Chancellor's award by a Pitt dental school student and a School of Arts and Sciences student.

Watkins has used her skills in community relations to serve people in the Pitt and Pittsburgh communities.

Watkins began working at Pitt in 1970 and her service to the University includes having served two terms as vice president of steering for the Staff Association Council, where she was a driving force in raising funds and other financial awards for Pitt students whose parents or guardians are members of the Pitt staff. She serves as coor-

dinator of the University's Volunteer Pool and has organized blood drives, free holiday dinners for the homeless and needy, and

collections of winter clothing for the homeless. She also served as organizer of Pitt's annual Kennywood Day, overseeing everything from ticket sales to catering to door prizes and games.

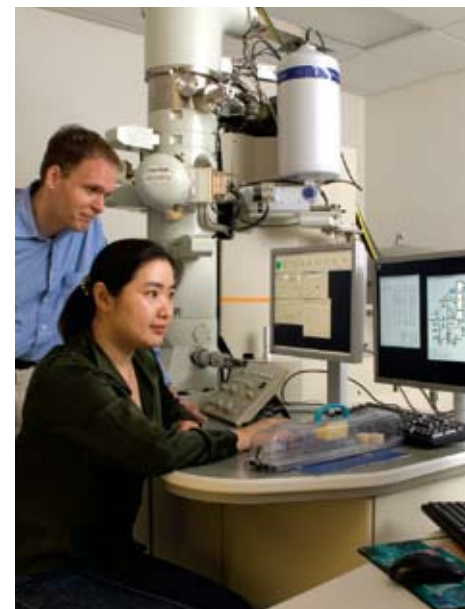
Watkins uses her considerable talents in service to her church, the Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church, and the Lott Carey Foreign Mission. As Katim Brown, minister of music at the church, observed, "[Watkins] is one to share whatever she has with those in need. She is just that kind of person. It makes her happy to see others happy."

Excellence in Service to the University

Gilkes has touched the lives of countless employees and retirees through her position as benefits relationship manager within the Department of Benefits.

In choosing Gilkes for this honor, the selection committee described her dedication to the University as "legendary." In a relationship with Pitt that spans more than 40 years of study and service, Gilkes has displayed both the highest quality of work in the benefits department as well as a genuine concern for the well being of those who rely on the offices' services.

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Pitt Gets \$1 Million Grant for Nano Science Research

By Jasmine G. Hoffman

The University of Pittsburgh received a \$1 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation to develop a groundbreaking method that will significantly advance nanoscale science and technology by allowing scientists to observe, probe, and control molecules.

The revolutionary technique involves probing a molecular structure with femtosecond—a billionth of a millionth of a second—temporal and atomic spatial resolution, leading to new knowledge on activating and harnessing matter at its most fundamental level.

The principal investigator for this research is Hrvoje Petek, a professor of physics and chemistry in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences and codirector of the Petersen Institute of NanoScience and Engineering. Petek is an expert in the fields of surface femtochemistry and ultrafast microscopy. He invented time-resolved photoemission electron microscopy, the enabling technique for this study.

"In pursuit of this grail, several leading physics and chemistry research groups around the world are exploring different ways to combine the spatial resolution of electron microscopy with temporal resolution of femtosecond laser spectroscopy," Petek said. "Our goal is to develop methods for interacting with single molecules in order to observe and control how they respond to stimulation by light or electrons to undergo chemical reactions or specific mechanical motion."

Based in Los Angeles, the W.M. Keck Foundation is one of the nation's largest philanthropic organizations. It was established in 1954 by the late William Myron Keck, founder of the Superior Oil Co.

Since 1988, the W.M. Keck Foundation has donated more than \$4 million to support research in medicine, engineering, and science at Pitt. The latest grant is part of the University's Building Our Future Together campaign, the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of both the University and Southwestern Pennsylvania. To date, the campaign has raised more than \$1.2 billion.

Honoring the Fly Boys



Lee Archer (left), a Tuskegee Airman, and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg enjoy the Feb. 1 celebration honoring the airmen at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial. Archer, the airmen's only confirmed ace, completed a finance certificate program at Pitt. Of the 71 Tuskegee Airmen known to have ties to Western Pennsylvania, 26 are Pitt alumni. (More photos on Page 4.)

ALEXANDER DENMARSH

Lawyer Who Represented Bin Laden's Driver Before U.S. Supreme Court to Speak at Pitt

By Amanda Leff

Charles Swift, a prominent lawyer best known for defending Osama bin Laden's driver before the U.S. Supreme Court, will speak at the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland campus at 6 p.m. on Thurs., Feb. 21.

The talk, "U.S. Sovereignty and the War on Terror After *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*," will be held in the Barco Law Building's Teplitz Moot Courtroom. The event is free and open to the public.

The lecture is the 16th Annual McLean Lecture on World Law, presented by the University of Pittsburgh School of Law's Center for International Legal Education and the Global Solutions Education Fund.

Swift, who is now acting director of Emory University's International Humanitarian Law Clinic, acquired extensive experience in the practice of military and international law during his service with the Department of Defense Office of Military Commissions. His well-publicized representation of Salim Hamdan, the driver for Osama bin Laden, brought Swift to the U.S. Supreme Court in the precedent-setting case of *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*. In its decision, the court ruled that the military commission

being used to try Hamdan was illegal and therefore lacked the protections provided under the Geneva Conventions and U.S. Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Known for his dedication to preserving the rule of law during wartime, Swift has been honored by the American Civil Liberties Union with a Medal of Liberty and named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the most influential lawyers in America. With more than 12 years of litigation experience with the U.S. military, Swift is also a visiting professor at Emory.

The McLean Lecture on World Law honors the memory and contributions of M.W. McLean, a founder, executive director, and executive vice president of the Pittsburgh World Federalist Association chapter, now Global Solutions Education Fund, Pittsburgh.

This lecture has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for one hour of substantive Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits. There is a \$25 fee for credit. For CLE details, call 412-648-7023 or e-mail cile@law.pitt.edu.

SOCIAL WORKS



Pitt School of Social Work Dean Larry Davis was the keynote reader at the 19th Annual African American Read-in Chain event on Feb. 3. Davis' 10-year-old son, Keanu Cinque Davis, also participated in the event, which was held at the First Baptist Church in Oakland. The event occurs nationwide every February in honor of Black History Month. It encourages people across the United States to read African American literature and to hold group readings. Ogle Duff, emeritus professor in Pitt's School of Education, coordinates the annual Pittsburgh Read-in.

JIM BURKE/CODE

KUNTU TREASURES



JOE KAPLEWSKI/CODE

The University of Pittsburgh's Kuntu Repertory Theatre is displaying a variety of its treasures—including historic posters, pictures, costumes, and pieces of sets—in the lobby of the City-County Building, Downtown. The exhibition, *Telling Our Stories*, runs through Feb. 29. Enjoying a reception for the exhibition's opening night on Feb. 5 were (from left) Duane Ashley, director of the City of Pittsburgh's Department of Parks and Recreation; Vernell Lillie, Kuntu's founder, producing artistic director, and a Pitt professor emeritus of Africana Studies; and Mamothena Carol Mthuphi, a Pitt senior and Nelson Mandela Scholar.

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Nomination letters on Gilkes' behalf detailed how she often goes above and beyond her duties, working late hours and often hand-delivering information to the offices or homes of employees and retirees.

In his nomination letter, John Kozar, director of benefits at Pitt, described Gilkes as, "an individual who devotes her professional life to serve others in a respectful manner and in the best interests of all."

Lynch, who came to Pitt in 1973, is known for embracing unique challenges in her position as the assistant to the associate dean for undergraduate studies for the School of Arts and Sciences.

Because a new associate dean for undergraduate studies is appointed every three years, Lynch is responsible for helping new deans acclimate to their position. However, Lynch routinely goes beyond the requirements of her job description. Lynch was instrumental in designing and implementing a Web-based application system for reviewing scholarship applications, streamlining what had once been a time-consuming review of more than 500 hand-written applications, and in the process, making the review process more equitable.

Lynch also serves on the Tina and David Bellet School of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Awards Committee, which recognizes outstanding and innovative teaching in undergraduate studies in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences.

Nagy has affectionately been given the nickname "Chemistry Mom" in her position as graduate student coordinator in the Department of Chemistry. She began at the University in 1992.

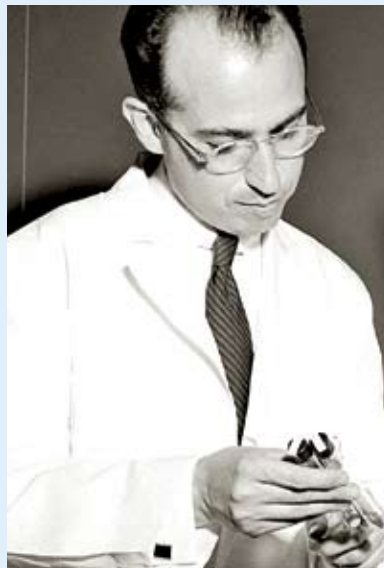
Nagy is responsible for more than 200 graduate students, helping them with the department's application process and facilitating their matriculation in the program once they are enrolled.

The nickname "Chemistry Mom" is well deserved. The selection committee was particularly impressed by an incident in which Nagy learned that a potential Pitt student's arrival would be delayed by inclement weather. Concerned that the applicant's flight would arrive and find no ground transportation to Pittsburgh, Nagy left her Cranberry Township home and headed to the airport. There, she circled until 2 a.m., heading home only after learning that the student's plane had been rerouted to Detroit. The next morning, she came into the office at her regular starting time to rearrange the applicant's new travel arrangements.

Paul Floreancig, a Pitt chemistry professor, hailed Nagy as "tireless in her service for the University, and she manages to accomplish her multiple tasks with a good nature that students appreciate."

Chronicling

An ongoing series highlighting University of Pittsburgh history



In February 1953, Jonas Salk and his associates began to inoculate 1,000 consenting children and adults in the Pittsburgh area with the experimental polio vaccine.

According to Robert C. Albert's *Pitt: The Story of the University of Pittsburgh 1787-1987*, the positive results from the localized testing paved the way for the national inoculation of 1.8 million children in the spring and summer of 1954—the largest field-testing program in the history of preventive medicine.

Salk came to Pitt in 1947 as associate research professor of bacteriology and head of the Virus Research Laboratory, located in the basement of the Municipal Hospital (now Salk Hall). There he began extensive research into the poliomyelitis epidemic. Salk believed that humans could be immunized from polio through exposure to a killed strain of the virus that retained enough strength to stimulate antibodies within the bloodstream.

Salk's research, conducted almost entirely at Pitt, culminated in 1955 with a vaccine that helped rid polio from the modern world. By 1959, some 70 million Americans under the age of 40 had received one or more injections of the Salk Vaccine.

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BlackHistoryMonth

Canard Grigsby

Building Pitt's Future

Canard Grigsby is vital link in high-profile construction projects at Pitt



JANE DRAZDINSKI/CUDE

By Sharon S. Blake

Canard Grigsby in the Thornburgh Room at Hillman Library

When Canard Grigsby crisscrosses Pitt's 132-acre campus on any given day, he doesn't necessarily see the bricks and mortar of the buildings' facades. Instead, he may be remembering the negotiating sessions that took place to keep the building's construction cost within budget. Or the planning involved in the creation of a glass door transom that bears the signature of an esteemed Pitt alumnus.

As project manager for planning and design in Pitt's Department of Facilities Management, Grigsby is thoroughly familiar with many details of campus construction, from the pre-design phase to the last finishing nail. He and seven other project managers oversee three critical components of any Pitt building project—scope of work, budget, and schedule.

"No two days in this position are the same," said Grigsby, 48, a soft-spoken, energetic man who works out of the Eureka Building's third floor. Since coming to Pitt in 2004 as the first African American to hold a project manager post in Pitt's facilities management, he functions as an important liaison between a project's outside consultant and the Pitt department in which the work is being done. Any given day could involve meetings, discussions with consultants, a road trip to a regional campus, or a visit to a construction site.

Grigsby's job title belies the diverse range of skills needed to perform the job well. At times, he must play the role of diplomat, gently nudging the multiple parties involved in a project to agree to work together.

That may involve Grigsby donning his work shoes to talk with construction workers at a site—or wearing a suit and tie to make a boardroom presentation. At other times, his architectural expertise may be called into play. And sometimes it may mean tapping into his broader understanding of the world, as he works to adapt a structure's form to the culture and diversity of a campus.

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture at Temple University, he worked for several years at private architectural firms. At Pitt, Grigsby is a critical component in helping to create the architectural image that Pitt presents to potential students and top-flight faculty and staff.

"The difference between getting that top athlete or top scholar could be the facilities you have to offer," Grigsby said, commenting on the continuous stream of new construction and upgrades under way all over campus. State-of-the-art facilities "enhance or develop the skill sets individuals bring with them when they arrive at Pitt."

Grigsby has managed several key projects in Oakland, including construction of the new Richard L. Thornburgh Room in Hillman Library and Panther Hall, as well as improvements to Salk and Ruskin halls.

Currently, he's juggling a number of projects, with funding close to \$6 million, which include a major addition to Salk Hall, physics laboratories in Old Engineering Hall, and several upgrades at the Bradford campus. Those range from new auditorium seating and lab renovations in Fisher Hall to a new campus chapel. Each undertaking is meticulously planned and carried out under Grigsby's watchful eye.

A native of Warrenton, Va., Grigsby grew up in Sewickley. By the eighth grade, he had set his heart on a profession in

architecture.

"My Uncle Sherman was an architect in Washington, D.C.," he recalled with a smile. "He told me what he did and how he did it. I have artistic ability and proficiency in math and science, so I thought it was a good fit."

After graduating from Temple, Grigsby returned to Sewickley and worked for a small architectural firm. Before joining Pitt, he was with the New York-based architectural firm Perkins Eastman.

One of Grigsby's more visible projects at Pitt is the Thornburgh Room, completed in fall 2006. The project involved a series of presentations to Pitt Trustee and former Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh, representatives of the University Library System, members of the Board of Trustees, and others. Grigsby was also key in negotiations between the Pitt parties and the consulting architect, Strada, and subconsultant, Landesberg Design.

The resulting space, tucked into the northeastern corner of Hillman Library's first floor, is a handsome tribute to Thornburgh, a 1957 Pitt law school alumnus. It

is Thornburgh's oversize signature that graces the glass over the front entrance-way.

"Collectively, we thought there had to be some ownership of the space," said Grigsby. "We suggested his signature in the transom above the double glass door entry, and he thought the idea was fantastic."

Another of Grigsby's projects, on O'Hara Street, involves making the Mid-Campus Complex—the nuclear physics lab, Allen Hall, Old Engineering Hall, Thaw Hall, and the Space Research Coordination Center—one cohesive working environment.

"Every project has its share of challenges," Grigsby said. "It's critical how issues get resolved and that they get resolved in a timely manner. In my opinion, that's what drives those who function as managers."

For a project manager like Grigsby, the concept of cohesion may be defined in the physical sense—such as the Mid-Campus Complex project—or in a global sense, as in ensuring that a building reflects a campus's essence and community. A recent meeting on the design of the Bradford campus chapel brought home that point. Grigsby described a stimulating discussion with campus representatives about how to make the facility exude reverence, without catering to any one denomination.

"We talked about everything from Catholic holy water fonts to Muslim foot-washing to Baptism by immersion. We also discussed menorahs and altars," he said, adding that the Bradford campus is a kind of microcosm of the diversity found at Pitt's Oakland campus.

Grigsby said he is proud of being the first African American to hold his position at Pitt, but he says he sees diversity as "not just a byword but a reality."

Cohesion and diversity are just two of the many factors that Grigsby must consider when advising a University department on its options for a project. Cost and historic preservation also play a role. According to Grigsby, where adaptive reuse—an upgrade—is feasible, it is more cost-efficient to upgrade than demolish. Historic preservation is also considered because sections of Oakland are both on the National Register and part of the City of Pittsburgh

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An Evening With the Tuskegee Fly Boys

Pitt sponsors world premiere screening of *Fly Boys* documentary, the inaugural event of the K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month program

An estimated 1,100 people gathered at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial on Feb. 1 to pay tribute to the remarkable history of the Tuskegee Airmen, who were America's first Black military flyers. They provided tenacious and ferocious escort cover to American bomber planes, helping the United States win World War II. After fighting for their country, they fought segregation and discrimination upon their return home. The evening featured the world premiere screening of *Fly Boys: Western Pennsylvania's Tuskegee Airmen*, produced by WQED Multimedia and funded by the University of Pittsburgh, with additional support from the Alcoa and Pittsburgh foundations. The screening launched the University's K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month Program, named for the legendary Pennsylvania legislative leader, Pitt law alumnus and former trustee.

For additional information about the event, see the Jan. 28, 2008, *Pitt Chronicle*, www.chronicle.pitt.edu.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDER DENMARSH



Cathryn L. Irvis, widow of the late K. Leroy Irvis



From left: Thomas G. Bigley, a Pitt trustee and alumnus; WQED Multimedia President and CEO George Miles, who is also a Pitt trustee; and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.



From left: Richard Pittman, Pitt sophomore; Sheila Isong, Pitt senior and Black Action Society president; Amira D. Rahim, Pitt junior and Freedom Honor Society vice president; and Mennie Eldridge, Pitt junior and BASICS Committee cochair.



From left: William Curtis III with his son, Kyle Curtis (center), a Pitt freshman. Kyle's grandfather, William J. Curtis Jr., was a Tuskegee Airman and was cocaptain of Pitt's track and field team. Kyle's great-grandfather, William Curtis, was also a Pitt alum. At right is Robert Hill, Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs.



(Photo at right): William Truehart, retired Pittsburgh Foundation president and a Pitt trustee; Velma Monteiro-Tribble, Alcoa Foundation chief operating officer.



Tuskegee Airmen (from left) Ed Harris, William Hicks, Sam Broadnax, Rafael Lee, Wendell Freeland, Robert Higginbotham, Mitchell Higginbotham, and Calvin Smith (seated).

Science & Technology

Aching Back? Put Your Mind to It

Study in journal *PAIN* describes relief by mindfulness meditation

By Amy Dugas

Older adults with chronic lower back pain can benefit from a mindfulness meditation program, according to a study by University of Pittsburgh researchers in the February issue of the journal *PAIN*.

"Almost a quarter of older adults live with chronic lower back pain," said Natalia Morone, assistant professor of general internal medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine, who led the study. "Since chronic pain is associated with depression, decreased appetite, impaired sleep, and overall decreased quality of life, complementary medical techniques are a welcome addition to traditional treatments. Previous studies have noted mindfulness meditation's benefits for those with chronic pain, but its effects had not been noted in older adults exclusively and low back pain specifically. With so many people seeking alternative therapies, we felt it was our responsibility to study it scientifically."

Mindfulness meditation is a mind-body technique described as "paying attention on purpose" and "staying in the present moment" to experience each unfolding event. For this study, participants were taught three mindfulness meditation techniques: a body scan in which participants lie down and are asked to place their attention non-judgmentally on each area of the body; sitting practice, which focuses on breathing while sitting in a chair; and walking meditation, which is mindful slow walking with focused attention on body sensation and/or breathing.

"Mindfulness meditation focuses on letting go of struggle and accepting one's condition without judgment. Participants have noted that the practice has a quieting effect and find that while practicing meditation, they can reduce their chronic pain by deflecting it and focusing on other

parts of the body," said Morone.

The pilot study was a randomized, controlled clinical trial involving 37 adults aged 65 or older who experienced chronic lower back pain occurring nearly every day. Participants were enrolled in an eight-week program and were seen in a group format for 90 minutes once a week. They were assessed on measures of pain, physical function, and quality of life at baseline, eight-week and three-month follow-up.

At the conclusion of the eight-week program, those with chronic low back pain noted an improved ability to cope with pain and improvement in physical function. At three-month follow-up, the majority of patients were still practicing meditation, suggesting that they had incorporated it into their daily lives because they had experienced an ongoing benefit associated with mindful meditation.

Morone was supported by a primary care faculty development training grant and the Roadmap Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Career Development Award Grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Other study authors were Carol M. Greco and Debra K. Weiner, both in Pitt's School of Medicine.

"Mindfulness meditation focuses on letting go of struggle and accepting one's condition without judgment. Participants have noted that the practice has a quieting effect and find that while practicing meditation, they can reduce their chronic pain by deflecting it and focusing on other parts of the body."

—Natalia Morone



Natalia Morone



Women Prefer Contraceptive Ring Over Patch, Study Shows

By Michele D. Baum

In the first study to directly compare a contraceptive vaginal ring and skin patch, more women indicated overall satisfaction with the vaginal ring, researchers report in the current issue of *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, a publication of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Using the same combination of hormones included in prescription birth control pills, these products became available in 2002 as an alternative to taking a pill every day. The ring and patch are left in place for three weeks at a time.

The study evaluated the experiences of 500 women who were randomly assigned to use the ring or patch for four consecutive menstrual cycles in 2005 and 2006. Of these, 249 used the ring and 251 used the patch. In addition to regular study visits for physical evaluation, participants completed a questionnaire and talked to investigators by phone following the study period.

"What we found is that more women are happier with the ring than the patch," said Mitchell Creinin, professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences in Pitt's School of Medicine and the study's first author. "On the whole, they report fewer complications, and a significant majority preferred the ring to their pill." The University of Pittsburgh served as sponsoring institution for the trial, which was conducted at 10 centers nationwide.

In November 2005, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a warning regarding estrogen levels in the contraceptive patch and related risk of blood clots, changing the package labeling to reflect the warning. Participants enrolled in the study, regardless of study product assignment, were given standard, written information about the warning. Five women who used the contraceptive patch said they were influenced by the FDA labeling change, opting to discontinue use at the conclusion of the study.

"Overall, however, patch users were twice as likely to discontinue using the product by the end of the third cycle, and seven times more likely to say they had no wish to continue once the study was over," said Creinin, who also is director of family planning at Pitt and a senior investigator

at the Pitt-affiliated Magee-Womens Research Institute. The most commonly cited reasons for discontinuation were adverse effects, including longer periods, cramps, nausea, mood swings, skin irritation, or problems with the patch falling off. The most common reasons for discontinuation among women who used the ring were discomfort and more frequent vaginal discharge.

"Although oral contraceptives are the most commonly used reversible form of contraception in the United States, continuation rates are only 40 percent at six months of use," the authors wrote. In addition, prior studies have shown that in the third month of use, about half of women miss three or more pills each cycle, likely decreasing contraceptive effectiveness.

"The two alternative delivery systems for combined hormonal contraceptives had not been evaluated in a single randomized trial, making it difficult for clinicians to compare and contrast these options for their patients,"

Creinin said. "But now we can provide more accurate counseling to patients who might be interested in a nondaily birth control method."

Additional participating centers for the study were Boston University, Columbia University, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Johns Hopkins University, Oregon Health and Science University, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Wisconsin.

Other authors included Leslie A. Meyn from Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health as well as researchers from the nine other participating centers.

The study was funded in part by Organon U.S.A. Inc., manufacturer of the Nuvaring vaginal contraceptive, but the money was provided as part of an investigator-initiated, nonrestricted grant from the company. Organon had no role in study design, data acquisition, analysis, manuscript preparation, or study supervision. Creinin also reported additional research funding from Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals and Galen Holdings PLC.



Mitchell Creinin

BlackHistoryMonth

Building Pitt's Future

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Historic Districts.

The University Club is a case in point. The eight-story, 83-year-old structure at 123 University Place, designed by renowned turn-of-the-century architect Henry Hornbostel, is about to get a \$20.2 million facelift. HVAC systems in the building are being modernized and new elevators are being installed. The finished product will house a faculty and staff club, fitness facilities, and three floors to be leased by Family House, Inc., a local nonprofit group.

"To tear it down, we would have lost an historic piece of architecture," said Grigsby, who works on the project on an interim basis. "Now, it will make a tremendous statement along University Place, linking the upper and lower campus."

Creating a cohesive environment, preserving history, reflecting campus diversity, Grigsby works to keep it all together. No doubt, Uncle Sherman would be proud.



Canard Grigsby



The Thornburgh Room at Hillman Library

MIKE DRAZDINSKI/CODE

KARL PEYTON/UIS

Black Conference on Higher Education to Meet Downtown



By Patricia Lomando White

Universities from across the state will be getting "Back to the Basics," the theme for the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education's (PBCOHE) 38th annual conference to be held from Feb. 27 through March 1 at the Marriott City Center, Downtown.

The four-day conference will feature various luminaries, including Esther Bush, president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, who will be the guest speaker at the opening plenary session. Journalist, poet, and activist Kevin Powell will give the luncheon lecture Feb. 28, and Antoine M. Garibaldi, president of Gannon University, will deliver the keynote address at the banquet Feb. 29.

Conference highlights include educational exhibits from participating schools, a career fair, workshops, a presidential forum, a service learning project, and several social events.

Among the workshops, to be held Feb. 28 and 29, are "Developing Alliances Through Community Partnerships," "Eliminating Financial Barriers to College Access and Retention: Why Johnny Has No Money," "Academic Success for Students in Courses Using Hip-Hop Content," "Creating Change through Multicultural Affairs

Offices: Working Smarter not Harder," and "Back to the Basics—Relearning and Reteaching Ourselves."

The universities involved in the exhibition, which focuses on graduate enrollment, are Carlow University, California University of Pennsylvania, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, ITT Technical Institute, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State University, Point Park University, Robert Morris University, Saint Vincent College, and Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.

The Feb. 29 afternoon Presidential Forum, moderated by Joseph P. Grunen-

wald, president of Clarion University of Pennsylvania, will address the "Back to the Basics" theme. Forum panelists are Tony Atwater, Indiana University of Pennsylvania president; Javier Cevallos, Kutztown University president; Tori Haring-Smith, Washington and Jefferson College president; Mary E. Hines, Carlow University president; and Barbara A. Simmons, assistant to the president for internal relations and social equity at Cheyney University.

Conference attendees also will have the opportunity to join the service learning project the morning of Feb. 29. Volunteers will read to children at several schools throughout the city, and PBCOHE will donate boxes of books to those schools.

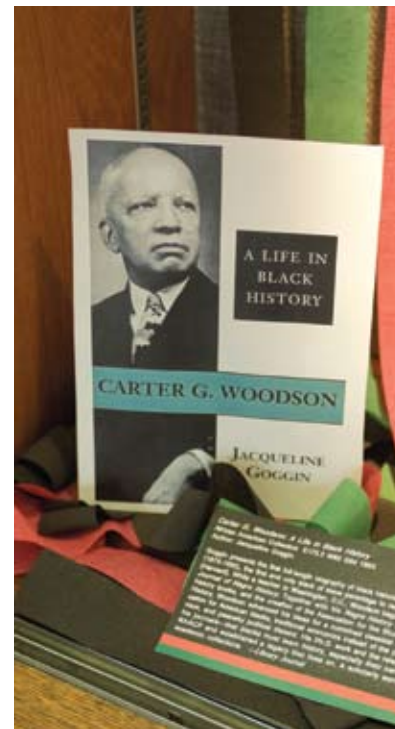
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the House in 1976, the first Black speaker of a state house in post-Reconstruction America.

Black History Month Events at Pitt



JIM BURKE/CODE

Feb. 5-15 "Hillel's Civil Rights Exhibit," 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Kimbo Art Gallery, William Pitt Union, presented by Pitt Program Council, 412-648-7900.

Feb. 5-28 Carter G. Woodson exhibition, featuring artifacts about Black History Month founder, ground floor Hillman Library, presented by University Library Services, 412-648-7717.

Feb. 11 "Black Consciousness Bowl," 8:30 p.m., Kurtzman Room, William Pitt Union, hosted by Black Action Society, 412-648-7880.

Feb. 12 "Got an Extra Pencil," 8:45 p.m., William Pitt Union, hosted by Black Action Society, 412-648-7880.

Feb. 14 "Blackline Release Party/ Valentine's Day Party," 9 p.m., William Pitt Union, hosted by Black Action Society, 412-648-7880.

Feb. 18-21 *Roots*, screenings, 8:45 p.m.-11 p.m., locations vary by date, hosted by Black Action Society, 412-648-7880.

Feb. 23 "The Black Arts Expo," 4 p.m., William Pitt Union, hosted by Black Action Society, 412-648-7880.

Feb. 27 "State of the Black Student Union Address," 9 p.m., William Pitt Union, hosted by Black Action Society, 412-648-7880.

Feb. 28 "Blackline Poetry Recitation: Not My Own Words," 7 p.m., William Pitt Union, hosted by Black Action Society, 412-648-7880.

Happenings



Chihuly Glass at Phipps Conservatory, through February 24

Concerts

The Romantic Songs of George Gershwin, conducted by Marvin Hamlisch, **Feb. 14-17**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-394-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Daphne Alderson, *L'Amour, La Vie... Daphne Sings Piaf*, 7 p.m. **Feb. 14**, 8 p.m. **Feb. 15**, Heinz Memorial Chapel, reservations recommended, 412-624-4157, www.heinzchapel.pitt.edu.

Carolina Chocolate Drops, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 16**, Carnegie Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Calliope Concert Series, 412-361-1915, www.calliope-house.org.

Journeys: Sounds of the Jewish Diaspora, with soprano Anna Levenstein and Danny Mallon on percussion, 8 p.m. **Feb. 16**, Synod Hall, 125 N. Craig St., Oakland; 2:30 p.m. **Feb. 17**, Levy Hall, Temple Rodef Shalom, 4905 Fifth Ave., Oakland, 412-687-1788, www.chathambaroque.org.

Chamber Choir Festival, featuring Heinz Chapel Choir with Pennsylvania high school choirs, 3 p.m. **Feb. 17**, Heinz Chapel, Pitt Department of Music, 412-624-4125, www.music.pitt.edu.

Exhibitions

Hillman Library, Audubon print, *Black-poll Warbler*, **Feb. 12-25**, 412-648-7715.

709 Penn Gallery, *Celebrating Life and Death in West Africa*, through **Feb. 22**, 709 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Society for Contemporary Craft, *Nick Cave*, through **Feb. 23**, 2100 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-261-7003, www.contemporarycraft.org.

Phipps Conservatory, *Chihuly at Phipps: Garden and Glass*, through **Feb. 24**, 1 Schenley Park, Oakland, 412-622-6914, www.phippsconservatory.org.

Kuntu Repertory Theatre, *Telling Our Stories* exhibition, through **Feb. 29**, City-County Building lobby, 414 Grant St., Downtown, 412-351-7702, info@kuntu.org.

KOA Art Gallery, *The Boundless Journey* by Dennis Driscoll, through **Feb. 29**, Blaisdell Hall, Pitt-Bradford, 814-362-0248, www.upb.pitt.edu.

707 Penn Gallery, *Totally Maybe*, through **March 1**, 707 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

SPACE Gallery, *Hot Metal*, through **March 15**, 812 Liberty Ave., Downtown, 412-325-7723, www.spacepittsburgh.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art, *Forum 61: Lowry Burgess*, through **March 23**; *Great British Art: 200 Years of Watercolors, Drawings, and Prints From the Bank of New York Mellon Collection*, through **May 18**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

Andy Warhol Museum, *Ron Mueck at the Andy Warhol Museum*, through **March 30**; *Canis Major: Andy Warhol's Cats and Dogs (and Other Party Animals)* through **May 4**, 117 Sandusky St., Northside, 412-237-8300, www.warhol.org.

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, *One Potter's Touch Affects a Generation of Artists and Their Communities*, Kerr Gallery, through **April 4**, 1815 Metropolitan St., Northside, 412-322-1773, www.manchesterguild.org.

Wood Street Gallery, *Urban Living*, through **April 5**, 601 Wood St., Downtown, 412-471-5605, www.woodstreetgalleries.org.

Mattress Factory, *Gestures: Illustrations of Catastrophe and Remote Times*, through **May 11**, 500 Sampsonia Way, Northside, 412-231-3169, www.mattress.org.

Carnegie Science Center, *Bodies: The Exhibition*, through **May 31**, 1 Allegheny Ave., North Shore, 412-237-3400, www.carnegiesciencecenter.org.

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

"The Development of China and India: Implications for the United States," Siddharth Chandra, Pitt professor of economics, 7 p.m. **today**, Winchester Thurston School, City Campus, 555 Morewood Ave., Shadyside, registration required, 412-578-7523, www.winchesterthurston.org.

"Talking to Terrorists: Political Violence and Peace Process in the Contemporary World," Aaron Edwards, professor of history at the University of Ulster, 1 p.m. **Feb. 12**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Pitt Department of History and the Global Studies Program, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

"Making the Resistant Record Speak: Uncovering Women's Story in the Records of Hierarchical Churches," Joan Gunderson, Pitt Women Studies Scholar, noon **Feb. 13**, 2201 Posvar Hall, Pitt Women Studies Program, 412-624-6485, www.pitt.edu/~wstudies.

Not Just a Pretty Face: The Ugly Side of the Beauty Industry, book reading and discussion with author Stacey Malkan, 6-7:30 p.m. **Feb. 13**, Magee-Women's Hospital Auditorium, 300 Halket St., Oakland, 412-802-8299.

"Reproductive Rights: Abortion, Birth Control, and Sex Education," Civil Liberties Coffee House Discussion Group, 7 p.m. **Feb. 13**, Shadyside Coffee Tree Roasters, 5744 Ellsworth Ave., American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, www.aclupa.org.

"Cooking in the Temples: Elderly Rural Women and Religious Revival in Contemporary China," Xiaofei Kang, assistant professor of modern languages at Carnegie Mellon

University, noon **Feb. 14**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, 412-648-7370, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

"Tectonic Evolution of Coastal Oregon, SE Alaska," Maria Luisa Crawford, Association for Women Geoscientists Distinguished Lecturer and professor of geology at Bryn Mawr College, 4 p.m. **Feb. 14**, 203 Thaw Hall, Pitt Department of Geology and Planetary Science, www.geology.pitt.edu.

"Is Simplicity Evidence of Truth?," Adolf Grunbaum, Pitt professor of philosophy of science, 3:30 p.m. **Feb. 15**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, 412-624-1052, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr.

"The Mother Goddess in Italian Renaissance Art," Edith Balas, professor of art history at Carnegie Mellon University, 4 p.m. **Feb. 15**, 202 Frick Fine Arts Building, Pitt Women Studies Program, 412-624-5220, aaloe@pitt.edu.

David Wiesner, author, 10:30 a.m. **Feb. 16**, Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Black, White, and Read All Over Series, 412-622-8866, www.pittsburghlectures.org.

"Pittsburgh: The Most Liveable City For Whom?" Ralph Bangs, associate director of Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Feb. 16**, Christian Church of Wilkinsburg, 748 Wallace Ave., Wilkinsburg, 412-241-3556, www.upg.pitt.edu.

"Global Issues and Policy Implications for the Pittsburgh Region," U.S. Sen. Robert Casey, member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, noon-1:30 p.m. **Feb. 18**, The Rivers Club, One Oxford Centre, 301 Grant St., Downtown, www.worldaffairspittsburgh.org.

Sarah Paretsky, author, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 18**, Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Drue Heinz Lecture Series, 412-622-8866, www.pittsburghlectures.org.

"Innateness and Science," Robert Northcott, professor of philosophy at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, 12:05 p.m. **Feb. 19**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr.

Miscellaneous

Coffee and Culture: A Well-appointed Table, 10-11 a.m. **Feb. 13**, Lexington Education Center, Frick Art and Historical Center, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, advanced registration recommended, 412-371-0600, www.frickart.org.

Four Wines of Verona, wine tasting, 6:15 p.m. **Feb. 13**, Theater Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Sand and Sorrow, film screening, 7-9 p.m. **Feb. 13**, 125 Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, 412-648-7434, www.ridgway.pitt.edu.

20 Fingers, film screening, 7 p.m. **Feb. 14**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt Global Studies Program, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

Under the Moonlight, film screening, 7 p.m. **Feb. 15**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt Global Studies Program, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

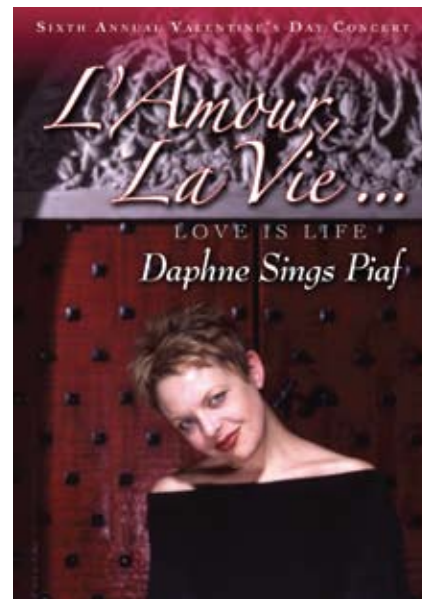
Discovery Day, 9:30-11:15 a.m. **Feb. 16**, Pitt-Greensburg, Office of Admissions, registration required, 724-836-9880, www.upg.pitt.edu.

Ball Night, 7-11 p.m. **Feb. 17**, Assembly Room, William Pitt Union, part of Chinese Culture Exhibition Month, Pitt Chinese Students and Scholars Association, www.pittcssa.net, 412-648-9523.

Pathway to Law School, 6-8:30 p.m. **Feb. 19**, 310 William Pitt Union, Pitt Career Services, 412-648-7130, www.careers.pitt.edu.

Belgian Beers, 6:15 p.m. **Feb. 19**, Theater Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Craft Beer School Series, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Film Screenings, 7 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays, through **Feb. 29**, Swanson School of Engineering Auditorium, part of Chinese Culture Exhibition Month, Pitt Chinese Students and Scholars Association, 412-648-9523, film listings at www.pittcssa.net.



Forever Love
Byham Theater
February 14-17

Opera/Theater/Dance

Journey of the Spirits: A Celebration of Gospel Music, 7 p.m. **Feb. 12**, Ferguson Theater, Pitt-Greensburg, Kuntu Repertory Theatre, 724-836-7741, www.upg.pitt.edu.

Vagina Monologues, 7 p.m. **Feb. 14-15**, Ferguson Theater, Pitt-Greensburg, 724-836-7741, www.upg.pitt.edu.

Forever Love, **Feb. 14-17**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, 412-281-0360, www.pbt.org.

William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, **Feb. 15-16**, CAPA Main Stage, 111 Ninth St., Downtown, Classical Theatre of Harlem, 212-564-9983, www.classicaltheatreofharlem.org.

The 13th of Paris by Mat Smart, through **Feb. 17**, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

Disney's The Lion King, through **Feb. 17**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America Series, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler, through **Feb. 17**, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

Amadeus, through **Feb. 24**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org.

The Big Bang, through **April 27**, Theater Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, CLO Cabaret Theater, 412-281-2822, www.clocabaret.com.

Belgian Beers
Theater Square Cabaret
February 19





Pop Music Exposes Kids to Positive Portrayals of Drug, Alcohol Use, Pitt Study Finds



By Megan Grote Quatrini

A third of the most popular songs in 2005 contained lyrics explicitly referring to drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, according to a study by University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine researchers published in this month's *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*. What's more, two-thirds of those references portrayed substance use in a positive light by associating it with such outcomes as peer acceptance and sex, researchers found.

"Adolescents listen to nearly two and a half hours of music each day. Since previous studies have shown that exposure to messages about substance use in popular media is linked to actual substance use in adolescents, we need to understand what our children are listening

to and be aware of exposures such as these, especially when they are associated with potentially risky behaviors being portrayed in a positive light," said Brian Primack, assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics in Pitt's School of Medicine, who led the study.



Brian Primack

The analysis of the 279 most popular songs of 2005, as listed in *Billboard Magazine*, breaks new ground in quantifying substance-use exposure in popular music. According to the study, a typical adolescent is exposed to 84 explicit references to substance use in popular music each day, totaling more than 30,000 references in an average year.

The researchers also found that exposure varies widely by genre of music. The

average adolescent listening solely to pop would be exposed to only five references per day, while one listening solely to rap would hear 251 references per day. One or more references to substance use occurred in 77 percent of rap songs, 36 percent of country, 20 percent of R/hip-hop, 14 percent of rock, and nine percent of pop.

Alcohol was represented in 23.7 percent of songs and marijuana in 13.6 percent, whereas tobacco was referred to in only 2.9 percent of all songs. Researchers also found that popular music lyrics frequently associated substance use with peer acceptance, partying, and sex. Consequences of substance use were portrayed mostly in a positive light: 68 percent of songs contained more positive than negative consequences, whereas 18 percent portrayed more negative than positive effects. Only four songs of the 279 studied contained explicit anti-use

messages, and none portrayed substance refusal.

"It is important to note that this study does not say anything about the relationship between these exposures and behavior," Primack cautioned. "But for the first time, we have quantified substance use in popular music and determined that it's generally portrayed with positive consequences. The next step in our research will be to determine whether these media messages actually influence behavior."

Coauthors of the study include Mary V. Carroll and Aaron A. Agarwal from the University of Pittsburgh; Michael J. Fine from Pitt medical school's Center for Research on Health Care and the Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion at the VA Pittsburgh Health Care System; and Madeline A. Dalton from Dartmouth Medical School.

The research was supported by funding provided by the National Cancer Institute, the

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Maurice Falk Foundation.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Feb. 18. **Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 7) should be received six working days prior to the desired publication date.** *Happenings* items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to chron@pitt.edu, faxed to 412-624-4895, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail robinet@pitt.edu.