

## Pitt Students Win Goldwater Scholarships

Pitt undergraduates have won a total of 39



Charles Richard Sleasman II (left) and Todd Morton Moyle

By Patricia Lomando White

University of Pittsburgh Honors College students Todd Morton Moyle and Charles Richard Sleasman II have been awarded 2008 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships for their exceptional independent research in the science and engineering disciplines.

Moyle is a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering in the Swanson School of Engineering, and Sleasman is a junior majoring in physics and mathematics in the School of Arts and Sciences. Both Pennsylvania natives, Moyle is from Sayre, Bradford County, and Sleasman is from Connellsville, Fayette County.

"The outstanding record of undergraduate attainment at Pitt reflects individual student talent and hard work," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "It also reflects our University's long-standing commitment to our most fundamental mission—the development of human potential. Last month, Pitt became the only public university in Pennsylvania with a 2008 Harry A. Truman Scholar. This month, we congratulate Todd Moyle and Charles Sleasman as Goldwater Scholars. Together they have further strengthened Pitt's already robust record of undergraduate success."

"Todd Moyle and Charles Sleasman are excellent experimentalists and outstanding Goldwater candidates who represent the highest levels of undergraduate research attainment," said G. Alec Stewart, Pitt Honors College dean, Goldwater institutional faculty representative, and nominator of Moyle and Sleasman. "Their faculty advisors have played a special role in making them competitive for this prestigious

national award. Jeremy Levy in Pitt's physics department has worked with Charles, and Eugene Wagner in the chemistry department has worked with Todd. These faculty members are stellar examples of the kind of undergraduate research mentoring that fosters high attainment in a student-centered university."

Many of Pitt's recent Goldwater Scholars have gone on to receive prestigious graduate study awards: Pitt's 2007 Rhodes Scholar Daniel Armanios, 2006 Rhodes Scholar Justin Chalker, and 2007 Marshall Scholar Anna Quider were Goldwater winners. Pitt undergrads have won a total of 39 Goldwater Scholarships.

The Goldwater Scholarship was established in 1986 by the U.S. Congress in honor of then-Senator Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. The premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields, the Goldwater Scholarship is awarded in either a student's sophomore or junior

year. It covers tuition, room and board, fees, and books—up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year—for each student recipient's remaining period of study.

Under Professor Wagner's guidance, Moyle has researched the potential use of vegetable oil as an alternative fuel. His work focuses on developing a blend of vegetable oil and other additives that would run on standard diesel automobiles without modifications. Results of this work will be presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research this month, the

Biennial Conference on Chemical Education in July, and Pitt's science conference in the fall.

Moyle's primary interest is in pharmaceutical development and production research with the idea of developing new pharmaceuticals to combat human diseases and novel and cost-effective methods to manufacture them.

Motivated by the ever-growing cost of prescription drugs and concern for those not able to afford treatment, Moyle plans to pursue a master's degree involving pharmaceutical manufacturing. He then will work either toward an M.D. degree focusing on clinical research of pharmaceuticals and consulting or a Ph.D. degree in biomedical engineering, to concentrate on drug-delivery systems and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Sleasman began doing research as a second-semester freshman. Under Professor Levy's direction, Sleasman learned atomic force microscope operation procedures, some scanning electron microscope operation procedures, and LabView. His first project was to map the topography of carbon dots grown on silicon wafers. His most recent research is on ferroelectric thin films for use in quantum computing architectures. He is coauthor of a paper to be submitted to *Nature* magazine for his work on ferroelectric measurements of strontium titanate grown on silicon.

Most of Sleasman's experience and expertise is in quantum computing and/or condensed matter physics. Fascinated by group theory and its application to physics, such as in quantum mechanics, he is studying the connections between group theory and physics at the University of Oxford in England this term.

Sleasman aspires to make a career of conducting physics research and possibly teaching at the university level. Along with pursuing physics research, Sleasman would like to use or even create new mathematical ideas for solving physical problems.

## Pitt-Greensburg Installs Sharon P. Smith as President

By Wendy Mackall

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg's mission should be to open new windows that allow students to explore opportunities and meet challenges, Pitt-Greensburg President Sharon P. Smith said at her installation ceremony April 2.

"Education enables each person to realize the opportunities available in a free society, and, at the same time, it helps to sustain the institutions that promote those freedoms," Smith said during her inaugural address in Ferguson Theater. "What kind of people do we want our students to become in the 21st century? I believe we want our students to be able to discern value in both the experiences of the past and the prospects in the present. We want them prepared to face the challenges of the future, equipped with the skills they will need to embrace the opportunities that await them."

Smith, who began her position at Pitt-Greensburg on July 7, 2007, has significant expertise in higher-education administration and economics. She previously had served as vice chancellor for academic affairs, provost, and vice president for academic affairs at National University and the National University System. At Fordham University, Smith served as professor of management systems and dean of the Colleges of Business and business faculty. She is Pitt-Greensburg's fourth president, and her installation comes as the

University prepares to celebrate its 45th year.

"President Sharon Smith, you already are an accomplished leader," Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg said during the installation ceremony. "Today, we welcome you to your new leadership role, the most important you have held in your distinguished career, and we look forward to years of continued high achievement under your committed leadership."

Other top Pitt officials attending the ceremony were Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher; Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Resources Management Robert F. Pack; G. Reynolds "Renny" Clark, vice chancellor for community initiatives and chief of staff, Office of the Chancellor; B. Jean Ferketish, secretary of the University's Board of Trustees and assistant chancellor; Albert J. Novak Jr., vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement; and William Trueheart and E. Jeanne Gleason, both Pitt Board of Trustees members.

A native of New Jersey, Smith received her A.B. degree, summa cum laude, in 1970; master's degree in 1972; and doctoral degree in 1974, all in economics from Rutgers University. She received a distinguished alumni award from Rutgers in 1998.

Continued on page 6



# Briefly Noted

## EU Officials to Present Its Delegation Library to Pitt

John Bruton, ambassador of the European Commission to the United States, and Samuel Žbogar, Republic of Slovenia ambassador to the United States and Mexico, will formally present the entire European Union (EU) delegation library to Pitt's University Library System (ULS) at 1:30 p.m. April 9. The EU delegation library holds the most extensive collection of public EU documents and publications in North America.

Žbogar is accompanying Bruton because Slovenia currently holds the presidency of the Council of the EU.

The EU delegation's unique collection contains a complete set of EU institutions' and agencies' publications that was established in 1951, soon after the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community. It also contains partial collections of publications from such international organizations as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Council of Europe, and European trade associations. The collection was moved from Washington, D.C., to Pitt last May.

The by-invitation ceremony marking the formal presentation of the library to the University will be held in the Hillman Library's Thornburgh Room. Bruton will sign a document formally presenting the library, which will be accepted by Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

The gift adds to Pitt's extensive holdings in support of European Studies. The ULS also has developed the online Archive of European Integration, providing open access to conference papers, policy papers, preprints of journal articles, and more than 6,000 digitized EU documents from its depository collection.

Prior to the library celebration, Bruton and Žbogar will give a free public address titled "The Future of European Union-U.S. Economic and Political Relations." The address will be held at noon April 9 in the Lower Lounge of the William Pitt Union. Bruton will focus on the growing trade and economic relationship between the EU and the United States. Žbogar will address issues concerning the political relationship between the EU and the United States.

—By Amanda Leff

## Luxembourg Prime Minister to Give Lecture April 10

Jean-Claude Juncker, prime minister of Luxembourg, will present a distinguished lecture and receive an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Pittsburgh on April 10.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. in Alumni Hall's Connelly Ballroom.

Juncker also is Luxembourg's Minister of State and Minister of Finance.

"Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, the longest-serving head of government in the European Union and one of the most popular, is a highly respected leader," says Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "He is widely admired for his visionary thinking and for successfully balancing his nation's own interests while maintaining Luxembourg's vital role in the European Union. We are honored to host His Excellency for a Distinguished Lecture and to present him with an honorary doctoral degree."

For many years, Prime Minister Juncker has strongly supported research collaborations involving Pitt faculty and scholars in Luxembourg, says Alberta Sbragia, director of Pitt's European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center. "He is widely

considered to be one of the most respected political leaders within the EU, as well as being a key supporter of transatlantic research and scholarly research," adds Sbragia, who also is the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair and Jean Monnet Professor *ad personam*.

The honorary degree from Pitt is one of many prestigious awards Juncker has received in recognition of his commitment to European integration. Other honors and awards include the 2006 International Charlemagne Prize.

During his 1989-94 term as president of the "Ecofin" Council, Juncker was one of the principal architects of the Maastricht Treaty. In 1991, he saved the Economic and Monetary Union negotiations during an informal meeting of 12 finance

ministers by creating the "opting out" principle for the United Kingdom.

In 1996, the international press dubbed Juncker "the hero of Dublin" for his successful mediation during delicate negotiations between then-Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany and then-President Jacques Chirac of France.

Following secondary-school studies in Belgium and Luxembourg, Juncker earned a degree in law at the Law Faculty of the University of Strasbourg in 1979.

—By Amanda Leff

## Noted Human-Rights Advocate To Speak April 10

Deborah LaBelle, attorney, professor, writer, and human-rights advocate, will deliver the annual Norman J. and Alice Chapman Rubash Distinguished Lecture in Law and Social Work on April 10.

The free public lecture, "Bringing Human Rights Home," will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in the Barco Law Building's Teplitz Memorial Courtroom.

The lecture also includes a responding panel discussion. Panelists include Marsha V. Hinton, chair of the Pittsburgh Citizen Police Review Board; Gary L. Lancaster, U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania; and Jules Lobel, professor of law—constitutional and international law and civil and human rights—in Pitt's School of Law. Jeffrey Shook, a professor in Pitt's School of Social Work, will moderate.

LaBelle, who advocates for the rights of people in detention, is a senior Soros Justice Fellow. In addition to maintaining her private practice, she is director of the ACLU's Juvenile Life Without Parole Initiative. As part of this project, LaBelle authored *Second Chances: Juveniles Serving Life Without Parole in Michigan's Prisons*, a report that fully documented this practice and has served as a model for advocates nationwide.

LaBelle has been lead counsel in more than a dozen class actions that have successfully challenged policies affecting treatment of incarcerated men, women, and juveniles, as well as their families. Several of these cases have been argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and in international forums.

For her work on behalf of women prisoners and domestic use of international standards, LaBelle was the first American to be designated a human-rights monitor by Human Rights Watch.

The Rubash Distinguished Lecture Series was established through gifts from Norman J. Rubash, a 1957 graduate of Pitt's School of Law, and his wife, Alice Chapman Rubash, a 1956 graduate of Pitt's School of Social Work. Each year a distinguished individual in the fields of law and social work is invited to the University to present a public lecture.

—By Patricia Lomando White



# Pitt's Peregrine Paterfamilias Presumed Departed, New Male Falcon Thought to Control Nest

By Morgan Kelly

Observers of the peregrine falcons nesting on the 40th floor of the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning suspect that another male falcon has replaced longtime patriarch Erie. The presumed new bird's identity is unknown, but photographs and the suspect male's behavior suggest that he is not Erie, who has raised 22 chicks with the female Dorothy since they occupied the nest in 2002. Because Dorothy has laid her eggs for this year, the falcons' caretakers cannot safely access the nest to confirm the new bird's identity.

Although Erie's fate remains a mystery, observers suppose that the new male did not violently overthrow the nest, which could provide significant clues about the turnover of peregrine falcon nests, said Tony Bledsoe, a lecturer of biological sciences in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences who helps monitor the falcons. Nests often change control when a young peregrine falcon (male or female) defeats an older bird.

Last year, Erie decapitated a younger male from the Cleveland area that attempted to claim the nest and Erie's female companion, Dorothy.

In the case of this new male, observers on the ground noted that only Dorothy was present throughout October of last year. The supposed new male arrived in mid-to late-November. Todd Katzner, a Pitt adjunct professor of biological sciences and the National Aviary's director of conservation and field research, said that falcons stay in their home territory year-round. It is unlikely that Erie would remain absent for a long period of time then suddenly reappear, particularly when the nest has been a successful breeding ground. Therefore, Bledsoe said, Dorothy's prolonged solitude and the new male's sudden presence suggest that he did not seize the Cathedral nest—he found it.

"We have examples of nest takeovers, but this appears to have been a case of an individual leaving or, most likely, dying and another taking his place," Bledsoe said. "It's a single example, but a contribution to the developing story of how peregrines interact and establish pair bonds. Also, the new bird, depending on where he is from, could provide an idea of the patterns peregrine falcons follow when breeding and seeking nests."

Nest turnovers also can aid in conservation efforts, Katzner said. When fallen or missing mates are replaced (or not replaced), that can help researchers estimate a species' mortality rate and overall population.

Kate St. John, a volunteer for the National Aviary who monitors and maintains a blog about the Pitt falcons, first suspected that Erie was no more. She noticed in February that the male falcon's ankle bands—used to track and identify the birds—were of different colors than those Erie wore. She spent six weeks comparing 4,500 photos of Erie and the suspect male. She noticed not only a difference in the bands but in the color and pattern of the birds' feathers.

These observations corresponded with the male falcon's overly enthusiastic courting behavior in November, which was unusual for Erie in his later years, St. John said. "Erie was excited his first year, but later on he was ho-hum. Actually, that's how we knew he won the fight last year—everything was business



Erie on the Cathedral's crest, 2007

as usual between him and Dorothy."

At nine years of age, Erie was in the twilight of a busy life that no doubt weakened him, Bledsoe said. During breeding season,

he would hunt to win Dorothy's favor with fresh prey; he fed her as the eggs developed inside her; and, once the eggs hatched, Erie provided for himself, Dorothy, and the chicks. For at least 50 days out of the year, year after year, he hunted for as many as six mouths, Bledsoe said.

"It was not an insignificant job to be Erie," he said. "I suspect that Erie took a big hit last breeding season when he fought off a rival then raised four more young.

His chances of surviving into another breeding season were probably significantly lowered."

For more information, visit St. John's blog, "Outside My Window," at [www.wqed.org/birdblog/2008/04/02/who-is-he-new-male-peregrine-at-univ-of-pittsburgh/](http://www.wqed.org/birdblog/2008/04/02/who-is-he-new-male-peregrine-at-univ-of-pittsburgh/)

**"Although Erie's fate remains a mystery, observers suppose that the new male did not violently overthrow the nest, which could provide significant clues about the turnover of peregrine falcon nests."**

—Tony Bledsoe

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# The Next Great Thinkers

What does it take to create a new generation of the professoriate?

*This is the fourth article in a series about the University of Pittsburgh's programs in graduate and professional education.*



Distinguished Professor of Philosophy Robert Brandom talks with philosophy doctoral students Gregory Strom and Kathryn Lindeman about their dissertation research topics.

By Reid Frazier

They come to Pitt hungry, eager to read, write, and debate. They train with professors who have spent their careers pushing the boundaries of human understanding. They live on Indian food and coffee and spend copious amounts of time in the library. And when it is over, they are ready to train the next generation of scholars.

They are Pitt's PhD students, a group whose achievements and sheer numbers have grown in recent years, as Pitt has surfaced near the top of the 400-plus schools in the nation that offer doctoral education.

Across the nation, PhD education has received increased attention, including a recent study by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, an independent policy and research center. Three Pitt entities—the Departments of Chemistry and English, and the Center for Neuroscience—were among 84 nationwide asked to participate in the study because of

their achievements in doctoral education.

"We were really impressed by the energy at Pitt," says Chris Golde, associate vice provost for graduate education at Stanford University and research director for the study. "The faculty we worked with showed a lot of energy and enthusiasm in doing the really hard work at looking at their own practices."

"Doctoral education is vitally important," adds Golde. "It's the crown jewel of all higher education systems. It's where the best minds are honed and trained and prepared. It's these folks who advance societies and civilizations."

## A Leader in Doctoral Education

At Pitt, the numbers of PhDs bestowed by the University have risen by 30 percent since 1995, to more than 400 per year. That ranks Pitt 18th among public institutions and 29th among all universities and colleges in the number of PhDs it produces.

Perhaps more impressive is where those

PhDs end up—more than half obtain faculty positions at other colleges and universities and most of the others receive postdoctoral fellowships, often the initial step on a path toward tenure or key positions in government or industry.

"The University is clearly a major player on the national stage in terms of doctoral education, and I see only continued improvement in the years to come," says Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher.

"That's what great universities do: They produce the next generation of the professoriate for other universities, and, as a great institution, Pitt is committed to producing the next generation of thinkers and scholars."

To make it all work, University officials say, Pitt adopts a stem-to-stern approach to attracting and training young scholars. "This doesn't happen by accident," says Maher. "We begin by recruiting the best students in the country and setting the bar high. Then we give our students the chance to work closely with some of the best faculty

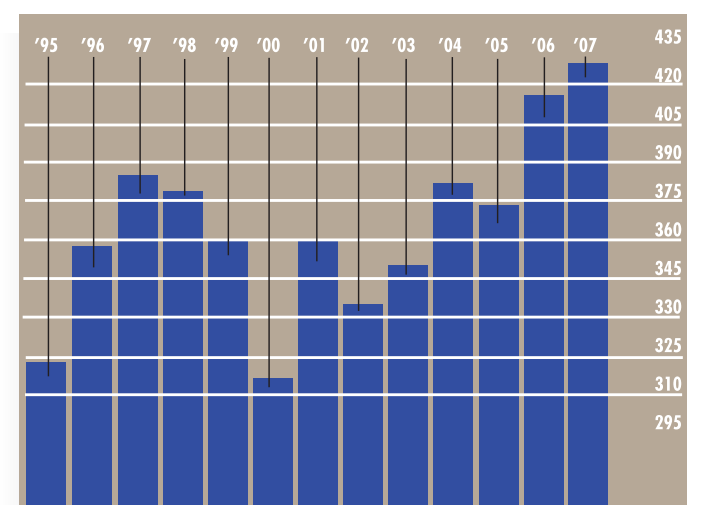
in their fields and make sure the students have all the support they need to become strong, independent thinkers."

"Good mentorship isn't just holding students' hands and walking them through the process," says Nicole Constable, associate dean of graduate studies for the School of Arts and Sciences, the school that produces

*Continued on page 4*

## Pitt PhDs Awarded Since 1995

Pitt ranks 18th among U. S. public schools in the number of PhDs it produces





# The Next Great Thinkers

Continued from page 3

the largest number of the University's PhDs. "It's teaching them to be independent scholars, individuals who, when they're finished, are prepared to be full-fledged academics."

Supporting PhD education is expensive, but Pitt provides competitive support packages to its doctoral students because it's fundamental to the University's mission, says Constable. "We are investing in the future of the professoriate. Getting a PhD is a full-time, all-consuming pursuit. You're basically saying, 'I'm going to fully understand my discipline.' It's academia as a way of life."

Two areas where the University has consistently excelled in doctoral education are the Department of Philosophy and its sibling program, the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (HPS). Their faculties are consistently given "Top Five" rankings by rating services like *The Philosophical Gourmet Report*, and both departments attract some of the best students in the country. Their approach to recruiting and training as well as placing PhD students are good examples of best practices in doctoral education at Pitt.

## Looking for a Special Imagination

The excellence of the graduate program in the Department of Philosophy starts with finding and attracting the best students. But how do you find hidden talent amidst the sea of applications every year?

Robert Brandom, Pitt Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, says he and his colleagues look for students with "a special imagination" when deciding which of the 250 applicants will fill the department's six to eight slots annually.

"You've got to be able to ask a question other people won't ask, and find a productive way to pursue an answer. That's not the same thing as intellectual candlepower," Brandom says. "You've got to be able to read something that hundreds of other people have read and think something no one else has thought about it. That's what we're looking for."

Very often these applicants will be fielding offers from other "Top Five" programs like those at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard, Princeton, and New York Universities. So showcasing the department's strengths go a long way in convincing students to come to Pitt, says Laura Ruetsche, a Pitt philosophy professor and the director of graduate studies for the department.

## Joining a Community of Scholars

When Shawn Standefer was finishing up an undergraduate degree in philosophy at Stanford, he paid a visit to Pitt to see firsthand one of the PhD programs he was considering for graduate school. His Stanford professors had told him about Pitt's excellent reputation for

producing original, high-quality scholars.

Standefer was not disappointed by what he found. "One of the other grad students put it well," says Standefer. "When you're looking at graduate programs, it's kind of like looking at different families and deciding which one you want to be born into. You get a sense from visiting different schools that each program has a different personality. There was something about Pitt's atmosphere that meshed with my own interests."

Standefer, now in his second year of the PhD program, has taken courses on Wittgenstein, Kant, and Aristotle with some of the most highly regarded scholars in the country. He's also become involved in the University's philosophical community: This spring, he helped organize a graduate student conference run by students in philosophy, HPS, and Carnegie Mellon University's philosophy department.

Pitt's philosophy department hosts a prospective students' weekend—a kind of show-and-tell where faculty interact with the applicants who've

been accepted. Students also get to hear a faculty member give a work-in-progress talk. This year's presenter was University Professor of Philosophy John McDowell, whose work in linking the analytic and humanistic strains of philosophy has made him a major figure in contemporary scholarship.

"Having the works-in-progress lecture goes a long way in building a philosophy community here," says Standefer.

Matthew Boyle, one of three Pitt philosophy alumni now on the faculty at Harvard, says he first became attracted to Pitt while reading McDowell's work. Boyle, who received his doctorate from Pitt in 2005 and accepted a position as an assistant professor at Harvard, says his own work focuses on the role of the self-conscious in rational thought. For his dissertation, Boyle studied the philosophy of mind and the work of Immanuel Kant, both strengths of the department's faculty.

Once he arrived at Pitt, Boyle found a fertile milieu for philosophical thought. Conversations that began in seminars, on topics like ethics or the essence of knowledge, lasted well past the classroom. "The place seemed like a real community to me," says Boyle. "After night seminars, we'd often go out for a drink and continue the conversation. There was a lot of talk about philosophy in a communal way. It wasn't just a job that ended for people at 5 o'clock."

This kind of running dialogue between students and faculty is key in any intellectual enterprise, says Sasha Newton, a fifth-year PhD student in the program. "It's very difficult to do philosophy alone. You need counterarguments; you need other points of view. It's helpful to have

**"You've got to be able to ask a question other people won't ask, and find a productive way to pursue an answer. That's not the same thing as intellectual candlepower. You've got to be able to read something that hundreds of other people have read and think something no one else has thought about it. That's what we're looking for."**

—Robert Brandom



James V. Maher



Nicole Constable



In the quest to know why experiments are important to science, HPS professor Paolo Palmieri (center) and HPS doctoral students Eric Hatleback (left) and Elay Shech recreate Galileo's inclined plane experiment.

other people with different areas of expertise to talk to. In philosophy, you can't just specialize in one area. You need to know it all because it's all interconnected."

In addition to seminars and research, teaching is an important element in getting students ready to become faculty. Newton says teaching has helped her distill complicated subjects into concise lessons, a skill she will need once she joins a faculty. "I like the challenge of having to present things very clearly for beginners."

## The Job's Not Over Until Students Get Jobs

Once students complete their coursework, they move on to writing a dissertation prospectus. Brandom likens the prospectus to applying for a hunting license: "We ask, 'What kind of game are you going to be hunting? Where are you going to look for it? What makes you think it's going to be where you're looking? How will we know when you've bagged it?'"

The student's prospectus is so important because of its impact on the quality of the dissertation he or she will write, says Ruetsche. This, in turn, has a direct impact on students' job prospects

after graduate school.

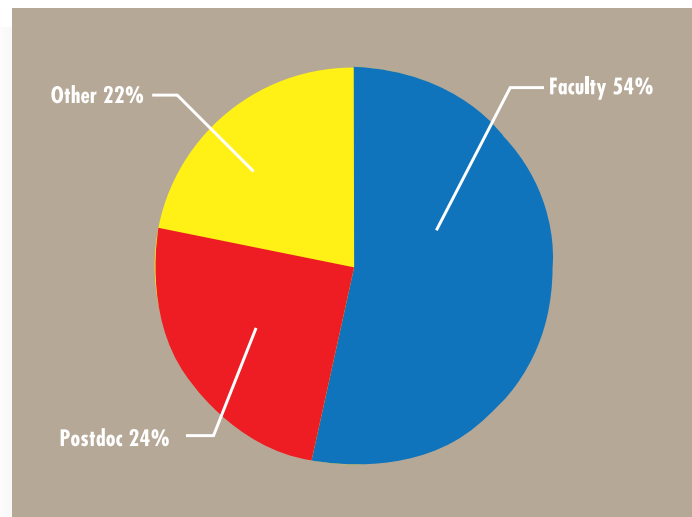
"In academia, people don't ask in a job interview about a paper you wrote for a seminar your second year in graduate school. They ask about your dissertation," Ruetsche says. "It's the credential that's most central to your appointment on a faculty."

As they finish their dissertations, students begin looking for a job. To support that effort, Pitt faculty put the students through mock interviews and mock job presentations. "The faculty's job isn't over until each student has a job," Brandom says.

For alums like Boyle, the intellectual

Continued on page 5

## Pitt's Placement of Recent PhDs





# The Next Great Thinkers

Continued from page 3

voyage launched at Pitt will last a lifetime. "My own feeling is that philosophy satisfies some fundamental human impulse. We're rational animals. We have this power to think about things, and philosophy is the purest expression of that power."

## Making the Scholarly Life

Most PhD programs at the University of Pittsburgh have the same recipe for success: highly competitive screening, rigorous training, access to great faculty thinkers and researchers, participation in an intellectual community, and detailed preparation for the academic job market. But it all starts with having great students.

As in the philosophy department, this approach is embodied in Pitt's Department of the History and Philosophy of Science's PhD program, which attracts some of the country's top young scholars.

When Bryan Roberts was deciding on a possible school for obtaining a PhD degree in philosophy of science, he knew Pitt's HPS department had an excellent reputation. It wasn't until his campus visit, though, that he knew he'd choose Pitt over the other schools on his shortlist, which included Oxford University.

"Everybody knows the department has a world-renowned faculty, but the thing that really convinced me, having visited different places, was the intellectual community. They were people I wanted to work with," says Roberts, who completed bachelor's degrees in math and philosophy at the University of Washington-Seattle and is now a second-year PhD student at Pitt. "Here you're surrounded by people thinking hard about really interesting questions."

HPS is regarded as one of the best of its kind in the English-speaking world, says Sandra Mitchell, chair of HPS. In 2006, the program had an unprecedented "10 for 10"—all 10 of its graduating students received either a tenure-track faculty position or a prestigious fellowship. "When you have 10 people on the market, getting all 10 into jobs is a dream. It's an acknowledgement of the quality of the students coming out of this program," says Mitchell. And like Pitt's philosophy department, HPS boasts some of the finest faculty in the field, not just names in a catalogue or on a Web site, but active participants in the intellectual life of the program.

Students also help each other, says Holly Andersen, a sixth-year HPS student who is writing a dissertation in the philosophy of science. During her first month in the program, Andersen participated in the student retreat at a nearby state park. Over bonfires and games of Frisbee®, the more senior students explained to the newcomers what would be expected of them, says Andersen. "It's nothing the upper-level students officially have to do, but it's very helpful having someone walking you through every step."

Andersen, who received a master's degree from The London School of Economics in philosophy of science before coming to Pitt, says the energy students bring to the program is palpable. "I've never had as stimulating and interesting conversations as I've had in this program," she says. "The day-to-day life of the philosopher is the life I've always wanted to live."

A good place to find these kinds of conversations is the weekly grad student lunch inside the Center for Philosophy of

Science on the eighth floor of the Cathedral of Learning, a kind of magnet for visiting scholars from around the world. Over cans of soda and sandwich plates, students and faculty chat about quantum mechanics, the possibility of time travel ("Actually, it's possible," as one student asserted at a recent lunch), and the role of probability in scientific reasoning.

## Setting the Bar High

HPS students in their third year must write two comprehensive papers in both the history and philosophy of science. Each paper must be given a pass from two professors. The goal is to simulate the publication process of peer-reviewed journals, but it's a process that evokes wincing from those who have gone through it.

"It can be brutal," says Jim Tabery, who received his PhD degree from Pitt last year. Tabery, whose dissertation focused on the 'nature vs. nurture' debate, eventually had both of his comprehensive papers published in peer-reviewed journals.

"I have this memory of my professors saying, 'What's your contribution to the field? How is it different from what other people have said?'" says Tabery. "I realize now they were pushing me for a reason, so that I would become not just an adequate philosopher of science, but someone whose writings other people in the field are expected to read."

'Comps' are probably the main reason

why some HPS students don't finish their degrees, says Mitchell. In the "publish or perish" world of academia, the process ensures each graduate of the program is ready for what lies ahead.

"Comprehensive exams are big hurdles," says Mitchell, whose own work focuses on the growing field of the philosophy of biology. "If they pass those, that's a training for what it's like to be in the profession. You need to show you have the ability to do independent work and that you can work through

an argument. It's better for them to find out sooner rather than later whether they have what it takes to make it in the profession."

Like their counterparts in the philosophy department, HPS students finishing their dissertations prepare to "hit the market" by participating in mock interviews and giving mock job talks.

"The practice interview is designed to be much more brutal than the actual job interview ever will be," says Tabery, who is now an assistant professor in the University of Utah's Department of Philosophy.

Tabery says he uses some of the same techniques that helped him land a position to prepare his students for entering the job market. "They're training you to look for a job from the time you walk in the door. Publishing papers and teaching courses puts

## Return on Investment

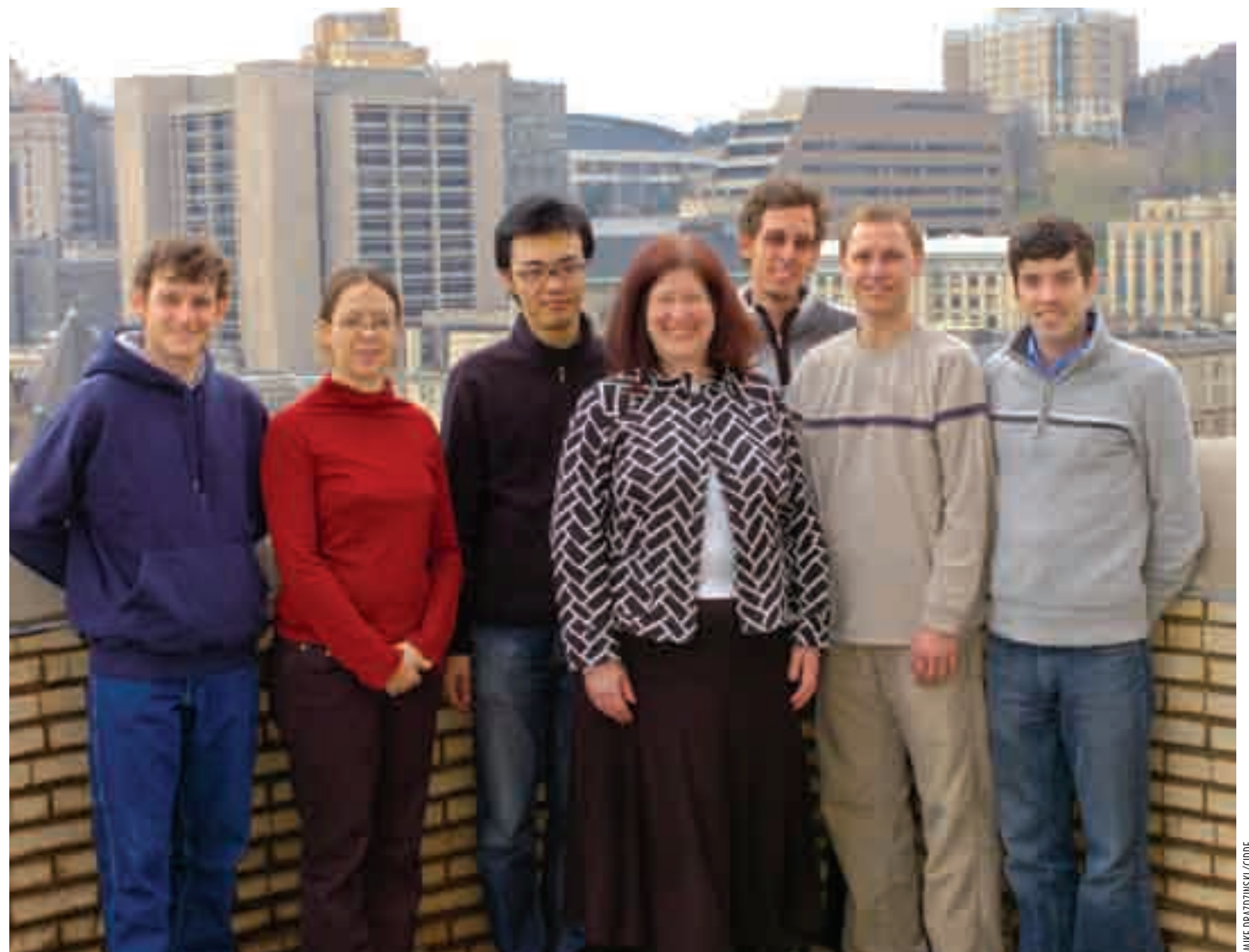
A Snapshot of Alumni From Pitt's Graduate and Professional Programs

- 3 Nobel Laureates
- 2 Fellows of the National Academy of Sciences
- 5 Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 7 Guggenheim Fellows
- 1 John Fritz Medal Awardee
- 75 Named University Professorships
- 15 Current and Former University Presidents
- 32 Current and Former University Deans

you in a position to hit the ground running when you're finished. By the time that sixth or seventh year rolls around, you're already doing what professional philosophers do."

Proof of the University's accomplishments in doctoral education lies in what alumni like Tabery and others do every day, says Maher. Pitt PhDs include a Nobel Laureate, Guggenheim fellows, members of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and dozens of university presidents, deans, and named professors.

"When we produce PhDs," Maher says, "we want them to generate the new ideas that will drive the contributions of that discipline or profession. These are people we're counting on to further human understanding."



HPS Department Chair Sandra Mitchell, (center) outside her Cathedral of Learning office, with a group of HPS doctoral students (from left): Jonathan Livengood, fourth year; Holly Andersen, sixth year; Yoichi Ishida, first year; Balazs Gyenis, fifth year; Eric Hatleback, third year; and Bryan Roberts, second year.



## Pitt-Greensburg Installs Sharon P. Smith as President



From left: Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher, UPG President Sharon P. Smith, and Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

Continued from page 1

At Princeton University, Smith was a Visiting Senior Research Economist in the Department of Economics and associate director of the Project on Faculty Retirement. Outside of academia, Smith was a senior economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. She is the coauthor of *Finding the Best Business School for You: Looking Past the Rankings* (Praeger Publishers, 2006) and *Faculty Retirement in the Arts and Sciences* (Princeton University Press, 1991).

In her inaugural address, Smith said higher education has three important responsibilities: investing in people, enriching lives, and informing citizens. Pitt-Greensburg meets those responsibilities by drawing on the resources of one of the world's great research universities while, at the same time, remaining small enough to give students unique opportunities.

"In meeting (the) challenges for the 21st century," Smith said, "Pitt-Greensburg has special strengths. It is a place where students are known and nurtured as individuals by their faculty. Students can open new windows and explore the panoramas they offer with the encouragement and support of faculty and staff. This environment can be transformational in its impact on everyone's lives—especially the students, but also the faculty and, indeed, all members of the University community."

Smith described a world where the pace of acquiring knowledge is accelerating and where success is linked to one's own skills. "This suggests a society dedicated to the idea of continuous learning and ready to reinvent itself to keep pace with change," she said. "Education is more important than ever

before to equip people for increasingly complex jobs at the beginning of their careers, but it is equally important to facilitate their lifelong learning as they maintain their employability."

As an institution committed to providing a liberal arts education, Smith said, Pitt-Greensburg also enriches the lives of its students by exposing them to "the breadth and depth of subjects—from archaeology to philosophy, from art to physics, from literature to mathematics—that expand their understanding of the world around them and awaken their imagination to what it might be."

As a liberal arts college, Smith said, Pitt-Greensburg is uniquely suited to provide just the sort of education that an ever-changing world requires. She quoted former Princeton University President Harold Shapiro, who said that "the philosophy of a liberal arts education presumes learning experiences that enable citizens to understand their inter-related social, moral, and professional responsibilities. ... A liberal education is directly connected to the nature of the society we wish to sustain. ... It is not simply what we teach, or even what our students learn, but what kind of persons they become that really matters."

Founded in 1963 as a two-year institution in downtown Greensburg, Pitt-Greensburg now offers to some 1,700 students 20 degree programs and 19 minors, in addition to numerous pre-professional programs. The campus' commitment to the academic experience of the student is evident in the 12 UPG faculty members who have received the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching.

**"Higher education has three important responsibilities: investing in people, enriching lives, and informing citizens. Pitt-Greensburg fulfills those roles by drawing on the resources of one of the world's great research universities while, at the same time, remaining small enough to give students individual attention and unique opportunities."**

—Sharon P. Smith

## Two Pitt Researchers to Get \$2.7 Million For Department of Defense Work

By Morgan Kelly

High-density electronics of the future and more effective diplomacy are among the possible outcomes of a combined \$2.7 million that two University of Pittsburgh researchers will receive as part of collaborative projects for the U.S. Department of Defense. The Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) program—which supports basic research of interest to the defense department—will devote \$200 million over the next five years to 34 multi-institutional projects, three of which involve Pitt.

Pitt professor Jeremy Levy in the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the School of Arts and Sciences was awarded \$1.1 million as part of a five-year, \$6.5 million project to investigate future applications of electron spin, which may allow for faster and less power-consuming information technology. Michael Lewis, a professor in the School of Information Sciences, will receive a total of nearly \$1.5 million for two MURI projects totaling \$13.75 million: One will evaluate the feasibility of a decentralized military communication system; another is meant to help military negotiators better cooperate with people of different cultures.

Levy will collaborate with researchers from four other universities to apply electron spin to organic semiconductors and other materials in an attempt to create devices that can store and transfer information with more density but by using less power. Electron spin—the interaction between spinning electrons and magnetic materials—is used in today's computer hard drives and allows highly sensitive sensors to probe the drive's minute magnetic domains. As a result, hard drives are smaller and maintain higher information density.

Levy and his colleagues want to extend these spin-based electronic effects in new ways and with new materials. Levy will use state-of-the-art optical and scanning probe techniques to investigate the properties of materials fabricated by his colleagues at the University of Iowa, the University of California at Berkeley, and New York University. Theoretical support will come from researchers at Iowa and the University of Missouri at Columbia.

Lewis will receive almost \$600,000 from MURI to create methods for observing how cultural differences influence negotiation. Lewis specializes in human interaction with and through computers and machines, including virtual environments, human error, negotiation, and e-commerce. His work for MURI is part of a \$6.25 million project to understand the dynamics of cooperation and negotiation—and the factors that lead to success or disaster. He will work with researchers from Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Michigan, Georgetown University, and the University of Southern California.

Lewis also will receive nearly \$1 million as part of a \$7.5 million project involving researchers from Carnegie Mellon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University, and George Mason University to study the benefits and pitfalls of a decentralized military information network.

The competitive MURI program received 104 proposals in 18 topics. The selected projects include 64 universities, which will receive a total of \$19.7 million in fiscal year 2008



Jeremy Levy



Michael Lewis

**The Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) program—which supports basic research of interest to the defense department—will devote \$200 million over the next five years to 34 multi-institutional projects, three of which involve Pitt.**



**Audrey Murrell received the inaugural Iris Marion Young Award** for Political Engagement on March 6 during a reception at the William Pitt Union. Murrell is a Pitt professor of business administration in the Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration. The award honors Iris Marion Young, a philosopher and social theorist of international renown, who was a professor in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) during the 1990s. She died of cancer in 2006. The award, intended to pay tribute to Young's work in promoting social justice and democracy, is sponsored by GSPIA and Pitt's Women's Studies Program. From left: David Miller, associate dean in GSPIA; Murrell; and Jean Ferguson Carr, director of the Women's Studies Program.



# Happenings

## Concerts

**Tangueros de Ley**, Pittsburgh-based Tango ensemble, 7 p.m. **today**, Pitt-Johnstown Student Union, Cambria Room, 814-269-7133, [www.upj.pitt.edu/](http://www.upj.pitt.edu/).

**Sublime Melodies**, Jurai Valcuha, conductor; Gil Shaham, violin, **April 11-13**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-392-4900, [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org).

## Exhibitions

**KOA Art Gallery**, *Affairs of the Art 2008*, through **April 11**, Blaisdell Hall, Pitt-Bradford, 814-362-0248, [www.upb.pitt.edu](http://www.upb.pitt.edu).

**University Art Gallery**, *Studio Arts Student Exhibition*, through **April 27**, Frick Fine Arts Building, Pitt's Department of Studio Arts, 412-648-2430.

**Carnegie Museum of Art**, *Great British Art: 200 Years of Watercolors, Drawings, and Prints From the Bank of New York Mellon Collection*, through **May 18**; *Ecology. Design. Synergy.*, through **June 1**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org).

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**"Ask For It: How Women Can Use the Power of Negotiation to Get What They Want,"** Linda Babcock, professor of economics at Carnegie Mellon University, 5:30 p.m. **today**, Room 103 Margaret Morrison Breed Hall, 5134 Margaret Morrison St., Oakland, Pitt's Women's Studies Program and Carnegie Mellon University.

**"The Experiences of Black Fathers With Low Incomes,"** Ronald Mincy, professor of social policy and social work practice in Columbia University's School of Social Work, noon **April 8**, 2017 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems' Reed Smith Fall 2008 Speaker Series, 412-624-7382.

**"Bell-type Correlations: The Hidden Causal Picture Re-assessed,"** Soazig Le Bihan, Illinois Institute of Technol-



**The Big Bang, Theater Square Cabaret, through April 27**

ogy Department of Humanities, 12:05 p.m. **April 8**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Center for Philosophy of Science Luncheon Colloquium, [www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr/](http://www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr/), 412-624-1052.

**"Climbing Atop the Shoulders of Giants: The Impact of Institutions on Cumulative Research,"** Jeffrey Furman, Boston University economist, 3:30 p.m. **April 8**, Room 4716 Posvar Hall, Pitt/Carnegie Mellon University Applied Microeconomics Lecture, sponsored by the Center for Industry Studies in Pitt's Department of Economics, 412-648-1765.

**"The Performative Politics of Gender and Political Violence: Women of 'Shivaji's Army' in Maharashtra, India,"** Tarini Bedi, doctoral candidate in the University of Illinois at Chicago's Department of Anthropology, noon **April 9**, 2628 Cathedral of Learning, [www.religiousstudies.pitt.edu/events/](http://www.religiousstudies.pitt.edu/events/).

**"Promoting a Developmental Perspective in Social Work: Lessons from the Global South,"** James Midgeley, University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare, noon **April 9**, 2017 Cathedral of Learning, 2007-08 Speaker Series, 412-624-6304, [www.socialwork.pitt.edu/](http://www.socialwork.pitt.edu/).

**"Making Movies in the 21st Century,"** Diane Crespo, film director and producer, 1 p.m. **April 9**, 205 David Lawrence Hall, Jewish-Israeli Film Festival, [padunov@pitt.edu](http://padunov@pitt.edu) or [jrf16@pitt.edu](http://jrf16@pitt.edu).

**"The Magic of Art and Writings in Ancient Egypt,"** Lanny Bell, professor in Brown University's Department of Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies, 4:30 p.m. **April 9**, 363 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Department of Classics, [www.classics.pitt.edu/index.php](http://www.classics.pitt.edu/index.php).

**"When One Door Opens, Another Closes: Immigration's Impact on Japanese Educational Policy,"** Ellen Motohashi, a fellow in Pitt's School of Education, noon **April 10**, 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, 412-648-7763, [www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/news/overlunch.html](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/news/overlunch.html).

**"Bringing Human Rights Home,"** Deborah LaBelle, attorney, author and advocate for prisoners' rights, noon to 2 p.m. **April 10**, Barco Law Building's Teplitz Memorial Courtroom, lecture is followed by panel discussion, the Annual Norman J. and Alice Chapman Rubash Distinguished Lecture in Law and Social Work, [www.law.pitt.edu/newsevents](http://www.law.pitt.edu/newsevents).

**"Overcoming Nuclear Danger in US Policy: The Citizen Role,"** David Cortright, president of the Fourth Freedom Forum, 7 p.m. **April 10**, 343 Alumni Hall, Stanley Foundation, Physicians for Social Responsibility, [www.stanleyfoundation.org/Pittsburgh/Pittsburgh.html](http://www.stanleyfoundation.org/Pittsburgh/Pittsburgh.html).

**"Trusting the Media in a Presidential Year: Can We or Can We Not—A Look at Freedom of the Press in the Digital Age,"** Everett E. Dennis, the Felix E. Larkin Distinguished Professor in Fordham University's Graduate School of Business, 7 p.m. **April 10**, Pitt-Greensburg, Ferguson Theater, Dr. Bernard Cobetto Lecture Series, 724-836-7741.

**"Learning in Dynamic Environments,"** Coty Gonzalez, associate research professor in the Department of Social and Decision Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University, noon **April 11**, Lecture Room Three on fourth floor, Scaife Hall, Medical Education Grand Rounds, Office of the Vice Dean, School of Medicine, 412-648-9000, [www.megr.pitt.edu](http://www.megr.pitt.edu).

**"Remarks on the Reality of Time in Physics and Cosmology,"** Lee Smolin, University of Waterloo, Department of Physics and Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, 3:30 p.m. **April 11**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Department of History and Philosophy of Science annual lecture series, 412-624-1052.

**"The Commentariolum Petitionis as an Attack on Election Campaigns in the Roman Republic,"** Michael C.

Alexander, history professor, University of Illinois, Chicago, 4 p.m. **April 11**, 244B Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Department of Classics, [www.classics.pitt.edu/index.php](http://www.classics.pitt.edu/index.php).

## Miscellaneous

**God Grew Tired of Us**, film screening about Sudan's "Lost Boys," followed by discussion with two "Lost Boys" featured in the film, 7 p.m. **today**, Pitt-Greensburg Village Hall, [www.upg.pitt.edu](http://www.upg.pitt.edu).

**"Narco-Epics Unbound: New Narrative Territories, Affective Aesthetics, and Ethical Paradox,"** Pitt's Fifth International Latin American Cultural Studies Conference, **April 4-5**, panels held in Pittsburgh Athletic Association's main dining room, films shown in Frick Fine Arts Building Auditorium, sponsored by Pitt Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures and others, schedule available at [www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/events.shtml](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/events.shtml).

**Stringtime in Pittsburgh**, string theory workshop, 10 a.m. **April 8**, 817R Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Center for Philosophy of Science, [peg1@pitt.edu](mailto:peg1@pitt.edu), [www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr/](http://www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr/), 412-624-1052.

**"Grants Over Lunch,"** noon to 1:30 p.m. **April 8**, Room S100 Biomedical Science Tower 2, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3719, [www.survival.pitt.edu](http://www.survival.pitt.edu).

**Two Million Minutes**, a film documentary about U.S. education by Broken Pencil Production, 2:30 p.m. **April 8**, 5604 Posvar Hall; a reception follows the screening, Pitt Learning Policy Institute, [www.learningpolicycenter.org](http://www.learningpolicycenter.org); 412-624-7050.

**"Celebrating the Outstanding Achievements of Women Faculty in Medicine & Science,"** 4-6 p.m. **April 10**, S100 Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower, Women in Medicine & Science 2008 Annual Reception, Pitt Office of Academic Career Development, Health Sciences, [www.oacd.health.pitt.edu](http://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu).

**Barbie Nation**, (1988, Susan Stern), discussant is Frayda Cohen, visiting professor of women's studies, 7:30 p.m. **April 10**, Room G24 Cathedral of Learning, Women's Studies Film Series, Pitt's Women's Studies Program, [www.pitt.edu/~wstudies/](http://www.pitt.edu/~wstudies/).

**Second Annual Arts & Crap Fair**, to raise funds for *The Original* student

magazine and other student organizations, noon to 5 p.m. **April 11**, Schenley Quadrangle, sponsored by *The Original*, 412-979-4549, [sorc+originalmag@pitt.edu](mailto:sorc+originalmag@pitt.edu).

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**Big Love** by playwright Charles Mee, through **April 13**, Henry Heymann Theatre, Stephen Foster Memorial, University of Pittsburgh Repertory Theater, 412-624-7529, [www.play.pitt.edu](http://www.play.pitt.edu).

**Late Night Catechism**, through **April 20**, City Theatre's Hamburg Studio, 1300 Bingham St, South Side, 412-431-2489, [www.citytheatrecompany.org](http://www.citytheatrecompany.org).

**The Big Bang**, through **April 27**, Theater Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, CLO Cabaret Theater, 412-281-2822, [www.clocabaret.com](http://www.clocabaret.com).

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Veronica Garibotto**, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, "Contornos en Negativo: Reescrituras Posdictatoriales del Siglo XIX (Argentina, Chile y Uruguay)," 11 a.m. **April 10**, 1528 Cathedral of Learning.

**Bonghee Kim**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, "Service Provision in the United States Government Structure and Expenditure: A Study of Single County Metropolitan Areas," 3 p.m. **April 10**, 3200 Posvar Hall.

**Katherine Floros**, Department of Political Science, "Of, by, and for the People? How Demographic Pressure Affects Participation in Inter- and Intra-state Conflict," 11 a.m. **April 11**, 4606 Posvar Hall.

**Mohammed El-Kurdi**, Swanson School's Department of Bioengineering, "In Situ Bioengineering of Arterial Vein Grafts," 12:30 p.m. **April 11**, Conference Room A, Second-Floor Bridgeside Point Building.

**Gisela Gonzalez-Dieter**, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, "Entre la Habana y la Sabana: Límites de la Topografía Cultural Dentro de la Revolución Cubana Como un Evento Regido por la Modernidad," 2 p.m. **April 14**, 1309A Cathedral of Learning.

# Awards & More

**Pitt Magazine** won seven awards at the 2008 Mercury International Awards ceremony on March 13 in New York City.

The publication won four Gold awards—two in the category of University Magazines for best magazine and best writing, one for International Feature Writing, and one for Health Feature Writing. The magazine's core staff includes Cindy Gill, editor in chief; Gary Cravener, art director; Cara J. Hayden, senior editor; and Ervin Dyer, senior editor. The stories that won feature writing awards were "Beyond Aftermath" by Gill and "The Weight of Change" by former staffer Bo Schwerin.

The magazine also won a Bronze award in the Byline Feature Writing category for Gill's piece, "On the Edge," along with Honors for overall Magazines and for Schwerin's story, "Next Question?" in the Science Feature Writing category.



Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill attended the Mercury International Awards ceremony in New York with his daughter, Rochelle Hill, a New York public relations executive with Carol H. Williams Advertising.

Robert Hill, Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs, attended the ceremony at the Ritz-Carlton Battery Park Hotel and received the awards on the magazine's behalf.

The annual award, named for the Roman god who was the messenger of the other gods, was created in 1987 by MerComm Inc., based in Ossining, N.Y., to promote excellence in the communications fields. Nearly 1,000 entries were submitted from 23 countries.

Several faculty and staff within Pitt's schools of the health sciences have won awards and been admitted to professional associations.

**Tao Cheng**, a professor in the School of Medicine's biochemistry and molecular genetics program, was selected to receive the Scholar Award from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The award consists of \$550,000 over five years and is given to highly qualified investigators who have shown a capacity for independent, sustained original investigation in the field of leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

**Liza Villanueva** recently was selected to become a member of the Association of University Cardiologists (AUC). Villanueva is a professor of medicine in the School of Medicine, director of noninvasive cardiac imaging at the UPMC Cardiovascular Institute, and director of the Center for Ultrasound Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics. Founded in 1961, the AUC is an organization with an active membership limited

to 125 peer-elected academic cardiologists from the United States. The members are among the leaders in the field and shape the course of research and training in cardiovascular disease in this country.

**James Menegazzi**, research professor of emergency medicine in Pitt's medical school, recently won two awards from the National Association of EMS Physicians: Best Scientific Presentation and Best Cardiac Arrest Presentation. In addition, **Jon Rittenberger**, research fellow instructor of emergency medicine at the medical school, won the Best Fellow Presentation. The awards were presented at the organization's annual meeting held recently in Phoenix.

**Marcus Rediker**, a Pitt professor of history, has been selected the 2008 Merle Curti Award winner for *The Slave Ship: A Human History* (Viking Penguin, 2007) by the Organization of American Historians (OAH).

The award, which was presented March 29 in New York City, is given annually for the best book published on American social, intellectual, or cultural

history.

In *The Slave Ship*, Rediker said he set out to describe "what it meant to live in a wooden world." According to Rediker, what had happened on the slave ship influenced what resulted on land. "It was a social and cultural process that changed people," he explained. "And the repercussions from that process still resonate today."

At Pitt since 1994, Rediker is the author of several books, including *Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age* (Beacon Press/Verso, 2004); *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic* (Beacon Press/Verso, 2000); and *Who Built America? Working People and the Nation's Economy, Politics, Culture, and Society, Volume 1* (Pantheon Books, 1989).



Marcus Rediker

Founded in 1907, OAH is the largest learned society and professional organization dedicated to the teaching and study of the American past.





# Nordenberg-led Panel Reports on Local Government Efficiency



MARY JANE BENT/CODE

From left: Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato, and City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

By Maddy Ross

The Citizens Advisory Committee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of City-County Government—created by Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato and City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl in October 2006—released its report, making three recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government and to promote regional growth in a highly competitive and fast-moving global economy.

The report, released April 3 at an on-campus news conference, is titled “Government for Growth: Forging a Bright Future—Built on Unity, Efficiency, Equity, and Equality—for the People of Allegheny

County and the City of Pittsburgh.”

In it, the Citizens Advisory Committee, chaired by University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, calls for intensified efforts by city and county leadership to pursue cooperative ventures, the formalization of the current commitment to cooperate through a “cooperation compact,” and an early opportunity for city and county residents to vote on the desirability of consolidating the two governments.

Successful cooperative initiatives already undertaken by Mayor Ravenstahl and County Chief Executive Onorato, their appointment of the advisory committee on cooperation, and the rich body of other

recent work—such as the reports of the ComPAC 21 and the Competitive Pittsburgh committees—make this an opportune time to forge further progress in city-county efficiency and effectiveness, Nordenberg said in his opening message of the report.

Particularly given the fiscal challenges faced by both the city and the county, the report embraced the ComPAC21 goal of “zero tolerance for service duplication.” The region’s troubling economic trajectory—characterized by substantial population losses, low job growth, and average wages that significantly trail those paid in benchmarked communities—also led the committee to stress the benefits of unified leadership and a common vision for the future.

But, the report cautions, in order to promote equity and equality in the implementation of the recommendations, deliberate consideration must be given to the continuing needs of the urban center, the assurance of adequate minority representation, the equitable treatment of current city and county employees, and the continuing segregation of legacy debt.

The 13 members of the Citizens Advisory Committee met on a twice-monthly basis, solicited presentations from more than 40 individuals with relevant expertise, went on a fact-finding mission to the consolidated

Particularly given the fiscal challenges faced by both the city and the county, the report embraced the ComPAC21 goal of “zero tolerance for service duplication.”

“Metro Louisville” region, and commissioned a RAND study on economic development. While the committee was created by the county chief executive and the mayor, it deliberated and reached conclusions independent of them. All expenses of the committee’s work were paid by local foundations.

The report notes that the advisory committee’s recommendations are “offered pragmatically—as achievable steps that can facilitate higher levels of efficiency and effectiveness in local government, while promoting regional unity in an increasingly competitive world....”

The entire report may be read at [www.pitt.edu/news/citycountyreport.pdf](http://www.pitt.edu/news/citycountyreport.pdf).

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published April 14. **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](mailto: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](mailto:robinet@pitt.edu).