

Pitt Chronicle

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Strengthening the Ties

Russian President Medvedev Visits Pitt, Discusses Changes in U.S.-Russian Relations—And Talks a Little Bit About Himself, Too



PHOTO BY JOE KAPELEVICH/CODE

Russian President Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev and Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's visit last week to the University of Pittsburgh was in keeping with Pittsburgh and Pitt's long history with Russia. Medvedev took a break from his G-20 Pittsburgh Summit duties on Sept. 25 to visit the Cathedral of Learning's Commons Room for a late afternoon question-and-answer session with an audience composed predominantly of Pitt students that also included Pitt faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni, as well as a flock of Russian and American reporters.

Medvedev also visited the Cathedral's Russian Nationality Room, dedicated in 1938, which pays tribute to the presence of Russian émigrés who came to Pittsburgh, bringing their culture and traditions with them. Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, during his introduction of the Russian president, said that today Pitt promotes and preserves Russian culture through the University's Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and student exchange programs. "We hope to elevate that sense of connection to newer heights as we listen to and learn from President Medvedev," Nordenberg said.

Medvedev also visited the Cathedral's Russian Nationality Room, dedicated in 1938, which pays tribute to the presence of Russian émigrés who came to Pittsburgh, bringing their culture and traditions with them.

Medvedev addressed the estimated 300-plus people gathered in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. But before he began the question-and-answer session, he made reference to former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's 1959 tour of the United States and his visit to Pitt's Schenley Hall ballroom (now the William Pitt Union).

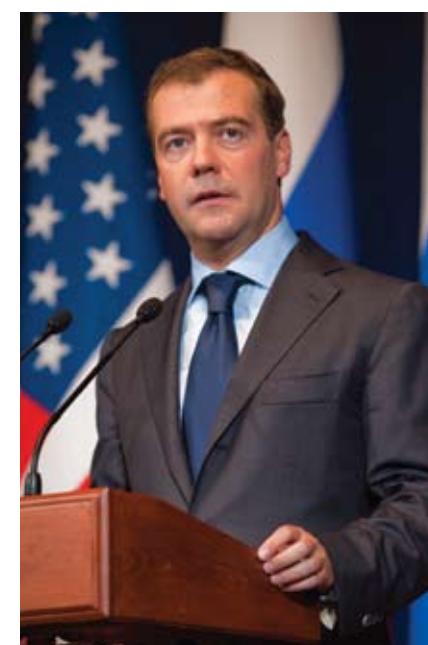
"It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to share with you my vision of events past and present in Russia, Russian-American relations, the global challenges, and problems that we all face ... It is particularly interesting to know that exactly 50 years ago, one of the Soviet leaders visited this very place. I cannot say that we are close politically, or that I share his views, but it is interesting whatever the case to note this coincidence. Nothing is ever completely coincidence, after all," Medvedev said.

"I hope, too, that you will not ask me the same questions as were put to Nikita Khrushchev 50 years ago, because life has gone on, and we have all changed since then. Actually, I can't say that I have changed since then because I was not even born 50 years ago, but there is no question that our countries have undergone great change

since then. We are no longer divided by the barriers of ideology and values that existed then. We share practically the same views on global development issues and respond in the same way to problems at home."

"There are no doubt issues that arouse in us different emotions, things on which we do not see eye-to-eye, but this is good, too, for this is one of the driving forces that has been helping humanity to develop over thousands of years. We are all different, and this is good. At the same time, we share common values, and this is also good."

Medvedev then took unscripted questions from the students in the audience—ranging from those who sought his advice to college students, to those who pressed him on Russia's relations with some of its neighbors. (Nordenberg noted that the president, a one-time instructor at St. Petersburg State University, had declined a moderator, preferring personal exchanges.)



Dmitry Medvedev

As the son of a professor and a former teacher, Medvedev, when asked what advice the president of a major country can offer Pitt students, told them to relish their years in academia.

"I have had all sorts of experiences in my life: I was a graduate student, a teacher, a lawyer, I worked in business, became a civil servant, worked in the government," he said. "Now I am president of a large country, but I can tell you that those years when I was a law student were the happiest years of my life. It [your time in college]

is also an important foundation for your future lives and should motivate you to seek learning every single day. So, my advice to you is to treasure this time. I envy you."

A transcript of the question-and-answer session with President Medvedev is available on the Kremlin Web site at eng.kremlin.ru/speeches/2009/09/25/1932_type84779_221858.shtml.

An American Homecoming

EU Commission President Barroso Returns To Pitt for Honorary Degree, Luncheon



MARY JANE BENT/CIDE

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (left), European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, and Alberta Sbragia (right), director of Pitt's European Union Center of Excellence, the Jean Monnet Professor *ad personam*, and Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair.

By Jane-Ellen Robinet

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg conferred an honorary doctoral degree in public and international affairs upon José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission of the European Union (EU), during a Sept. 24 by-invitation-only luncheon event in Alumni Hall's J.W. Connolly Ballroom.

Barroso was in Pittsburgh to represent the EU during the Sept. 24-25 global G-20 Summit, and his visit to the University was a homecoming of sorts. He first visited Pitt on Feb. 10, 2006, when he toured the University's European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center and gave a lecture that attracted a standing-room-only audience.

The EU leader's affection for the University and Pittsburgh was apparent. "Pittsburgh has been transformed by stressing the importance of new technologies, particularly information technology; medical research; biotechnology; nanotechnology; and robotics. The University, led with great skill and vision by Chancellor Nordenberg, has played a vital role in that effort, positioning Pittsburgh to capitalize on the knowledge societies of the future," Barroso said.

Barroso also praised Pitt's European Union Center of Excellence and its director, Alberta Sbragia, the Jean Monnet Professor *ad personam* and Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair. "In 1998, the University of Pittsburgh won a highly competitive award to found what is now the European Union Center of Excellence. The director of the center, Professor Alberta Sbragia, is one of the most-respected scholars of the EU in the world. She has built a remarkable program that plays a leading role among the broader network of Centers of Excellence in the United States," Barroso said.

On the global front, the EU Commission head told the audience that he wanted to talk "about the need to build more bridges between Europe and the United States. And where better to do that than in 'the City of Bridges' itself?"

"Pittsburgh has been transformed by stressing the importance of new technologies, particularly information technology, medical research, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and robotics. The University, led with great skill and vision by Chancellor Nordenberg, has played a vital role in that effort, positioning Pittsburgh to capitalize on the knowledge societies of the future."

—José Manuel Barroso

After graduating in law from the University of Lisbon, Barroso earned a diploma in European Studies and a master's degree in political science at the University of Geneva. As a distinguished academic, he lectured in political science at the University of Geneva, was a visiting professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and was head of the International Relations Department of Lusida University. In 1985, he entered the Portuguese Parliament and rose quickly

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ALEXANDER DEMARSH

From left, *Newsweek* Senior Editor Howard Fineman, Carnegie Mellon University President Jared L. Cohon, University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, and UPMC CEO Jeffrey A. Romoff.

"We really are in it together."

Pitt, CMU, UPMC CEOs Discuss Pittsburgh Region's "Eds and Meds" Economy

By Jane-Ellen Robinet

With a huge photograph of Pittsburgh's skyline as a stage backdrop, University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Carnegie Mellon University President Jared L. Cohon, and UPMC CEO Jeffrey A. Romoff discussed the Pittsburgh region's continuing transformation from a steel-based economy to one built on education and medicine.

The Sept. 21 panel discussion in the ballroom of Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall launched a week of foreign heads-of-state and delegation visits with related activities in Oakland that culminated in the Sept. 24-25 global G-20 Summit held Downtown. *Newsweek* Senior Editor and Pittsburgh native Howard Fineman moderated the 45-minute panel, which was attended by U.S. and foreign journalists. Also present were representatives from 20 local companies, all spin-offs of research conducted at Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, and UPMC; they were exhibiting their products at tables lining the room's perimeter.

Fineman began the program by saying that he loves Pittsburgh and that even with his skeptical reporter's hat on, "Pittsburgh has a story that needs to be known."

"My grandmother and mother would shop Downtown when my mother was a girl, and they would take a change of blouses and a washcloth because the pollution from the open-hearth steel mills was so intense they couldn't get through the day and stay clean. That was the Pittsburgh of the '20s and '30s, and that was a Pittsburgh that existed until the 1980s. That city is *gone*. And what has replaced it is a new city based on the economies of the future," Fineman added.

Nordenberg, Cohon, and Romoff discussed their institutions' respective contributions to the region, including the rapid rise of Pitt to a Top 5 ranking in terms of federal funding to its faculty researchers from the National Institutes of Health.

But it was Nordenberg who directly addressed how the three institutions coop-

erate with one another for the betterment of the region.

"In 2000, our Board of Trustees issued a public statement that we would demonstrate that the University of Pittsburgh was one of the finest, most productive universities in the world. That has been our goal ever since. ... But we really don't think of ourselves as detached, particularly from the institutions represented on the other sides of me [today]. When you look at Jeff [Romoff], Jerry [Cohon], and me, you probably would not find three guys who are more competitive. But we are good collaborators, and we know that in this age you

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The World Comes to Oakland

By Jane-Ellen Robinet and Sharon S. Blake

The G-20 Pittsburgh Summit brought heads of state and other dignitaries to Pitt's campus, as well as numerous journalists. And while the Downtown streets surrounding the David L. Lawrence Convention Center were ghostly quiet because of a Secret Service-imposed security perimeter, the streets of Oakland were bustling. A few scenes follow.

The Old Incorporates the New

Dressed in blue jeans and sporting a hip thin-brimmed hat, Tommy Yoo seemed an unlikely person to be featured in a Korean festival. Surrounded by Korean men and women wearing brightly colored native dress, the 25-year-old Korean man stood near an opening in the crowd and then broke into dance—a break-dance, to be precise.

Yoo kicked up his heels and held his taut body aloft in a one-arm handstand. Then, he collapsed effortlessly into a roll onto the hard, large gray stone floor of the Cathedral of Learning's Commons Room. Without missing a beat, he contorted his body so it rose back up into the air feet first and used his head to spin around and around.

"Welcome, Korea, to the Pittsburgh Summit," read a banner above an arched doorway in the Commons Room, which was the site of the Sept. 20 Korean Festival, sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms Program, the Korean Heritage Room Committee, and the region's Korean community.

Food was in abundance during the festival, and the buffet featured such traditional favorites as *kimchi* (spicy cabbage seasoned with Korean red pepper) and *bool go gi* (sliced beef and vegetables seasoned with sweet Korean soy sauce).

Break dancing was just one of the acts in the entertainment lineup. Others included demonstrations of *tae kwon do* (Korean martial arts) and a Korean traditional wedding ceremony, as well as choirs of children and women.

As for Yoo, who piled his plate high with Korean specialties during a break, the afternoon was an opportunity to work on his burgeoning career as a disc jockey, hip-hop dance teacher, and performer. Does he hurt after using his head to spin around on the Commons Room floor? "Well, you have to know [the pain] is coming. I'm used to it now. We [break-dancers] stretch a lot before going to bed."

A few minutes later, Yoo quietly sauntered out of the Commons Room. No doubt, he would have some stretching to do later that evening.

Prominent Footsteps of Her Own

The G-20 Summit brought Sharon Epperson back to her childhood playground—and to the academic stomping grounds of her father, David E. Epperson (A&S '61, '70, '75G, SOC WK '64), who was dean of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work from 1972 to 2001. Sharon Epperson's mother, Cecilia Trower Epperson (BS '57, MS '62), is also a Pitt alumna.



European Commission President Barroso addresses a luncheon in Alumni Hall

While Pitt's campus was her father's home away from home, Sharon Epperson said she remembers growing up and spending many childhood days on Pitt's campus.

As a correspondent for CNBC-TV, Sharon Epperson covers the global energy and commodities markets daily from the floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange and also covers personal finance. She graduated *cum laude* from Harvard University and also received a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University. Epperson was in town last week to cover the summit, and she visited Pitt on Sept. 21 to participate in a media panel organized by Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration.

How did it feel to be back in Pittsburgh with the city in the world's limelight? "When I first heard that Pittsburgh was selected to host the summit, I wondered if it was ready. But having been here over the past two days, I now know it's ready. We've been through many crises and have survived. It's great to be here," she said during a pre-panel reception in the University Club's Fraternity Grill.

About 100 students, alumni, and visitors attended the media panel, which also featured Jeffrey Ballou, deputy news editor of *Al Jazeera English*; Kevin Carmichael, economics reporter for Toronto's *The Globe and Mail*; and Dan Simpson, an associate editor at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. The event was part of Katz's monthlong celebration of the G-20 member countries, with spotlights and forums on the role of the G-20 in the global economy.

To hear Epperson's report on the Summit, visit <http://www.cnbc.com/id/15840232?video=1275098785&play=1>.

BST 3 Opens Its Doors

German journalist Adrienne Woltersdorf said she was happy to be in Pittsburgh covering the G-20 Summit. As the Washington bureau chief for the Berlin-based *Die Tageszeitung*, Woltersdorf has friends in Pittsburgh and said she has visited many

during a by-invitation-only luncheon in Alumni Hall's J.W. Connolly Ballroom. Reporters, who were seated around the room's perimeter, had been told that Pitt would provide box lunches for them. The food was available in an upstairs lounge before and after the event, but no eating was allowed in the ballroom. So while the estimated 250 guests enjoyed their sit-down lunch, assembled journalists remained in their seats waiting for Barroso's speech to begin. More than one reporter could be overheard commenting about text messages they were receiving from their editors during the pause in activity: "What's happening now? What's going on?" several editors texted their reporters. "They're eating, they're eating," was the newsy reply.

A High-tech Exchange

One corner of the 72-year-old Cathedral of Learning's Commons Room became decidedly high-tech during a Sept. 24 address given by Russian President Dmitry A. Medvedev. Local, national, and foreign journalists and Russian delegation members joined about 300 invited Pitt faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and students for the talk. And just adjacent to a riser upon which more than a dozen videographers were clustered sat two professional interpreters.

The man and woman, seated inside a small soundproof booth with windows, used Bosch DCN interpreter consoles to translate simultaneously—United Nations-style—Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg's introduction into Russian, Medvedev's remarks into English, and the students' questions into either Russian or English, depending on the language in which the question was asked. All the attendees received small headsets that allowed them to switch between English and Russian.

A team from the Arlington, Virginia-based ASET International Services LLC sat just below the booth, using laptops to monitor the process to ensure the two interpreters were on the correct channels. The half-million dollars worth of equipment, which took eight hours to install, had been used the previous night during a United Nations dinner in New York.

The interpreters in the booth would nod when it was time for one to relieve the other, which happened every 15 to 20 minutes.

"Simultaneous interpretation is grueling," noted Anne Renaldi, ASET's deputy director of conference services. "Interpreters have to listen to the source language, mentally translate, and speak in the target language simultaneously."



Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg shakes hands with Medvedev in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning.



Sharon Epperson



Adrienne Woltersdorf

JOE APFELSKI/CODDE

JIM BURKE/CODE

Lagasse, Banerjee Get \$5.1 Million From NIH to Explore Better Ways to Grow Cells for Regenerative Medicine

By Morgan Kelly

Regenerative medicine researchers at the University of Pittsburgh received two grants totaling more than \$5.1 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to explore new methods for cultivating replacement cells from existing tissues and organs.

A \$2.9 million, five-year Transformative R01 (T-R01) grant presented to Eric Lagasse, a professor of pathology in Pitt's School of Medicine and a researcher in Pitt and UPMC's jointly operated McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, will support the development of a novel concept: using the body's many lymph nodes as sites for growing replacement cells for other tissues and organs, in essence using them as bioreactors to grow cells within the living body. Ipsita Banerjee, a professor of chemical and petroleum engineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering and a McGowan faculty member, received a \$2.2 million, five-year New Innovator award to unravel how embryonic stem cells develop into mature cells and possible techniques for influencing their growth to suit specific organs.

The grants were presented as part of the 2009 NIH Director's High-Risk Research Awards, a cluster of five-year grants presented to researchers exploring ideas with the potential to advance their fields and medical treatment. On Sept. 24, the NIH announced 115 awards totaling \$348 million, including 42 T-R01 Awards, 18 Pioneer Awards, and 55 New Innovator Awards for early-stage investigators. This marks the inaugural year for the T-R01 grants—which support innovative and high-risk projects that could profoundly impact biomedical research and medical treatment—and also is a record year for the number of New Innovator and Pioneer Awards bestowed. Fellow New Innovator and T-R01 recipients include researchers from the Cleveland Clinic, Columbia University, Duke University, Harvard University, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Stanford University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Lagasse's work focuses on lymph nodes, which are important in responses to bacterial and viral infection and are found throughout the body. Even spread out, the total mass of the nodes makes them a feasible place

to grow liver cells, for example, which must also be available in abundance and with ample blood flow to provide life-sustaining hepatic function, Lagasse said. His team will explore growing liver and other tissues in such "ectopic" sites, meaning outside of where they would normally reside. The same principle of using lymph nodes as a site for ectopic cell factories might work for replacing pancreas cells that make insulin for patients with diabetes or immune system T-cells for patients who have AIDS and other diseases of immunologic impairment.

"Our regenerative medicine approach for healing damaged tissues and organs might not have moved forward without this new grant concept," Lagasse noted. "This funding supports assessment and rapid translation from the bench to the bedside of nontraditional treatments."

Banerjee will investigate the process through which embryonic stem cells become mature, organ-specific cells and how scientists can control that development. Using a bottom-up approach, Banerjee will cultivate stem cells into pancreatic cells, noting molecular-level information that could be integrated into dictating cell development, such as the influence of environmental factors and gene and protein networks.

"I want to take a completely different approach to addressing the complex process of cell development, which will potentially advance our understanding of regenerative medicine and stem cell bioengineering as a whole," Banerjee said.

Two Pitt researchers have received NIH Director's awards in the past. In 2007, Eva Szigethy, of the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and an assistant professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at Pitt, received a New Innovators grant to use inflammatory bowel disease as a model for investigating the interactions between the brain, gut, and immune system in determining how adolescents cope with chronic illness.

The following year, Barry London, a Pitt professor of medicine, was presented with a Pioneer Award to develop new techniques to image electrical activity of the heart and identify those at risk of sudden cardiac death.

More information on the 2009 NIH Director's Awards is available on the NIH Web site at www.nih.gov/news/health/sept2009/od-24.htm.



Eric Lagasse



Ipsita Banerjee

Fellow recipients include researchers from the Cleveland Clinic, Columbia University, Duke University, Harvard University, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Stanford University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Pitt, CMU, UPMC CEOs Discuss Pittsburgh Region's "Eds and Meds" Economy



MARY JANE BENT/CODDE

Pitt engineering professor Kent Harries in his bamboo lab, part of the Pitt "green" tour

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Following the discussion, reporters were taken on several cutting-edge technology and research tours on the campuses of Carnegie Mellon, Pitt, and UPMC.

really need to define competition in a different way. We really are in it together," Nordenberg said. The Pitt chancellor then recalled that when Cohon came to Pittsburgh 10 years ago, he and the new Carnegie Mellon president met and they talked about how the two universities were sitting "side

by side—one public, one private, one large,

one mid-sized—with really complementary academic strengths. And we thought that

there was really only one other place in the

country—Cambridge, Mass.—where you

could find the total academic firepower that

you could find in Oakland. And we knew

we needed to find ways to cooperate and

harness that power for our own good and the good of the community. I think that is a part of the culture of Pittsburgh."

Following the discussion, reporters were taken on several cutting-edge technology and research tours on the campuses of Carnegie Mellon, Pitt, and UPMC. Tour sites were Pitt's Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education, and Research, Pitt's Biomedical Science Tower 3, Pitt's Center for Global Health, Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute, Carnegie Mellon's Entertainment Technology Center, a Pitt Green Tour, Pitt's Center for Energy, the Pitt-Carnegie Mellon Quality of Life Technology Center, and the Carnegie Mellon Intelligent Workplace.

EU Commission President Barroso Returns To Pitt for Honorary Degree, Luncheon



José Manuel Barroso on an earlier visit to the University in February 2006

Continued from page 2

European Commission.

Barroso is the author of numerous publications and holds more than 20 decorations, including Portugal's Grã-Cruz da Ordem Militar de Cristo in 1996, the 1992 Casa da Imprensa Prize for politics, and Spain's "Medalla de Oro de la Ciudad de Zamora" in 2005.

The European Commission, headquartered in Brussels, is the executive branch of the EU, setting policy, proposing legislation, and promoting the common interests of the EU.

The University of Pittsburgh's European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center are part of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS). UCIS has been recognized by the Council on Learning as one of the exemplary international studies programs in the United States.

The University's European Union Center of Excellence is one of only 11 centers in the United States to receive this designation by the European Commission. The European Studies Center has been designated as a National Resource Center by the U.S. Department of Education.

through government ranks as state secretary for home affairs, state secretary for foreign affairs, and then minister for foreign affairs. He was elected prime minister of Portugal in 2002; two years later, he resigned from that position to assume the presidency of the

A WARM WELCOME

PHOTOS BY JOE KAPELINSKI/CDDE

Top: Miyuki Hatoyama, wife of Japan's Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, smiles as she walks into the Japanese Nationality Room in the Cathedral of Learning and is greeted by applause from invited Pitt guests. Below: Deane Root (right), Pitt professor of music and Fletcher Hodges Jr. Curator of Pitt's Foster Hall Collection, shows Japanese First Lady Hatoyama (center) Stephen Foster artifacts in a case in the Stephen Foster Memorial as her interpreter (left) translates.

Pitt Elects New Alumni Association Board Members

By Patricia Lomondo White

The University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association recently elected nine new members to its Board of Directors. Lisa Golden, John Racioppi, Frank Ruscetti, and James Hill were elected directors at large. Haig Sakoian was elected as regional director for a two-year term, and Tim Pecsenye, Valerie Corbin-Ketchen, Heather Harmon, and Gary Brownlee were elected as regional directors for three-year terms.

Biographical information of the newly elected officials follows:

Lisa Golden is an emergency medicine physician with Westmoreland Emergency Medicine Specialists, P.C., in Greensburg, Pa. A 1993 graduate of Pitt with a BS degree from the School of Arts and Sciences, Golden is a member of the Alumni Leadership Council and Panther Club and cochair of the Scholarship Committee. She resides in Windbar, Pa.

John Racioppi is senior vice president of business development at Accept Software in Fremont, Calif. He received a BA degree in economics from Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences in 1979 and an MBA degree from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business in 1980. A member of Pitt's San Francisco Bay Area Alumni Club since 2000, Racioppi has served as club president since 2005. He resides in Scotts Valley, Calif.

Frank Ruscetti is chair and president of Harvest Financial Corp. in Pittsburgh. He earned a BA degree at Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences in 1971. He established the Ruscetti Family Academic Incentive Award, which provides scholarships for students. He resides in Pittsburgh.

James Hill is vice president and senior investment manager of Oakmont Capital Management, LLC. He received a BS degree in political science from Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences in 1998. Hill is a volunteer in the Pitt Career Network, participant in Pitt's Pathway to Professions, a member of Pitt's African American Alumni Council, and a mentor for Pitt's RISE program. He lives in Valparaiso, Ind.

Pittsburgh.

Haig Sakoian is the global director of Environment Health and Safety and Operations Audit with Alcoa Inc. Sakoian has earned three degrees at Pitt: a BS in biochemistry in 1975, an MS in industrial hygiene in 1979, and an MBA in 2004. He resides in Pittsburgh.

Tim Pecsenye is a partner in the law firm Blank Rome, LLP, in Philadelphia. He received a BA degree from Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences in 1984 and a JD degree from Pitt's law school in 1987. A life member of Pitt's Alumni Association, Pecsenye is a 2003 Volunteer of Excellence Award recipient and is affiliated with the New Jersey Pitt Club and the Pitt Club of Greater Philadelphia. He resides in Philadelphia.

Valerie Corbin-Ketchen is senior government affairs representative for Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in Camp Hill, Pa. She earned a BA degree in urban studies at Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences in 1981. Corbin-Ketchen is regional representative for Pitt's African American Alumni Council in Central Pennsylvania, a member of the Alumni Legislative Network, and a PART volunteer. Hill lives in Harrisburg.

Heather Harmon is channel development manager of The Topps Co., Inc., in New York City. She earned a BS degree at Pitt's College of Business Administration in 2005. Harmon is a Pitt Alumni Association Young Life Member, a member of the Pitt New York City Pitt Club, and a Pitt Career Network volunteer. She resides in New York City.

Gary Brownlee, former managing partner at New State Mortgage Co., is a real estate investor. He received a BA degree in economics from Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences in 1974 and an MBA from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business in 1978. An Alumni Association life member, Brownlee is a senior advisor on the Alumni Association Board and is treasurer of the Pitt Club of Chicago. He resides in Valparaiso, Ind.

Pitt's Library System Digitizes, Mounts Works of Fred Wright, Noted Labor Cartoonist

By Sharon S. Blake

The work of Fred Wright, one of America's most-renowned labor cartoonists, has been digitized and mounted online by the University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS). The new Web site, titled "Drawing on the American Labor Movement," features Wright's entire Labor History Series in addition to some of his other works. It is accessible at <http://images.library.pitt.edu/fredwright/>.

Wright's career as a cartoonist began in the U.S. Army in 1939, but he is best known for his work for the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE), one of the country's largest independent labor unions, still headquartered in Pittsburgh. From 1949 until his death in 1984, Wright created thousands of cartoons for the union's newspaper, the *UE News*, as well as for other publications. He also designed leaflets, strike placards, and animated cartoons about organizing for the American labor movement.

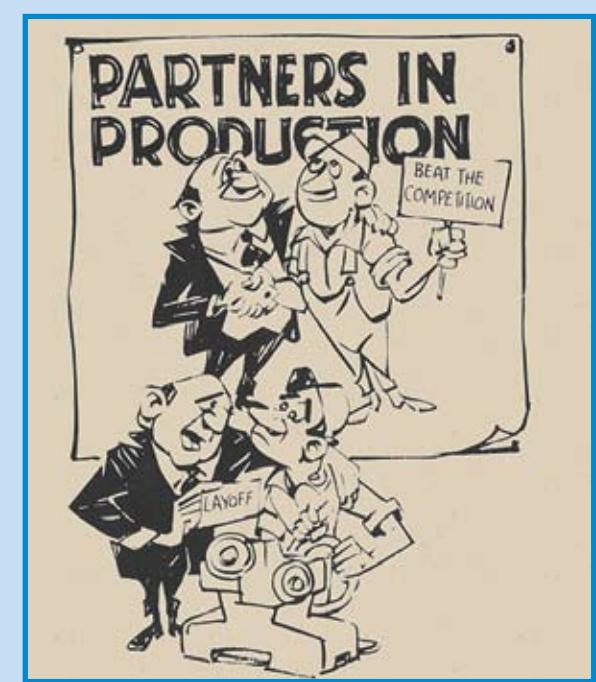
In the spirit of the movement, Wright's early cartoons criticized governmental anti-union actions like the Taft-Hartley Act, as well as McCarthyism. His Labor History Series cartoons—177 in all—first appeared in the *UE News* from 1956 through 1961 and an expanded version ran during the 1970s. They illustrate the conflicts and hardships that workers faced during the American labor movement from the Colonial period to the Vietnam War. When published, each cartoon contained

three panels and was accompanied by text written by *UE News* photographer and reporter James Lerner.

The specific digital images on the new site are of publication plates, or cut-and-paste pages, used by Wright to lay out a proof of his original cartoon along with Lerner's text.

Wright's materials are in Pitt's Archives Service Center, 7500 Thomas Blvd., Point Breeze, which is the national repository for the records of the UE, including a collection called "Photographs from the *UE News* Photograph Collection," which can be accessed at <http://images.library.pitt.edu/u/ue/>.

The Archives Service Center also houses the Archives of Industrial Society, which comprises historical records pertaining to the labor history of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.



Science & Technology

Pitt Research Suggests EPA Standard for Pesticide Safety Overlooks Poisons' Long-term Effects

By Morgan Kelly

The four-day testing period the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commonly uses to determine safe levels of pesticide exposure for humans and animals could fail to account for the toxins' long-term effects, University of Pittsburgh researchers report in the September edition of *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*.

The team found that the highly toxic pesticide endosulfan—a neurotoxin banned in several nations but still used extensively in U.S. agriculture—can exhibit a “lag effect” with the fallout from exposure not surfacing until after direct contact has ended. Lead author Devin Jones, a recent Pitt biological sciences graduate, conducted the experiment under Rick Relyea, an associate professor of biological sciences in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, with collaboration from Pitt postdoctoral researcher John Hammond. The paper is available on Pitt's Web site at www.pitt.edu/news2009/Endosulfan.pdf.

The team exposed nine species of frog and toad tadpoles to endosulfan levels “expected and found in nature” for the EPA's required four-day period, then moved the tadpoles to clean water for an additional four days, Jones reported. Although endosulfan was ultimately toxic to all species, three species of tadpole showed no significant sensitivity to the chemical until after they were transferred to fresh water. Within four days of being moved, up to 97 percent of leopard frog tadpoles perished along with up to 50 percent of spring peeper and American toad tadpoles.

Of most concern, explained Relyea, is that tadpoles and other amphibians are famously sensitive to pollutants and considered an environmental indicator species. The EPA does not require testing on amphibians to determine pesticide safety, but Relyea previously found that endosulfan is 1,000 times more lethal to amphibians than are other pesticides. Yet, he said, if the powerful insecticide cannot kill one the world's most susceptible species in four days, then the four-day test period may not adequately gauge the long-term effects on larger, less-sensitive species.

“When a pesticide's toxic effect takes more than four days to appear, it raises serious concerns about making regulatory decisions based on standard four-day tests for any organism,” Relyea said. “For most pesticides, we assume that animals will die during the period of exposure, but we do not expect substantial death after the exposure has ended. Even if EPA regulations required testing on amphibians, our research demonstrates that the standard four-day toxicity test would have dramatically underestimated the lethal impact of endosulfan on even this notably sensitive species.”

Tadpoles in the Pitt project spent four days in 0.5 liters of water containing endosulfan concentrations of 2, 6, 7, 35, 60, and 296 parts-per-billion (ppb), levels consistent with those found

in nature. The team cites estimates from Australia—where endosulfan is widely used—that the pesticide can reach 700 ppb when sprayed as close as 10 meters from the ponds amphibians typically call home and 4 ppb when sprayed within 200 meters. The EPA estimates that surface drinking water can have chronic endosulfan levels of 0.5 to 1.5 ppb and acute concentrations of 4.5 to 23.9 ppb.

Leopard frogs, spring peepers, and American toads fared well during the experiment's first four days, but once they were in clean water, the death rate spiked for animals previously exposed to 35 and 60 ppb. Although the other six species did not experience the lag effect, the initial doses of endosulfan were still devastating at very low concentrations. Grey and Pacific tree frogs, Western toads, and Cascades frogs began dying in large numbers from doses as low as 7 ppb, while the same amount killed all green frog and bullfrog tadpoles.

The endosulfan findings build on a 10-year effort by Relyea to understand the potential links between the global decline in amphibians, routine pesticide use, and the possible threat to humans in the future.

A second paper by Relyea and Jones also in the current *Environmental Toxicol-*

ogy and Chemistry expands on one of Relyea's most notable investigations, a series of findings published in *Ecological Applications* in 2005 indicating that the popular weed-killer Roundup® is “extremely lethal” to amphibians in concentrations found in the environment. The latest work determined the toxicity of Roundup Original Max for a wider group of larval amphibians, including nine frog and toad species and four salamander species. The report is available on Pitt's Web site at www.pitt.edu/news2009/Roundup.pdf.

In November 2008, Relyea reported in *Oecologia* that the world's 10 most popular pesticides—which have been detected in nature—combine to create “cocktails of contaminants” that can destroy amphibian populations, even if the concentration of each individual chemical is within levels considered safe for humans and animals. The mixture killed 99 percent of leopard frog tadpoles, and endosulfan alone killed

84 percent.

A month earlier, Relyea published a paper in *Ecological Applications* reporting that gradual amounts of malathion—the most popular insecticide in the United States—toxic to developing leopard frog tadpoles instead sparked a biological chain reaction that deprived them of their primary food source. As a result, nearly half the tadpoles in the experiment did not reach maturity and would have died in nature.

News releases about Relyea's previous work are available on Pitt's Web site at www.news.pitt.edu

Researchers' Nanoscale Devices Enhance Drug Delivery Systems, Oxygen Sensors

By Morgan Kelly

Two nanoscale devices recently reported by University of Pittsburgh researchers in separate journals harness the potential of carbon nanomaterials to enhance two types of technologies: one for drug or imaging agent delivery and energy storage systems, and the other to bolster the sensitivity of oxygen sensors essential in confined settings, from mines to spacecrafts.

In a report published online by *Advanced Materials* Aug. 12, a team led by chemistry professors Alexander Star and Stéphane Petoud in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences describes the creation of nanosize capsules that are universally compatible with a range of substances, particularly related to medicine and energy. When applied to medicine, the tiny vessels can potentially carry a sizable “cargo” of anticancer drugs or medical-imaging agents and could be steered via antibodies and biological molecules to specific locations within the human body. Energy applications include the storage of lithium and hydrogen in batteries and fuel cells. Pitt graduate chemistry student Brett Allen was the paper's lead author. The project also included chemistry graduate student Chad Shade and Adrienne Yingling, now a graduate of Pitt's PhD chemistry program.

In a separate paper appearing online in *Nature Chemistry* Aug. 16, another team headed by Star and Petoud revealed the development of a highly sensitive, fluorescent oxygen sensor that can detect minute amounts of the gas. Oxygen detectors are

important safety devices in mines, aircraft, submarines, and other confined spaces, the researchers noted. The sensor consists of carbon nanotubes coated with a luminescent compound incorporating europium, a reactive metal found in fluorescent bulbs, television/computer screens, and lasers, among other applications.

The researchers gauged oxygen levels by measuring the intensity of the gas' glow when exposed to ultraviolet light and the tubes' change in electrical conductance. The tubes demonstrated sensitivity to oxygen concentrations as low as 5 percent (normal atmospheric concentration is around 20 percent), with the team calculating that it can indicate a level as low as 0.4 percent, and they were unaffected by other atmospheric gases, such as carbon dioxide and nitrogen. The second paper was authored by

Shade and Pitt chemistry graduate students Douglas Kauffman and Hyounsoo Uh.

For both technologies, the Pitt teams worked with carbon nanomaterials to create enhanced versions of existing technologies. For instance, the oxygen sensor combines the small scale of carbon nanotubes—they are one-atom thick rolls of graphite 100,000 times smaller than a human hair—with the reactivity of the europium compound coating to produce a platform for low-cost, room-temperature detectors that are notably sensitive to oxygen but less complicated than existing sensors, the researchers write in *Nature Chemistry*.

Regarding the nanocapsules described

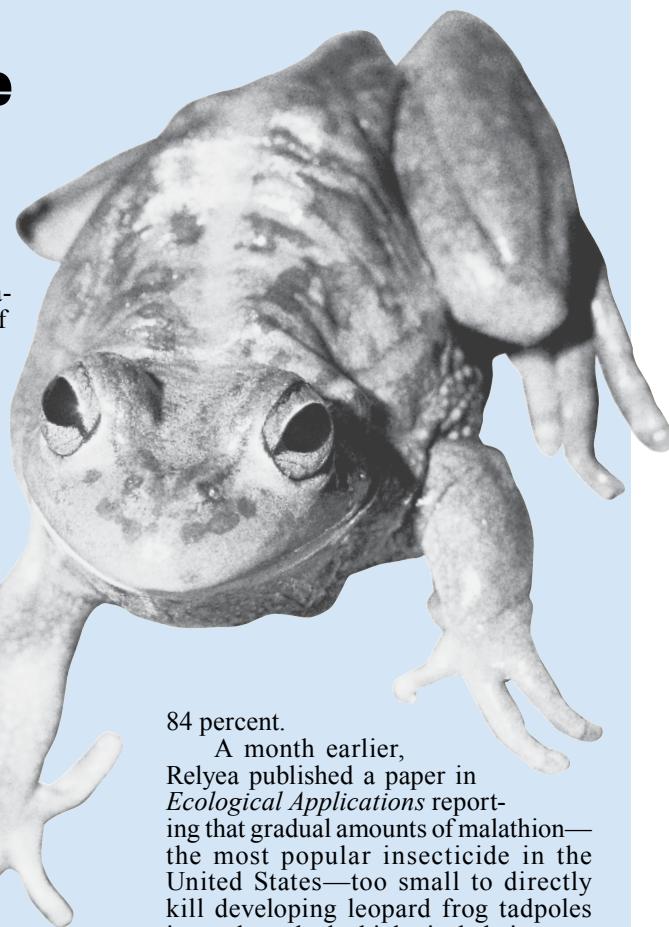
in *Advanced Materials*, existing technologies are typically constructed of polymers that are permeable like a sponge and can result in leakage, Star explained. Additionally, each capsule must be tailored to its particular cargo, he said. The Pitt version employs graphite carbon shells bonded with glutaraldehyde—a common biological adhesive—creating a hollow storage space. More importantly, the graphite shells are chemically inactive and are thus compatible with any cargo substance without costly and time-consuming chemical preparation, Star said.

“For decades, researchers have been searching for an optimal vessel for storing and transporting a variety of cargo to specified locations,” Star said. “Our devices have the potential to be universal delivery vehicles for a range of materials. Our next steps will focus on controlling how and when the nanocapsules open by using different stimuli such as pH, light, and chemical agents.”

To illustrate the capsules' adaptability, the team loaded them with a luminescent imaging agent developed in Petoud's lab made of zinc sulfide semiconductor nanocrystals incorporating terbium, a metal chemically similar to europium. Once in the body, the substance would emit a unique light that allows easier detection and a better image, Petoud said. But the inorganic nanocrystals have to be prepared before being introduced to a biological environment such as the body and is difficult and time-consuming. The graphite nanocapsules, however, could hold and transport the solution with no preparation.



Rick Relyea



Happenings



Rusty Grackle
Hillman Library, through October 6

Concerts

Mike Gordon, bassist/vocalist for the band *Phish*, 8 p.m. **Sept. 30**, Mr. Small's Fun House & Theater, 400 Lincoln Ave., Millvale, 412-821-4447, www.mrsmalls.com.

Taylor Swift, country music, 7 p.m. **Oct. 1**, Mellon Arena, 66 Mario Lemieux Place, Downtown, 412-642-2062, www.mellonarena.com.

Vivaldi's The Four Seasons, Andrés Cárdenes, conductor and violin; Anne Martindale Williams, cello; **Oct. 1-4**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Gary Burton—Next Generation Band, Oct. 2-4, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, 1815 Metropolitan St., Manchester, MCG Jazz 2009-10 Season, 412-322-0800, www.manchesterguild.org.

Larry the Cable Guy, comedic performance, 8 p.m. **Oct. 3**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Thoth Trio, jazz, 5 p.m. **Oct. 6**, Backstage Bar at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Jazz Live Series, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Tony DePaolis, jazz, 8 p.m. **Oct. 6**, Backstage Bar at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Jazz Live Series, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Cowboy Junkies, Canadian country music, alternative rock, 8 p.m. **Oct. 6**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, CD Live! Series, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Diamond Gallas, blues and jazz, 8 p.m. **Oct. 6**, New Hazlett Theater, Allegheny Square East, North Side, Andy Warhol Museum's Off the Wall Series, 412-320-4612, www.warhol.org.

Pittsburgh Opera Singers, noon **Oct. 7**, Nordy's Place, William Pitt Union, PITT ARTS' Artful Wednesdays, 412-624-4462, www.pitt.edu/~pittarts.

Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra with trumpeter Sean Jones, 8 p.m. **Oct. 8**, August Wilson Center, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, 412-258-2700, www.augustwilsoncenter.org.

Exhibitions

Hillman Library, Audubon print, *Rusty Grakle*, through Oct. 6, 412-648-7715.



Andrés Cárdenes,
Heinz Hall,
October 1-4

707 Galleries, *The Secret Lives of Stories*, through Oct. 17, 707 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-471-6078, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, www.pgharts.org.

Andy Warhol Museum, *Drawn to the Summit: A G-20 Exhibition of International Political Cartoons*, through Oct. 18, 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, www.warhol.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art, *Documenting Our Past: The Teenie Harris Archive Project, Part Three*, through Nov. 1; *Associated Artists of Pittsburgh Annual Member Exhibit*, through Nov. 8; *Digital to Daguerreotype: Photographs of People*, through Jan. 31, 2010, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3309, www.cmoa.org.

Senator John Heinz History Center, *Forbes Field: Celebrating 100 Years*, through Nov. 8; and *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, through Jan. 15, 2010, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

Mattress Factory Museum, *Gestures: An Exhibition of Small Site-specific Works*, through Jan. 10, 2010, 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, 412-231-3169, www.mattress.org.

Wood Street Galleries, *Matter and Memory*, Oct. 2-Dec. 31, 601 Wood St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-471-5605, www.pgharts.org.

Pittsburgh Glass Center, Sheila Klein's *The Return*, Oct. 2-Jan. 20, 2010, 5472 Penn Ave., Garfield, 412-365-2145, www.pittsburghglasscenter.org.

University of Pittsburgh Fall 2009 Career Fair, 1-5 p.m. **Sept. 30**, Petersen Events Center, Pitt Student Employment and Placement Assistance, www.hire.pitt.edu.

Almost Human: Making Robots Think, discussion led by book's author, Lee Gutkind, 3:30 p.m. **Oct. 11**, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3151, www.clpgh.org.



Gestures: An Exhibition of Small Site-specific Works,
Mattress Factory Museum,
through January 10, 2010

medical education, noon **Oct. 9**, Lecture Room 3, Scaife Hall, Medical Education Grand Rounds, School of Medicine's Office of the Vice Dean, 412-648-9000, www.megr.pitt.edu.

"The Emergence of an International Framework for Privacy Protection—Next Steps", Marc Rotenberg, executive director of Washington, D.C.-based Electronic Privacy Information Center, 4 p.m. **Oct. 9**, University Club, Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership, Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College, 412-648-1336, gspiaji@pitt.edu.

Student Choreography Project, choreographed dance performance, **Oct. 2-4**, George Rowland White Performance Studio, Point Park University, Downtown, Point Park's Pittsburgh Playhouse 2009-10 Series, 412-621-4445, www.pittsburghplayhouse.com.

Ella, musical based on Jeffrey Hatcher's book about Ella Fitzgerald, **Oct. 1-Nov. 1**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org.

Off The Record IX: High School Confidential, musical theater, 8 p.m. **Oct. 1**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, proceeds benefit Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Eugene Onegin, opera by Tchaikovsky, Oct. 2 and 4, Benedum Theatre, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-281-0912, www.pittsburghopera.org.

Kidd Pivot, dance performance, 8 p.m. **Oct. 3**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh Dance Council 2009-10 Season, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

David Copperfield: An Intimate Evening of Grand Illusion, Oct. 7-8, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Cohen and Grigsby Trust Presents Series, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Forever Plaid, musical theater, Oct. 8-March 28, 2010, Theater Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, CLO Cabaret, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

One Life to Lose, murder mystery, 10 p.m. **Oct. 10**, Late-Night Cabaret Theater, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Mystery's Most Wanted, 412-325-6769, www.pgharts.org.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Andrea Lock Hergenroeder, School of Education's Department of Health and Physical Activity, "The Influence of Body Mass Index on Self-report and Performance-based Measures of Physical Function in Adult Women," 1:30 p.m. **Oct. 6**, 3035 Petersen Events Center.



Drawn to the Summit: A G-20 Exhibition of International Political Cartoons,
Andy Warhol Museum, through October 18



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New Pitt Web Site Tells Story of Early Pittsburgh As Seen Through the Lens of the Jewish Community



Former City of Pittsburgh Mayor Sophie Masloff with Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

Sharon S. Blake

Several hundred residents of Pittsburgh's Jewish community joined University of Pittsburgh archivists and members of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Sept. 29 to launch NCJW's online oral history project—*Pittsburgh and Beyond: The Experience of the Jewish Community*.

The new Web site, <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/n/ncjw>, allows users to listen online to more than 500 audio interviews of area Jewish residents—many of them immigrants—compiled by a small group of volunteers over a 40-year period. The site, designed and built by a team at Pitt's Archives Service Center, includes detailed abstracts of each interview and is searchable

by key words, a personal name, geographic region, or subject. It is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind.

Gathering in the ballroom of the University Club, the group heard how the idea for the project surfaced in 1968, when a group of NCJW women thought it was important to preserve the stories of Jewish immigrants by recording their experiences. Trained volunteers interviewed Jewish men and women who came to the United States from Eastern Europe between 1890 and 1924.

In 1973, NCJW launched a second phase of the project—compiling the oral histories of Pittsburgh's Jewish men and women who made contributions locally, nationally, and

internationally. Overall, 516 individuals were interviewed between 1968 and 2001, including former Pittsburgh Mayor Sophie Masloff; late musician Lincoln Maazel, father of Grammy Award-winning conductor, former Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra music director, and Pitt alumnus Lorin Maazel; the late William Block, publisher of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*; pioneering breast cancer researcher Bernard Fisher, Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Surgery; and Pitt Distinguished Service Professor Julius Youngner, senior scientist of the Pitt polio vaccine team.

A number of interviewees were in attendance at Tuesday's luncheon and were recog-

nized, along with their family members.

"It is amazing to hear the history of the Pittsburgh Jewish community in the actual words and voices of the people who lived it," said Marcia Frumerman, oral history project leader for NCJW.

"The result of the partnership between Pitt's Library System and NCJW is a gift to the world," said Rush Miller, Hillman librarian and director of the University Library System. "These interviews illustrate an entire century of a community through the eyes of its residents, including the fight to overcome political corruption, the struggle for women's rights, and the journeys of immigrants. It is a reminder of the strength and fortitude of those who came before us."

Ed Galloway, head of Pitt's Archives Service Center, explained to the audience the archival process: Boxes of audiocassettes were digitized and the printed guide entered into a database. The two components were then merged to create an easily navigable site that includes convenient fast-forward and rewind buttons, making all parts of the interview quickly accessible.

Following the luncheon, family members of those interviewed for the project received a silver gift-wrapped box. Inside was a CD of their family members' interview.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Oct. 12. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 7) should be received at least two weeks before the event 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.

