

# PittChronicle

**INSIDE**

Graduating senior profiles..... 3-6, 11

Chancellor's "Decade of Challenge" report..... 7-10

Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

Volume XI • Number 15 • May 2, 2010





# University to Graduate 7,000 Students on Its Five Campuses

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg will welcome graduating members of the Class of 2010, faculty, trustees, alumni, staff, and invited guests, families, and friends attending Pitt's 2010 Commencement at 2 p.m. today in the Petersen Events Center.

University of Pittsburgh alumnus and trustee John A. Swanson, founder, former president, CEO, and director of ANSYS, Inc., who earned his PhD degree in engineering at Pitt (1966), will deliver the University's 2010 commencement address. At the ceremony, Pitt will confer upon Swanson the degree of Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa*.

Chief University Marshal Michael R. Pinsky will open the ceremony, leading a procession of members of the graduating class, faculty, staff, the Council of Deans, trustees, and administrative officers in full academic regalia; Pinsky is a professor of critical care medicine and bioengineering in the School of Medicine and president of the University Senate. The University Symphonic Band, under the direction of Pitt Director of Bands Jack R. Anderson, will provide music.

After the awarding of diplomas by Nordenberg, Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher, and the deans of the schools and colleges, Lance T. Bonner will speak on behalf of the graduating class. Bonner, a graduating senior in the School of

Arts and Sciences, will receive the Bachelor of Arts degree during the commencement ceremony. His talk will be followed by an address from F. James McCarl III, (CGS '73), president of the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association, who will welcome the graduates as Pitt's newest alumni.

In all, Pitt will confer approximately 7,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees this year at its five campuses; Pitt-Bradford, Pitt-Greensburg, Pitt-Johnstown, and Pitt-Titusville will hold their own commencement ceremonies.

Swanson, who helped revolutionize computer-aided engineering four years after graduating from Pitt, has earned substantial recognition in the past 40



John A. Swanson

years, including two of the highest honors a professional engineer can receive. Last year, he was named to the National Academy of Engineering, one of 65 new members and nine foreign associates elected in 2009 for contributions to and innovations in engineering. In May 2004, Swanson received the American Association of Engineering Societies' John Fritz Medal, widely considered the highest award in the engineering profession. Prior awardees of the Fritz Medal include Orville Wright, Alexander Graham Bell, Alfred Nobel, Thomas Edison, Gug-

*Continued on page 13*

## Pitt Seniors Receive Whitaker Scholarships For International Research and Study

By Patricia Lomando White

University of Pittsburgh Honors College seniors Michael S. Freedman and Matthew G. Perich have been named recipients of the 2010 Whitaker International Fellows and Scholars Program award, designed to bring international experience and insight to the field of biomedical engineering. This is the fifth year of the Whitaker award competition and the first year Pitt students have applied.

Freedman and Perich are among 23 graduate-level Whitaker Fellowship winners chosen from a total of 38 selectees, which includes 16 postdoctoral scholarship winners.

Beginning in 1975, The Whitaker Foundation supported the development and enhancement of biomedical engineering in the United States, contributing nearly \$700 million to universities. When the foundation closed in 2006, it committed its remaining funds to the Institute of International Education to create the Whitaker International Fellows and Scholars Program, with the goal of enhancing international collaborative ties between the emerging leaders in the U.S. biomedical engineering field and their counterparts abroad.

With his Whitaker award, Freedman,

of North Potomac, Md., will attend the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom to complete a Master of Philosophy degree in bioscience enterprise in the school's Department of Biotechnology. A Pittsburgh native residing in Fairmont, W.Va., Perich will use his award to fund his research position on the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne's Blue Brain Project Research team in Switzerland.

During today's commencement ceremony, Freedman will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in bioengineering from Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and a Bachelor of Arts in music from Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, and a Bachelor of Philosophy from Pitt's Honors College for which he investigated electrically controlled release of dopamine from conducting polymers in his thesis. In summer 2006, Freedman studied Australian history and comparative politics at the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

Among Freedman's awards are an Honors College Tuition Scholarship and

*Continued on page 14*



Michael S. Freedman



Matthew G. Perich

PHOTOS BY CHRIS CHURTON

## Pitt School of Education Marks Its 100th Anniversary, Jumps in U.S. News Rankings



By Patricia Lomando White

As the University of Pittsburgh School of Education prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary this fall, the school can point with pride to some notable achievements, including faculty members receiving a number of prestigious honors and, just this month, a significant jump in *U.S. News & World Report's* America's Best Graduate Schools rankings.

The School of Education is now among the top 25 schools of education in the country, advancing from 32nd last year to 23rd in this year's rankings, which are published in the 2011 edition of the *U.S. News & World Report* newsstand guidebook *America's Best Graduate Schools* and online at <http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-education-schools>.

"The School of Education continues to excel at training teachers, specialists, and educational leaders and meeting the continually changing requirements presented by a global society, a complex economy, and the many challenges faced by the nation's school systems," said Alan M. Lesgold, Pitt School of Education dean and professor. "We are working diligently to ensure that our school's students learn how to teach key skills that are most highly valued in today's economy—teamwork, problem solving, self-management, and disciplined creativity—all while faculty and doctoral students research and develop better ways to foster and measure those skills."

The seed for Pitt's School of Education was planted by Edmund Burke Huey, who joined the Western University of Pennsylvania (later renamed the University of Pittsburgh) in 1904 as a professor of psychology and education. In 1905, the University offered its first two courses on education for practicing teachers; Huey promoted the idea of a Teachers College, prompting then-Chancellor Samuel Black McCormick to propose the establishment of a school of education. Huey eventually left the University to pursue research on mental retardation and was replaced by Will Grant Chambers, who became the founding dean when the School of Education was created in September 1910.

Today, the School of Education boasts several prominent faculty members and programs. Among the faculty are Professor Louis M. Gomez, the Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education, first director of Pitt's Center for Urban Education, and a senior scientist in the University's Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC); John M. Jakicic, professor and chair in the Department of Health and Physical Activity and director of its Physical Activity and Weight

**"We are working diligently to ensure that our school's students learn how to teach key skills that are most highly valued in today's economy—teamwork, problem solving, self-management, and disciplined creativity—all while faculty and doctoral students research and develop better ways to foster and measure those skills."**

**—Alan M. Lesgold**

Management Research Center; Isabel L. Beck, professor emeritus in the school and senior scientist in LRDC, who is internationally known for her research in reading; Mary Kay Stein, director of the school's Learning Policy Center and associate direc-

*Continued on page 13*

## PittChronicle

Newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh

<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Robert Hill
<b>ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER</b>	John Harvith
<b>EXECUTIVE EDITOR</b>	Linda K. Schmittmeyer
<b>EDITOR</b>	Jane-Ellen Robinet
<b>ART DIRECTOR</b>	Gary Cravener
<b>STAFF WRITERS</b>	Sharon S. Blake John Fedele Morgan Kelly Amanda Leff Anthony M. Moore Patricia Lomando White Baindu Saidu
<b>HAPPENINGS EDITOR</b>	Baindu Saidu

The *Pitt Chronicle* is published throughout the year by University News and Magazines, University of Pittsburgh, 400 Craig Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Phone: 412-624-1033, Fax: 412-624-4895, E-mail: [chron@pitt.edu](mailto:chron@pitt.edu) Web: [www.chronicle.pitt.edu](http://www.chronicle.pitt.edu)

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution that does not discriminate upon any basis prohibited by law.



# Graduating Senior Profile

## The Transformation of Ruffin Prentiss III

### Pitt Senior Finds His Passion in Theater, Wants to Devote His Life to Acting



Ruffin Prentiss III

By Sharon S. Blake

It seemed like a good plan at the time. Following his acceptance at five universities, Ruffin Prentiss III selected the University of Pittsburgh and moved from his family home in Richmond, Va., to Pitt's campus in Oakland. His goal: to study dental medicine.

The idea of a dental career was an inspiration that struck him—quite literally—when, as a 10th grader, he was hit in the mouth with a baseball during a game with high school classmates.

"I remember being in the ambulance and asking 'Why me?'" laughed Prentiss. But three root canals and two dental crowns later, his smile was back, and he found that he liked the idea of a professional using his skills to restore another person's self-esteem. After researching the dental profession, he made his decision, graduated from high school with an International Baccalaureate diploma, and came to Pitt in the Fall of 2006. He received an Honors College full-tuition scholarship.

Prentiss quickly immersed himself in the prerequisite science courses. He also

began working on a certificate in Conceptual Foundations of Medicine, a program offered by Pitt's Department of History and Philosophy of Science.

But Prentiss' desire for a change of scenery altered everything.

He had taken some acting classes "to get a break from all the science," and toward the end of his freshman year, Prentiss auditioned for—and won—a comedic role in the Pitt Repertory Theatre's performance of *The Real Inspector Hound*. And to Prentiss' delight, the audience laughed at all the right places, and when he took his on-stage bow, Prentiss remembers thinking, "I really love this!"

Over the next several years, Prentiss' life became a whirlwind of auditions, rehearsals, local acting jobs, national acting festivals, competitions, and serving on the student board of Pitt's Kuntu Repertory Theatre. The transformation from predental student to young actor is complete, and Prentiss graduates today with honors, a BA in Theatre Arts degree, and his Certificate in Foundations of Medicine.

This fall, Prentiss will enter Rutgers University's prestigious Mason Gross School of the Arts, where he will work to earn his Master of Fine Arts in acting. Agents and casting directors routinely visit the school, which is a 50-minute train ride from New York City.

Prentiss takes with him some valuable experience—acting roles in Pitt Rep's *The Recruiting Officer* and *Angels In America: Perestroika*; Kuntu's *The Dutchman* and *The Slave*; a part as a featured extra in *Warrior*, a feature film starring Nick Nolte; and several TV and radio commercials. His next role at Pitt is the character of Roosevelt Hicks in August Wilson's *Radio Golf*, which Kuntu presents May 27-June 12.

Working with Vernell Lillie, Kuntu founder and producing artistic director, was an experience Prentiss called "priceless."

"Doc taught me to look at the characters who are acting opposite you," he said. "Looking at how *they* perceive what's going on gives you a better understanding of what *you're* doing."

Prentiss' most recent acting experience was undertaking the role of the mouse in Pitt Rep's *Alice*, a quirky, off-beat adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* that played to sell-out crowds last month. From playing the part as a mouse/circus performer to manipulating huge puppets, the production was Prentiss' most physically demanding.

Following the afternoon matinees, the *Alice* cast held tea parties for the children in attendance. When Prentiss felt a small child tugging at his costume and asking, "Mr. Mouse, would you come have a cookie with me?" he knew he had connected with the tiniest audience members.

"It's when the audience feels something that you know you're doing your job," he said.

Pitt Theatre Arts faculty member Holly Thuma, who directed Prentiss in *The Recruiting Officer*, said Prentiss' emerging talent can be defined as an openness and generosity of spirit.

"I think the magnitude of his sensitivity was always there inside of him, but now it is expressed," said Thuma, adding that in the past year, Prentiss "became an actor."

Pitt MFA student Tom Pacio agreed. He performed alongside Prentiss in *Angels in America* but later became his instructor and acting coach.

"Ruffin's strongest suit is that he assumes nothing," he said. "He brings no ego to his work and is open to trying anything that may help him grow and succeed."

It was Pacio who helped the young actor prepare for his graduate school audition, a grueling experience in itself. For the screening audition, Prentiss chose monologues from two different roles—Harmond from *Radio Golf* and Sebastian from *Twelfth Night*—to perform in less than 3 minutes before representatives from more than 20 schools. From that audition, six representatives asked to interview him, which meant 15-minute slots with each panel and only five minutes between each to run from room to room in a New York hotel.

"It was like a rat race," Prentiss recalled,

Prentiss as the mouse in Pitt Repertory's *Alice*

smiling and shaking his head. He also auditioned separately for five other schools. In all, five graduate schools offered him a spot in their acting programs.

Rutgers, his final choice, teaches the Sanford Meisner acting technique, something Prentiss is anxious to add to his toolkit, along with the Stanislavsky and Commedia dell'Arte approaches to acting that he learned at Pitt. The late Meisner believed that to be effective, actors had to attain a complete understanding of themselves, their characters, and those around them. The goal of his method is for actors to "remove" themselves from the stage, leaving their characters to exist fully within the moment.

Prentiss rounded out his Pitt experience by serving as vice president of programming in the Order of Omega (National Greek Honor Society) and as president and then chaplain of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, where his volunteer work took him to a homeless shelter in East Liberty to sleep overnight and cook breakfast, and to a Homewood elementary school, where he delivered toys at Christmas time. At home in Richmond over the summers, he worked with children as a recreational instructor.

And how do Mom and Dad feel knowing their son, once destined to become a dentist, now may end up in Hollywood?

"I think they both knew theater had become my passion," said Prentiss. But he has just four classes to complete to be eligible to enter dental school, and he jokes that that might be his "postbaccalaureate plan."

For now, Prentiss said he is looking forward to his upcoming role in *Radio Golf* and then embracing the Rutgers program. He hopes to ultimately act in feature films.

"I'm ready to go further in conservatory training and to become a complete actor," he said. "Just living, breathing, sleeping, and eating—theater."

**The transformation from predental student to young actor is complete, and Prentiss graduates today with honors, a BA in Theatre Arts degree, and his Certificate in Foundations of Medicine.**



# Graduating Senior Profile

Following the Fast Track

## Cara Repasky Graduates Early to Begin Job With Morgan Stanley



JOE KAPLEWSKI/CODE

Founder of Trading Pitt, the University's first undergraduate investment club, Cara Repasky stands in front of the business school's state-of-the-art financial laboratory, which was launched in 2008. The \$2.3 million, 3,000-square-foot lab provides students with real-time stock market data and access to faculty who are seasoned in global financial markets.

By Amanda Leff Ritchie

When Cara Repasky graduated from high school, she accepted a full-tuition scholarship from the University of Pittsburgh's Honors College and set her sights on making it to Wall Street. Now, just three years later, she's on her way to becoming an institutional equity-trading analyst at Morgan Stanley, a global financial services firm headquartered in New York City.

The Petersburg, Ohio, native is receiving her bachelor's degree in finance today from Pitt's College of Business Administration with a minor in economics from the School of Arts and Sciences. Graduating a year early, Repasky said she is grateful for the flexibility and opportunities Pitt has afforded her.

"The great thing about Pitt is that you can do what you want to here. If you want to graduate early here, you can do that. You can stay an extra year. You can have three majors if you want. Anything is possible here. Pitt is a great value."

Robert Atkin, Pitt professor of business administration, says that he was convinced when he met Repasky three years ago that she was headed for Wall Street.

"She presents herself as professional, poised, and sharp—and that's how she's been since day one," says Atkin. "You could sense there was something very special about her."

Repasky is no doubt a go-getter both inside and outside the classroom. She is the founder of the Trading Pitt, the University's first undergraduate investment club; a recruiter and regular contributor for the *Bulls & Bears Press*, the nation's largest collegiate financial news publication; an

executive board member for the undergraduate finance club; and a member of the Beta Alpha Psi and Beta Gamma Sigma honor societies.

While all of those activities might make an average student's head spin, Repasky also managed to complete four internships—with UBS Investment Bank, Wachovia Securities, PNC Capital Markets, and UBS Financial Services—as a Pitt student. These experiences allowed her to hone her skills on the trading floor and behind the scenes, and they ultimately confirmed that this was the career that she wanted to pursue.

Her internship with UBS Investment Bank in Stamford, Conn., was a particularly rigorous and invaluable learning experience, Repasky says. "I was working 50 to 60 hours per week, and I spent half of the summer on the largest trading floor in the world; it's the size of 2.5 football fields or 26 tennis courts. There they handle millions of dollars every day."

Repasky's internship at UBS gave her the opportunity to see both back and front office operations. "I learned how a trader's mistake can ripple through the entire office,"

**Her internship with UBS Investment Bank in Stamford, Conn., was a particularly rigorous and invaluable learning experience, Repasky says. "I was working 50 to 60 hours per week, and I spent half of the summer on the largest trading floor in the world; it's the size of 2.5 football fields or 26 tennis courts. There they handle millions of dollars every day."**

she said.

Repasky made such a good impression at UBS that she was offered a fixed-income trading junior role for the following summer. But Repasky had other offers to entertain.

She interviewed with Morgan Stanley hoping for an internship offer. Instead, the executives were so impressed that they made her an on-the-spot offer for a full-time position as an institutional equity-trading analyst. Repasky accepted immediately and will start in June following a two-week road trip around the country.

"If she's good, she is likely to become highly visible in the trading or investment banking community," says Atkin. "That's a

big statement to make at such a young age, but Cara has all of the talent, all of the drive. If she is successful at a young age, she will gain all of the confidence and all of the knowledge."

Hopefully in time, Repasky's growing confidence will help her handle stress, a constant companion to floor traders who

have millions of dollars of equity flowing through their fingers.

"At Morgan Stanley, I will have time to learn and be trained for this environment, but at the same time, I will be expected to learn quickly and be ready to take on clients soon after my arrival," she says.

Repasky says the best word to describe trading floors is *energy*. "Sometimes it's good energy—people are making money and cheering. Sometimes it's bad energy—people are losing money and swearing, and shouting matches are breaking out all over the floor. It's extremely busy all the time. Everyone has four to six computer screens with information flashing and CNN on TVs on every wall. The atmosphere of the trading floor is always changing, always adapting to new information from the market."

Repasky says it is important for everyone in the trading/investment/banking field to have personal interests to keep them grounded after work, especially considering the high levels of stress they constantly encounter.

"My favorite way to wind down is to spend time with friends and family, as well as to read and write," she says. "I have started several novels but haven't officially finished one yet. I also like to engage in 'intense' activities, which I think is pretty common among people in my field. I like to go rock climbing, and I plan to go skydiving after graduation."

Repasky has her fingers crossed that her "extreme" profession and hobbies will teach her how to soar—and how to navigate through turbulence and achieve soft landings.



# Graduating Senior Profile

## A World Beyond

### An Intertwining of Music, Culture, and Language Propels Jonathan Withers Forward



Jonathan Withers

By Morgan Kelly

Jonathan Withers has an eye—and ear—for the minute components that form life's invisible monoliths: the words that make a language, the musical tones that produce a song, and the invisible particles that give the universe structure. Withers graduates today with a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in music from Pitt's University Honors College as well as a Bachelor of Science in physics from the School of Arts and Sciences and a certificate in Russian and Eastern European Studies (for Turkish) from the University Center for International Studies. As he sees it, these seemingly unrelated fields are connected by the significant and everyday influence their abstract parts wield—whether or not people are aware of it.

"Music and language convey whole worlds of meaning that people might not think about, but humans define and express themselves by what they listen to and the ideas they communicate," Withers said. "As for physics, it's almost meaningless to discuss how fundamental it is because it's so much a part of everything."

Withers will pursue his interest in music, language, and culture (in the end, physics isn't *that* related) as a graduate student in ethnomusicology at Harvard University, where he will focus on the music of Turkey

and its influence on Turkish culture. To prepare, he will spend this summer in Turkey studying under a 2010 U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (CLS). Withers was one of 575 American students selected for the scholarship out of 5,300 applicants; he also received a CLS in 2009 to study in Turkey.

Withers' academic career stems from a relentless curiosity about the function and effect of life's intangibles, such as language and atoms. Withers admits that as a child growing up in Pittsburgh's Regent Square neighborhood, he peppered any available adult with questions about why the world worked a certain way, vague and sprawling queries that "drove everyone crazy," he said.

"I asked and still ask myself questions that perhaps don't get asked a lot. I suppose there is some aspect of having an analytical mind, but really it's just that someone knows this stuff, and I want to know, too," he said, laughing.

Physics is a feast of abstract yet relevant occurrences, and that is what Withers entered Pitt in 2005 to study. (He started out in engineering physics.) The smallest particles—some that have never actually been observed—have a determinable hand in the universe.

"Even the most complex phenomena are real and based on physical laws that actually happen, not just ideas on a chalkboard," Withers said. "Physics is not a science of generalization where we say, 'This is kind of what's going on here.' There's a process and formula, and the ability to analyze these details is important to understanding an event."

Withers was inducted into the physics honors society, Sigma Pi Sigma, and won the Department of Physics and Astronomy's inaugural Thomas-Lain Fund essay contest in 2007, which included a \$5,000 prize. The contest is open to undergraduate or graduate students in the department, and the winners are chosen by a committee. Withers wrote about research being conducted in the laboratory of his advisor, Pitt physics and astronomy professor David Snoke.

Withers liked physics, and he was good at it. But starting with a Pitt music class during his sophomore year, Withers began to see the same invisible intertwinement he loved about physics, this time involving music, culture, and language.

Although a fancier of music (guitar hobbyist, high school band member), Withers initially thought that the academic pursuit of music would be of limited educational and practical value.

Snoke recalled Withers' growing interest in music and eventually helped Withers as he grappled with choosing music over physics for his graduate study. Despite Withers' promise as a young physicist and his reservations about pursuing music, Snoke sensed that it was what he really wanted.

"Jonathan is a deep thinker with diverse interests. I remember talking with him when he was thinking about switching from engineering physics to physics, and he was interested in many larger questions," Snoke said. "I have no doubt he also could have done well in grad school in physics if he had set his mind to it. But he fell in love with musicology, and I encouraged him to do what he loves, even if he is not sure what job it will lead to."

Withers added music as a second major and became involved in Pitt's African Music and Dance Ensemble playing drums. He also joined the Carpathian Ensemble and played the guitar-like bouzouki, not only studying the music but also the culture associated with it. He became fascinated by the role of music in forging and reinforcing a community's cultural identity—and the study of that role, which is ethnomusicology.

"When I found out that that field exists, it pushed me toward studying music more," Withers said. "Pitt's various music ensembles let me know there's a world beyond orchestra, jazz, and studying old European staples. At first, I was guilty of having the attitude that science is more legitimate, and that made it difficult to admit to myself that I wanted to go to the other side—to study music. And I worried whether I would be as adept at music as I was at physics."

"But I knew it would be hard to find

something that combined music and physics after I graduated, so I had to choose. I still love physics, but gradually I started to focus more on music."

Language made an unexpected entrance into Withers' extensive repertoire of interests when he studied abroad in Turkey in 2008 to satisfy a nascent curiosity about the country's culture and history. Withers happened into the middle of a nationwide struggle over head scarves that pitted Turkey's long-standing secular ethos against a burgeoning religious conservatism. There, he witnessed an important difference between speaking Turkish and *being* Turkish. A constitutional amendment to overturn an 80-year-old ban on women wearing head scarves in public universities was making its way through Turkish Parliament, but to Withers, it yielded little more than an uninspired American-Libertarian reflex against government edicts. To the people around him, however, the issue was their nation's identity and future,

the cultural influence of Islam versus the secularist legacy of modern Turkey's founder, Kemal Atatürk.

"I had this one-dimensional opinion, but to the people I knew in Turkey, it wasn't that simple," Withers recalled. "It interested me that although I spoke the language, I could not express or identify with their ideas. I started thinking about how people use language not just to talk, but to communicate the things that have meaning for them."

Withers finally decided on ethnomusicology after studying in Turkey in 2009 under his first CLS.

This year, he combined language, culture, and music for his Bachelor of Philosophy thesis, wherein he analyzed the online video-sharing Web site YouTube as a global forum for discussing Turkish nationalism. In particular, he reviewed

the user-comment sections for videos of the folk song "Kalenin Bedenleri" ("The Walls of the Castle"). Withers characterized YouTube as particularly politicized in Turkey, as evidenced by its being blocked by the government following the posting of videos considered demeaning of Atatürk (though it can still be accessed by the computer savvy). Videos of "Kalenin Bendeleri" were no exception. He found that videos of the song frequently doubled as forums for people both espousing and criticizing Turkish nationalist sentiment.

Withers excitedly discusses that interconnectedness of culture, music, and identity, these untouchable yet, to many, sacred elements.

"I have always been interested in culture and all it encompasses, and I got more interested when I realized how intertwined all these things are," he said. "I am interested in a lot of things, and it's been difficult for me to pick one thing to study. But I'm not going to starve because I focused on music ... at least not for the next couple of years."

**Withers added music as a second major and became involved in Pitt's African Music and Dance Ensemble playing drums. He also joined the Carpathian Ensemble and played the guitar-like bouzouki, not only studying the music but also the culture associated with it. He became fascinated by the role of music in forging and reinforcing a community's cultural identity—and the study of that role, which is ethnomusicology.**



# GraduatingSeniorProfile

A Family Tradition

## Nancy and James George, Mother and Son, Don Caps and Gowns Today



James T. George (left) and Nancy S. George

By Anthony M. Moore

Graduating Pitt senior James T. George will receive his bachelor's degree in information science today alongside his mother, Nancy S. George, who will receive a master's degree in library and information science.

The timing of receiving the dual diplomas is more coincidence than the result of long-term planning, said James George, explaining that he and his mother realized only last fall that they were on course to graduate together. "We never had any grand plan to finish [school] with each other; all of the pieces just fell into place for us in September, and we couldn't be more thrilled," he added.

For both graduates, Commencement marks not only the culmination of their academic careers but also a

step in a long journey of personal growth that the two have undertaken together—with Pitt playing an important role throughout.

For Nancy George, earning a second master's degree fulfills a personal dream and reflects a strong family value passed down from her mother, Alice Shimrak, a homemaker, and her father, Steve Shimrak, a railroad worker. Nancy grew up in the small railroad town of Conway, Pa., an area where many

immigrants and first-generation Americans settled. Looking back, the can-do attitude of both her parents and many in the community greatly influenced her, she said.

"Both of my parents grew up during the Depression, so education was seen as important in the sense that they themselves were never able to attain a formal one. They wanted their children to at least have access to educational opportunities."

Nancy first entered the University of Pittsburgh in the fall of 1974. She said Pitt was the ideal place because "all the elements of an outstanding education were there, and I had a very fine college experience." She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in language communication from Pitt in 1978 and a Master's degree equivalency in education, awarded by the state Secretary of Education, in 1985.

From there, Nancy sought to impart the importance of education to her students: She has taught 7th-grade language arts in the Ambridge Area School District for more than 30 years. Along the way, she met and married James H. George Jr., a principal in the South Butler County School District.

Nancy said she chose to earn a master's degree in library and information science, because the curriculum is "directly related to what I already do: making information available so students have what they need to learn."

"Teachers have always been managers of information, but over the years, student learning styles and techniques have changed considerably because of rapid changes in technology. To be successful in the classroom, it is essential that these technologies become integrated into my teaching methods, especially with research and writing. ... I believe that library and information science is generating the classroom of the future, and I am excited to be part of it," she explained.

Of her many achievements, Nancy said instilling the same fundamental values

within her three children has been her greatest accomplishment. All three children are attending Pennsylvania colleges. James, her eldest and fellow Pitt graduate, attests that education played a major role in his upbringing.

"From an early age, my parents emphasized the importance of an education in securing a successful future," James said. "I think that is the natural order of things when you grow up with two parents who are educators. My parents emphasized that education was a lot more than books and tests, and they presented a picture that made us want to be a part of an educational environment."

**"Teachers have always been managers of information, but over the years, student learning styles and techniques have changed considerably because of rapid changes in technology. To be successful in the classroom, it is essential that these technologies become integrated into my teaching methods, especially with research and writing. ... I believe that library and information science is generating the classroom of the future, and I am excited to be part of it."**

—Nancy S. George

While James credits his mother with making him the man he is today, Nancy credits him with providing the inspiration to continue with her own educational career. Her decision to return to college after more than a 20-year hiatus came shortly after James' high school graduation.

"I had taken some classes over the years, but with the kids starting to leave home, it felt like the right time to devote myself fully to finishing what I had started years

ago," said Nancy, acknowledging that she felt a tad overwhelmed during her first year of as a high-tech major. "I could almost identify with people who move to a foreign country and cannot speak the language because I didn't grow up with this level of technology."

Fortunately, she said, James was able to assuage her initial concerns. James, however, attributes his mother's success to her sheer determination.

Nancy said that while some have questioned why she earned another master's degree at this point in her career, she has always felt that education was the best investment in herself, her family, and her community. Comparing an education to a luxury car, "monetarily, my education cost less [than the car], but in value, it was significantly more. When a car leaves a dealer's lot, its value decreases then and each time it is driven. Each time I drove to Pitt and walked into a classroom, my investment increased, and it will continue to increase with time. Obtaining this degree may not make me wealthy by way of a salary increase, but it has made me richer at what I do."

"Clearly, education is the best investment one can make, and one can always benefit from being in a community of life-long learners," she added.

**Graduating Pitt senior James T. George will receive his bachelor's degree in information science today alongside his mother, Nancy S. George, who will receive a master's degree in library and information science.**



# A Decade of Challenge, A Record of Impact and Distinction

## 2010 Report of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg



*This is the printed version of the report delivered by Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg at the February 26, 2010, meeting of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees.*

### Bidding Farewell to a Difficult Decade

**T**hough some purists might argue that the first decade of the new century did not begin until January 1, 2001, and will not end until December 31, 2010, the great mass of humanity marked the end of that decade last December 31. Most observed its passing with relief.

The last 10 years have been called, without affection, the no-name decade, the lost decade, and the decade of zeros. Floyd Norris, writing in *The New York Times*, declared that the decade “richly earned the name ‘the zeros.’ For the entire developed world, that was just about the decade’s total return.” *Time* magazine pushed things even further, saying, “Goodbye (at Last) to the Decade from Hell” and calling the last 10 years “as awful as any peacetime decade in the nation’s entire history.” Paul Krugman, in his *New York Times* column, proposed that we “bid a not at all fond farewell to the Big Zero—the decade in which we achieved nothing and learned nothing.”

Particularly given such grim descriptions of the broader context, we can be proud of what was accomplished here during the last 10 years. Whatever happened elsewhere, the University of Pittsburgh built an accelerating record of high achievement and emerged as an even more productive center of learning. For us, this “lost decade” might more accurately be called a decade of impact and distinction.

### Leading in Education

**W**hen our University was founded 223 years ago, its chartering legislation declared that “the education of youth ought to be a primary object with every government.” More than two centuries later, education—of both the young and the not so young—remains our most fundamental mission.

Our enrollment continues to grow and currently stands at about 35,500. In a typical year during the last decade, more than 33,500 students would have been enrolled in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs offered on Pitt’s five campuses. Those students are drawn from an increasingly talented and accomplished applicant pool.

In developing that talent, our educational programs have regularly produced students earning the very highest forms of national and international recognition. We saw

one shining example this past fall, when we claimed our third Rhodes Scholar in the past five years. That level of sustained excellence more typically might be associated with an elite Ivy League institution than with a public university.

In Pitt’s community of high achievers, though, even our Rhodes Scholars do not stand alone. Instead, in the past decade, Pitt undergraduates also won, among other awards, a Gates Cambridge Scholarship, a Churchill Scholarship, three Udall Scholarships, five Marshall Scholarships, five Truman Scholarships, and 21 Goldwater Scholarships. These are among the most competitive honors awarded in American higher education.

The impact of our work as educators is seen not only in such notable forms of recognition but also is captured, day after day, by the tens of thousands of hardworking Pitt students who are crafting their own records of academic achievement while laying the foundation for lives of real meaning and impact. Many of them have expressed their gratitude for Pitt’s abundance of learning opportunities and for a University environment that fosters shared values and individual growth.

The student-sponsored I Love Pitt Day and designation of the student social and recreational center in the William Pitt Union as Nurdy’s Place—which was less an individual tribute than it was a testament to our entire leadership team and especially to our student life professionals—are two relatively recent illustrations of student appreciation for Pitt’s nurturing community. This past year, to give one telling example of our successes in creating a culture built around the right values, we earned top recognition from a coalition of six national higher education organizations for our efforts to promote “a vibrant intellectual and social climate that deemphasizes the role of alcohol.” We also were recognized as one of the nation’s most veteran-friendly universities for our committed efforts to enhance the Pitt experiences of servicemen and servicewomen who are transitioning from the military to campus life.

We awarded nearly 76,000 University of Pittsburgh degrees during the past decade—degrees that represent the determined use of higher education to build the foundation for lives of impact, consistent with the “American dream.” And within the extended group of former Pitt students—also known as alumni—the past decade brought the very highest forms of recognition.

During the past decade, University of Pittsburgh graduates claimed, among many other honors, the Nobel Peace Prize, the Nobel Prize in Medicine, the National Medal of Science, the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the John Fritz Medal in engineering, the Shaw Prize and Albany Medical Center Prize in medicine, the Grainger Challenge Prize for Sustainability, and the Templeton Prize.



2010 Rhodes Scholar  
Eleanor Ott



2007 Rhodes Scholar  
Daniel Armanios



2006 Rhodes Scholar  
Justin Chalker

Pitt graduates also were elected to such prestigious organizations as the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Engineering, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. And our alumni applied their special talents in such wide-ranging roles as chair of the National Science Board and music director of the New York Philharmonic.

Any institution of higher learning makes many of its most important contributions through the work of its graduates. And any university would be proud to claim Pitt’s list of high-achieving alumni.

Of course, we also are proud to claim the many tens of thousands of Pitt graduates whose careers may never carry them to these levels of national and international recognition but who lead productive lives and are contributing members of their home communities. In this regard, it is important to note that more than 80 percent of our undergraduates and more than 75 percent of our entire student body come from Pennsylvania and that 60 percent of our nearly 270,000 living alumni make their homes in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a number that would be even higher if the state enjoyed more robust job growth.

### Pioneering in Research

**P**itt’s high-achieving faculty also have made the University an internationally respected center of pioneering research. At the close of the decade, we ranked fifth nationally in terms of the funds annually attracted by members of our faculty from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—joining Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Penn, and the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) in the NIH top five. We also rank in the top 10 nationally in total federal science and engineering research and development support. The other fine universities in that top 10 are Johns Hopkins, the University of Washington, Michigan, Penn, UCLA, Duke, Columbia, Stanford, and UCSF.

Pitt’s research expenditures during the past year totaled \$654 million—and having claimed some \$150 million in stimulus-supported grants, we expect to pass the \$700 million mark in research expenditures this year. Over the course of the past decade, our research expenditures totaled an astounding \$5.33 billion. Those largely imported, but



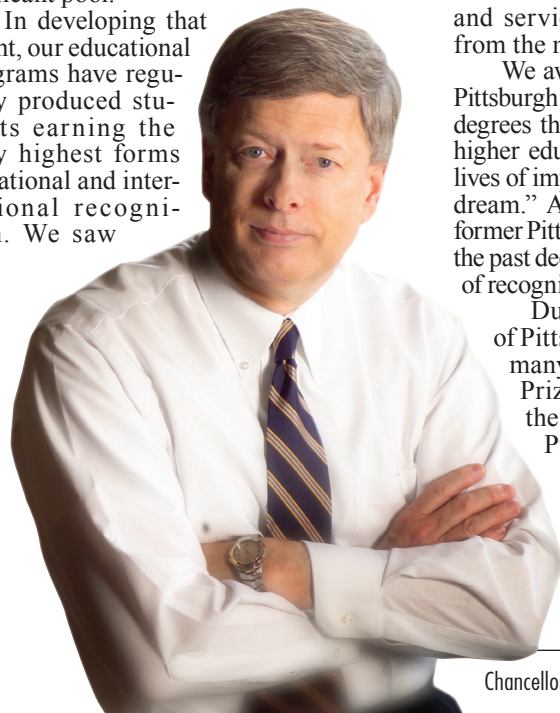
London *Daily Mail* reporter Sam Fleming (right) with Pitt’s structural biology professor Joanne Yeh.

locally spent, funds are an accepted sign of institutional stature, support research of impact, and have provided the fiscal foundation for tens of thousands of very good jobs right here in our home region.

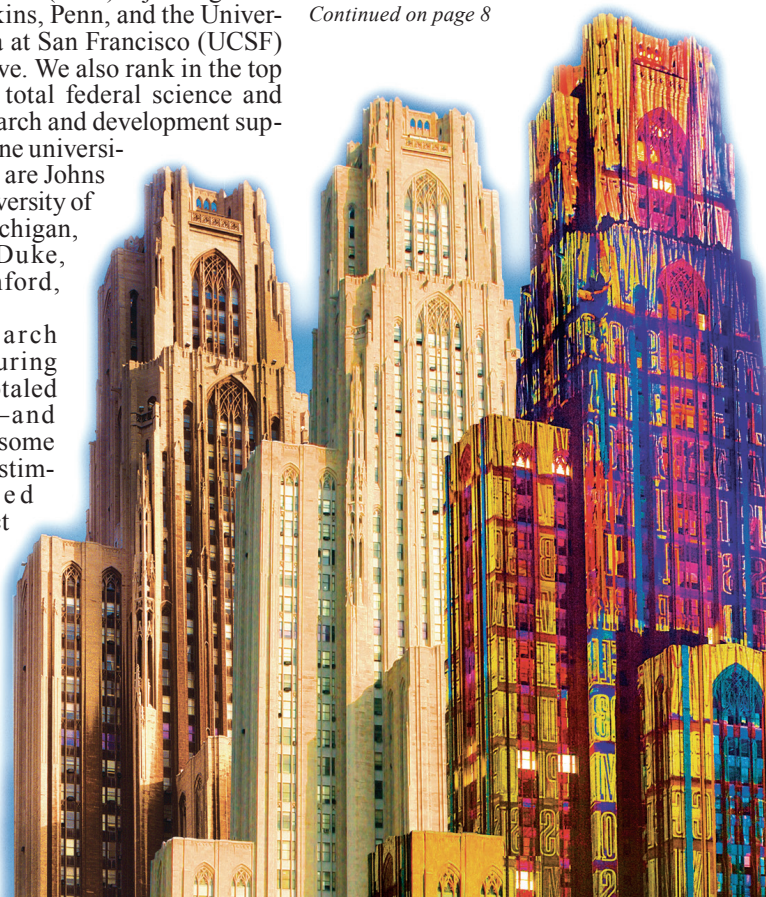
During the past year, both before and after Pittsburgh’s G-20 Summit, this region attracted national and international attention for effecting an economic rebirth tied to university-based research. Over the course of the past decade, Pitt’s research prowess has been an essential factor in the launch of a wide range of technology-driven economic development initiatives. These include the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse and The Technology Collaborative—as well as the Tech Collaborative’s predecessors, the Pittsburgh Digital Greenhouse and the Robotics Foundry.

Supporting such initiatives is a natural extension of the University’s own technology commercialization efforts, which still are of relatively recent vintage but have produced enviable results in recent years. During

*Continued on page 8*



Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg





Continued from page 7

the past decade, our Office of Technology Management received 1,550 invention disclosures and filed 709 new U.S. patent applications. In addition, 303 new patents were issued, 443 license or option agreements were executed, and 59 start-up companies tied to Pitt technology were formed.

Of course, the University also has made significant contributions to the growth of the local economy through companies founded and led by its graduates. Consider two key examples drawn from biotechnology and information technology, both clusters of focus in regional economic growth.

• Jerry McGinnis, a young man from Illinois, came to Pitt to do graduate work in engineering, stayed in the region, and founded Responics, which has become a major regional employer and a force in its area of specialty around the world.

• John Swanson, a young man from upstate New York, came to Pitt to do graduate work in engineering, stayed in the region, and founded ANSYS, Inc., which has become a major regional employer and a force in its area of specialty around the world.

More recently, Pitt graduates—who, like Swanson, also are Trustees—have played key roles in building further strength in the region's growing energy sector. Steve Tritch, as chair and CEO of Westinghouse Electric Company, played a key role in keeping that legendary Pittsburgh firm, with its rapidly growing nuclear power business, here in Western Pennsylvania despite determined efforts to lure the company to other parts of the country. And Keith Schaefer, who had built the earlier stages of his distinguished career in California and reconnected with this region through his work with the Pitt Alumni Association, was named CEO of the Year by the Pittsburgh Technology Council for his outstanding efforts in leading BPL Global, Ltd., which is positioned to be one of this region's great 21st-century commercial successes.

### Supporting a World-Class Faculty

Of course, we would not be able to offer educational programs of distinction, engage in pioneering research, or drive regional economic development without an outstanding faculty. During the past decade, senior faculty colleagues were elected to membership in such prestigious groups as the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Society for Clinical Investigation, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Academy of Education, American Academy of Nursing, American Educational Research Association, and World Academy of Art and Science.

I did my best, as the decade unfolded, to underscore the many other exceptional honors regularly won by members of our faculty and cannot provide a complete retrospective now. However, as a reminder of the level and breadth of achievement that distinguishes our University, and with advance apologies to others whose honors might merit inclusion, let me provide a quick reminder of just a few examples. In the last 10 years, Pitt faculty members claimed, among many high honors:

• the National Medal of Science, this country's highest scientific honor, and the Institute of Medicine's Gustav O. Lienhard Award, given in recognition



Gerald E. McGinnis

John A. Swanson

Stephen R. Tritch

Keith E. Schaefer

of outstanding achievements in improving health care services;

• the Charles S. Mott Prize, widely regarded as the highest honor in cancer research, and two American Cancer Society Research Professorships;

• the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Distinguished Achievement Award for exemplary contributions to humanistic studies, one of the country's largest and most prestigious awards of its type, and the Aquinas Medal of the American Catholic Philosophical Association;

• the MetLife Foundation Award for Medical Research in Alzheimer's disease and the American Academy of Neurology's Potamkin Prize, often labeled "the Nobel of neurology";

• the Chauvenet Prize from the Mathematical Association of America and the David P. Robbins Prize from the American Mathematics Society, both awarded for pathbreaking success in solving the 400-year-old mathematical mystery known as the Kepler conjecture;

• the National Institutes of Health Director's Pioneer Award, supporting novel investigator-initiated research even if it might carry a greater-than-usual risk of not succeeding;

• the American Medical Association Foundation's Pride in the Profession Award for efforts to help poor, disabled, and disadvantaged patients and the Joy McCann Foundation Scholar award for extraordinary mentoring;

• a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Elizabeth Kray Award from Poets House, and the Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award for outstanding contributions to poetry;

• the Olin E. Teague Award and the Paul B. Magnuson Award, the highest honors of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, for work with disabled veterans and for outstanding contributions to rehabilitation research, respectively;

• the Frederick Douglass Book Prize from the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University, the Merle Curti Award from the Organization of American Historians, the James A. Rawley Prize in Atlantic History from the American Historical Association, and the George Washington Book Prize (cosponsored by Washington College in Chestertown, Md., the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City, and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association) for two exceptional volumes exploring the history and impact of

slavery; and

• back-to-back presentations, an historic first, of the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize, the highest honor presented by the Modern Language Association for outstanding work in the fields of language, culture, literacy, or literature with strong application to the teaching of English.

Based on the outstanding potential of

their exceptional work, more junior faculty colleagues received such important forms of recognition and support as a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program awards, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Physician-Scientist Early Career Awards, National Institutes of Health Director's New Innovator Awards, a Fulbright New Century Scholars Program award, Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowships, a Pew Charitable Trusts Early Career Scholar award, and a Beckman Young

Investigators Program award.

These, again, are examples from a much longer list of honors reflecting the past contributions, current strength, and growing potential of our faculty.

### Fueling Job Growth and Adding to Community Vitality

Faculty teacher-scholars obviously make up one very important segment of the University's 12,600-person employee base. Speaking more generally, the people of Pitt do the challenging work—in the many forms it takes—that is required to advance our important mission. And as our work has expanded over the course of the past decade, through both increased enrollment and a much larger portfolio of research, we have added more than 2,200 jobs. We also have remained committed to providing a supportive working environment for our faculty and staff. We were recognized by life scientists as one of the best places in academia to work in a survey conducted by *The Scientist*, and AARP named the University one of the best employers in the country for workers older than age 50.

A recent *Newsweek* cover story examined "the downside of downsizing" and boldly declared that "Layoffs Are Bad for Business." That obviously is not always the case, but it is true for an institution whose basic business lines remain strong. And the demand for Pitt's educational programs and research strengths is at an all-time high.

Maintaining a strong employment base at Pitt also is critical for our home region. Reflecting its continuing growth, the edu-

cation and health services sector now is "the largest supersector in the local area, accounting for over one-fifth of Pittsburgh-area jobs," according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Looking at recent trends, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that, from March of 2008 to March of 2009, the Pittsburgh metropolitan area lost 7,400 manufacturing jobs; lost 5,300 leisure and hospitality jobs; lost 5,200 trade, transportation, and utilities jobs; lost 2,600 professional and business services jobs; lost 1,700 construction jobs; lost 1,100 information and 1,100 financial services jobs; and lost 1,000 government jobs.

In sharp contrast, the "only industry to gain at least 1,000 jobs in the local area was education and health services, which added 5,400 jobs" in that same period. It would be damaging to the region's own best interests, then, to undermine job growth by creating an uncompetitive business climate for this important "supersector"—a concern triggered by the proposed city "tuition tax," which was withdrawn, after a very public battle, just a few days before the end of the decade.

We obviously would prefer never to re-engage in that particular fight. However, if the clash produced any long-term benefits, one would have to be that we found ways to publicize and personalize the contributions made by our students. And, of course, the wide-ranging impacts of the University itself, as well as contributions made by individuals connected to the University, do play a major role in making our region what it is today.

Consider some of the big Pitt-related numbers—tied to impact just in Allegheny County, as opposed to the broader region—from the past decade:

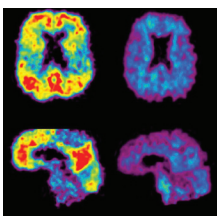
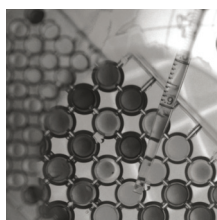
- \$48.7 billion earned by more than 70,000 Pitt graduates;
- \$14.3 billion in direct and induced local spending by the University and its employees, students, and visitors;
- \$11.7 billion in personal income generated by more than 34,000 Pitt-supported jobs; and
- \$1.1 billion in local government revenues attributable to the presence of the University.

Of course, Pitt's community contributions extend far beyond the numbers. The University is a dedicated institutional citizen, a commitment evidenced by the fact that Pitt was the country's top-ranked public university in the 2009 edition of *Saviors of Our Cities: A Survey of Best College and University Civic Partnerships*. That assessment reflects our long-standing and determined efforts to strengthen the economy and enhance the overall quality of life in our home region.

Our strong athletic programs not only serve as a unifying force within the University but also provide a critical link to the broader community, and the past decade was an exciting period for Panther sports. Closing strong during the last year of the decade, Pitt was one of just four universities—along with Connecticut, Michigan State, and Oklahoma—that could claim a football team that participated in a bowl game, a men's basketball team that made it to the NCAA Elite Eight, and a women's basketball team that advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16.

Of course, success in competition is just one measure of a program's worth. Our student-athletes also are a source of real pride because of the way that they represent our University, contribute to the broader community, and perform academically. During the last year of the past decade, 141 Pitt student-athletes earned grade point averages between 3.0 and 3.49; 93 earned GPAs between 3.5 and 3.99; and 12 student-athletes achieved perfect 4.0 grade point averages. Meagan Dooley, an outstanding member of our volleyball team, was named the Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year by the Big East Conference.

Success by our student-athletes—in competition, in the classroom, and in the





community—does depend upon the guidance and support that they receive from their teacher-coaches. During the last year, head men's basketball coach Jamie Dixon was named the 2009 Naismith Men's College Basketball Coach of the Year. He then coached the U.S. under-19 team to its first gold medal since 1991 at the International Basketball Federation World Championships in New Zealand. For that success, he also was named the USA Basketball National Coach of the Year.

Our men's and women's basketball teams play their home games in the spectacular Petersen Events Center, considered by many to be the best place in the world to watch college basketball. "The Pete" is one of many key athletics construction projects completed in the last decade. Others include Heinz Field and the Duratz Athletic Complex in the UPMC Sports Performance Complex, facilities that our football team shares with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Major renovations to Fitzgerald Field House and Trees Hall and its pool were completed, and construction is well under way for our new Olympic sports complex, which also will be named after the extremely generous John and Gertrude Petersen.

### Constructing a Better Community

**S**peaking more broadly, one characteristic of any vibrant region is physical growth. During the past decade, the University also made significant contributions to this key dimension of community progress. More specifically, the University completed 1,751 projects, involving construction expenditures of \$1.142 billion and adding 2,191,739 square feet of space to University facilities.

The contention that nonprofit construction has been taking property off the City of Pittsburgh's tax rolls is frequently asserted but seldom supported. An examination of key Pitt projects from the past decade suggests that this simply is not the case:

- The Petersen Events Center was constructed on the former site of Pitt Stadium, entirely within the footprint of the campus, and has been a source of increased amusement and parking tax revenues for the City;
- Pennsylvania Hall and Panther Hall, with a combined residence hall capacity of about 1,000 students, also were built on the former Pitt Stadium site and have helped to meet what had been identified by the City itself as its highest Pitt priority—building more on-campus undergraduate housing;
- The Sennott Square academic center was constructed within the accepted borders of our campus in Oakland on the

**Consider some of the big Pitt-related numbers—tied to impact just in Allegheny County, as opposed to the broader region—from the past decade:**

- **\$48.7 billion earned by more than 70,000 Pitt graduates;**
- **\$14.3 billion in direct and induced local spending by the University and its employees, students, and visitors;**
- **\$11.7 billion in personal income generated by more than 34,000 Pitt-supported jobs; and**
- **\$1.1 billion in local government revenues attributable to the presence of the University.**

most-blighted block of the Forbes Avenue business corridor. It includes both public parking and first-floor retail facilities that generate tax revenues on a site that had been tax exempt; and

- Our newest biomedical science tower was constructed on the least-attractive parcel of the Fifth Avenue business corridor, also within the accepted borders of the campus and also already tax exempt. It has become, as we intended, a magnet for the research dollars that now are so central to this region's economy.

Key construction projects undertaken outside our traditional Oakland footprint most typically involved some form of partnering with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), very often with UPMC taking the lead construction role. They include some of this era's most stunning examples of community revitalization:

- UPMC built its Sports Performance Complex, part of which is occupied by Pitt, and Pitt constructed the headquarters building for the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, a joint venture of the University and UPMC, at the south end of the



The business corridor along Forbes Avenue through Oakland and the University

Hot Metal Bridge on the site of an abandoned steel mill. For many years, there had been nothing there. Those projects became early anchors for the entire SouthSide Works redevelopment, one of the city's most celebrated successes;

- UPMC built the Hillman Cancer Center, one-half of which is occupied by University researchers, at the edge of its Shadyside campus. That development has advanced the city's reputation as a center of world-class health care and research, generated new jobs, and created the potential for further growth in the Centre Avenue/Baum Boulevard corridor; and

- UPMC also reclaimed the campus of the former St. Francis Hospital, obviously already off the tax rolls, and constructed a magnificent new campus for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, including a pediatric research tower occupied by Pitt faculty members. That site otherwise would have been abandoned, and the Lawrenceville community would have suffered a devastating blow.

It is hard to imagine what today's Pittsburgh region would be like without "eds

and meds" developments of this type. It is even harder to imagine that anyone who has thought about the future of the region would not encourage such examples of growth.

In fact, the power of the "eds and meds" in driving economic development was underscored in three separate, but clearly related, news stories from this week [the week of February 21]. The first was the report that our Property and Facilities Committee had approved some \$46 million in new capital projects spread across a number of campuses, but with the bulk of the work here in Oakland.

The second article, featured in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* business section, was headlined, "No Vacancy: Office Space in Oakland Is Tighter than Ever." That article reported a zero vacancy rate for Class A space in Oakland during the last quarter and quoted the president of a New York-based real estate holding company, who said, "In 20 years of doing commercial real estate, I don't think I've seen a zero vacancy rate in a significant market comparable to Oakland." That rate, the article went on to note, is even more unusual given what is happening in other markets as we move through the recession. As the article further points out, the key reason for the demand is clear: People want space near Oakland's universities and medical institutions.

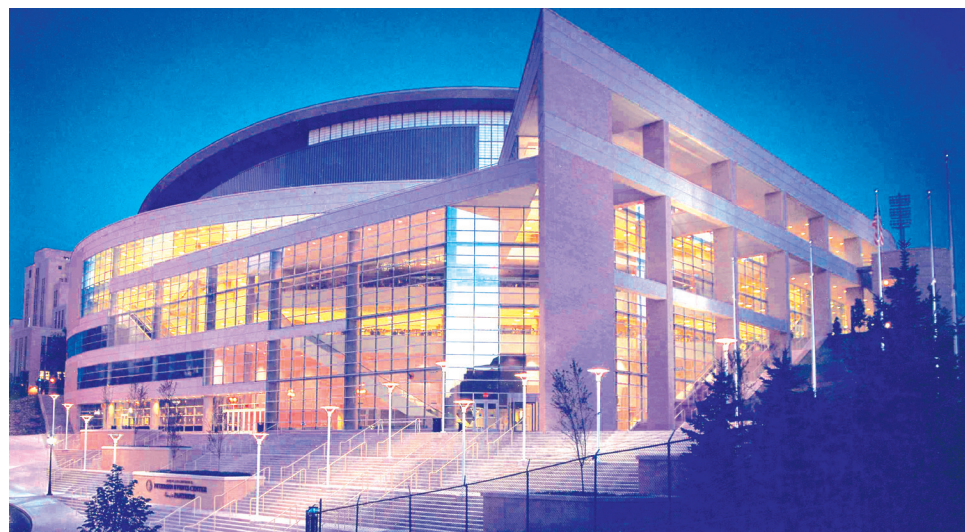
The third directly relevant news item was the report that Allegheny County is seeking a public-private partnership to develop a new mass transit system connecting downtown Pittsburgh and Oakland, the state's second- and third-busiest commercial districts, and opening up new development possibilities for all of the flat land that lies between them. Creating such a link will not be easy. We already have lost out on one round of potential federal funding. However, making that mass transit connec-



Biomedical Sciences Tower 3

*Continued on page 10*

**Our men's and women's basketball teams play their home games in the spectacular Petersen Events Center, considered by many to be the best place in the world to watch college basketball. "The Pete" is one of many key athletics construction projects completed in the last decade**



The John M. and Gertrude E. Petersen Events Center



Sennott Square





Continued from page 9

tion would produce enormous benefits for the economies of this community and the Commonwealth.

### Securing an Adequate Resource Base

Through much of the past decade, Pitt built great momentum as it moved into the modern era of private fundraising. We launched what was to have been a \$500 million capital campaign, by far the largest in our history, in the fall of 2000. When we achieved that goal early, we doubled our goal to \$1 billion, and when we achieved that milestone ahead of schedule, we doubled our goal again. Today, we stand near \$1.5 billion as we move to what I believe will be this campaign's final \$2 billion goal.

The best fundraising year in our history was 2008, when we set multiple records—including those for campaign commitments made, gifts received, total number of donors, foundation support, and individual support. That year also was characterized by some very large, and well-targeted, contributions. Among those gifts of impact were the following:

- The Richard King Mellon Foundation, one of this University's most generous supporters over the course of many years, made a \$23 million gift to Pitt and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, enabling us to create the new Richard King Mellon Foundation Institute for Pediatric Research;

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which had not provided major support to Pitt in the past, made two very large grants to our new Center for Vaccine Research: an \$11.4 million grant to develop new strategies to control tuberculosis and a \$10 million grant to support a vaccine modeling initiative;

- An anonymous donor made a \$12 million bequest to create an endowment that will be a permanent source of scholarship support for commuter students at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown;

- And the high point of that record-setting year was the historic \$41.3 million gift made by Trustee John Swanson to provide broad and flexible support to the school that now bears his name—the John A. Swanson School of Engineering.

When we launched what became our \$2 billion campaign early in the last decade, I had said that our success would be measured less by the dollar total raised and more by what we did with that money. Over time, the critical difference that private support will make as we work to pursue our noble aspirations has become increasingly clear.

On the positive side, we see the impact of private giving in the more than 375 new endowed scholarship and fellowship funds that have been created during the past decade, a period during which our students and the families supporting them have felt increased financial pressure. We see it in the 70 new endowed chairs that have been cre-

ated to support the work of leading members of our talented and committed faculty. And we see it in support for important programs of merit, ranging across the disciplines and throughout the institution.

Of course, the impact of private support also can be seen very visibly in essential physical improvements that would not be possible without such investments in Pitt. Three current projects provide telling examples of the critical difference that private support is making:

- Just last fall, we dedicated the new Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation, a model of cutting-edge green building design and construction processes, which sits at the heart of our sustainability initiatives and was made possible by the generosity and vision of two-time Pitt graduate Jack Mascaro;

- We are pressing forward with major renovations to Benedum Hall, in which the Swanson School of Engineering is principally housed. These upgrades to offices, classrooms, library, and laboratory facilities are one important part of what is being supported by Swanson's historic gift;

- And, as earlier noted, the most recent gift from John and Gertrude Petersen has permitted us to move forward with the construction of what will be known as the Petersen Sports Complex, the future competition and training home for our baseball, softball, and soccer teams.

On a far less positive note, private support has become even more critical because state support for Pitt and for Pennsylvania's other public research universities has been lagging. In fact, in terms of state funding, the past 10 years might fairly be labeled a "lost decade." To provide some sense of longer-term patterns, trends from fiscal year (FY) 2001 through FY 2009 are revealing. During that period, the state's general fund

budget grew by nearly 40 percent; inflation increased by just more than 24 percent; support for community colleges rose by some 33 percent; support for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education increased by nearly 6 percent; and state support for Pitt increased by less than 0.3 percent. Also telling is the fact that actual commonwealth dollars invested in Pitt fell by more than 5 percent during that period, because some past state support was replaced by federal Medicaid matching funds.

The months of 2009, of course, presented their own special difficulties. By this time last year, we were well into the process of doing everything that was required to absorb two midyear appropriation cuts. That responsibility was shouldered without complaint, given the fact that we were moving through such economically challenging times. However, making the required adjustments—which included an institution-wide salary freeze—was not easy, either for the University or for its people.

If those midyear appropriation cuts were somewhat predictable once the recession

had emerged, other major challenges from the past year were not. In midsummer, we faced the startling attempt to label the state-related universities as "nonpublic." That designation would have resulted in tens of millions of dollars of additional losses, because all four institutions would have been denied federal stimulus funding and would have been deprived of certain state-funding protections built into federal law. Fortunately, not only for the involved institutions but for the cause of public higher education, that position was not accepted by the U.S. Department of Education.

However, that was not the end of our special challenges. Because of ongoing disputes over gaming legislation, we were nearly halfway through the current fiscal year, into the second half of December, before our appropriation finally was approved, and our first appropriation payment was not received until early February. Particularly because we had acted, in good faith, to hold tuition increases to very low levels, this delay created a high level of anxiety among our students and their families. It also resulted in financial strains and an inability to plan effectively within the institution.

In the budget that has been proposed for the next fiscal year, funding for the Department of Education would increase by just more than 4 percent, with state support for basic education increasing by nearly 5 percent. In contrast, funding for the University of Pittsburgh and the other state-related universities would stay at the same level as the current fiscal year. This is the continuation of a clear and extended pattern. Compared to FY 2003, for example, state support for basic education will have increased by 43 percent, while actual state dollars allocated to the University of Pittsburgh will have remained the same.

Obviously, flat funding is better than the cuts that were endured last year and in other recent years. However, flat funding will not provide any support for the cost increases that are a virtual certainty. Even more troubling is the fact that federal stimulus funding, upon which two successive state budgets will have been built, is scheduled to disappear in FY 2012. This "funding cliff" threatens to produce larger state budget deficits and likely will result in even greater pressures on funding for public higher education. Some protections have been built into basic education funding lines, and consideration should be given to similarly responsible planning for higher education.

### Building Our Future Together

Though we might wish it were not so, in today's world, little that is worthwhile seems to be easy. But difficulties also can be overstated. Returning for a moment to *Time* magazine's cover story on the past decade, this is a part of what was written to support its deliberately provocative "Decade from Hell" characterization:

"At exactly two minutes after midnight on Jan. 1, 2000, an alarm sounded at a nuclear power plant in Onagawa, Japan.



Gazebo on the grounds of the Pitt-Bradford campus



Millstein library on the Pitt-Greensburg campus



Blackington Hall on the Pitt-Johnstown campus



Bennett Davis Hall on the Pitt-Titusville campus

Government officials and computer scientists around the globe held their breath. Was this the beginning of a massive Y2K computer meltdown? Actually, no. It was an isolated event, one of a handful of glitches to occur (including the failure of 500 slot machines at two racetracks in Delaware) as the sun rose on a new decade. The dreaded millennial meltdown never happened.

"Instead, it was the American Dream that was about to dim. Bookended by 9/11 at the start and a financial wipeout at the end, the first 10 years of this century will very likely go down as the most dispiriting and disillusioning decade Americans have lived through in the post-World War II era. We're still weeks away from the end of '09, but it's not too late to pass judgment. Call it the Decade from Hell, or the Reckoning, or the Decade of Broken Dreams, or the Lost Decade. Call it whatever you want—just give thanks that it is nearly over."

Without question, the last 10 years were a time of great challenge. From terrorist attacks at home to wars abroad, from the Asian tsunami to Hurricane Katrina, from the collapse of the economy to record-setting Ponzi schemes—you might say that we saw it all. Even in our little corner of the world and on a smaller scale, we saw things that many of us never thought would come our way; recent attempts to label us nonpublic and to assess the tuition tax are two end-of-decade examples that quickly come to mind.

But what we also saw here at Pitt was the brightening light, not a dimming, of the American Dream. In fact, we saw the significant advancement of that dream—in the face of real tests and on many fronts—in the inspiring development of our students, in the exciting expansion of human knowledge, and in the committed advancement of the public good.

We know that more obstacles await us, but we also know, from 223 years of proud Pitt history and from our own more recent experiences, that the people of this University always have found ways to meet whatever challenges confronted them and have pushed forward effectively with the University's important work. That is a record of progress that none of us would like to break.

And so, in the weeks and months and years ahead, we will keep pushing forward—not only dealing with problems but also seizing opportunities, building momentum, enhancing our quality, extending our impact, and enjoying the fact that we are doing it together. As Franklin Delano Roosevelt wrote to Winston Churchill—and just think about what they went through together—"It is fun to be in the same decade with you."

We almost certainly are heading down what will continue to be a rough road. However, no one knows more about dealing with potholes than people from Pittsburgh. And if we remember our proud history, remain committed to our noble mission, and continue to support each other, we should be able to make it a deeply satisfying, even if not entirely smooth, ride.



# Graduating Senior Profile

A Student of the World

## Weilu Tan, Fluent in Four languages, Is First Pitt Student to Win Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellowship



Weilu Tan

By Patricia Lomando White

Weilu Tan received her American citizenship just in time to become a citizen of the world.

"I feel very spoiled," said Tan, a Wexford resident who was born in China, came to the United States as a teenager, and graduated from North Allegheny High School in 2005. "Not being a citizen until now, I think I was lucky to have benefited from so many opportunities at Pitt."

Tan, who became a U.S. citizen in March, is receiving a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in political science and Japanese from Pitt's University Honors College and School of Arts and Sciences. She also is the first Pitt student—and one of only eight students in the country—to win a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Junior Fellowship. Each year, the Carnegie Endowment offers 8 to 10 one-year fellowships to college seniors who have graduated during the past academic year. Winners are selected from a pool of nominees from about 400 colleges. Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellows work as research assistants to the endowment's senior associates.

Beginning in August, Tan will spend one year as a research assistant in the Carnegie Endowment's China program in Washington, D.C., conducting research on China-U.S. relations and Asia-related foreign policy. She also will review literature and coauthor publications about the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

Tan's preparation for a future in international relations began as a child. Her parents, who are molecular biologists, moved Tan's family to Japan for work-related reasons when Tan was in primary school. The family

returned to China when Tan entered middle school and came to the United States when she was in high school.

Initially, Tan applied for Pitt's premed program, but she began to have second thoughts, particularly because the major wouldn't make the best use of her language skills. Tan is fluent in Chinese, Japanese, English, and French.

"I also realized that I didn't quite enjoy science," said Tan, who had initially wanted to be a cartoonist until she began high school. "It didn't stimulate my curiosity."

She switched gears and chose a career in international studies, immersing herself in her academic work and taking classes in world affairs and political science. Her parents have fully supported her decision.

Tan's international focus received a major boost during her sophomore year, when she was selected for a United Negro College Fund Institute for International Public Policy (IIPP) Fellowship for underrepresented students majoring in international affairs and public policy. The fellowship provides funding for internships, summer studies in policy or language, studies abroad, and graduate school, totaling \$100,000 per fellow.

"My second year of school was my golden year in terms of scholarships," said Tan. "Receiving the IIPP fellowship opened my eyes to what I could do and helped to solidify my choice of a career in international relations."

With the IIPP Fellowship, Tan completed summer institutes at Spelman College, a historically Black liberal arts college for women in Atlanta, and the University of Maryland.

During her junior year, she also completed an IIPP study abroad at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, also known as Sciences Po and one of the most prestigious universities for political and social sciences in the world. Tan chose the Parisian location because of a Pitt-Sciences Po student exchange program.

Through a teaching assistantship program with Sciences Po, Tan was assigned to Paris to teach English to French students ages 5-13. She spent half of her time teaching and the other half doing course work.

"My teaching experience helped to improve my French language skills," Tan said. "Oftentimes, the students corrected me, and I got a French grammar lesson. Sometimes I felt I was getting paid to learn

French while teaching English."

Another facet of her global studies was provided through a Pitt teaching assistantship under the direction of Xinmin Liu, an assistant professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, whom Tan considers to be a mentor. Tan's skills were fine-tuned during the summers of 2006 and 2009, when she participated in advanced Chinese language studies in China with the support of Study-in-China scholarships from Pitt's Asian Studies Center, a Freeman Asia Scholarship, and a Henry Luce Scholarship.

"These intensive language studies were decisive for the completion of my BPhil thesis on Sino-Japanese relations, which utilized primary sources in Chinese, and my selection as a fellow by the Carnegie Endowment," Tan said.

Tan, who completed her BPhil degree under the direction of Dennis Hart, assistant director of Pitt's Asian Studies Center, also has received additional international study funds for independent field research that expands on her thesis.

In addition, Tan has just completed an internship in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives working with the Education Committee, where she has been preparing bill analyses, resolutions, amendments, and attending hearings and committee meetings. Tan has drafted and will present an original piece of legislation titled "Critical Language Instruction Program" as part of a dual enrollment program.

Prior to beginning the Carnegie Fellowship in August, Tan will travel to Osaka, Japan, in May to intern at Panasonic Electric Works' Ambient Technologies Research Lab, an opportunity obtained through Pitt's Asian Studies Center. She will conduct field research on how to improve family communication through technological innovation in Japanese society. Tan is the only U.S. student and the only person with a background in the social sciences to be chosen in a worldwide competition for the Panasonic internship; normally, only engineering or computer science students receive this honor.

After completing the Carnegie Fellowship next year, Tan plans to attend graduate school. She hopes to someday work for the federal government, the United Nations, or a think tank.

Tan says that she particularly treasures her newly adopted country for its acceptance of people with different cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds.

"I'm Chinese," said Tan, "but I have multiple cultural identities. Being an American citizen allows me to say that."

**Tan's international focus received a major boost during her sophomore year, when she was selected for a United Negro College Fund Institute for International Public Policy (IIPP) Fellowship for underrepresented students majoring in international affairs and public policy. The fellowship provides funding for internships, summer studies in policy or language, studies abroad, and graduate school, totaling \$100,000 per fellow.**



## OMICRON DELTA KAPPA

THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP HONOR SOCIETY



Max Greenwald



Marc Schutzbank

# ODK 2010 Senior of the Year Award Goes to Two Pitt Honors College Students

By Patricia Lomando White

University of Pittsburgh seniors Max Greenwald, majoring in politics and philosophy with a minor in history in the School of Arts and Sciences, and Marc Schutzbank, majoring in politics and philosophy in Arts and Sciences and finance in the College of Business Administration, have been named the 2010 Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Seniors of the Year, announced at Pitt's annual Honors Convocation in February. The winners are both Honors College students.

ODK, founded in 1914 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., is an honorary society that recognizes students who maintain a high standard of leadership in collegiate activities. The award is given to students who possess and exhibit outstanding leadership qualities in service to the University.

Greenwald, a Great Neck, N.Y., native, shows his commitment to the University on a daily basis: He is president of Pitt's Blue and Gold Society—a group of students who work to strengthen the University through student-alumni relationships—and has served as a member since 2007. Greenwald also is a member of Pitt's Student Government Board, serving as its business manager; Oakland Zoo, serving as vice president of the student spirit group; the Varsity Marching Band and Drumline; and Tau Beta Sigma, a national honorary band sorority.

A University Honors College full-tuition scholarship recipient, Greenwald is member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He is a public policy intern with the Green Building Alliance in Pittsburgh and has been a marketing intern at the New York University Langone Medical Center's Office of Communication and Public Affairs in New York

City, an office intern in U.S. Senator Robert Casey Jr.'s Pittsburgh office, and an intern for the law firm of Noah A. Kinigstein in New York City.

Greenwald plans to work at a New York City law firm prior to beginning law school.

Schutzbank, from San Antonio, Texas, has supported a number of national and international efforts during his time at Pitt.

He is cofounder and president of STAND (Students Taking Action Now in Darfur), an antigencide coalition; founder and copresident of Plant to Plate, an urban farm designed to be a model for local agriculture and sustainability; a leader of the Sudan Divestment Task Force; and former vice president of Mission Acceptance, a tutoring organization. A member of numerous clubs, Schutzbank has worked closely with the Hillel Jewish University Center and the Human Environmental Alliance.

Schutzbank, who has a full-tuition scholarship at Pitt, has received two Brackenridge Scholarships through Pitt's Honors College. In 2007, he used the Brackenridge for "Genocide: Finding a Way to Protect the Innocent," a study of genocide-prevention policies, their failures, and potential solutions; and, in 2009, he created a Web site exhibiting a South African photo voice project and radio documentary. He spent the summer of 2008 in South Africa, researching and collecting data for the project. In the fall of 2009, Schutzbank was a research assistant with Global Witness, an advocacy firm reporting on resource-linked conflict, in London.

A Fulbright Scholarship recipient, Schutzbank will attend the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, to study green-roof urban agriculture.

**ODK, founded in 1914 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., is an honorary society that recognizes students who maintain a high standard of leadership in collegiate activities. The award is given to students who possess and exhibit outstanding leadership qualities in service to the University.**

# Pitt Chancellor's Scholar Named Emma Locke Award Winner

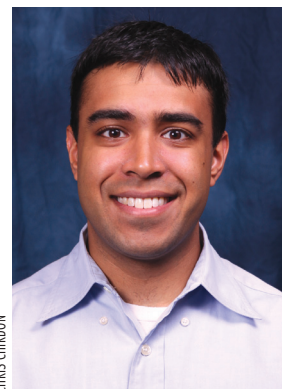
By Patricia Lomando White

University of Pittsburgh Honors College senior Kamesh Krishnamurthy—a Chancellor's Scholar, a bioengineering major in the Swanson School of Engineering, and a political science major with minors in neuroscience and chemistry in the School of Arts and Sciences—was named the 2010 Emma Locke Award winner at Pitt's Honors Convocation earlier this semester.

Established in 1946 by Charles A. Locke in memory of his mother, the Emma W. Locke Award is presented annually to a graduating senior in recognition of high scholarship, character, and devotion to the ideals of the University. The student must have at least a 3.85 GPA and plan to continue his or her education after graduation.

Krishnamurthy will pursue a combined MD/PhD in neurobiology at Duke University.

Since his freshman year, Krishnamurthy has been involved in undergraduate research, most recently with Pitt's Zeringue Research Group, whose purpose is to develop engineering tools for neurobiology research. He has given presentations on his research at the National Biomedical Engineering Society Conference in Pittsburgh and the Northeast Bioengineering Conference in Boston, both in 2009, and at the National Biomedical Engineering Society Conference in Los Angeles in 2007.



Kamesh Krishnamurthy

While at Pitt, Krishnamurthy completed the Fessenden Honors in Engineering Program, earning a Fessenden Honors in Engineering certificate. He is a recipient of an E.J. Slack Engineering Scholarship and a Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award. He is also a member of Alpha Eta Mu Beta, a national biomedical engineering honor society. He has been on the Pitt School of Arts and Sciences and Swanson School of Engineering's dean's lists every term.

Involved in many leadership roles, Krishnamurthy has served as an Honors College ambassador and orientation leader, Alpha Epsilon Delta secretary and business manager, Asian Students' Alliance business manager and political action chair, and *Pitt Political Review* copy editor. He also was a member of the Students Taking Action Now in Darfur divestment task force.

Krishnamurthy has extensive volunteer experience, including assisting nurses in UPMC Presbyterian Hospital's emergency room and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC's ICU and transplant floor care rooms. In addition, he has worked for Child Survival India in New Delhi, served as an America Votes Campaign volunteer, and completed a service-learning project for Pitt's Office of Disability Resources and Services.

# NSF Graduate Research Fellowships Given to 13 Pitt Graduating Seniors, Current Graduate Students

By Patricia Lomando White

University of Pittsburgh graduating seniors and current graduate students have been named recipients of National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships through the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP); the 13 fellowship awards go to six new Pitt graduates and to seven students who are pursuing graduate studies at Pitt.

The fellowships have been designed to ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science and engineering in the United States and reinforce its diversity. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in the United States and abroad.

As the oldest graduate fellowship program of its kind, the GRFP has a long history of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers. The prestige of the GRFP fellowships helps support recipients to become life-long leaders who contribute significantly to both scientific innovation and teaching.

Fellows receive a three-year annual stipend of \$30,000 along with a \$10,500 cost-of-education allowance for tuition and fees, a one-time \$1,000 international travel allowance, and the freedom to conduct research at any accredited U.S. or foreign institution

of graduate education.

Pitt's winners in the undergraduate category are:

Joshua Warren Cannon, an anthropology and linguistics major with a minor in classical languages, who today earns a Bachelor of Arts degree and will attend the University of Chicago to study in the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations program, focusing on the archaeology of Bronze Age Turkey;

Erin Mae Donnelly, a linguistics and anthropology major with a Spanish minor, who today earns a Bachelor of Arts degree and will pursue a PhD in linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley; Erin Christine Rodriguez, an anthropology major with a minor in statistics, who this month earned Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Philosophy degrees, with honors, will attend

the University of California, Berkeley to pursue a PhD in the anthropology program with a concentration in archaeology;

Stanley Frederick Steers, a physics, math, music, and economics major, who today earns a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Science, and a Bachelor of Philosophy degree, will attend Ohio State University to pursue a PhD in physics;

Michaelangelo David Tabone, a political science and chemical engineering major, who today earns a Bachelor of Philosophy, a Bachelor of Science, and a Bachelor of

**The fellowships have been designed to ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science and engineering in the United States and reinforce its diversity.**

Continued on page 13





## NSF Graduate Research Fellowships Given to 13 Pitt Graduating Seniors, Current Graduate Students

Continued from page 12

Arts degree, as well as a certificate in geographic information systems. He will study in the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley, for an interdisciplinary degree combining engineering, economics, environmental science, and social sciences.

Allyson Caroline Tessin, who today earns a BA in environmental studies and a BPhil in geology, will spend next year in Norway studying at the Bjerknes Center for Climate Research through a Fulbright grant, before attending the University of Michigan to pursue a PhD in geology.

Pitt winners in the graduate category follow:

Emma Monroe Baillargeon, who earned her BS in bioengineering at Pitt, is pursuing an MS in bioengineering at Pitt. After receiving her MS, she plans to enter a PhD program in bioengineering.

Julia Rebecca Bursten, who earned a BA in philosophy at Rice University, has completed her second year of study towards a PhD in the history and philosophy of science at Pitt.

Erin Crowder, who earned a BS in

neuroscience with a minor in mathematics at the College of William and Mary, is pursuing a PhD in bioengineering at Pitt.

Eric Anthony Griffin, who earned a BS in biology with minors in chemistry and sociology at Berry College, is working towards her PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology at Pitt.

Katherine Iman Martin, who earned a BA in brain, behavior, and cognitive sciences, with highest distinction, with minors in linguistics, Spanish, and language and literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, is pursuing an MA/PhD in applied linguistics with a focus on second-language acquisition and a graduate certificate in Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages at Pitt.

Aarthi Padmanabhan, who earned a BS in cognitive science with a minor in communications design at Carnegie Mellon University, is pursuing a PhD in cognitive psychology with a concentration in cognitive neuroscience while at Pitt; and

Lynn Anne Worobey, who earned a BS in biomedical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, is currently pursuing a PhD in bioengineering at Pitt.

## University to Graduate 7,000 Students on Its Five Campuses

Continued from page 2

lielmo Marconi, and George Westinghouse.

Swanson was named a Pitt School of Engineering Distinguished Alumnus in 1998. He has served on Pitt's Board of Trustees since 2006.

In December 2007, Pitt renamed its engineering school the John A. Swanson School of Engineering in recognition of the greatest generosity by an individual donor in Pitt's history.

Swanson is recognized internationally as an authority and innovator in the application of finite-element methods to engineering. In 1970, Swanson founded ANSYS, Inc., which markets the ANSYS software code that Swanson created for use by the aerospace, automotive, biomedical, manufacturing, and electronics industries to simulate how product design will behave in real-work environments.

Swanson served ANSYS as president, chief executive officer, and director; at his retirement from ANSYS in March 1999, he was the company's chief technologist. Headquartered in Canonsburg, Pa., with more than 40 sales locations worldwide, ANSYS and its subsidiaries today employ

approximately 1,400 people and distribute products through a network of channel partners in more than 40 countries. Swanson still teaches ANSYS training classes and serves the company in an advisory capacity.

In 2002, Swanson was inducted into the Cathedral of Learning Society, which recognizes individuals who have donated \$1 million or more to the University. Through his earlier investments in Pitt's \$2 billion Building Our Future Together capital campaign, Swanson created the John A. Swanson Institute for Technical Excellence, which houses the John A. Swanson Center for Micro and Nano Systems; the John A. Swanson Center for Product Innovation; and the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Center of Excellence. He also has established the John A. Swanson Embedded Computing Laboratory in Computer Engineering.

Before attending Pitt, Swanson received his master's and bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering from Cornell University in 1963 and 1962, respectively. Now retired, Swanson lends his expertise to Pitt engineering students as an advisor on senior design projects.

## Pitt School of Education Marks Its 100th Anniversary, Jumps in U.S. News Rankings

Continued from page 2

tor of LRDC; and Professor Mary Margaret Kerr, a national expert on ways to end school violence and to ensure that schools are safe and nurturing environments. The Office of Child Development in the school, headed by Christine Groark and Robert McCall, enjoys a worldwide as well as regional reputation as a source of research and policy advice on early childhood programs and child development.

This past year, School of Education faculty members have received numerous awards and appointments, including, in November 2009, the naming of Gomez as one of only five senior partners for a new program at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The Carnegie Foundation program seeks to address some of the most troublesome problems affecting the educational success of a large number of our nation's students, beginning with the high failure rates among community college students in developmental mathematics.

Also honored this past year were Rita M. Bean, professor emerita in the Department of Instruction and Learning, who received the 2009 International Reading Association Special Service Award for distinguished service to the association, and Roger D. Klein, a professor in the school's Department of Psychology in Education, who received the 2009 Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Media Psychology. Bean, who joined the University in 1971, also has been inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame, which recognizes individuals who have contributed to further improvement in reading instruction.

Later this month, Suzanne Lane, a professor in the Department of Psychology in Education, and Margaret G. McKeown, clinical professor in the Department of Instruction and Learning and senior scientist at LRDC, will be inducted as 2010 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Fellows at AERA's annual meeting in Denver, Colo.

Lane and McKeown are being recognized for their exceptional scientific and scholarly contributions to educational research, and they join five Pitt faculty and researchers who were inducted into the inaugural class of AERA fellows in 2008. Pitt's inaugural inductees were William W. Cooley, professor emeritus in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies; James Greeno, visiting professor of education at Pitt and the Margaret Jacks Professor of Education Emeritus at Stanford University; Dean Alan Lesgold; Lauren Resnick, University Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Science, senior scientist and project director in LRDC, and former LRDC director; and Janet Schofield, senior scientist at LRDC and professor and social program chair in the Department of Psychology.

Among the School of Education's many programs is the Center for Urban Education, which serves as a vital link to the regional K-12 educational community, leading the school's initiatives in urban education research, training, and practice.

The center's partnership with the Pittsburgh Public School's University Prep School serves a national model for school district/university cooperation.

Gomez, the center's director, is the inaugural holder of the Helen S. Faison Chair, which was established in 2006 to honor Pitt alumnus and emeritus trustee Faison, a trailblazing educator who earned all her degrees in Pitt's School of Education—the BS degree in 1946, the MEd degree in 1955, and the PhD degree in 1975.

In 2004, Faison was selected as number one among the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* "Top 12 Educators" making a difference in Western Pennsylvania. The first fully endowed chair in the 98-year history of the School of Education, the Faison Chair was funded through gifts from the Buhl Foundation, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and the Grable Foundation, each contributing \$500,000, with additional support from the Falk Foundation.

Education researchers Margaret Smith, Mary Kay Stein, Kevin Crowley, Jennifer Russell, Richard Correnti, Anthony Petrosky, and several others play important roles in Pitt's LRDC, founded

in 1963, where they and scholars from across the University study what learning is, how it happens, and ways it can be improved. LRDC scholars, including founder Robert Glaser, past director Lauren Resnick, and current director Charles Perfetti, have contributed substantially to knowledge about human cognition, learning, and effective schooling and training.

Within the LRDC, the Institute for Learning helps school districts around the country improve their performance and also provides resources to help the school prepare educational professionals.

Pitt's Learning Policy Center, a universitywide center within the School of Education, is dedicated to advancing ideas that encompass both education policy and learning theories, and the school's Department of Health and Physical Activity focuses its academic, research, and service efforts on promoting physically active lifestyles and other health-related behaviors to prevent disease and enhance quality of life across the lifespan.

Along with its experienced faculty, the School of Education has a number of high-achieving students as well. The state Department of Education, for example, named Michelle Switala, Pine-Richland High School math teacher and doctoral student in Pitt's School of Education, the 2010 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year.



Alan Lesgold

**Along with its experienced faculty, the School of Education has a number of high-achieving students as well. The state Department of Education, for example, named Michelle Switala, Pine-Richland High School math teacher and doctoral student in Pitt's School of Education, the 2010 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year.**



# Newsmakers

## A VISIT WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF



JIM BURKE/CODE



MARY JANE BENT/CODE

Top photo: Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg (far right) hosted Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen (center) on April 19 during a town hall meeting in Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum. Admiral Mullen addressed the audience prior to his participation in a discussion panel, which was moderated by Rory A. Cooper, FISA-Paralyzed Veterans of America Chair at the University of Pittsburgh and Senior Career Scientist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Discussion panel member U.S. Representative Tim Murphy (Pa.-18th) is on the left. Lower photo: Admiral Mullen hands out "Challenge Coins" inscribed with his signature.

## Pitt Seniors Receive Whitaker Scholarships For International Research and Study

Continued from page 2

an Albert and Olga Gazalie Endowment Scholarship. Freedman was a finalist for the Gates Cambridge Scholarship this year and has received the Fraternity and Sorority Life Outstanding Scholarship Award twice. Freedman is a former president of Alpha Eta Mu Beta Biomedical Engineering Honor Society and a member of the Biomedical Engineering Society, the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, and the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. He also is a Pitt dean's list honoree.

Freedman works as a researcher in Pitt's Neural Tissue Engineering Laboratory and as a technician for a heart-lung machine at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. He is a member of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, having served as its philanthropy chair, internal vice president, and scholarship chair; and was president of Pitt's Jazz Ensemble, traveling with the group to Jamaica in May 2006 and 2007 to play for underprivileged children in rural communities. In March 2009, Freedman went on a service trip to Guatemala to help build a water reservoir and renovate a schoolhouse.

Perich also will graduate today, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in bioengineering at Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering. He will begin his work on the Blue Brain Project in September.

On École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne's Web site, the Blue Brain Proj-

ect is described as the first comprehensive attempt to reverse-engineer the mammalian brain in an effort to understand brain function and dysfunction through detailed simulations. Perich will investigate how different learning algorithms impact the function of the simulated neocortical column.

Perich's honors and awards include a Pitt full-tuition academic honors scholarship, a John C. Papp Scholarship from the Swanson School of Engineering, a Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation Math and Science Scholarship, and an Elks National Foundation Scholarship. A Pitt dean's list honoree, Perich also is a Pitt University Scholar, a Swanson School of Engineering Term Honor List honoree, and a Molloyhan Foundation High Technology Scholar. He is a member of the Biomedical Engineering Society and a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

Perich also is a researcher in Pitt's Rehab Neural Engineering Lab and is completing a two-year research fellowship supported by the undergraduate program in Neural Computation from the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition at Carnegie Mellon University and Pitt. Perich served as an intern at NASA in 2005 and at the Galaxy Global Corporation in 2006 and 2007, both in Fairmont, W.Va., and at Biometric Services International in Morgantown, W.Va., in 2008.

## Pitt to Host 12th Annual Russian Film Symposium May 3-8



By Anthony M. Moore

The University of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Filmmakers will present the 12th annual Russian Film Symposium, titled "From Art-House to Cine-Plex: Russian Cinema's Search for a Mass Audience," from May 3-8.

The symposium's films will be shown in Pitt's David Lawrence Hall (DLH) as well as in the Melwood Screening Room (MSR), 477 Melwood Ave., Oakland.

This year's symposium will explore the complex relationship between Russian art-house cinema and genre cinema as well as the balance between independently made films targeting small, niche audiences and Hollywood-style films aimed at mass audiences.

Renowned film scholars from Europe and the United States will present brief introductions for each film, and a discussion will follow each screening. Notable speakers will include Nikolai Izvolov, director of the sector of domestic cinema at the Russian Institute of Cinema Studies; Anthony Anemone, associate provost of foreign languages at The New School University; and Petre Petrov, assistant professor of Slavic languages and literatures at Princeton University.

Pitt's DLH screenings are free and open to the public; admission to each of Pittsburgh Filmmaker's MSR viewings is \$7. All films contain English subtitles. The symposium will feature, in addition to the screenings, two roundtable discussions, at 2:30 p.m. May 5 and 11 a.m. May 8, both in DLH.

A screening schedule follows.

### May 3

*Pete on the Way to Heaven* (2009), 97 minutes, directed by Nikolai Dostal, 10 a.m., DLH; *The Miracle* (2009), 110 minutes, directed by Aleksandr Proshkin, 2 p.m., DLH;

### May 4

*Sonny* (2009), 96 minutes, directed by Larissa Sadilova, 10 a.m., DLH; *Melody for a Street Organ* (2009), directed by

Kira Muratova, 2 p.m., DLH;

### May 5

*Help Gone Mad* (2009), 118 minutes, directed by Boris Khlebnikov, 10 a.m., DLH; *Wolfy*, 88 minutes, directed by Vasili Sigarev, 7:30 p.m., MSR;

### May 6

*Tale in the Darkness* (2009), 77 minutes, directed by Nikolai Khomeriki, 10 a.m., DLH; *Oxygen* (2009), 75 minutes, directed by Ivan Vyrypaev, 7:30 p.m., MSR;

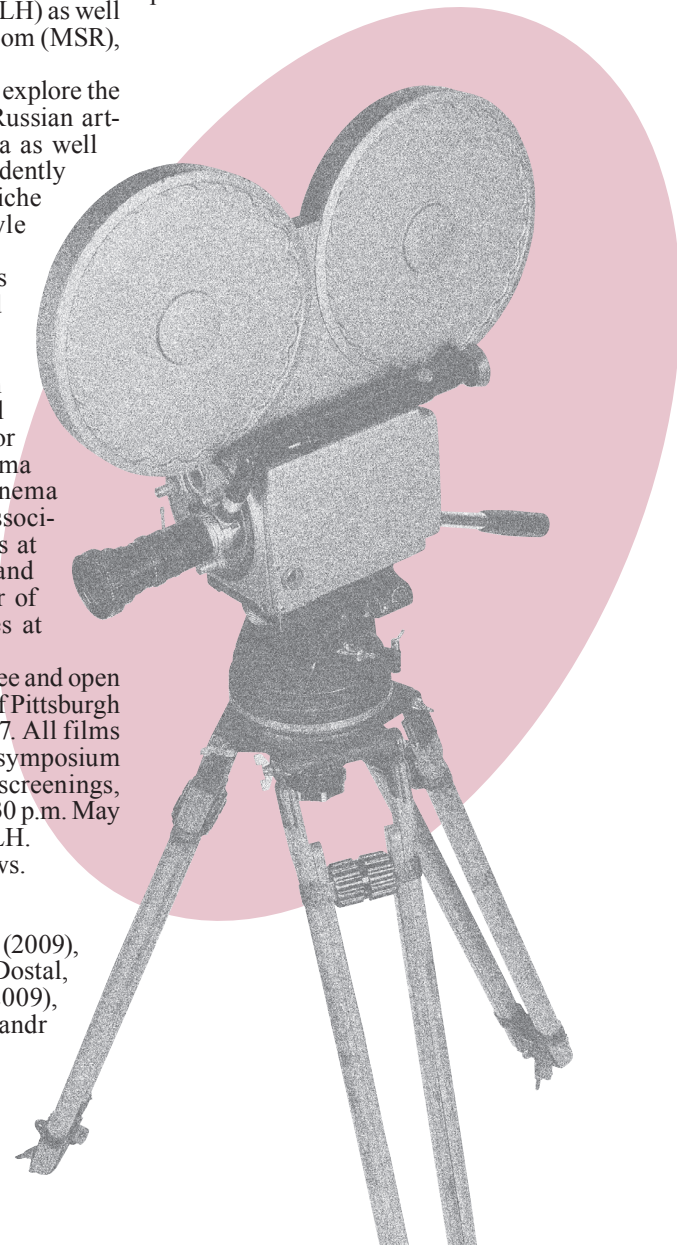
### May 7

*Crush: Five Stories About Love* (2009), 92 minutes, directed by Boris Khlebnikov, Ivan Vyrypaev, Petr Buslov, Aleksei German Jr., and Kirill Serebrennikov, 10 a.m., DLH; *Room and a Half* (2009), 115 minutes, directed by Andrei Khrzanovskii, 2 p.m., DLH; *Hipsters* (2009), 115 minutes, directed by Valerii Todorovskii, 7:30 p.m., MSR; and

### May 8

*Taras Bulba* (2009), 128 minutes, directed by Vladimir Bortko, 7:30 p.m., MSR.

For a full schedule of events and a synopsis of the screenings, visit [www.rusfilms.pitt.edu](http://www.rusfilms.pitt.edu).





# Happenings



©PITTSBURGH OPERA

**The Marriage of Figaro, Benedum Center, May 2**

## Concerts

**Jazz It Up!**, musical performance, 4 p.m. **May 2**, Ingomar United Methodist Church, 1501 W. Ingomar Rd., Franklin Park, Pittsburgh Concert Chorale, 412-635-7654, [www.pghconcertchorale.org](http://www.pghconcertchorale.org).

**Hilary Hahn & Shostakovich**, Hilary Hahn, violin, Manfred Honeck, conductor, in a program of works by Sibelius and Shostakovich, BNY Mellon Grand Classics Series, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, **May 7-9**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-392-4900, [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org), Pitt Arts Cheap Seats program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Puerto Flamenco From Seville, Spain, New Hazlett Theater, May 8**

**Carnegie Mellon University Jazz Vocal Ensemble**, musical performance, 8 p.m. **May 8**, Alumni Concert Hall, Carnegie Mellon University College of Fine Arts, 5000 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Carnegie Mellon School of Music, 412-268-2383, [www.music.cmu.edu](http://www.music.cmu.edu).

**Puerto Flamenco From Seville, Spain**, flamenco musical and dance performance, 8 p.m. **May 8**, New Hazlett Theater, Allegheny Square East, North Side, Guitar Society of Fine Art, 412-396-5486, [www.gsfapittsburgh.org](http://www.gsfapittsburgh.org), Pitt Arts Cheap Seats program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**The Amish Monkeys**, improvisational comedy show, 8 p.m. **May 8**, Gemini Theater in the Factory Building, 7501 Penn Ave., Point Breeze, 412-243-5201, [www.amishmonkeys.com](http://www.amishmonkeys.com).

**Musique Fantastique**, Edgewood Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. **May 15**, Agnes and Joseph Katz Performing Arts Center, Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, 578 Darlington Rd., Squirrel Hill, [www.edgewoodsymphony.org](http://www.edgewoodsymphony.org).

## Exhibitions

**Carnegie Museum of Natural History**, *Whales/Tohora*, through **May 2**, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, [www.carnegiemnh.org](http://www.carnegiemnh.org).

**The Westmoreland Museum of American Art**, *Concerning the 1930s in Art: Paintings From the Schoen Collection*, through **May 16**, 221 N. Main St., Greensburg, 724-837-1500, [www.wmuseumaa.org](http://www.wmuseumaa.org).

**SPACE, Artist Image Resource, and Fe Arts Gallery**, *Rock, Paper, Scissors*, through **May 23**, one exhibition at three locations, comprising work ranging from video to installation art; featuring pieces by three Pitt Studio Arts faculty, SPACE, 812 Liberty Ave., Downtown; Artists Image Resource, 518 Foreland St., North Side; Fe Arts Gallery, 4102 Butler St., Lawrenceville, 412-624-4364.

**Carnegie Museum of Art**, *Forum 64: Cecil Balmond*, through **May 30**; *Gods, Love, and War: Tapestries at Carnegie Museum of Art*, through **June 13**; *Imagining Home: Selections From the Heinz Architectural Center*, through **May 30**; *Past Meets Present: Decorative Arts and Design*, ongoing; *Caricature, Satire, and Comedy of Manners: Works on Paper From the 18th Through 20th Centuries*, ongoing; 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org).

**Pittsburgh Glass Center**, *From the Earth to the Fire and Back*, through **June 13**, Pittsburgh Glass Center, 5472 Penn Ave., Garfield, 412-365-2145, [www.pittsburghglasscenter.org](http://www.pittsburghglasscenter.org).

**Senator John Heinz History Center**, *Discover the Real George Washington: New Views From Mount Vernon*, through **July 18**; *Ben Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, ongoing; 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org).

## Film

**Pitt Russian Film Symposium**, "From Art-House to Cine-Plex: Russian Cinema's Search for a Mass Audience," **May 3-8**, Pitt's David Lawrence Hall and Melwood Screening Room, 477 Melwood Ave., Oakland, presented by Pitt and Pittsburgh Filmmakers, [www.rusfilms.pitt.edu](http://www.rusfilms.pitt.edu). (See story on page 14.)

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**Harvey Arden**, author, book reading featuring Native American flutist Joseph Firecrow, 4 p.m. **May 8**, Nemaquin Woodlands Resort Lecture Hall, 1001 LaFayette Dr., Farmington, Pa., First Nations Inc., 215-253-8865, [www.buffalomesengers.org](http://www.buffalomesengers.org).

**Annual Spring Research Symposium**, featuring speaker Lawrence A. Tabak, director, National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research, and student and faculty research and poster presentations, 9 a.m.-noon **May 12**, Lecture Room 5, Scaife Hall, Pitt School of Dental Medicine, 412-370-3583, [beaverkc@upmc.edu](mailto:beaverkc@upmc.edu).

## Miscellaneous

**Annual Spring Art and Jewelry Sale** to support H. Wei Memorial Scholarship Award in Epidemiology, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **May 7**, First Floor Lounge, Room 118, Parran Hall, Pitt Graduate School of Public Health, [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/evelynwei](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/evelynwei).

**Shadyside Art Festival**, featuring works from an eclectic mix of established artists and emerging talents, **May 22-23**, 739 Bellefonte St., Shadyside, 954-472-3755, [info@artfestival.com](mailto:info@artfestival.com).

**The Classic Soul Music Festival**, starring Charlie Wilson of the Gap Band, Con Funk Shun, and Artistree, hosted by comedian Cool-Aide, 8 p.m. **May 14**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Groove Productions, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org), 412-456-6666.

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**The Task**, by Heiner Müller, theatrical performance, through **May 9**, The Gage Building, 30th Street and Liberty Avenue, Downtown, Quantum Theatre, 412-697-2929, [www.quantumtheatre.com](http://www.quantumtheatre.com), Pitt Arts Cheap Seats program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**The Marriage of Figaro**, music by Mozart, opera performance, 8 p.m. **May 2**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-281-0912, [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org), Pitt Arts Cheap Seats program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Young Frankenstein**, by Mel Brooks, musical theater, **May 4, 5, 6, 8, 9**, Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org), Pitt Arts Cheap Seats program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Annie**, musical theater, **May 6-16**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, 412-539-0900, [www.pittsburghmusicals.com](http://www.pittsburghmusicals.com), Pitt Arts Cheap Seats program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Shelly Garrett's Beauty Shop**, theatrical performance, **May 15-17**, August Wilson Center for African American Culture, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org), Pitt Arts Cheap Seats program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Time of My Life**, by Alan Ayckbourn, theatrical performance, through **May 16**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, [www.ppt.org](http://www.ppt.org).

**Shooting Star**, theatrical performance, through **May 16**, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, City Theatre Company, 412-431-2489, [www.citytheatrecompany.org](http://www.citytheatrecompany.org).

**Rennie Harris Puremovement**, dance performance, 8 p.m. **May 21**, August Wilson Center for African American Culture, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org), Pitt Arts Cheap Seats program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Nunsense**, musical theater, through **June 27**, CLO Cabaret Theater, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh CLO Cabaret, 412-281-3973, [www.pittsburghclo.org](http://www.pittsburghclo.org), Pitt Arts Cheap Seats program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

## Pitt/PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Milia Zankina**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, 2 p.m. **May 3**, "The Transformation of the Bulgarian Political Elite in the Period of Transition: Its Impact on the Transition Process," 3430 Posvar Hall.

**Amelia Johnson**, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Geology and Planetary Science, 10 a.m. **May 6**, "Reconstructing Pittsburgh's Pollution History with Dendrochemistry: An Analysis of Trace Metal Concentrations in a Schenley Park Red Oak Tree," 214 Space Research Coordination Center.

**Julie Draskoczy**, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, 1:30 p.m. **May 6**, "A Body of Work: Building Self and Society at Stalin's White-Baltic Sea Canal," 1218 Cathedral of Learning.

**Alyssa DeBlasio**, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, 11 a.m. **May 14**, "Between Philosophies: The Emergence of a New Intellectual Paradigm in Russia," 1218 Cathedral of Learning.

**Haya Al-Khatlan**, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, 10 a.m. **May 17**, "Evaluation of Young Adults' Preferences, Needs, and the Understandability of the Personal Health Record Data Contents," 6053 Forbes Tower.

**Meghan Solomon**, School of Education's Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, 11 a.m. **May 19**, "The Influence of Faculty Gender on Student-Centered Pedagogical Approaches to Instructional Technology," 5702 Posvar Hall.

**Aaron Secrest**, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology, 3 p.m. **May 25**, "Mortality Trends in a Population-Based Type 1 Diabetes Cohort," 2nd-Floor Conference Room, Diabetes and Lipids Research Building, 3515 Fifth Ave., Oakland.

**Hilary Hahn & Shostakovich, Heinz Hall, May 7-9**





## Pitt Community Makes Impact in Efforts to Help Haiti Earthquake Victims

By John Fedele

The coordinated efforts of University of Pittsburgh faculty, staff, and students have made a difference in helping Haitians whose lives were devastated and homes destroyed by a Jan. 12 earthquake.

Pitt's volunteer relief activities were coordinated by G. Reynolds "Renny" Clark, vice chancellor for community initiatives and chief of staff in Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg's office; John Wilds, assistant vice chancellor for community relations; and Steve Zupcic, assistant director in the Office of Community Relations.

Just two days after the quake, Pitt's community relations team formed partnerships with two Pittsburgh-based relief agencies: Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF) and Global Links.

Pitt and BBF's "Buckets for Haiti" campaign collected more than 1,200 buckets that were filled with soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, washcloths, towels, sanitary wipes, hairbrushes, and combs in five-gallon buckets; an additional 120 were collected on the Greensburg campus.

Members of Pitt's Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology assembled the items into smaller, individual personal care packages to facilitate distribution.

"It's hard to imagine doing without personal care items that everyone takes for granted in this country," said Joseph Pawlak, administrative coordinator of the Pitt Men's Study and leader of the personal care items project. "Being able

to wash your face or brush your teeth seems like a little thing, but it helps to restore dignity to people overwhelmed with stress."

Once the buckets were filled, Pitt's Department of Mailing Services collected them from around campus and stored them at its warehouse for pickup by BBF.

The buckets were more than just a clever way to collect the items: With much of Haiti's Port-au-Prince population living in temporary relief camps, a single faucet is often the sole source of potable water for hundreds of families. The buckets served as a convenient way to collect water.

"We selected Brother's Brother Foundation because it has a 40-year history of delivering humanitarian aid on the ground in Haiti," said Zupcic, adding that BBF's founder, the

late Robert Hingson, was a professor in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) as well as a professor of anesthesiology in Pitt's School of Medicine and director of anesthesiology at Magee-Womens Hospital.

"The Brother's Brother Foundation is grateful to the University of Pittsburgh students, staff, and faculty who graciously supported the relief efforts in Haiti with donations of buckets filled with hygiene items," said Luke Hingson, who succeeded his father as BBF president.

Pitt's partnership with Global Links, the "Have a Heart for Haiti" campaign, involved GSPH faculty, staff, and students collecting mobility-assist devices such as crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs.

In late February and March, more than 200 crutches, canes, walkers, and wheelchairs were collected for Haitians who suffered catastrophic injuries in the earthquake. Volunteers from GSPH, led by Pawlak, and the School of Nursing, led by Building Manager Kathleen Zoldos, collected the items for Global Links.

"The donations by University of Pittsburgh students, staff, and faculty members helped address the severe shortages of crutches, canes, and walkers throughout Haiti," said Global Links Deputy Director Angela Garcia.

"New crutches are expensive to purchase in Haiti because they are imported. Crutches cannot be made in Haiti due to the severe deforestation. The only available trees are young products of tree-planting efforts to help counter the environmental degradation. As our recovery efforts continue, we look forward to additional creative partnerships with the University community that convey our collective expression of concern for the people of Haiti," she said.

In addition to the mobility-assist device

**"It's hard to imagine doing without personal care items that everyone takes for granted in this country. Being able to wash your face or brush your teeth seems like a little thing, but it helps to restore dignity to people overwhelmed with stress."**

— Joseph Pawlak

collection, Global Links partnered with the Center for Global Health within GSPH to sponsor a series of panel discussions and conferences on the Haiti disaster and recovery efforts.

Clark, Wilds, and Zupcic published a letter on Pitt's Department of Community Relations Web page thanking the Pitt community for its efforts. The letter is available at <http://www.commrel.pitt.edu/>.

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published May 17. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 15) 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](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).