

## Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award Given to Pitt-Bradford Admissions Office

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg has selected the Pitt-Bradford Office of Admissions to receive the 2010 Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award. The award is presented annually to an "outstanding University program area or individual that has made a significant contribution in affirmative action."

The Chancellor will present the \$2,500 award to the Pitt-Bradford admissions office at the University Senate Council meeting on Wednesday, June 9.

The Award Selection Committee "was deeply impressed by the team effort the Office of Admissions employed to develop a program that would create a culturally diverse and inclusive campus and community," Nordenberg wrote in his May 27 letter to Alexander P. Nazemetz, director of the Pitt-Bradford Office of Admissions, informing him of the award.

"I am well aware of the efforts of the Office of Admissions at Pitt-Bradford to increase enrollment, and I am very pleased to be able to recognize the efforts the department has made in achieving its

goals—while also ensuring diversity of the student body," Nordenberg added.

Pitt-Bradford President Livingston Alexander said, "I'm pleased that Chancellor Nordenberg and the selection committee saw fit to acknowledge the work and success of Alex Nazemetz and our Admissions staff. The colleagues who make up the staff are deeply dedicated and committed to the principles of affirmative action, and they are truly deserving of this special recognition."

"Our current strategic plan features a major strategic direction and specific action plans relating to diversity at the student, faculty, and staff levels. We've made tremendous progress at the student level and are beginning to see progress at the faculty and staff levels as well. Shining the spotlight on the work of our Admissions team will stimulate even more progress in this critically important area," Alexander added.

The Office of Admissions was nominated for the award by James K. Evans Jr., Pitt-Bradford vice president and dean of student affairs. In his nomination package, Evans detailed the work the department has

*"I am very pleased to be able to recognize the efforts the department has made in achieving its goals—while also ensuring diversity of the student body."*

*—Mark A. Nordenberg*

done, including the dramatic increase in the number of underrepresented students attending Pitt-Bradford, including African American, Asian, and Hispanic students. Evans wrote that the Office of Admissions has created a campus environment "where diversity is seen and celebrated," including the formation of both an African American Student Union and Asian Student Alliance.

In addition, Evans praised the department for its successful recruitment of a freshman class that draws from 47 counties throughout Pennsylvania and 15 counties in New York State as well as from 13 other states and the District of Columbia.



## McGowan Institute Gets \$12 Million for Human Studies of Treatments for Battlefield Injuries, Scars

By Anita Srikameswaran

A two-year, \$12 million contract with the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Technology Transition (OTT) will jumpstart human trials of three innovative research programs that aim to replace scars and defects with healthy, functional tissues, announced officials of the University of Pittsburgh and the Pitt-UPMC McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

According to Alan Russell, director of the McGowan Institute and leader of the new program, the OTT mission emphasizes the rapid translation of preclinical research into human studies to bring successful therapies more quickly to everyday practice.

"This initiative provides fiscal support and also represents a shared commitment to the goal of helping soldiers return to the lives they have put on the line for us," Russell said. "All these projects could deliver much-needed solutions for the ills that plague our wounded warriors. They are designed to give back what has been lost or taken away: normal tissues that function properly, adapting to our changing biological environment to keep us healthy and whole."

In particular, the OTT initiative will focus on efforts to:

- Replace muscle tissue through extracellular matrix, a protein- and growth-factor-rich biological "scaffold" that appears to recruit stem cells and other precursors to injury sites. Primary investigators are Stephen Badylak, a research professor in the Pitt School of Medicine's Department of Surgery and director of tissue engineering at the McGowan Institute, and J. Peter Rubin, a Pitt professor of plastic surgery in the School of Medicine;

- Bring to clinical testing an injectable porous bone cement for the repair of craniofacial bone defects and restoration of normal bone growth and remodeling. Primary investigators are Bernard J. Costello, a professor and residency program director in the Pitt Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and chief surgeon with the Cleft and Craniofacial Center in Pitt's School of Dental Medicine; Prashant N. Kumta, the Edward R. Weidlein Chair in Pitt's Swanson

## Pitt Is 18th in Nation Among "Tech's 29 Most Powerful Colleges" in New Ranking by The Daily Beast

By John Harvith

The University of Pittsburgh is 18th in the nation among "Tech's 29 Most Powerful Colleges," according to a new ranking of that title by the American news reporting and opinion Web site The Daily Beast, which is published by former *Vanity Fair* and *New Yorker* editor Tina Brown. Among the other universities in the top 18 are Dartmouth, Stanford, Princeton, Harvard, MIT, Duke, Northwestern, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Cornell, UCLA, and Illinois; among other institutions in the top 29 are Berkeley, Wisconsin, and Purdue.

For the ranking, The Daily Beast researched the leadership of more than 100 tech companies—including all those among the Fortune 500 plus start-ups in the TechCrunch 50 list and the tech category of *Technology Review's* Most Innovative Companies list—and then "analyzed the biographies of the companies' CEOs and other top executives...to tabulate their undergraduate alma maters. ... Schools that produced multiple executives in our universe of companies made the first cut in our analysis," according to The Daily Beast's explanatory article on the ranking by New York City-based writer-editor Thomas E. Weber, a former bureau chief and editor at *The Wall Street Journal* and former editor of *SmartMoney.com*. The final ranking factored in the undergraduate enrollment of each university.

According to the article, the ranking sought to answer the question, "Which schools do the best job crafting technology leaders?" The Daily Beast's analysis involved "more than 250 industry tycoons and execs. ... Our goal was to identify which colleges, compared student-for-student (undergraduate enrollment data courtesy

of the National Center for Education Statistics), have turned out the most undergraduates destined for high-tech greatness," Weber's article continued.

In its write-up on Pitt, The Daily Beast singled out Pitt's Technology Commercialization Alliance (TCA) as a "Tech Feature" and undergraduate alumni Robert K. Henry (ENGR '69), executive vice president and chief operating officer of Harris Corporation in Melbourne, Fla., and Ted W. Schremp (A&S '93), executive vice president and chief marketing officer of Charter Communications in St. Louis, Mo., as "Notable Alums."

TCA ([www.pitt.edu/tca/about.html](http://www.pitt.edu/tca/about.html)) was founded in 2002 as the "premier resource for commercial innovation at the University of Pittsburgh, providing extensive entrepreneurial support, education, and outreach for Pitt faculty, staff, and students on the road from concept to commercialization." It was designed to function as the central portal for "the most innovative, inspired commercial ideas at Pitt." TCA also partners with investors and members of private industry to help them identify the best opportunities on campus.

Harris Corporation is an international communications and information

technology company serving government and commercial markets in more than 150 countries. The company has approximately \$5 billion of annual revenue and more than 15,000 employees—including nearly 7,000 engineers and scientists.

Charter Communications, Inc., is a Fortune 500 company and the fourth-largest cable operator in the United States, with more than 16,000 employees nationwide.

Weber's article quotes a leading executive-search firm CEO on how "some schools excel at inculcating a crucial skill for techland: dealing with uncertainty and making the right decision without taking too long to size up a situation..." These are the schools selected as the top colleges in the ranking.

Two majors, according to the explanatory article, "ruled the list"—engineering and computer science, which accounted for nearly one quarter of the undergraduate degrees earned by the tech executives examined in the ranking. Other popular majors among the executives during their undergraduate years were economics, business, and mechanical engineering.

The full article and ranking details are at [www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-05-03/techs-29-most-powerful-colleges/full/](http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-05-03/techs-29-most-powerful-colleges/full/).





## Local VA Gets \$3.6 Million to Partner With Pitt on New Veterans Engineering Resource Center



MORGAN KELLY/PC

The VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS) received a three-year, \$3.6 million federal award to work with University of Pittsburgh researchers on a new center to streamline the delivery of health care services to local veterans by applying engineering and systems-improvement principles.

The new center, the Veterans Engineering Resource Center (VERC), was one of only four such centers nationwide supported by a grant from the U.S. Veterans Health Administration. VERC director Robert Monte will lead the initiative at VAPHS alongside VAPHS chief of staff Rajiv Jain and VAPHS associate director Bonnie Graham.

Pitt's VERC team includes principal investigator Andrew Schaefer and coprincipal investigator Jay Rajgopal, both professors in the Department of Industrial Engineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, joined by researchers in Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH), and School of Medicine.

The VERC at VAPHS has been created to empower health care teams to work more efficiently and effectively, thereby providing veterans with the best care and services possible. The VERC projects will use engineering models

to simulate both the random and planned factors that determine the outcomes of medical situations. For example, for one project, the team will analyze the factors—including the patient's condition and clinical and management decisions—that affect patient flow through intensive care units. Team members will attempt to establish the best strategies for making patient flow more efficient while maintaining high-quality care. Another project involves scheduling operating rooms more efficiently by, for instance, better predicting how long surgical operations will take.

One long-term aim of VERC at VAPHS will be to create health care delivery models that will benefit facilities nationwide, in both the private and public sector. The VERC at VAPHS also plans to mold its educational collaboration into a permanent academic center at which teams who have implemented VERC's successful engineering models will share their knowledge with VA colleagues and their professional counterparts throughout the country.

The VERC at VAPHS is multidisciplinary in scope and has been designed to sustain the existing educational collaboration between VAPHS and Pitt. Currently there are 25 students from GSPH working at VAPHS on health care system improvement projects.

**Pitt's VERC team includes principal investigator Andrew Schaefer and coprincipal investigator Jay Rajgopal, both professors in the Department of Industrial Engineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, joined by researchers in Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH), and School of Medicine.**

## Pitt Economics Professor Steven Husted Named Interim Dean of University Honors College

By Sharon S. Blake

Steven Husted, a professor of economics in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Arts and Sciences, has been named interim dean of the University Honors College, effective Aug. 1. While Husted serves as interim dean, the search for a new dean will begin under the aegis of Pitt's new provost; a national search is currently under way for a provost to succeed Pitt Provost James V. Maher, who has announced his resignation as provost at the beginning of the coming academic year or as soon after that as his successor can be in place.

Husted served as associate dean for graduate studies and research in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences from 1999 to 2005. A member of the University Honors College Advisory Board, he has supervised students within the Honors College Bachelor of Philosophy degree and Brackenridge Fellowship programs. He also has developed and taught the Introduction to Macroeconomics course for the Honors College.

A recipient of the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, Husted has been a member of the Pitt faculty since 1980, teaching in the area of international economics. His current research investigates the rise of Chinese exports and the determinants of purchasing power parity in exchange rates.

Husted is the coauthor of *International Economics*, now in its 8th edition, and coeditor of *Capital, Technology, and Labor in the New Global Economy* (American Enterprise Institute, 1988). He has published articles in numerous professional journals, including the *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, *The Canadian Journal of Economics*, and *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings*.

Husted served as a senior staff economist for the President's Council of Economic Advisers in Washington, D.C., and has held visiting fellow positions at Australian National University, the University of Strathclyde, and the University of Glasgow. He earned a BA in political science and an MA and PhD in economics—all at Michigan State University.

Husted's appointment as interim dean



Steven Husted

**A recipient of the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, Husted has been a member of the Pitt faculty since 1980, teaching in the area of international economics. His current research investigates the rise of Chinese exports and the determinants of purchasing power parity in exchange rates.**

follows the April 7, 2010, death of G. Alec Stewart, who had been the dean of the University Honors College since its inception.

### Clarification

As the *Pitt Chronicle* reported in its May 17, 2010, issue, the University of Pittsburgh was ranked in the very top cluster of the nation's public research universities in the recently released 2009 edition of *The Top American Research Universities*. The Center for Measuring University Performance, which produces the annual *Top American Research Universities* publication, has just confirmed that, because of a reporting error by another university for the 2008 ranking, Pitt was mistakenly ranked in the second tier of institutions of higher education in the 2008 edition of *The Top American Research Universities* when it should have been ranked in the top tier. Given this updated information, the *Pitt Chronicle* can now report that Pitt was in the top tier of *The American Research Universities* in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009. The 2009 annual ranking therefore marks the fourth consecutive year that Pitt has ranked in the top cluster.

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# PittScholars&Stewards

Allan McLeod Bryson Merit Scholarship

## Keeping Alive a Legacy

By Brittney Gillison

Lars Johnson maintains a disciplined schedule that includes 5:30 a.m. wake ups for Pitt Crew team practices. Named Pitt Crew team captain his freshman year, he now serves as the team's business manager. These leadership roles, coupled with his dual major in applied math and economics, have made Johnson a perfect candidate for the Allan McLeod Bryson Merit Scholarship.

The scholarship is named in honor of longtime Pitt math faculty member, the late Allan McLeod Bryson (ENGR '26, A&S '31G), and was created by Bryson's son Michael (A&S '68) and daughter-in-law Kathryn (EDUC '68), both of whom have strong ties to the University. Michael Bryson is a member of the Pitt Board of Trustees and a director emeritus of the University's Alumni Association. He is the

The Allan McLeod Bryson Merit Scholarship was created to support School of Arts and Sciences students in the University Honors College who major in mathematics or the physical sciences.

retired executive vice president of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation and CFO of Mellon Financial Corporation, which he served prior to its merger with The Bank of New York. Kathryn Bryson is a director-at-large of Pitt's Alumni Association. The Brysons also support the Panther Club Athletic Scholarship Fund, the Heinz Chapel Angels, and the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair.

The Allan McLeod Bryson Merit Scholarship was created to support School of Arts and Sciences students in the University Honors College who major in mathematics

or the physical sciences.

"My father gave up a career as a chemical engineer and also the opportunity to play professional baseball to return to the University and pursue his graduate degree in mathematics and a career in teaching," Michael Bryson explained.

"Students were a very important part of his life, and he spent many years as the

advisor to all Pitt's mathematics majors. He was quoted in the 1967 *Owl* as saying, 'It has always been one of the rewards of college teaching that you meet the nicest young people.' It seemed only fitting to establish a scholarship in his name to support young students such as Lars."

During the summers, Johnson runs a landscaping business to help with college expenses. He had initially intended to continue working at least part-time during the school year, but the Bryson Scholarship has allowed him to concentrate full-time on academics and the activities he loves.

A native of New Freedom, Pa., Johnson will begin his junior year in the fall. He wasted no time getting involved on campus. He joined Pitt's math club and recently started a knitting club with other Pitt Crew team members. Math has always fascinated him, and he said he enjoys the academic rigor and detail of his college courses.



Lars Johnson

"I'm extremely grateful to be a recipient of the scholarship," Johnson said.

## McGowan Institute Gets \$12 Million for Human Studies of Treatments for Battlefield Injuries, Scars

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School of Engineering and a professor in the Departments of Bioengineering, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science; and Charles Sfeir, a professor in the School of Dental Medicine's Department of Oral Medicine and Pathology; and

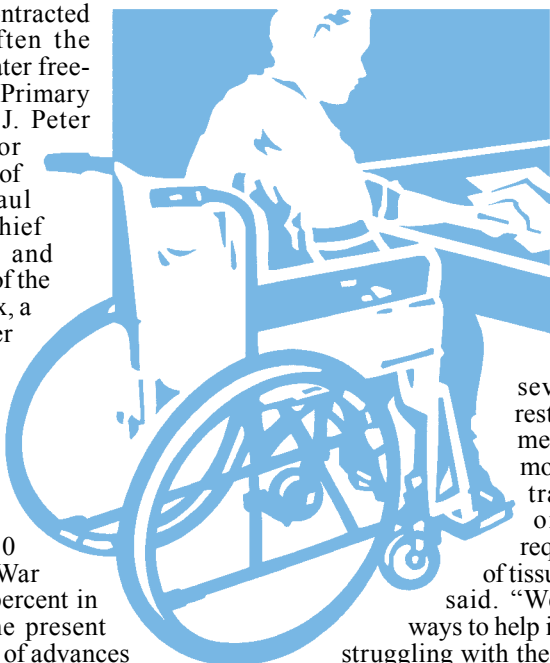
- Evaluate the injection of human fibroblasts, a type of connective tissue cell, into contracted burn scars to soften the skin and allow greater freedom of movement. Primary investigators are J. Peter Rubin, a professor in the Pitt School of Medicine, and Paul Kemp, founder, chief scientific officer, and executive director of the company Intercytex, a UK-based developer of regenerative medicine products with laboratories in the UK and in Boston.

Battlefield mortality has decreased from 30 percent in World War II to less than 10 percent in the conflicts of the present day, partly because of advances in medicine, surgery, and trauma

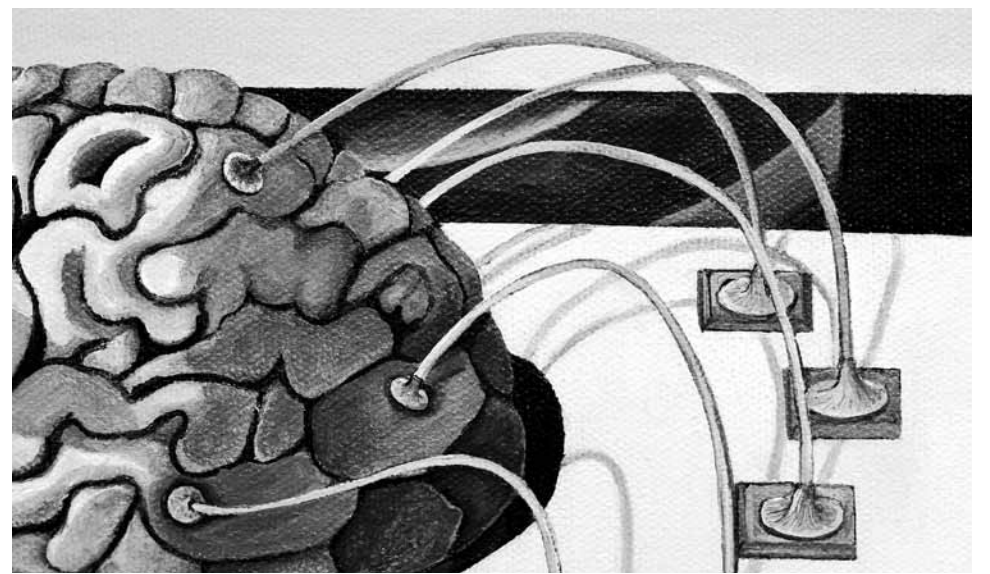
care. Still, today's injured soldiers are returning home with twice the rate of life-changing wounds, including finger and limb amputations, of World War II's returning injured soldiers.

The OTT Initiative is funded by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO). The projects, if successful, could ultimately lead to interventions that also benefit civilians, noted Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at Pitt.

"Muscle loss, bone damage, and severe scarring that restrict natural movement are not uncommon consequences of traumatic accidents or surgeries that require a large amount of tissue removal," Levine said. "We must find more ways to help individuals who are struggling with the aftermath of these potentially devastating problems."



## Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center Will Host Specialized Machine for Biomolecular Research



The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has awarded a two-year, \$2.7 million grant to the National Resource for Biomedical Supercomputing at the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center to host a specialized supercomputer for biomolecular simulation.

The Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center is a joint venture between Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh together with Westinghouse Electric Company. Established in 1986, the center receives support from several federal agencies, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and private

industry.

The supercomputer, named Anton, and its novel algorithms were designed by a team of researchers led by David E. Shaw, chief scientist of New York-based D. E. Shaw Research. The supercomputer will be available without cost for noncommercial research use by universities and other non-profit institutions.

Anton was designed to dramatically increase the speed of molecular dynamics simulations so biomedical researchers can better understand the motions and inter-

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## \$2M in HHMI Grants for Pitt's Biological Sciences Undergrad, Precollege Research Programs

Institute renews Graham Hatfull's appointment as HHMI Professor

By Morgan Kelly

Efforts within the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Biological Sciences to encourage aspiring scientists at the precollege and undergraduate levels have been rewarded with two prestigious grants totaling \$2 million from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), as well as the renewed appointment of department chair and Eberly Family Professor Graham Hatfull as one of 13 HHMI Professors nationwide and the only one in Pennsylvania.

HHMI recently announced the 2010 recipients of its Precollege and Undergraduate Science Education and HHMI Professors Program grants. The first award supports programs that seek to improve science education; the second supports the programs of individual research scientists taking innovative approaches to science education. Institutions and faculty members must be invited to apply for each grant.

Pitt was among only seven institutions to be selected for both awards, along with Harvard, Louisiana State, MIT, UCLA, Washington University in St. Louis, and Yale.

The four-year grants Pitt received will support academic initiatives that cultivate high school and undergraduate students' interest in science and biology by involving them in active research. The \$1.2 million Precollege and Undergraduate Science Education grant will support the biological sciences department's summer undergraduate research program. During the summer, undergraduate students undertake a research project at Pitt that expands their scientific knowledge and their professional demeanor. Through mentoring and peer-to-peer sessions, students discuss their work to seek and provide feedback, help one another with difficult techniques, and resolve conflicts. The 2010 grant is the department's fourth since 1992 and brings the combined total to \$6.8 million.



Graham Hatfull

Hatfull's selection for the HHMI Professors Program includes \$800,000 to support his nationally implemented Phage Hunter program. Established in 2002, the Phage Hunter program takes students into the field to collect and study the genetics of bacteriophages, tiny viruses that infect bacteria and show promise in treating such human diseases as tuberculosis. In 2008, HHMI took the program nationwide as part of its Science Education Alliance initiative, and more than 800 freshmen at 44 universities have been introduced to the yearlong course. Hatfull was previously named an HHMI Professor in 2002 as well as an HHMI "Million-Dollar Professor," receiving a \$1 million grant to support the Phage Hunter project.

More information on the Phage Hunter project is available on Hatfull's Pitt Web site at [www.pitt.edu/~gfh](http://www.pitt.edu/~gfh).

More information on the HHMI awards is available on the institute's Web site at [www.hhmi.org](http://www.hhmi.org).

## Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center Will Host Specialized Machine for Biomolecular Research

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actions of proteins and other biologically important molecules.

The National Resource for Biomedical Supercomputing will soon invite U.S. biomedical researchers to submit proposals for time allocations on Anton. A peer review committee will be convened by the National Research Council to review proposals. Although the NIH has supported individual scientists' molecular dynamics research for many years, it has not provided funds to make a supercomputing system for molecular dynamics simulations available as a national resource. Additional information about proposal submission is available at [www.nrbcs.org/anton\\_rfp](http://www.nrbcs.org/anton_rfp).

"This is an incredibly exciting project in many ways," said Joel Stiles, director of the National Resource for Biomedical Supercomputing and a faculty member in biological sciences and the Lane Center for Computational Biology at Carnegie Mellon University. "With this very generous gift from D.E. Shaw Research and the funding

provided by NIH, we are deploying a tool of unprecedented power for the benefit of biomedical researchers nationally. We hope and expect that this project will help to significantly advance our understanding of biomolecular structure and function."

**As part of the NIGMS award, the National Resource for Biomedical Supercomputing also will install a new data storage and analysis subsystem, including nearly half a petabyte of online disk capacity.**

As part of the NIGMS award, the National Resource for Biomedical Supercomputing also will install a new data storage and analysis subsystem, including nearly half a petabyte of online disk capacity (one petabyte is one million gigabytes).

The award is one of 14 made by NIGMS using funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for projects that the NIH views as "grand opportunities" for major scientific progress. "The Grand Opportunities grants fund projects that promise to have a significant impact on a field of biomedical science," said NIGMS Director Jeremy M. Berg. "By closing specific knowledge gaps, creating new technologies, or building community-wide resources, these awards will dramatically propel progress in key scientific fields."

## Bookshelf



### Kirk Savage Honored for His Book on National Mall and Transformation of Memorial Spaces

The Smithsonian American Art Museum has awarded the 2010 Charles C. Eldredge Prize to Kirk Savage, a professor and chair in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture at the University of Pittsburgh, for his book *Monument Wars: Washington D.C., the National Mall, and the Transformation of the Memorial Landscape* (University of California Press, 2009).

The \$3,000 annual prize, given in honor of a former director of the museum, recognizes original and comprehensive research and excellence in writing in the field of American art history.

In *Monument Wars*, the jurors said, Savage recounts the creation and recreation of the memorial landscape of Washington, D.C., "where generations of designers, engineers, and artists have given concrete form to the imagined community of the nation."

Elizabeth Broun, the Margaret and Terry Stent

Director of the art museum, calls Savage's book "compelling" and says it contributes an important perspective to the ongoing discussion of the role of the National Mall.

"Anchored by accounts of the creation, reception, and subsequent history of three very different monuments—the assertive Washington monument, the classicizing Lincoln Memorial, and the minimalist Vietnam Veterans memorial, as well as the abstract greensward they punctuate and define, Savage's discussion is wide ranging and deeply nuanced," the jurors wrote. More information on the book can be found at [www.monumentwars.com](http://www.monumentwars.com).

Savage began writing about public monuments and public space as a freelancer in the 1980s. He went on to earn master's and PhD degrees in art history at the University of California, Berkeley. His book *Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves: Race, War, and Monument in Nineteenth-Century America* (Princeton University Press, 1997) won the John Hope Franklin Prize for best book published in American studies in 1998.

—Sharon S. Blake

### Katz Professor Calian Writes Book on Leadership

Carnegie Samuel Calian, visiting professor in Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and former president of and professor in the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, is the author of the new book *The Spirit-Driven Leader: Seven Keys to Succeeding Under Pressure* (Westminster John Knox Press), to be published this month.

In his book, Calian outlines elements he feels are critical to effective leadership under pressure: creativity, competence, commitment, character, collegiality, compassion, and courage. Filled with telling anecdotes, Calian's book asks readers to look not only within themselves but to reach out to others to inspire hope and build stronger communities in trying times.

Calian is also the author of *The Ideal Seminary: Pursuing Excellence in Theological Education* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2002) and *Survival or Revival: Ten Keys to Church Vitality* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1999).

—Amanda Leff Ritchie

## Newsmakers



Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg met May 11 in the William Pitt Union with the winners of the 2010 Chancellor's Awards for Staff Excellence in Service to the Community and to the University. From left, Chancellor Nordenberg; Allie P. Quick (GSPIA '03), executive director of principal gifts, Office of Institutional Advancement; Patricia M. Colosimo, assistant director of the arts program at Pitt-Bradford; Beverly Bolden, director of student services and diversity recruiter, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business; Blaine R. Walker, manager of University Media Projects, Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education; Deborah L. Whitfield (CGS '06), a financial counselor in the School of Dental Medicine; Collie M. Henderson, administrative assistant in the School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Philosophy; and Ernest Dettore Jr. (EDUC '93G), STARS Technical Assistance Consultant, Office of Child Development. Dettore, Quick, and Whitfield won the Awards for Staff Excellence in Service to the Community; Bolden, Colosimo, Henderson, and Walker received the Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the University.



# Last Call: Final Book in Haines' Rosie Winter Series Is A Somber Tale of WWII America, Death, and Suspicion



Kathryn Miller Haines

By Morgan Kelly

*"After being abroad and seeing with my own peepers what war means, I found it hard to believe that we thought we could change the outcome by collecting some tin and having faith that if you were right you would be victorious. It just didn't work that way."*

—Rosie Winter, *When Winter Returns*

In her fourth and final romp through the back alleys and safe houses of World War II America, Pitt staffer and MFA alumnus Kathryn Miller Haines (A&S '98G), associate director of Pitt's Center for American Music, plunges the heroine of her *Rosie Winter* mystery series into a world far darker than the realm of gangland murders and black-market slaughterhouses Rosie knows so well—her own country, tense, afraid, and war-weary.

Published last month, *When Winter Returns* (Harper Paperbacks) opens in September 1943 with natural-born citizens hiding their heritages out of fear, political allegiances violently dividing once-cohesive neighborhoods, and the pressures of war igniting race riots in Harlem, Detroit, and Los Angeles. Rosie is back in New York City after her disastrous stint entertaining troops in the South Pacific that was the setting of last year's *Winter in June* (Harper).

Haines takes a more somber and reflective turn in her latest book, departing from the usual string of misadventures Rosie has

experienced since she stumbled into sleuthing in the first book, *The War Against Miss Winter* (Harper, 2007). Haines approaches *When Winter Returns* as a reckoning of the effect that constant death and uncertainty have on Rosie and the people around her. The book earned a starred review from *Publishers Weekly* and a review in the American Library Association's *Booklist* noted, "Haines captures the spirit of the home front in a story that includes murder and sabotage."

"This book is darker, more personal," Haines said. "I wanted to explore Rosie as a real person and how she's changed since the first book. I wondered how much the South Pacific would change an actual person—seeing war upfront, drinking beer with people who are later killed and no longer on this Earth. Rosie experiences this and then comes back home, and people can't really relate to that. She's stuck dealing with it on

her own, and it's changed how she sees everything. As I wrote it, it felt more like a novel than a typical mystery."

Haines begins with omitting a crucial mystery plot element—a murder. The book instead opens with Rosie discovering that a soldier she met in the South Pacific and who was killed in *Winter in June* fighting the Japanese—and who was engaged to her best friend-cum-sidekick Jayne Hamilton—was not who he claimed to be. Rosie and Jayne set off to learn his true identity and uncover a culture of fear, suspicion, and tested loyalty in New York's ethnic enclaves.

Haines was reluctant to thrust Rosie into another murder case, she said, fearing that constantly exposing her character to a new crime would become artificial. Rosie's no stone-faced detective.

"The series is based on Rosie being a regular girl, and a real person undergoing that much abuse and seeing that much death would be terribly scarred by it," Haines said. "There would be no way to portray that trauma truthfully and still have the character be consistent. So, the book focuses on uncovering complex lies to discover the victim. Yet his death is not a mystery: He was murdered at the end of the last book by the Japanese. No one person will be punished for it. I wasn't dealing with a standard murder mystery setup and that made it somewhat difficult to write."

Haines again takes up her habit—praised by reviewers—of stripping the nostalgia from 1940s America by basing her plot on society's open distrust of ethnic and racial minorities. In the 1940s, Japanese and, on a smaller scale, German and Italian citizens were interned. Many of those

citizens also were declared "enemy aliens," faced the seizure of personal property and forced relocation inland, and were required to carry an ID card. In *When Winter Returns*, ill will, suspicion, and shady dealings are no longer just the stuff of gangsters and profiteers—they are societal. As Rosie notes, "We were being taught to hate indiscriminately. All Japanese and Germans were bad. That way, you didn't have to think before you fired."

"I'm fascinated by these dark secrets of the World War II era because we think modern times are darker and so much more amoral, but that's not the case," Haines said. "In researching this book, I was struck by the parallels between the American home front and our current anxiety about terrorism. We think we're vulnerable today, but that paranoia is nothing new. I feel that

people today often think we're the first to experience a particular threat or feeling, but that's not true."

Even Rosie is not immune to the visceral fear of the strangers about her, as she thinks as she enters Manhattan's since-vanished German enclave of Yorkville—home of the pro-Nazi German American Bund—on foot: "Suddenly Yorkville didn't seem so innocuous. It was an infection that threatened to spread to the rest of the city and then far beyond it."

"Writing in hindsight, I'm inclined to put words in Rosie's mouth, to put her above that type of thinking," Haines said. "But I have to think of the world she lives in where there's suspicion of Germans and no empathy for the Japanese. I drew from memories of the days just after September 11, 2001, when a person in Muslim garb would give us pause for a moment.

"I had to think about that."



Haines will host two book signings: The first at 7 p.m. June 11 at *Mystery Lovers Bookshop*, 514 Allegheny River Blvd., Oakmont, and June 27 at *Joseph-Beth Booksellers in the Southside Works*, 2705 E. Carson St., South Side.

More information on Haines and the *Rosie Winter* series—including book reviews—is available on Haines' Web site at [www.kathrynmillershaines.com](http://www.kathrynmillershaines.com)

## Newsmakers

### 2010 ELIZABETH BARANGER AWARDS



Seven Pitt graduate students received the 2010 Elizabeth Baranger Excellence in Teaching Award, given annually to acknowledge and promote outstanding teaching by Pitt graduate students. It was named in honor of former Pitt vice provost for graduate studies and emeritus professor of physics Elizabeth Baranger. Chosen from more than 50 nominees were (front row, from left) Jessica Yokley, a fourth-year doctoral student in psychology; Aimee Midei, a fifth-year doctoral student in clinical and health psychology; Madalina Veres, first-year doctoral student in history; Baranger; and (back row, from left) Thomas Pacio, who graduated May 2 with an MFA degree in performance pedagogy, theatre arts; Gabrielle "Brie" Owen, a fourth-year doctoral student in English; James Pearson, a seventh-year doctoral candidate in philosophy; and Michael Beran, a first-year doctoral student in physics who received an honorable mention. The award, sponsored by Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization, carries a cash prize of \$250 and helps graduate students prepare professionally for teaching careers. The group was honored April 23 during a reception at Oakland's Lucca Ristorante. Not pictured is Suset Laboy Perez, a third-year doctoral student in history.



# Awards & More

**Amanda Meighan** was awarded the 2010 Dick Thornburgh Prize for Public Service during the University of Pittsburgh School of Law's May 14 graduation ceremony. The prize, which includes a \$4,000 award, was established on the 50th anniversary of Dick Thornburgh's 1957 graduation from Pitt's law school. It is given annually to a graduating Pitt law student who has chosen to enter public service and to emulate Thornburgh's own public career, which includes service as the governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1979-87), attorney general of the United States (1988-91), and under-secretary-general at the United Nations (1992-93). Meighan will work as a contract specialist with the Veterans Health Administration in Pittsburgh. An emeritus member of the University's Board of Trustees, Thornburgh received the LLB degree from Pitt's School of Law, where he served as an editor of the *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*.

The National Science Foundation awarded research grants to the following four Pitt faculty.

**Mohammad Ataai**, a professor in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering and the William Kepler Whiteford Professor in the Department of Bio-engineering, received a three-year, \$348,426 grant for his project, "Collaborative Research: Maximizing Therapeutic DNA Process Productivity." The research is to help advance the field of metabolic engineering.

**Daniel Bain**, an assistant professor in the Department of Geology and Planetary Science, received a two-year, \$166,469 grant for his project, "Early Career: Acquisition of an Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) for Research in Geochemical, Environmental, and Paleoenvironmental Geoscience." The funds will support a spectrometer that will facilitate geochemical investigations by multiple faculty.

**Graham Hatfull**, the chair and Eberly Family Professor of Biological Sci-

ences in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, received a \$449,900 grant for his project, "The Population Dynamics of Forest Understorey Invasion: Mechanistic Experiments With Generalist Herbivores, Natives, and Invaders." The research will continue Hatfull's research into the direct, indirect, and synergistic interactions of deer and the garlic mustard plant on the sustainability of forest native plant populations and the forest plant community as a whole.



Lise Vesterlund

**Lise Vesterlund**, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Economics in the School of Arts and Sciences, received \$276,640 grant for her project, "Charitable Giving and Cooperation." The grant will support three research projects aimed at improving the understanding of why people give and how they can be encouraged to give more.



Joan C. Rogers

**Joan C. Rogers**, a professor and chair in the Department of Occupational Therapy in Pitt's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, received the AOTA-AOTF Presidents' Commendation Award, the highest award given by the American Occupational Therapy Association and the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. It honors a respected leader within the profession who has made significant contributions to occupational therapy over a lifetime of service. The award has been given only 12 other times since its inception in 1990.



Mohammad Ataai

**Mark Gladwin**, chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine and director of the Vascular Medicine Institute in Pitt's School of Medicine, was elected to serve on the council of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). He is one of six council members who, together with ASCI's top office holders, manages the organization and considers all nominations for membership. The ASCI elects a maximum of 80 new members annually for their research accomplishments.



Mark Gladwin



Robert Stein

**Robert Stein**, assistant director of the Small Business Development Center in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business' Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE), was named a 2010 Microsoft Most Valuable Professional for the seventh consecutive year. The MVP award is given to technical community leaders who share their expertise and provide feedback to help people enhance their use of technology. A nationally renowned innovator and advisor

in the technology industry, Stein is also the manager of the Information Technology Program at IEE.

**Sally Wenzel**, a professor of medicine in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and director of the University of Pittsburgh Asthma Institute, received the 2010 Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments at the American Thoracic Society's International Conference in New Orleans. Wenzel has a long-standing interest in severe asthma and is one of four National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute-funded investigators in the NIH-sponsored Severe Asthma Research Program.

**Amir H. Faraji**, who is pursuing a medical degree in Pitt's School of Medicine and a PhD in chemistry through the a joint Pitt-Carnegie Mellon University Medical Scientist Training Program, was selected to attend the June 27-July 2, 2010, Lindau Nobel Laureates Meeting in Lindau, Germany. The annual gathering is an interdisciplinary meeting of up-and-coming researchers from around the globe and Nobel Laureates from the fields of physiology or medicine, physics, and chemistry.

The following Pitt Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) faculty and staff members have been recognized recently for their accomplishments.

**Bernard Goldstein**, a professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and former dean of GSPH, testified before the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security about an Institute of Medicine committee's report, *Biowatch and Public Health Surveillance: Evaluating Systems for the Early Detection of Biological Threats*. Goldstein also was invited to serve on the National Academies Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability, which provides a forum for sharing views, information, and analyses related to sustainability.

**Meryl H. Karol**, a professor emeritus in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, received the 2010 Ambassador of Toxicology Award from the Mid-Atlantic Society of Toxicology for advancing the understanding of the science of toxicology.

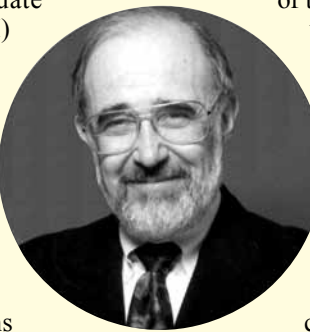
**Drew Michanowicz**, a staff member of the Center for Healthy Environments and Communities within the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, was awarded a full scholarship to attend the Vespucci Summer Institute on Geographic Information Science in Florence, Italy, in June.



Sally Wenzel



John Pacella



Bernard Goldstein

Faculty and staff in Pitt's schools of the health sciences have been recognized for the following accomplishments.

**Maribeth McLaughlin**, chief nursing officer and vice president of patient care services at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, was elected to a three-year term on the governing council of the American Hospital Association's (AHA) Section for Maternal and Child Health. The council is a 15-member body comprising CEOs and senior executives from women's and children's providers throughout the United States who advise the AHA on member service strategies, public policy issues, advocacy positions, and emerging issues.

**John Pacella**, an assistant professor of medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine, received an American Heart Association Claude R. Joyner, M.D., Research Award for his research on coronary collateral blood vessels, the body's natural bypasses to blocked arteries.

**Kareem Abu-Elmagd**, director of the Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplantation Center, Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, and a professor of surgery, in the School of Medicine, was named president-elect of the Intestinal Transplant Association. He will serve a two-year term, followed by a two-year term as president.

**The Global Studies and African Studies Programs** within Pitt's University Center for International Studies received grants from the U.S. Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad program. The Global Studies Program's "Understanding Islam, Through the Egyptian Lens" will provide the opportunity for secondary school teachers from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia to travel to Egypt to develop curricula related to the study of African, Middle Eastern, and Islamic studies. The African Studies Program's "Summer Curriculum Development Project in Ghana" is part of the program's agenda for outreach to K-12 schools in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas to promote African Studies in the curriculum. Fourteen teachers and administrators from South Hills school districts will be selected to participate in the June 30-July 28 trip to Ghana.



# Happenings



**Playboy Redux: Contemporary Artists Reinterpret the Iconic Playboy Bunny, Andy Warhol Museum, through June 20**

**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).

**Andy Warhol Museum, *Bunny Yeager: The Legendary Queen of the Pin-Up*, through June 19; *Playboy Redux: Contemporary Artists Interpret the Iconic Playboy Bunny*, through June 20; *Rufino: Blots & Figments*, through July 18**; 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, [www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org).

**The Mattress Factory, *GESTURES: An Exhibition of Small Site-Specific Works*, through June 20**, 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, 412-231-3169, [www.mattress.org](http://www.mattress.org).

**Wood Street Galleries, *Claudia Hart: Empire*, through June 20**, 601 Wood St., Downtown, 412-471-5605, [www.woodstreetgalleries.org](http://www.woodstreetgalleries.org).

**709 Penn Gallery, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland: Photographs by Abelardo Morell*, through June 25**, 709 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-471-6070, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.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).

**Space, *Congo Women*, through July 25**, a photography exhibition depicting gender-based violence against women of the Congo in West Africa, 812 Liberty Ave., Downtown, 412-325-7723, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Frick Art and Historical Center, *Small But Sublime: Intimate 19th-Century American Landscapes*, through Sept. 5**, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze, 412-371-0606, [www.frickart.org](http://www.frickart.org).

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**"Conscience-Sensitive Medical Ethics Education,"** Meg Gaffney, associate clinical professor in Department of Medicine at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, noon **June 11**, Lecture Room 3, Fourth Floor, Scaife Hall, Pitt School of Medicine's Office of the Vice Dean, Medical Education Grand Rounds, [www.megr.pitt.edu](http://www.megr.pitt.edu).

**"Investment Responsibility: Why You Should Care,"** Rich Lynch, COO of Fiduciary360, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business' Pittsburgh Executive Series, 7:30 a.m. **June 15**, Alumni Hall, 412-648-1608.

**'S Wonderful: The New Gershwin Musical, Theater Square Cabaret, June 17-September 5**



**Mahler's Third**, Manfred Honeck, conductor; Jane Irwin, mezzo-soprano; **June 11-13**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-392-4900, [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org).

**Lavendar Jazz With Patrick Arena & Mark Lucas**, musical performance, 7 p.m. **June 12**, Bar at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-6769, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Gene Ludwig**, jazz organist, 5 p.m. **June 15**, Bar at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-6769, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**A Salute to America with Marvin and B.E. Taylor**, musical performance, **June 17-20**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, PNC Pops! 2009-10 Season, 412-392-4900, [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org).

**Carlos Mencia**, stand-up comedian, 6 p.m. **June 20**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

## Exhibitions

**Carnegie Museum of Art, *Gods, Love, and War: Tapestries at Carnegie Museum of Art*, through June 13; *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).

**No Reservations: An Evening With Anthony Bourdain, Heinz Hall, June 14**

## Miscellaneous

**"Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System (PNCIS) Users Conference,"** featuring PNCIS users and national neighborhood experts discussing methods to reduce blight and revitalize Pittsburgh communities, 1 p.m., **June 11**, University Club, 412-624-9177.

**No Reservations: An Evening With Anthony Bourdain**, internationally acclaimed chef and author known as "the bad boy of cuisine" for his blunt observations about world of restaurants, 7:30 p.m. **June 14**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Heinz Hall Presents, 412-392-4900, [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org).

**Juneteenth Night of Comedy**, evening of stand-up comedy and skits to support mission of House of Manna Faith Community, 6 p.m. **June 19**, August Wilson Center for African American Culture, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Pittsburgh Jewish Music Festival: Yiddish Songfest**, featuring the concerts **Hidden Yiddish Treasures: the Art Songs of Leo Zeitlin**, 7:30 p.m. **June 7**, Levy Hall, Rodef Shalom Congregation, 4905 Fifth Ave., Oakland; **100 Years of Jewish Theater**, 7:30 p.m. **June 10**, Katz Theater, Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, 5738 Forbes Ave., Squirrel Hill; **Yiddish Meets Klezmer**, 7:30 p.m. **June 13**, Temple Emanuel of South Hills, 1250 Bower Hill Road, Mt. Lebanon, and also **June 14**, Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, [www.pjmf.net](http://www.pjmf.net).

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**Miss Saigon**, musical theater, **June 8-20**, Benedum Center, 803 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh CLO, 412-456-6666, <http://www.pittsburghclo.org>.

**Othello**, through **June 12**, Henry Heymann Theatre in Stephen Foster Memorial, Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre, [www.picttheater.org](http://www.picttheater.org), 412-561-6000, Pitt Arts Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Art**, by Yasmina Reza, through **June 27**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, [www.ppt.org](http://www.ppt.org).

**Celebrity Autobiography**, by Eugene Pack, through **June 12**, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, [www.citytheatre-company.org](http://www.citytheatre-company.org).

**A Confluence of Dreaming**, play written by Tammy Ryan, through **June 13**, Pittsburgh Playhouse, 222 Craft Ave., Oakland, 412-621-4445, [www.pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://www.pittsburghplayhouse.com).

**'S Wonderful: The New Gershwin Musical**, celebration of music and lyrics of George and Ira Gershwin, **June 17-Sept. 5**, Theater Square Cabaret, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh CLO Cabaret, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Heal the World**, Visionary Performing Arts Academy with performances by children ages 2-18, 6 p.m. **June 19**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

## Pitt/PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Ian Rice**, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, 2 p.m. **June 16**, "Manual Wheelchair Propulsion Training Using Real-Time Feedback," 5047 Forbes Tower.

**Kathryn Davis**, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry, "Charge Transfer in Immobilized Biomolecules: Small Steps Toward Molecular Devices," 1 p.m. **June 17**, Room 307 Eberly Hall.

## Concerts

**Patrick Arena**, jazz vocalist, 7 p.m. **June 8**, Backstage Bar at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-6769, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Patrick Fink**, jazz pianist, 5 p.m. **June 9**, Backstage Bar at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-6769, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Vibes. Bass. Drum**, featuring multi-instrumentalist Jeff Berman, 5 p.m. **June 11**, Backstage Bar at Theater Square, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-325-6769, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**Celebration Concert: John P. Kee & the New Life Community Choir**, musical performance, 7 p.m. **June 11**, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Deliverance Baptist Church, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).



**Carlos Mencia, Byham Theater, June 20**





## Pitt Graduate Student Named National Geographic Emerging Explorer



By Patricia Lomando White

University of Pittsburgh doctoral student Kakenya Ntaiya has been named a 2010 National Geographic Emerging Explorer for her dedication to bettering the lives of young girls in her small Maasai village of Enoosaen, Kenya. Ntaiya is among 14 “visionary young trailblazers” to be chosen for the honor.

National Geographic’s Emerging Explorers Program recognizes and supports “uniquely gifted and inspiring adventurers, scientists, photographers, and storytellers making a significant contribution to world knowledge through exploration while still

early in their careers.” Each Emerging Explorer receives a \$10,000 award to assist with research and to aid further exploration.

Ntaiya, an educator and activist, founded the Kakenya Center for Excellence, the first and only school for girls in her home region. She is the first girl from her village to pursue an education, earning a scholarship to pursue an undergraduate degree at Randolph-Macon Women’s College in Virginia. She is working on her dissertation in The Pitt School of Education’s PhD program in social and comparative analysis in education and expects to finish this year.

Ntaiya believes that education will empower and motivate young girls to become agents of change in their communities. She spent her time in the United States promoting awareness of the issues affecting Kenyan girls. She was the first youth advisor to the United Nations Population Fund and traveled around the world to speak on the importance of educating girls, particularly as a means to fight the practices of female genital mutilation and child marriage.

Ntaiya, who had been promised in marriage at the age of 5, negotiated with her father and agreed to be circumcised if he

would allow her to finish high school. She then convinced the village elders to permit her to leave her village in southern Kenya to attend college in the United States. The entire village collected money to pay for her journey. Her promise was that she would use her education to benefit Enoosaen.

Since 2006, Ntaiya has been working to build the Kakenya Center. Now in its second year, her academy has 60 girls and four teachers, with a fifth to be hired soon. The school plans to accept 30 new girls each year.

PNY Technologies is a presenting sponsor of the Emerging Explorers Program and a National Geographic Mission Partner for Exploration & Adventure. Emerging Explorers is made possible in part by the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation, which has supported the program since its inception in 2004.



Kakenya Ntaiya

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published June 21. Items for publication in the newspaper’s *Happenings* calendar (see page 7) should be received at least two weeks before the event date. *Happenings* items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to [chron@pitt.edu](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).



MIKE DRAZDZINSKI / CODE



