



From left: Ann Dugan, founder and director of Pitt's Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE); Robin Randall (Bob Randall's daughter); Bob Randall and his sons, Brett and Chris Randall; Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson; and Michael Lehman, IEE director of student entrepreneurship.

'Big Ideas' Get a Boost and a New Name From the Randall Family

By Susan Zavage Grivnow

Bob Randall's dedication to helping Pitt students formulate new business ideas has helped spur the growth and success of the Big Idea Networking and Awards Event, held by the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE), part of the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. This year, by renaming the event The Randall Family Big Idea Competition, the competition organizers have recognized the recent and exceptionally generous financial commitment Randall; his wife, Rita; and the Randall family have made to the program.

The new name is also a tribute to the

many important previous contributions Randall and his family made to the program, which encourages students to understand, value, and employ innovative thinking in business management and ownership.

Randall says he is very excited about helping young people. He believes it is especially important for retirees to lead and mentor youth, because he is confident that their doing so will, in turn, enable the next generation to help enrich our community.

"I want to see the Pittsburgh region

Continued on page 2

Blue, Gold, and Green: Sustainability at Pitt



Dropped Calls: Pitt's CSSD to Roll Out Cell-Phone Recycling Program

By Morgan Kelly

Imagine your mobile phone in a landfill, the plastic impenetrable to decomposition and its innards, exposed to moisture, leaching toxic heavy metals into the soil.

To prevent this environmental fallout on a mass scale, Pitt's Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD) office will roll out a universitywide cellular phone recycling program in the coming weeks. Ready-to-ship boxes will be placed in various staffed locations around campus (see box page 2). Students and faculty can simply drop cell phones, PDAs, chargers, and other accessories into a box, and CSSD will ship the filled boxes to Pittsburgh-based eLoop for reuse or recycling. eLoop, which erases all personal data, is a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection-permitted demanufacturing facility and a pledged e-Steward with the Basel Action Network, an organization working to prevent the reckless disposal of electronic waste.

The program began as a one-time effort at a few locations to recognize Earth

Day 2010, explained Cindy Wertz, services, licensing, and support manager for CSSD. The response was quick and enthusiastic.

Between April 22 and June 5, the boxes intercepted more than 400 phones, an untold number of them likely destined for the trash. Once the effort ended, several people contacted CSSD to ask about ditching their old phones.

The ubiquity of cellular phones and the pace at which the technology advances result in billions of old phones being discarded, said Eric Beckman, codirector of Pitt's Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation and a professor of chemical and petroleum engineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering. People grab a new phone every 18 months on average, and

more than one billion phones were sold in 2010, he said.

Beckman teaches a class on green innovation and uses cellular phones as an example of "an environmentally friendly idea gone wrong." Although mobile phones

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UPCI to Present Jeffrey Shogan Memorial Symposium on Anticancer Therapies May 5

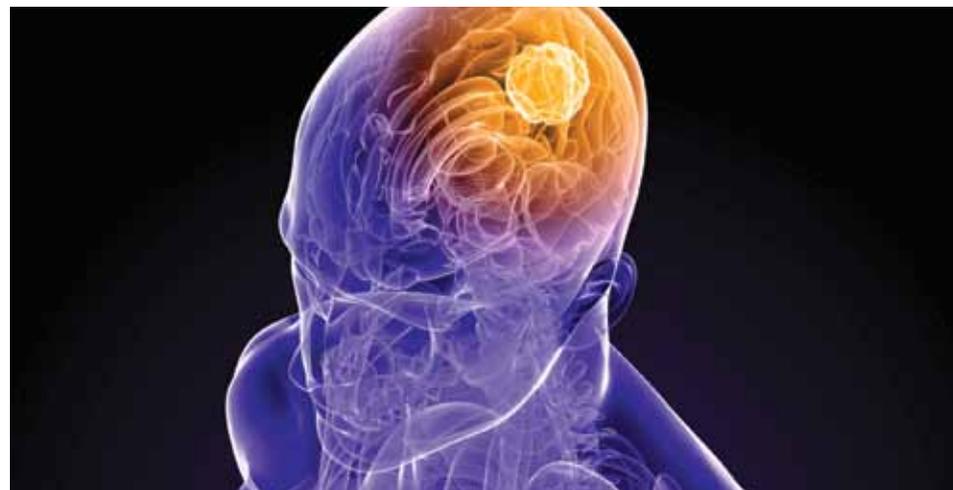
The University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) will present the "Jeffrey Shogan Memorial Symposium: Toward Personalized Anticancer Therapy" from 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. May 5 in the Herberman Conference Center, UPMC Cancer Pavilion, UPMC Shadyside, 5150 Centre Ave., Shadyside.

The event is the third and final UPCI symposium held to mark the institute's 25th anniversary. Shogan (MED '82), who died in 2010 at age 56, was a clinical professor of medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine and the director of business services and chief business officer for UPMC Cancer Centers.

The symposium, which is free of charge, will present the latest information on the implications of individualizing cancer care regimens based on a variety of molecular and genetic predictive markers in several malignancies. Included topics are: non-small cell lung, colon, breast, head and neck, and prostate cancer, as well as melanoma and acute myeloid leukemia.

The symposium is designed for physicians in oncology, hematology, radiation therapy, surgery, and internal medicine and for members of cancer care teams, including nurses, pharmacists, and social workers.

Preregistration is required and forms



are available by calling Karen Tondera at 412-623-3652 or tonderaks@upmc.edu. Additional information about continuing education credits and the symposium are available at www.upci.upmc.edu/symposia.

Adam Brufsky will make introductory remarks, followed by Stanley Marks, who will present recollections of Shogan. Both Brufsky and Marks are clinical professors of medicine in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

The "Lockhart Nimick Memorial Oncology Lecture: Pharmacogenomics in Colon Cancer" will be delivered by Heinz-Josef Lenz, a professor of medicine and preventative medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of South California, Los Angeles.

The remaining topics and presenters follow:

• "Personalized Therapy for Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer," Roy S.

Herbst, Yale University School of Medicine;

• "Dawn of Effective Specific Therapy for Melanoma: Growing Options for Personalized Molecular, Immunological, and Cytotoxic Therapy," John M. Kirkwood, professor of medicine, dermatology, and translational science, Pitt School of Medicine;

• "Implications of Breast Cancer and Heterogeneity," Lisa A. Carey, professor of medicine, University of North Carolina School of Medicine;

• "Treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukemia in a Genomic Era: Classification and Novel Strategies," Martin S. Tallman, professor of medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York City;

• "Individualized Therapy for Head and Neck Cancer," Jennifer Rubin Grandis, professor of otolaryngology and pharmacology, Pitt School of Medicine; and

• "The Changing Landscape of Prostate Cancer," Phillip Kantoff, professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School.

Established in 1985, UPCI received its designation as an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in 1989 and has retained this distinction since then. UPCI is the only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in Western Pennsylvania.



Dropped Calls: CSSD Cell-Phone Recycling Program

Continued from page 1

reduce the need for wired infrastructure, they also pack a host of plastics and potentially toxic metals into a device that is inherently disposable, he said. Once in the ground, many of the phone's components break down and enter the environment.

"The plastic and metals packed into one 115-gram phone aren't a lot ... for one phone," he said. "But by selling a billion cell phones, we basically distribute 6 million pounds of lead, cadmium, chromium, and tantalum around the globe in a device that is essentially designed to last a few years and then be thrown away. Any effort to recycle

them is inherently good."

The CSSD campaign is one of many initiatives at Pitt that help students and faculty rid themselves of the many scraps from our technological lives.

On another front, Pitt's Facilities Management has stationed tubes in 11 campus locations (see box) since September 2010. So far, the tall, slender depositories have collected 1,300 pounds of batteries, which are collected by



Eric Beckman

Scott Electric for recycling, said Laura Zullo, senior manager of energy initiatives for Facilities. Also, Facilities collects batteries and electronics by request, Zullo said. Facilities recycled 7.5 tons of batteries and 6.9 tons of electronics in fiscal year 2010 (July 2009-June 2010) alone.

In addition, Pitt's Surplus Property office recycles and reuses "e-waste," the discarded

computers, printers, printer cartridges, and related equipment that would otherwise languish in a spare room or a trash heap. Equipment is picked up by appointment.

The excess techno-junk that people relegate to a drawer or some other hideaway makes CSSD organizational communications manager Orr Goehring, who is working with Wertz on the recycling campaign, confident the permanent phone-recycling campaign will catch on. Before CSSD's trial program, he had three phones with no function beyond playthings for his toddler daughter.

"I didn't want those phones to end up in a landfill, but I had no idea of how to dispose of them safely or conveniently," he said. "There are plenty of people hanging on to old phones because they don't know how to get rid of them. We want to give them this option."

'Big Ideas' Get a Boost and a New Name From the Randall Family

Continued from page 1

become known for producing outstanding entrepreneurs," he says. "We can make this happen with our commitment to education, strong communication, ongoing support networks, and access to capital."

Randall (A&S '65) is the retired CEO of TRACO in Cranberry Township, Pa., and currently serves as president of RAND Group, Inc., a real estate management and development company.

An active member of the Pitt Board of Trustees, Randall and his family, through the Charity Randall Foundation, sponsored the complete renovation of the main stage theater in the University's Stephen Foster Memorial. The theater was renamed in 2003 to honor the memory of Randall's sister, Charity Randall.

Randall strongly believes that Pitt and its students are important assets to the local business community. He also believes that encouraging students' business pursuits can ultimately be of benefit to the region by encouraging young talented entrepreneurs to establish roots in the greater Pittsburgh metropolitan area.

"Hopefully," he said, "the Big Idea Competition will attract venture capitalists and other investors who will help keep our young people here, help keep our region vibrant."

Randall is pleased with the rapid growth of the competition and the steady improvement in the quality of the student entrepreneurs' ideas and their articulation of those ideas. The competition has attracted significantly greater numbers of entries each year—from 89 in 2009, its first year, to 148 in 2010, to 199 entries this year. The Randalls' new gift will increase the number of prizes and the dollar amounts awarded in the future.

Ann Dugan (A&S '82, KGSB '85), founder and executive director of IEE, is very grateful for all the Randalls have done for IEE and the competition, which, she says, teaches students to meet the challenges of a dynamic business world.

"Equipping students with the practical knowledge and experience to [meet those

challenges] is part of what we must accomplish as educators," she says.

Dugan feels that contributions from a businessperson like Bob Randall are a great way to support that mission.

Randall strongly believes that Pitt and its students are important assets to the local business community. He also believes that encouraging students' business pursuits can ultimately be of benefit to the region by encouraging young talented entrepreneurs to establish roots in the greater Pittsburgh metropolitan area.

This year's competition took place on March 30. Students, who competed for cash prizes in several categories, presented their business ideas to a panel of judges who were also the event's local business sponsors.

Michael Lehman, IEE's director of student entrepreneurship, says the program has become more than a competition. Since having come on board in 2009, he says he has helped shape the Big Idea event into an educational process through which students flesh out their ideas over a two-month period.

In the beginning of the process, the students must respond to three questions that address problems they've identified, measure the quality of their proposed solutions, and assess the skills of their entrepreneurial team. They then use workshops to help them develop a business abstract, and, finally, they develop a two-and-a-half minute "elevator pitch" to succinctly explain their business idea.

Among this year's winners is Justin Mares, a student of finance, who says he is pleased that the competition has helped him make connections to grow his business. He also says the cash awards allow a student to change focus from worrying about how to finance the idea to concentrating on its development: "Now I don't have to ask my parents for help or take on a side job."

Micah Toll, a mechanical engineering student and three-time Big Idea winner, agrees with Randall that the competition is a great way to help keep young entrepreneurs in Pittsburgh by attracting attention from investors who can support their business ventures.

"Students can realize, 'Pittsburgh's a place where I can continue my business,'" Toll says.

Pitt Employee Health Benefits Open Enrollment Starts April 20

Pitt faculty and staff members who wish to make changes to their health, vision, or dental benefits can do so during the annual Open Enrollment period, which this year runs from April 20 through May 11. This is the only period that the Internal Revenue Service permits benefits changes to be made. Otherwise, changes are permitted only if there is a qualified life event such as birth of a child, marriage, divorce, or loss of a spouse's coverage.

Pitt employees who do not wish to change their current benefits selections do not need to take any action. Benefits selections will remain the same for the new plan year if an employee does not make any changes. However, if changes are desired, employees must complete them via an online enrollment form by May 11. A confirmation statement will be mailed to employees at the end of the Open Enrollment period.

This week the University expects to mail information packets with details of Pitt's benefits plans, including vision and dental plan options and long-term care and life insurance choices. Employees who do not receive their packets should call the Benefits Department at 412-624-8160.

The Benefits Department will conduct an Open Enrollment Fair on each campus during the Open Enrollment period. The fairs provide an opportunity to meet directly with representatives from each of the insurance carriers. For the Oakland campus in Pittsburgh, two fairs will be held in the University Club's Ballroom A—from noon to 2:30 p.m. April 25 and from noon to 3 p.m. April 26. A third fair will be held in Scaife Hall's Conference Room 1105ABC from noon to 2:30 p.m. May 5.

Cell Phone, Battery Drop-Off Locations in Oakland

Cell Phones (drop boxes are staffed)

- Any campus computing lab
- Hillman Library
- Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation (153 Benedum Hall)
- Software Licensing Services (204 Bellefield Hall)
- University Book Center

Batteries

- Sutherland Hall (main entrance)
- Litchfield Tower A (main lobby)
- Lothrop Hall (main lobby)
- William Pitt Union (Forbes Avenue entrance)
- Cathedral of Learning (ground floor near vending machines)
- Benedum Hall (main lobby)
- Lawrence Hall (main entrance)
- Posvar Hall (first-floor-elevator lobby)
- Trees Hall (main lobby)
- Crawford Hall (second-floor-entrance lobby)
- Parran Hall (ground-floor lobby)

Helpful links

- CSSD: www.technology.pitt.edu
- Facilities Management: www.facmgmt.pitt.edu
- Surplus Property: www.surplus.pitt.edu

PittChronicle

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Happenings



Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective, Carnegie Museum of Art, through May 1

Concerts

Benefit Concert for Earthquake/Tsunami Relief for Japan, featuring Joe Negri and other noted jazz musicians, 2-4 p.m. **April 23**, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, suggested \$5 student donation and \$10 general public donation, Pitt Asian Studies Center, Department of Music, Japan American Society of Pennsylvania, Brother's Brother Foundation, 412-648-7763.

Wynonna Judd With Marvin and the PSO, featuring Grammy Award-winning singer Judd, 7:30 p.m. **April 28**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, BNY Mellon Grand Classics, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra with Lawrence Loh, director; Eleanor Lee, cello soloist, 2 p.m. **May 1**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, concert is free, but tickets required and can be downloaded at www.pyso.us.

Exhibitions

Westmoreland Museum of American Art, American Landscapes: Treasures From the Parrish Art Museum and At the River's Edge: Paintings by Patrick Ruane, through **April 24**, 221 N. Main St., Greensburg, 724-837-1500, www.wmusemaa.org.

University Art Gallery, Studio Arts Student Exhibition, through **April 30**, Frick Fine Arts Building, 412-648-2430.

Silver Eye Center for Photography, Future Forward, members' exhibition, through **May 7**, 1015 E. Carson St., South Side, 412-431-1810, www.silvereye.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art, Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective, through **May 1**; **You Are Here: Architecture and Experience**, through **May 29**; **Andrey Avinoff: In Pursuit of Beauty**, through **June 5**; **Ragnar Kjartansson: Song**, through **Sept. 25**; 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

August Wilson Center for African American Culture, In My Father's House, mixed-media exhibition about how African Americans collect and preserve their culture, through **June**, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Heinz History Center, Ben Franklin: In Search of a Better World, explores personal side of one of our founding fathers, **April 14-July 31**; **America's Best Weekly: A Century of The Pittsburgh Courier**, through **Oct. 2**; 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

"Cicero's De Officiis—Practical Stoicism for Non-Philosophers?" Gisela Striker, Walter C. Klein Professor of Philosophy and of the Classics, Harvard University, 4 p.m. **April 29**, 244B Cathedral of Learning, Pitt's Graduate Program in Classics, Philosophy, and Ancient Science, 412-624-4494.



Wynonna Judd With Marvin and the PSO, Heinz Hall, April 28

"Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?" John Fea, associate professor of American history, Messiah College, 7 p.m. **April 29**, Science Stage, First Floor, Carnegie Science Center, Pennsylvania Humanities Council, The Center for Inquiry, 412-384-5893, www.centerforinquiry.net.

"Lymphatics: The Other Vascular System," Robert E. Ferrell, Pitt professor of human genetics and pharmaceutical sciences, noon **April 22**, A115 Crabtree Hall, C.C. Li Memorial Lecture, Pitt Department of Human Genetics, Graduate School of Public Health, www.publichealth.pitt.edu.

"The Gene: A Concept in Flux," Staffan Müller-Wille, professor, University of Exeter's Department of History, 12:05 p.m. **April 26**, Center for Philosophy of Science, 817R Cathedral of Learning, pittcnr@pitt.edu.

"Chasing Terrorists," Adam Goldman, Associated Press investigative reporter; Michael Finnegan, assistant professor in Criminal Justice Program, Point Park University; noon **April 27**, Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, 337 Fourth Ave., Downtown, Western Pennsylvania Press Association, reservations required at 412-281-7778.

Miscellaneous

CourseWeb Level 2, workshop that focuses on the application of the Blackboard 9.1 Learning Management System's Web-based instructional technologies to enhance student participation and encourage active and collaborative learning, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. **April 18**, B23 Alumni Hall, Pitt CIDDE, register online at www.cidde.pitt.edu.

TIES Informational Luncheon for Researchers and Research Assistants, talk on Text Information Extraction System (TIES) with Rebecca Crowley, director, Department of Biomedical Informatics Graduate Training Program, Pitt School of Medicine, 11 a.m. **April 27**, William M

Cooper Pavilion, Hillman Cancer Center, 412-623-4753, open to Pitt and UPMC faculty, staff, and students, registration required at <http://ties.upmc.com/register/index.html>.

Opera/Theater/Dance

Mamma Mia! smash-hit musical featuring ABBA's greatest hits, **April 19-24**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America, www.pgharts.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

The Marvelous Wonderettes by Roger Bean, a return to the '50s and '60s, **April 28-Oct. 2**, CLO Cabaret, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, 412-281-3973, www.pittsburghclo.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Vijay Iyer and Braden-Rapp "Strayhorn Project," modern arrangements from the Billy Strayhorn songbook, 9:30 p.m. **April 29**, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Hall, 1815 Metropolitan St., Manchester, 412-322-1773, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Dialogues of the Carmelites by Francis Poulenc, story of 16 Carmelite nuns who defended their faith and were executed during France's 18th-century Reign of Terror, 8 p.m. **April 30** and **May 3, 6, and 8**, Benedum Center, 803 Liberty Avenue, Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-456-6666, www.pittsburghopera.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

The Amish Project, written by and starring Jessica Dickey, based on the 2006 shooting at an Amish schoolhouse in Lancaster, Pa., through **May 8**, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

Superior Donuts by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tracy Letts, Chicago coffee shop serves as the setting for this new comedy, through **May 15**, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org, PITT ARTS Cheap Seats, 412-624-4498, www.pittarts.pitt.edu.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Boryana Dobrova, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of German, 1 p.m. **April 18**, "Subjectivity Regained? German-Language Writing From Eastern Europe and the Balkans Through an East-West Gaze," 5400 Posvar Hall.

Rama Rao Damerla, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, 10 a.m. **April 18**, "Mutagenic Potential of Telomeric Repeats and the Role of Werner Syndrome Helicase Protein in Facilitating Telomeric DNA Replication," 5th-floor conference room, Bridgeside Point Building, 100 Technology Drive, Hazelwood.

Hussein A. Tawbi, School of Medicine's Clinical and Translational Science Doctoral Program, 3 p.m. **April 19**, "The Epigenetic Regulation of Chemotherapy Resistance in Melanoma," 305 Parkvale Building.

Timothy Hughes, Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology, "Cholesterol Metabolism in the Brain and Dementia," noon **April 21**, 5th-floor conference room, Bellefield Professional Building, 130 N Bellefield St., Oakland.

Daniel Wollenberg, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of English, 9 a.m. **April 22**, "The Invention of England: Danes and Identity in Medieval Romance," 527 Cathedral of Learning.

Alejandro Chu, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Anthropology, 2 p.m. **April 25**, "Household Organization at Bandurria, a Late Pre-ceramic Temple Center on the Peruvian Coast," 3106 Posvar Hall.

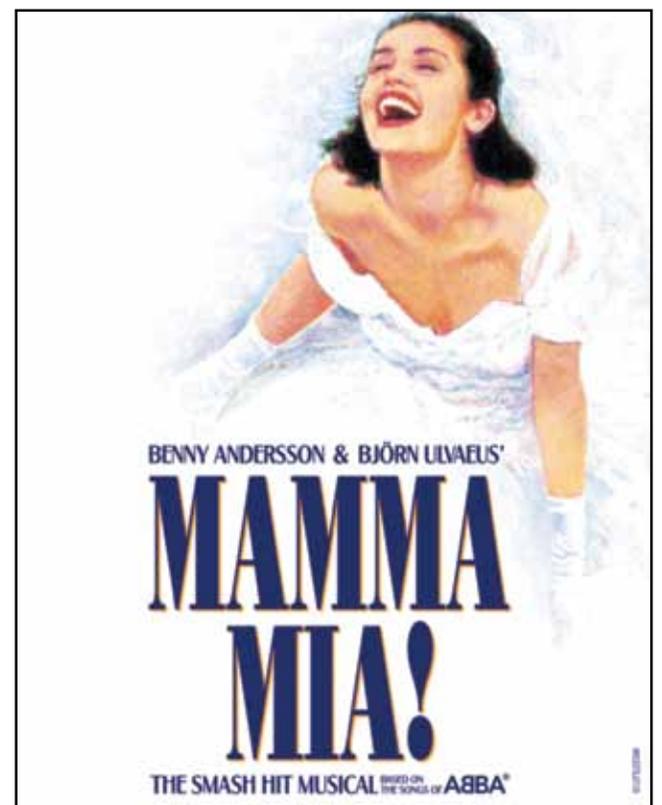
Kathleen Blake, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Anthropology, 9:30 a.m. **April 26**, "Sex Determination From the Subadult Pelvis: A Morphometric Analysis of the Ilium, Pubis, and Ischium," 3106 Posvar Hall.

Debbie Bensadon, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, 1:30 p.m. **April 26**, "Modernity and Crisis: The Writing of 'the Jew' in Twentieth Century Transatlantic Literature," 1528 Cathedral of Learning.

Jennifer McDowell, School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Anthropology, noon **April 27**, "Kokeshi: Continued and Created Traditions (Motivations for a Japanese Folk Art Doll)," 3106 Posvar Hall.

Kun-Wei Liu, School of Medicine's Cellular and Molecular Pathology Graduate Program, 2 p.m. **April 28**, "Platelet-Derived Growth Factor Receptor Alpha Signaling in Gliomas: SHPing the PI3K Pathway to Oncogenesis," Nimick Conference Room, Hillman Cancer Center.

Ilya Goldin, School of Arts and Sciences' Intelligent Systems Program, 11 a.m. **April 29**, "A Focus on Content: The Use of Rubrics in Peer Review to Guide Students and Instructors," Glaser Auditorium, Learning Research and Development Center.



Mamma Mia! Heinz Hall, April 19-24



Pitt Undergrads Triumph in National Green Idea Competition Hosted by German Embassy

By Morgan Kelly

Pitt undergraduate researchers emerged triumphant in a nationwide green ideas competition hosted by the German Embassy in Washington, D.C., finishing first in two of the contest's three categories. The winning students receive a free trip to Berlin.

The Pitt students competed against young researchers from 17 other American universities who submitted videos addressing issues related to energy and the environment for the 2010 Our Choices Matter contests. The contests were sponsored by the Transatlantic Climate Bridge Initiative, a program designed to foster German-U.S. cooperation on environmental and energy concerns. Students at the participating universities first competed against peer teams within their own respective schools; the Pitt symposium was hosted by the University's Center for Energy and Office of the Provost. The school-level winners then went on to compete nationwide in three categories: Green Shot, Change Your Neighborhood, and Green Energy Alternatives Debate.

Pitt Swanson School of Engineering students Ansel Barchowsky (electrical and computer engineering), Chris Lippert (mechanical engineering and materials science), and Adam Sparacino (electrical and computer engineering) won first prize in the Green Shot competition for their video examining the current development of a more efficient and user-friendly "smart" electric power grid. Recognized for its breadth, the team's project covered the more practical and efficient steps being taken to improve the electric grid, as well as gaps in the existing technology and standards. The group was mentored by Gregory Reed, a Pitt professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of the Swanson School's Power and Energy Initiative.



Deputy Consul General Oliver Schnakenberg of the Consulate General of Germany in New York visited the University March 14 to present awards to Pitt's two winning teams in the German Embassy's green ideas competition. From left, George Klinzing, Pitt vice provost for research; Chris Rovensky, Pitt chemical and petroleum engineering student; David Murdoch, the honorary German Consul in Pittsburgh; Schnakenberg; Adam Sparacino, Pitt electrical and computer engineering student; and Gregory Reed, a Pitt professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of Pitt's Power and Energy Initiative.

In the Change Your Neighborhood category, Pitt chemical and petroleum engineering student Chris Rovensky took first place for presenting his project to decontaminate and reclaim brownfields and other marginal land by planting biofuel crops. The crops would at once improve soil

conditions, fill vacant urban lots, and provide alternatives to fossil fuel. The project is being led by Rovensky's faculty mentors Amy Landis and Jason Monnell, professors of civil and environmental engineering in the Swanson School.

A group of Pitt students mentored by

The winning Pitt students, who competed against young researchers from 17 other American universities, finished first in two of the contest's three categories and will receive a free trip to Berlin.

Pitt chemistry professor Joseph Grabowski received honorable mention in the Green Energy Alternatives Debate category for surveying alternative energy sources available to the modern consumer.

The video submissions from all three Pitt teams are available on the German Embassy Web site at <http://bit.ly/fvWo0j>.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published May 1. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 3) should be received at least two weeks prior to the event date. *Happenings* items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to chron@pitt.edu, faxed to 412-624-4895, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail robinet@pitt.edu.