

## Pitt Alumnus and Nobel Laureate Wangari Muta Maathai Dies

By Sharon S. Blake

University of Pittsburgh alumnus Wangari Muta Maathai, recipient of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, died Sept. 25, at age 71. She earned the Master of Science degree in biology at Pitt in 1965.

Maathai's lifetime of lauded accomplishments on the international stage led to her recognition as one of the most effective and inspirational women leaders in the world.

"Wangari Muta Maathai dedicated her life to empowering women and girls, to restoring her once fertile and forested homeland, and to working for democracy and global peace," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "Her simple declaration—plant a tree—ignited the Green Belt Movement, which spread across Kenya and the rest of Africa, helping to reinvigorate indigenous forests and empower women by paying them to plant trees. Dr. Maathai's tireless advocacy as a stewardess of the earth and the voice of women, the poor, and the oppressed changed lives, a country, and a continent. It also brought honor to her University, which greatly mourns the passing of this Nobel Laureate and distinguished daughter of Pitt."



Wangari Muta Maathai and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg during Maathai's October 2006 return to Pitt, where she received a Master of Science degree in biology in 1965.

Maathai's most recent visit to Pitt was in 2006, when she delivered an address about her 30-year effort to reforest her native Kenya by planting 30 million trees and the seeds of change for the future of women. In

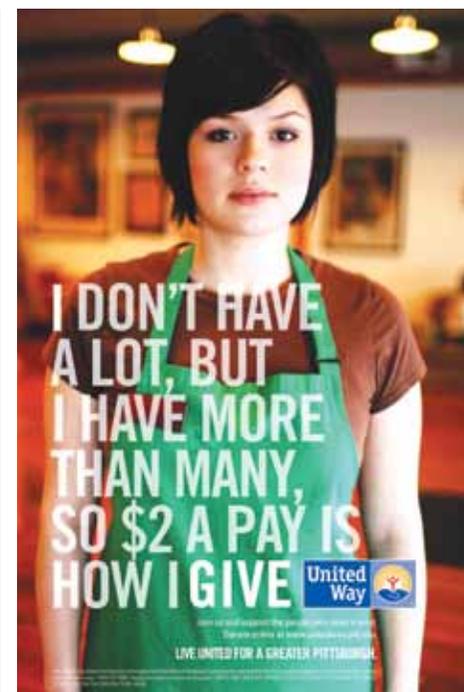
recognition of her outstanding achievement, Chancellor Nordenberg conferred on her an honorary doctoral degree at that time.

During her visit to Pitt, Maathai remarked: "I feel as though I am back home. I am deeply grateful for the gift that this institution gave me. I felt I was prepared to go forth, ready to serve the world."

After receiving her BS in biology from Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kan., Maathai came to Pitt to continue her studies. After she earned her Pitt MS degree, she returned home to the Nyeri district in Central Kenya, intent on teaching and conducting research. In 1971, she received her PhD in anatomy from the University of Nairobi—the first woman to earn a doctorate in east or central Africa—and became chair of that university's Department of Veterinary Anatomy.

Motivated by the economic plight of women in Kenya and by the deforestation of her once-lush homeland as a result of timber raiders and poor crop management, she interrupted her academic career to run for Parliament.

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## Pitt's United Way Campaign Set to Start on Oct. 5

By Jane-Ellen Robinet

"I don't have a lot, but I have more than many, so \$2 a paycheck can make a difference in the lives of people helped by United Way agencies. That's the message that the University of Pittsburgh's 2011 United Way campaign hopes to convey to Pitt faculty and staff on the Pittsburgh campus."

The 2011 campaign will be officially launched Oct. 5 with a breakfast for campaign coordinators from across the campus at the University Club and will run through Nov. 4. It marks the 15th year that Pitt has participated in the campaign, which is the University's most comprehensive fundraising effort. Campaign co-chairs are G. Reynolds ("Renny") Clark, vice chancellor for community initiatives and chief of staff for Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, and Margaret C. McDonald, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs for the schools of the health sciences. They oversee a steering committee comprising 15 other participants who represent a wide range of departments in the University.

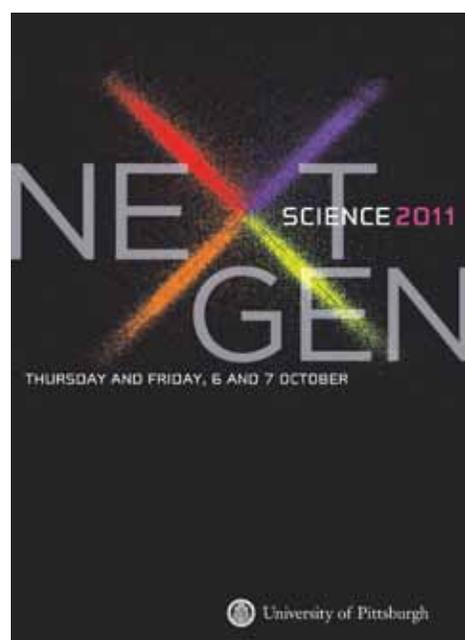
"Every day there are thousands of people who live within sight of the Cathedral of Learning who struggle with life. As a responsible institution and community partner, Pitt has always found ways to reach out to these individuals. The United Way campaign is one way of helping those in need," Clark said.

Faculty and staff can contribute to the campaign in three ways. Many individual departments within the University sponsor fundraising activities throughout the campaign, including raffles, flea markets, recycling programs for such electronics as cell phones, and snack carts. Donors also may contribute online by visiting [www.unitedway.pitt.edu](http://www.unitedway.pitt.edu). And finally, faculty and staff may opt to have their contribution automatically deducted from their Pitt paychecks.

Anne Franks, executive director

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## Pitt's 'Science 2011—Next Gen' Set for Oct. 6-7 in Alumni Hall



By Karen Hoffmann

Science 2011: Next Gen, the University's 11th annual showcase of the region's latest research in science, engineering, medicine, and computation, will be held on Oct. 6 and 7 in Alumni Hall. In addition to highlighting the region's most promising

biomedical research, Science 2011 will demonstrate how these projects can be a catalyst for regional economic development; foster collaboration among academic and industrial scientists; and promote the idea to the public that science can be interesting, exciting, and fun.

All Science 2011 events and lectures will be free and open to the public, but registration is required.

One of the event's highlights, the Dickson Prize in Medicine Lecture, will be delivered on Thursday, Oct. 6, at 11 a.m. by J. Craig Venter, founder and president of the J. Craig Venter Institute and founder and CEO of Synthetic Genomics Inc. In a talk titled "From Reading to Writing the Genetic Code," Venter will describe some of his research team's best-known achievements: In 2001, it completed the first draft of the human genome, which was a composite of several individuals, and the first diploid human genome—Venter's own—in 2007. Last year, Venter and his team announced that they had constructed a synthetic organism that could replicate by inserting a computer-designed genome made of nonliving material into bacterial cells.

The names and presentations of other renowned researchers delivering plenary lectures at Science 2011 follow.

• Provost Lecture, 4 p.m. **Oct. 6:** "The Biophysics of Protein-Ligand Binding: What

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Is the Water Doing?" presented by George M. Whitesides, the Woodford L. and Ann A. Flowers University Professor, Harvard University. Whitesides is known for his contributions to many fields, including nanotechnology, microfabrication, and microfluidics; is listed as an inventor on more than 100 patents; and has cofounded

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## Pitt's Nordenberg Lecture in Law, Medicine, and Psychiatry Oct. 6

By Patricia Lomando White

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law will feature Jessica Wilen Berg, professor of law and bioethics and associate director of the Law-Medicine Center at Case Western Reserve University Schools of Law and Medicine, in the annual Nordenberg Lecture in Law, Medicine, and Psychiatry at noon Oct. 6 in the Pitt Barco Law Building's Teplitz Memorial Courtroom.

The free public lecture is titled "What Remains of Charity Care After Health Reform? Community Obligations of Nonprofit Hospitals."

Berg joined the Case Western faculty in 1999 after serving as the director of academic affairs for the Institute for Ethics and as secretary of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs for the American Medical Association. Prior to that, Berg was a visiting professor at Michigan State University Medical School, a Scholar in Excellence at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and a fellow at both the Center for Biomedical Ethics and the Institute for Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy at the University of Virginia.

Berg teaches law and bioethics. Her publications and research span a variety

of areas, including informed consent, research with human subjects, reproductive law and ethics, confidentiality of medical information, mental health law, professional self-regulation, and E-medicine. Berg's recent work, with coauthors, includes "Making All the Children Above Average: Ethical and Regulatory Concerns for Pediatricians in Pediatric Enhancement Research" in *Clinical Pediatrics* (2009) and "Human Subjects Protections in Biomedical Enhancement Research: Assessing Risk and Benefit and Obtaining Informed Consent" in the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* (2008).



Jessica Wilen Berg

Pitt's annual lecture in law, medicine, and psychiatry is named for Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, former dean of the law school, and is approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board for one hour of substantive CLE credit. Registration is available at the door. There is a \$25 fee to obtain CLE credit with a check made payable to the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

For more information, call 412-647-5700 or e-mail [bioethic@pitt.edu](mailto:bioethic@pitt.edu).

## United Way Campaign Begins on Oct. 5

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of administrative services in Pitt's Office of Institutional Advancement and Pitt's United Way campaign manager, is marking her seventh year of volunteering for the campaign. She said that this year's theme is a change from prior Pitt campaigns.

"Usually we do the campaign based on the recipients of United Way funding, such as, 'Help a senior citizen remain healthy,' or 'Help a child get the educational support he needs.' But this year, we flipped the

**Pitt's 2010 United Way campaign was the most successful in the University's history, raising \$610,609. The total surpassed the annual fundraising effort's goal by more than \$10,000 and marked a 12 percent increase from the 2009 campaign.**

focus to the donor. I hope it will draw more people in. The message we want people to hear is, 'Two dollars a month. That's one cup of coffee—and we can do that.'"

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# Pitt Day of Caring 2011

About 300 University of Pittsburgh faculty, staff, and students volunteered in several Pittsburgh neighborhoods as part of the United Way's annual Day of Caring, held Sept. 28. Pitt partnered with TIAA-CREF for the day, and volunteers worked on projects ranging from making interior improvements at the Hazelwood YMCA to planting native trees in Oakland. **1.** Pitt volunteers paint an outside wall adjacent to the Sojourner House, an East Liberty residence that serves homeless women in recovery and their children.

**2.** Volunteers work in the warehouse of Global Links, which recovers surplus medical supplies from U.S. hospitals and sends them to clinics in developing countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.



PHOTOS BY JIM BURKE/CORBIS

## Wangari Maathai Dies

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She lost that race and, because of her activism, lost her position at the university.

Her response was to launch a now-legendary grassroots organization, the Green Belt Movement, which mobilized the women whose lives were relegated to working the land to plant millions of trees throughout Kenya, restoring both the earth and the livelihoods of the women and their families.

At the same time, she was unwavering in her activism to promote democracy, and the end of political corruption and tribal politics.

Her commitment to the environment, the empowerment of women, and democracy often put her at risk. She was arrested several times, and beaten unconscious by police during a protest.

But her enduring passion for her causes was rewarded by international recognition and the emulation of her movement elsewhere in Africa. She addressed the United Nations on several occasions and served on the U.N. Commission for Global Governance and the Commission on the Future.

In 2004, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy, and peace."

Among her numerous other awards were France's highest honor, the Legion d'Honneur. She is listed in the United Nations Environment Programme Global 500 Hall of Fame and was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

In 2002, Maathai was elected to Kenya's Parliament and appointed by Kenya's president as assistant minister

**In 2004, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy, and peace."**

for environment and natural resources. In 2005, she was elected presiding officer of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union.

## PittChronicle

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**PUBLISHER** Robert Hill  
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**EXECUTIVE EDITOR** Linda K. Schmittmeyer  
**EDITOR** Jane-Ellen Robinet  
**ART DIRECTOR** Gary Kohr-Cravener  
**STAFF WRITERS** Sharon S. Blake, John Fedele, Audrey M. Marks, Patricia Lomando White  
**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** Kerry Byrnes, Karen Hoffmann  
**HAPPENINGS EDITOR** Kaitlyn Mancuso

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# Newsmakers

## A VISIT FROM THE SWISS CONSUL GENERAL



JOE KAPELEWSKI/CODE

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg met on Sept. 28 with Ambassador Francois Barras, Consul General of Switzerland in New York, while the ambassador was visiting Pittsburgh. From left, Ambassador Barras; Dominique Schinabeck, chair and CEO of Pittsburgh-based Acutronic USA, Inc., and Honorary Swiss Consul in Pittsburgh; Catherine Scharf, head of the Cultural Department, Consulate General of Switzerland in New York; E. Maxine Bruhns, director, Pitt Nationality Rooms Program; and Chancellor Nordenberg.

# Pitt's 'Science 2011—Next Gen' Set for Oct. 6-7 in Alumni Hall

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at least a dozen companies, including Genzyme.

• **Mellon Lecture, 11 a.m. Oct. 7:** "Host Defense Strategies," presented by Ruslan Medzhitov, the David W. Wallace Professor of Immunobiology at Yale University and an investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute. In 1997, Medzhitov and his team identified and characterized Toll-like receptor 4, a member of a class of molecules that plays a key role in the innate immune system by recognizing potential threats and tagging them for elimination.

• **Klaus Hofmann Lecture, 4 p.m. Oct. 7:** "Variability, Compensation, and Modulation in Neurons and Networks," presented by Eve Marder, the Victor and Gwendolyn Beinfeld Professor of Neuroscience, Brandeis University. Marder is exploring how individual neurons interact with one other to form dynamic

neural circuits and has shown that rather than being "hard-wired," these circuits can be reconfigured. This has implications for human memory formation, motor control, behavioral plasticity, and mood disorders.

Twelve spotlight sessions are planned for Oct. 6 and 7, focusing on topics that include, among others, "Building a Genome From Genes," "Putting Watson to Work in Health Care," and "Renew, Recycle—Innovative Energy."

An undergraduate research poster reception will be held at 5 p.m. Oct. 6, with undergrads from across the University exhibiting faculty-mentored research posters in basic science, medicine, and engineering.

A full schedule of Science 2011 events and registration details are available at [www.science2011.pitt.edu](http://www.science2011.pitt.edu).

# Happenings



Lifting Letters by Renee Rosensteel

**Picturing the City: Downtown Pittsburgh, 2007-2010,** Carnegie Museum of Art, through March 26

## Concerts

**Resonance Percussion,** steel drums, guitar, drum kit, and voices take the listener along a journey to the Caribbean, noon **Oct. 5**, free, Nurdy's Café, ground floor, William Pitt Union, Artful Wednesdays Concert Series Fall 2011, PITT ARTS, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Ray Bonneville & Andy Friedman,** singer-songwriter duo plays folk music with a touch of the blues, 7:30 p.m. **Oct. 6**, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, 6300 Fifth Ave., Shadyside, Calliope Center Stage Concerts, 412-316-1915, [www.calliopehouse.org](http://www.calliopehouse.org), PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

## Exhibitions

**University Art Gallery, On a Lucky Day a Surprising Balance of Forms and Spaces Will Appear, through Oct. 21,** exhibition comprising work of 14 faculty members in Pitt's Department of Studio Arts, Frick Fine Arts Building, 412-648-2430.

**Carnegie Museum of Art, Palladio and His Legacy: A Transatlantic Journey, through Dec. 31; Picturing the City: Downtown Pittsburgh, 2007-2010, through March 26; Hand Made: Contemporary Craft in Ceramic, Glass, and Wood, ongoing; Past Meets Present: Decorative Arts and Design at Carnegie Museum of Art, ongoing,** 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org).

**The Warhol, Fifteen Minutes: Homage to Andy Warhol, through Jan. 8; I Just Want to Watch: Warhol's Film, Video, and Television, ongoing,** 117 Sandusky St., North Side, 412-237-8300, [www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org).

**Heinz History Center, Angels of Mercy: Sisters in Healthcare in Western Pennsylvania, Oct. 9 through late Fall 2011;** 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org).

**The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Botany and History Entwined: Rachel Hunt's Legacy,** rare gems from the original collection of founder Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt (1882-1963), **through Dec. 15,** 5th Floor of Hunt Library, 4909 Frew St., Carnegie Mellon University, 412-268-2434, <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/>.

**Wood Street Galleries, Cell Phone Disco, ongoing,** Tito Way, Downtown, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

## Lectures/Seminars/Readings

**"The Making of an Actor,"** John Lithgow, stage, screen, and television performer who has written a memoir, *Drama*, 7:30 p.m. **Oct. 3**, Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Drue Heinz Lectures, 412-622-8866, [www.pittsburghlectures.org](http://www.pittsburghlectures.org).

**"Death Comes for Seven Eminent Florentines, and Harasses the Archaeologist Digging Them Up,"** Pitt History of Art and Architecture Professor Franklin Toker talks about

excavations of eminent Florentines' tombs, noon **Oct. 5**, 203 Frick Fine Arts, History of Art and Architecture Colloquium, [www.haa.pitt.edu](http://www.haa.pitt.edu), 412-648-2400.

## Miscellaneous

**TIES Informational Luncheon for Researchers and Research Assistants,** talk on Text Information Extraction System (TIES), Rebecca Crowley, director, Department of Biomedical Informatics Graduate Training Program, Pitt School of Medicine, 11 a.m. **Oct. 5**, Magee-Womens Hospital, Conference Room CR2131 open to Pitt and UPMC faculty, staff, and students, registration required, <http://ties.upmc.com/register/index.html>, 412-623-4753.

**Science 2011—Next Gen,** Pitt's 11th annual celebration of science and technology, **Oct. 6-7**, Alumni Hall, admission is free, but registration is required, [www.science2011.pitt.edu](http://www.science2011.pitt.edu).

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**Junior Achievement Night at the Byham** featuring special preview performance of *Off the Record XI: No Fracking Way!* Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres reception at 6:30 p.m., musical satire at 8 p.m. **Oct. 5**, Byham Theater, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, tickets \$20, all proceeds benefit Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania, 412-456-6666, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

**The End of the Affair,** Graham Greene's iconic novel about a passionate affair that highlights the impossibility of knowing someone and the ways in which we order our morality, **Oct. 6-30**, former Emma Kaufmann Clinic, 3028 Brereton St., Polish Hill, Quantum Theatre, 412-697-2929, [www.quantumtheatre.com](http://www.quantumtheatre.com).

**Blast!** Emmy Award-winner for Best Choreography, show comprises 35 brass, percussion, and visual performers in unique explosion of music and theater, **Oct. 6-9**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, PNC Broadway Across America, 412-392-4900, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org), PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Omayra Amaya Flamenco Company,** dance performance, 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. **Oct. 7**, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Simmons Hall, 6300 Fifth Ave., Shadyside, Guitar Society of Fine Art, 412-281-1910, [www.gsfapittsburgh.org](http://www.gsfapittsburgh.org), PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Last of the Line** by Samm-Art Williams, descendants of African American slaveholders and their ancestors take center stage, **through Oct. 9**, August Wilson Center, 980 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-471-6930, [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org), PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program, 412-624-4498, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).

**Electra,** Sophocles' tale that brings to life the myths of ancient Greece while telling timeless story of one family's tragedy, **through Oct. 30**, O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, [www.ppt.org](http://www.ppt.org).

## Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

**Anna Redcay,** School of Arts and Sciences' Department of English, 1 p.m. **Oct. 7**, "The Long-Defended Gate: Juvenilia, the Real Child, and the Aesthetics of Innocence, 1859-1939," 512 Cathedral of Learning.



**Resonance Percussion, Nurdy's Café, October 5**



# Taking the Pledge: October Is Dignity and Respect Month at Pitt



By Kerry Byrnes

The University of Pittsburgh is participating in Dignity and Respect Month during October that is part of a broader year-round campaign that seeks to promote inclusion through behavioral and organizational change. University faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to make a simple pledge demonstrating their commitment to treating others the way they wish to be treated.

Pitt's Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Inclusion, along with the

Staff Association Council's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, have been working to promote the broader campaign—the Dignity and Respect Campaign—on campus. They have held several pledge drives at the University over the past year, most recently during Freshman Orientation Week. Organizers extend an open invitation to Pitt's individual schools and departments to hold a pledge drive within their units.

University faculty, staff, and students can "take the pledge" one of three ways:

online at [www.dignityandrespect.org](http://www.dignityandrespect.org); on Facebook at the Dignity and Respect Campaign page; or by texting "RESPECT" to 94253. The pledge simply states, "I, \_\_\_\_\_, will treat everyone with dignity and respect."

"We, in the Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity and Inclusion, are so pleased that the University of Pittsburgh is a partner in this effort to create a more inclusive community. Many times we forget that the regular interactions we have with others can have the biggest impact. Treating everyone we encounter with dignity and respect is the foundation for appreciating and embracing our differences, and helps to make our University community a better place to live, learn, and work," said Shari Manges, a diversity specialist in Pitt's Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity Inclusion.

The Dignity and Respect Campaign began in 2008, when the Center for Inclusion at UPMC introduced an internal program, the Dignity and Respect Initiative, to health system employees. UPMC employees were encouraged to take a dignity and respect pledge—and were also asked to suggest behaviors that represent dignity and respect in the workplace. UPMC used the employee feedback to create "30 Tips of Dignity and Respect," which laid the foundation for the current campaign.

Today, more than 20 Pittsburgh-area organizations and companies as well as organizations nationwide participate in

the program. The campaign became a Pittsburgh Community Initiative in 2009 with a proclamation from Mayor Luke Ravenstahl declaring October as Dignity and Respect Month in the city. The month offers an opportunity for individuals and organizations to engage in events, activities, and service projects.

But the hope is that that efforts are made year-round to meet the campaign's goals, and at Pitt, they are, Manges said. In 2010, Linda Demoise, academic support coordinator for the INVESTING NOW program and tutoring coordinator for the Pitt EXCEL Program, both in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, and Cheryl Ruffin, an employee relations specialist in Pitt's Office of Human Resources, were named Dignity and Respect Champions for the months of July and November, respectively.

**The pledge simply states, "I, \_\_\_\_\_, will treat everyone with dignity and respect."**

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Oct. 10. 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](mailto:chron@pitt.edu), 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).