

## Pitt Alumnus, Trustee, and Former Board Chair William S. Dietrich II, Who Gave the University the Single-Largest Gift in Its History, Dies

Dietrich's \$125 million pledge to Pitt was one of the 10 largest gifts made by an individual to a public university in the United States



William S. Dietrich II

By John Harvith

University of Pittsburgh alumnus, trustee, and former Board chair William S. Dietrich II—a well-known and highly respected business leader, investor, author, and philanthropist who recently gave the largest single gift to Pitt in its 225-year history, a \$125 million fund—died Oct. 6 in Pittsburgh after an extended illness. He was 73.

Mr. Dietrich's pledge to Pitt was one of the 10 largest gifts made by an individual to a public university in the United States. His gift to Pitt took the University's \$2 billion "Building Our Future Together" capital campaign past the \$1.85 billion mark. In recognition of Mr. Dietrich's gift, Pitt's Board of Trustees will formally vote on a resolution at its Oct. 28 meeting to name the University's largest school the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, in honor of Mr. Dietrich's father.

Mr. Dietrich's generosity was celebrated during a special ceremony at Pitt's Sept. 24 football game against Notre Dame, when the Heinz Field crowd, led by University Trustee and Hall-of-Fame quarterback Dan Marino, gave him a standing ovation and his gift to Pitt received national television coverage. The naming of the School of Arts and Sciences after his father was announced through the unfurling of a 10-story banner hung from the University's 42-story Cathedral of Learning, the tallest academic structure in the Western Hemisphere. And just two days before his death, Mr. Dietrich received the first two diplomas to be issued by the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, diplomas memorializing the work that William Dietrich himself had done to earn graduate degrees from the University in the early 1980's.

Mr. Dietrich earned both his M.A. and his Ph.D. degrees in political science from the University of Pittsburgh. He had been a member of Pitt's Board of Trustees since

1991 and served as the Board's chairperson from 2001 to 2003. He also had served as the chair of the Board's Audit, Investment, and Conflict of Interest committees.

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg stated, "Bill Dietrich's passing is a tremendous loss not only to Pitt's Board, where he was known for his determined commitment to academic excellence, but also within the broader business and civic community, where he was tireless in his efforts to contribute to the betterment of the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. Speaking for myself, Bill was a good friend and an inspiring role model, as well as one of the University com-

munity's favorite people. The impact of his extraordinary generosity will be felt by faculty and students throughout this University for countless generations to come."

In commenting on his gift, which was announced on Sept. 22, Mr. Dietrich had said, "I am making this investment in the University of Pittsburgh for a number of reasons. As a graduate who personally benefitted from my own studies at Pitt, I

want to ensure that the University can continue to provide educational opportunities of the highest quality to its undergraduate and graduate students. As a citizen of Southwestern Pennsylvania, I want to help secure the future of one of this region's most important institutions and hope that this gift will encourage others to join with me in supporting the University. And as someone who has seen Pitt's transformation into a national and international force in higher education from the special vantage point of a Trustee, I want to recognize the extraordinary progress that has been made by the University, particularly during Mark Nordenberg's 16-year tenure as Chancellor."

### A Legacy of Business Success, Community Impact, and Uncommon Generosity

After graduating from Princeton University in 1960, William Dietrich served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves before joining Dietrich Industries, Inc., the company founded by his father. Mr. Dietrich assumed responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the company in the mid-1960's and in the process transformed Dietrich Industries from a small steel warehouse and distribution business into the nation's largest manufacturer of light metal framing for the construction industry. In 1996, Worthington Industries bought Dietrich Industries and asked Mr. Dietrich to remain as a director, a position

he held until his retirement in 2008.

It was while he was leading Dietrich Industries through a period of significant growth that Mr. Dietrich earned his graduate degrees from the University. A student of both history and international economics,

Mr. Dietrich's generosity was celebrated during a special ceremony at Pitt's Sept. 24 football game against Notre Dame, when the Heinz Field crowd gave him a standing ovation and he received national television coverage.

he was a regular contributor to the *Pittsburgh Quarterly*. Mr. Dietrich also was the author of two books: *In the Shadow of the Rising Sun: The Political Roots of American Economic Decline*, published in 1991 by the Penn State University Press, and *Eminent Pittsburghers: Profiles of the City's Founding Industrialists*, a collection of biographical essays published in 2011 by Taylor Trade Publishing. At his death, he was in the process of writing a third book, to which he had given the title *American Recession: The U.S. Decline and the Rise of China*.

Mr. Dietrich was well known for his wide-ranging civic commitments.

In addition to his service on the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees, he has served on the Boards of Carnegie Mellon University, the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Chatham University, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, the Pittsburgh Symphony Society, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Growth Alli-

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## Interactive Display of Pitt Alum John Woodruff's '36 Olympic Gold Medal to Be Unveiled at Hillman Library on Oct. 14

By Sharon S. Blake

The Gold Medal won by University of Pittsburgh alumnus and track star John Woodruff at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin is the focus of a new interactive display that will be unveiled at 2 p.m. Oct. 14 on the first floor of Pitt's Hillman Library.

The event marks the 75th anniversary of Woodruff's dramatic finish of the 800-meter race at the 1936 games. Sponsored by Pitt's African American Alumni Council, the ceremony is one of the highlights of Pitt's Homecoming Week activities.

The display, a square obelisk more than six feet high, will include an interactive multimedia touchscreen featuring film narratives, a photo gallery, and selections from Woodruff's personal family scrapbook. Most of the materials have never been on public view before. The Gold Medal, which Woodruff donated to Pitt in 1990, will be showcased on a rotating illuminated



Pitt Chancellor Wesley W. Posvar presented John Woodruff with the University's Distinguished Graduate Medal award in 1982. Eight years later, Woodruff donated his 1936 Olympic Gold Medal to Pitt during the halftime of a 1990 Pitt-Notre Dame game in the old Pitt Stadium. Posvar received the medal on the University's behalf. Above, from left, Woodruff and Posvar.

pedestal.

University Library System Director and Hillman Librarian Rush Miller and Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs

Robert Hill are hosting the event; Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and other Pitt officials will deliver remarks.

Also speaking will be Pitt trustee Herbert P. Douglas Jr. (EDUC '48, '50G) a bronze medalist in the long jump at the 1948 Olympics; Roger Kingdom (CGS '02), Pitt football and track star, winner of two Olympic gold medals (1984 and 1988) in the 100 meter hurdles, and head track coach at California University of Pennsylvania; and John Woodruff Jr., a New York City attorney.

### About the 1936 Olympic Games

There was talk of an Olympic boycott because of racial policies in Germany, but some Black newspapers objected, saying it was

*Continued on page 4*

# Pitt to Welcome Alumni and Friends Oct. 13-16 to Homecoming 2011

By Patricia Lomando White

A Welcome Back Reception, young alumni mixer, Pitt Band centennial celebration, art exhibition, fireworks and laser show, Homecoming Extravaganza, and school and departmental reunions are some of the festivities planned as the University of Pittsburgh welcomes alumni, students, and friends to Homecoming 2011 from Oct. 13 to 16, including the noon Oct. 15 football game between the Pitt Panthers and the University of Utah Utes.

As an opener to the weekend events, Pitt's Young Alumni Council of the Pitt Alumni Association will host a Young Alumni Mixer from 8 to 11 p.m. Oct. 13 at Mario's East End, 5442 Walnut St., Shadyside.

The following day, Oct. 14, activities begin at 9 a.m. and continue throughout the evening. A feature of the afternoon will be the 2 p.m. unveiling of a new permanent display in Hillman Library of the 1936 Summer Olympics Gold Medal won by alumnus John Woodruff, who earned his Pitt Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology in 1939.

A festive autumn setting, complete with hors d'oeuvres and drinks, will be the backdrop for the Pitt Alumni Association's Welcome Back Reception that helps connect Pitt alumni from past decades. It will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 14 in the Cathedral of Learning's Commons Room.

The Nationality Rooms also will be open for visitors. A number of schools and departments will host their own alumni receptions during the evening.

The Pitt Program Council's fireworks and laser show at 9 p.m. Oct. 14 on Bigelow Boulevard between the Cathedral of Learning and the William Pitt Union is always a hit with onlookers. The evening's festivities will continue with the Homecoming Extravaganza at 9:30 p.m. in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room with Monte Carlo Night.

Pitt's African American Alumni Council (AAAC) will hold its annual Apple Seed Project from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 14, where participants share their time and talents with students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Later that day, at 9 p.m., and at 10 p.m. Oct. 15, the AAAC Sankofa Reconnect will be held at the Savoy Restaurant, 2623 Penn Ave., Strip District.

Many of Pitt's schools and departments will host additional Homecoming events, including continuing education courses, panel discussions, alumni recognition luncheons and receptions, and networking events.

Throughout the weekend, *On a Lucky Day a Surprising Balance of Forms and Spaces Will Appear*, an exhibition of work by faculty of Pitt's Department of Studio Arts, will be on display in the University

Art Gallery in the Frick Fine Arts Building. Tours of Pitt's 27 Nationality Rooms representing nations and cultures from around the world also will be available.

Founded Oct. 14, 1911, the Pitt Band is celebrating its centennial this year with the 2011 Pitt Alumni Band Day at 8 a.m. Oct. 15 during the Pitt Band Alumni Council Tailgate prior to Pitt's football game at Heinz Field.

Pitt Alumni Association's Alumni Central also will kick off Homecoming football pregame festivities at 9 a.m. Oct. 15 at the Alumni Association tent located at Stage AE on North Shore Drive. Other events include the World's Largest Family Block Party on Art Rooney Avenue between Gates A and B with inflatable games for the kids, game day food, and other family-oriented activities and the AT&T Great Lawn Student Tailgate with grills, food, live music, games, and entertainment.

Pitt's Panther Prowl at 10 a.m. Oct. 15 will give fans the opportunity to meet and greet the football players as they arrive at Heinz Field outside Gate A. Immediately following will be the Pitt Marching Band's Pregame Concert. The band will lead the March to Victory parade at 11 a.m. from Tony Dorsett Drive down General Robinson Street, ending at the stage on Art Rooney Avenue. The Homecoming Court will ride in the parade, and the king and queen will



be crowned during halftime festivities. The century-old Pitt Band will attempt to make the largest PITT formation in Heinz Field history.

For general information about Homecoming, call the Pitt Alumni Association at 412-624-8229 or 1-800-258-7488, or visit [www.alumni.pitt.edu/homecoming](http://www.alumni.pitt.edu/homecoming). For ticket information for the Homecoming football game, call 1-800-643-7488 or visit [www.pittsburghpanthers.com](http://www.pittsburghpanthers.com).

## Briefly noted

### Oct. 12 CRSP Lecture to Address Affirmative Action

The University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) continues its Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC Fall 2011 Speaker Series Oct. 12 with a noon lecture by Ira Katznelson, Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History at Columbia University.

Katznelson's talk, "When Affirmative Action Was White: Further Reflections," will take place in the School of Social Work Conference Center, 20th floor, Cathedral of Learning. It is free and open to the public, and registration is not required; lunch will be provided. For more information, call 412-624-7382.

Katznelson is the author of *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequity in Twentieth-Century America* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2006). In it, Katznelson argues that many additional economic disparities between White and Black America were created during the New Deal and that the policies that occasioned those disparities remained for years. Programs, the author says, were set up deliberately to exclude underrepresented groups. Laws like the GI Bill were administered by local governments, which often prevented Black veterans from receiving the benefits they had earned. Katznelson also coauthored *Liberal Beginnings: Making a Republic for the Moderns* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), and he is currently completing *Fear Itself*, a book dealing with American democracy from the New Deal to the Cold War, and *Liberal Reason*, a collection of his essays on the character of modern social knowledge.

—By Sharon S. Blake

### "Getting a Plum Internship in Media, Publishing, and PR" Panel Set for Oct. 18

The University of Pittsburgh's Department of English and *The Pitt News*, Pitt's daily student

newspaper, will cosponsor a panel discussion titled "Getting a Plum Internship in Media, Publishing, and PR: Meet the Experts" at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18 in the William Pitt Union Ballroom.

During the event, the winner of the annual McDowell Award In Nonfiction, named in honor of the late Pittsburgh broadcasting pioneer Al McDowell (A&S '52), will be announced. A dessert reception will round out the evening.

David Shribman, executive editor of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, will serve as moderator for the panel discussion. Panelists include Stan Wischnowski, editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*; Regan Morris, West Coast producer at BBC News; Rich Holden, executive director for the Dow Jones News Fund; Mike Bothwell, WPXI-TV director of coverage and content; Jennifer Knerr, vice president and executive editor of Paradigm Publishers; Ron Davenport Jr., president of the American Urban Radio Network; Jessica Bayer, senior director at Qorvis Communications; and Erik Hinton, interactive software engineer for *The New York Times*.

For more information about the panelists or the Oct. 18 event, contact Pitt Writing Internship Coordinator Caren Marcus at 412-624-1737 or [caren@pitt.edu](mailto:caren@pitt.edu).

—By Kerry Byrnes

### Derricotte and Martin to Be Featured in Oct. 20 Reading

University of Pittsburgh poets and professors Toi Derricotte and Dawn Lundy Martin, in the School of Arts and Sciences' Department of English, will present their work as part of the University of Pittsburgh Writing Program's Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 20 in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

A renowned poet, Derricotte has had more than a thousand poems published in anthologies, journals, and magazines. She is the cofounder of the Cave Canem Foundation, an organization that has been offering workshops and retreats for African American poets since 1996.

Derricotte is the author of five books of poetry—*The*

*Undertaker's Daughter* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011), *Tender* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1997), *Captivity* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1989), *Natural Birth* (Crossing Press, 1983), *The Empress of the Death House* (Lotus Press, 1978) and the memoir *The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey* (W.W. Norton & Co., 1997). In 1997, *The Black Notebooks* was named to *The New York Times* Book Review's "Notable Books of the Year" and won the 1998 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Non-Fiction.

Martin's first full-length collection, *A Gathering of Matter/A Matter of Gathering* (University of Georgia Press, 2007), was selected for the 2007 Cave Canem Poetry Prize. Her second collection, *Discipline* (Nightboat Books, 2011), won the Nightboat Books Poetry Prize. She also is the author of three chapbooks *Candy* (Albion, forthcoming November 2011), *The Undress* (Belladonna Books, 2006), and *The Morning Hour* (Poetry Society of America, 2003), selected for the Poetry Society of America's National Chapbook Fellowship. In 2004, she coedited, with Vivien Labaton, *The Fire This Time: Young Activists and the New Feminism* (Anchor Books, 2004), a collection of essays on modern theories of activism in America. She also wrote the Afterword, titled "What, Then, Is Freedom," to Harriet Ann Jacobs' 19th-century slave narrative, *Incidents of a Slave Girl* (Signet Classics, 2010).

Martin is cofounder of the Third Wave Foundation in New York, a national grant-making organization led by young women and transgender youth, which focuses on social justice activism. She is also a member of the Black Took Collective, a group of experimental Black poets embracing critical theory about gender, race, and sexuality. Martin has been the recipient of two poetry grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and was awarded the 2008 Academy of American Arts and Sciences May Sarton Prize for Poetry.

In addition to Pitt's Writing Program, Pitt's Book Center is sponsoring the 2011-12 Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series.

For more information, call 412-624-6508 or visit [www.pghwriterseries.wordpress.com](http://www.pghwriterseries.wordpress.com).

—By Patricia Lomando White



Toi Derricotte

### Call for Fall 2011 University Senate Plenary Posters

The University Senate's Community Relations Committee is accepting posters for the Fall 2011 Plenary titled "Community and Campus Partnerships for Health and Wellness." The deadline is midnight Oct. 15. Community engagement projects must include a mutually beneficial community-academic partnership.

Participants can showcase their community engagement projects during the plenary's showcase from 3 to 4 p.m. Nov. 10 in the William Pitt Union's Assembly Room.

Interested parties should e-mail an abstract of fewer than 250 words describing their projects to Denise Chisolm at [dchisolm@pitt.edu](mailto:dchisolm@pitt.edu). Submissions should include the names of applicants; departments or organizational affiliations; e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Student applicants should include the name and contact information for their faculty mentors.

Additional information is available at [www.opdc.org](http://www.opdc.org).

—By John Fedele

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# Stewards & scholars

## Engineering Professor Emeritus J. Thomas Cain and Jacquelyn Cain Pledge \$2 Million to Fund Endowed Chair

By Susan Zavage Grivnow

Thomas Cain, a professor emeritus in the Swanson School of Engineering, and his wife, Jacquelyn (“Jackie”) Cain, have pledged \$2 million to fund an endowed chair in the Swanson School’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The James Thomas Cain and Jacquelyn Stone Cain Endowed Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering will allow the Cains, both Pitt alumni, to leave a legacy to Pitt of supporting extraordinary University faculty members.

The benefits of an endowed chair to a department are far-reaching, said Gerald Holder, Pitt’s U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering and also a professor of chemical and petroleum engineering. Endowed faculty chairs help Pitt to attract and retain the nation’s best scholars by enabling the University to offer highly competitive salaries and research support packages, he added.

“We are very grateful for the Cains’ generous commitment. Tom knows that it takes a large amount of resources to compete with elite engineering schools in the U.S., and the number of endowed chairs a school maintains is an important benchmark,” said Holder.

Cain (ENGR ’65, ’67G, ’70G), whose Pitt career spans more than 40 years, can still be found in his Benedum Hall office several times a week as he continues to serve as a graduate student advisor and to participate in research projects. Cain said the most valued aspect of his career was teaching undergraduate and graduate students. He cannot remember a single class that he did not enjoy, he said.

Cain spoke frequently, Jackie Cain (SIS ’75G) recalled, about how much he enjoyed seeing “the bulb light up” for a student—that moment of sudden comprehension.



J. Thomas and Jacquelyn Cain

Cain has won several teaching awards, including the Western Electric Fund Award for Excellence in Engineering Education, and he was named a Fellow for Leadership in and Contributions to Computer Science and Engineering Education by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world’s largest professional association for the advancement of technology. He has served the IEEE in many leadership capacities and was president of the association in 1995. For Cain’s retirement party, former students showed up from across the country to thank and congratulate him—it was an event that touched him deeply.

“The common perception is that the

**Cain has served on the University Senate Council, and his research has received numerous grants, resulting in the publication of many articles in scholarly journals. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1994.**

students learn from us,” Cain said, “but it’s really a two-way street.”

The Cains cite a number of reasons for their generous contribution to the University in addition to Professor Cain’s faculty career at Pitt. Their Oakland ties are strong: It is where Jackie Cain was raised and where they both attended high school. It is also the place where they met—at the Carnegie Library. And while Jackie received her undergraduate degree from neighboring Carlow University, both Cains hold Pitt degrees, and they have a mutual, enduring love of Pitt football and basketball.

“The Cains are greatly committed to Pitt,” said Holder. “Tom has been involved with Pitt in just about every imaginable capacity. He and Jackie attend every football and basketball game. Pitt is a huge part of their lives.”

Cain has served on the University Senate Council, and his research has received numerous grants, resulting in the publication of many articles in scholarly journals. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1994.

“Tom has represented Pitt very well throughout his career,” said Holder.

“Funding this endowed chair is an endorsement of the programs he has long supported.”

One of Cain’s main areas of research is RFID, or Radio-Frequency Identification technology. The University is home to the RFID Center of Excellence, which is among the best-equipped and most highly regarded RFID research centers in the world, occupying six laboratories in Benedum Hall.

Among the most lauded accomplishments of Cain’s exceptional career is his work in establishing accreditation standards for university computer science programs. Beginning with a surge of new university computer science programs in 1982, Cain led an effort that resulted in the creation of the Computing Sciences Accreditation Board (CSAB), which was the first U.S. body to accredit computer science programs. In 1995, CSAB merged with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, which is now the accrediting body for applied science, computing, engineering, and technology programs.

Cain also played a significant role in establishing an accreditation body in Peru, and he also has made many trips to India, helping to establish its National Board of Accreditation.

Jackie Cain also has been a devoted advocate of Pitt. She has been a longtime volunteer with the University of Pittsburgh Women’s Association, which began in 1912 as a social group for faculty wives. The association is now primarily a scholarship-awarding entity, granting scholarships based on financial need to both male and female Pitt students who have had a break in their education of three or more years.

## Pitt Board’s Property and Facilities Panel Approves \$152 Million in Construction, Renovation



Rendering of residence hall at corner of Fifth Avenue and University Place

By John Fedele

The Property and Facilities Committee of the University of Pittsburgh’s Board of Trustees has approved 16 construction and

renovation projects totaling \$152 million and nine lease renewals at its Oct. 3 meeting. The construction and renovation projects

are expected to create 737 construction and 295 construction-support jobs. The University will pay building permit fees of approximately \$127,890, as well as \$202,375 annually in real estate taxes on the leases.

The highlight of the approved projects is the construction of a 10-story, 559-bed residence hall at the corner of Fifth Avenue and University Place at a total projected cost of \$59 million. The first floor will consist of commercial retail space, and the second floor will contain a Wellness Center comprising Student Health Services and the Counseling Center.

“Undergraduate housing and student services were identified as high priorities in the University’s 12-year facilities plan adopted in 2006,” said Pitt’s Executive Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Jerome Cochran. “We estimated a need for an additional 500 beds to recruit and retain a diverse and highly qualified student body. This new facility, located in the center of campus, will create a sense of community

among the freshman students.”

The committee also approved \$41.3 million to construct a five-story, 57,000-square-foot addition to Parran and Crabtree halls to accommodate the relocation and expansion of research facilities for the Graduate School of Public Health. The project includes infrastructure upgrades to Parran Hall and is registered to achieve LEED Certification.

Three renovation projects were approved for Chevron Science Center:

- Creation of a Molecular Characterization Facility on the third and fourth floors to house as many as eight nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometers, X-ray diffraction equipment, office space, and mechanical support

systems. The \$3.89 million project will centralize and consolidate projects in a more efficient manner;

- A \$4 million renovation to the second-

**The construction and renovation projects are expected to create 737 construction and 295 construction-support jobs. The University will pay building permit fees of approximately \$127,890, as well as \$202,375 annually in real estate taxes on the leases.**

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# Pitt-CMU Team Developing Materials, Processes to Improve Industrial Transformers for Power Converter Technologies

By Karen Hoffmann and Christine Swaney

The University of Pittsburgh's Gregory Reed and colleagues have received a three-year, \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop new materials and processes for improving the efficiency of multicore transformers for energy conversion systems. The work is expected to impact the economic success and global competitiveness of America's manufacturing sector.

The research could help substantially reduce the size of a standard industrial grid transformer and also improve efficiencies of power electronics conversion systems.

Reed, professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of the Power and Energy Initiative in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, will assess complete systems engineering and turnkey installation aspects of the advanced converter technology for

renewable energy applications, including economic impacts.

**"This grant is an important component of the continued growth of Pitt's electric power and energy research for grid infrastructure efforts, and we are excited to be part of this talented team."**

—Gregory Reed

"This grant is an important component of the continued growth of Pitt's electric power and energy research for grid infrastructure efforts, and we are excited to be part of this talented team," Reed said.

"This research will ultimately help make power transformation in renewable energy conversion more economical and efficient in our complex energy grid system," said lead researcher Michael McHenry, a professor of materials science and engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. "Our work aims to bridge materials development, manufacturing, component

design, and economic analysis in one

cohesive multidisciplinary team."

Other team members include Joe Huth, head of research at Pittsburgh-based Spang Inc., a world leader in the production of soft magnetic materials and cores for industrial control applications, and Michael Bland, an engineer and team member from the Los Alamos National Lab.

The Power and Energy Initiative in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, a major component of the University's Center for Energy, focuses on partnering to meet industry needs in workforce and technology development through innovative education and collaborative research. The initiative's electric power research group is engaged in a comprehensive range of activities in the areas of advanced electric power grid technologies and systems, including emerging technology development needs for grid-level power electronics technologies and supporting systems and components for both AC and DC system infrastructures. The group also

conducts research in aspects of renewable



Gregory Reed

energy integration, energy storage, and smart grid applications.

## William S. Dietrich II, Who Gave The University the Single-Largest Gift in Its History, Dies



The University unfurled a banner from the 16th to the fifth floor of the Cathedral of Learning to announce the naming of Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences after William S. Dietrich II's father, Kenneth P. Dietrich. Pitt also honored William Dietrich during a special halftime ceremony on Sept. 24 at the Pitt-Notre Dame football game.

Continued from page 1

ance, the UPMC Health System, and the Greater Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Current Pitt Board Chair Stephen R. Tritch noted at the time of the Sept. 22 announcement of the \$125 million gift, that Mr. Dietrich was an Eagle Scout and "often stated that Scouting had a lasting impact on his life. Certainly, that is seen in his unflinching willingness to lend a helping hand to others, through his philanthropy and through the many community leadership responsibilities he discharged so effectively."

A legacy of Mr. Dietrich's life is his exceptional, and exceptionally well-targeted, philanthropy. The source of the fund that will benefit the University of Pittsburgh is The Dietrich Charitable Trusts, which are charitable remainder trusts created by Mr. Dietrich that own assets principally generated by the 1996 sale of Dietrich Industries. With Mr. Dietrich's passing, the assets of these trusts will fund a new charitable organization, The Dietrich Foundation, which will administer the fund benefitting Pitt.

## Lineup Set for Pitt's Annual Jazz Seminar and Concert

By Sharon S. Blake

Internationally renowned jazz greats, including Pitt alumnus and pianist Geri Allen (A&S '83G), will convene at the University of Pittsburgh Nov. 3-5 for the 41st annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert.

The first academic jazz event of its kind in the country, Pitt's Jazz Seminar traditionally features international artists connecting with an audience in a lecture format, then performing together as an ensemble.

Musicians taking part this year include Allen, piano; Randy Brecker, trumpet; Maurice Brown, trumpet; Billy Cobham, drums; Larry Coryell, guitar; Quamon Fowler, tenor saxophone; Curtis Fuller, trombone; Donald Harrison Jr., alto saxophone; and Abe Laboriel, bass. They will perform under the direction of Nathan Davis, saxophone, founder of the Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert, and director of Pitt's Jazz Studies Program. The musicians will conduct free lecture/demonstrations on the Pitt campus, provide miniclinics at area schools, and visit community centers. Details, including dates, times, and locations, will be forthcoming.

At the conclusion of Pitt's jazz week,



Geri Allen

the guest musicians will perform in concert at 8 p.m. Nov. 5 in Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland. Concert tickets are \$18 general admission and \$8 for students with a valid ID. General admission tickets are available for purchase through ProArtsTickets at 412-394-3353 or [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org), or at the William Pitt Union box office. Student tickets are only available at the WPU box office. Tickets will be on sale the evening of the concert at Carnegie Music Hall for \$20 and \$10, respectively, cash only.

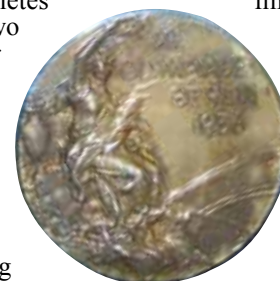
## Woodruff's Gold Medal on Display at Hillman

Continued from page 1

hypocritical to boycott the Berlin Olympics without first addressing the problems of discrimination against Blacks in the United States.

Ultimately, 18 Black athletes competed—16 men and two women—triple the number that had competed in the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The 1936 group included Jesse Owens, who set a new record that year by winning four gold medals.

A lanky 21-year-old who lacked international running experience, Woodruff got boxed in by veteran runners 300 meters into the 800-meter contest. Realizing he would be disqualified if he fouled another runner, Woodruff stopped running, moved to the track's third lane, let the other runners



pass by, and began again. As he started from the back of the pack, his nine-foot stride lengthened, and he passed one rival after another. He was leading when the finish line came into view, and he sprinted through the tape at 1:52:9. *The New York Herald Tribune* called Woodruff's stop-and-restart technique "the most daring move ever seen on a track." Woodruff was the first African American to win a Gold Medal at the 1936 Olympic Games.

Woodruff, who earned his Pitt Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology in 1939, last visited the University during Homecoming Week 2006, when he was honored for the 70th anniversary of his Olympic victory. He died on Oct. 30, 2007, at age 92.

# Newsmakers

## TALKING ABOUT RACE



MARY JANE BENT/CODE

Larry Davis, dean of Pitt's School of Social Work, Donald M. Henderson Professor, and director of the Center on Race and Social Problems at Pitt, and Laurence Glasco, a Pitt history professor, participated in an Oct. 1 community panel discussion about David Mamet's play *Race*. Performed by the Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre (PICT) in the Stephen Foster Memorial's Henry Heymann Theatre from Sept. 8 through Oct. 1, *Race* has been described as an incendiary story about perceptions and realities and the subtle shades between being a victim and being victimized. From left, Gale McGloin, panel moderator and PICT development and education director; Davis; Barbara Wolvovitz, a civil rights attorney; Tony Norman, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* columnist and associate editor; and Glasco.

## PALLADIO'S LEGACY



JIM BURKE/CODE

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, the Honorary British Consul in Pittsburgh, hosted a Sept. 19 reception and lecture to celebrate the opening of the Carnegie Museum of Art exhibition *Palladio and His Legacy: A Transatlantic Journey*. Andrea Palladio (1509-1580) was one of the most influential architects in the Western world. A number of his drawings, books, and models are held in a collection owned by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), which organized the traveling exhibition. In the front row, from left, are Harry Rich, the RIBA's chief executive; Irena Murray, director of the RIBA Sir Bannister Fletcher Library; and Tracy Myers, curator of architecture and curatorial liaison for exhibitions at the Heinz Architectural Center in the Carnegie Museum of Art. In the back row, from left, are Stephen Phillips, chair, British Architectural Trust; Charles Hind, associate director and H. J. Heinz Curator of the Drawings and Archives Collection at the RIBA; and Chancellor Nordenberg. The reception was held in the Connolly Ballroom, Alumni Hall.

## PITT PRESS 75TH ANNIVERSARY



MARY JANE BENT/CODE

From left, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg; Cynthia Miller, director of the University of Pittsburgh Press; and Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson are pictured during a reception celebrating 75 years of the University of Pittsburgh Press. The Sept. 28 event was held in The Book Center. The Press was founded in 1936 with funding from the A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, the Buhl Foundation, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the University of Pittsburgh.

## BEHIND THE SCENES OF MR. ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD



JIM CARVER

Producers and actors from *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*, including actor and Pitt alumnus David Newell (CGS '73), who played the character Mr. McFeely; the show's associate producer, alumnus Hedda Sharapan (SOC WK '67G); as well as other producers and Fred Rogers Company president Bill Isler, offered a behind-the-scenes look at the beloved children's show during a Sept. 16 presentation in the William Pitt Union Ballroom. Seated from left are Newell; Sharapan; Joanne Rogers, Mr. (Fred) Rogers' wife; and Carl Kurlander, executive producer of Steeltown Entertainment Project and a senior lecturer in Pitt's English department. The event was presented by Pitt in Hollywood and Steeltown Entertainment Project along with the Pitt English department's Children's Literature Program and Film Studies Program.

## "SILENT NO MORE"



PHOTOS BY JIM BURKE/CODE

Pitt hosted an international conference titled "Silent No More: Rape as a Weapon of Political Violence" on Sept. 17-20 in Posvar Hall. The event focused on Zimbabwean women and girls who, while rarely called upon to physically fight in the country's internal or external conflicts, suffer as victims of politically motivated sexual violence. Annamore Matambanadzo, (inset left) a research assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine and a native of Zimbabwe, organized the conference. Participating in one of the conference's panels were (from left) Alan Martin, research director, Partnership Africa Canada; Christopher Kwangwari, a clinical specialty pharmacist who teaches at Florida Keys Community College; and Jerome Taylor, chair and a professor of Africana Studies at Pitt. Angela Ford, (inset right) associate director of Pitt's Center for Minority Health, also participated in the panel discussion.



Annamore Matambanadzo



Angela Ford

# Pitt Board's Property and Facilities Panel Approves \$152 Million in Construction, Renovation



Continued from page 3

floor laboratories to enable the transition of the general chemistry program to a new paradigm based on digital probes and chemical sensors tied into a local area data collection network; and

- A \$1.38 million project to convert 10th-floor lab space for inorganic and materials chemistry research into new facilities focusing on nanoparticle research, with applications ranging from solar-cell development to medicine.

Three projects were approved for Pitt's regional campuses:

- Construction of a two-story, 16,900 gross-square-foot building on the Greensburg campus to house computer technology, faculty offices, and support space with an emphasis on sustainability. The \$7.5 million project is seeking LEED Silver Certification;

- A \$1.4 million project to upgrade the infrastructure at Greensburg's Chambers Hall; and

- A \$4.6 million addition and renovation project for the Titusville campus' McKinney Student Union food service facility. The project will renovate the existing "Boomers" retail food court area to expand retail dining opportunities. The addition includes 5,200 square feet of new space for food service and dining and 2,900 square feet for kitchen and support space. The new facility will replace the outdated and underutilized food service facility at Ball Hall.

Other projects approved for the Pittsburgh campus include:

- A \$6.53 million project to renovate the first four floors of Thackeray Hall and provide infrastructure upgrades. The project will provide new classrooms for the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, the University Registrar, and related offices;

- A \$5.9 million project to renovate the A-Stem Laboratory in Scaife Hall for the School of Medicine's Department of Neurosurgery;

- A \$5 million project to provide programmatic and infrastructure upgrades to Allen Hall and Old Engineering Hall (OEH) in the University's midcampus complex;

- A \$1.33 million project to renovate physics teaching laboratories on the fourth floor of OEH, including the creation of a new optics laboratory;

- Renovations to Thomas Detre Hall that will add 10 inpatient beds on the seventh floor of the ERC Wing and relocate the WPIC pharmacy. The project will cost \$3.38 million;

- A \$2.7 million project to renovate the first and second floors of 3343 Forbes Ave. to accommodate the relocation of the University Center for Social and Urban Research, formerly housed on the site of what will be the new freshman residence hall;

- A \$1.29 million renovation to the second floor of Eberly Hall to create a wet laboratory and a spectroscopy laboratory for physical chemistry research in bio-nanostructures; and

- A \$2.48 million project to create in the basement of OEH a quantum transport laboratory capable of low-temperature physics research.

The committee also approved nine leases or lease extensions at the meeting:

- A two-year lease extension through June 30, 2013, for Student Health Services in the Medical Arts Building, 3708 Forbes Ave.;

- A five-year lease renewal for the School of Medicine's Departments of Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology for research, clinical, and office space in the Eye and Ear Institute Building at 203 Lothrop St., through June 30, 2016;

- A 65-month lease renewal and expansion for the School of Medicine's Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics in the Bridgeside Point One building on Second Avenue in the Pittsburgh Technology Center, through Sept. 30, 2016;

- A five-year lease for the Graduate School of Public Health to relocate functions being affected by the Parran and Crabtree halls construction to the Keystone Building, 3520 Fifth Avenue, through April 20, 2016;

- A three-year lease renewal for research laboratory space for the Department of Urology in the Shadyside Medical Center, 5200 Center Ave., through June 30, 2014;

- A five-year lease renewal for three programs in the Department of Epidemiology in the Bellefield Professional Building, 130 N. Bellefield Ave., through Dec. 31, 2016;

- A seven-year, four-month lease for the Department of Medicine's Research Administration Office in the Forbes Allies Center, 3109 Forbes Ave., through June 30, 2019;

- A five-year lease extension that combines two subleases for the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute in the Magee Women's Research Institute, 204 Craft Ave., through Sept. 30, 2016; and

- A 20-year lease for the Physical Activity and Weight Management Research Center to relocate its research operations to the Oak Hill Town Center Building, Oak Hill Drive, through July 31, 2032.

"HELLLLLLPPPPP!!!"



MARY JANE BRIT/CODE

University of Pittsburgh faculty, staff, and students and their families could be found both high and low during Pitt's 21st annual Kennywood Picnic Day on July 30. The University's Staff Association Council coordinated the event, which included a discounted all-day FunDay Pass and a catered lunch.

## Awards & more



Pitt computer science professor **Diane J. Litman**, director of Pitt's Intelligent Systems Program and a senior scientist in Pitt's Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC), has been granted senior member status in the inaugural class of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). One of only nine members to be so honored, Litman was awarded the status in recognition of her achievements and long-standing efforts in the field of artificial intelligence as well as for her long-term participation in AAAI. She was accorded the honor in August in San Francisco at the 25th Annual AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence.



Diane J. Litman



Lisa Nelson

**Lisa Nelson**, a professor in the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, has been appointed to the Department of

Homeland Security's (DHS) Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee. The committee works with the DHS Privacy Office as policy advisors on emerging privacy issues surrounding new technologies. Nelson joins members of the private sector and academia on the 20-member board that meets four times a year in Washington, D.C. Nelson specializes in science, technology, and society. She was coprincipal investigator on a National Science Foundation grant to explore societal perceptions of biometric technology; the results of the research were published in *America Identified: Biometric Technology and Society* (MIT Press, 2010).

An online collection guide at the University of Pittsburgh that outlines the comprehensive Helen Clay Frick Foundation Archives received second place in an annual regional competition. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference presented the award to project archivists **Matthew Yount** and **Alesha Shumar** of the University's Archives Service Center, which is part of Pitt's University Library System. Yount and Shumar worked over the course of six years to process the Helen Clay Frick Foundation Archives, which contains material reflecting the business and financial activities of Helen Clay Frick's father, coke and steel magnate Henry Clay Frick.

# Happenings



Quattro Libri Dell'Architettura (The Four Books of Architecture, 1570)

**Palladio and His Legacy: A Transatlantic Journey, Carnegie Museum of Art, through December 31**

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

**"When Affirmative Action Was White: Further Reflections,"** Ira Katznelson, professor of political science and history, Columbia University, noon **Oct. 12**, Cathedral of Learning 20th floor, Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems' Fall 2011 Speaker Series sponsored by Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, 412-624-7382.

**Ron Chernow**, Pulitzer Prize-winning American historian, biographer, and author of *Alexander Hamilton* and *Washington: A Life*, 8 p.m. **Oct. 12**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Robert Morris University's 2011-12 Pittsburgh Speakers Series, 412-392-4900, [www.pittsburghsspeakersseries.org](http://www.pittsburghsspeakersseries.org).

**"Reform and Competency-Based Medicine Education: Changing Forces and Realities,"** Eric Holmboe, adjunct professor of medicine at Yale University and senior vice president of the American Board of Internal Medicine, noon **Oct. 14**, Scaife Hall 4th floor, Lecture Room 3, Medical Education Grand Rounds, Office of the Vice Dean, Pitt School of Medicine, 412-648-9000, [www.megr.pitt.edu](http://www.megr.pitt.edu).

**"Darell Hammond: KaBoom! How One Man Built a Movement."** Hammond is founder and CEO of KaBOOM! a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring play space for children, 3:30 p.m. **Oct. 14**, Schenley Ballroom, Holiday Inn Pittsburgh University Center, Oakland, Pitt Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

and Institute for Social Innovation at Carnegie Mellon University, 412-648-1336, [gspiapf@pitt.edu](mailto:gspiapf@pitt.edu).

**"Making Pittsburgh 'Most Livable' for All: Lessons Being Learned From the Homewood Children's Village,"** John M. Wallace, Philip Hallen Chair in Community Health and Social Justice, Pitt School of Social Work, 4:30 p.m. **Oct. 18**, 2500 Posvar Hall, Provost's Inaugural Lecture Series, [www.provost.pitt.edu](http://www.provost.pitt.edu).

**"Biological Revolution and Paradigm Changes: Transforming Science, Technology, and Knowledge Transfer via Commercialization,"** Leroy Hood, president and cofounder, Seattle-based Institute for Systems Biology, 5:30 p.m. **Oct. 24**, Scaife Hall, Auditoriums 5 and 6, Pitt Office of Enterprise Development, 412-624-3160, [www.oed.pitt.edu](http://www.oed.pitt.edu).



Jay Hitt, Cup and Chaucer Café, October 14



Ballroom With a Twist, Heinz Hall, October 13-16

## Miscellaneous

**Second Annual Pitt Film & Media Graduate Conference, Battlegrounds: Sites and Sights of Conflict**, presented by Pitt Film Studies Graduate Student Organization, **Oct. 14-16**, 501 Cathedral of Learning, free and open to public; keynote speaker is Stephen Prince, renowned film scholar at Virginia Tech and author of *Firestorm: American Film in the Age of Terrorism*, 4-6 p.m. **Oct. 15**, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, [www.fsgso.pitt.edu](http://www.fsgso.pitt.edu).

**"Getting a Plum Internship in Media, Publishing, and PR,"** panel discussion featuring professionals from several media and publishing outlets, Q&A and dessert reception, 7:30 p.m. **Oct. 18**, William Pitt Union Ballroom, Pitt Department of English, *The Pitt News*, [www.english.pitt.edu](http://www.english.pitt.edu).

## Opera/Theater/Dance

**The End of the Affair**, dramatization of 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).

**Ballroom With a Twist**, dancers join Marvin Hamlisch and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. **Oct. 13-16**, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, PNC Pops, 412-392-4900, [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org).

**La Traviata**, Verdi's music set to libretto based on Dumas' *La Dame aux Camellias*, **Oct. 15, 18, 21, 23**, Benedum Center, 237 Seventh Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-281-0912, [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org).

**Time Stands Still** by Donald Margulies, adventuresome couple shares love of reporting from war zones until one of them is seriously wounded, **Oct. 15 through Nov. 6**, City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, City Theatre Company, 412-431-4400, [www.citytheatrecompany.org](http://www.citytheatrecompany.org).

**Electra**, Sophocles' drama that brings to life the myths of ancient Greece while telling the timeless tale 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

**Gildas A. Ofulhast-Othamot**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, 10:45 a.m. **Oct. 18**, "The Dangers of Natural Resources Decentralization: Decentralized Forest Management, (Local) Development, and the Making of a Big Man in the Dimako Council, Cameroon," 3800 Posvar Hall.

## Concerts

**Trillium String Quartet**, noon **Oct. 12**, 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).

**Jay Hitt**, folk guitarist and songwriter, noon **Oct. 14**, free, Cup & Chaucer Café, ground floor, Hillman Library, Emerging Legends Series, University of Pittsburgh Library System and Calliope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, [www.calliopehouse.org/legends.htm](http://www.calliopehouse.org/legends.htm).

**The Kruger Brothers**, traditional bluegrass band, 7:30 p.m. **Oct. 15**, Carnegie Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 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).



The Kruger Brothers, Carnegie Lecture Hall, October 15

## 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; 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, through late Fall 2011; 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, 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



Trillium Quartet violinist Cheryl Zylla  
Trillium String Quartet, Nurdy's Café, William Pitt Union, October 12



## Pitt Biologists Find 'Surprising' Number of Unknown Viruses in Sewage



By Karen Hoffmann

Though viruses are the most abundant life form on Earth, our knowledge of the viral universe is limited to a tiny fraction of the viruses that likely exist. In a paper published last week in the online journal *mBio*, researchers from the University of Pittsburgh, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of Barcelona found that raw sewage is home to thousands of novel, undiscovered viruses, some of which could relate to human health.

There are roughly 1.8 million species of organisms on our planet, and each one is host to untold numbers of unique viruses, but only about 3,000 have been identified to date. To explore this diversity and to better characterize the unknown viruses, Professor James Pipas, Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences Roger Hendrix, and Assistant Professor Michael Grabe, all of the Department of Biological Sciences in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences, are developing

new techniques to look for novel viruses in unique places around the world.

With coauthors David Wang and Guoyan Zhao of Washington University in St. Louis and Rosina Girones of the University of Barcelona, the team searched for the genetic signatures of viruses present in raw sewage from North America, Europe, and Africa.

In the paper, titled "Raw Sewage Harbors Diverse Viral Populations," the researchers report detecting signatures from 234 known viruses that represent 26 different families of viruses. This makes raw sewage home to the most diverse array of viruses yet found.

"What was surprising was that the vast majority of viruses we found were viruses that had not been detected or described before," says Hendrix.

The viruses that were already known included human pathogens like Human papillomavirus and norovirus, which causes diarrhea. Also present were several viruses belonging to those familiar denizens of sewers everywhere: rodents and cockroaches. Bacteria are also present in sewage, so it was not surprising that the viruses that prey on bacteria dominated the known genetic signatures. Finally, a large number of the known viruses found in raw sewage came from plants, probably owing to the fact that humans eat plants, and plant viruses outnumber other types of viruses in human stool.

This study was also the first attempt to look at all the viruses in the population. Other studies have focused on bacteria, or certain types of viruses. The researchers also developed new computational tools to analyze this data. This approach, called

metagenomics, had been done before, but not with raw sewage.

The main application of this new technology, says Hendrix, will be to discover new viruses and to study gene exchange among viruses. "The big question we're interested in is, 'Where do emerging viruses come from?'" he says. The team's hypothesis is that new viruses emerge, in large part, through gene exchange. But before research on gene exchange can begin in earnest, large numbers of viruses must be studied, the researchers say.

"First you have to see the forest before you can pick out a particular tree to work on," says Pipas. "If gene exchange is occurring among viruses, then we want to know where those genes are coming from, and if we only know about a small percentage of the viruses that exist, then we're missing most of the forest."

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Oct. 17. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (See page 7) 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).