One of the world’s foremost authorities on wheelchair design and an accomplished wheelchair athlete, Rory Cooper, distinguished professor and chair in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, is being honored with his picture on a special edition Cheerios box as part of a national campaign.

Organized by the Veterans Administration, VA Canteen Services and General Mills, the campaign honors 12 gold medal winners of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Cooper, who uses a wheelchair as a result of injuries suffered during military service, is the only Pennsylvania veteran featured in the campaign, which also includes special edition personalized cards of the 12 athletes.

He autographed cereal boxes and cards March 5 at the VA Medical Center in Oakland.

Cooper, who has competed in 25 Veterans Wheelchair Games and who won four gold medals at last year’s games, also is director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories; professor of bioengineering at the Swanson School of Engineering, and a VA senior career scientist.

“This campaign offers mainstream recognition for people who have disabilities, and I am excited to be a part of it,” Cooper said. “I am honored to help promote a positive image for our wounded, injured and ill veterans.”

The special edition Cheerios box is being sold exclusively in military markets and VA Canteen Services retail stores.

Pinsky, Rohrer face off in race for Univ. Senate

The University Senate office has announced the slate of candidates for Senate officers, who will serve one-year terms beginning July 1.

Running for president are Michael R. Pinsky, professor of critical care medicine, bioengineering and anesthesiology, School of Medicine; and Wesley M. Rohrer, assistant professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Graduate School of Public Health.

Candidates for vice president are incumbent Susan B. Hansen, professor of political science, School of Arts and Sciences (A&S); and Steven Hauto, professor of economics, A&S.

Incumbent Lisa Marie Bernardi, associate professor of health and community systems at the School of Nursing, is running for secretary unopposed.

The slates of Faculty Assembly members and members of the University Senate’s 15 standing committees are being compiled and are expected to be published in the April 2 issue of the University Times.

Electronic voting for Assembly, Senate committee members and Senate officers will take place April 11-24. For more information, contact the Senate office at 4-6505.

Satisfaction with Pitt benefits is high

Pitt employees generally are satisfied with their benefits offerings, according to a recent online survey. The survey, which was completed by 999 employees — 75 percent of them in 85 percent faculty — showed an overall satisfaction rate as follows: very satisfied, 32 percent; somewhat satisfied, 50 percent; somewhat dissatisfied, 16 percent, and not at all satisfied, 2 percent.

Pitt director of Benefits John Kozar said, “What that tells us is that most employees feel that their benefits package is at least satisfactory, but we can always look for ways to continue our dialogue and not to make our service better.”

Results of the survey, which was conducted by Human Resources at the request of the Staff Association Council (SAC), were made public in an executive summary compiled by Kozar. The results have been shared with SAC, the University’s Faculty Senate and benefits and wellness committees, and the medical advisory committee, which, with advice from independent consultant Mercer Consulting, advises Benefits personnel on Pitt’s medical benefits.

Respondents were surveyed to determine the importance of each benefit, their satisfaction with each benefit, and their perception of the programs offered by the University, the University should continue to emphasize personalized cards of the 12 athletes.

The survey solicited perceptions about the Fitness for Life program, now in its fifth year, and about wellness issues at the University in general, Kozar said. The results include:

• 87 percent of respondents believe there is a correlation between healthy lifestyles and insurance premiums.
• 98 percent believe the University should continue to promote and offer wellness activities.
• 95 percent have an overall favorable view of the Fitness for Life program.
• Programs that respondents would like to have incorporated into Fitness for Life include (respondents could identify more than one choice):
  • Exercise programs within departments and buildings: 69 percent.
  • Nutritional counseling: 58 percent.
  • University-wide physical activity programs: 47 percent.
  • University-wide incentive programs: 31 percent.
  • Health coaches: 46 percent.
• Smoking cessation program: 27 percent.
• Additional benefits/services. Respondents indicated they would like to see additional programs offered by the University, although the overall level of interest in them is not very high, Kozar noted. Those included:
  • Legal referrals/services: 42 percent.
  • ID theft insurance: 23 percent.
  • Pet insurance: 20 percent.
• Additional disability coverage: 15 percent.

(Respondents to this question had to choose one of the four proposed additional benefits.)

“The results of the survey will help the Benefits department in their continual effort to improve the services provided to University faculty and staff,” Kozar said. “In cases in which there is a higher level of dissatisfaction, priorities will be established. The department will also take a harder look at communications. Based on some of the survey results, we need to do a better job of promoting the benefits we have.”

As an example, Kozar cited

In this issue

With the freeze on Pitt salaries, the Staff Association Council plans to recommend some alternatives to pay raises. 

Academic publishing is in turmoil, participants in the University Senate spring plenary session agree...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Satisfaction with benefits high

Kozar would not predict at this point whether Pitt will alter, eliminate or add to any of its benefits offerings as a result of the employee survey. “It’s too early. Nothing has been finalized at this point,” he said.

—Peter Hart

Benefits: What’s important

In the recently completed employee benefits survey, the following are summaries’ opinions on the importance of each benefit listed; the satisfaction with each benefit, and the perception of customer service offered by vendors of each benefit.

According to John Kozar, Pitt director of Benefits, data for each of the three sections were derived from the respondents who either used the benefit or service; those who indicated that they have never used a certain benefit were not counted in the data compiled for that benefit.

Importance

The overwhelming majority of respondents felt that benefits either are important or very important. Results for the key benefits are as follows:

- Medical: 99% Very important or important
- Dental: 97% Very important or important
- Vision: 92% Very important or important
- Flexible spending accounts: 74% Very important or important
- Retirement savings program: 99% Very important or important

Satisfaction with each benefit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Good/very good/excellent</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UPMC Health Plan</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Concordia</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis Vision</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBDs (flexible spending accounts)</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIAA CREF</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MerLift (FMLA)</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perception of customer service

Kozar noted that the relatively high customer dissatisfaction with MerLife, which manages the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, was an issue when it was addressed long before the survey was undertaken. “It’s been a work in progress,” he said. “We know there are challenges to administering this benefit, but part of the problem is that this is a very confusing benefit. Not all of it is MerLife’s fault.”

Under previous federal legislation, FMLA was designed to address leaves of absence of 10 days or more; now the federal requirement governs leaves of more than three days. “If you suddenly get the flu and you’re out for five days, by the time you get the paperwork to fill out and have your doctor fill out, you may already be back to work,” Kozar said.

“We had a MerLife representative come in — in fact, a vice president — to hear what our members were saying. We brought in a focus group of those who have used the service, so MerLife could hear their complaints. This survey at least provides data to bolster the case that there is too much red tape and too slow a response time, he said.

—Peter Hart

University Times letters policy

Letters should be submitted at least one week in advance of publication. Personas criticized in a letter will receive a copy of the letter prior to its publication as a response. If response is received, the letter will be published alone.

Letters should not exceed 200 words. Individual responses will be limited to two published letters per respondent. All other responses will not be accepted for publication.

Revenue/cost study: Valuable planning tool

The University administration has refused to release publicly last year’s annual revenue and cost attribution study, and is questioning the utility of the study (March 1 University Times). The study attributes annual revenues and expenses for each of the University’s major responsibility centers.

The Senate budget policies committee (BPC) disagrees with this decision because it is a tool that might help: to allocate resources and to manage the Planning and Budgeting System (PBS) document (http://www.pitt.edu/~jdl1/PBSdoc.htm) states that "planning and budgeting decisions are legitimate only if they are both based on full information and arrived at in an open, formal, and systematic process.

I prefer the transparency (openness) that BPC seeks, but concede that the revenue/cost study is a complex document that can be misunderstood and misused by individuals who are not familiar with its purposes.

Moreover, keeping the revenue/cost study in an internal document does not necessarily compromise the PBS process, provided unit heads and planning and budgeting committees (BPC) “provide opportunities for the relevant faculty, staff and students to participate as fully as possible” and the latter “have access to the tools which are sent forward,” as the PBS document mandates.

I continue to seek the clarification of the revenue/cost study’s utility by some University planning and budgeting committee (UBPC) members. It is not used to determine a unit’s annual budget and thus was intended for another purpose. Consequently, the suggestion that the revenue/cost study should be discontinued because it is not used to determine annual budgets is a “red herring” argument.

The University’s 2001 self-study for the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (the “primary purpose of the revenue/cost study is to allocate resources and expenses for the University’s major responsibility centers,” and “The study is not aimed at changing the University’s method of budgeting for units, but rather at providing meaningful data to assist in the overall operational and long-range planning and budgeting process.”

The BPC states that each department and responsibility center develop an annual operational plan and budget. To aid in developing the annual plan and budget, the chancellor is charged to “coordinate department, responsibility center and senior vice chancellor area "historical data ... for a multi-year period on such matters as enrollments, student credit hour production and consumption, staffing information with regard to faculty, staff and graduate students; financial information by source and use of funds, and summaries of annual budget modifications.”

Much of the same information is included in the revenue/cost study, which goes one step further and attributes indirect costs and revenues to units. If the administration is required every year by the PBS to compile most of the information of the revenue/cost study anyway, how much extra work is it for a trained accountant to attribute indirect costs and revenues to units by a fixed formula? To me, in which the vice chancellor areas (VCA) Office of Budget and Controller (that the revenue/cost study is “a very time-consuming enterprise. As resources get constrained, that’s when the question of utility becomes more pressing.” Unless of course they are not doing what the PBS mandates them to do in the first place.

In addition, the PBS document explicitly states that “the most recent revenue and cost attribution study also will be distributed” every year to each department, responsibility center and senior vice chancellor area, and “the policies and procedures specified in this [PBS] document shall remain in effect unless and until modified through the appropriate processes of University governance.”

Thus, any change in distributing the revenue/cost study each year to all units that participate in PBS requires the approval of the appropriate processes of University governance. The Senate leadership and BPC will be happy to work with the administration and UPBC to improve the utility of the revenue/cost study, if that is their wish. Until then, we stand behind the University’s statement that the revenue/cost study provides “meaningful data,” and expect it to be distributed as PBS requires.

To take note with the implication that BPC does not have budget oversight responsibilities, BPC is an official shared governance body of the University. Its mission is to offer advice on “the financial health of the University, the economic welfare of its faculty and staff, and the appropriateness and sufficiency of funds provided for the academic programs of the University.” That advice does not have to be taken, but we are all better off when we work together.

The PBS document states that “BPC is responsible for reviewing whether the PBS process allocates revenues and expenses to responsibility centers involved are provided adequate opportunities to participate in the process and to be informed of its outcomes.” That cannot be done without access to attribution information, and it surely strikes me as a budget oversight responsibility.

—John J. Baker is president of the University Senate.
“W hen I start a class, I tell students I’m a hard of hearing person and here’s how we’re going to get along,” says School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences professor Katherine Seelman. In the classroom, Seelman, SHRS’s associate dean of disability programs and professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and Technology, asks students to use a microphone that allows her to hear conversations more clearly.

“Most of my life it’s not obvious that I’m hearing impaired because I have this great technology,” said Seelman, who also uses hearing aids and a dog for assistance. Seelman, who directed the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research during the Clinton administration before joining the Pitt faculty, is one of several professors in SHRS who not only teach in the field of rehabilitation science, but also bring to the classroom their own experience in living with a disability.

From its inception in 1994, the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and Technology actively has recruited faculty and students with disabilities, said SHRS Dean Clifford E. Brubaker. Department chair Rory Cooper, an engineer and expert in wheelchair technology who himself is a wheelchair user, was the first recruit. Brubaker said that for the size of the department, which lists 28 faculty members, Rehabilitation Sciences and Technology likely has the largest percentage of faculty with disabilities anywhere. At least four professors in the department have obvious disabilities while others have disabilities that are less apparent, Brubaker said, noting that about one in six Americans — or some 50 million-60 million people — have some form of disability.

The Forbes Tower lecture hall Seelman uses is equipped with assistive devices that help users on both sides of the podium — including microphones in the ceiling, automated projection screens and an adjustable lectern to accommodate speakers who use wheelchairs. “It’s a wonderful feature,” she said.

Seelman views disability as "a new slot in the diversity mix," adding that faculty and students everywhere need to be knowledgeable about disability and may need some training. She sees the rehabilitation sciences and technology field on the rise. One population with a growing need for accommodation are those with mental or cognitive disabilities, such as soldiers returning from Iraq with traumatic brain injuries.

Another is the aging. Faculty members themselves may find accommodations useful if they lose sight, hearing or dexterity as they get older.

In discussing accommodations they need with their classes, faculty should give an explanation if they want students to meet expectations, Seelman said. Not all professors are comfortable with discussing accommodations, but students need to know. “They don’t understand. You teach them,” she said.

Seelman is an advocate of mainstreaming assistive technologies and accommodations. “If you can make something accessible, there’s no need to spend extra money on something special,” she said. Some common examples are ramps and wider doors that accommodate wheelchairs, or closed captioning on television. “Everyone uses them, not just people with disabilities,” she said.

Ashli Molinero, who co-teaches an ethics class with Seelman in the specially equipped lecture hall, said, “This department is among the best and the whole school is the best in accessible technology in the classrooms.” Molinero, who was born with spina bifida and walks with crutches, finds the adjustable podium a helpful accommodation for her short stature.

Accommodation is "ingrained into the culture," Molinero said, adding that the school goes to great lengths to ensure the classrooms accommodate a diverse range of students. Among her students are people who use power wheelchairs, a ventilator or are accompanied by a service dog.

Students see the department’s commitment not only in the classrooms, but in their professors as well. “Students recognize that when they see us. Collectively as a faculty there are so many faculty with disabilities.”

Now a faculty member, Molinero initially worked in the school’s information technology department, concentrating on web site accessibility issues, particularly for people with visual impairments.

She knew she wanted to pursue a master’s degree, but was unsure about what field she should choose. Colleagues would ask every day at lunch whether she’d made a decision. “I was amazed they would care that much about asking about the graduate program,” she said. “People helped me find my way and apply my skills.”

She began pursuing the prerequisites for occupational therapy, but eventually decided against it. A doctoral student suggested the School of Education’s instructional design and technology program. “That essentially was what I was helping faculty do,” she said.

She earned her master’s degree at Pitt then went on to Robert Morris University for a doctorate in information systems and communications. She became an assistant professor on the SHRS faculty a year and a half ago. “The mentoring here has been amazing. They just let me carve out my little niche.”

Early in her career, Molinero said, disability was not an area she focused on. Raised by pragmatic parents who didn’t make her disability an issue, when challenges arose, “My parents said ‘Figure it out,’” she said. “They taught me to learn to adapt when there’s a barrier anywhere.”

Molinero added, “Many of the barriers are attitudinal ones.”

With that kind of upbringing, she considers her disability a part of life. “I didn’t really think about how people think about people who have disabilities.”

She said the faculty in SHRS impacted her worldview.

“Part of what I like about the culture of SHRS, the perspective that faculty and administrators have cultured here is one of practicing what they preach,” she said. “I’d never thought about doing something to help people with disabilities in my career before I was here. It’s definitely something worth doing.”

She observed how faculty took control over problems they saw people having, or might have experienced themselves. “Seeing people here and what they chose to do with their career, how much change they influenced — I was in awe of what they did here.”

Faculty member Diane Collins credits Rory Cooper for bringing disability awareness to the University at a very high level. Labeling him her hero, she said he opened her eyes to the idea that disability is no big deal.

“IT doesn’t mean that you should be treated any differently or that you can’t achieve,” she said.

Collins uses a scooter when pain and fatigue from arthritis and fibromyalgia make it difficult for her to get around. Although she typically doesn’t use the scooter in the Forbes Tower, she finds the wheels help to preserve her energy during the parts of her day she spends in the sprawling Veterans Administration complex where the school has research partnerships.

“If you don’t use this kind of technology, you don’t think about how it is for other people,” said Collins, who tells students in her epidemiology of disability class, “You think you understand disability, but you don’t get it until you live it.”

Collins advocates for others with disabilities, having learned that “people treat people with disabilities rudely.”

Ironically, it can happen even in classes that focus on

Disabilities in the classroom

On TEACHING

MARCH 19, 2009

PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY K. BARLOW

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Pitt driver policy changes wreck some faculty plans

Eli Shorak, associate vice chancellor for business, said, "The University continually reviews policies regarding student safety." He added that the changes to Pitt's driver policy are based on best practices rather than a response to any policy changes or incidents.

"Rather than a response to any policy changes or incidents, the changes to Pitt's driver policy are based on best practices," Shorak said.

Although the policies are listed under guidelines for student use of University vehicles, passengers are not responsible for the University's shuttles. The changes in the University's driver policy are not reciprocal for the department. The department's driver is to find a professional driver and shuttle bus instead. Shorak noted that Pitt has professional driver and shuttle bus services.

"The University's shuttle service is a professional driver and shuttle bus," Shorak said.

Charles E. Jones, professor of geology and planetary science, was one user who was surprised by the changes. Jones, who regularly travels on class trips, said the policy was not in place during the fall term when he took students on a day trip. Jones plans to use three of the University's 12-passenger vans to take 29 students from his History of the Earth class to Altoona and Gettysburg later this month.

He discovered the new policy when he phoned the motor pool to confirm that he could use two approved drivers rather than teaching assistants for the trip. "It certainly was not very convenient to find out at the last minute," he said, noting that timing the change to coincide with the summer might have been more convenient. Changing the age limit all of a sudden to 25 would mean finding a senior PhD-level student, said Jones, whose class is mainly made up of traditional age juniors and sophomores.

The new requirement calls for two drivers on longer trips also makes finding older drivers or renting additional smaller vehicles. The University's policy allows students who are at least 21 and have had a license for two years to drive vehicles that seat up to seven passengers.

Pitt's piece of the $2.5 million pie

"We want to have older drivers," said McCord, "We look out for each other."

While independence is encouraged, having the department's support system close at hand is beneficial. "We have the know-how and it's a family atmosphere," McCord said. "We look out for each other."

"Pitt's piece of the $2.5 million pie is $10,000," Rendell said.

"We'll benefit both post-grads and undergrads," McCord said.

"We'll benefit both post-grads and undergrads," McCord said.
Lecturer discusses health effects of discrimination

"D
iscrimination is a potentially pow
erful explanation about how race and ethnic
ic RSK may be linked to health," said David Takeuchi, associate dean for research at the University of Washington School of Social Work.

Takeuchi shared some of his work on perceptions of discrimi
nation among Latinos and Asian Americans and offered his thoughts on future research trends in his March 16 talk, "Discrimina
tion and Its Health Consequences Across Diverse Racial Groups," part of the Center on Race and Social Problems spring speaker series.

Takeuchi’s work on the National Latino and Asian Ameri
can Study, conducted with co-PI Margarita Alegria of the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research at Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School, aimed, in part, to understand the perceptions of discrimination among Asian Ameri
cans and how those perceptions are linked to health.

"One ignored and often neglected aspect of our examina
tion of how [discrimination] is related to different racial and ethnic groups other than African Americans," he said, noting that Latinos and Asian Americans are “two groups you don’t hear much about when you see the literature on discrimina
tion.”

The researchers sampled 2,500 Latinos (Cubans, Mexican Ameri
cans, and Puerto Ricans and other) and 2,995 Asian Americans (Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino and other) age 18 and older.

Among the measures Takeuchi studied were subjects’ perceptions of everyday unfair treatment — for instance whether they felt they were treated with less courtesy or respect, whether they felt they received poor service at res
taurants, whether they perceived themselves as less intelligent, dishonest or someone to be feared, or whether they were perceived to beĮ
white, or if they had been threatened, harassed or called names.

For a broader picture, he also studied their perceptions of discrimi
nation — whether they felt they or their friends were treated unfairly because of their ethnicity.

Surprisingly, Takeuchi found that where respondents were born played a significant role in their perceptions.

When asked about whether they felt they had been treated with less courtesy, as part of questioning about everyday unfair treatment, 60 percent of Asian immigrants said yes, as did 53 percent of Latino immigrants.

But, 75 percent of U.S.-born Asians and 70 percent of U.S.-born Latinos felt they had been treated unfairly — a difference that was statistically significant, Takeuchi said.

"Nativity was a stronger predictor than ethnicity of our respondents," he said.

However, although fewer immigrants perceived unfair treat
ment, “they were more likely to attribute their daily insults to their race or ethnicity,” Takeuchi said, while Asian-American-born respondents were more likely to cite other factors such as social or physical circumstances.

In his analysis on health impacts, Takeuchi said there was a “strong and consistent effect.”

Both everyday discrimination and perceptions of discrimination against an individual and the broader perceived discrimina
tion against their ethnicity had a profound effect on depression for Latinos and Asian Americans, regardless of where they were born.

"While the reports of discrimi
nation may vary, they both show a consistent and strong effect on major depression, a serious mental health problem in this country," Takeuchi said.

Looking toward future research trends, Takeuchi predicted studies of discrimination would move beyond self-reports and into audits of how discrimination operates in different contexts such as in com
munities, institutions or health care systems.

He predicted there would be more attempts to document how discrimination may be associated with biological processes. "Does it raise your blood pressure, for example? Does it have an asso
ociation beyond the self-reports of health included in my study? Does it have a kind of biological response that previously has not been well documented?" he said.

Other directions, Takeuchi said, may focus on the importance of places. "What is it about social contexts that matter in terms of people’s health, mental health and the perceptions of unfair treat
ment? The notion of geographic space has been an important one in recent years," he said, looking toward more studies that docu
ment how neighborhoods impact health.

He sees the research trend moving toward examining "not just the physical spaces in which people live, but what it is about the social relationships they have in those spaces."

"Place is more than where you live, it’s also the kinds of connec
tions you have to where you live. It is the history, it is the meaning, it is the social bond you have. In places you can feel connected, you can feel disengaged. You can feel integrated or you can feel alienated," he said.

He said he also anticipates research into the theory of lim
ited difference, which has been examined in terms of gender discrimination. The theory sug
ests “it’s not really big factors you can document,” but rather small differences that accumulate over time to create disparities.

For example, Takeuchi said male and female scientists start out on par in terms of publication, but over time, men outpublish women by at least 2.1.

What [discrimination] suggests is there are these little events in the academic career of a scientist that accumulate to create these big events," he said. Discrimina
tion has only a small effect. For example, Takeuchi said, women scientists may take a longer period of time to connect with a mentor.

“That delay leads to a longer delay in getting the first publication, a longer delay in that first grant and so on. It’s the accumulation of little differences that creates this big gap in the careers of scientists," he said.

With regard to discrimination, how might a person respond to early instances of unfair treat
ment? Does it lead to him or her avoiding places or not avoiding places, or other effects? "Look
ning at this kind of contextual, more person-centered kind of analysis, I think, will lead to a better understanding about how discrimination in these discrete events leads to these long-term kinds of effects," Takeuchi said.

“In looking at health dispari
ties, the explanation of discrimina
tion and health, I think we’ll move more toward examining these kinds of little effects over time that explain these big differences to different races,” he said.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Med school gets tobacco fund money

The School of Medicine has
received a four-year, $4.7 mil
lion grant awarded to the Uni
versity of Pittsburgh for the De
partment of Health to find new ways to stop deadly hospital-acquired infections, which were diagnosed in 27,000 patients in Pennsylvania in 2007.

Takers of Allegheny County.

The project will assess the medical and economic impacts of hospital-acquired infections, which are three times as expensive as non-infected hospitalizations and three times longer than expected stays, T akeuchi said.

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"Hospital-acquired infections, which are three times as expensive as non-infected hospitalizations and three times longer than expected stays, are a huge problem. That’s why we want to find better ways to prevent these infections," he said.

The researchers, which include Pittsburgh-area hospitals, will focus on C. difficile, A. bauman
nii and the drug-resistant bacteria known as MRSA, which cause tons of deaths in the United States every year.

The grant will enable inves
tigators to establish a Center of Excellence in Prevention and Control of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacterial Infections, and will include partnerships with sev
eral UPMC hospitals, Carnegie Mellon and Kane Regional Cen
ters of Allegheny County.

The project will assess the medical and economic impacts of new strategies to prevent and con
trol hospital-acquired infections, which were diagnosed in 27,000 patients in Pennsylvania in 2007.

When these infections were treated, hospitalizations three times longer and their admissions were three times as expensive as non-infected patients.

Most bacterial infections can be controlled effectively with existing antibiotics, but some microbial pathogens such as C. difficile, A. bauman
nii and MRSA have an inherent ability to develop drug resistance, making them particularly difficult to treat.

Lee Harrison, professor of medicine and epidemiology, is principal investigator. Co-inves
tigators include Scott Curry, Jo-Anne Burge, Yohoi Dai, Bruce Lee and Paula Davis, all with the School of Medicine.

Discrimination had a profound effect on depression for Latinos and Asian Americans, regardless of where they were born.

—David Takeuchi
SAC may pursue alternatives to raises

The Staff Association Council (SAC) may recommend alternatives to staff compensation now that the University has announced a salary freeze for fiscal year 2010. (See March 5 University Times.)

Lilby Hilf, reporting for the absent chair of SAC’s salary and job classification committee, said at the March 11 meeting that the group is drafting a letter to Human Resources.

“As a result of the chairman’s announcement that next year’s budget will not include a salary increase pool, the committee will be drafting a letter [as an] alternative to the annual salary recommendation letter, to recommend the implementation of non-monetary compensation in lieu of salary increases for FY10 only,” Hilf said. She said the committee still is developing its recommendations for alternatives.

If the draft of the letter is approved by the council at its final approval, it will be brought to SAC’s steering committee for final approval, she noted, before being sent to Human Resources.

SAC President Rich Colwell reiterated his contention that the University is not planning employee layoffs. (See Jan. 22 University Times.) Colwell said that normal employee turnover happens at all large organizations, including Pitt. “In any regular business there are going to be people terminated, and there have been [a few] layoffs here, but no major layoffs are planned,” he said.

Sherry Shrum, chair of the benefits committee, reported on the recently completed employee benefits online survey. (See story beginning on page 1.) Shrum said the survey gathered nearly 1,000 participants, the vast majority of whom (approximately 80 percent) either were satisfied or very satisfied with Pitt’s benefits offerings.

The most common complaint involved MetLife, the vendor that manages the federal Family and Medical Leave Act for University employees. Complaints focused on the lack of MetLife communication channels and delays in customer response time, Shrum said.

“We also learned from the survey that about 10 percent of respondents did not know what Life Solutions is, so HR now knows that we need to get more information on Life Solutions out to employees,” she said. (Life Solutions, formerly the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program, is a confidential counseling service to assist Pitt faculty and staff and members of their households with personal and work-related concerns. For more information, go to www.hr.pitt.edu/benefits/lifesolutions.htm.)

In other SAC developments:

• SAC has rescheduled its spring assembly for April 14. The assembly, featuring a marketplace on health and wellness, is set for noon-2 p.m. in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room. On April 6 (the previously announced date for the assembly) the staff council will hold its regular monthly meeting.

• Hills has been named interim vice president for marketing and communication while current vice president Angie Coldren is on medical leave.

• Colwell said SAC was exploring holding future meetings in the renovated University Club, which is expected to open April 1.

• Fred Schiffer, chair of the staff council and security committee, said CPR classes are being held.

With many of us working longer hours, as a committee we’re also looking to address concerns about drivers being sleepy when driving home from work and what advice we can provide,” he said. SAC member Joe Brun asked the committee to investigate over buses that exceed the speed limit in the Forbes-Fifth corridor, particularly near the contra traffic lane on Fifth Avenue.

SAC member Dewi Wong asked the committee to investigate why there are no “One-way” signs at the O’Hara Street or Fifth Avenue intersections. There is a “Do not enter” sign at Fifth and Thackeray, but its placement is on the Downtown side of the crosswalk and difficult for motorists to read, she said.

The elections committee continues to compile a slate of officer candidates. Members may be nominated to run for officer posts up until the May 28 SAC meeting. Current officers urged SAC members to run for office, but cautioned that serving as an officer means a commitment of up to 30 hours a month.

“Colwell urged staff who hold candidates to subscribe to the University’s emergency notification system, which is accessible on the Pitt portal site (www.my.pitt.edu).

The staff council applauded Gwen Weirinks, vice president for steering, for being chosen as the cover model for the most recent issue of Pitt Magazine.

—Peter Hart

UPB offers free summer-term housing

Pitt-Bradford will offer free housing for sophomores, juniors and seniors who take summer courses on campus, including students who are not enrolled currently at UPB. The offer does not apply to first-time freshmen.

James Baldwin, assistant dean of academic affairs and registrar said: “Taking summer classes can help them get ahead, making future semesters less stressful. It can also help them get caught up. Free housing makes this opportunity that much more possible and accessible.”

Summer sessions ranging from four to 12 weeks begin May 11 and end Aug. 31. Weekly housing fees of $125 will be waived for the session in which the student is registered.

For more information, call 814/362-7610.

Johnstown wins sportsmanship award

Pitt-Johnstown was named winner of the Clement H. Cloever Institutional Sportsmanship Award by the West Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Conference (WVIAC). Student-athlete and fan behavior, along with hospitality to visiting teams, are among the criteria for the award, which is voted upon by member schools.

Among UPJ’s efforts to support good sportsmanship by its athletes were:

• Establishing the “Mountain Cat Club” to increase school spirit and support UPJ teams. The group has nearly 800 members, and record numbers are attending athletic events.

• Involving team members and coaching staff in supporting causes including breast cancer and pancreatic cancer research and awareness.

• Supporting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Student athletes raised $3,400.

• Supporting elementary education. Members of the Pitt-Johnstown men’s basketball and wrestling teams visited East Side Elementary School to read to students.

• Supporting needy local families during the recent holiday season. Members attended a banquet that student-athletic advisory committee collected more than 300 items. The school district also collected clothing and toys.

—Peter Hart

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Senate plenary speaker urges Pitt to make academic “product” public

“It’s not unreasonable to say that the scholarly publishing that most of us grew up with is either in collapse or in a forced transition that will be awkward until we find the new version,” said Provost James V. Maher as he introduced keynote speaker David E. Shulenburger at the University Senate’s spring plenary session on scholarly publishing.

“I do think today’s subject is an extraordinarily important one for everyone who cares about the scholarly life,” he told the more than 150 attendees at the March 1 event.

“I don’t think that the people on this campus are as aware of how severe the national crisis in scholarly communications has become because we have successfully managed through a collective commitment to scholarly communication to maintain our libraries, maintain all of our scholarly communications activities at a high enough level that we don’t realize how bad things are getting on most other campuses.

“It’s a problem in the market we don’t, we do,” Maher continued, “it’s important for us to realize that colleagues on other campuses don’t have the access they should have to any scholarly communications including the ones we publish that we’re used to having here.

“I’m terribly concerned that our campuses are less and less visible to the public,” he said, noting, “We’re pretty easy to use as whipping boys at times.” But the real ability to access what’s happening on university campuses is limited.

Shulenburger pointed out that access to university campuses is not a given for many people, particularly those outside of urban areas.

“Where faculty members’ published work is being distributed is becoming more and more limited,” Shulenburger said. When journal articles are made available online, citations increase. And papers seem to be “rediscovered” when they are made available online on sites such as JSTOR, which publishes articles in open access after an embargo period.

“The more people who read what you do, who see your scholarly work, the better you are as a scholar,” Shulenburger said. Other benefits to open access include the ability for scholars to more easily conduct a more complete literature review and to avoid repeating work that’s already been done. The result: more progress, he said.

He commended former National Institutes of Health director Elias A. Zerhouni’s advocacy for open access to NIH-funded research with the hope that intelligent data-crawlers could be developed to search through an ever-growing collection of scholarly work.

Using as an example the existence of some 128,000 scholarly papers on Huntington’s disease, Shulenburger asked his listeners to consider what they are missing thanks to the sheer amount of work being produced and the impact it could have if they had access to its content. “Think about it,” he said. “How many of your friends are familiar with your field? Are you familiar with all the stuff being done in your field?”

Citing the discovery of penicillin as an example, Shulenburger noted that the first ever paper was written in 1828, but “rediscovered” a decade later. “How many of you who have never heard of it have been saved?” he asked. “Does that happen today?”

—Kimberly R. Barlow
One fear editors have is the impact of “wikiforce,” which have both constructive and destructive potential, Kanter said. An article posted in a wiki can be edited by other users and over time “gravitates toward accuracy,” Kanter said. “A lot can be gained from that … but editors worry it can destroy the value of an article as a historical record, that it can take too long for an article to emerge as excellent,” Kanter said.

“An editor would worry it might be too difficult to know when an article is to be regarded as an authoritative source of information. There are just too many unknowns in the process,” he said. “Imagine a well-financed effort to aggressively wiki an article in a desired direction.”

A second dangerous force is one of “policy-driven access,” Kanter said. Making an article available to all who need it when then need it is desirable, but different policies by different institutions at different times could result in multiple versions of the same articles available. “As we develop repositories and distribution strategies, it’s also important to develop rational versioning practices,” he said.

Another fear that concerns Kanter is the issue of “conjoined commons.” Another fear that concerns Kanter is the issue of “conjoined commons,” he said. “I’m just concerned that if I can think of these things, there are other people out there thinking of them also.”

Michael J. Madison
Madison said there are several solutions for the public goods problem as it relates to scholarly publishing. “Any resource where the ways in which it is shared and distributed makes it difficult to recoup the cost of producing it is characterized as a public good. Therefore there needs to be some kind of structural solution to this problem as it relates to scholarly access. For this reason I wholeheartedly support commons that are promoted by universities and private institutions worldwide.”

Copyright is the standard way of solving the problem for research and creative content, but intellectual property rights can create more problems than they solve with regard to open access issues. He said a potential solution is to have the government provide the resources, citing the NIH repository as an example.

Madison agreed that an intermediate institutional commons-style mechanism housed at and promoted by universities and faculty is a key solution that needs to be developed. “The key with these commons solutions is in the details of how they are managed and governed,” he said. “With regard to the internal mechanisms of faculty governance, institutional administration and relationships with journal publishers and university presses. ‘The details make a great deal of difference. There’s no one size fits all,’ he said.

Citing the Harvard faculty’s decision to create an open access repository, Madison said, “It would be fantastic if faculty here at Pitt got together with the administration to talk about adopting a comparable policy.”

Cynthia Miller
Miller discussed the need for new funding models for university press books as sales dwindle and prices increase. “We really do need to ask: Does publishing 600 copies of a scholarly monograph and selling them at $30-plus as a paperback or $60-plus as a hardcover constitute effective dissemination of scholarship?”

Finding those models isn’t easy, but there are learning opportunities in the current system that might be carried forward into new discussions, Miller said.

At one time university presses were subsidized enough to enable prices to be kept low and libraries had sufficient funding to have standing orders for every university press book published. “It worked well for a long time, but the system has since broken down under financial pressures. ‘It creates a real crisis of access. One thing that worked in that “golden age,” Miller said, was that the cost of the entire system was more broadly distributed. Library purchases from universities around the country helped reimburse the cost to the handful of universities that supported a university press.

“In moving forward, we may need to think about how we again spread the cost more evenly and equitably among the universities whose faculties and students benefit from the system,” she said. “Just switching to digital isn’t going to solve the problem. ‘All the cost of what university pressess do — if we want to preserve the peer review, the revising, the editing, the professional copy editing, the proofsreading — would be exactly the same whether I take that PDF and send it to a printer or put it on the web site.”

Having a market-driven, financially responsible press prompts better decisions to keep quality high, forcing presses to focus on their readers’ needs and wants, Miller said. However, material that seems risky to a publisher faces a higher burden for publication, she noted. Some fields are being left out and young scholars are finding it difficult to get published.

“We’re going to have to find some way to find these new funding models that allow us to keep our focus on market without allowing some kind of market-driven financial return on investment standards control our ability to publish and the accessibility of the work we do publish,” Miller said.

Miller added that the Google Book Search settlement (of a class action brought by authors and publishers in response to Google’s creation of a searchable database of published works) “is going to change our world as far as publishing is concerned.

Noting that some 7 million books have been scanned and made searchable in a database, “It is going to increase access. It is going to increase access on Google’s terms,” she said, noting that Google will be a major player in whatever new system for access to scholarly work develops.

John D. Norton
Norton, administrator of Pitt’s PhilSci Archive, which houses more than 800 papers and has readers in some 65 nations, focused his comments on the impact of open access publishing on the quality of writing. “My prediction is it’s going to get better,” he said.

“First, the quality of writing is not determined by whether you are paying for something or not,” he said. Rather, it’s determined by the diligence of editors and refereres who serve as gatekeepers for whether a work is good enough.

In open access models, referees and editors still have the same job, but they are freed of some of the dictates of what fits on a printed page. Print journal editors are often left to decide, within some degree of a certain length at a certain time, Norton said.

“If you have an article that is too long … you’ve got to cut stuff out. Even if the article needs to be longer, you don’t have the discretion to do that.”

In addition, regardless of the quality of the work that has been submitted, a certain number of pages must be produced in conjunction with the journal’s publication schedule.

“All of those restrictions evaporate. You get to do what you want when you want. You can concentrate only on the editing of the writing.’’

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Protein’s structure impacts Huntington’s

In a paper published in the early online version of Nature Structural & Molecular Biology, researchers at the School of Medicine deconstruct the first steps in an intricate molecular dance that might lead to the formation of pathogenic protein clumps in Huntington’s disease, and possibly other movement-related neurological disorders.

Huntington’s disease is an inherited disease in which progressive degeneration of certain brain neurons causes uncontrolled writhing, twisting and jerking movements, and cognitive and psychiatric problems.

Huntington’s is one of 10 diseases in which a certain protein, different for each disease, contains polyglutamine, a stretch of repeating blocks of the amino acid glutamine, explained Ronald Wetzel, professor of structural biology and member of the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases at the School of Medicine. The affected protein in Huntington’s disease is called huntingtin.

Most people have a huntingtin protein whose polyglutamine segment contains 20 or so glutamines, and even a polyglutamine with as many as 35 repeats may not cause Huntington’s symptoms. But the risk of developing Huntington’s disease rises sharply in individuals whose polyglutamine sequences are only slightly larger. A block of 40 repeats, for example, is associated with a very high likelihood of having the disease.

“To a protein chemist, this is a fascinating situation,” Wetzel said. “Polyglutamine doesn’t seem to play a sophisticated role in these proteins, and it doesn’t have a defined structure. Yet, by changing its length to only a very slight extent, it takes on some new physical properties that somehow initiate diseases.”

One consequence of the lengthening is protein aggregation, or clumping, a feature that consistently appears in brain cells of patients who have one of these neurodegenerative diseases. Many research groups, including Wetzel’s, study how polyglutamine expansion alters the huntingtin protein’s behavior.

In its most recent studies, the Pitt team worked out the details of how the aggregation behavior of huntingtin depends, in a surprisingly intricate way, on the neighboring segments of amino acid sequence flanking the polyglutamine. They found that longer polyglutamine sequences have the ability to disrupt the structure of a neighboring region, 17 amino acids long, at the beginning of the protein known as the N-terminus. That sets the stage for new physical interactions with the rest of the huntingtin protein that drive it to aggregate.

“If the N-terminus is not there, huntingtin makes clumps very slowly, even if the polyglutamine stretch is rather long,” Wetzel noted. “When the N-terminus is disrupted by its polyglutamine neighbor, it takes a leading role in the aggregation process, with the polyglutamine then following to consolidate and stabilize the clumps — a kind of ‘aggregation two-step.’

“The choreography might be similar in other polyglutamine diseases, meaning physical disruption of neighboring regions may influence the tendency for the protein to clump, he added.

The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Huntington’s Disease Society of America, the National Science Foundation (NSF), Petroleum Research Fund/American Chemical Society and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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Wednesday, March 25, from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Friday, March 27, from noon–4 p.m.
Monday, March 30, from 1–6 p.m.

For more information, call 412-648-8213, e-mail uclub@pitt.edu, or visit www.uc.pitt.edu.
asserts that a pyramid is the most efficient way to stack spheres. Hales's proposal provides details about how the published texted figures and equations in a math text jecture is to be converted to data structures or computer programs. Another part of the research gives details about how to automate the proofs of a collection of problems in geometry. This proposal has the potential to reshape the way mathematicians approach large-scale computer-assisted proofs.

Bypassing the blues
Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) patients who were screened for depression after surgery and then cared for collaboratively by a nurse-led team of health care specialists reported better quality of life and improved physical function than those who received their doctors' usual care, according to a study from the School of Medicine. The approach, which has proven effective for treating major depression in primary care settings, has been applied to a population with cardiac disease.

The main outcomes of the study were presented recently at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society.

CABG surgery is one of the most frequently performed and costly procedures in the United States. Depressive symptoms are common following CABG surgery. The approach to collaborative care model has proven effective for treating major depression in primary care settings, but has never before been applied to a population with cardiac disease.

In a large study of postmenopausal women, optimists had decreased rates of death and were less likely to be hypertensive, diabetic and smokers than pessimists, according to researchers at the School of Medicine. In addition, women identified as being more cynically hostile had a higher rate of death and were 21 percent more likely to die from a cancer-related condition.

For the study, optimism and cynical hostility were not compared directly. Rather, optimists were compared to pessimists, while women with a high degree of cynical hostility were compared to those with a low degree of cynical hostility.

Interestingly, results for optimism and cynical hostility appeared more pronounced in the almost 8,000 black women who were surveyed, according to Peter Countihan, Cardiovascular Epidemiologist, Bea Herbeck Belnap, senior research associate in the Department of Medicine, and Pitt psychiatrist professor emeritus Herbert C. Schulberg of Weill Cornell Medical School.

Optimists live longer
In a large study of postmenopausal women, optimists had decreased rates of death and were less likely to be hypertensive, diabetic and smokers than pessimists, according to researchers at the School of Medicine. In addition, women identified as being more cynically hostile had a higher rate of death and were 21 percent more likely to die from a cancer-related condition. Tindale notes these results need to be interpreted with caution because of the low number of black women surveyed.

Pitt co-authors of the study included Yue-Fang Chang of neurology surgery, Lewis H. Kuller of epidemiology and Greg J. Siegel and Karen Matthews of psychiatry.

Kids with bipolar parents at greater risk
A School of Medicine study published in the March issue of Archives of General Psychiatry finds that children and teens of parents with bipolar disorder have an increased risk of early-onset bipolar disorder, mood disorders and anxiety disorders.

Researchers suggest that having family members with bipolar disorder is the best predictor of whether children will go on to develop the condition.

Boris Birmaher, director of the Child and Adolescent Anxiety Program and co-director of Child and Adolescent Bipolar Services at WPIC, said, "A bipolar diagnosis in a young age depresses children of the opportunity to experience normal emotional, cognitive and social development, and this is why there is an urgent need to identify, diagnose and treat these patients early on."

Compared with the offspring of control parents, children with bipolar parents had a 14-fold increased risk of having a bipolar spectrum disorder, as well as a two- to three-fold increase of having a mood or anxiety disorder. Children in families where both parents had bipolar disorder also were more likely to develop the condition than those in families containing one parent with bipolar disorder. However, their risk for other psychiatric disorders was the same as children who had one bipolar parent.

Study co-authors were David Axelson, Kelly Monk, Catharine Kalas, Benjamin Goldstein, Mary Beth Hickey, Michaela Orlova, Mary Ehmann, Satish Iyengar, Walf Shamsdedeen, David Kupfer and David Brent, all from the Department of Psychiatry and WPIC.

The Pitt co-authors of the study were presented recently at the American Psychosomatic Society's annual meeting.
The University of Pittsburgh
School of Law
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University Policy Statement Against Sexual Harassment "with Definitions"

The University of Pittsburgh's policy statement against Sexual Harassment and definition of sexual harassment, as revised February 2009, are as follows:

POLICY: The University of Pittsburgh is committed to the maintenance of a community free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment violates University policy as well as federal, state and local laws. It is neither permitted nor condoned. The coverage of this policy extends to all faculty, researchers, staff, students, vendors, contractors and visitors to the University.

It is also a violation of the University of Pittsburgh's policy against sexual harassment for any employee or student at the University of Pittsburgh to attempt in any way to retaliate against a person who makes a claim of sexual harassment or provides information in an investigation of sexual harassment.

Any individual who after a thorough investigation is found to have violated the University's policy against sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, reprimand, suspension (with or without pay), termination or expulsion.

DEFINITION:
A. SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN GENERAL

Sexual harassment may include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:
1. Submission to such conduct is an explicit or implicit condition of employment or of participation in a University program or activity;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for an employment or academic decision;
3. Such conduct is severe or pervasive and objectively and subjectively has the effect of:
   a. Unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or equal access to education;
   b. Creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or academic environment; or
   c. Such conduct, if repeated, is reasonably likely to meet the standard set forth in number 3 immediately above.

While sexual harassment most often takes place where there is a power differential between the persons involved, it also may occur between persons of the same status. Sexual harassment can occur on University premises or, under limited circumstances, off campus. It can occur between members of the same gender as well as between members of different genders.

B. SEXUAL HARASSMENT STANDARD WHEN CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED SPEECH IS IMPLICATED

When constitutionally protected speech is implicated, this policy will be applied only to the extent consistent with the First Amendment. In addition to meeting the general standards set forth above, to rise to the level of prohibited sexual harassment when constitutionally protected speech is implicated, the law requires a tenable threat of material and substantial disruption of University operations or interference with the rights of others.

(Excerpts from Policy and Procedure 07-06-04) (The full content of Policies & Procedure 07-06-04 is available at www.be.pitt.edu/policies/policy/070707-06-04.html)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

University of Pittsburgh
Volunteer Pool
To sign up, log on to:
www.pitt.edu/~govtvol/volunteerpool.htm

Child Advocate Orientation
Tuesday, March 31, noon-1 pm
The Child Advocate coordinator of special advocate programs needs volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in Allegheny County. This on-campus orientation will explain how you can help. To learn more about the program, go to www.pgh-casa.org.

Global Links Medical Supplies
Thursday, April 16, 5:30–7:30 pm
Volunteers will be working at the Bloomfield office of Global Links, an aid organization that collects and repackages surplus medical supplies for distribution to clinics worldwide.

Shenoeads Acres Refurbishing
Saturday, April 11, 8 a.m–4 p.m
Help Hosuna House serve a wide range of community needs for the people of Wilkinsburg. The recently acquired Sherwood Acres in Forest Hills will supply a much needed green space; volunteers will help with basic landscaping and maintenance.

International Children’s Festival
Saturday, May 16, 9:30 am–1:30 pm or 1–5 pm
Sunday, May 17, 9:30–11:30 am or 1–5 pm
This year the festival is in Oakland, with much of it happening right here on campus. Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters or face painters, to assist children with crafts, to stuff and distribute goodie bags, to escort costumed characters and to control traffic. Your children are welcome to volunteer with you.

Oakland Floral Bed Planting Saturday, May 23, 9 a.m–noon Volunteers will install the floral bed under the Stephen Foster statue next to the Carnegie Library in Oakland. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will supply tools and water.

Oakland Floral Bed Planting II Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m–noon Volunteers will work with the Conservancy on another Oakland project, this one at the intersection of Centre and Herron avenues.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12
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Frank John Draus
Frank John Draus, a longtime faculty member and administrator in the School of Dental Medicine, died March 4, 2009. He was 79.

A native of Dupont, Pa., Draus came to Pitt in 1956 as a research assistant. In 1980, he was promoted to an assistant professor and rising through the academic ranks to associate professor and professor. He held a number of administrative positions at the school, including chair of the Department of Biochemistry, director of short-term fellowships in medicine, director of refugee dentists, director of the foreign degree program, director of Admissions and assistant dean for Academic Affairs, as well as associate dean. He retired in 1999 as associate dean emeritus and professor emeritus of microbiology/biochemistry.

Draus earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry at Alliance College, where later he would serve as secretary of its board of trustees. He earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in chemistry at Duquesne University.

Draus was a fellow of the American Institute of Chemists, and he held several leadership positions, including president, of the Pittsburgh section of the International Association for Dental Research.

Draus is survived by his children, Julia Scott, John Draus, Peter Draus and Elizabeth Hennessy, his sister Irene Wojtach, and eight grandchildren.

Donations are suggested to Little Sisters of the Poor, 1028 Benton Ave., Pittsburgh 15212.

Peter Hart

Colavita memorial service
A memorial service for Francis B. Colavita is planned for 3 p.m. March 26 in Heinz Memorial Chapel.

Colavita, known for his passion for music, died Feb. 16, 2009, as a result of a traffic accident. He was 69.

Colavita began his career at Pitt in 1966 as assistant professor with a specialty in biological psychology. He was named associate professor in 1970, and served as department chair, 1980–88.

A fund has been established in Colavita’s memory. Contributions to the fund should be made payable to the University of Pittsburgh, and sent to Matt Smith, Institutional Advancement, 3168 Craig Hall, with the Colavita Memorial Fund noted on the check.

Poke memorial service
A memorial service for Carl F. Poke, one of the “founding fathers” of the Greensburg Campus, will be held at 2 p.m. March 24 in Pitt-Greensburg’s Mary Lou Caampa Chapel and Lecture Center.

Poke died Feb. 23, 2009. He was 75.

Poke was named assistant to the president in 1963 — UPG’s founding year — becoming the first appointment made by Pitt-Greensburg’s first president, Albert Barnes Smith Jr. Poke retired in 2003 as professor emeritus of political science.

In conjunction with Pitt alumni Frances Hesselbein, the University in the Community and Hesselbein Global Leadership Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, named for Hesselbein — chair of the board of governors of the Leader to Leader Institute and founder of Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management — the institute has as its mission inspiring, developing and rewarding accomplished student leaders.

In 1994 Hesselbein was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, in recognition of her leadership of the Girl Scouts of the USA. She also was a member of the first class of the National Geographic Society Laureates, a group of Pitt alumni who have reached the highest levels in their respective fields.

The academy is under the direction of Kathy Humphrey, Pitt vice provost for academic affairs, and Angela Miller McGraw, director of the academy.

Hesselbein recently concluded her tenure at the academy, and is currently chair of the Global Leaders for Prosperity in Africa, a sister agency of the academy, contact Miller McGraw atangelamcPitt.edu or 412/624-5201.
Thursday, April 2
Kresge Conference Center
1175 Benedum Hall
Swanson School of Engineering
5 pm Lecture
6 pm Reception
Bumpy Beetles,
Moth Eyes, Butterfly Wings
and Patchy Immune Cells:
Exploitation of Layer-by-Layer
Assembly in Bio-Inspired Materials Engineering

Friday, April 3
Kresge Conference Center
1175 Benedum Hall
Swanson School of Engineering
9:30 am Lecture
Designing Robust Omniphilic Surfaces

Superydrophobic surfaces that display water contact angles greater than 150° with low contact angle hysteresis are becoming commonplace in the materials community. Microscopic pockets of air trapped beneath the high surface tension (γs ≈ 72 mN/m) water droplets lead to a composite solid-liquid-air interface in thermodynamic equilibrium. Previous experimental and theoretical work suggests that it should not be possible to form such highly equilibrated composite interfaces with drops of low surface tension liquids such as alcohols or alkanes, pentane; γs ≈ 16 mN/m. In this lecture I will discuss novel surfaces that require the re-tapped topographical texture and surface chemistry to support the formation of these exotic composite solid-liquid-air interfaces for any liquid. Quantitative design parameters will be introduced to guide the development of these novel omniphobic surfaces. Examples that have been realized to date will be demonstrated; these embodiments include lithographically fabricated microsizedテンソル in silicon, randomly deposited electropun fiber mats and dip coated textiles.
Tuesday 31

Basic Research Seminar “Tuberculosis, mTOR, Metastasis & Your Lungs: Are They Linked?” by Seth Petri Henske, Cooper Conf.Ctr., class=CUH, noon

CVR Seminar “Product Development of Vaccine Candidates for Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis & Aleno- virus (Serotypes 4/7),” by Julia Lynn T skating, 2:00 pm (B700)


Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar “Screening for CANNABINOID CB2 Receptor Selective Ligands,” by John Huffman, 456 Salk, noon

Thursday 2

HSLS Workshop “Protein Analysis Tools,” Anuman Chattopadhyay, Library conf. room, 3:20 pm

Chemistry Seminar “Nonpore Sensors for Intracellular & In-Vivo Chemical Analysis,” Ronald Kopelman, U of M, 12:18 Cheron, 4 pm

WPIC Mental Health & Well- ness Lecture “Postpartum Psychosis: A National Health Crisis,” Martha Marcus, medical director, Carnegie Library, Oakland, 6-8 pm (3-2722)

CLAS Film “Chiamaka: Hastala Victoria Siemen,” FFA aud., 7:30 pm

THURSDAY 2009

HSLS Workshop “PubMed Basics,” Stefanie Allen, Library classrm. 1, 10-11:30 am

Chemopharmacology Seminar “Pharmacoeconomics: Is More Than Just Counting Pills?,” by Holguin, 4pm, 3-305

Johnston Inst. Lecture “Cineriti Rowley, former FBI agent, PAA Ballrm., 3-30-30 pm (8-1336)

Chemistry Lecture “Microprobe Device for Fast Detection of Bacteria & Countermeasures,” Rasul Kopelman, U of M, 12:18 Cheron, 4 pm

Geology & Planetary Science Colloquium “Earth Energy & Exploration,” by Danielle Deemer, CNX Gas 11-1, 5 pm

Greensburg Campus Memo- riial Colloquium “Explorations of the Universe,” 6 pm

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• Full term registration & add/drop begin.