Pinsky wins Senate post

Michael R. Pinsky of the School of Medicine has won the election for president of the University Senate. Pinsky is professor of critical care medicine, bioengineering, translational and clinical research, cardiovascular diseases and anesthesiology. He is a former Senate vice president.

Susan B. Hansen, professor of political science, was re-elected vice president, and Lisa Marie Bernardo, associate professor, health and community systems, School of Nursing, was re-elected for a third term as secretary.

 Winners of the recent officer elections were announced this week by the Senate office. Senate officers serve one-year terms that begin July 1.

Also announced were newly elected members to Faculty Assembly for 2009-2012: Assembly members serve the first year of their three-year terms on the Assembly; during their second and third years, they serve on both the faculty-only Assembly and on Senate Council, which includes faculty, staff, students and administrators.

The following faculty were elected to Faculty Assembly: School of Arts and Sciences

• Humanities: Marcia Landy, English
• Natural sciences: Chandralekha Singh, physics and astronomy; Marc Sommer, neuroscience.
• Social sciences: Martha Chaklin, history; Janelle Greenberg, history.

Professional schools

• Business: Jay Sukits.
• Education: Amy Otto.
• Engineering: Patrick Smolinski.
• Information sciences: Michael Spring.
• Law: Nancy Burkoff.
• Social work: Keith Caldwell.
• University Library System: Ed Galloway.

Schools of the Health Sciences

• Medicine: Lisa Pan; Tom Smitherman; Adele Towers.
• Public health: Joe Costantino.

There were no openings for new Assembly members from dentistry medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public and international affairs or the Health Sciences Library System.

Voting for membership on the Senate's 15 standing committees will be held May 4-15. For the committee slate see page 11.

—Peter Hart

Regional undergrad tuition is frozen

There will be no undergraduate tuition increases at Pitt’s regional campuses in Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown and Titusville next year, the University announced April 20.

In making the announcement of the regions’ tuition freeze, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg stated, “Particularly in these difficult times, the University is sensitive to the difficult task of balancing our own financial uncertainties with the challenges faced by families who are budgeting to meet tuition expenses. As a result, we are redoubling our efforts to limit tuition increases.”

In commenting on the likely level of tuition increases on the Pittsburgh campus, Nordenberg noted, “At best, it will be several weeks before the commonwealth’s budget has been approved, permitting us to make the revenue and expense projections necessary to determine the tuition increases that will be necessary for the more complex array of programs offered in Pittsburgh. Some increases seem likely, but we will do our best to temper them.”

According to the University’s Fact Book, there were 6,923 students enrolled at the four regionals in fall 2008 including both full- and part-time students.

In-state full-time students at the Bradford, Greensburg and Johnstown campuses paid $11,012 in tuition for the current academic year; out-of-state students paid $20,572. At Titusville, the current in-state student tuition is $9,700; out-of-state students paid $20,572.

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The University Planning and Budgeting Committee (UPBC) supported freezing regional campus tuition now, while recognizing that tuition decisions regarding programs on the Pittsburgh campus would have to await further information and analysis.

UPBC also had supported the recently announced salary freeze for employees, which will be in place for the 2009-10 academic year. (See March 5 University Times.)

—Peter Hart

According to an annual AAUP survey, salaries for most Pitt faculty ranks exceeded the averages for peer institutions nationally. See page 5.

COMMENCEMENT

On Sunday the University conferred some 6,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees, including 416 doctorates, to students on the Pittsburgh campus, and approximately 1,000 undergraduate degrees to students on regional campuses, which hold their own commencement ceremonies. For coverage of the commencement convocation, see pages 8 & 9.

—Peter Hart

REGIONAL

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UPBC also had supported the recently announced salary freeze for employees, which will be in place for the 2009-10 academic year. (See March 5 University Times.)
T he University's fiscal year 2010 budget process, which takes shape even as legislators in Harrisburg deal with their own version of a fiscal year, is scheduled to meet today, April 30. Pratt said BPC could then move forward in their budget process. According to the University’s planning and budgeting system (PBS) document (www.pitt.edu/~jdl1/PBSdoc.htm) and Senate bylaws (www.pitt.edu/(univsenate/ bylaws.html), Pratt said, “The general PBS procedure is that after the University Senate, through its committees, provides advice to the chancellor and administrative officers on all aspects of University planning and budgeting including long-range planning, budgeting plans, program plans, operation plans, and budgets and so forth.” He added. “The bylaws of the Senate say that the Senate considers and makes recommendations on matters of University-wide concern and that University administrative officers and committees consult the Senate on matters of University concern.”

Referring to BPC’s mission statement (www.pitt.edu/univsenate/ committees/budget/mission.html), Pratt reiterated that the fiscal health of the University is among the Senate’s primary concerns. “It’s clear that the budget policies committee has an important role in making recommendations on matters of University-wide concern, makes recommendations on matters of University-wide concern, makes recommendations on matters of University-wide concern,” he said. 

The full board of trustees has scheduled a June 26 meeting at which the new annual budget of $26.6 billion for FY10 will be completed. However, a University budget typically is not approved until after Pitt’s state appropriation is final. Ramicone said trustees have a contingency meeting in July to discuss the financial status of the budget before the June 30 end of the current fiscal year. Harrisburg is continuing to watch revenue figures. House appropriations spokesperson Johnna Pro told the University Times, adding that tax receipts appear to make April and May big months for revenue. Regardless, Pennsylvania faces a $3.2 billion shortfall in the current fiscal year’s budget with similar numbers expected for next year. Pitman said that $6 billion that must be closed as legislators debate next year’s budget would be "a lot of money for us to accommodate."

“We cannot cut our way out of this budget process,” Pro said, adding that the state will need to tap into its rainy day fund, increase revenues and streamline its budget. While federal workforce stimulus money is helpful, Pro said, “It doesn’t solve our budget problem.”

House and Senate appropriation committees hearings — part of the University’s annual budget testimony — have been completed. As budget discussions continue in the coming weeks, Pro said, “I think you’ll have a lot of discussion about funding of non-preferreds” — charges to faculty and their fellow state-related schools that are not under the state’s control and that the legislature is not under obligation to fund.

The governor’s proposed budget would hold funding for the state-related universities at current levels, which already have been cut 6 percent from the amount authorized last July by the legislature. (See Sept. 25, 2008, and Jan. 8 University Times.) Some future funding for non-preferred arts and cultural and historical organizations already has been eliminated from the governor’s proposed $26.6 billion FY10 budget.

Pro noted that some legislatures favor eliminating all funding for non-preferred entities. “I think right now everything is on the table,” she said. “We’re going to have a lot of discussion.”

The legislature’s goal is to complete a budget by the June 30 fiscal year end. “Realistically, do we think that’s going to happen? It’s hard to say. People have to be willing to negotiate,” Pro said.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Correction

Due to incorrect information provided to the University Times, the faculty associates program innovation grant winner was incorrect in the April 16 issue. Her name is G. Elisabeth Maria.

Looking for a few good faculty members

Sandy Bly, a junior accounting major and a resident assistant in Holland Hall, is planning her next floor party for next week. She had just returned from Carnegie Science Center to view a new release of the IMAX film “Universe the Sea.” As a RA on a floor of first-year students, Bly is accustomed to planning social events such as ice cream outings and movie nights. This year, however, Bly has had an extra visitor for several of her floor’s social programs — instructor Mike Beach from the School of Nursing.

Beach doesn’t have a particular interest in learning about underwater ecosystems or devouring Rocky Road ice cream, but he does have a special passion for engaging in the lives of students outside the classroom. He is part of the Pitt faculty associates program, a new venture this year that matched faculty members from various academic units with first-year resident hall students.

The program is a joint venture between Residence Life and the First Year Experience program of the Division of Student Affairs. A major goal of the First Year Experience program is to increase new students’ connection to the University and thus improving student retention rate. The Pitt faculty associates program provides an opportunity for students who live on a floor to interact with a faculty member outside of the classroom. The programmatic elements are simple: Resident assistants and their faculty partners, such as Beach and Bly, plan social programs for small groups of first-year residence hall students so that students and faculty can connect in a relaxed setting.

In the first year of the program, 21 faculty members from a variety of disciplines were paired with first-year student floors in Tower A, Tower B, Holland Hall, Lohr Hall, Forbes Hall and Forbes Hall. Recruitment efforts are underway this summer to expand the program to a new floor and to recruit additional faculty members and floors.

Program events this year have ranged from students and faculty taking salsa dancing lessons on campus to taking in a show at the Byham Theatre during the holiday season. For faculty who enjoy getting to know their personal hobbies and interests with students, the program provides the perfect opportunity to immerse themselves in new students’ interests over these experiences. Last semester, a faculty member who was paired with a Tower B floor took her students bowling in Lawrenceville and shared her favorite costume from the 1980s era afterward, giving first-year students the opportunity to explore a couple of Pittsburgh’s neighborhods outside of Oakland.

While new to Pitt, programs similar to the faculty associates program exist on many campuses across the country. Shawn Brooks, associate dean of students and director of Residence Life, said, “Studies have shown that students who are paired with a faculty member outside of the classroom show greater progress with their interpersonal and academic development than do students without that exposure.”

“I think most Pitt faculty members participating in the program this year were nominated by students, the program is open to any faculty member who wants to participate.” Beach said. “But we do not have faculty members participating in any cases of students who are not being served with the opportunity to meet with a faculty member, and I think all of our first-year residents, regardless of their major, have benefited from Beach’s involvement.

“It’s been great having him be a part of our floor, and it’s been especially helpful for my residents who are university first-years and pre-meds majors to be able to talk to a faculty member in that area. He has helped several of them make very useful connections,” Bly said.

Beach also views his experience with the faculty associates program as a positive one. In addition to assisting several students on the floor with learning about potential majors and networking in health sciences departments, he said, he appreciates the opportunity to spend time with students outside of the classroom.

“Enjoy teaching and interacting with students very much and the people I get to work with are wonderful. I really love to get out and interact with younger students,” Beach said. “The program broadens the interactions I am able to have with students in addition to my teaching, and it is rewarding to help students connect to the University.”

Karim Asher is the assistant director of Residence Life for First Year Experience initiatives. To learn more about the faculty associates program or to get involved, contact her at km15@pitt.edu or 8-1206.

University Times letters policy

Letters should be submitted at least one week prior to publication. Persons interested in a letter will receive a copy of the letter so that they may prepare a response. If no response is received, the letter will be published alone. Letters of 350 words or less may be edited to fit the column. Letters must be submitted by email to umtimes@pitt.edu or by campus mail to 308 Bellefield Hall.

The University Times reserves the right to edit letters for clarity or length. Individuals are limited to two published letters per academic term. Unsolicited letters will not be accepted for publication.

Pitt FY10 budget process continues

Despite the current state of Harrisburg is continuing to take shape even as legislation is being proposed, Pitt’s state appropriation is final. Ramicone said trustees have a contingency meeting in July to discuss the financial status of the budget before the June 30 end of the current fiscal year. Harrisburg is continuing to watch revenue figures. House appropriations spokesperson Johnna Pro told the University Times, adding that tax receipts appear to make April and May big months for revenue. Regardless, Pennsylvania faces a $3.2 billion shortfall in the current fiscal year’s budget with similar numbers expected for next year. Pitman said that $6 billion that must be closed as legislators debate next year’s budget would be “a lot of money for us to accommodate.”

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—Kimberly K. Barlow

Provos addresses BPC in closed session

Provost James V. Mahler addressed the Senate budget policies committee April 17 in closed session. BPC chair Richard Pratt said the provost used the time to review with the committee issues the University is facing as well as the status of its various major revenue sources including investment income, research grants, tuition, and the state appropriation.

In other business, Pratt said the committee tentatively plans to review at its May 29 meeting the University’s annual report comparing faculty salaries with those of its 15 Associated of American Universities peers. Robert Goga of the Office of Management Information and Analysis told BPC the report is in progress.

Goga was present at BPC to elaborate on the University’s annual report on salaries of full-time Pitt employees, which was distributed at BPC’s March 27 meeting. (See April 16 University Times.)

BPC member Philip Wison noted that the report cuts two ways. It prompts some employees to approach their chair or dean if they think they are being paid less than others in their unit, it also serves as a reality check, Wion said, allowing those who think they are poorly paid to see what others in similar jobs are earning. “It provides more realistic groups for individuals to think about their own compensation,” he said.

BPC has invited Executive Vice Chancellor Jerome Cochran to speak at its May 15 meeting and University Treasurer Amy Marsh to address the committee May 29.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Prescription cost savings

The University’s prescription coverage plans continue to offer a 90-day supply of maintenance medications. The cost of the two co-pays if prescriptions are filled by mail order or through the Falk or Student Health pharmacies. For example, said John Kozar, director of Benefits, filling a generic prescription with a monthly $10 co-pay would total $120 a year. Having a 90-day supply filled cuts the annual cost to $80.

Flexible spending accounts

"If someone told me I could decrease my out-of-pocket expenses by 30 percent, I’d jump at the chance," Kozar said, encouraging faculty and staff to consider setting aside pre-tax dollars in flexible spending accounts for health care, dependent day care or other qualified expenses. Federal regulations limit the maximums that can be set aside. The government also stipulates that the money set aside in such flex accounts is "use it or lose it," meaning that careful consideration must go into the decision when claiming money to flex accounts. Kozar said there are options in place to reduce the risk of losing money.

At Pitt, the health care flex plan gives participants additional options, including insurance coverage for adult dependent care and for catastrophic health care.
FY 2010 Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for the July 2009 - June 2010 health plan year will run through Wednesday, May 13. Packets have been sent to all benefits eligible faculty and staff. This information should be carefully reviewed even if you do not plan to make any changes to your elections.

In accordance with IRS regulations, plan sponsors must annually provide participants with an opportunity to make changes in their benefits elections. Otherwise, the only occasion that permits a change in elections is a qualified life event, marriage, divorce, and birth of a child are examples of qualified life events.

In addition to the open enrollment packets, information may be found through a link on the Benefits Web site at:

www.hr.pitt.edu/benefits

Summary of Benefits and Changes

Medical

Copayment changes in the Panther Gold plan are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>July 1, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor office visits</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist office visits</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient facility services</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All other types of services and co-payments remain the same. In addition, preventive services including age-based routine examinations, well baby visits, and immunizations continue to be offered at no cost to members.

Prescription Drug Coverage

Copayment changes (30 day supply) in the prescription drug program apply to all medical plans. Copayments are double for a 90 day supply. Changes are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>July 1, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generic</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred brand</td>
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<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Preferred brand</td>
<td>$56</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The generic co-payment remains at the same level it has been since July 2003.

A new provision has been added as a pure convenience:

Members may obtain a 90-day supply of medications at any participating retail pharmacy. Unlike mail-order or prescriptions obtained at the Student Health Pharmacy or Desk Pharmacy, the 90-day supply copayment is three times the 30-day supply copayment. As an example, a 90-day supply of generic medication through mail-order is $20. At a retail pharmacy, the copayment is $30.

Dental

There are not any changes in the plan design of the dental program. The University is entering the second year of a three-year contract. Dental rates will increase by 5.5% for the Concordia Plus DHMO and 3% for the Flex I and Flex II programs.

While the Concordia Plus DHMO provides very attractive rates, recruitment of dentists into this program has been difficult.

Vision

A second plan design named the “Designer Gold Plan” has been added.

The current “Fashion Plan” remains the same and continues to offer a great value. The cost of a vision examination alone is equivalent to the premium for single coverage. The Designer Gold program has a higher monthly premium but it offers several advantages including:

- A $130 retail allowance (vs. $60 under the Fashion Program).
- A $130 allowance towards provider-supplied contacts (vs. $75 under the Fashion Program).
- Frames from the Designer Collection are offered at no additional cost.
- Multiple lens options are included at no additional costs including scratch resistant coating, ultraviolet coatings, and polycarbonate lenses.

The rates have changed for FY 2010 but will remain the same over the next three plan years.

Life Insurance

- There is a decrease in optional life insurance costs for age brackets starting at age 40. The decreases are significant for some of these age brackets.
- Optional accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) costs are decreasing by 17%.
- Dependent life rates will decrease by 15%.

The open enrollment Web site features an interactive online tool designed to answer questions and provide suggestions on how much life insurance a member may need. It is located at:

http://openenroll.hr.pitt.edu/advisor.htm

Please remember to respond to Actna’s request to update your beneficiary designations for your life insurance policy.

Flexible Spending Accounts

Currently, one-third of the University’s faculty and staff are enrolled in a flexible spending account. This benefit is becoming increasingly popular since it permits members to decrease their out-of-pocket expenses by approximately 30%.

While the IRS regulations include the “use-it or lose-it” provision, the ability to easily obtain reimbursement from a spending account has lessened participants’ concerns. Nearly 60% of participants use the stored-value card feature known as the “Benny Card.” It works in a similar fashion to a debit card. Whether you are in a grocery store or pharmacy, by use of the technology behind the product code, systems instantly determine which products may be reimbursed using the Benny Card. The Benny Card may be swiped to pay for the designated items automatically.

On a related matter, the maximum monthly contributions allowed under the Parking and Mass Transit federal regulations change as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>July 1, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
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<td>$230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Transit</td>
<td>$115</td>
<td>$230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

eDOS, the University’s administrator for spending accounts, has a new and enhanced Web site. The information of this site will assist member’s knowledge of uses of the Benny Card and reimbursable expenses. You may visit it at:

www.healthstylenavigator.com

Open Enrollment - Next Steps

1. Carefully review the information provided in your open enrollment packet.
2. You do not need to take any action if you do not plan to make any changes in your benefit elections.
3. In the event you would like to make changes in your benefits elections, follow the link from either the Human Resources or Benefits Department home page.
4. All changes must be completed by Wednesday, May 13.

Benefits Message Board

Effective immediately, a message board will display important news and updates posted by the Benefits Department. You may want to consider placing a shortcut on your desktop and refer to it on a periodic basis. The message board is located at:

www.hr.pitt.edu/benefits

Important Contact Information

Benefits Department
Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. M-F
2008 Craig Hall
Phone: 412-624-8160
Fax: 412-624-3485
www.hr.pitt.edu/benefits

Please visit our Web site for FAQs, downloadable forms and other benefits information.
Most Pitt faculty pay exceeded average at similar institutions, according to '08-09 AAUP survey

Pay for faculty on the Pitt campus in most ranks exceeded the average for comparably ranked faculty at other public Category I institutions nationwide, according to an annual survey by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The April 13 report, "On the Brink: The Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession, 2008-09," tracks trends in faculty salaries based on a survey of 1,259 public, private/independent and church-related institutions divided into doctoral, baccalaureate and two-year colleges with and without ranks to make comparisons.

The survey includes data from 225 Category I (doctoral) institutions, 76 of which including Pitt, are public universities.

Pay comparisons at the Pittsburgh campus

The average salary for all full-time faculty combined at the Pittsburgh campus was $87,300, less than the national average for comparably ranked faculty at doctoral institutions ($90,055), but more than the average for the public schools in the Pittsburgh region ($85,072) and for all public institutions ($84,877).

The AAUP survey showed that Pitt professors in Oakland fared better than their counterparts nationwide, averaging $127,100 (with men averaging $130,800 and women $115,700). The national average for professors in the 225 Category I schools included in the report was $123,785 (with an average of $126,214 for men and $116,607 for women). Among the subset of 155 Category I public universities, the average for Pitt professors was $115,309 (men $117,840, women $103,215). The survey showed Pitt's average for associate professors was $86,600 (men $86,200; women $86,000) and for female lecturers, $58,200 (men $61,800; women $54,700).


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4 Pitt grad programs improve, 1 drops in U.S. News rankings

Law

For overall quality, Pitt's School of Law tied for 71st (tied for 73rd last year) with Loyola Marymount University, Oklahoma out of a total of 184 accredited law schools nationwide. The online edition ranked the top 100 schools plus ties.

Schools of law were assessed on: 1) academic reputation on a scale from marginal (1) to outstanding (7); 2) average of 12 measures from data collected in fall 2008 and early 2009, including output data for academic affairs, chairs of faculty appointments and the most recent 100 enrolled students; and 3) were asked to rate programs on a scale from marginal (1) to outstanding (7). The online edition used these ratings, according to the magazine.

Legal professionals, including the hiring partners of law firms, state attorneys general and selected federal and state judges, were asked to rate programs.

Other indicators were student selectivity (median LSAT scores, median undergraduate GPA and proportion of applicants accepted), the median number of full-time faculty resources (average 2006 and 2007 expenditures per student), the graduate student-faculty ratio, financial aid, student-faculty interaction (in the library), and job placement success (employment rates for 2007-08 graduates who graduated within six and nine months after graduation, as well as bar exam passing rates) for the 2007 graduating class, and the five-year employment rates for the 2006 graduating class — where graduates who were unemployed and not seeking jobs were excluded.

This year, graduates who were unemployed and not seeking jobs were excluded from the calculations and were not counted as unemployed. Those who were unemployed and seeking work were counted as unemployed in the calculations of the employment rates.

In law school specialty areas also were ranked by U.S. News. Specialty rankings are based solely on nominations by legal educators at programs.

The rankings were based on votes by law faculty who are listed in the February 2008 edition of U.S. News' "America's Best Graduate Schools.” Teachers 2007-2008 as teaching in the specialty field, or by directors of mechanical engineering programs. They name up to 15 of the best programs in each field.

This year Pitt's engineering materials specialty tied for 49th (tied for 47th last year) among the 50 programs ranked nationally by U.S. News. Pitt tied with Michigan at 49th in the "mechanical/electronic/communications specialty area, tied for Pitt's computer engineering specialty, which tied for 49th (tied for 47th last year) among the 50 programs ranked nationally by U.S. News. Pitt tied with Boston University, Michigan State, SUNY-Stony Brook and Vanderbilt.

Among 89 programs listed in the electrical/electronic/communications specialty area, Pitt tied for 57th (tied for 60th last year) with Central Florida, Clemson, Colorado State, Drexel, Illinois-Chicago, Oregon State University, UC-Riverside, Rochester, SUNY-Stony Brook and University of Tennessee Knoxville and Utah.

Pitt's computer engineering specialty tied for 48th (tied for 47th last year) among the 50 programs listed by the magazine’s online edition. Pitt tied with Boston University, Michigan State, SUNY-Stony Brook and Vanderbilt.

Pitt ranked 12th (3rd last year) among the 22 such programs listed.

Medicine

Pitt ranked 14th last year) and tied for 17th in this specialty. Pitt ranked 49th in engineering last year, among the 125 schools that supply the data for part-time JD students.

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Pitt Online to offer 2 graduate programs via the web

The Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business will offer the new Katz Immersion MBA (KIMBA) at the Greensburg campus beginning in September. The KIMBA program is the first master’s degree to be offered at Pitt-Greensburg.

Designed for working professionals, the program will provide an intensive MBA education by online. The CNL is an emerging nursing role developed by the American Nurses Association, and can perform a number of roles in health care, including as a clinician, and can serve as a client advocate, an educator, an information manager, a risk analyst, and a team manager. This area of concentration prepares nurses to earn a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and function as an advanced generalist in a variety of settings across the continuum of care. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to sit for the national certification exam.

Online courses differ from on-campus courses only in that all course material is available via the Internet and that’s where student—teacher and student—student interaction takes place, according to Holly Shiflett, associate director of online programs at CIDDE.

The goals of the new program are to create an environment for students that equals the classroom environment. Shiflett said the school provides the experts in the field — the faculty and — and we do the project management to make sure that the seminars are the most necessary and are properly equipped.”

Pitt intends to add two or three programs per year, he said, in part because these programs reach beyond state borders, there is a need for more mid-career and out-of-state students, may be making an exception when programs are offered all online. Pitt is ranked 24th for 36th with programs at Ari

In the research category among 24 schools listed. Pitt tied with Alabama-Birmingham, Mayo Clinic, and Texas Tech. The pediatrics specialty program was ranked 11th (tied for 12th) with 21 programs listed nationally. Pitt’s women’s health program ranked 3rd (up from 4th last year).

Medical specialty rankings were based on ratings by deans and senior faculty at peer schools, who were asked to identify the five best programs offering the best programs in each of eight specialty areas.

Library and information studies

Overall, Pitt’s program in library and information science (referred to as information studies in the magazine) tied for 10th nationally with 56 master’s programs were ranked nationally.

The archives and preservation specialty tied for 2nd among the programs evaluated. Pitt ranked 1st nationally in the organizational information systems specialty area. The school is dedicated to the “new information landscape” and the “new information world” and “the new information economy.” Pitt is ranked 2nd among the programs evaluated. Pitt ranked 1st nationally in the organizational information systems specialty area. The school is dedicated to the “new information landscape” and the “new information world” and “the new information economy.” Pitt is ranked 2nd among the programs evaluated. Pitt ranked 1st nationally in the organizational information systems specialty area.
With a folksy, hometown manner sprinkled with humor, an internationally prominent scientist gave newly minted Pitt graduates his advice on pathways to success at the April 26 commencement convocation.

Pitt alumnus, Pittsburgh native and National Medal of Science awardee Bert W. O’Malley, a pioneering researcher in the field of biological sciences, told the University’s newest alumni, “In the future, don’t think about your job, but think about your vocation. Your vocation is your life’s body of work... that will complete your life. Your vocation is really who you are and who you were. At the end of your life, do you want to have your life summed up in dollar signs? Would you like a number on your gravestone to summarize your life? I think not. And don’t make that your gold standard in your life — money.”

On the 50th anniversary of earning his Pitt undergraduate degree, O’Malley addressed a Petersen Events Center throng of more than 15,000, counting graduates and their families and friends. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science as part of a ceremony performed in full academic regalia and with the customary pomp and circumstance marking the University’s 222nd year.

O’Malley, who has been called the “father of molecular endocrinology,” holds the Thomas C. Thompson Chair in Cell Biology at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He also directs the college’s Center for Reproductive Biology and is associate director for basic science in the school’s Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center.

O’Malley has served as president of the Endocrine Society and helped establish Molecular Endocrinology, one of the most-cited biomedical science journals. He has contributed to more than 600 scientific and medical publications and holds 19 patents for special techniques and inventions related to molecular and cellular biology. He is credited with path-breaking insights into the function of hormones in normal development and disease states.

In addition to the National Medal of Science, the nation’s highest honor for science and engineering, O’Malley has received numerous other honors, including the Feltrinelli International Prize for Biology and the Brinker International Award for Breast Cancer Research. He also was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland.

O’Malley earned his bachelor of science here in 1959 — when he also was president of the student government and was named “Mr. Pitt” — and his medical degree here in 1963.

Pitt previously honored O’Malley with the Dickson Prize in Medicine, the Philip S. Hench Distinguished Alumnus Award and the Bicentennial Medallion of Distinction.

“I’ve been chosen to speak because of my own perceived success,” O’Malley said. “But I’m not going to talk to you about science. And I’m not going to tell you to do it my way.

Instead, he based his definition of success on his observations
over 45 years of more than 250 young scientists he has trained and mentored. “To me it boils down to five main criteria: sufficient intelligence, commitment to industry or hard work, judgment — good judgment, a personal code of ethics, and opportunism. And those are all things that are not so magical when you think about them.”

Regarding native intelligence, or IQ, O’Malley said, “Can you IQ your way to success? Clearly not. In short, if you graduate from college, IQ is off the table. You can’t use it as your excuse for failure, and you can’t make it your [main condition] for success.”

Instant genius is a myth, he added. Even Mozarts, Bill Gates and Tiger Woods, all known as prodigies in their respective endeavors, had to work long hours before they achieved success, O’Malley noted.

For example, while Mozart started writing piano concertos at age 5 it wasn’t until he had composed Concerto No. 9 at age 21 that he was recognized by critics as having composed a masterpiece.

“Work effort and reward are related,” O’Malley said, “so the point is, in life, to succeed, you’ve got to put the effort in. And it takes some time. And it takes some hours. And you’ve got to start putting that track. You haven’t finished it,” he told the class of 2009.

Similarly, good judgment is a factor in success, he said. “Judgment is practical intelligence — to know what to say and when, what to do and when, when to persevere and when to give up. Judgment is something you need to learn, and it is a big separator for successful people in science.”

O’Malley said, “You can get ahead without a personal code of ethics, but you won’t be happy. A human conscience weighs very heavily. I suggest you pay strong attention to that.”

He urged the new degree-holders to search for opportunities for themselves and not to rely on so-called experts to provide them.

“Like the illustration, he told the tale of a recently named Native American chief in South Dakota who had to decide if the coming winter weather would be severe enough that the tribe should gather extra wood. The new chief was unschooled in ways of reading nature’s predicting signs, but, being cautious, he urged the tribe members to gather extra wood.

To cover his bases, however, the chief repeatedly consulted the local weather service as the winter approached. With each inquiry, the news was worse — from predictions of a cold winter, to one that would be severe to one that would be among the worst on record.

Following each increasingly dire prediction, he sent the tribe members back out to gather more wood. Finally, he asked the weather service, “How do you know it’s going to be one of the coldest winters on record?”

“The reply came, ‘Because the Indians are out gathering wood like crazy!’” O’Malley said. He called the lesson for the graduates: “Search for opportunities. The opportunities are always there and the experts don’t know it all.”

He told the graduates to be optimistic despite the current economic troubles in the world. “In a way the glass is half full because we are on the verge of the next economic boom, which, if history repeats itself, will be above 45 percent of what the last one was,” O’Malley maintained.

Moreover, he said, downturns in the economy are the periods of greatest invention and innovation in the history of this country.

“When things tighten up, the human has one resource [to] rely on — the brain. So put your ingenuity to work,” he said.

As a final thought, O’Malley said, “Don’t limit yourselves. You don’t know what you can do in life yet. You are just starting out. Do not settle. Set your goals high. Set your goal way up here and you will at least reach your capacity — which is what you want to do. If you set your goal [lower], you are going to fall below your capacity, and that’s an unhappy thing later in your life. So shoot for the stars. Keep your feet on the ground and your eyes on the heavens. You’re a Pitt graduate. And that world out there is not as tough as you might think.”

This year the University conferred approximately 6,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees, including 466 doctorates, to students on the Pittsburgh campus, and approximately 1,000 undergraduate degrees to students on the Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown and Titusville regional campuses, which hold their own commencement ceremonies.

—Peter Hart
Relationship styles may impact brand choices

In a study published in this month’s Journal of Consumer Research, “When Brand Personality Interacts with Personal Characteristics,” researchers from the University of Minnesota and the University of Kansas explored the ways attachment styles influence brand choices.

According to the authors, individuals who exhibit anxious attachments are more influenced by “brand personalities,” the idea that a brand has certain characteristics, such as sincerity or excitement.

“A brand’s self-concept resembles the ideal self-concept that they wish to signal their ideal self-concept to future relationship partners and how they wish to be perceived by others,” the authors wrote.

For this study, consumers were instructed to choose from a list of 20 brands, including both electronic products and clothing, after which they rated each brand on a 10-point scale for sincerity and excitement.

The results indicated that individuals who were more anxious in their relationships tended to choose Abercrombie jeans, which were perceived to be more exciting than sincere, while individuals with a secure attachment style were more likely to choose Gap jeans, which were perceived as more sincere than exciting.

“Our research points to an interesting but counterintuitive finding. Brand personality can be the most useful for consuming brand connections in a domain where past literature in the interpersonal relationship context suggests brand attachments are most unlikely (high anxiety/high avoidance consumers),” the authors wrote.

Giulia research uncovered

A study being developed at the School of Medicine protects individuals from the damaging effects of radiation exposure, suggests a study presented at an annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.

The study, led by Joel Greenberger, chair of radiation oncology, was presented by Pitt’s Center for Medical Countermeasures Against Radiation, which aims to identify and develop small molecule radiation protectors and radioprotectants (radiation dosimeters) in combating the key to forming attachments with and enhancing the purchase likelihood of these consumers.

Giulia research unveiled

Drug protects against radiation

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Senate committee slates announced

This year’s slate of candidates for seats on the 15 University Senate standing committees has been set. There are three openings on each committee. Details of the members and rotating joint committee members will take place May 4–15. For more information, contact the Senate office at 4-6505.

- Admissions and student aid: Ray Jones, business; Linda Dudaik, nursing; Robin Kear, University Library System (ULS); Julius Kituta, nursing; Steve Levine, dental medicine; Kyoung-A. Yang, nursing.
- Anti-discrimination policies: Mark Lynn Anderson, English (A&S); Maggie Folan, pharmacy; Rebecca Harmon, health and rehabilitation sciences (SHRS); Sharon Nelson-LeGall, psychology (A&S); Bruce Venarde, history (A&S).
- Athletics: Elisa Atzeni, medicine; David Brienza, SHRS; J. Patrick Card, neuroscience (A&S); Albertine De Cian, chemistry (A&S); Timothy Kane, medicine; Don Martin, education, Patrick Smolinski, engineering.
- Benefits and welfare: DolAngelona, SHRS; Sandra Fouds, nursing; Irene Kane, nursing; Yong Li, medicine; Lara Putnam, history (A&S); Robert Robertson, education; Mark Scott, ULS; Elsa Strotmeyer, public health (GSPH); Dawna Woodrey, medicine.
- Budget policies: John Baker, dental medicine; Jim Castagnoli, economics (A&S); V.P. Peter Dr., GSPH; Hirsyouda Gulo, ULS; Jay Sokits, business; Barbara Wurmich, communication (A&S).
- Bylaws and procedures: Vernon Gay, medicine; Kurt Summerville, dental medicine; Alexande-Viera, dental medicine.
- Commonwealth relations: Rodger Banks, GSPH; Kim Coley, pharmacy; Ronald Neuffeld, engineering; Nancy Susanman, GSPH; Edna Fois, business; social work; Margaret Rosenzug, nursing.
- Computer usage: Frank Brooks, mathematics (A&S); Mike Bolam, ULS; Ari Jalam, ULS; Thomas McWhorter, English (A&S); Susan Serekike, nursing.
- Educational policies: John Close, dental medicine; Bonnie Falcone, pharmacy; Beverly Gaddy, Greensboro; Ivanka Nikolaou, computer science; Todd Ottosen, medicine; Lisa Pan, medicine.
- University Press: John Earman, history and philosophy of science (A&S); Miriam Meislik, ULS; Edward Muller, history (A&S); Alan Glazer, computer science (A&S); Tom Weiss, ULS; Michael West, English (A&S).
- Winners of the Senate and Faculty Assembly elections also were announced this week. (See story on page 1.)

Pitt's modus operandi in a cost-effective manner.

The Pitt program in Mozambique is based on a partnership forged in 2006 with Catholic University Mozambique, the site of one of only two medical schools in the southwestern African country. With 1.8 million people living with HIV and one physician for every 33,000 residents, Mozambique has very limited capabilities for research and few trained investigators, Harrison said.

In Mozambique, the Pitt team will focus on training researchers in epidemiological methods to better understand the failure of antiretroviral treatment and to answer basic questions about HIV prevalence.

In Brazil, ranked second in number of reported AIDS cases in the Americas, training will focus on each country’s vaccine trials, tuberculosis research related to AIDS and the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy and public health in a cost-effective manner.

In India, where there are 2.5 million HIV-infected people, training will center on laboratory studies on the molecular mechanisms of HIV and the development of anti-HIV vaccines using Indian strains.

Pitt received one of seven AITRP grants recently awarded. AITRP has trained nearly 2,000 investigators and few trained investigators, Harrison said.

To assist more students during these difficult economic times, Pitt-Greensburg has increased the number of scholarships for incoming freshmen while also holding the line on tuition. Tuition, which dipped by 40 percent.

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Anne Franks, manager of Pitt's campaign and manager of human resources administration in Pitt's Office of Institutional Advancement said, "Pitt's faculty and staff have once again demonstrated their extraordinary generosity by supporting the United Way. This year's campaign posted strong results given today's economic difficulties by raising more than $560,000.

"Heartfelt thanks to the many volunteer coordinators across the University who dedicated their time and efforts to make this campaign a success," Franks noted. She wrote that a web site developed by Samba Lampich and fellow members of the University Marketing Communications web team enabled campaign organizers to reach many members of the Pitt community and communicate with representatives, faculty and staff in a cost-effective manner.

- Student affairs: Christopher Bise, SHRS; Danielle Colbert-Lewis, ULS; Otto Graf, education; Margaret Hannah, finance; David Malehorn, medicine; Adam Rosendorff, medicine.
- Tenure and academic freedom: Anto Bagic, medicine; Barry Gold, pharmacy; Linda Penkower, religious studies (A&S); Joshua Rubin, medicine; Rakesh Sain, medicine.
- University Press: John Earman, history and philosophy of science (A&S); Miriam Meislik, ULS; Edward Muller, history (A&S); Alan Glazer, computer science (A&S); Tom Weiss, ULS; Michael West, English (A&S).
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Arthur S. Levine, dean of the School of Engineering, noted that the creation of this new department is still uncommon, pointing to the founding director Lo’s husband, whose research focuses on the cardiovascular and urological systems.

Peter Brusilovsky, associate professor in the School of Information Sciences (SIS), was awarded an honorary degree by the Slovak University of Technology. Brusilovsky was recognized for his contributions to the fields of informatics and information systems.

Also this summer, Tuan will join the orthopaedic surgery department to direct its new Center for Cellular and Molecular Engineering.

The purpose of the new center is to use the knowledge base and technological knowledge toward the restoration of organ functions by applying principles of cellular and molecular biology as well as the physical sciences and engineering. Novel approaches such as stem cells, biomaterials, nanotechnology and biorobotics will be utilized to advance skeletal tissue regeneration.

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Pitt's commitment to a sustainable environment predated most efforts at greening campuses and neighborhoods, a high-ranking official said at a symposium last week.

"The University of Pittsburgh has a long-standing commitment to environmental sustainability," said Renny Clark, vice chancellor for community initiatives and the chancellor's chief of staff. "It really was memorialized 20 years ago at a historic meeting in France. Pitt, in partnership with universities in 40 countries, noted than 350 additional universities signed the Talloires Declaration, the declaration now has been signed by more than 400 institutions. Under the auspices of a University Senate task force, which Clark chairs. A University Senate task force over the last couple of years, to ‘green’ Oakland," Clark said.

Related Pitt efforts to go green, he added, include the establishment of a University Senate sustainability subcommittee, the founding of the Swanson School of Engineering's Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation, which focuses on the design of sustainable neighborhoods and nurtures collaborative projects based on innovative research, translating the science of sustainability into real products and processes and anti-litter and recycling efforts by student groups, Purchasing's commitment to environmental stewardship through sustainable purchasing, as well as conserving and construction designed to conserve natural resources and preserve the environment. A University Senate task force over the last couple of years, to ‘green’ Oakland," Clark said.

Kathy Barlow & Peter Hart

Blue, gold & green

Pitt holds 1st sustainability festival

Pitt also has a longstanding member of the Oakland Task Force (OTF), which Clark chairs.

"One of the outcomes of OTF’s work is the transformation of Shellenby Plaza from an asphalt-covered 25-space parking lot into green space central to Pitt and the Oakland community. That’s been the internal theme of the Oakland Task Force over the last couple of years, to ‘green’ Oakland," Clark said.

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One of the things I’ve found in focusing on environmental and greening issues is that you’re not going to do it all in one giant step. We need to take little steps, while making sure that each step is done on a firm foundation with a firm conviction and making sure that step does not have to be retraced," Clark said. "What we’re looking for is a balance between cost and practicality."
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Monday 11

• Summer 12-week, 6-week-1 & 8-week-1 sessions registration ends; classes begin.

USum Long Term Care Insurance - Group Annual Deduction
WPJ Buller, noon (1-800-227-4165)

Tuesday 12

Diversity Supplier Show
“Options,” WPJ Buller, 11 am-1:10 pm

Practical Flow Cytometry Lecture
“Race Event Detection: Distingui-
shing Crooked Eukaryotic Cells & Endothelial Progenitor Cells,”
J. Phillip McCoy, Nat’l Heart, Lung & Blood Inst., S100A Starzl BST, noon

CVR Seminar
“New Approaches to Vaccines for Old & New Plagues,” John Ross, Do14 BST, noon

Health Sciences Research Seminar
“Statistical Modeling & Qualita-
 tive Methods: A Model of an Approach to Mixed Meth-
 ods Within Health Services Research,” Susan Zukin, 105 Parkview, noon

Pharmacology & Chemical Biology Seminar
“The Met Receptor as a Novel
Therapeutic Target in Head & Neck Squamous Cell Carci-
noma,” Edwina Kinchington, Hillman Cancer-Ctr.; 1395 Starzl BST, 1-3 pm

Thursday 14

HSWS Workshop
“Sequence Similarity Search-
ing,” Anasum Chaturvedi, Falk Library classrm., 2-13 pm

Senate Council Mtg.
2700 Purnell, 1 pm

GI Grand Rounds
“Endoscopic & Radiologic
Unknows,” Priya Roy & Bahar Madani; Scale 11th fl. conf. Ctr., 5-6:15 pm

A new multidisciplinary virtual research community — the Indus-
tory Studies Association — has been established at Pitt. The association bills itself as the first in the nation to link academia and industry in an effort to address the economic crisis.

The association brings together, through a web-based community, researchers from universities nationwide who study a knowledge of particular industry and its problems. The association includes scholars who study a variety of industries, including automotive, health care and software, to name a few.

The association’s online site is www.industrystudies.org. The community has more than 1,200 members currently and is being financed through membership dues, industry contributions, and grant and charitable donations.

“Many issues facing indus-
try are common to the problems of restructuring and globalization — go to the heart of the current economic crisis,” said Frank Guar-
tanati, founding president of the organization and a Pitt economics professor. “The Industry Studies
Association creates an important resource linking academia and industry at a critical juncture of both national and international economic upheaval.”

The association was created by faculty members affiliated with the Alfred P Sloan Founda-
tion’s industry studies program. The industry studies community comprises scholars at a number of universities who study indi-
vidual companies and people in an industry through data and observations.

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### April 2023

| **Thursday 30** |  
| --- | --- |
| **EOH Seminar** |  
| “Intrinsic Dynamics of Proteins: Insights From Network Models,” Yveet Baljar, 540 Bridgeside Point, noon |  
| **CALS SPRING BENEFIT SALE** |  
| To benefit Evelyn Wei Scholarship, Parran 1st fl. lounge, 10 am-2:30 pm |  
| **WPIC MEET THE PI LECTURE** |  
| “The Assessment & Treatment of Emotional Dysregulation in Adolescents With Bipolar Disorder,” Tina Goldstein, Detre 2nd fl. aud., 11 am-12:30 pm |  

| **Friday 1** |  
| --- | --- |
| **Greensburg Campus Children’s Literature Conference** |  
| Smith, UP, 8 am-4:30 pm (724/836-7159) |  
| **Dubois-Nkrumah-Dunham IN’T Conference** |  
| “Academic Achievement in Africa & Its Diaspora: Challenges & Solutions”; FFA aud., |  

| **Sunday 3** |  
| --- | --- |
| **Residence halls open for summer term.** |  
| **Monday 4** |  
| **Summer term registration ends; classes begin.** |  

| **Tuesday 5** |  
| --- | --- |
| **Russian Film Symposium** |  
| “Live & Remember”; 106 DL, 10 am |  
| **HSLS Workshop** |  
| “Focus on Behavioral Medicine: Searching PsychINFO,” Ester Sagafi, Falk Library classroom 1, 10:30 am-noon |  

| **Wednesday 6** |  
| --- | --- |
| **Russian Film Symposium** |  
| “Four Ages of Love”; 106 DL, 10 am |  

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**UNIVERSITY TIMES publication schedule**

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**IT’S TIME TO BE GREEK FOR A WEEK!**

48th Annual Greek Food Festival

**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Oakland**

**Sunday, May 5 to Friday, May 8**

- Delicious Greek Food
- Luscious Sweet Pastries
- Lively Greek Music
- Wonderful Greek Dancers

**hours:** Sunday – Noon to 8 pm
Monday to Friday – Lunch 11 am to 2 pm
Dinner 5 pm to 9 pm

Eat In or Take Out  •  Fax Orders: 412 683-4960
Call 412.682.3866 or visit www.stnicksgph.org

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**Dental Medicine Education Substance Abuse Seminar**

“Addiction & the Dental Profession,” Penelope Ziegler, “Recognizing Professional Impairment,” John Martyniuk, “The Role of the Physicians’ Health Program,” Kevin Knipe, Scaife aud. 1 & 6, 8:30 am-1 pm

**SAC CPR Certification**

609 Bernard, 9 am-2 pm  (4-4216)

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**Continued on page 11**