Pitt to buy Concordia Club

The trustees’ property and facilities committee on Monday approved the University’s purchase of the Concordia Club for $32.38 million in renovations and additions to Chevron Science Center. Funded by $25.5 million in state capital funding and $7.38 million in Provost’s reserves, the first phase of the project will add 31,351 square feet of lab/equipment space in a three-story addition. The auditorium lobby and entrance will be renovated and a new vestibule added. Other infrastructure upgrades and features aimed at achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certification for sustainable construction are planned. Construction is expected to be complete in 16 months.

Nearly $27.8 million to develop an Olympic Sports Complex for men’s baseball, women’s softball, and men’s and women’s soccer.

Located next to current facilities on the upper campus, the project is scheduled to be complete by fall 2010. No specific use for the building has been identified, but Cochran said the club could be another venue for large functions such as those typically held in the William Pitt Union’s heavily used stories or Kurz Room.

The trustees’ committee also approved a $12.2 million project to renovate 21,300 square feet of space on the ground floor and 1,000 square feet of space on the basement level of the Thomas Boulevard facility, which will enable mailing services, surplus property, central receiving and the movers to relocate from leased space, at an annual savings of more than $67,000.

The project is scheduled to be complete in time for employees to move during the University’s winter recess.

The committee also approved the following projects for the Pittsburgh campus:

- $13.12 million in renovations and additions to Chevron Science Center. Funded by $25.5 million in state capital funding and $7.38 million in Provost’s reserves, the first phase of the project will add 31,351 square feet of lab/equipment space in a three-story addition.

- The project is scheduled to be complete in 16 months.

The project is expected to be completed by fall 2010.

- $1.2 million to upgrade the ventilation systems in the basement, first floor and first floor of the Cathedral of Learning. The work is necessary because existing conditions do not meet building codes for outdoor air requirements.

The committee also okayed a 10-year lease for more than 144,000 square feet of laboratory and lab space in the new Bridgeside Point II building on Technology Drive for the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. The facility is situated next to Bridgeside Point I, which houses other Pitt research and offices.

The McGowan Institute will move from Bridgeside Point I to a larger space in the new building and microbiology and molecular genetics will move from the Biomedical Science Tower and Bridgeside Point I to consolidate in Bridgeside Point II.

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery plans to relocate its current on-campus cell-hand research laboratory and new center for Cellular and Molecular Engineering to the new building.

A 28,753-square-foot facility for the McGowan Institute, managed by the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources, will be located in the new Bridgeside Point II.

Cochran said funds are in place for the first five years of the lease, which begins Oct. 1, 2009.

Two projects at Pitt-Bradford were approved.

- $2.5 million to upgrade the electrical service and improve power reliability. The project includes installation of power distribution equipment and the upgrade of infrastructure between the electric utility’s substation and the campus.

Information provided to the committee stated that Bradford campus operations have been disrupted by about 25 electrical outages over the past several years.

Although Pitt is negotiating with Penelec, which supplies power to the Bradford campus, to pay for the upgrade, the cost was approved in order to prevent delays to the project’s start.

- $2.5 million for a multipurpose facility and first-floor chapel, funded by gifts and other reserves.

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The clock is ticking at Pitt–Johnstown's campus, but the long ‘100 Days’—100 percent interest in employment—has been hit by this year’s economic recession. Recent graduates have the Career Services office’s unidivided attention as they seek employment or further education.

UPJ President Jim Specter, who touted the initiative in his remarks at the campus’s April 22 commencement ceremony, said, “We are taking proactive steps in today’s troubled economy, to help our students maximize their potential for being hired into rewarding positions or gaining acceptance into high-quality graduate programs.”

The current effort is putting a special focus on this year’s graduates—not only those who received diplomas in April, but also December 2008 graduates and those graduating in June or August. “Despite a tough job market,” said career counselor Angela Boyd. “UPJ Vice President for Student Affairs Jon Wescott acknowledg-ed that the current economy prompted graduates to go the extra mile, even though the services being emphasized really aren’t necessary because what Career Services does with the overall student population.—”

The initiative being promoted to graduates is assistance with resume preparation and interviews, assistance with job opportunities and job fairs, networking and preparatory workshop lectures. It is being held in conjunction with the GRE, GMAT, LSAT and MCAT.

Wescott reported that 278 surveys have been returned, up 45 percent over the number of students who were contacted as part of their initial career search. Wescott noted that 100 percent of them placed by the end of the target period, Boyd said. “We have an intentional marketing to students who might not have been aware of the services available to them.”

As of Tuesday, 73 students were employed (64 of them full-time) and another 38 were hired to graduate or professional school.

Boyd said 278 surveys have been returned, while Office of Career Services. At the campaign’s midpoint, efforts have shifted from getting more surveys returned to focus on the number of students who already have shown interest by filling out the forms, she said, adding that once a survey is in hand, she and fellow career counselor Victoria Biter get to work on helping 45 respondents whatever students need for a suc- cessful job search.

Some students come in well prepared and said a clear idea of what they want to pursue, simply seeking an outside opinion of what they’ve prepared. Others go through the how to do it curriculum to write a resume or prepare for an interview. Encouraging all of our efforts is the observation that ‘we’re overwhelmed,’ Boyd said. That’s our job; to never stop improving.”

Many students hail from outside the Johnstown area, so some help is being provided by other staff members as well. Initially, the career counselors request information, cover letters, resumes, and other materials to critique. “Students may not be getting interviews not because they don’t have the skills or knowledge, but because they’re not highlighting or articulating their skills and experiences in the best way,” Boyd said.

The counselors also remind graduates to consider some online household to eliminate any unprofessional and to establish a profile on the networking site LinkedIn as they make the transition to the professional world.

For their efforts, the staff are receiving positive feedback. Boyd said. “They have been so gracious about everything we’ve really helped, or ‘Thanks for finding me this position,’” she said. “It’s certainly rewarding for us that we can make an employer offer a position.”

But it’s not just about finding work, Boyd said. “It’s helping them to think about the specific position they’re applying for. How might the skills they gained in an internship relate? How might they prove their com- munication skills rather than just say they have them.”

“It’s helping them to think about job searching in a different way than in the past,” she said.

In spite of dire economic news that can be especially scary for new graduates, Boyd said students aren’t getting discouraged. “What I see is a students eager to begin their career. Not so much discouraged, but restless to use what they’ve learned,” she said.

There’s no denying that the economy isn’t good and employ- ers aren’t hiring as much as in the past. “But for determined, conscien- tious, flexible students, the job outlook is good,” she said.

Boyd said the 100 percent initiative has called for some addi- tional hours in the office, but the workload has been manageable. “Certainly it’s a large task, but anyone who works with college students is driven by the opportu- nity to impact the lives of students in a positive way,” she said.

Wescott acknowledged that helping students with future employment is a labor-intensive process, but he expects that at the end of the 100 days, there will be great success stories.

Boyd said it’s exciting every time he hears another student has found a job or been accepted to a graduate program. “We’re anxious to see the results,” she said.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Units don’t always follow planning & budgeting system, report shows

Pitt’s planning and budgeting system’s established procedures and processes are not being followed universally, according to a University Senate committee.

“A responsibility of the budget policies committee, along with the Staff Association Council, is to monitor the implementation of the University’s budgeting system,” Philip Wion told Faculty Assembly June 2. “This year the committee requested, as it has many years in the past although not the last year or two, of the Office of Budget and Controller to in effect contact the various responsibility centers both in the Provost’s area and the Health Sciences area, and get information about the planning and budgeting committees (PBCs) at each of those centers. PBCs participate in the development of the University’s budgets and contingency plans. Under Pitt’s policies, business and administrative units choose whether to have planning and budgeting committees, but senior executive areas and academic responsibility centers are required to have them, Wion pointed out.

“The information was tabulated and the committee took a look at a few recent BPC meetings,” said Wion, who is co-secretary of BPC. “It turns out there were a few instances where we had not had actively meeting PBCs. There’s also a requirement for the membership that the majority of the members be elected. There are a couple units where that seems not to be the case.”

Wion did not specify any units in his report. He said that BPC first wanted to have clear and accurate data on how units have procedures in place so that faculty or staff members can exercise their right to appeal or request reconsideration of salary decisions, which also is required in Pitt’s policies.

Wion referred Assembly members to Policy 07-09-01 — viewable online at www.pitt.edu/policies/policy/07/07-09-01.html — which requires faculty and staff members to be informed in writing of the basis for their salary increase and for those whose performance has been judged unsatisfactory to be informed of the specific reasons for that judgment. The policy also calls for procedures through which individual faculty and staff members can request reconsideration of salary decisions.

“IT turns out, according to this first pass anyway, that a number of smaller entities either don’t have such explicit policies whereby faculty and staff can ask for reconsideration, or they have them, but perhaps they don’t publicize them. They don’t let people know that they have such policies,” Wion said. “The committee has suggested that with the salary letters, as part of the bulletin (material) there be mention of the possibility of reconsideration. This too will be followed up, to be sure in the future that people are aware of these policies.”

Assembly member Carey Balaban of the School of Medicine asked, “Just out of curiosity, what is the School of Medicine’s current data on this?” Wion replied that the data indicate only that the medical school has a “no” in the category asking whether the school has a “document salary reconsideration process.”

He added that the salary decision reconsideration policy does not apply formally to the School of Medicine. “The School of Medicine explicitly is not included in the salary administration policy,” Wion said. “But the school is under the purview of the Senate. The budget policies committee as part of the University since the University Senate includes all the schools.”

Wion also summarized information from a Pitt-specific faculty salary report drawn from American Association of University Professors (AAUP) survey data that are printed annually in the AAUP journal Academe. That report was discussed at the May 29 BPC meeting, Wion said. (For online, see “Why aren’t there AAUP data?”)

Following his report at the June 2 Faculty Assembly meeting, Assembly member Lisa Brush chided BPC for not asking for gender wage gap comparison data in its annual request for the AAUP-based report.

“I was wondering at what point it will become possible for the University Times to report on this issue,” as part of the annual BPC discussion story, Brush said. She noted that the University Times traditionally covers the report as part of a meeting story and therefore is limited by committee members’ discussion.

Brush added that she has written letters to the University Times in the past asking that BPC expand its request for data. (See April 5, 2007, and May 25, 2006, University Times.)

“Well when will we have the sex category?” she asked, adding that wage gap data always are included in the Academe report and are as accessible as the other data. “They have it by rank and by institution at exactly the same place as the other information,” Brush said.

Wion added that although the University Times has not published a chart or table on gender wage gap data, the paper has followed the issue in a number of stories.

(For a story on the overview of the April 13 Academe report that includes comparison data on salaries at institutions, broken down by gender, see April 30 University Times.)

Moreover, Wion noted, the gender wage gap is virtually universal at universities and that the academic data are accessible online.

But Brush countered, “Just because something is universal doesn’t mean that it doesn’t vary across institutions. It’s a very important mechanism for making the same kinds of comparisons and benchmarks, because it’s related to gender equity among the faculty. The point about the budget policies committee report is that it is the document that records that measures the things that the University Senate thinks are important. The fact that [gender wage gap data are] not there is a signal that the Senate budget policies committee doesn’t think that gender equity is important. That’s why I’m making this an issue. It’s not about having access to the data, it’s the fact that you get what you measure.”

Wion said he will carry Brush’s request back to BPC. “Certainly budget policies can request whatever it wants,” he said.

In other Assembly business:

• University Senate President John Baker reported on previously raised concerns about faculty in the medical school. (See May 14 University Times.) Baker summarized those issues in a memo to medical school officials, he told Faculty Assembly at the June 2 meeting.

Yesterday, as the University Times went to press, Baker said he had received a response from Ron Montelaro, the chair of the medical school’s planning and budgeting committee. That response, he said, cleared up two of the issues.

“I had been told by several tenured faculty members in the medical school that they would have their salaries cut 20 percent next year if they did not have 50 percent of their salary coming from a funded research grant,” Baker told the University Times.

“However, the medical school is instituting a new research incentive policy that links the level of individual faculty salary support on grants to the level of research incentive payments paid to a faculty member. Having 50 percent or more salary support funded by research grants triggers an increase in the amount of the research incentive paid to a faculty member.” The incentive is limited to a $50,000 cap annually per investigator, he added.

The second issue involved complaints from tenured faculty in clinical departments that their annual raises were not well enough to raise the salaries that were given in other Pitt schools, he said. “This issue may be true because annual salary increases in clinical departments in the medical school depend upon the department’s own budget, which is derived primarily from grant revenues and clinical income,” Baker said.

“The medical school is self-supporting, so it has a separate budget from the rest of the University. It does not have an annual salary increase pool. However, Dean [Arthur] Levine provides guidelines for annual salary increases that are generally based on the University’s annual salary pool increase,” he said.

Baker told the University Times he expects to present Montelaro’s response for open discussion at BPC’s next meeting, set for June 19.

“I have been elected chair of the budget policies committee start ing July 1 and will make a report to Faculty Assembly when it is appropriate to do so,” Baker said.

• Assembly members agreed to file another request to the Provost’s office to loosen the ban on mass emailing.

In lobbying for greater access to email lists, James Becker said that the small number of voters in the recent Senate elections was due in part to the constraints on alerting voters via email of the voting deadline. “I was happy to see that the policy limiting mass internal emails restricts important information-sharing,” he said.

• Pitt police officer Nathaniel Forney demonstrated the proper way to use an automated external defibrillator, the portable electronic device designed for the layperson to provide emergency aid to victims of cardiac arrhythmias.

—Peter Hart

JUNE 11, 2009
Staff reps concerned about morale

Staff leaders from Pitt’s five campuses met last week to discuss workplace issues common to them.

Those issues included: communication channels between staff members and the administration of the respective campuses; communication channels between the regional campus staff groups and the Pittsburgh campus Staff Association Council (SAC), flex-
time annuities for staff, and morale concerns.

Several of the leaders at the meeting said that communication between the Pitt staff is as low as it has ever been. They agreed that morale among their respective constitu-
encies is due in large part to the floundering national economy and the lack of raises for fiscal year 2010.

(Chancellor Mark Norden-
berg announced in January that there would be no increase in the FY10 salary pool because of static revenue and a bleak overall economy.)

In a report on behalf of the Pitt regional campus groups, SAC President Rich Colwell summarized some of the concerns he has heard during the last year as well as those heard during a dinner meeting on June 3 with some regional campus representatives.

“There is concern about morale related to no raises for faculty and staff,” Colwell told the group at the June 4 meeting in the Cathedral of Learning’s Babcock Room that “Colwell said, ‘We will go down with a job.’”

According Colwell, the most common down-
turn, regional campus staff members wondered about the feasibility of continuing construction projects on the Pittsburgh campus and, to a lesser extent, on their respective campuses, Colwell said.

“But I told them some of these projects are already started and you don’t want to abandon them and a lot of the money that pays for them comes from the state,” Colwell said.

He said the raise issue also ties supervisors’ hands, including those of professors. “If employees are similar positions are performing a different quality of work, salary increases are the most tangible way to reward the better performer,” Colwell said. “Not being able to do that can have a big effect on morale.”

The salary pool freeze also calls into question the usefulness of the annual job performance evaluation process, where staff members meet individually with their supervisors to discuss their job effectiveness as a precursor to raise decisions, Colwell said.

“It may seem like a waste of time, but it’s not so the freeze but it isn’t real, because staff should still want to find out how they can improve their job perfor-
mance,” he said.

Monika Losagio noted that SAC’s salary and job classification committee, which she chairs, has proposed non-monetary alter-
 natives to salary increases on a one-year-only basis. (See May 28 University Times.)

The committee also has pro-
posed Pitt’s administration offering early retirement packages for staff as a potential long-term cost-saving measure, Losagio reported.

Regarding flex-time for staff, a longstanding issue, Colwell said that Pitt’s policies provide for flex-
time only at the discretion of the supervisor.

SAC’s efforts to modify Pitt’s policies to encourage supervi-
sors to offer flex-time have been re-
jected, but he said SAC will continue to advocate for flex-
time. “We will keep doing it because it’s good for morale,” he said — with their respective campus presidents.

“Our officers meet with the chancellor and the executive vice chancellor regularly,” as well as with Ron Frisch, associate vice chancellor of Human Resources, Colwell said. “I also can call them up and get a meeting if there is an issue I want to raise. I strongly rec-
ommend that you have meetings with your campus president. How else are you going to know what’s really going on?” he said.

The combined groups agreed to pursue the possibility of video-conferencing the monthly Pitt/Pittsburgh SAC meetings to the regional campuses to increase their participation.

“We welcome reports from the regional campuses at our meetings, but it’s not the same as entering into a meeting,” Colwell said. He noted that more than a decade ago SAC meetings were broadcast to the regions in a pilot program of the Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education, but that the cost became too prohibitive to continue the practice.

At the June 4 meeting, regional campus staff leaders summarized the activities that their groups sponsored during the past year.

Bradford

Brandi Darr, in her second year as president of the Pitt- Greensburg SAC Staff Association, reported that Michelle Shuey (vice president) and Jane Strittmatter (treasurer) are recently elected officers of the group.

Darr noted that Shuey and Strittmatter ran unopposed, indi-
cating a certain amount of apathy.

The Staff Association leaders represent about 100 staff at the Greensburg campus. The officers meet sporadically with campus President Sharon Smith at Smith’s discretion, Darr said.

The association is on pace to raise $10,000 within five years to endow a scholarship, Darr said. The Student Resources Endowed Scholarship drive was launched in August and $1,000 from a two-year commitment from an anonymous donor.

The UPG staff group’s fund-
raising initiatives for the scholar-
ship includes printer cartridge and paper recycling programs, which have netted about $150 per month.

Other projects included:

• Partnering with the People-
Soft user group to offer Excel training classes.

• Sponsoring monthly events such as bingo, bowling, a picnic and “pinata Thursday,” with lot-
tery tickets included in the pinata’s contents.

• Holding lunches at various campus buildings to better con-
nect staff.

Staff leaders from Pitt’s five campuses held their annual meeting June 4 in the Cathedral of Learning’s Babcock Room.

Stuart Robinson
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A n annual ranking of how salaries for Pitt professors and librarians compared with Association of American Universities (AAU) public university peers found full professors on the Pittsburgh campus falling from No. 14 to No. 15 in a group of 34 peers, while associate professors jumped eight places to No. 15. Pitt’s rank for assistant professors and librarians’ average pay remained unchanged at No. 26 and No. 20, respectively, compared to last year’s report.

The report covers instructional faculty and does not include clinical faculty from Pitt’s medical school, although those in the medical school’s basic science departments are included. Broadly defined, instructional faculty is defined as those who spend 50 percent or more of their time in the classroom. “Not only is it formal classroom instruction, it is supervision of doctoral students, it is post-doc supervisor,” he said.

The report showed Pitt professors’ average salary increased in their average pay, which rose from $80,400 to $85,600. Associate professors at Pitt saw their average salaries rise 5 percent, from $67,700 to $71,100, however, their ranking, tied for No. 26 with Indiana University-Bloomington, lagged far behind No. 1 University of Maryland-College Park, where assistant professors averaged $83,400. Pitt librarians’ average salaries rose 4 percent, from $64,000 to $66,700. Ranked No. 20, their pay was near the median of the group. Rutgers University-New Brunswick, where librarians averaged $88,900, ranked No. 1.

The ranking for Pitt’s assistant professors drew the most discussion during the report’s May 29 presentation to the University Senate budget policies committee by Robert Goga, assistant director of institutional research. BPC co-secretary Philip Wion pointed out that the dollar amounts in the assistant professor category were closely clustered just above Pitt’s average salary figure. Had Pitt’s average salary of $71,100 been just $500 higher, Pitt would have placed 23rd instead of 26th in the assistant professor category.

Pack noted a past issue, particularly in science areas, “where you would lose a lot of promising people in about their fourth or fifth year, just when they’re starting to develop a reputation and their research is now funded. They came in sort of low and they’re recruited, he said. “You don’t want that to happen, particularly in areas where you have to invest a lot in startup. ... You don’t want to throw away four or five years’ worth of infrastructure development.”

Pack said administrators look at more detailed department-by-department comparisons with the AAU peers and pass along the numbers to the appropriate deans to inform their hiring practices.

“We are looking closely, particularly at the assistant professor data, by department,” he said.

The annual report, prepared by Pitt’s Office of Management Information and Analysis, uses salary data (converted to a nine-month equivalent) taken from the American Association of University Professors’ (AAUP) report on the economic status of the profession, published in the March-April issue of Academe. (See April 30 University Times.) Librarians’ salary data come from the Association of Research Libraries’ annual salary survey.

The figures are not adjusted for cost of living, region or discipline.

Pack noted that the annual rankings are impacted by changes in the individual faculty members reported in each category in a particular year. “This is always people in the rank in the year, so the composition is always different,” said Pack.

For instance, “If we’re hiring more than other schools, we tend to have more people in the lower assistant professor ranks, more of them in the first couple of years of their appointment. We have no way to compare that with other schools,” he said. In addition, the academic areas in which faculty are being added can sway the rankings. “It depends on whether you’re hiring a lot of scientists or you’re hiring a lot of humanists,” Pack said.

(Note: The 2007-08 survey presented to BPC and reported on in the May 29, 2008, University Times did not include six universities of California peers, for which data were not available at the time. However, the new report’s prior-year rankings are based on more complete information that was published in the July/August issue of Academe, which included the California schools.)

Category IIB Regional

Although several proposals for alternate peer groups for IIB regional campus faculty salary comparisons have been floated over the past several years at Pitt, no consensus has been reached. Professors at Pitt’s three Category IIB regional campuses continue to be ranked in an 18-member peer group of regional campus faculty of public AU institutions. This year’s ranking, however, did not include salary information from Texas A&M University- Galveston and the University of Virginia’s College at Wise, which did not submit information for the AAUP survey.

Penn State, which reports all of its IIB campuses as a unit, led in all faculty ranks. Its IIB regional campus campus professors earned an average of $101,600, associate professors averaged $76,300, and assistant professors averaged $61,200.

The group average salary (excluding Pitt’s regional campuses) for professors was $87,300 (up from $82,100 last year), for associate professors $66,800 (up from $64,900), and for assistant professors $37,700 (up from $35,800).

For a detailed comparison of all schools in the IIB regional campus salary comparison group as well as the category III group that includes Pitt-Titusville, see chart on page 8.

Pitt-Bradford

The average salary for all ranks of faculty at Pitt-Bradford rose in comparison with their peer groups, with professors and assistant professors both moving from the bottom of the ranking.

Pitt-UPB professors came from last place to No. 14 with average pay increasing from $66,900 to $74,500.

Associate professors at UPB moved up from No. 17 to No. 12 with their average pay rising from $58,600 to $63,000.

Assistant professors rose to No. 10 in the current survey, their average pay increased from $47,000 to $51,400.

Pitt-Greensburg

Pitt-Greensburg’s professors ranked No. 11, unchanged from last year’s survey, while their average salary rose from $76,700 in FY07-08 to $77,800 in FY08-09.

UPG associate professors ranked No. 14, unchanged from last year, while their average salary rose from $65,600 to $61,180.

The average salary for UPG’s assistant professors dropped a notch to No. 15, while the average rose from $49,100 to $50,680.

Pitt-Johnstown

Professors at Pitt-Johnstown fell one place to No. 16, which placed them last among the IIB peers reporting data for FY08-09. UJP’s professors averaged $55,800, up from $51,500 last year.

Associate professors ranked No. 10, up from No. 15, with average pay of $63,700, up from $60,400 last year.

Assistant professors placed at No. 14, up from No. 17 last year, averaging $57,800. Their average pay is $47-08 was $48,700.

Category III

Pitt-Titusville, the University’s sole Category III institution, is ranked in a three-member peer group made up of Penn State’s Category III campuses (reported as a single unit) and the University of Wisconsin Colleges.

UPT professors ranked third, unchanged from last year’s survey. Their average pay in the 2007-08 survey was $57,800 but salary data were not revealed in this year’s ranking because the number of UPT full professors fell from four to three. The survey does not display salary information when there are three or fewer individuals in a rank.

The group average, excluding UPT, was $74,900, up from $72,800 last year.

UPT’s associate professors remained at No. 2 with an average salary of $55,100, up $52,100 last year. The group average, excluding UPT, was $64,100.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
Pitt argues for return of last-minute investment funds

In an attempt to reduce the University’s potential losses, Pitt lawyers are arguing for the return of $21.25 million that was sent to an investment firm just as the fund operators’ apparent misappropriation of investors’ funds was being uncovered.

Pitt filed a claim last month in state Commonwealth Court against the operators of Continucap, a Connecticut-based WG Trading Co. Ltd. On Feb. 6, just days before regulators had shut it down, Paul Greenwood and Stephen Walsh for failure to cooperate with an audit.

The National Futures Association, an independent self-regulatory group for the futures industry, on Feb. 12 took an emergency enforcement action against the two, prohibiting them and their firms from soliciting new investments, trading or transferring funds.

The two subsequently were arrested by the FBI and charged with operating a Ponzi scheme and wire fraud. They are accused of misappropriating investors’ money in an apparent Ponzi scheme through which they funded extravagant lifestyles. Pitt and CMU also have been Wilde Pond clients, although CMU announced earlier this year that it had terminated its relationship with the consultant. Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill said the University continues to retain Wilde.

In a joint complaint filed Feb. 20 in federal court in Pittsburgh against the fund operators and their related firms, Pitt sought damages in excess of $65 million and CMU sought damages of more than $49 million.

That lawsuit has been stayed while separate actions filed by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Securities Exchange Commission go forward in federal court in New York. (See March 5 University Times.)

The SEC suit charged that “Greenwoodland Walsh/has involved their affiliated entities to engage in an egregious investment fraud” and that the “wired client money invested in their (partnership) WG Trading Investors” as their personal piggy-bank to furnish lavish and luxurious lifestyles. The University, in its June 1 claim, noted that although the report does not disclose investors’ identities, “the University has been able to identify those entries purported to show its account information. This report data does not show the University’s $21.25 million was ever removed, transferred, dissipated or invested by defendants,” adding that the University believes that the money it transferred Feb. 6 remains in WGTC’s accounts, “is directly and easily traceable to the University, is not a part of the receivables estate, and should not be subject to claim by, or distribution to, any other party seeking to withdraw or recover funds from WGTC, any of the other limited partners of WGTC, or any other investor victimized by the Westridge defendants.”

In its report to the court, Robb Evans & Associates stated it intends to file a proposed claims verification procedure with the court by June 30, after which the issue of distribution procedures may be addressed. —Kimberly K. Barlow

Faculty salary comparison survey presented at BPC meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The campus’s assistant professors also remained at No. 2 with an average salary of $49,500, up from $47,500 last year. The group average, excluding UPT, was $54,200.

In other BPC business:

• Officers were elected, with Capt. Richard Pendergrast, emeritus, physics and astronomy; Jay Sukits, Katz Graduate School of Business, and Wion, as chair.

• BPC discussed how to proceed with its responsibility to review whether Pitt’s planning and budgeting system (PBS) processes are followed and to monitor implementation of the University’s policy after receiving an annual report from the Office of Budget and Controller outlining the existence of planning and budgeting committees in units where they are required.

In addition to providing rosters of their PBC membership, units for the first time were asked to describe their salary notification and salary reevaluation processes. The committee agreed to seek clarification from units whose answers were unclear. (See story on page 1.)

• Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Resources Management Robert F. Pack and Health Sciences vice director Richard Henderson agreed to follow up and report to BPC at its next meeting.

• BPC’s next meeting is set for noon-2 p.m. June 19 in 501 Cathedr al of Learning. University Treasurer Amy Marsh has been invited to address the committee. —Kimberly K. Barlow

PROFESSORS

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** No data provided by institution.

** No data is not displayed when there are three or fewer individuals in a rank.

Treatments for diabetic heart patients continue

A study by researchers in the Graduate School of Public Health found that heart disease fell among patients with type 2 diabetes and stable heart disease who received insulin-sensitizing drugs or angioplasty compared to drug therapy alone.

The study, which focused exclusively on patients with both conditions, appears in June 11 issue of the journal Medical Care and was presented at a recent session of the American Diabetes Association.

The researchers also found that while prompt bypass surgery in patients with more severe heart disease did not lower mortality, it lowered their risk of subsequent major cardiac events.

Principal investigator Sheryl F. Kelsey, professor of epidemiology and biostatistics, said, "We don't know how best to treat this deadly duo that is affecting more and more people at increasingly younger ages. Our results provide needed guidance about which approach can best help these patients."

The study, coordinated by GSPH's Cardiometabolism Technology Center, involved 49 clinical sites in the United States and abroad. Results were based on 3,168 patients with both type 2 diabetes and stable heart disease who were randomized to take either no special care to control their cholesterol and blood pressure. Patients were randomized to receive either insulin-sensitizing drugs in addition to prompt revascularization to restore blood flow — either angioplasty to open blocked arteries or bypass surgery.

The study was not a comparison between angioplasty and bypass surgery, but rather a comparison between a prompt procedure and medical therapy alone.

The investigators also looked at which of two diabetes drug treatments resulted in the better results — in better outcomes — insulin-providing (increasing the amount of insulin the body makes), and insulin-sensitizing (lowering the body's resistance to its own insulin, such as metformin or oral sulfonylureas).

The results show that five-year survival rates did not differ significantly between the revascularization group (88.1 percent) and the drug therapy group (87.8 percent). In addition, there was no significant difference in survival between those who received insulin-sensitizing drugs (87.9 percent) and those who received insulin-sensitizing drugs (88.2 percent) alone.

However, in the group that received bypass surgery, the rate of any complications (including heart attacks, strokes and death) was significantly lower (22.4 percent) compared to those who received drug therapy alone (30.5 percent). This benefit appeared to be related to the patients who underwent bypass and received insulin-sensitizing drugs.

"These findings from earlier this year, a research team led by Andrew F. Stewart, professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, has shown in mouse experiments that knocking out two cell cycle proteins leads to robust replication of insulin-producing beta cells. The results were presented recently at a meeting of the American Diabetes Association in a paper published in one of the ADA's journal Diabetes.

Stewart said, "These proteins act like brakes to prevent regenerative potential of beta cells. It's a redundant system, so removing just one of the proteins isn't enough to make beta cells replicate."

In earlier studies, endocrinologist professor Arjun Narahari, who is working with Stewart, assessed mice that lacked a key regulator of cell division called replication protein p(r)b, but the loss of p(r)b alone did not make beta cells regenerate.

"In the current study, lead author George Harb, postdoctoral fellow in endocrinology, engineered mice to lack the gene for a similar cell cycle protein called p107, but there was no impact on beta cell production."

His next step was to engineer mice deficient in both proteins, which resulted in a marked increase in beta cell replication.

Stewart noted, "The cell cycle has yet another protein, called p130. Now we want to see what happens to beta cell numbers if we knock out any of the two or three.

In an online publication in Diabetes in January, another of his research teams showed that human beta cells could be induced to replicate by boosting levels of cell cycle proteins cdk-6 and cyclin D1 using gene therapy techniques. When study co-author Nathalie Fiaschi-Taché, professor in Pitt's endocrinology division, transplanted those engineered cells into diabetic mice, blood sugar levels normalized.

The Pitt researchers also plan to examine the effects of gain or loss of other cell cycle proteins to identify targets that might make it possible to engineer giving patients more insulin-producing cells. "We know that both type 1 and type 2 diabetes are caused by beta cell deficiencies," Stewart said.

"And while we work on making more beta cells, each person is trying to tame the autoimmune problems that cause a reduction in cell number. Ultimately both issues have to be addressed to cure diabetes for a cure."

The research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), and the Don and Arleen Wagner and the Pam and Scott Kroh family foundations. Harb also is supported by a JDRF fellowship award.

Funds awarded for anthrax research

Safem Khan, professor in the School of Medicine's microbio-

logists and medical genetics department, has been awarded a $416,625 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases R01 grant for "Role of RepX Protein in Replication/Partitioning of Anthrax Toxin Plasmid pXO1." The project is 2-year research project will identify the domains of RepX protein important in its replication and segregation activities as well as genes involved in the copy number control and stability of the pXO1plasmid in Bacillus anthracis.

The research also will identify the cellular proteins that interact with the RepX protein and co-localize RepX and pXO1 DNA in vivo.

The proposed studies could lead to a better understanding of the elements involved in the stable replication and segregation of the pXO1 plasmid and may contribute to the future development of plas-
mid-specific therapeutic drugs that can reduc e the virulence of Bacillus anthracis and related organisms.

Mini surgery aids esophageal cancer patient

Patients with esophageal cancer who require surgery benefit from having minimally invasive surgery instead of an open esophagectomy, or removal of the esophagus, according to a University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) phase II study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

Lead investigator James D. Luketich, professor of surgery at the School of Medicine and co-director of UPCI's lung and esophageal cancer program, said that esophageal cancer surgery rates have risen more than 400 percent in the past 20 years, the most rapid increase among all cancers.

In a single-institution study previously has demonstrated success with minimally invasive esophagec-

tomies (MIE). This multi-center study is enrolling patients from 16 institutions across the country. Of those patients, 99 percent qualified for and received an MIE. While overall survival rates remained the same whether a patient received an MIE or an open procedure, surgical mortality rates were lower and hospital stay showed for MIE patients.

Co-investigator and professor of surgery Arjun Narahari pre-

sented the work at a recent meet-
ing of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. He said, "The best treatment for this disease is removal of the tumor, and if we can do the necessary surgery with MIE and reduce recovery times and mortality rates, then patients will benefit enormously."

Luketich added, "With this cancer on the rise, we need to do everything we can to increase patients' survival. MIE is an ideal surgery because it encourages faster healing and less time spent inside the hospital, where patients can be exposed to infections and other complications. The more quickly patients recover, the more quickly they can begin other forms of treatment they might need."

Sustainability grants continue

The Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation recently awarded three research grants to Pitt faculty members.

• Mark Kimber of mechanical engineering and materials science was awarded $34,280 for "Envi-

ronmental Impact and Energy Efficiency of Liquid Cooled Data Centers."

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Bong Jee Lee of mechanical engineering and materials science and Albert C. To of civil and environmental engineering were awarded $46,446 for "Multiscale Multifunctional Bandgap Structured Materials for Sustainable Buildings."

Steven P. Levitan of electrical and computer engineering and Donald M. Chiarulli of computer science were awarded $10,556 for "Building Information Modeling for Sustainability."

Blacks more likely to want life-extending treatment

When faced with a terminal illness, African-American seniors were two times more likely than whites to say they would want life-prolonging treatments, according to a Pitt study funded by the National Institute on Aging.

The study, led by Amber E. Barnato, professor of medical, clinical and translational science and health policy, was based on interviews and surveys with more than 2,800 Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, making it the largest nationally representative sample of U.S. seniors' end-of-life treatment preferences.

"The research is available online at http://springerlink.com/content/e8520l2he12hl181/fulltext/pdf in the June issue of the Journal of General Internal Medicine."

Overall, the majority of Medicare beneficiaries surveyed preferred to die in a hospital or to receive life-sustaining measures at the end of life. When asked about their preferences for living longer, 70 percent of African American seniors (18 percent) than whites (8 percent) reported that they would prefer to die in a hospital.

African Americans (28 percent) also were more likely than whites (15 percent) to report that they would opt for life-prolonging drugs, even if the treatment made them feel worse. Only 49 percent of African Americans compared to 74 percent of whites responded that they would want potentially life-shortening palliative drugs (for pain and comfort only).

Lastly, when asked whether they would opt for mechanical ventilation to extend their lives for a week, 24 percent of African Americans said they would, compared to 20 percent of whites. When mechanical ventilation would extend life by one month, this percentage rose to 47 percent in African Americans, compared to 31 percent in whites.

"By presenting this information about personal and social factors that might explain the relationship between African Americans and preference for more intensive end-of-life treatment, we can move closer toward a more optimistic view of the ability of mechanical ventilation, a breathing machine, to save lives and return people to their normal activities explained some, but not all, of this difference."

Although the study looked at differences in treatment preferences by race, Barnato cautioned it should not be viewed as an invitation to generalize. "As doctors, we should ask each patient and family about their goals of treatment, then offer the treatments that meet those goals, rather than making assumptions about treatment preferences based on race."
Alec Stewart, the Bernice L. and Marion S. Leroy Endowed Professor of Education and dean of the University Honors College at Pitt, recently received the Simon Award for Excellence in Education from the Kiwanis Club of Oak for his contributions in teaching and administration.

Stewart joined Pitt’s Department of Physical Education in 1973. In 1979, he became the first director of the University honors program, which he helped design. Under his leadership, this program emerged with an educational emphasis on intellectual scope and student attainment and became the University Honors College in 1984, with Stewart as its inaugural dean.

With Stewart at the helm, the Honors College has developed innovative, challenging and popular extracurricular programs for undergraduate students, including the on-campus Brackenridge program, field-study programs in Yellowstone National Park and Pitt’s Campus at Spring Creek Preserve in Wyoming, and study abroad programs in Mongolia.

In addition to serving as Honors College dean, Stewart continues to teach an honors course in the physics department.

The Simon Award is named after Janet Simon, who retired from Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children (WPSPC) after 30 years, serving most recently as its executive director. The award seeks to recognize a local leader in children or young adult education.

The Kiwanis Club makes a donation in honor of the awardee to the charity of his or her choice, and the recipient of this year’s contribution is WPSPC.

Cynthia Golden, a vice president of the nonprofit professional association EDUCASE, has been named director of Pitt’s Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education effective Aug. 1.

Based in Washington, D.C., and Boulder, Colo., EDUCASE serves higher education information technology professionals in the areas of instruction and learning, research and scholarship, and administrative and leadership support. Golden, who works for EDUCASE out of Washington’s office, earned her Master of Science degree in information science and technology in 1993 and graduat- ed cum laude with a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1989.

Prior to joining EDUCASE in 2001, Golden held senior management positions at Duquesne University, where she led the educational technology effort and served as executive director of computing and technology services and the director of the Center for Distance Learning.

Golden Duquesne included leading aspects of instructional design, distance education, computer labs, media services and other technology units, and working with the provost, dean and faculty.

Prior to her work at Duquesne, she was a manager in the Information Systems Technology Center at MIT. Golden’s career began in 1984 at Carnegie Mellon University, where she held the position of associate director of administrative systems.

Staff members in the Office of Public Affairs received six awards at the annual public relations awards ceremony held last month.

Robert Hill, vice chancellor for Public Affairs, won first place in the magazine category with his May 14, 2008, magazine award for “Address to African American Chamber of Commerce,” written and annotated in the spring 2009 issue with the theme “Black and Gold 2009.

Gary Cravener, art director for Pitt magazine, won the sole award given in the magazine illustration category for “Flying Lessons” in the magazine’s winter 2008 issue.

Senior editor Ervin Dyek “Charles Florence, the Great Debater” in the summer 2008 issue of Pitt magazine won a first-place award in the magazine features category.

A Pitt magazine editor-in-chief Cindy Gill’s “The M Factor, Audrey Murrell and Mentoring” in the spring 2008 issue won second place in the magazine illustration category.

Sharon S. Blake, Amanda Jeff, Morgan Kelly and Jane Ellen Robinett of the Pitt Chroni- cle placed second in the newspaper series category with their “Black History Month Series.”

Three affiliates of the University of Richmond and Eastern International exchange programs, and Bob Donnor, former associate director of the Center for Russian and East European Studies, have been selected to receive the 2009 LaMorr Koop Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to international education.

Lead author Kristine Lailey, director of international engagement, an assistant professor of administra- tion, professor of economics and director of the Katz Graduate School of Business at the Katz Graduate School of Business, and Ervin Dyer, an assistant professor of business administration student, will receive the Best Paper Award from the American Society of Engineering Education.

The award-winning paper is titled “Evaluating a Short-Term, First-Year Study Abroad Program for Engineering Undergraduates: The Impact on the Student Learning Experience.”

Melissa Somma McGivney, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics and director of the community practice residency program at the School of Phar- macy, has received the first-place award in the magazine category with his May 14, 2008, magazine award for “Charles Florence, the Great Debater” in the summer 2008 issue of Pitt magazine won a first-place award in the magazine features category.

The award is presented to international educators who have demonstrated long-standing excel- lence and leadership in the field of international education.

Robert Heinrich, professor of political science at Pitt’s John- son Hall campus, is next expected with the 2009 David A. Portlock Outstanding International Educa- tor Award. This award recognizes international educators in mid-career who have exhibited ongoing mentoring of colleagues in the field and exemplary leadership in international education on their campuses.

We welcome submissions from all areas of the University. Send information to Pitt’s daily e-mail newsletter, at pitte@pitt.edu, fax or phone to 314/365-4724, or to 314/365-4724.

For submission guidelines, visit www.ume.pitt.edu/utimes/deadlines.html online.
By Dr. John Hart

Q. I’ve heard that some diseases, like heart disease, are related to how healthy your teeth are. Is that true?

Tim L.

A Great question, Tim! Keeping your teeth and gums healthy really may protect you from other health problems.

Science is discovering more and more reasons why it is so important to make proper oral hygiene a priority. Brushing, flossing, and regular visits to your dentist not only help protect your teeth from cavities, but also help guard against gingivitis and other types of gum disease. The buildup of bacteria that causes gum disease can also spread infection throughout the body and cause even more serious health problems.

A lot of research has been done lately on the relationship between the condition of our teeth and gums and the rest of our body. While we still have a lot to learn, some links have been found between advanced gum disease, or periodontitis, and systemic health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and respiratory infection. Periodontitis may even put pregnant women at risk of pre-term birth.

The link works both ways. Some signs and symptoms of systemic diseases, such as AIDS and leukemia, may first display evidence as sores in your mouth; the uncontrolled blood sugar of undiagnosed diabetes may show as increased tooth decay; and loose teeth may be a sign of osteoporosis.

At our office, we create a treatment plan for each patient that addresses their particular needs. As part of our standard dental exam, we perform an oral cancer screening, which can detect the early warning signs of oral cancer, leading to earlier diagnosis and more effective treatment. We also look for any unusual sores or other danger signs and, if we see anything out of the ordinary, we will refer you to a physician. We want to help our patients have healthy mouths and healthy bodies!

Complimentary Custom Teeth Whitening

3 Minutes A Day—Proven Zero Sensitivity
Upon Completion of Your New Patient Initial Visit & Follow-Up Professional Cleaning Appointment.

(An AGI Value of $120)

Keep your 6 month recare visits and receive free whitening gel annually.

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THURSDAY 11

CHP Pediatric Grand Rounds
“Meal In Pittsburgh 2009: What Can We Learn From the Recent Outbreak?” Marian Michaud, Rango Research Ctr. 1st fl. conf. ctr., 8-9 am

ULS Digital Academy Conference

HSLS Workshop
“Adobe Photoshop for Beginners,” Sam Lewis, Falk Library, 2-10 am-noon

FRIDAY 12

SBDC Workshop
“The 1st Step: Mechanics of Starting a Business”, 171 Merivis, 7:30-10 am (8-1424)

SATURDAY 13

Bone & Joint Health Presentation
“Hip, Knee Arthritis & Joint Replacement Surgery,” Anthony DiGiora, Magee zero level and, 8-15 am noon (412)682-4299

Wednesday 17

Orthopaedic Surgery Presentation
“Celebrating 100 Years of Orthopaedics in Pittsburgh,” 30 Years of Cartilage Research in Pittsburgh,” Freddie Fu & David Silver, LHAS and Montefiore, 7-8 am

Education School Law Symposium
WPU Assembly Rm., Kurtzman Rm. & lower lobby, 8 am-4 pm (8-7175)

Pathology Research Seminar
“Sinoaortic Obstruction Syndrome (Veno-occlusive Disease): A Tale of Injury & Failed Repair,” Laurie DeLeve, USC; 1105 Scaife, noon

CIDDIE Live Webcast
“Use the FIDL, Video Booth (LiveFromSFDI)”, https://ciddde-web.ciddde.pitt.edu/IntCast/default.asp?mCast=ITmCast, 12:15 pm

SAC Mtg.
1175 Benehmen, 12:15-2 pm

Thursday 18

CHP Pediatric Grand Rounds
“Renal Replacement Therapy: Where Do We Go From Here?” John Kellum; Rango Research Ctr. 3rd fl. conf. ctr., 8-9 am

HSLS Workshop
“PowerPoint for Beginners & Advanced PowerPoint,” Sam Lewis, Falk Library classroom, 2-10 am-2 pm

Integrative Medicine Lecture
“What Is Yoga?” Alcja Walczak; 580 S. Aken Ave., suite 310, Shadyside, 5:30-7 pm (412/623-1023)

Pitt Bradford Art Exhibit Opening
“Roger Han: Art, Times & Tragedy,” KOA Art Gallery, Bladder, 7:30 pm

Friday 19

Senate Budget Policies Committee Mtg.
101 C.L, noon-2 pm

Microbiology & Molecular Genetics Seminar
“Hyper-Virulence: Microphage Infection is Dependent on Capsid & Host Cell Factors,” 1295 Starzl BST, 7:45 am-4:15 pm

Oakland Farmers’ Market
Semonst St. between Meyran & Armstrong, 9:30-10:30 am

Saturday 20

• Summer 6-week-1 session grades must be approved by 5 pm.

• Summer 6-week-2 session add/drop period ends.

• Summer 4-week-2 session deadline for students to submit monitored withdrawal forms to dean’s office.

Pathology Research Seminar
“The TGB-β Pathway in Liver & Gastrointestinal Cancer Stem Cells,” Lopa Mishra, George town; 1105 Scaife, noon

CIDDIE Live Webcast
“Do It Yourself Course Casting”, https://ciddde-web.ciddde.pitt.edu/IntCast/default.asp?mCast=ITmCast, 12:15 pm

HSLS Workshop
“Protein Analysis Tools,” Ansuman Chattopadhyay; Falk Library, noon-1 pm

Tuesday 23

CHP Molecular Medicine Research Seminar

CVR Seminar
Malaria-Induced Inflammation & Dendritic Cell Response,” Ana Rodriguez; 6014 BST, noon-1 pm

Microbiology & Molecular Genetics Seminar
“The Developmental Functions of PPARs,” Yaacov Barak; 1295 Starzl BST, 1-2 pm

HSLS Workshop
“EndNote Basics,” Atahal Salem, Falk Library classrm. 2, 1:30-3:30 pm

Wednesday 24

• Summer 6-week-1 session grades must be approved by 5 pm.

• Summer 6-week-2 session add/drop period ends.

• Summer 4-week-2 session deadline for students to submit monitored withdrawal forms to dean’s office.

Bipolar Disorder Conference Convention Ctr., Downtown; 7-4:30 am-11 pm (also June 26, 7:45 am-7:30 pm; June 27, 7-4:30 am; www.8thbipolar.org)

CHP Pediatric Grand Rounds
“Does Anesthesia &/or Surgery Make You Better? Peter Davis; Rango Research Ctr. 1st fl. conf. ctr., 8-9 am

PhD Defenses
A&S/Physics & Astronomy
“Rose–Emenstein Condensation of Microvast Polaronics,” Ryan Baraldo Balili, June 11, S100 BST, 7-8 am

GSPI/Biostatistics
“Modeling Missing Covariate Data & Temporal Features of Time-Dependent Covariates in Tree-Structured Survival Analysis,” Meredith Lante, June 12, 109 Parran, 10 am

Medicine/Immunology
“Recipient Dendritic Cells Dictate Allograft Fate,” Sherrie J. Drotto; June 12, S100 BST, 2, 7-8 am

GSPI/Epidemiology
“The Development & Testing of a New Measure of Maternal Functioning,” Jennifer Barkin, June 12, 110 Parran, 3 pm