Proposed state cuts could impact programs, staff, construction here

 Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg said jobs could be cut, research expenditures curtailed and campus construction projects halted if legislators approve proposed cuts to Pitt's state funding.

 In comments July 16 to the Board of Trustees' budget and executive committees, Nordenberg noted the impact of declining state support, including Gov. Edward G. Rendell's plan to eliminate $31 million in state appropriation and federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for the University.

 Nordenberg said, "If that restoration is not made, broader consequences almost certainly will include reductions in personnel although we have worked hard to avoid that — even though our services continue to be in high demand, even though a primary goal of the ARRA is in fact to avert layoffs and create jobs, and even though this region cannot afford to have its one expanding employment sector undermined by inadequate funding.

 "The consequences also will include the elimination of program investments, including seed investments that support our research initiatives, which have become one of the key engines of our 21st century economy and which last year brought more than $650 million of research support into this community — an amount that supports directly and indirectly more than 21,000 local jobs. The consequences would include probably a halt to our already-reduced capital investments in a construction market in which many big projects already have been canceled or placed on hold."

 The state's ongoing budget debates precluded the trustees committees from adopting a fiscal year 2010 budget at their July 16 meeting. However, the committees increased 2009-10 tuition on the Pittsburgh campus 4 percent for most in-state students and 2.5 percent for out-of-state students, leaving open the option of a tuition surcharge later. (See related story.)

 Tuition on the Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown and Titusville campuses remains frozen, as the University announced in April.

 In a prepared statement, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Controller Arthur G. Ramicone said a tuition surcharge could be imposed if reduced state funding levels leave Pitt with a budget gap.

 "In addition, we would need to make up the rest of the deficit through stringent budget reductions that would affect programs, staffing levels and capital projects, along with seed funding CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.

 Forbes Ave. paving to affect night-time traffic

 Traffic on Forbes Avenue near Pitt will be restricted next week during nighttime hours. Between the evening of July 27 and the morning of July 30, Forbes Avenue intersections will be repaved from 7-10 p.m. until 6 a.m. Forbes Avenue intersections at South Bouquet, Oakland, Atwood, Meyran and McKee will be affected. Off-duty police officers and flag bearers will be stationed at multiple intersections to assist with traffic flow.

 The repaving is part of the Hometown Streets refurbishing project, which is sponsored by the Oakland Transportation Management Association and the City of Pittsburgh.

 Most tuition raised 4%, but additional increase possible

 University leaders have approved a 4 percent increase in tuition for most in-state students on the Pittsburgh campus and a 2.5 percent increase for their out-of-state counterparts. However, in light of uncertainty about state funding levels, administrators wouldn't rule out the possibility of a tuition surcharge that Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg said could be imminent.

 "It's conceivable that it could take effect in the fall depending on how quickly the budget is put to rest in Harrisburg and how we're treated in the budget," he said following the July 16 meeting of the trustees budget and executive committees, which approved tuition rates for 2009-10.

 "Tuition on Pitt's Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown and Titusville campuses remains frozen, as the University announced in April, but the 4 percent increase in in-state tuition will apply to graduate and undergraduate students on the Pittsburgh campus, with the exception of students in the School of Medicine.

 "In-state undergraduates in the School of Arts and Sciences (A&S) will see a $512 increase, with two-semester tuition rates rising from $12,832 to $13,344. Out-of-state A&S students will see a 2.5 percent increase, with tuition rising from $22,480 to $23,042, an increase of $562."

 Concurrently, Pitt has increased its financial aid by comparable percentages.

 In his June 16 remarks to the trustees budget and executive committees, Nordenberg said the University had two choices in setting tuition, given the state budget impasse and uncertainty about the amount of Pitt's state appropriation. "Either impose much higher than desirable tuition increases now with the possibility of a later rollback, or effect smaller tuition increases today with the express recognition that significant additional increases could be needed later if our funding is not restored."

 Arthur G. Ramicone, vice chancellor for budget and controller, stated in a prepared release, "After today's announced tuition increase, there is the potential of a $31 million budget gap that would have to be addressed with other actions if commonwealth funding were to remain at the most recently proposed level. Once we know the funding level we will receive from the state and whether we will receive Stimulus Act funding, we may be forced to levy a tuition surcharge to help cover the shortfall from our originally proposed FY 2010 appropriation."

 Following the meeting, Nordenberg said the University's intent has been to "do everything we can to limit the new hardships imposed on our students and their families during these difficult times. We've made that a priority in the actions that we've taken today, but we've also been realistic in saying that unless additional support is forthcoming from the state we'll have no choice but to revisit that decision."

 Reiterating that the University is seeking the restoration of the proposed $31 million in funding cuts, Nordenberg said, "We have specifically left flexibility within the resolution because we don't know how the process of nego- tiation in Harrisburg is going to unfold and we really can't anticipate all of the different results that might come out of that."

 — Kimberly R. Barlow
When I joined the staff of the New York State Archives in Albany in 1986, just as he was preparing to retire, Josey was already known as an influential figure in the library science profession. People spoke of him with respect and affection in Albany and in several Southern states, and he became the first black librarian to achieve national prominence. Josey was a native of Norfolk, Va., and joined us as a youth moved to Portsmouth, Va., growing up in what was then a segregated town. His early exposure to racism informed his whole life, leading him to wide-ranging service in the civil rights movement, particularly as it applied to black librarians and inaccessible libraries.

In 1980 he was the recipient of the Joseph W. Lippincott award, a top honor of the ARLA. The citation of the Lippincott award noted that Josey’s fervent advocacy was a major factor in eradicating racial discrimination in many library faculty positions, and from a number of professional associations. As founder of the Black Caucus in ARLA (in 1970), and as its leader throughout the group’s formative years, he gave a new, strong, unified, and hopeful voice to many minority members of our profession.

In 1984 ARLA conference, Josey authored a resolution forbidding ARLA officers and staff from participating in state library associations that denied services to black librarians. This action led to the integration of the library schools in several Southern states, and he became the first black librarian to achieve national prominence. Josey was a native of Norfolk, Va., and joined us as a youth moved to Portsmouth, Va., growing up in what was then a segregated town. His early exposure to racism informed his whole life, leading him to wide-ranging service in the civil rights movement, particularly as it applied to black librarians and inaccessible libraries.

Josey served on the policy-making ARLA executive committee for three years beginning in 1970. His ARLA service continued with a trip to Canada in 1984–85 when he was named the first black male president of the association and in 2002 when the American Library Association bestowed on him his highest award, honorary membership in the association.

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The ARLA Black Caucus annually awards two E.J. Josey Scholarships to African-American students enrolled in or accepted by ARLA-accredited programs. Josey also was a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for more than 40 years, and served as its president of the New York chapter, N.Y., branch, 1982–86. He received numerous awards from ARLA—most notably, in 1965 the NAACP national office Award for Work With Youth. In 1982 he received the Georgia ARLA conference award, and in 1983 and 1986 he was honored with an award from the ARLA NAACP board.

Regionally, the Pennsylvania Library Association helped Josey in its Distinguished Service Award in 1985. Josey retired from Pitt in 1995, the School of Information Sciences established a scholarship in his honor, the E. J. Josey Endowment Scholarship for Minorities.

Prior to his retirement, Josey was director of the library of Delaware State College from 1955–1959, and from 1959–1966 he was chief librarian and associate professor at Savannah, Ga. He also served on the staff of the Columbia University library, the Pennsylvania Library Association, New York Public Library and, prior to his position at Delaware State, he served as instructor of social sciences and history, 1954–5 and Savannah State, 1955–56. In 1966, Josey was hired by the New York State Education Department’s Division of Library Development; in 1968 he was named chief librarian of the Bureau of Academic and Research Librarians, a position he held until 1976. He served as the first chief of the Bureau of Specialist Library Services at the New York State Library.

Josey earned a degree in administration at Howard University in 1949. Afterward, he attended the School of Library Science at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received an M.L.S. in 1950, followed by a master’s degree in library science from the State University of New York at Albany, earned in 1952. Following high school in Virginia, Josey served in the U.S. Army, 1943–46. Josey was the author or editor of 12 books, including in 1970 The Black Librarian in America, the first book covering the subject exclusively, and its 1994 sequel, The Black Librarian in America Revisited.

He also edited the quarterly journal, The Bookmark, 1976–86. Josey is survived by his daughter, Amina Josey Turner (nee Josey, the Jacqueline Josey) and her husband, William Turner III; his brother, Robert C. Josey, six grandchildren; three step-grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests donations in Josey’s memory go to the E.J. Josey Foundation for Justice and Development. The address is Box 2nd St., Washington, DC 22899.
Two wheels are better than four, according to some Pitt employees

Pitt faculty and staff are part of a growing trend: commuters who have chosen two-wheels over four when it comes to getting to work. Compared to drivers, bike commuters’ numbers are tiny — but growing. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, in 2007 bike commuting rose 38 percent in Pittsburgh from the previous year. On average, 0.77 percent of commuters in large cities got to work by bike. Pittsburgh was No. 11 with 1.1 percent, up from 0.8 percent in 2006; Portland, Ore., ranked No. 1 with 3.9 percent.

Efforts are underway to raise Pittsburgh’s numbers. The city has hired a bike/pedestrian coordinator and developed initiatives designed to improve conditions and increase safety for cyclists, including the addition of bike lane and shared lane pavement markings. (Details on the city’s bicycle plan are available on the bicycle/pedestrian coordinator link at www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/cp.)

The city also has partnered this summer with bicycle advocacy group Bike Pittsburgh to promote Car Free Fridays (carfreefridays.org), which encourages commuters who might otherwise drive to work alone, to choose an alternative — using public transit, walking, biking or carpooling — at least one day a week.

Bike Pittsburgh’s Louis Finkberg said it’s hard to know how many people are participating because the initiative is so new. However, he said, the number of organizational partners involved — more than a dozen — is “unprecedented” compared with similar initiatives such as Bike to Work Day.

At Pitt, it’s hard to pin down how many faculty and staff are commuting by bike. Figures from Pitt’s Office of Parking, Transportation and Services cover only a fraction of Pitt’s bikers: Of 29 bike lockers rented for the spring term, eight were to faculty and staff. In addition, a dozen new bike registrations were submitted during spring term.

Anecdotal evidence — including more people arriving to work in bike attire and fewer parking and gas expenses. “I’m cheap,” he said with a laugh.

“Pittsburgh wasn’t built for bikes,” but riding conditions are improving, said Mark Frey, who commutes by bike to University Marketing Communications in Forbes Pavilion, where he is a web developer. “There are a lot more people out so it’s easier to bike,” he said, noting that cyclists are becoming more visible around town.

In spite of Pittsburgh’s hills, he said, it isn’t difficult cycling in town. “The only thing that freaks me out is downhill in the snow,” said Frey, who bikes year-round.

Frey, who dislikes driving and avoids it whenever he can, said his decision to move back to Pittsburgh after several years in Phoenix was influenced in part by neighborhoods from which he and his wife could walk, bike or bus to the places they want to go.

He bikes to work about one-third of the time, taking the bus on other days. Frey has a four-mile ride of about 20-25 minutes from Point Breeze — about the same time as he’d spend on the bus and “way more fun than standing at the bus stop.”

He volunteered as a bike pool leader when the threat of a Port Authority strike last year forced transit riders to consider other options. He has continued to be listed through Bike Pittsburgh as a bike pool leader for a trip from the East End/Food Co-op to Oakland, but has had no takers.

Frey said he typically puts his work clothes into panniers or a backpack then washes up when he arrives at his office after his short ride. He curated his bike commuting temporarily this spring in favor of walking with a weighted pack as training for the 34-mile Rachel Carson Challenge hike. “Walking was sweeter than biking,” he found.

He said he’s heard his share of negative comments from drivers who don’t want bikes on the road, but is conscientious about respecting pedestrians and drivers, riding with the flow of traffic and obeying traffic signals. If he disrespects the law, he said, “People will think all cyclists are going to behave un predictably.”

Although he considers himself a recreational rider, he averages about 10 miles a day, putting baskets on his bike for trips to the grocery store, as well as biking Downtown to do errands or go to Pirates games.

He enjoys the freedom of being on a bike, getting exercise and saving time. “You get to go out for a while at the end of the day and get to ride,” he said, noting it turns a potentially stressful commute into a stress reliever.

Cost is another factor — although he has an old Saturn, it’s parked as much as possible in favor of the bus or the bike, which saves on parking and gas expenses. “I’m cheap,” he said with a laugh.

Julie Brooks, a doctoral fellow in the School of Education, has several reasons for commuting by bike.

On a political level, she said, “It’s important to me to take some responsibility where I can cut down on the number of cars, parking lots and pollution. Biking is a great alternative to a gas-guzzling vehicle. Individuals making choices leads to collective choices to change environmental issues.”

On a personal level, “It’s great exercise.”

Admittedly “not a morning person,” Brooks said the ride to campus serves as a mood lifter, preparing her for the day.

Brooks estimated she bikes about 70-75 miles a week, including her 4.5-mile work commute from the Regent Square area.

Although she has a car, she said she uses it only when necessary to get out of the city, or to transport things she can’t manage by bike.

Her commute on two wheels takes about 15-20 minutes and “there’s always plenty of parking” when she arrives on campus.

Brooks doesn’t wear special biking clothes for the short commute, noting that it’s easy to freshen up upon arrival. For her, a favorite outfit isn’t far from the last leg of her 15-20 minute trip is downhill through Schenley Park, helping her to cool off a bit before she arrives at campus.

Her short hairstyle is easy to manage and she allows enough time to cool off from the exertion before heading off to teach.

Having no set “uniform” to wear in the classroom is a plus, she said, admitting the details might be more difficult if she were expected to wear a dress or a suit.

Linguistics professor Scott Kiesling has the wardrobe issue covered. Kiesling prefers to not to bike in street clothes, so he periodically brings work attire to his Cathedral of Learning office so he can change after he arrives.

Alarge metal cabinet that looks as though it might contain books and papers instead holds his work wardrobe and biking gear.

His three-mile commute from Squirrel Hill takes 15-20 minutes — often faster than it would take by car. And because it’s mostly downhill on the way to Pitt, “sometimes I’m not even breathing hard.”

Biking home is his chance for exercise and recreation. Depending on his mood, he often takes the long way home — a trip that could be six, 10 or 15 miles, depending on the recreational route he chooses. “That’s my gym,” he said, figuring that he puts in 40-50 miles a week and might hit him in bad weather than about his ability to control his bike.

If conditions are bad enough, he...
Ready to roll? Before you go ...

Linguistics professor and long-time bike commuter Scott Kiesling offers a few tips for new riders:

**Ride confidently and defensively**
- Assume people don’t see you and ride accordingly.
- Take your place in the lane. Don’t ride so far to the right that you’re too close to car mirrors or unable to see oncoming traffic.
- Think of your bike as a vehicle. Avoid riding on sidewalks.

**Don’t skimp on gear**
- That doesn’t mean you need a $4,000 bike, but most important is that the bike fits well. It’s better to pay a little more at a bike shop where staff can fit your bike properly.
- Learn how to fix a tire
- Sturdy tires mean fewer flats, but everyone rides need to learn how to fix a tire.
- “It’s not hard, but it needs to be practiced,” he said. And, carry the tools, a tube and a pump with you.

**Wear a helmet**
- Kiesling knows firsthand: A collision with a driver in Sydney left him with a fractured sinus, a few bruises and a fractured thumb, but he wasn’t seriously hurt.

**Dress properly**
- “There’s no bad weather, only bad clothes,” he said.

Think of how you’ll carry your belongings
- Some people prefer backpacks, others, including Kiesling, dislike riding with them. If panniers are your preference, “get good bags that fit what you want to do,” he said, advising that spending more for good quality bags can be a bargain compared to replacing cheaper ones every season.

Plan your route
- “Don’t think you have to go the way you drive,” he said. “The most direct way might be the harshest or might be more or less safe.”
- In short, consider: How far? How steep? How safe?
- Don’t be shy about asking other bikers about their routes, either in online forums such as the Bike Pittsburgh message boards (available by clicking on resources at www.bike-pgh.org) or by hanging out along the routes and asking other bikers in person.

Just do it
- If biking all the way from home isn’t an option, consider driving part of the way and pedaling the rest.
- And, don’t feel as if you have to bike every day. “It’s worth trying,” Kiesling said. “Even if you say, ‘I’m going to ride when it’s really nice,’ you might get addicted.”

Kiesling is happy to share what he knows with others interested in commuting by bike. Contact him at kiesling@pitt.edu.

The Office of Parking, Transportation and Services offers tips and information for bikers at www.pts.pitt.edu/Commuting/bicycling/.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Glowing ozone detector developed

Pitt researchers have developed a fluorescent substance that glows bright green when exposed to ozone, a harmful gas produced by laser printers, devices that are common in office environments.

The probe works by detecting a change in the color of a substance that is excited by a laser. When exposed to ozone, the substance emits a different color, which can be detected by a microscope.

The Pitt team reported in Nature Chemistry that their device could be used to measure ozone levels in real-time, potentially helping to improve air quality and protect public health.

The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Energy.
They talked to us and advice on external and internal contact with the group, either at Pitt staff members have had some when the group first met, about 50 abilities have changed. Since 2005, the group has changed as job responsibilities have changed. Some 25 staffers regularly attend the group’s meetings, which usually are held every other month. Groome is serving as informal group leader, setting the meeting times and locations as well as scheduling speakers.

In an effort to improve their job performance, more than 50 staff members from across the Pittsburgh campus have established an informal group they call the Pitt Communicators.

One of the founding members, Sonia Gill, director of marketing and communications in the Swanson School of Engineering, explained, “The way it started is a couple of communication professionals like me who had recently started their roles here at Pitt would meet at Panera to talk about our jobs and learn from each other, because we are kind of silos.

“At the beginning about five of us were introduced to each other through UMC (University Marketing Communications), because most if not all of us deal with them. The group grew as we identified people like us who worked at different schools.”

The makeup of the informal group has changed as job responsibilities have changed. Since 2005, when the group first met, about 50 Pitt staff members have had some contact with the group, either at meetings or via email to share tips and advice on external and internal public relations.

According to Gina McDonell Grone, strategic communications manager in the School of Arts and Sciences, about 25 staffers regularly attend the group’s meetings, which usually are held every other month. Groome is serving as informal group leader, setting the meeting times and locations as well as scheduling speakers.

The group welcomes new members, who can join by contacting Grone at 412/383-5346. Following a recent meeting of the group, at which media professionals from the Office of Public Affairs discussed how best to get school-specific news out to the largest number of appropriate news outlets, some of the Pitt Communicators stayed to talk with University Times staff writer Peter Hart.

In addition to Gill and McDonell, the communications professionals included Teralyn Iscrup, Swanson School of Engineering; Dan Bates, Office of Technology Management, and Joan Britten, School of Nursing.

UNIVERSITY TIMES: What are some examples of the kind of people you’ve invited to address your meetings?

Sonia Gill: The whole purpose of this group is for learning, which is why we invited the Pitt Public Affairs professionals. We had a similar talk about media relations once before, but in that case the whole Office of News came, which was wonderful. They gave not such a different talk but focused more on good ways to work with each other, which was very beneficial to us. We also had the University’s web team give a talk. Many of the communicators are responsible for determining their area’s web content.

Teralyn Iscrup: In that case, it was more tips, not so much on how to post things, but for people who use different programs, [Adobe] Dreamweaver and whatnot. UMC gives us templates to work from depending on the program. They will do the actual launch of the web sites for us.

Sonia Gill: They talked to us about trends a little bit, too. About the importance of images, for example. Another timely talk we had was how to deal with our budget, because UMC is a fee-for-service organization. They gave us tips on how to keep costs down.

Gina McDonell Grone: We had a presentation on how to do marketing research, on how we could conduct small-scale research, to do focus groups and surveys and things like that.

I also tried to bring in some

A group of some 25 staff who hold similar jobs as communications professionals across the University have formed an informal network, dubbed the Pitt Communicators, to share their experiences and offer one another support and advice.

Among the Pitt Communicators, clockwise from left, are: Tera- lyn Iscrup, Swanson School of Engineering; Susan McLaughlin, School of Arts and Sciences (A&S); Patricia McGrane, A&S; Gina McDonell Grone; Teralyn Iscrup, Swanson School of Engineering; Sonia Gill, Swanson school, and Dan Bates, Office of Technology Management.

Teralyn Iscrup: Among other things, we discovered some schools are more active at using those. I think it depends extensively on whether they feel their alumni and their students and their faculty are using those. There also are some schools, I think two, that have actual Intranet, and they’re using that to more communicate with their staff and faculty.

Have you invited presenters from outside the University?

Teralyn Iscrup: Yes, we’ve also had someone externally, Jeff Tobe, who came in and talked about creativity in media.

Dan Bates: He’s thing is “Coloring Outside the Lines.” He told us about innovative thinking, thinking about change and how to anticipate it and deal with it.

Gina McDonell Grone: One of the social networking presentations was also from outside the University. We had one on measurements and assessments that focused on web site analysis and measuring responses.

Something that comes up at almost every meeting is that social media opportunity. That’s a really good example of how we can learn from each other, because it’s something we’re all sort of thinking maybe we should be doing, but we don’t know how and we want to learn how others are doing it. We realize that, at least yet, there are no Pitt-wide standards or procedures. Are we allowed to use Facebook pages? It’s a good interactive topic for us.

Teralyn Iscrup: One of the most helpful things that we’ve done has been collaboration with things we pass out at the meeting. We share publications and poll each other on their effectiveness.

Dan Bates: I invited one member who had two versions of a publication. There were two primary colors...
in each of the publications and she would send the samples around the room and asked, "Does this jump out at you more, or do you like this format better?" It was like her little focus group.

Sometimes there are little things that might help. For example, you’re not sure if you should be printing something, that it would be more effective if you can get input on that from each other. Or if we’re trying to get feedback from your students to find out the best strategies to reach our audience. Talking together is really helpful.

Sonia Gill: One of the things I found useful when I first started at Pitt was having in-person meetings to handle the processes in our school, because we do have to self-manage our workload. When I came on board I had to generate a magazine and I didn’t really have anyone guiding me, so it was helpful to learn how my peers gathered information, how they determined what’s important and how not to become involved in their dean for final approval.

Dan Bates: Well, I’m a little different in that I’m not in a school.

I was in the Provost’s office for about five years of my seven-plus years at University Marketing Communications for publications or for News to Public Affairs in general and it allows us to be able to voice our desires and frustrations and so on with UMC, which is a group that we all really should be working with well.

Can we do that maybe more so today than when we began, when all of us were doing our own thing, and some of us, including me, were getting help from outside the University.

Gina McDonnell Grone: It’s a tenuous balance between having the UMC service, because we all have to interact with them at some level, and having a separate venue where we can talk about our problems. Sometimes it’s a tough balance, but I think we tried hard and we’re successfully to place UMC as our advocate and a resource.

Joan Britten: In looking at the loss of print papers, you should look at readership by age or by economic status. My mother can put out 73 cents a day for the paper, but she doesn’t have a computer, and she’s not going to be spending a couple thousand dollars to pay one at the age of 89, or running to the library every day to access the computer.

You’ve got two classes of people — either too old to learn the new technology or too young to one — that are no longer going to have access to the news if we lose print newspapers.

Dan Bates: I’m a firm believer in the print media. But, on the other hand, we’re wrestling with doing more with the Internet, and that’s a tough one. In my case, we’ve tried doing things in a way that you really want to get to speed. (laughs)

So in your responsibilities to communicate your message, do you feel pressure to be more visual-oriented?

Teryl Iscrup: Maybe on a personal level I do. I’m not so sure that it comes directly from the dean or anybody.

One of the things we’re wrestling with is trying to get the buy-in of the younger alumni. The first thought in my head was that we really need to have a strong web relationship to get the alumni to come to us, and to reach them today.

In general, though, I think there needs to be a good combination of print and online media. I know from a personal standpoint, if I want to find a particular story, search option is my best friend. I can control the find mechanism, I find the information I’m looking for and I’m good to go. But I’ll still be taking the bus Downtown, I want to have something physical in my hands. I think a lot of people feel that way. You want that option. You need the choice.

Dan Bates: I still print everything out. I can’t help myself.

Joan Britten: A friend of mine joked that we’ll be a paperless society because soon there will be no paper left.

Sonia Gill: One of the reasons why an Internet presence really has traction in our school is because you can measure it. You can click on a story and find out how many readers it had. So, hopefully, someone is going to do that, maybe a web person who can determine how many people actually opened that email.

Dan Bates: Do you have a web presence at your school?

Sonia Gill: No, it’s June 1.

Dan Bates: I’m frustrated that I don’t have one, and probably will never have one for a while. I feel like I’m starting out with an electric typewriter.

As a content person — which is what we are in many respects — trying to figure out the best ways to package that content, repackage that content, store that content, disseminate it — quite frankly none of our staffs is getting any bigger. So we have to do both.

At the beginning I was thinking that I did so I took a course in it. But I still mail out invitations, with “a fat back form” and all that stuff. Then this year I ran out of time and I had a co-worker help me get the invitation [materials] online, where I email a letter and have people reply online.

Did that work for you?

Dan Bates: I got about the same number of responses. And I was able to follow up with another email letter — no envelope-stuffing involved. So, I guess I’m gradually getting less skeptical.

Gina McDonnell Grone: In Arts and Sciences we’re moving toward using more visual media and online tools, which is due to budget cuts, actually. It’s me working with departments that have tiny budgets anyway and now have no budgets [for public relations materials].

I can finally say, “Let’s do an email newsletter,” and they can’t say anything except yes, because they don’t have money to do a printed newsletter and they want to get the Inooky course at CSS, and I actually enjoy that part of my job. I like the technology part.

Any final thoughts about how the Pitt Communicators meet-ings have helped in your job?

Gina McDonnell Grone: A lot of these conversations also happen by email or phone outside the meeting, just knowing which each of us is good at. For instance, I emailed Sonia a couple of weeks ago to ask about accessing African-American publications, because she had mentioned that area recently. So I can give her quick call or email.

Teryl Iscrup: We also got to know how some of our group have a specialty in their background. For example, Kate [of the Katz Graduate School of Business] has worked on web-engine-search marketing. That was a focus of her [former] job for about 18 months. So I could ask her to meet me and show me what to do and ask did she learn that I can apply here at Pitt. In that sense, we’re also a network in addition to the group meetings.

**Ask the Dentist**

By Dr. John Hart

Q. I’ve heard that being overweight can put you at a higher risk for gum disease. Is that really true?

Anne J.

A. Dear Anne,

Researchers have begun to study this link as more questions are raised about the many ways that our health is related to our systemic health in general. There have been studies that have shown a relationship between obesity and gum disease, particularly in middle-aged people.

In general, a person is considered obese if their weight is at least 30% higher than normal. Most doctors agree that Body Mass Index (BMI) and waist-to-hip ratio are the most significant factors that determine fat distribution. Certain medical conditions, such as diabetes, can also increase a person’s risk of gum disease.

For those who are overweight, losing weight can help improve overall health. This can be accomplished through a combination of diet and exercise. Losing weight can also help reduce stress, which is another factor in gum disease.

Ask the Dentist is a monthly column written by Dr. John Hart, a dentist in Pittsburgh. Questions and comments are welcome and will be answered in a future column. Please send your questions to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Ask the Dentist, 421-681-8011, www.smilesbyhart.com.

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By Dr. John Hart

For: John W. Hart, DDS
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Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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To place an ad in this special back-to-school issue, contact 412/624-4644 or delraso@pitt.edu. The deadline for ad insertion is **August 27**.

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**effective**

The University Times, the faculty and staff newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh, is published bi-weekly and 11,000 copies are distributed to more than 65 locations in Pitt and UPMC facilities located throughout Oakland, Shadyside, Bridgewater Point and the South Side as well as the regional campuses in Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown & Titusville.

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For detailed information about the University Times advertising program, email delraso@pitt.edu, call 412/624-4644, or visit [www.umc.pitt.edu/utimes/advertising.html](http://www.umc.pitt.edu/utimes/advertising.html)
Megan Spence, associate professor in the School of Chemistry, has been selected to receive a National Science Foundation CAREER award based on her research proposal. “Discrepancies in Raft Size Between Cytosolic and Membrane Proteins: Role of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) techniques. Although one-third of eukaryotic proteins are membrane proteins, only a handful have been structurally characterized, putting membrane-associated proteins at the frontier of structural biology. The partly ordered nature of these membrane-associated systems requires researchers to develop new NMR techniques for systems at the solid/liquid interface as well as employing existing solid-state and solution-state NMR technologies.

Audrey Murrell, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy, has won an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' postdoctoral research fellowship. "Murrell has dedicated herself to advancing the small business population, particularly women, and has received an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' postdoctoral research fellowship. Murrell's work on training and education for small business owners has been recognized by the Small Business Administration (SBA) Minority Business Development Program. The award recognizes Murrell's involvement in an initiative for enhancing small business ownership among underrepresented populations.

Several faculty in the Schools of Medicine and Health Sciences have been honored recently. Gonzalo E. Torres, assistant professor in the Department of Neurology, School of Medicine, was honored recently. The award recognizes Murrell's commitment to advancing the small business population, particularly women, and has received an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' postdoctoral research fellowship.

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Proposed cuts could impact Pitt staff, programs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

In response to Rendell’s statement that to date has been one of the region’s primary drivers of employment gains and economic vitality,” he added.

Last September the University sought an 8.5 percent state funding hike for FY10, a level at which administrators told the state they intended to limit tuition increases to 4 percent and raise the compensation package by at least 2 percent. (See Sept. 25, 2008, University Times.)

Nordenberg told the University Times that the salary pool froze, announced in March, enabled the University to hold down tuition increases in spite of today’s vastly different economic prospects.

“One of the big changes in terms of the projections we were making last fall and the projections we are making now is that compen- sation has been frozen within the institution, yet the ‘big budget adjustment,’ he said.

In the FY10 budget request submitted to the state last September, the total personnel compensa- tion line (salaries, wages and staff benefits) was $213 million, $18.685 million higher than the amount available for FY09.

On June 26 Rendell announced a budget proposal that would appropriate $180 million for Pitt—nearly $20.5 million less for a budget proposal that would have included $140 million for Pitt—nearly $20.5 million less for FY09.

Rendell, in a July 15 release, stated that the Department of Education’s decision “has removed the University’s ability to decide how to allocate federal funds among the State System of Higher Education, the commu- nity colleges, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology and the four state-related universities, and we remain committed to using those funds where they can have the maximum impact.”

Nordenberg said University administrators have discussed the proposed cuts but have yet to reach a resolution. “We also feel that while the processes of negotiation are moving forward in Harrisburg, while there is so little predict- ability to what might come out of those negotiations, there isn’t much point in getting too focused on those alternatives,” he stated.

Nordenberg told the University Times that the state-related schools have been named among the top five in the nation for research development that to date has been one of the region’s primary drivers of employment gains and economic vitality,” he added.

During that time, he served as a member of the research on teacher education committees. Beane also chaired the Commis- sion on the Recognition of the Reading Specialist, and served as president of ACE’s Commission on Lifelong Learning.

He has published and pre- sented on many higher education topics, including learning and cog- nition, planning and assessment of learning outcomes, leadership and diversity.

Rita M. Bean, professor emeritus in the School of Educa- tion’s Department of Instruction and Learning, has received the International Reading Association (IRA) Special Service Award for distinguished service to the association.

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Grant to support new SIS/HSLS program

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) recently announced a grant of $911,311 to support the creation and implementation of a new program, the post-master’s degree Certificate for user services; Chris Tomer, HSLS associate director for electronic health records.

The coordinators are Barbara Epstein, HSLS director, Nancy Nannery, HSLS associate director for user services, Chris Tomer, SIS associate professor, and Susan Altman, SIS director of distance education and outreach.

for more information, contact

The 15-credit certificate of advanced study program will address such issues as evidence-based medicine, teaching and instruction in a health care setting, clinical librarianship, expert searching of medical records, and integration of information resources in electronic health records.

The coordinators are Barbara Epstein, HSLS director, Nancy Nannery, HSLS associate director for user services, Chris Tomer, SIS associate professor, and Susan Altman, SIS director of distance education and outreach.

for more information, contact

The program will be managed jointly by the School of Information Sciences (SIS) and the Health Sciences Library System (HSLS). It will offer students with a Master of Library and Information Science degree specialized preparation for professional positions in health sciences libraries through on-campus, online, and non-traditional learning.

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## CALENDAR

### Thursday 23

**Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds**

“End Images,” Kenneth Katz; “Oesophageal Rhythms,” Joe Soyama; “PRN Cases,” Donald Veali; “Trauma Case Reviews,” Paul Phulpapun, 250 McKee Place, 5th fl. classroom, 8-10 am

**Pediatric Grand Rounds**

“Prevention of Preventable Birth,” Hyagye Simhan; Rangos Research Ctr. 3rd fl. conf. ctr., 9 am

**HSLS Workshop**

“EndNotes Basics,” Mary Jo Dorney; Falk Library classroom. 2-10 am

### Friday 24

**SBDC Workshop**

“The 2nd Step: Developing a Business Plan,” 117 Mervis, 7-10 am (3-142)

**Sr. VC’s Research Seminar**

“Cellular Mechanisms of Epstein-Barr Virus Control in Pediatric Heart Transplant Recipients,” Diana Metes, aud. suite F-600, 8 am (also July 30)

### Saturday 25

**CGS/Veterans Service Open House**

“The New GI Bill & the Yellow Ribbon Program,” CL 4th fl. McCi, 9-11:30 am (4-1213)

**CIDD Live Webcast**

“Do It Yourself Course-Cast”; https://cidd-oriented-pitt.edu/mtz/calendar/default.asp?mtz=-CaseCast-ImCast, 12:15 pm

**HSLS Workshop**

“Microarray Data Analysis,” Una Chandran; Falk Library conf rm. B, 1-1 pm

### Sunday 1

**Summer 12-week, 6-week/2 & 4-week/3 sessions end. Final exams during last class meeting.**

**Pitt Kennedy Day**

Pavilion 1, 11 am-10 pm (Tickets: WPEC office ticket office during July 31, 4-4266)

### Tuesday 4

**University Times Classifieds**

Submit by Aug. 27

For publication Sept. 3

**Mozilla Firefox**

Monday, August 16, 2010

A new browser is coming to campus.

### Wednesday 5

**Summer 12-week, 6-week/2 & 4-week/3 session grades must be approved by 5 pm.**

**CGS/Osher Lifelong Learning Open House**

4th fl. CL 10 am-noon (4-7508)

**CIDD Live Webcast**

“Tiding Video Podcasts With Final Cut Pro”; https://cidd-oriented-pitt.edu/mtz/calendar/default.asp?mtz=-CaseCast-ImCast, 12:15 pm

### Thursday 11

**HSLS Workshop**

“PubMed Basics,” Carolyn Bigelow; Falk Library classrooms. 1, 9-30-11 am

### Wednesday 12

**Summer term grades must be approved by 5 pm.**

**HSLS Workshop**

“DNA Analysis Tools,” Carrie Iwema; Falk Library conf rm. B, 1-1 pm

### Thursday 13

**HSLS Workshop**

“EndNotes Basics,” Mary Jo Dorney; Falk Library classrooms. 2, 10 am-morn

**HSLS Workshop**

“Adobe Photoshop for Beginners,” Sam Lewis; Falk Library classrooms. 2, 10 am

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### C L A S S I F I E D

**2009-10 publication schedule**

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**For more information, call Barbara DelRaso, 412/624-6494.**

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### HOUSING/SALE

**ALLISON PARK**

FSBO. $970/mo. 4 BR, 1 bath, 820 sq ft. $90,000. 20 min. from Oakland. 412/244-6480

**EASTERN SUBURBS**

Truly unique property! Lovely house, totally renovated recently; huge great room/family room/music room/studio (22x24), charming LR with fireplace, new kitchen & baths, 2 BRs on main level, another large BR & bath on lower floor, 2-car garage, 2.25 acres; beautiful wooded land. Private Covenant in Oakland. Delightful $595,000. Ruth Doshier, Coldwell Banker, 412/265-4075 (412/265-7997).

**PICTURE SIZED**

Sunday Hall community; Fox Chapel schools. 2 BR plus den floor plan. Library alcove off den. Two 1-hour lab visits will measure blood pressure & well-being for training. The 45-90 minute interviews will be videotaped & conducted on N. Allegheny Blvd. The payment is $25. Call Teresa at 412/771-5146.

**HEALTHY MALES**

25-35 yrs. Non-smoking, normal weight, non-Hispanic males needed for a pilot research study. Non-smoker, no blood draws. 1-hour lab visit will measure blood pressure & stiffness of blood vessels. Participants will be paid $50 upon completion of the session. Call 412/848-9270 or email owensjf@upmc.edu to determine eligibility.

**YOUNG ADULTS**

Pitt researchers seeking subjects 24-35 yrs. to investigate effects of a continuous administration of Human Parathyroid Hormone-derived Protein (PTHrP 1-36). Requires wearing a medical mask. For more information, call 412/648-9270 or email owensjf@upmc.edu to determine eligibility.