State budget impasse holds up Pitt appropriation

Pennsylvania’s 2010 fiscal year’s July 1 meeting its third month without a full state budget in place and with no firm word on how much state funding and federal stimulus money could be coming Pitt’s way. The stalemate is causing headaches for Pitt administrators who are trying to plan University finances not only for the current fiscal year but also for the upcoming one.

Noting in a Sept. 2 University Update that “there have been few tangible signs of progress,” Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg stated, “At this point, it could not be viewed as surprising if the state was without a budget, and the University was without an appropriation, for a prolonged additional period,” adding, “We will attempt to manage our finances in ways that minimize disruptions.”

If state appropriations are set prior to the University Board of Trustees’ June meeting, the board can act on a University budget.

In years when the state appropriation has not been finalized, Pitt has relied on a later meeting of the board’s budget and executive committees to set the University budget, salary pool and tuition rates for the upcoming year. In this year’s July 16 meeting, only one of those three issues was addressed — with an asterisk.

Given that a pay freeze was announced in March, the salary pool issue was moot. And without the state appropriation confirmed, the trustees could not act on a University budget for the 2010 fiscal year.

The committees approved tuition increases of 4 percent for most in-state students and 2.5 percent for out-of-state students on the Pittsburgh campus for the 2009-10 academic year with the caveat that a tuition surcharge could be imposed if an estimated $31 million gap in state funding to Pitt remains. (See July 23, 2009, University Times.)

Gov. Edward G. Rendell signed a budget bill on Aug. 5, but sent all funding except for approximately $11 billion in line items related to payroll and public protection.

Pitt and its fellow state-related universities Penn State, Temple and Lincoln, are not funded through the main state budget bill, but as “non-preferred” institutions receive their appropriations through individual bills that are approved after the state’s budget is passed. (Two bills have been introduced for Pitt. As they currently stand, each would appropriate $160.49 million in state money for Pitt, but House Bill 1711 includes $10.24 million in federal stimulus funds for the University, while Senate Bill 1036 would give Pitt nearly $7.68 million in stimulus funds. None of the numbers is definite until a bill is approved.)

Pitt receives its state appropriation in the form of monthly wire transfers of approximately $15 million-$16 million, said Vice Chancellor for Budget and Controller Arthur G. Ramicone. Because the transfers for July and August have not been received, “We’re doing without about $30 million,” he said.

Ramicone also said some state-funded research money is being delayed due to the lack of a state budget.

On a positive note, revenues from full tuition bills that were sent in July are being received.
News, which has ranked colleges and universities annually since 1983. National universities, including Pitt, are defined by U.S. News as those institutions that offer a "wide range of undergraduate majors, as well as master's and doctoral degrees, some emphasis [faculty research]."

Methodology

U.S. News gathers data from the institutions each year. According to the magazine, 92.1 percent of the 1,477 schools returned surveys supplying data for this year's rankings. Missing data are drawn from national sources, such as the American Association of Universities, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the Council for Aid to Education and the Department of Education's National Center for Educational Statistics.

The rankings for national universities are derived from a comparison of seven weighted indicators: the percentage of entering students with perfect SATs; the total score; the largest single indicator.

This year, participation in the survey by college leaders, which had dropped over recent years, was up. In 1999, last year's lowest-ever participation rate, 68 percent, rose slightly to 76 percent, according to the magazine.

A second indicator is student selectivity, calculated for 15 percent of the total score. Fifty percent of the selectivity score is derived from the percentage of all enrolled freshmen who took the critical reading and math portions of the SAT or the composite ACT score.

This year, U.S. News adjusted its methodology slightly regarding the entrance-test scores.

"In order to better represent the entire [fall 2008] entering class, we are now using a value that takes into account the admission test scores of all entering students," the magazine stated. "Previously, we used only the scores of the test that had the majority of students taking it."

Pitt requires applicants to either take the SAT or the ACT. Pitt and most other Ivy League and Big Ten universities choose the ACT over the SAT.

Other Pitt data: The percentage of classes in fall 2008 with fewer than 20 students was 44.5 percent, while the percentage of those with 50 or more students was 16 percent.

• 48 percent of freshmen were in the top 10 percent of their 2008 high school class; 85 percent were in the top quartile, and 98 percent in the top half of their classes.

• Pitt's 2008 acceptance rate was 54.4 percent.

Undergraduate business and engineering programs


How to Be a Standout Applicant - The Least of Learned and Servant in Undergraduate Institutions

PEACE & FREEDOM TAINNESS

Pitt moves up two places in latest U.S. News survey

Self-defense program highlighted

A self-defense program at Pitt is among the programs featured in U.S. News and World Report's 2010 best college汴京’s "Learn How to Fight Back.” article. Developed by long-time Pitt police officer Curtis Smith, the Buy Yourself a Minute (BYAM) method teaches students techniques for getting out of the clutches of an attacker and avoiding them altogether. Smith's self-defense classes include simulated attacks, the magazine noted.

In the story, Smith is quoted as saying, "It's different from a lot of other programs. We feel that the BYAM method is much more balanced and it deals with the overall spectrum of crimes — scams and violent crimes.

The simulated attacks, including purse snatchings and hold-ups involving mock weapons, give students "a realistic point of view on what's going to take, how to survive out there," Smith said in the article.

In addition to his duties as a campus police officer, Smith serves as a consultant for the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreational Education, the kinder kinetics program and the national youth sports program. In 2005, Smith won a Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the Community.

The full story is available online at: www.usnews.com.
That’s the running tally — in Pitt-employment years — of the four-member Rosol family: Joanne, her husband Mike, and their sons Jason and Derek. To this in four Pitt degrees among them and you realize this is a family with a serious case of Blue and Gold.

“Joanne and I have been here forever. When we started, the Cathedral was only seven floors high,” joked Mike Rosol, manager of bulk mailing services, part of Parking, Transportation and Services.

Mike started at Pitt in 1970, delivering mail throughout the Cathedral of Learning. He and a co-worker had a dedicated elevator, complete with a human operator, to take them to every floor.

“We got to know people on every floor. That’s how I met Joanne,” Mike said.

Joanne joined the Pitt staff the same year, working for a couple of months at Falk Library as a secretary before transferring to the then-School of General Studies in the Cathedral.

A colleague of Joanne’s played Cupid for the couple.

Mike said, “One of her friends invited us over to her house — a blind date, I guess — or not really blind, because we did know each other by then.”

Joanne climbed the employment ladder at CGS, moving from secretary to dean’s administrative assistant to her current post as director of enrollment management, while also earning both a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree here. “In my job, I deal with adult, nontraditional students,” she said. “It’s really easy to relate to these students, especially because that’s how I did it: I started and I stopped. Working, having kids and going to school, it took me almost 20 years to finish my undergrad degree, but then I went right into my master’s program and that went a lot faster,” Joanne said. “I really took advantage of the tuition benefits, including with the kids,” she added.

Jason, 30, is a 2001 Pitt graduate in accounting. He was a student-employee throughout his undergraduate years, working in the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, among other units. Following graduation, he was hired in Research Accounting and since 2004 has been a project administrator in the medical school’s Department of Medicine, part of a group of some 20 accountants who monitor federal research grant procedures.

“We’re there to make sure that researchers don’t get into trouble if they get audited and that they’re spending on things that are appropriate to the grant. That all has to be documented, especially when it involves federal money,” Jason said.

Brother Derek, 28, also was a student worker during his undergraduate years, moving from the Provost’s office to linguistics and then, following in his father’s footsteps, working in the student mailbox in Litchfield Towers. He earned a psychology degree in 2004 and that year was hired at The Book Center, where he is a sales floor coordinator.

When it came time to apply to college, Jason and Derek looked no further than Pitt, Joanne said her sons’ Pitt indoctrination began at a young age, when child care options were scant. “After I had the kids, I came back from pregnancy leave and worked 10 hours a week: two days a week, five-hour shifts,” she said.

“I stayed with the kids during the day and then Mike would come home and I’d go to work. And I had a wonderful boss. If I had to, I would take the kids to work, and that was fine. A lot of us did that. The work still got done,” Derek said.

Mike and Joanne both recalled the work was much easier for parents when they were young. “We haven’t been on campus for maybe 20 years,” Mike said. “It’s a different feel. Sometimes I like to come here to Oakland just to walk around and get the feel of the campus again. But it’s quieter where we are and parking’s not a problem.”

Mike said the biggest changes he’s seen at Pitt have come from advances in machinery and technology. “We have machines that do a lot of the stuff we used to do by hand,” he said, adding that in the 1970s and ’80s Mailing Services even had its own temporary pool of 15-20 workers on call for heavy mail sorting and delivering days.

Machines have replaced the need for extra staff, he said. “For example, people used to have to peel off labels and stick them on. Now we have a machine that sprays the addresses on, and machines do the inserting for the business-size envelopes.”

But the biggest change is the revolution in technology with the development of computers and the Internet, he said. The volume of mail handled on campus has been affected by the advent of email and other online services.

“For students, we used to mail and insert their grades. We don’t do that anymore. That used to be what, 25,000 pieces a couple times a week? Now it’s just a whole load of that’s gone online.”

Mike and Joanne both recalled the Pitt computers of earlier days. “I remember when all Pitt had was a mainframe with a terminal,” Joanne said. “But the technology divide doesn’t really play a wedge between the generations, the parents maintained. “We all share a love for Pitt, for Pittsburgh, which is a big enough city while keeping its small-town intimacy,” Joanne said.

—Peter Hart

With 100 years — and counting — of employment at Pitt, the Rosol family continues to be big Blue and Gold boosters.

From left, Joanne, Jason, Derek and Mike gather to celebrate Father’s Day at the parents’ Penn Hills home.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2009
s same spot it held last year. Undergraduate programs were ranked solely on a spring 2009 peer survey of deans and senior faculty who rated each program they were familiar with. Fifty-five percent of those surveyed at schools that award doctorates responded, according to the magazine.

U.S. News also solicited nominations from engineering school officials for the best undergraduate programs in 12 engineering specialty areas. Pitt’s biomedical engineering program placed 32nd among 24 such programs high-lighted (ranked 24th last year). Pitt tied with the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Best values

The Pittsburgh campus was ranked 39th (5th among public institutions) by U.S. News in the top 50 “best value” list among national universities. These rankings were based on three variables:

• The ratio of quality to price: A school’s overall score in the rank- ings was divided by the net cost to a student receiving the average need-based scholarship or grant.

The highest the ratio of rank to the discounted cost (total costs less the average need-based scholarship or grant), the better the value, according to the magazine.

• The percentage of all undergraduates receiving need-based scholarships or grants during the 2008-2009 year.

At Pitt, 43 percent of undergraduates received grants based on need, while 27 percent received need-based scholarships after receiving need-based grants was $22,977, and the average 47 percent.

The average discount, or the percentage that a school’s 2008-2009 total costs (tuition, room and board, fees, books and other expenses) covered by the average need-based scholarship or grant to undergraduates.

In the case of public institu- tions, 2008-2009 out-of-state tuition and percentage of out- of-state students receiving need-based scholarships or grants were used. Only those schools ranked in or near the top half of their categories were considered.

The school’s overall rank was determined first by standardizing the scores achieved by every school in each of the three variables and weighting those scores. The ratio of quality to price accounted for 60 percent of the overall score, the percentage of all undergraduates receiving need-based grants accounted for 25 percent, and the average discount accounted for 15 percent. The school with the highest total weighted points became No. 1 in its category. The other schools were then ranked in descending order.

The regional campuses

Nationally, U.S. News ranked 319 public and private baccalaureate colleges, divided into four regions of the country.

The northern region includes Pennsylvania, the six New Eng- land states, and Delaware, Mary- land, New Jersey and New York. According to the magazine, baccalaureate colleges are institu- tions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in professional fields such as business, nursing, health and education. The campuses were ranked third in the northern region.

Pitt’s Greensburg campus was ranked this year as well as the past two years because the campus does not have a separate accredita- tion, according to Robert J. Morse, director of data research at U.S. News & World Report. Morse acknowledged to the University that Pitt-Bridge- ford and Pitt-Johnstown also are accredited under the University’s baccalaureate-granting education. Pitt-John- ton, those campuses likewise should not have been included. Though Pitt-Johnstown’s goal is that the schools should be treated equally and we didn’t do that,” Morse said last week. “We have many, many, many pieces of information to put together and sometimes the details fall through the cracks. I don’t mean that these are little things to the people involved at the schools, but they’re little things in our big picture.”

Dee at the magazine will take in future years regarding Pitt’s regions.

Dean Nelson, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs at Greensburg, said his campus submitted the required data despite no assurance that the magazine would rank UPG. Because the campus has not been listed for three years, Nelson said, “I called Mr. Morse to see whether we qualified, but he didn’t even return my call.”

The other Pitt campuses, according to Morse: “The school submitted information on the student indebtedness for federal loans, but not for the alternative non-federal loans,” Morse said. “It would not have been consistent with that table to list the school.”

Ethnic diversity

To identify colleges where students are most likely to encoun- ter undergraduates from racial or ethnic groups other than their own, U.S. News developed a new diversity index (with 1.0 as the highest score), which factors in the total proportion of minority stu- dents — and the overall mix of non-citizens — and a two-year institution, is not included in the U.S. News rank- ings. Both UPJ and UPB appear in a number of the magazine’s categories within the group of 64 northern baccalaureate colleges ranked by U.S. News.

The two campuses appear on the average freshman retention rate list: Pitt-Johnstown ranked 29th with a 73.8 percent retention rate; Pitt-Bridgeford ranked 40th with a 44.8 percent rate.

Among peer institutions, Pitt- Johnstown tied for 17th with a 74.8 percent retention rate; and UPJ ranked 36th with a 68.8 percent rate.

Student-inkurred debt

U.S. News compiled lists of the schools whose students in the class of 2008 graduated with the heaviest and lightest debt loads. The data was taken out by students from the colleges themselves, from financial institu- tions, or state and local governments. Parents’ loans were not included. At UPJ, 32 percent of the classes had fewer than 20 students in 2008, ranking the campus 38th in its region, while 32-44 percent of UPJ’s classes had under 20 stu- dents, ranking the campus 52nd.

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• Enables callers to remain anonymous
• Answers 24 hours a day, seven days a week

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• Human resource matters, including perceived harassment, discrimination, misconduct, and other workplace issues
• Research compliance concerns, including conflict of interest, improper charging of grants, violation of human subject research regulations, and violation of other research compliance rules
• Other legal/regulatory matters, such as issues relating to environmental health and safety

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Call AlertLine or contact the Department of Internal Audit at 412-624-4266.
G-20 impact on campus remains unclear

How the Sept. 24-25 G-20 summit may impact the University and its operations remains unclear pending details University administrators said they expect to receive from the White House sometime after Sept. 14.

Pitt administrators say the goal is to maintain normal University operations as much as possible during the summit. Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Ron Frisch told the University Times the University would remain open.

In a Sept. 2 University Update, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg cautioned that the event “almost certainly will require some modifications, institutionally and individually, to customary routines.”

Because most of the summit activities will be Downtown, it “should make our practical challenges more manageable.”

However, he pointed out that road closings, public transit route changes and altered airport operations will affect transit. “We expect that experienced commuters, armed with the right information, will be able to adjust to whatever short-term challenges are presented,” he stated.

Summit-related events in Oakland include a welcome dinner for G-20 guests hosted by President Barack Obama at Phipps Conservatory on Sept. 24 and a mass march to the City County Building, Downtown, coordinated by the Thomas Merton Center. The march begins at noon Sept. 25 at the corner of Forbes and Craft avenues.

H1N1 flu arrives on campus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

H1N1 flu will be prioritized by the federal government based on risk factors, he said. “We’re in contact with the Allegheny County Health Department, where we will get the vaccine, and we will follow the federal guidelines on distribution when they are made known,” Frerotte said.

According to Elizabeth Wetrick, senior physician at Student Health Service, two vaccinations at least a month apart likely will be required to be effective against the H1N1 strain.

While employees also are encouraged to get seasonal flu vaccinations, those do not protect against the H1N1 virus, Wetrick noted. Seasonal flu vaccine clinics are expected to begin on the Pittsburgh campus in late September. Wetrick said Student Health Service will hold its seasonal flu clinics on Oct. 21 and 27.

Letters from the vice provost and dean of students went out this week to students and parents regarding the H1N1 virus. Pitt has established 24-hour hotlines for students (412/624-2222) and parents (412/648-1100).

—Peter Hart

Catherine DeLoughry of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development addressed nearly 300 potential G-20 Pittsburgh Summit volunteers who gathered for a “Welcome the World” orientation session Aug. 6 in Alumni Hall’s Connolly Ballroom.

To prepare local volunteer “ambassadors” for contact with international visitors during the event, the Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership coordinated five such sessions across the Pittsburgh area last week. Each session offered information about the G-20 and suggested talking points about the region and tips on what kind of information visitors may need.

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Thomas Hailes, Mellon Professor of Mathematics, has been awarded a 2009 Pittsburgh Prize by the Mathematical Programming Society and the American Mathematical Society, for the four papers, "A Proof of the Kepler Conjecture" and "Sphere Packings, Lattices, and Orbits". The prize, which is awarded every three years, included a $1,500 cash award.

The People of the Times column features recent news on faculty and staff, including awards and other honors, accomplishments and administrative appointments.

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The hustle and bustle that marks the beginning of the academic year has returned: The proliferation of laundry carts, re-directed traffic, upperclass student volunteers pointing the way to newcomers and their families during Arrival Survival.

But for many at Pitt, the lazy days of summer have been anything but lazy: Facilities were renovated; faculty and staff were hired; new academic programs were established; events were planned.

The University Times asked deans and other school officials to provide a brief look at “What’s New? People, Places and Things” in their areas.

The summaries that follow are not all-encompassing, but rather are overviews of school news based on material submitted by the units. Information previously published in the University Times was not included here.
What’s new

In the School of Arts and Sciences, former University of Wisconsin–Madison faculty fellow Seth Horne has joined Pitt’s chemistry department faculty. Horne’s research focuses on the synthesis of organic oligomers with simple backbones that mimic or interact with more complex biological molecules. He earned his PhD in chemistry from Scripps Research Institute.

Renä Sowell comes to chemistry from the University of Kentucky, where she was a postdoctoral fellow. She earned her PhD in analytical chemistry at Indiana University–Bloomington. Sowell’s research involves investigating the protective effects of antioxidant compounds against oxidative stress in neurodegenerative diseases and elucidating disease etiology.

Mohammed Bamyeh has been named associate professor in the Department of Sociology. Bamyeh is a scholar in the sociology of politics and culture, focusing on Islamic societies and how global transnational processes relate Islamic societies to the rest of the world. He received his PhD in sociology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Before coming to Pitt, Bamyeh was the Hubert H. Humphrey Distinguished Visiting Professor of International Studies at Macalester College.

In addition, Arts and Sciences has hired new assistant professors Yi Xu, East Asian languages and literatures; James Shaw, philosophy; Suzanna Crage, sociology; and Annamarie Duggan, theatre arts.

New non-traditional faculty include: Valerie Oke, lecturer and co-director of undergraduate programs in biological sciences; Michelle Ward-Mascellato, lecturer in chemistry; Yin Chong, assistant instructor in East Asian languages and literatures; Lori Campbell, lecturer in English; Na-Rae Han, lecturer in linguistics; Konstantine Zelator and Jeffrey Wheeler, assistant instructors in mathematics; Olivia Newman, lecturer in political science; and Allan Zuckoff, lecturer in psychology.

Youmao J. Siegel is the new director of the Center for Rural Health Practice at Pitt-Bradford. Siegel has nearly 30 years’ experience in public health, beginning in his native Cameroon. He earned his doctoral degree from Southern Illinois University–Carbondale. Before coming to Pitt-Bradford, he was director for public health services at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, where he set up public health education outreach programs and services.

Robert L. Engelmeier has been named professor and chair of the Department of Prosthodontics in the School of Dental Medicine. He comes from the University of Texas, Houston Dental Branch, where he directed its implant program and graduate prosthodontic residency program. Engelmeier, who received his DMD from Pitt, has served in numerous administrative and clinical positions in the military and in academia.

Seth M. Weinberg has joined the faculty as a research assistant professor of oral biology. Weinberg received his PhD in anthropology from Pitt and focused on an interdisciplinary combination of craniofacial imaging and human genetics. He completed postdoctoral studies at the Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa.

William J. Federespel is the new graduate coordinator in the Swanson School of Engineering’s Department of Bioengineering. Federespel is a William Kepler Whiteford Professor. Formerly, he was graduate coordinator in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering.

Among the new staff in the College of General Studies are:

• Krista Stokes, who joined the CGS advising staff from Simmons College in Boston, where she was coordinator of disability services. Stokes earned a master’s degree in student affairs in higher education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
• Brett Clone, manager of recruitment. His work focuses primarily on recruiting nontraditional and transfer students. Clone also works with local community colleges to assist students in their transition to the University. He recently earned a master’s degree in higher education management from Pitt.
• Ann Rainigh, director of Veterans Services. Rainigh earned her undergrad- uate degree from Penn State and expects to graduate in December with a master’s degree in organizational leadership.

Jeffrey Every has joined the Pitt-Greensburg faculty as a visiting assistant professor in psychology. His experience includes a post-doctoral research fellowship at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine’s Center for Learning and Health. While pursuing his master’s and PhD degrees at West Virginia University, Every was a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Psychology.

Newly minted PhD Gretchen Under-wood has joined the Pitt-Greensburg faculty as a visiting assistant professor in communication. She comes from Purdue University, where she was a teaching assis- tant and lecturer in the Department of Communication.

Greensburg’s University Relations and Institutional Advancement Office has added new members to its staff.

UPG alum Kristin Guynn, online communication and development specialist, will create content for and maintain the UPG web site, write for promotional publications and coordinate web-based fundraising strategies. Guynn earned an MBA from Point Park University, where she worked as a marketing and communications associate.

Mark Matras, development coordina- tor, will implement plans for Pitt-Greens- burg’s major gifts campaign and coordinate the faculty and staff internal campaign, advisory board campaign, matching gift program and gifts-in-kind program. He previously was an account manager for ThermoFisher Scientific in Pittsburgh.

Robert Smith is the new assistant direc- tor of administrative systems for Comput- ing Services and Telecommunications. He comes to CPG with 15 years of experience with Pitt’s academic and administrative sup- port systems, having worked in the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid and the Office of the Registrar.

Among the new faculty in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences are: Deborah A. Opacic and Martha Petersen, who came to Pitt to help develop a physician assistant program.

Opacic, who will direct the program, is a former faculty member at Duquesne University, where she earned a doctoral degree in educational leadership.

Petersen, who will oversee curriculum development, delivery and evaluation for the program, earned a master’s degree in public health at East Stroudsburg Uni- versity. She has held faculty appointments at Lack Haven University and Duquesne University.

Sara Peterson has joined the SHRS faculty as an instructor in its new master’s degree in orthotics and prosthetics program. A former staff certified prosthetist/ orthotist for a Greenville, N.C., trauma and rehab center, she completed orthotic...
and proximate practitioner and technician programs at Century College in St. Paul, Minn., and earned an MBA at Baker College in Flint, Mich.

Takashi Nagai will direct the Human Performance Research Center at Fort Campbell, Ky., where Pitt conducts research with the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division for injury prevention and performance optimization. Nagai has been at Pitt for six years in various capacities and is completing a doctoral degree in sports medicine and nutrition at SHRS.

Susan “Leigh” Star has been named the Doreen E. Boyce Chair in Library and Information Science at the School of Information Sciences. Star was selected for the Boyce chair because of her scholarship on the broad roles of the library and information in modern society. Star also will serve as the director of the Sura Fine Institute, which is dedicated to examining the ways technology impacts interpersonal communications and relationships.

A member of the Ontario Bar, Jalloh has joined the faculty of the School of Law as assistant professor and will teach courses in the law of taxation, international tax law, and environmental studies. He also has held a professorship in communication and research in academia, known as a tenured professorship.

Jalloh also will serve as the director of the School of Law's Center for Health Law and Policy.

New faculty members at Pitt-Johnstown include Jill Henning, instructor of biology; Ann Marie Stewart, assistant professor of theatre; Rebecca Webb, visiting assistant professor of biology; and Eunice Yang, assistant professor of mechanical engineering technology.

Miritt Eyal-Cohen has joined the School of Law as assistant professor and will teach courses in the law of taxation, including Federal Income Tax and seminar on small business taxation. Eyal-Cohen’s expertise in small business taxation will contribute to the school’s new Innovation Practice Institute.

Eyal-Cohen is completing a doctorate in law from UCLA School of Law. She previously was a judicial law clerk for Judge Mark V Holmes on the Federal Tax Court and previously was a judicial law clerk for Judge Thomas Ewing of the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

New assistant professor Alexander D. Sorkin will join the School of Medicine as professor and chair of cell biology and physiology in March 2010. Sorkin is professor of pharmacology at the School of Medicine and director of the Bernard A. and Rebecca S. Bernard Laboratory for Fundamental Research in Preventative Cardiology. Champion received both his MD and PhD in cardiovascular pharmacology from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. His research focuses on mechanisms by which endocytosis and post-endocytic trafficking regulate the functions of transmembrane proteins such as receptors and transporters.

Champion has been named director of the Department of Medicine and vice chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

Hunter Clay Champion has joined the Department of Medicine as associate professor of medicine and scientific director of translational vascular medicine for the department’s Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine, as well as for the interdisciplinary Hemostasis and Vascular Biology Research Institute. He also was named director of the pulmonary vascular disease program.

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What's new

and symptom management for pediatric oncology patients. In addition to conducting her own research, she will teach nursing research for undergraduate students.

Robert R. Kaufman joins the nursing faculty as assistant professor in the Department of Acute and Tertiary Care. He previously was a clinical pharmacist with Accredo Health Group in Warrensdale. Kaufman earned his PharmD from Duquesne University.

New nursing visiting instructor Joyce Miketic previously held the position of performance improvement specialist/interim department manager at Jefferson Regional Medical Center. Miketic earned an MBA at the Katz Graduate School of Business and is a doctoral candidate in the School of Nursing.

Three additional clinical instructors were hired by the Department of Acute and Tertiary Care. They are Linda Reid-Kelly, who earned her MSN from Pitt and a JD from Duquesne University, and Rebecca Manning and Marilyn Huston, both MSN graduates of Waynezbug University.

Philip E. Empey has joined the School of Pharmacy as an assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics. Empey will teach pharmacogenomics and continue his clinical and translational research on the clinical pharmacokinetics and role of drug transporters in critical illness.

Empey received his PharmD from the University of Rhode Island and completed residencies in pharmacy practice and critical care at the University of Kentucky Hospital. He earned his PhD in clinical pharmacological sciences at the University of Kentucky and recently completed postdoctoral training at Pitt’s School of Pharmacy.

Pamela L. Havill Smithberger, a new assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, will serve as an advanced practice preceptor for pharmacy students in the final year of the PharmD program. She will teach, conduct patient outcomes research in the clinical care setting and serve as the specialty clinician in the medical intensive care unit of UPMC Presbyterian.

New faculty at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs include Ilia Murtazashvili, visiting assistant professor, who earned his PhD in political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He comes to Pitt from Wisconsin where he was a lecturer.

New assistant professor Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili also comes from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she completed her PhD in political science.

Both new faculty members have affiliations with the Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies.

Angela Illig joins the GSPIA staff as assistant director of career services.

GSPIA also has established a 25-member board of visitors, 23 of whom are graduates of the school. Each member will serve three years.

April Tarun has joined the Graduate School of Public Health Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology as assistant professor. She will establish a program of research in the biology of the liver stage of Plasmodium falciparum, the parasite that causes malaria; she also will seek to identify parasite proteins that are localized at the host-parasite interface. Tarun, who comes from Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, received her PhD in comparative chemistry from the University of California-Berkeley.

Shaun M. Eack, a predoctoral fellow at Pitt’s Department of Psychiatry, has joined the faculty at the School of Social Work, where he earned his PhD. Eack’s primary research focus is on the development, implementation and evaluation of psychosocial treatment methodologies for persons with schizophrenia.

New staff members at the school include: Mary Ann Joyce, administrative assistant; O’Connor Field Education, Emily Penrose-McLaughlin, administrative assistant; Megan O’Donnell, director of marketing and communications; Courtney Coloma Pydyn, project coordinator on the Mayview Discharge Study, and Rachel Winters, evaluation coordinator for the child welfare education and research program.

Robin Choo has been named visiting instructor of biology at Pitt-Titusville. Choo earned her PhD from the University of Maryland-Baltimore where she specialized in toxicology.

Choo formerly was a graduate research assistant at Maryland Veterans Hospital and recently completed postdoctoral training in the Center for Vaccine Research at Pitt.

Two new faculty members joined the Center for Vaccine Research in July. Cristian Apetrei comes to the CVR from the Department of Tropical Medicine at Tulane University School of Public Health. He also will serve as associate professor of microbiology and molecular genetics in the School of Medicine.

Apetrei studies the pathogenesis of simian immunodeficiency virus in classical studies and English and her MLIS from the University of California at Berkeley.

Despite moving-in madness, the tour must go on.

University/Theresa Rines

Before classes started this week, it was some faculty members’ turn to sit and take notes. New faculty orientation was held Aug. 27 in Alumni Hall. Pitt hired 160 new faculty this year.

Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center and at the University of Maryland Baltimore County chemistry department.

Choo has been named registrar and academic coordinator for the campus.

In addition to teaching, Coat will direct academic record-keeping and class scheduling and will provide administrative support to the vice president of Academic Affairs by aiding in the development of local policies and procedures, assisting academic division heads and providing training to faculty in advising and University academic support.

As registrar, he takes the place of Jean Spence, who retired. Spence had been employed at UPT since the campus was founded in 1963.

Macrina Lelei, assistant director of the African studies program in the University Center for International Studies, has been promoted to associate director. Lelei also has received an appointment as adjunct assistant professor in the School of Education’s Department of Administration and Policy Studies, teaching Education in Africa, a course that will be offered every summer term.

The African studies program also plans to host two distinguished guests from Africa this fall: Inonge Wina, the ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the United States in October, and Benson Bagonza, the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Diocese of Karagwe, Tanzania, in November.

David Montponer, the library’s associate director for public services, has been named director of the Center for Southern African Studies as an affiliated faculty member.

The University Library System announced that Anna Mary Willford has joined Pitt-Greensburg’s Mullen Library as a public services librarian. Willford most recently taught information literacy skills to K-12 students as a long-term substitute in the Hempfield Area and Greater Latrobe school districts. She received her BA from the University of Richmond in classical studies and English and her MLIS at Pitt.

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Amos Hall, which houses a majority of the University’s sorority students, has re-opened after a year-long renovation. The residence hall has been updated with energy-efficient electrical and water systems and is the first dorm in Schenley Quadrangle with air conditioning.

The bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens all have been redesigned to be compatible with the pre-existing architectural structure. The laundry room on each floor has been moved to a more accessible location near the kitchen area. While the layout of each floor is the same, the input of each sorority has given every floor its own style.

A design has been completed for a new Humanities Center in the School of Arts and Sciences, to be housed in the Cathedral of Learning sixth-floor space formerly occupied by the Darlington Memorial Library. (Materials from the Darlington collection have been placed in storage and are available upon request, but the collection also is available in digital format at http://digital.library.pitt.edu/d/darlington.)

The new center will retain the historic aspect of the space, including many of the pieces of antique furniture bequeathed to the University by the Darlington family, while simultaneously providing a modern, functional work environment for the center’s director and affiliated visiting scholars.

Arts and Sciences also is renovating its graduate studies office on the fifth floor of Sennott Square. The upgraded office will have a new entrance and reception area.

Four consecutive years of record growth in student enrollments at Pitt-Bradford has prompted the campus to plan for a full groundbreaking on a new residence hall.

The new hall — the third to be built on campus in a five-year span — will house 103 students and bring the campus’s resident capacity to about 900. As of early August, the campus was expecting 1,582 full- and part-time students, an increase of 8.6 percent from a year ago. Also this fall, work will begin on the $2.5 million, 150-seat Harriet Wick Chapel, which is expected to be completed by late spring.

To support the new buildings and future construction, this summer the campus undertook a $2.5 million, 150-seat Harriet Wick Chapel, which is expected to be completed by late spring.

To support the new buildings and future construction, this summer the campus undertook a $2.5 million electrical upgrade, which should be completed by Thanksgiving.

The 14th floor of the Chevron Science Center has reopened following renovations. The floor was gutted to the outside walls and converted into a modern “ball-room” organic chemistry research facility that will serve as the prototype for the remaining renovation projects for synthetic chemistry applications the University plans to complete as part of its 12-year capital project plan.

Three new or renovated classrooms in Chevron also were completed in time for the start of the fall term.

Additionally, the first floor of Chevron will contain a new electronic reference library as part of the University Library System’s movement to the “Library of the Future.”

Around the corner in the Chevron lobby will be a new café, The Bunsen Brewery, operated by Sodexo. The café is scheduled to be completed this month.

The major renovation and expansion of Benedum Hall continued over the summer. The auditorium on the first floor (room 157) and the adjoining room 158, as well as the second floor auditorium (rooms 226 and 227) and the MEMS engineering and computer classroom (room 229) were renovated in time for the start of the fall term.

The expansion of the Mascaro Center for Sustainability Innovation is ongoing.

New botany labs in Clapp Hall were created for professor Tia-Lynn Ashman. This complex will provide her with an integrated facility split between sample preparation areas and clean rooms for sample analysis.

Facilities Management staff have renovated the Lilly Court area (the plaza between the Cathedral of Learning and Stephen Foster Memorial), including the placement of new deck waterproofing drains and the installation of new paver stones. Facilities also installed new ADA-compliant ramps on the Cathedral’s first floor.

Workers from PJ Dick-Trumbull are putting final touches on a new green-design wing at Falk School, part of the School of Education. The front facade of the new addition is designed to match the stone finish of the old building. There will be a circular drive to enhance student safety during carpool drop-off and pick-up.

The new “green” wing that has been added to Falk School gives the back of the building a modern look, above. However, the front of the addition matches the stone of the original building, below.
The Department of Physics and Astronomy has renovated space for two new labs on the second floor of Old Engineering Hall for professor Hanna Salman’s biological physics research and professor Gurudev Dutt’s nanoscience research. A lab is being renovated on the second floor of the nuclear physics laboratory in the Van De Graaf Building for professor Brian D’Urso’s nanoscience research. The project is expected to be completed in mid-September. Renovations include portions of the second floor for the D’Urso laboratory and fabrication lab, as well as providing additional penthouse mechanical space.

Pitt-Titusville has refurbished its Spruce Hall student residence complex and Boomer’s café in the student union. Spruce Hall received a new roof and interior upgrades including new furnishings and new carpeting. Boomer’s food preparation areas and equipment were redesigned and upgraded to make the facility ready for a planned expansion. UPT’s two original buildings, McKinney Hall and Bennett Davis Hall, also got a facelift over the summer. Improvements included fresh paint, new landscaping and new entryways constructed with brickwork very similar to the original. A project to expand wireless access to all UPT facilities has been completed. Previously, students had access to the wireless network only in Haskell Memorial Library or Boomer’s.

Renovations to the fifth floor of the William Pitt Union were completed this summer, providing six new meeting spaces for student organizations. Four of the areas have hard-surface flooring, enabling groups to practice dance routines and other activities. There also is a formal area where student organizations can host special events such as workshops and award presentations. Storage space and additional work space were created for smaller organizations. In addition, rooms 210-216 were renovated to accommodate the student careers center.

—Peter Hart & Kimberly K. Barlow

The major renovation and expansion of Benedum Hall continued over the summer.

A portion of Pitt-Johnstown’s student union was transformed into a bistro-style restaurant.

The back of the building has a more modern look with red siding and two walls of windows that enclose the expanded cafeteria and library space. The back also has two outdoor terraces and a sidewalk for easy access to the renovated ground-level play spaces. The building rooftop is planted with varieties of sedum, which will reduce storm water runoff. All building utilities include green design features such as low-flush toilets, automatic faucets, turbo-hand-dryers, motion-activated lighting and an energy-efficient cooling/heating circulation system.

New classrooms have open industrial-style ceilings, carpeted floors, ceiling fans, larger European-style windows that open and new furnishings. The existing building, currently being renovated and restored to most of its original design, is expected to be ready for move-in by March 2010.

The expansion plan includes a gradual increase in student and faculty populations each year. Falk is adding a whole new kindergarten class this fall along with smaller increases to other primary classrooms. Enrollment numbers this year are at 310, up from the past year’s number of 278. Falk expects to reach a capacity of 403 students by 2012.

Faculty began moving into classrooms last month and students will return Sept. 8 with a ribbon cutting set for Sept. 12 at 2 p.m.

Construction has been completed on the fourth floor of the Cathedral of Learning for a new Office of Veterans Services. The program is moving from the Registrar’s office into the College of General Studies this fall.

Plans are underway for the grand opening of the 2,000-square-foot fitness center behind the gymnasium in Chambers Hall on the Greensburg campus. The event will include a rededication and 20th anniversary celebration. The renovation project included coaches’ offices and locker rooms. Delivery of new fitness equipment is expected by Nov. 1.

The Mountain Cat Club is Pitt-Johnstown’s newest entertainment venue. Located in the student union, the club features a dance floor, stage and a disco ball, and provides a programming area for Student Affairs activities such as dancing, karaoke, performances and poetry readings. The venue also features four flat-screen televisions.

A portion of the student union also was renovated to create a bistro-style restaurant featuring appetizers, salads, sandwiches and pizza.

The third floor of Langley Hall has received a full renovation with four new labs this summer. Work included renovation of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and new lab casework.

The primary investigators occupying the labs are Karen Arndt, Jeffrey Brodsky, Joseph Martens and Roger Hendrix. Langley also had infrastructure/mechanical, electrical and plumbing improvements made to some of the second- and third-floor offices. Work included upgrades to the HVAC system serving the first floor and to the supply/exhaust systems on the third floor.

Renovations to the third floor of Mervis Hall have been completed. The renovations provide improved academic, office and support facilities for Pitt’s MBA and related programs.

The mountain cat club is a student-run bistro-style restaurant in the student union at Pitt-Johnstown.
In the School of Arts and Sciences, the architectural studies program has established a two-track major. The design track prepares students who seek to apply to master’s and doctoral programs in architecture. The preservation track is for students who have an interest in the preservation of historic sites and roadsides. Information on the curriculum is available at www.arch.pitt.edu.

The Department of Studio Arts collaborated with the University Honors College to develop a four-week summer field studies course for studio arts majors in Wyoming. Four students created a series of creative projects, including painting, drawing, sculpture and video inspired by their experience of plants, animals and traces of human presence they found on the prairie.

With funding from the Provost’s Office and with the support of the dean of Arts and Sciences, Jeff C. Jones is director of the Writing Center, and Beth Marway, chair of the College Writing Board, are coordinating the Mini-Writing Center, an intensive tutoring program that will support the teaching of writing in the disciplines, especially the natural sciences.

Participating departments (biological sciences and psychology) selected underнgraduate writing fellows to design their own majors to serve as writing tutors in designated lower-level courses. The fellows received a reward against their tuition, but their work will take place within their own majors, with the aim of helping freshmen and sophomore students learn to write in discipline-specific genres.

This fall, students seeking help at the Writing Center’s Main Writing Center in Hillman Library will need to schedule an appointment to see consultants at the main Writing Center office. Starting Sept. 8, Writing Center personnel will be on hand in the Hillman Library alcove from 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students can schedule appointments online at www.write-right.com.

A film screening of the new film, “A Shot Felt Around the World,” is planned on campus by the English department and the Film and Media Studies department. Jonas Salk and the discovery of the polio vaccine began as a project in the “Topics In Film. Making The Documentary” course taught by visiting senior lecturer Curt Hillman.

With support from the University, the Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation, the Elise Hillman Foundation, the R.K. Mellon Foundation, The Colcom Foundation and a number of individuals, the short has been turned into a 55-minute version for television. The project involves collaboration among the University, the Steelton Entertainment Project and WQED.

Pitt students are working on a trailer based on footage shot last November with the help of Pittsburgh filmmakers and WQED.

The Department of Athletics has planned a number of new pregame events in connection with each home football game this fall:

• Two hours prior to kickoff: the Panthers Prowl, where fans can greet the team and meet the coaching staff.
• Thirty minutes prior to kickoff: the Pitt Marching Band performs an on-field pregame show.

Additional details on pregame football activities are available at www.pittsburghpanthers.com.

Pitt-Bradford has added a minor in international business, which had been available on a departmental basis within the business major. The minor combines courses in world geography, international management, business, economics, international finance and international marketing with a language requirement in Chinese or Spanish.

UPB President Livingston Alexander and wife, Evelyn, established the Presidential Labor Scholarship Fund, which will complement the UPB’s federal work-study program in that it will provide scholarships for students who need to work their way through college.

The Evergreen Student ElderCare Presidential Labor Scholarship Fund will complement the UPB’s federal work-study program in providing additional incomes for students who work on the campus. During the past year, Pitt-Bradford allocated $60,000 to provide scholarships for student work. This year, the fund is part of a larger program to make money available for students who work on the campus. During the past year, Pitt-Bradford allocated $60,000 to provide scholarships for student work. This year, the fund is part of a larger program to make money available for students who work on the campus.

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A new global management major for undergraduates in the College of Business Administration is being introduced this fall. The major adds coursework in global finance and economics, international human resources management, international business law and international organization to core material on traditional management theory and practice and requires study of a language course in a non-native language and to complete a study-abroad experience.

An undergraduate certificate in supply chain management administered through CBA and the Swanson School of Engineering is being offered this fall. The certificate aims to give business and engineering graduate students the fundamentals of managerial and technical skills for understanding global supply chain management and making better business decisions.

The Katz Graduate School of Business is offering a new global supply chain management certificate for MBA students. The program provides the business knowledge and technical expertise required to manage supply chain activities within a global business enterprise.

Also being offered for the first time this fall is a new graduate entrepreneurship certificate. Aimed at students whose career goals include business development, product development, project management, customer/supplier relations or consulting, this certificate enables students in hands-on projects related to technological innovation and new business development.

The Katz school also has launched a 30-credit Master of Science in Accountancy program designed to prepare students from different educational backgrounds, including those with little or no previous coursework in accounting, to take the certified public accountant exam and increase their employment marketability.

The Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education (CIDEDE) is offering a new “do it yourself” CourseCreation system this fall. The latest version of Panopto CourseCraft enables individuals to make media recordings (video, synchronized audio, screen capture, etc.) without assistance from Instructional Media Services staff, and consent oriented without incurring charges. Instructors can learn to use the DIY system in CIDEDE’s Faculty Instructional Development Lab. A new guide to developing media services staff and record, upload and edit their own material.

Also new at CIDEDE is a recent CourseWeb upgrade. The move to May 3 in Blackboard version 8 includes a rewritten grade center, offering improvements in functionality. Training for faculty is available through CIDEDE. Details are available at www.cidee.pitt.edu.

The annual Teaching Excellence Fair sponsored by the Provost’s Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence in conjunction with CIDEDE has been renamed to better reflect the showing of new technologies, teaching-related topics and ACE Innovation in Education grant projects. This year’s Teaching Excellence Showcase is set for Oct. 21 in the Alumni Hall Connolly Ballroom.

The School of Education has launched the Leadership Initiative for Transformed Schools, or LITS, a new 15-month principal certificate program. LITS’ goals are the personal and professional growth of aspiring school leaders in three themes: ethics, inquiry and integrity. Presented in a cohort, executive format, LITS incorporates collaboration with units within the education school and across the University to teach the study areas, including the Institute for Learning, the Learning Policy Center and the Center for Executive Education at the Katz Graduate School of Business.

The school will co-host the American Educational Studies Association’s 2009 conference Nov. 4-8 at the Omni William Penn Hotel, Downtown. Faculty and students at Pitt and Duquesne have organized sessions to discuss the challenges facing the Pittsburgh region and the creative ways community organizations have responded to these challenges.

The school will begin celebrating its 100th anniversary year in March with a nationally recognized keynote speaker at the Council of Graduate Students in Education’s annual research conference.

The College of General Studies is bolstering its offerings of health-related academic programs by reintroducing its Bachelor of Science in health services degree. Like the Bachelor of Arts in health services degree, the BS is designed to give students the skills to succeed in a health care career and to health care management and provision.

The BS is a degree-completion program aimed to help licensed allied health professionals and individuals with an associate degree in allied health fields (such as diagnostic medical sonographers, radiological technologists, respiratory therapists, medical laboratory technicians and dietetic technicians) quickly to transfer to a baccalaureate degree so they can advance their careers.

Pitt-Greensburg staff continue work on the redesign of the campus web site, www.upg.pitt.edu. UPG’s Office of University Relations and Instructional Advancement is working with University Marketing Communications in Pittsburgh to develop the new look. Expected completion is mid-fall.

UPG has received a $2,825 grant from the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh for the purchase of a sonic demembrator. This equipment will support the biochemistry and cell biology courses as well as research by chemistry faculty and students.

The Greensburg campus also received a $10,000 grant from the Buncher Family Foundation to support the green scholar program. The program will provide opportunities for Pitt-Greensburg’s best students to acquire research experience by working with faculty on scholarly projects.

UPG has re-established in Institute for Continued Learning. Plans are underway for an on-campus course, a new focus on forensic accounting and auditing, and a spring seminar about Thrust the Fields Farm, a four-year archaeological dig in Ligonier Township conducted by Pitt-Greensburg faculty and students.

The School of Information Sciences is developing the Mellon Diversity Initiative, a series of summer institutes to recruit graduate students and faculty members from underrepresented groups to the field of information sciences. The institute will focus on promising juniors and seniors in college who demonstrate strong potential to earn doctoral degrees and become faculty members. The program is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This fall, SIS is offering a new special topics course. Literacy in the Information Age. The focus of the class is to introduce students to two central ideas: genre and provenance, and to explore the strengths and limits of different types of information.

Pitt-Johnstown is now offering Bachelor of Science degrees in biochemistry and computer engineering technology. The campus also has begun offering an applied computer science track as part of its existing computer science degree.

There are the first degree programs to be added at UPJ since 1997 and were developed as part of the campus’s recently implemented strategic plan.

Beginning this academic year, UPJ is offering first-year students an opportunity to explore the four levels of engagement they will be exposed to as students in RealWorld Action program. Alumni and community leaders are among the mentors who will provide students with real-world perspectives in their primary areas of expertise.

Pitt-Johnstown is extending outreach to military veterans through its MounCat veterans program. Among the benefits offered to veterans are accelerated admission review and application fee waivers, priority registration, deferred tuition payments, credit evaluation, a veterans’ SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

Pitt-Titusville faculty and staff entered a float in the Oil 150 Parade, part of a day of celebration to honor the 150th anniversary of the Oil City Street Parade, which also featured the UPT cheerleaders and the Pitt Pep Band among some 100 groups participating, began on the Pitt-Titusville campus.
support group, free on-campus parking and a single-point-of-contact for administrative and student services.

The School of Law has created the Innovation Practice Institute, the school’s first initiative to create a coherent curricular, clinical and quasi-clinical offerings to train law students as counselors for innovation. Under the directorship of Ida Tarbell, director of the Institute, the program uses a team approach to developing innovative legal solutions to help clients solve complex problems. The program plans to launch a series of legal clinics, each focusing on a specific area of law, such as health policy, technology, and environmental law.

As part of the institute, two courses are being introduced this fall: Commercializing New Technologies and Understanding the Legal Services Marketplace.

Changes are in store for instructors who use the services of the Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching. Requests for students on teaching questionnaires now will be done completely at the School of Education. In the fall, surveys will be conducted using a commercial program from Scantron called Class Clarity. Class Clarity’s Pan Score program will be used to add to and score the objective test.

This year the School of Nursing is celebrating its 70th anniversary. Since the School of Nursing’s first graduating class in 1943, more than 12,000 students have become Pitt nurses.

A pharmacy business administration area of concentration has been established within the School of Pharmacy’s educational program. Students will be introduced to key elements of pharmacy administration and management, such as health policy, health finance, public relations, marketing, medication safety, decision analysis and information management.

The Graduate School of Public and International Affairs now offers students the opportunity to earn a certificate in international development and Asian affairs. The School of Public and International Affairs has developed a new program in collaboration with the School of International Cooperation Studies at Kobe University in Japan. Students will pay only Pitt tuition while in Asia. The program features seminars with Nobel laureates and leaders of international organizations, such as the United Nations, World Bank and the World Health Organization.

The School of Social Work is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its doctoral program. During this year-long celebration, the school will showcase the work of some of the program’s more than 300 graduates, including sponsoring a lecture series of alumni speakers. The celebration will include an anniversary reunion on Oct. 16-17.

The Office of Race and Social Problems will host a conference on “Race in America: Restructuring Inequality.” June 3-4, 2010. The conference has as its goal to bring about greater equality-of-life outcomes for all Americans. It will bring together a multi-racial group of educators, researchers, students, leaders of for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, public officials and community leaders to discuss how to help citizens promote a restructuring of our society to be more racially equitable. National and local experts will examine patterns of racial and ethnic disparities across a number of areas. Specifically, the conference will focus on seven areas: economics, education, health, mental health, families, youth and the aged, intergroup relations, and criminal justice.

The Office of Freshman Programs in the Division of Student Affairs has launched a freshman common reader program this fall. Students enrolled in the Introduction to the Arts and Sciences and Freshman Seminars courses will read and discuss the same text as part of their course requirements. A committee of faculty and staff in the School of Arts and Sciences chose the book “Reinventing Knowledge: From Alexandria to the Internet” by Ida Tarrbell with Lisa Venetor as the inaugural text based on its interdisciplinary appeal of content and potential for inspiring discussion.

Other events planned around the common reading program include film screenings and mini-lectures by faculty members who will expand on the ideas presented in the book, essay contests and a Scraible tournament with the final four participants invited to meet with McNeely.

Pitt-Titusville has been an active participant in the region’s 17-month-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the oil industry that continues through October 2009. The campus hosted several Oil 150 Celebration events including the Oil Pioneer’s Symposium, The Broadhurst Oil Pioneer’s Banquet, the Scrabble tournament with the final four participants invited to meet with McNeely.

The School of Pharmacy recently announced the launch of the Small Molecule Biomarker Core. The core will be directed by Professor Michael Polomsky and Dr. Beth Minnigh. The core will be an interdisciplinary group that will work on understanding how molecular weight biomarkers can be used in clinical samples. The core will be directed by Professor Michael Polomsky and Dr. Beth Minnigh. The core will be an interdisciplinary group that will work on understanding how molecular weight biomarkers can be used in clinical samples.

The University Library System has revised its tutorial for searching University of Pittsburgh’s electronic databases. The tutorial, available at www.library.pitt.edu/tutorials, offers step-by-step instructions for finding information using PittCat Plus and other databases.

The Faculty and Staff in Service to Community program, formerly the Pitt-Emmanuel Community Pool, now has expanded to provide a wider range of the Office of Community Relations’ activities. To participate, send your name, campus address, phone number and email to scs@pitt.edu, or call 4-7709.

Today and Tomorrow.” The Pitt-Titusville campus also has completed a web site upgrade. Hundreds of new pages were created or redesigned in an effort to accommodate the increased enrollment of UPT’s growing academic programs, showcase the campus’s physical improvement and feature future student organizations and activities.

Serving on the web site upgrade task force was Brian Brown, director of computing and telecommunications; Luanne Nisperos, director of public relations; Colleen Mon, director of continuing education, and UPT website developer Ron Tracey.

The new site can be viewed at www.upt.pitt.edu.

The African studies program in the University Center for International Studies has launched two study abroad programs in Africa. The inaugural “Swahili Language and Culture Immersion” in the Dar es Salam district in northern Tanzania kicked off in June with five students participating. A new study abroad in Ghana will begin in each spring semester in 2010.

The European Union Center of Excellence/Europe Studies Center now is offering in European Union studies for students from all disciplines. The certificate has its own curriculum, language and co-curricular requirements; a graduate or professional degree is a prerequisite. The EUCE/ESC has also begun participating in the EURO challenge program, a national competition to test Europe’s knowledge of its own history, which is open to all students. The program has students’ knowledge of understanding of the economic and the euro, sponsored by the EU Commission Delegation in Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Treasury Department.

In June, EUCE/ESC collaborated for the first time with the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in hosting its annual policy conference on “Accessibility in the Context of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Transatlantic Perspectives.” EUCE/ESC associate director Timothy Thompson and assistant director Stephen Lund have been key organizers of the recently initiated Modern Europe Learning Community (MELC), which hosts international conferences on interest in Europe might translate into actual study abroad.

MELC includes a community freshman orientation course on “Europe and the Modern World,” offered by the School of Arts and Sciences and the Center for the History of Medicine.

The University Library System has launched a new web site for the PASCAL, a program that allows users to search thousands of databases at the same time. The new site can be viewed at www.library.pitt.edu/pascall.
Pitt to lead gas well water treatment project

The U.S. Department of Energy recently selected Pitt as one of nineteen partners that will develop technologies for the possible environmental and health hazards associated with tapping the nation’s natural gas reserves beneath Pennsylvania and other areas. Researchers in the School of Engineering will lead a three-year, $1.06 million project to more fully manage wastewater generated by the extraction process used on the Marcellus Shale. The Marcellus Shale is mined using a technique called hydraulic fracturing in which a high-pressure mix of water, sand and chemicals known as “slick ing” agents fracture the rock formation to allow trapped gas to escape.

The information is estimated to contain some $1 billion in recoverable gas. Each well can consume 2 million to 5 million gallons of fluid, a portion of which returns to the surface as wastewater “flowback.” Flowback contains hydrocarbons, heavy metals, naphthenic acids, and dissolved solids such as calcium, potassium, sodium, chloride and carbonate.

Typically, the salty wastewater remains in reservoirs or the environment, but Pitt’s method would allow it to be reused in gas wells, containing costs, limiting environmental impacts and reducing the strain on freshwater sources currently tapped during extraction.

In addition, the researchers seek to tackle the problem of acid mine drainage by using it as a sanitizer and supplemental water source. One approach is not only to reuse the wastewater, but also reduce the level of treatment it requires. “The overall cost saving which would be a much more economical way,” said Radisav Vidic, assistant professor of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and a William Keister Professor of Civil Engineering, who will be reusing the acid mine drainage readily available at many gas drilling locations, we can manage the cleaner flowback pollution and freshwater consumption, Vidic and Beckman will develop new more sustainable and less expensive technologies that would be stable in high-salt water. These chemicals would allow the flowback to be circulated to the wastewater gas wells without extensive off-site purification. Then, they will study the effectiveness of the available acid mine drainage to further treat the flowback and simultaneously supply the freshwater supplement.

Finally, the cleaner flowback would be pumped back into the gas wells, reducing the burden on the freshwater sources and curtail ing costs of shipping and storing water.

The National Energy Technology Laboratory is leading the research and development efforts for the federal energy department’s Office of Fossil Energy, which will more than triple the effort, and will provide $794,000 of the funds.

Pitt was the only Pennsylvania institution granted a project.

More information on the project is available at:


Obesity linked to brain function

Based on data gathered from brain scans conducted for the Pittsburgh Heart and Cardiovascular Health Study, researchers at Pitt and UCLA found that people 65 or older and overweight or obese with a body mass index (BMI) of 25-30 had 4 percent less tissue in the frontotemporal lobes than their normal-weight peers.

Those who were obese with a BMI greater than 30 had 10 percent less tissue in the same regions, which are crucial for cognitive tasks such as memory and planning.

Lead investigator Cyrus A. Raji, a student in the School of Medicine’s combined MD/PhD program, said, “It seems that along with increased health risk for such problems, such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease, obesity is bad for your brain. We have linked it to shrinkage of brain areas that also are targeted by Alzheimer’s. But that could mean exercising, eating right and keeping weight under control can maintain brain health with the brain and potentially lower the risk for Alzheimer’s and other dementia.”

The participants in the study, which was published this month in the online version of Human Aging and Development, were cognitively normal at the time their brain imaging was done and five years later. New methods of computer analysis were applied to the high-resolution scans, allowing three-dimensional mapping of brain structures to reveal patterns in volume differences that were not apparent in previous research.

The team found that the people defined as obese who had lost brain tissue in the frontal and temporal lobes, areas of the brain critical for planning and memory, and anterior cingulate gyrus (attention and executive functions), hip pocampus (long-term memory) and basal ganglia (movement).

Obese people showed brain loss in comparison with a standard of young adults, white matter comprised of axons, and the parietal lobe sensory cortex.

“This is the first time anyone has created brain maps proving the link between being overweight and severe brain degeneration,” said senior investigator Paul M. Thompson, director of the National Institute on Aging’s National Institute on Aging’s Laboratory of Neuro Imaging and Modeling.

“The brains of obese people looked 16 years older than the brains of those who were lean, and the brains of overweight people looked eight years older than those who were lean.”

The research was funded by grants from the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, the National Center for Research Resources, and the American Heart Association.

Co-authors include Oscar L. Patterson, James T. Becker of psychiatry and Lewis W. Berliner of the School of Public Health.

HSLs, sIS share librarianship grant

Pitt’s Health Sciences Library System and the School of Informa tion Sciences have been awarded a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The three-year, for $991,311, will support the development of a joint graduate degree certificate of advanced studies in health sciences librarianship.

The grant from IMLS will help fund curriculum development and evaluation, library infrastructure and student recruit ment along with tuition scholar ships and fellowships throughout the United States.

iHealth@Pitt will offer specialized positions in health sciences libraries. The program will include online training in health sciences libraries and opportunities for students to become certified librarians.

Lead investigator Beth D. Cooper, associate professor in the School of Information Sciences, said, “The need for health sciences librarians continues to grow. iHealth@Pitt’s librarianship program will prepare students for a wide range of opportunities.”

Nursing grants announced

The School of Nursing recently announced the following grants to faculty members:

• Susan A. Albrecht, associate dean for student and alumni affairs, was awarded a $49,105 grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research for “Caregivers of Prolonged Mechanical Ventilation: Mind-Body Interaction Model.”

• Pei-Ying Chang, department of Nursing Care, received a two-year grant of $9,804 from the Oncology Nursing Society for “Genetic, Psychological Stress and Cytokines in Oncology Caregivers.”

• The group also awarded Yvette Conley, professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Development, a $49,105 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for “Nursing Education Initiatives for Clinical Education.”

• Judith Callan, Department of Health and Community Systems, received a two-year grant of $9,804 from the Department of Health and Human Services for “Nurse Education Practice and Retention.”

• Helen Burns, associate dean for clinical education and professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems, received a grant award from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Dr. Edna B. McKenzie Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students.

• The group also awarded Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems and coordinator of the accelerated second degree BSN program, received a two-year $416,625 R21 award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for “OSA, Sleepiness and Activity in Diabetes Management.”

• Jin-Choi, Department of Health Promotion and Development, received a $9,472 grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Nursing Research for “Caregivers of Prolonged Mechanical Ventilation: Mind-Body Interaction Model.”

The group also awarded Yvette Conley, professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Development, a $49,105 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for “Nursing Education Initiatives for Clinical Education.”

• Judith Callan, Department of Health and Community Systems, received a grant award from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Dr. Edna B. McKenzie Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students.

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• Helen Burns, associate dean for clinical education and professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems, received a grant award from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for “Nurse Education Practice and Retention.”
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Foundation for the school’s graduate nurse education grant program.

Rick Henker, vice chair in the Department of Acute and Tertiary Care, received a $25,700 grant from the University’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute basic to clinical collabor- atory research pilot program for “Genetic & Other Risk Factors of Opioid-Induced Sedation and Respiratory Depression: Mike to Humans and Back Again.”

HyeYoung Lee, Depart- ment of Health and Commun- ity Systems, received a $48,400 grant from the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing for “Physical Activity in Young Adults With Early Stage Schizophrenia: A Pilot Study.”

Margaret Rosenzweig, Department of Acute and Tertiary Care, received a grant of $1.24 million over five years from the American Cancer Society for “The ACTS Intervention to Reduce Breast Cancer Treatment Disparit- is.” Rosenzweig also received a $16,000 grant from the Oncology Nursing Society for “The SEA Intervention for Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer.”

Karen Wickersham, Department of Health Promo- tion and Development, received an F11 award from the National Institute for Nursing Research for “A Study of Medication Taking for NSCLC Patients Receiving Oral”.

Continued on page 17

Hookah smoking among college athletes studied

College students who participate in intramural or club sports are less likely to smoke cigarettes than non-athletes, but are more likely than non-athletes to smoke from a hookah, according to a Pitt study that appears online in the Journal of Adolescent Health.

“This study demonstrates that many athletes clearly per- ceive hookah smoking as less of a concern than cigarette smoking,” said Brian Primack, professor of medicine and pediatrics at the School of Medicine and lead author of the study. “What they don’t realize is that they are exposing themselves to many of the same toxic chemicals contained in cigarette smoke.”

Pitt researchers examined data from 8,745 college-age individuals who participated in the National College Health Assessment administered by the American College Health Asso- ciation and磨，2008, and found that 33 percent of the respondents who occasionally participated in varying, club and intramural sport in the preceding 12 months. Overall, 29.5 percent of the total sample reported having smoked from a hookah.

Consistent with what has been reported in the past, all types of athletes were less likely than non-athletes to have smoked cigarettes. Similarly, varsity athletes were 22 percent less likely than non-athletes to have smoked tobacco from a hookah.

However, club and intramural participants were 15 percent more likely than non-athletes to have smoked tobacco from a hookah.

Pitt co-authors of the study were Carl Ferman of the Depart- ment of Health and Physical Activ- ity, Kristen Rice of the Center for Research on Health Care and Michael Fine of medicine.

Primack’s research was sup- ported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Cancer Institute and the Maurice Falk Foundation.

Inflammation, insulin resistance linked

An exploration of the molecu- lar links between insulin resis- tance and inflammation may have revealed a novel target for diabetes treatment, say scientists at Children’s Hospital’s John Rangos Sr. Research Center. Their findings appeared in the online version of Diabetes, one of the journals of the American Diabetes Association.

Senior author and pediatrics professor H. Henry Doug said signs of low-grade systemic inflammation are not uncommon in the overweight and obese, and have the pre-diabetic condition known as metabolic syndrome, as well as in those who develop type 2 diabetes and obesity. “Other stud- ies have shown that in patients who have inflammation and diabetes, anti-inflammatory drugs are used to reduce inflammation while anti- inflammatory therapies improve insulin sensitivity,” Doug said.

Dong’s team examined the role played by a protein called Forkhead Box O1 (FOXO1), which his previous research showed contributes to elevations in tri- glycerides in an animal model of obesity and diabetes.

In the current paper, the researchers found in cultured cells and mouse experiments that FOX1 stimulates inflammatory white blood cells called macrophages, which migrate to the liver and fat tissue in insulin-resistant states to increase production of a cytokine called interleukin-1 beta (IL-1B). The cytokine in turn interferes with insulin signaling. Insulin typically inhibits FOX1, setting up a feedback loop in healthy tissue to maintain insulin levels.

“If there is a lack of insulin or when it is not working properly, the cells are resistant to its presence, there are no brakes on FOX1’s stimula- tion of IL-1B and it further interfer- ence with insulin signaling,” Dong said. “That might explain why chronic inflammation often is coupled with obesity and type 2 diabetes. Also, a drug that acts on FOX1 might be able to better control blood sugar.”

Co-authors of the paper include lead author Dongming Su, Gina Coudriet, Dae Hyun Kim, Germaine Gerven, Qun Ou, Sandra Slushe, Hubert Tse, Jon Piganelli and Giann Giannoukakis, all of the medical school’s pediatrics department’s Divi- sion of Immunogenetics and the School of Medicine, and Wu and Jian Zhang of the Division of Hematology and Oncology in the medical school’s Department of Medicine.

The study was funded by the American Diabetes Association and the National Institutes of Health.

Protein shapes studied

Computational biologists at the School of Medicine have shown that proteins need to change shape as part of their bio- logical activity. The shape changes of these molecules are attrac- ted to a given protein to select the structure that permits the binding of a molecular tag.

The findings, which could help in drug discovery and in design- ing artificial receptors with the most impact on protein function, were published this week in the online issue of the National Academy of Sciences.

According to the classical view, a protein’s three-dimensional structure is frozen into a conformation that is optimal for function, such as the inhibition of an enzyme reaction, Bahar explained.

For the study, Bahar and doctoral student Ahmed Bakran focused on three distinct protein structures, targets, namely enzymes important in HIV, inflammatory response and mitochondrial metabolism.

Using the sets of conforma- tions of protein-ligand complexes reported by the Protein Data Bank, an information repository at Rutgers University, researchers figured out what structures the enzymes had both alone and when bound to a variety of small molecules.

“It seems there are some blunt but robust rules that control ligand binding behavior,” Bahar explained. “If we know the rules, we can make better predictions about which binding sites to target to make more effective drugs.”

Bahar’s research is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

EPA pesticide tests too short?

The four-day testing period the U.S. Environmental Protec- tion Agency (EPA) commonly uses to determine safe levels of pesticide exposure for pets and animals could fail to account for the toxins’ long-term effects, Pitt researchers reported in a Sep- tember edition of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

The researchers said the highly toxic pesticide endosulfan — a neurotoxin banned in several nations but still commonly used in U.S. agriculture — can exhibit a “lag effect” with the fallout from toxins lasting for months after direct contact has ended.

Lead author Devin Jones, a Pitt biology professor and graduate student, conducted the experi- ment under biological sciences professor Rick Releye, with collabor- ation from Pitt post-doctoral researcher John Hammond. The paper is available at http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/pdfs/pdfs. pdf.

The team exposed nine spe- cies of frog and toad tadpoles to endosulfan levels “expected and used by the EPA pesticide...”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17
concentrations of 2, 6, 7, 35, and 60, and 296 parts-per-billion (ppb), levels consistent with those found in nature. The team estimates that in Australia, where endosulfan is widely used, that the pesticide can reach 760 ppb on sprayed crops as close as 10 meters from the ponds, amphibians typically call home and chorus frogs within 200 meters. The EPA estimates that surface drinking water can have chronic endosulfan levels of 0.5 to 1.5 ppb and acute concentrations of 4.5 to 21.9 ppb. In a study, frog breeders and American toads fared well during the experiment's first four days, but once they were in clean water, the death rate spiked for animals previously exposed to 35 and 60 ppb. Although the other six species did not experience the lag effect, the initial doses of endosulfan still were devastating at very low concentrations. Grey and Pacific tree frogs, Western toads and leopard frogs, and spring peepers had large numbers from doses as low as 7 ppb, while the same amount killed all green frog and bullfrog tadpoles. Of most concern, explained Relyea, is that tadpoles and other amphibians are sensitive to pollutants and consider an environmental hazard when they develop. The EPA does not require testing on amphibians to determine pesticide toxicity. Relyea points out that endosulfan is 1,000 times more lethal to amphibians than to other organisms. If the powerful insecticide cannot kill one of the world's most susceptible species, then the four-year test period may not gauge adequately the long-term effects on larger, less-sensitive species.

“When a pesticide’s toxic effect takes more than four days to appear, it raises serious concerns about making regulatory decisions based on a four-week test,” Relyea said. “For most pesticides, we assume that animals will die during the period of exposure, but we do not expect substantial death after the exposure has ended. Even if EPA regulations required testing on amphibians, our research demonstrates that the standard four-day test toxicity test would have dramatically underestimated the lethal impact of endosulfan on even this notorily sensitive species.”

The endosulfan findings build on a 10-year effort by Relyea to understand the potential links between the global decline in amphibians, routine pesticide use and the possible threat to humans in the future.

A second paper by Relyea and Jonse also in the current Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry expanded on one of Relyea’s most notable investigations, a series of findings published in Ecological Applications in 2005 indicating that the popular weed-killer Roundup is “extremely lethal” to amphibians in concentrations found in the environment. The latest work determined the toxicity of Roundup Original Max for a wider group of larval amphibians, including nine frog and toad species and four salamander species. The report is available at www.pitt.edu/news/2009/Roundup.pdf.

Cancer vaccine target for use

Pitt researchers have found that some healthy people naturally have developed an immune response against a protein that is produced in high levels in many cancers, in particular breast, lung and head and neck cancers. The finding suggests that a vaccine against the protein could prevent malignancies in high-risk individuals. Mice that were vaccinated to boost their immune response against this cell cycle protein, called cyclin B1, were able to reject a tumor challenge in which they were exposed to a cancer cell line that works in collaboration with senior author Olivera Finn, Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Immunology at the School of Medicine. The results were reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“Cyclin B1 is known to be produced in excess amounts in several kinds of cancer,” she said. “While we were studying it, we noted that many healthy people already had an immune response, or antibodies, against the protein, even though they’d never had cancer.”

According to the researchers, the immune response most likely developed during a childhood viral infection, when influenza responses are strong. Cells infected with chicken pox virus, for example, look very much like tumor cells because they, too, overproduce cyclin B1. The virus actually packages the host protein, which ultimately gets shown to the immune system as a marker of infected cells that must be destroyed.

“For cyclin B1 is a ‘self’ protein, there have been concerns that boosting the immune response against it would produce autoimmunity and create new problems,” Finn said. “But now that we know that perhaps 20 to 30 people have been able to naturally recognize it as abnormal when made in excess, we can be more confident that we could develop a vaccine strategy to immunize high-risk groups against it.”

So researchers from the lab of Fabian and collaborators to open, by the end of the year, a clinical trial of a cyclin B1 treatment for patients with cancer, and she plans to test it in the future as a prevention strategy in people with pre-malignant lung lesions.

Natural immunity to other human cancers, such as melanoma, has been found before, Finn noted. Her team developed a vaccine to boost an immune response to a protein called melanoma, which is produced abundantly in colon cancer and in pre-cancerous skin.

The MUC1 colon cancer vaccine prevention is being tested in a clinical trial led by colleagues at PIMC.

In previous work, we found that women who developed an immune response to MUC1, most typically after pelvic surgery, mumps or mastitis, have a much lower risk for ovarian cancer,” Finn said. “Cyclin B1 and MUC1 are part of a big family of self-proteins that become overexpressed during cancer development, so they have great potential as targets in prevention vaccines and treatments.”

Other Pitt authors of the paper were Laura Vella and Min Yu of the Department of Environmental Relations.

The research was funded by grants from the National Cancer Institute and the Dana Foundation.

State budget impasse delays appropriation

The University is providing short-term, emergency financial assistance to students on campus,” he said. “And, he said, July and August are relatively low-expenditure months compared to the months ahead, now that students have returned for the fall term. Costs for rent, utilities and utilities all increase. ‘Everything goes up when you have 30,000 people here on campus,’ he said, adding that he hopes the Department of Education will take a ‘second look’ at this year if a state budget is not passed soon. A state Department of Education spokesperson said Wednesday that pushing back the deadline is under consideration, but no decision has been made. Another financial consideration for the University is that the lack of a state budget has prevented the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency from disbursing large grant awards for the new academic year. (PHEA loans, which are not funded by an appropriation from the state, are not affected.) Consequently, Pitt cannot tap into PHEA grant reimbursements that Ramicone said typically would be received in late August or early September.

Betsy Porter, director of the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, said that the University is providing grants. The MUC1 colon cancer vaccine treatment among those with new or recurrent breast cancer has been approved for compassionate use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Scott Morgenstern

USAID work to be evaluated

Political science professor Scott Morgenstern has received a $685,000 grant from Higher Education for Development funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development to update and evaluate USAID’s USAID work program in 12 other major political party development worldwide. USAID began in 1991 to fund programs with reinforcing political parties, Morgenstern and his team will evaluate USAID program and help increase decision-making.

As is typical each year, Pitt’s financial aid is processed, billing and disbursement are not yet set. “Without it, it’s hard to do anything,” he said. “With the current demands, we are looking at the possibility of not being able to do anything,” he said. “Without it, it’s hard to do anything,” he said. “Without it, it’s hard to do anything,” he said.

That’s what is different in the light of the lack of federal funding, and, as is typical each year, Pitt and many universities, Porter pointed out — have disbursed the estimated grant amounts to student accounts, but cannot draw down the funding from PHEA.

Porter said, “In essence the University has provided disbursements to the students without the ability to be reimbursed, notifying universities have been nerved in preparing its annual budget request for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2010. The document must be submitted to the state Department of Education by Sept. 22. The lack of a state budget has complicated the process, Ramicone said, because next year’s request builds on current year’s budget figures, which are not yet set. “Without it, it’s hard to do anything,” he said. “Without it, it’s hard to do anything,” he said. “Without it, it’s hard to do anything,” he said.

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Professor of Public Health. He made a huge difference,” said Epidemiology said Drash “moved H. Kuller of the Department of hospital’s research and clinical care of children with diabetes, Drash is behind early research on the care Hospital. Drash, 77, died Aug. of pediatrics and epidemiology in a.m. Sept. 18 in Heinz Chapel for scheduled to teach three courses during the summer term and was a computer organization course. He was good at getting people to He had good ideas. He listened to people and he pushed things. He was very gregarious, extremely friendly, outgoing and talkative. He would get to know people,” said department chair William Stanchina. Drash knew them by name. Miller was known in the generous with his co-work as a computer engineer and in the Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes at Children’s Hospital in 1996 and retired from the hospital in 2006. Donations may be made online Memorial donations be made to the American Diabetes Association Outsanding Clinician in the Field of Diabetes, the American College of Endocrinology’s Distinguished Clinician Award and the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes and the American Diabetes Association’s Outstanding Clinician Award. Additionally, each year since 2006, ISPAD has awarded a six-week clinical fellowship in Drash’s name. Drash is survived by his wife, Diane Dixon Drash, children Allison Drash and James Drash, and three grandchildren. Demissed: Allan Drash Diabetes Scholarship for pediatric diabetes trainees has been established at Children’s Hospital. Donations may be made online at www.CvitoChildren.org or in care of: Children’s Hospital, 5125 Walnut Street, Front Place, 5th floor, Pittsburgh 15222.
Chancellor Mark A. Norden-berg named Jack L. Daniel, profes- sor of communication, all at Pitt. He is working on a book-length project, tentatively titled “The Pursuit of Fish, the Journey to Fatherhood.”

Daniel named Distinguished Service Professor

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg named Jack L. Daniel, professor of communication and former provost for Undergraduate Studies, as Distinguished Service Professor of Communication, effective Sept. 1.

The appointment to a Distinguisheed Professorship, the highest honor that can be accorded a member of the professorate, is given in recognition of distinctive contributions and outstanding service to the University community in support of its mission, as well as excellence in the faculty member’s department and national stature in his or her field.

Daniel served as Pitt vice provost for Undergraduate Studies and dean of students, 2002-05.

In his administrative role, he was chair of the enrollment management steering commit- tee. He also was responsible for new undergraduate academic programs and worked with the chancellor’s diversity task force and Equipoise on issues relating to diversity.

At Pitt since 1968, Daniel has served as chair of the Department of Black Studies (now African studies), vice provost for Academic Affairs and interim dean of the College of General Studies.

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C A L E N D A R

September

Thursday 3

Epidemiology Seminar
“Epidemiology in Silico: Simulated Epidemics to Evaluate H1N1 Pandemic Preparedness Strategies,” Donald Burke; A115 Crabtree, noon

Friday 4

Int’l Law Educational Panel Discussion
“Pros & Cons of Faith-Based Initiatives in Addressing Health Vulnerabilities in Southern Africa: Legal Issues & Ethical Issues,” Teplitz/Menn. Courtm., Barnes, 4-6 pm (8-7023)

Saturday 5

Football
Vs. Youngstown State; Heinz Field, 1 pm

Monday 7

• University closed in observance of Labor Day.

Tuesday 8

Practical Flow Cytometry Lecture
“Lipopolysaccharide Activation of Signal Transduction Pathways in Human Monocytes,” T. Vincent Shankley, Beckman Coulter; S100A Star/BST, noon (412/623-7780)

MMR Seminar
“Target Epiteptogenic Regulation of NF-kappaB in Cancers,” Gutasim Xiong, Rangan Research Ctr. 3rd fl., conf. crt.

Faculty Assembly Mtg.
2700 Posvar, 1 pm

Asian Studies Welcome Reception
VPUP lounge; 4-5:30 pm Provost’s Inaugural Lecture
“Rings, Cispes, Cubes: The Myriad Forms of Water Clusters,” Kenneth Jordan, chemistry; FPA aud., 4-30 pm

Wednesday 9

Clinical Oncology & Hematol
Grand Rounds
“Beyond Standard Adjutant Therapy: Impact of Diet & Lifestyle on Colorectal Cancer Survivors,” Jeffrey Meyerhardt; Cooper Conf. Ctr. classrm. C, 8 am

SAC Mtg.
532 Alumni, 12-15 pm

Thursday 10

HSWL Seminar
“Locating Protein Information,” Associate Dean: Food Biotech; Falk Library conf. rm. Bl, 1-3:30 pm

Academic Career Development Postdocs Lecture
“Maximizing Your Postdoctoral Success: An Orientation to a Full Academic & Social Life in Pittsburgh,” Arthur Levine; S100 Star/BST, 1-3 pm

Latin American Studies Welcoming Reception
Postac patio, Clemente Dr., 4-6 pm

FRIDAY 11

• Fall term add/drop period ends

SRDC Workshop
“The 1st Step: Mechanics of Starting a Small Business,” 7-9 pm (8-1542)

WPIC Conference
“The Future of Home-Based Mental Health Care for the Elderly,” VPUL various rooms, 9-4 am (412/902-6900)

Endocrine Conference
“DXA 101,” Susan Greenspan; 1193 Star/BST, 8-30 am

Midday Discussion
“Cyber Threats Challenges & Responses,” presentations, WPUL, 8-30 am; discussion, 4-1100, 1-3 pm (4-7884)

FRIDAY 12

SUBJECTS NEEDED
YOUNG ADULTS
Pitt recruiters seek subjects 24-35 yrs. to participate in research of Human Parathyroid Hormone-related Protein (PTHrP 1-36). Requires wearing a nasogastric tube for one week prior to publication. Copy and ad must be submitted before publication date.

For publication

Submit by

Sept. 17 - Oct. 1

Sept. 10

Oct. 1 - 15

Sept. 24

Oct. 15 - 29

Oct. 8

Oct. 22

Nov. 5

Oct. 29

Nov. 12

Nov. 25 - Dec. 10

Nov. 19

Dec. 3

Jan. 7 - 21

Dec. 23 (Wed.)

Jan. 14

Jan. 21

Jan. 28

Feb. 4 - 18

Feb. 11

Feb. 18 - March 4

Feb. 25

March 4

March 11

March 18

April 1 - 15

April 8

April 22

April 29

May 13 - 27

May 6

May 13

May 27 - June 10

June 3

June 10

June 24 - July 8

July 1

July 8

July 22 - 29

July 15

July 22

Information submitted for the calendar should indicate the type of event, such as lecture or concert, and the program’s specific title, source, location and time. The name and phone number of a contact person should be included. Information should be sent by email to: cts@pitt.edu, by fax to: 412/624-4579, or by campus mail to: 306 Belfield Hall. We cannot guarantee publication of events received after the deadline.

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Grand, spacious buxus Victorian w/ beautiful original wood, stained glass, potbelly stove, great updated kitchen, spacious LR, DR, powder room on 1st fl., BR on 2nd, & 2 1/2 usable rooms on 3rd. Wonderful back yard, deck. Off-street parking. Very convenient to P. $10,000. Call Ruth Droscher; Coldwell Banker (Shadyside) (412)356-4800 or (412)267-7997.

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THOROUGHBRED HORSE
Chesnut mare, 13 yrs. & 13.2 hands, smart & athletic. Call for information, pic (also Victoria 1st fl. lobby, 8 am-2 pm; 412/746-5555).