H1N1 vaccinations now available to staff/faculty

Pitt will hold an H1N1 flu vaccination clinic for faculty and staff 1-5 p.m. on Jan. 14 in the University Club ballroom. The vaccination is free to Pitt employees with a valid identification card.

Falk Pharmacy is also offering flu vaccinations 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays through January.

Both the injectable (inactivated) flu shot and the nasal spray (live, attenuated) vaccine will be available at the clinics.

John Fe деле, associate director for pharmacy affairs, said employees are asked to fill out the required consent form prior to attending a clinic to expedite the vaccination procedure. Forms are available on the University’s H1N1 flu information webpage: http://www.pitt.edu/~swine-flu/index.html. Forms also will be available at the clinic sites.

Participants should choose the applicable consent form depending upon their choice of vaccine delivery type, shot or nasal spray. Both consent forms ask participants to review the CDC vaccine information statement prior to signing the consent form, that statement is available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-inact-h1n1.pdf for the injectable vaccine, and www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-liv-h1n1.pdf for the nasal spray.

According to Falk pharmacist Janet St. Denis, “Most people prefer the flu shot, which is administered by a nurse, but the vaccines are equally effective.” She added, however, that the nasal spray is restricted to healthy individuals between the ages of 2 and 49 who are not pregnant and do not have underlying medical conditions. Other restrictions are spelled out in the CDC’s vaccine information statement.

No appointment is necessary for the Falk Pharmacy clinics, St. Denis said.

Fede said H1N1 flu vaccine clinics for faculty and staff at each of the regional campuses will be determined in the planning stages. “Vaccine clinics directed to faculty and staff on the regional campuses will be determined upon Pitt’s available supply of vaccine,” he said.

He added that clinics for students, who are in the age group — up to 24 years old — most impacted by the H1N1 influenza epidemic, have been held on all five campuses.

“More than 700 individuals reported influenza-like illness on the Oakland campus during the fall term,” Fede said. “The vast majority of these were students. Between Nov. 23 and the end of the fall term there were fewer than 10 active cases of influenza-like illness on any given day on the Oakland campus. While the number of self-reported cases of influenza-like illness in our community has apparently waned, experts caution that there could be another wave of H1N1 influenza in the coming months.”

To date, the World Health Organization has confirmed more than 12,000 people worldwide have died from the H1N1 virus infection.

—Peter Hart

City, higher eds reach compromise, avert tax

A controversial proposal to tax students’ tuition was tabled late last month in an 11th-hour compromise between city and higher education officials, who jointly announced a “new Pittsburgh coalition” to address the city’s financial woes.

In his November budget proposal, Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl pushed for a so-called “fair share tax” of 1 percent on city higher education students’ tuition as a way to fill a $15 million gap in the city’s 2010 budget due to underfunded city pension obligations.

But following behind-the-scenes negotiations, Ravenstahl tabled the tax proposal after Pitt, other nonprofit groups and some corporations pledged to form a coalition that would provide some direct financial assistance to the city, as well as help it to pursue other revenue streams.

Arther Dec. 21 news conference announcing the new partnership, Chancellor Mark Nordenberg thanked the mayor and officials from Carnegie Mellon, Highmark and Duquesne Light, issued a statement praising the new collaboration as “unifying” following what increasingly was becoming an adversarial relationship over the proposed tuition tax.

“All of us, I know, are very pleased that the mayor has committed to the step of forming and leading a broad-based coalition to seek and secure a viable, long-term solution to the dynamic imbalance between the expense obligations that the city has inherited and the restrictions on revenue that so tightly constrain what we can do to meet those obligations,” Nordenberg said.

E fficial Pitt’s fiscal year 2010 state appropriation was signed by Gov. Edward G. Rendell Dec. 17, 168 days after the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

The appropriation includes nearly $685 million in FY10 general support for Pitt; $160.49 million from the state’s general fund plus $7.5 million in federal stimulus money.

Also included in the appropriation bill signed by the governor was the $8.64 million in federal stimulus money for FY09.

Pitt’s total FY10 appropriation is $185.4 million, including approximately $17.4 million in funding for University medical line items included in the Department of Public Welfare budget, which passed in October as part of the state budget. Those line items are funded through state and matching federal dollars.

The University’s Board of Trustees budget committee on Dec. 15 unanimously passed a $1.73 billion operating budget for fiscal year 2010, contingent upon the governor’s approval of the expected $185.4 million state appropriation.

Trustees also approved a capital budget of $179.16 million, which includes $86.2 million from the state.

Typically, Pitt receives its state appropriation in monthly increments, no payments have been received since the new fiscal year started July 1.

Vice Chancellor for Budget and Controller Arthur J. Ramicone estimated the impact on Pitt as “in the six figures,” and told the University Times on Tuesday that Pitt is still waiting to receive the approved FY10 funds. Ramicone said the money — including what would have been received since the July 1 start of the fiscal year — is expected to arrive this month.

Pitt’s appropriation had been delayed because the legislature couldn’t reach an agreement on table games legislation, which Rendell insisted was needed to balance the state budget.

The Senate unanimously passed Pitt’s appropriation bill in October, but the measure didn’t reach the governor’s desk until it was approved in the House Dec. 14. Had the governor not acted, the bill would have taken effect in 10 days.

The same day Rendell signed bills for the state-related universities and other non-preferred appropriations, he sent a letter to legislative leaders warning of at least 1,000 state job furloughs if a table games agreement isn’t reached. “If I receive legislation on my desk that I can sign by January 8, 2010, I will be forced to place an additional $250 million into budgetary reserve,” he stated.

The Senate approved a table games measure Jan. 5. A vote was expected in the House Jan 6. As the University Times went to press.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Long wait for appropriation ends

Thurz Hall, the site where designer Pitt’s “Acropolis Plan,” turns 100. See pages 7-10.
Recollecting contest expands to staff, faculty

If wasting less or being more organized in 2010 are among your New Year’s resolutions, some inspiration is on its way. Faculty and staff on the Pittsburgh campus are being asked to join the challenge for the 2010 RecycleMania competition.

The 10-week competition, sponsored by the College and University Recycling Council, includes prizes for recycling the most per capita, collecting the largest amount of total recyclables, generating the least amount of trash per capita, harvesting the highest recycling rate. Winners get bragging rights and an award made from recycled glass. This year’s challenge starts Jan. 17 and ends March 27.

The University’s participation aims to increase awareness and get people in the habit of recycling more, said Laura Zullo, Facilities Management’s senior manager of capital and special projects.

The Pittsburgh campus is moving up to the competition category in the sustainability hall of fame and expanding its effort to include faculty, staff and students after competing for the first time in the 2009-10 academic year. (In recycling collection, lections are measured but not reported in competition rankings) in 2009 as a way to promote recyling in the residence halls. Pitt surpassed its goal of 15 pounds of recyclables per student by collecting 24 pounds per student over the 10-week period.

“The benchmarking category trial went very well, so we thought we’d open it up and compete this year,” said Zullo. Pitt 2010 is 15 pound per person. The national per-capita average in the competition division was 11.4 pounds, she said.

Organizers include Facilities Management, Housing, Food Services, Residence Life and Property Management. The student group Free the Planet also will promote the contest, Zullo said.

To conserve paper, employees won’t be able to opt out of the effort, but extra recycling contain will be placed around campus during the competition and ban-ners (some of which are being reused from last year) and video presentations will appear in the William Pitt Union and Market Central, Zullo said.

In addition to asking the University community to recycle more, organizers are directing a pitch to employees to boost the collections by clearing out their offices. Facilities Manage-ment is targeting the March 7-14 spring break for a special effort.

“This week was chosen because the absence of students affords a bit of extra time both for faculty members and for maintenance staff. Extra recy-cling containers will be available in additional recycling schedules during that week, she said.

Zullo said Pitt’s employees do a good job with paper recycling, but she would like to see faculty, staff hold on to their aluminum, glass and plastic recycling. “We think we can do better there,” she said.

Pitt also recently expanded to include containers marked with numbers 1-3. Previously only numbers 1-2 were accepted.

Facilities Management sta-tistics show that during fiscal year 2009, Pitt diverted about 42 percent of its waste stream from landfills, recycling 41 tons of aluminum, glass and plastic. “We think we can do better there,” she said.

“We really need everyone to know that our efforts can be tough. Last year, participants recycled 69.4 million pounds during the 10-week challenge. The top school, California State University, recycled more than 8 percent of its overall waste. McNeese State University topped the per-capita competition by collecting more than 76 pounds per person.

As newcomers, “I have no illu-sion we’re going to win, but we will be in the running,” Zullo said.

For more details on the chal-lenge and to follow your progress, visit www.recyclema-nia.org. Updates are posted on PittRecycling and are expected to be announced in April.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

VIEW FROM OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Megan Turatske & Noreen Mazzocco

Disability spectrum disorders on campus

Most of us know what autism is, or at least we’ve seen the Hollywood depiction of the disorder in “Rain Man,” “Forrest Gump” and “The Other Sister.” However, what is less well-known is that autism is a spectrum disorder, meaning individuals on the spec-trum can range from the nonverbal to the savant. Included in the autism spec-trum are individuals who are on the higher-functioning end of the spectrum, such as interrupting when others are speaking, or reacting negatively if the structure of the class is changed. Do not confuse these behaviors with a lack of interest or commitment to education, most students on the spectrum care deeply about their education. Many autistic students have done well in academic settings due to their ability to easily learn and recall facts and details.

If a student is disrupting the classroom environment by exhibiting some of these behaviors, what should the faculty member do? Refer the student to Disability Resources and Services of the University Counseling Center. All students must adhere to the code of conduct, includ-ing students with disabilities. Generally, it is appropriate for an instructor to ask a student to stop a particular behavior if it is disrupting the class, but be careful not to further embarrass the student.

For example, if the student spends too much time discussing an issue of narrow interest, it is appropriate to interrupt the student or tell them it is not relevant to the current conversation and then move on.

On college campuses across the country, the number of students with autism spectrum disorder is growing. The reason is two-fold. First, the ability to diagnose individuals on the spectrum has improved greatly and allowed for earlier intervention, which increases the students’ chance for academic success. Second, at the post-secondary level the services offered for individuals with disabili-ties have been expanded to include services to those on the autism spectrum.

Pitt’s Office of Disability Resources and Services provides accommodations and services for students on the autism spectrum, as well as those with learning disorders, visual impairments, psychiatric disorders, orthopaedic disabilities and chronic illnesses. Common accommodations for qualified individuals registered with the office include classroom and testing accommodations, as well as assistive technology and a variety of auxiliary aids and services, such as qualified sign language interpreters. Specific accommodations for a student with autism may include extended time on an exam in order to allow the student to process the information being asked. Contact a faculty sitting student to control outside stimuli or a single residence hall for a student with a diagnosis of constant social interaction.

If you have questions regard-ing the classroom interaction or other disability, contact Disabil-ity Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412/648-7890, or 412/383-7355 (TTY).

The University is committed to providing equal opportunities to academically qualified students with disabilities. As part of that effort, the University Senate has agreed to encourage the placement of a disability statement on all syllabi to demonstrate the instructor’s willingness to provide accommodations to disabled students.

The statement reads:

“1. You have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412/648-7890, or 412/383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term.”

Including the placement of this statement on all syllabi helps to normal-ize the accommodation process and also acts as an invitation for students to meet with the instructor in a confidential way to discuss their needs and the requirements and the student’s requested accommodation.

Students who are working with Disability Resources and Services have been provided with a list of disability-friendly accommodations. If you wish to discuss your disability so instructors should not request such documentation. Instead, faculty should require a “Notification of Disability Memorandum” from any student requesting accom-modations.

Since its inception in 2001, the RecycleMania competition has grown to 510 campuses in 2009. Neighboring Carnegie Mellon and Chatham are among the more than 500 colleges and universities expected to participate in 2010 RecycleMania challenge. Competition is expected to begin Nov. 26. Last year, participants recycled 69.4 million pounds during the 10-week challenge. The top school, California State University, recycled more than 8 percent of its overall waste. McNeese State University topped the per-capita competition by collecting more than 76 pounds per person.

As newcomers, “I have no illu-sion we’re going to win, but we will be in the running,” Zullo said.

For more details on the chal-lenge and to follow your progress, visit www.recyclema-nia.org. Updates are posted on PittRecycling and are expected to be announced in April.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Pitt's senior administration grabs most of the headlines. The faculty here get noticed when they bring in research dollars, win teaching awards or publish in their fields.

But behind the scenes, University staff, some 7,000 strong across five campuses, often toil in jobs ranging from the mundane to the esoteric.

This is one in an occasional series profiling University staff, providing a glimpse of some of the less recognized employees whose primary business is making Pitt work.

From the refinished pews in Pitt's stately Heinz Chapel to the wood-framed banks of TV screens in the William Pitt Union's busy elevator lobby, Pitt's carpenters are quietly leaving their mark across the University with craftsmanship that often is destined to outlive the makers themselves. Integrated into every corner of the campus, their work is seen by many, yet often goes unrecognized as the handiwork of Pitt employees.

"People think we're just framing [walls]," said carpenter Harry Zaremba, who works in the cabinet shop. However, the carpenters' work goes far beyond simple hammering and nailing. Much of the carpenters' time is spent on repair and safety-related projects, but they also undertake the fabrication and installation of a wide range of decorative and functional items, working not only in wood, but also in metal, laminate and other materials.

Large, long-term carpentry jobs typically are contracted out, but smaller projects go to the University's in-house carpenters. "The carpenters shop, the largest of Pitt's trades, encompasses 16 carpenters, including three in the cabinet shop, located at Pitt's Melwood Avenue facility, and two who staff the lock shop beneath Posvar Hall."

The rest are spread out across the University, where they concentrate on loosely defined territories.

"Each usually has an area," said carpenters foreman Dave Papp. In addition to knowing the people in a given building, "They're familiar with working in their own specific areas," he said. Considering the variety of environments across campus, it's more efficient for each carpenter to focus on a handful of buildings. Working in a lab in the Chevron Science Center, for instance, is vastly different from working with the old systems and hardware in the Cathedral of Learning, he said.

In addition to framing—which in commercial construction utilizes metal, rather than wood wall studs—the carpenters may make laminate countertops, shelving, custom whiteboards, cabinets or furniture.

"We can make anything, from new to reproducing something you can't find," said Papp. While ordering from a catalog may be less expensive for quantity items, Pitt's carpenters often can make a single piece or custom item at a reasonable cost with a faster turnaround time than an outside shop, he said.

Racks of oak, walnut, maple and poplar—whatever might be needed to fill requests—are kept to facilitate matching, should the need arise.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Trustees approve capital budget

T he University’s Board of Trustees budget committee has approved a fiscal year 2010 capital budget totaling $179 million.

In a Dec. 15 meeting, the committee approved nearly $148 million in educational and general (E&G) construction projects and more than $31 million in non-E&G projects.

Topping the list of E&G projects is a $50.6 million Salk Hall addition and renovation plan that includes construction of an 80,000-square-foot research tower in the parking area behind the existing building. The new building would house laboratories and support spaces, which would be relocated from Salk Hall. The vacated spaces then would be renovated into classrooms and offices.

Other E&G projects are:
• $32.4 million for an addition and renovation to the Chevron Science Center.
• $27.8 million for Olympic sports complex construction.
• $9.9 million for a 200,000-square-foot square-foot nursing/health sciences facility at Pitt-Johnstown.
• $9.6 million for preservation projects on the Pittsburgh campus.
• $4.5 million for the design work for renovation and infrastructure upgrades for Parran and Grabtree halls. A 57,000-square-foot addition would be built over the auditorium, adding four floors for research and other space for the Graduate School of Public Health.
• $3.2 million for ground floor and basement renovations at Thomas Boulevard that will accommodate the relocation of Mailing Services, Surplus Property, Central Receiving and Pitt’s movers from leased space in the Lexington Warehouse.
• $2.8 million for programmatic renovations (excluding Schools of the Health Sciences) on the Pittsburgh campus.
• $2.0 million for new electrical service at Pitt-Bradford.
• $1.5 million for programmatic renovations and preservation projects on Pitt’s regional campuses.
• $1.5 million for classroom renovations.
• $949,000 for general campus security upgrades.
• $646,000 for information technology upgrades.
• $577,000 for construction (including programmatic upgrades) in the Schools of the Health Sciences.

At the top of the non-E&G projects list is $97.7 million for the new Pitt-Johnstown wellness center, which includes a 38,000-square-foot addition to UPP's existing recreation complex.

Other non E&G projects are:
• $5.4 million for a new screen cabinet in the William Pitt Union, above, and other times displays some antique door hardware near a bank of keys in the carpenters lock shop.
• $3 million for the design work for the new Welsh/new 103-bed residence hall at Pitt-Bradford.
• $4.5 million for Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences projects.
• $4.2 million for other regional campus auxiliary and non-auxiliary projects.
• $2.5 million for construction of a multipurpose facility and chapel at Pitt-Bradford.
• $1.4 million for the acquisition of 315 Oakland Ave. Planning is underway for additional undergraduate student apartments on the site. The 0.33-acre parcel is located behind the University’s Bouquet Gardens apartments.
• $1.8 million for renovations/preservation of Pitt campus.
• $1.5 million for other Pittsburg campus auxiliary enterprises.

Both the budget committee and the property and facilities committee must approve capital budget projects. The Salk Hall, Parran/Grabtree and UPP chapel projects remain subject to property and facilities committee approval. That committee’s next meeting date has not been announced.

The $179 million budget is being funded with $22.9 million in E&G financing, $15.8 million in auxiliary debt, $7.3 million in auxiliary reserves, $2.3 million in Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences funding, $86.2 million in state money and $44.5 million in gifts and other funding.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Pitt ranks high in survey of life scientists


Rankings were determined via a web-based survey in which life scientists were asked to assess their work environments in eight areas: job satisfaction, peers, infrastructure and environment, research resources, pay, management and policies, teaching and mentoring, and tenure and promotion. Pitt ranked highest in research resources and job satisfaction.

With 2,000 full-time life science researchers and more than 25,000 papers published in the life sciences, Pitt is one of the largest of the top 15 institutions in the survey and among the top recipients of federal funding.

“The federal funding does provide Pitt with a rich research environment, but the reason people are so happy here is much more than that,” said Joan Jakowski, associate vice chancellor for academic career development, Health Sciences. “The mentoring and support we offer one another allow for personal and career growth.”

She noted the Health Sciences’ comprehensive approach to career development: offering programs and services that address opportunities for those pursuing lifelong academic careers.

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Among the most unusual requests cabinet shop carpenter Rusty Kucsmas recalls was fabrication of clapping hands for Roc, the Pitt Panther.

Roc’s soft paws simply couldn’t make the desired noise necessary to rev up the crowds, so Kucsmas created attachable liners out of plywood and polyurethane. That template hangs with the others at Kucsmas’ workstation.

The carpenters in the lock shop are housed in a tiny office in the depths of the Posvar Hall garage. Lining the workshop’s walls are small bins containing the minutiae of repair and re-key locks for doors, audiovisual cabinets and file drawers.

The office also houses the ledger books that associate building room numbers with the proper keys — thousands of them, organized on hooks. “If somebody has a key, we have it,” said carpenter Michael Nucci.

Nucci, a 19-year Pitt veteran who has been stationed in the lock shop for the past decade, has committed to memory many of the details on which systems are in use in each building, simply by virtue of his years of experience.

Nine different keying systems are in use at Pitt.

“The University grew and it just happened that way,” he said.

The variety of Pitt carpenters’ more traditional work can be seen in a number of places across the Pittsburgh campus.

Zarember, for instance, fabricated display cases that are seen by hundreds of people each day in the Cathedral of Learning and Falk School. Likewise, the wooden directories in the elevator lobbies throughout the Cathedral are the carpenters’ handiwork.

In advance of the G-20 summit, Pitt’s carpenters built a cover to protect the water feature outside Pitt’s Biomedical Science Tower 3. Painted to match the building, the large wooden box made the perfect disguise to prevent damage to the lighted fountain.

In recent months, the carpenters, in conjunction with the tradespeople in Pitt’s paint shop, systematically repaired and refin- ished the Heinz Chapel pews, removing two each Monday and returning them in time for weekend weddings.

Library patrons also have Pitt carpenters to thank for keeping their seating in good repair. Fitting Hillman Library’s wooden chairs is a never-ending task, said Kucsmas, who estimated that she’s repaired at least 50% of them in her 10 years as a University carpenter.

Patrons perch on the chair backs and snap off the dowels that fasten them to the body of the chair; seats get ripped.

Stacks of the chairs piled high outside the cabinet shop testify to the frequency of such mishaps.

Finer work also is visible at Hillman Library: Pitt’s carpenters furnished and trimmed the new reading room on the library’s fourth floor.

While passersby may not notice their craftsmanship, the carpenters take pride in knowing their work will survive long after they’re gone. “When you’re done with something you’ve accomplished something,” Zarember said.

Kucsmas notes with pride that she recently built a white board cabinet for the new Welsh Nationality Room. “It’s going to be there forever,” she said.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Pitt kicks off 3rd annual weight race challenge

R eady to go? Want to make sure your health is in tip-top shape? Join the 2010 Pitt Fitness for Life Weight Race challenge — dubbed New Year, New You, New, New.

Key weight race dates
Jan. 11-20: Team and individual registration
Jan. 21-22: “Draft” days
Jan. 25-29: First official weigh-in
Jan. 30: Weight race begins
Feb. 5: First self-reporting weigh-in deadline
Feb. 12: Second self-reporting weigh-in deadline
Feb. 19: Third self-reporting weigh-in deadline
Feb. 22-26: Mid-point official weigh-in
March 4: Fifth self-reporting weigh-in deadline
March 12: Fifth self-reporting weigh-in deadline
March 19: Sixth self-reporting weigh-in deadline
April 2: Seventh self-reporting weigh-in deadline
April 5-9: Final official weigh-in
April 10: End of race
April 11: Winners announced

Pitt faculty and staff, as well as their spouses and domestic partners, are eligible to participate, students and UPMC employees are not eligible, except those who work in the same department as Pitt employees. The 10-week race runs Jan. 30-April 10, with prize drawings held each week for faculty and staff participants, as well as at the race’s conclusion. Both team and individual prizes will be awarded. The five campuses and the Mechanicville satellite location will hold separate races.

Registration for the challenge will be Jan. 11-20. This year’s race encourages employees to form teams of three-five members, but also permits participation by individuals. Instructions for registering and for participating in a team “draft” will be posted at www.hr.pitt.edu/fitness/wr2010.htm by Jan. 11.

The weight race isn’t just for those who want to lose weight. Those who want to maintain a healthy weight also are eligible to participate.

This year, individual and team goals will be determined by participants’ body mass index, rather than self-designated goals as in past races. Following registration, participants will set goals of their own by email. An appointment system based on reaching weight-loss or weight-maintenance goals will determine the race winners, with a random drawing breaking ties.

Weight loss will face three official weigh-ins, with times and locations to be posted on the Human Resources Fitness for Life initiatives/incentives web site. During the weeks between the weigh-ins, participants are required to self-report their weigh by 5 p.m. on Friday on a password-protected web site. As extra motivation to cross the finish line of the 10-week challenge, participants will be sent daily emails and encouraged to sign up for health and nutrition counseling through UPMC Health Plan and Life Solutions.

UPMC honored for organ donation rates

UPMC was among 46 hospitals that recently received the Medal of Honor for Organ Donation from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for achieving and sustaining national donation goals, including a donation rate of 77.5 percent or more of eligible donors. Among the 46 honored recognized hospitals had eight or more eligible organ donors and met or exceeded one or more of these goals: improving donation rates, increasing the number of organs

City tuition tax averted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Nordenberg said. “We are unified in our understanding that the city is being financially crushed by staggering legacy costs tied to significantly underfunded pension obligations.

While congratulations for the new collaboration were exchanged, the compromise offered few specifics.

Nordenberg cited the University’s past commitment to the Pittsburgh Public Service Fund, a consortium of more than 100 local institutions and agencies that voluntarily donated about $4 million to the city’s coffers under a memorandum of agreement that expired in 2007.

“The University of Pittsburgh made a very strong case to the first Pittsburgh Public Service Fund and, consistent with that unbroken history, stands prepared to renew and increase that support once the impediment of the tuition tax proposal is removed,” Nordenberg said.

He did not specify what amount Pitt would pledge or over what timeframe under the new coalition commitment.

—Peter Hart

Children’s recognized as one of top hospitals in U.S.

Children’s Hospital is one of eight pediatric hospitals named a 2009 Leapfrog Top Hospital. The designation is based on the only national, public comparison of hospital issues including mortality rates for certain procedures, infection rates, safety practices and patient satisfaction. This year is the second year in a row that Children’s has earned the honor.

Children’s, a pioneer in the development and use of electronic health records, met a number of criteria in order to be considered for delivering the best quality care while attaining the highest level of efficiency, according to The Leapfrog Group. As an example of how an electronic health record has improved patient safety, Children’s has reduced medication errors by 60 percent since the implementation of computerized provider order entry.

Top pediatric hospitals earn a score of 95 or better in the Leapfrog hospital recognition program, which uses data from its 1,216-hospital survey to evaluate performance in clinical focus areas, intensivist physician staffing, evidence-based hospital referrals, common acute conditions, hospital-acquired conditions, and safety practices.

To vote, log onto the portal using your University Computer Account username and password.

After logging in, you will see one of four tabs at the top of the page (depending on your school/unit affiliation): Vote – A&S, Vote – Health Sciences, Vote – Professional Schools or Vote – Regions.

Click on that tab. You will then click on Faculty Representative (which is located on the bottom of the page) to see the slate of candidates.

In accordance with the Guidelines for Search Committees for Senior Administrators, 2001, Arts & Sciences faculty and Professional Schools faculty may each cast votes for two nominees. Regional Campus for Liberty and Health Sciences faculty may vote for one nominee. Each candidate has submitted a brief statement of qualifications, which you may view individually or as a group as you vote. Please note the candidates are in random order and do not appear in alphabetical order.

Click the Select button to add a candidate to your voting box. After you have made your selections, click the Vote button. You will be prompted to confirm your vote. To submit your vote, click the Confirm button.

You must vote by midnight January 7, 2010 for your vote to be counted.

To increase the font size in your web browser, press the Control key and the + (plus) key at the same time. To decrease the font size, press the Control key and the – (minus) sign at the same time.

In the event of difficulty logging in, please call the Pitt Technology Help Desk at 412-624-HELP (4357).

If you have any other questions contact Lori Molinaro, Director of the Office of the University Senate at 412-624-6505.

Thank you for your time in this important matter; your participation in this important responsibility is appreciated.
New Year, New Race, New You Weight Race Begins

Losing weight usually tops the New Year’s resolution list of most people. The University’s Fitness for Life program would like to help. A Weight Race challenge will begin in January. The “Race” will be similar to past years’ challenges but with some notable differences and enhancements.

This year’s race will be supported once again by the School of Education’s Department of Health and Physical Activity. In addition, other University Departments will add support including the School of Nursing, Department of Sports Medicine and Nutrition, and the Department of Physical Therapy. UPMC Health Plan will support the University with its health coaches and nutritional counselors. The Staff Association Council will be working on the “crew” in support of the virtual food bank.

Changes in the Weight Race

The focus of the race will be “crossing the finish line.” Lessons have been learned from the past two weight races. One particular issue involves starting the race with the best of intentions but never completing the race. This is where the “Pitt Crew” can help. The “Pitt Crew” is a group of departments of campus, resources from our insurance carrier, and others who will encourage you to stay engaged throughout the race.

Key Dates

- January 11 – 20 Registration Begins
- January 21 – 22 Draft Days for Teams
- January 25 – 29 Official Weigh-ins
- January 30 Weight Race Begins

Key Points of the Weight Race

- Faculty, staff, spouses, and domestic partners may participate
- Participants may be enrolled to race individually or as part of a team of 3 to 5 members
- Each campus will conduct separate races
- Members may sign up for the Virtual Food Bank Challenge to assist local food banks

Helping Participants Stay in the Race

A few examples of support during the race include:

- Participants will be encouraged to sign up with health coaches and nutritional counseling through UPMC Health Plan.
- Professionals and graduate students from the Department of Physical Therapy will provide information on topics including proper exercise and lower back pain.
- Life Solutions can assist members with lifestyle changes to help reduce stress and find the critical time to exercise.
- The Department of Health and Physical Activity will send daily motivational messages with the support of other University Departments.
- Three workshops will be held on the main campus by “Pitt Crew” Departments.
- During certain initial weigh-in dates, “Pitt Crew” resources will be on-hand to meet you on the main campus.

Length of Race is Ten Weeks

The weight race will be ten weeks. In past years the race was conducted over a 12-week period. The slightly shorter length will allow participants to focus on their short-term goal. With other planned events, members can continue with longer-term weight goals and better health.

Goals will be based on Body Mass Index (BMI)

Goals will be based on a participant’s height and weight, which are used to derive his or her BMI. Three categories will be used as indicated in the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Mass Index (BMI)</th>
<th>Weight Loss Goal (lbs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMI ≥ 25</td>
<td>10 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI ≥ 22.4-24.9</td>
<td>5 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI ≥ 18.6-21.9</td>
<td>Weight Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI &lt; 18.5</td>
<td>Should Not Participate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Administration will be Retained on Fitness for Life Web site

To ease administration, all information as well as input of weight information will be retained on a password protected Web site. Feedback from surveys indicated that this change would be desirable.

In early January more information will be sent internally to faculty and staff. Posters will be appearing on campuses and the Web site will be available with additional details.

H1N1 Vaccination Clinic Offered to Faculty and Staff

A clinic will be conducted for faculty and staff members interested in obtaining the H1N1 vaccination. The CDC guidelines have changed recently and the vaccine is now available to all age groups.

What: H1N1 Vaccination Clinic (Faculty and Staff)

Where: University Club Ballroom

Date: January 14, 2010

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This clinic will focus on providing the vaccine to faculty and staff. The University identification card should be presented at the time of the vaccination. The vaccination is free to faculty and staff members. Both the nasal spray form which is the live, attenuated version and the inactivated injectable form of the vaccine will be available.

To assist in the vaccination process, members may complete the proper consent form in advance. The consent forms and more information about H1N1 influenza are located on the University’s Web site at:
http://www.pitt.edu/swine-flu/index.html

There are two different consent forms:

- H1N1 Nasal Spray (Live, Attenuated) Influenza Vaccine
- H1N1 Influenza (Inactivated) Vaccine

Important Vendor Contact Information

Benefits Department
Office Hours 8am-5pm EST
2008 Craig Hall
(412) 624-8560
Fax (412) 624-3485
hr.pitt.edu/benefits

Please visit our Web site for FAQs, downloadable forms and other benefits information.

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1-888-499-6885 • www.upmchealthplan.com

Dental
United Concordia
1-877-215-3616 • ucci.com

Vision
Davis Vision-1-800-999-5431 • www.davision.com

Retirement/Savings
TIAA-CREF
1-800-842-2776 • www.tiacref.org
Vanguard
1-800-523-1188 • www.vanguard.com

Flexible Spending Accts.
EBD6-1-800-207-9310
www.hr.pitt.edu/benefits/flexible.htm

Life Solutions
1-866-647-3432
www.hr.pitt.edu/benefits/lifesolutions.htm

Payroll
412-624-8070 • www.pitt.edu/payroll/index.html

Faculty Records
412-624-4232

UPMC Health Plan
U
obtrusively nestled between — and connected to — the Space Research Coordinating Center (SRCC) and Old Engineering Hall on O’Hara Street sits Pitt’s oldest Oakland campus building, Thaw Hall, which this year marks the 100th anniversary of its dedication.

Named for industrialist, Pitt trustee and benefactor Benjamin Thaw Sr., the building is the last remnant of the ambitious — some might say grandiose — “Acropolis Plan,” the initial proposed development of the new Pitt campus, which began moving from the North Side and its scattered Downtown locations in 1908 to start fresh in the growing cultural center of Oakland. The area already was home to the Carnegie Museums, Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon) and Phipps Conservatory.

According to Robert C. Alberts’s institutional history, “Pitt: The Story of the University of Pittsburgh 1787-1987,” under the leadership of Samuel Black McCormick, who served as Pitt’s chancellor 1905-21, the University in 1905 purchased 45 acres of Oakland hillside land north of O’Hara and Terrace streets for $537,000 from developer Franklin Nicola. He had built the Schenley Hotel (now the William Pitt Union) in 1898 and would build Forbes Field in 1909, as well as much of the area’s infrastructure such as streets and utility lines.

In 1907 Pitt held a national architectural competition for the design of a 30-building campus. The winner was the so-called “Acropolis Plan” of New York-based architect Henry Hornbostel (1867-1961), already well-known at the time in Pittsburgh for his design of most of the original Carnegie Mellon campus buildings and his founding of CMU’s architecture department. Hornbostel also designed Rodef Shalom Temple at Fifth and Morewood avenues (1907), Soldiers and Sailors Museum and Memorial Hall (1910), the University Club (1923) and the five Schenley Quadrangle dormitories (originally the Schenley Apartments, completed in 1924 and purchased by Pitt in
Work on Hornbostel’s Acropolis Plan began in 1908 with the construction of State Hall.

The following year ground was broken and the cornerstone laid for Thaw Hall, the five-story stone, brick and terra cotta building was dedicated June 15, 1910.

As part of Hornbostel’s 30-building Acropolis Plan, Pitt also constructed the original Pennsylvania Hall (1911), and the Mineral Industries Building (1912).

State Hall and Thaw Hall were designed to start the baseline of the Acropolis Plan along O’Hara Street. Thaw Hall originally housed the University’s engineering programs, hence “School of Engineering” remains sculpted in the building’s O’Hara Street side.

When McCormick was succeeded as chancellor by John G. Bowman in 1921, the University chartered a new development course that culminated with the completion of the Cathedral of Learning in 1937. The Acropolis Plan, chronically short of funding, was abandoned with only four of the intended structures ever completed.

State Hall was razed to make room for the Chevron Science Center, which was completed in 1974. Thaw Hall, by then connected to Old Engineering and SRCC, escaped a similar fate when it was named a historical landmark by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in 1976. It achieved U.S. National Register of Historic Places status in 1983.

After a protracted battle over the merits of preserving the original Pennsylvania Hall and the Minerals Industries Building as historical structures—a proposal that ran counter to Pitt’s mid-range facilities plan for expanding on-campus student housing — those two edifices were razed in the late 1990s, leaving Thaw Hall as the only building remaining from Hornbostel’s original Acropolis Plan. (See University Times, Jan. 23, 1997.)

The current Thaw Hall houses a mishmash of offices, labs and student centers, including the Office of Experimental Learning, Freshman Programs and the Writing Center. Several departments and programs, including physics and astronomy, Asian languages, chemistry and archaeology, have offices, classrooms and labs scattered throughout the building.

Interestingly, Hornbostel’s Thaw Hall also is the home of the architectural studies program’s architecture lab. The lab serves as a dedicated design studio space that facilitates instruction from practicing architects in the fundamentals of spatial thinking, graphic representation techniques and model-building.

Henry Hornbostel’s original design for Pitt was dabbled with in the Acropolis Plan after the Pittsburgh Leader newspaper compared the competition-winning architectural renditions to the Athenian Acropolis.

But to refer to the architecture as Greek Revival would be wrong, according to Christopher Drew Armstrong, assistant professor and director of architectural studies in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture.

A Hornbostel devotee, Armstrong praised Thaw Hall as a fine example of a grand architect’s work, albeit on a smaller scale than the “monuments” he designed, such as Soldiers and Sailors and Carnegie Mellon’s College of Fine Arts building, both of which Armstrong considers architectural masterpieces.

Thaw, rather, is a gatepost or supporting building designed to work in tandem with other proposed buildings in the Acropolis Plan, Armstrong said, which makes a big difference in terms of scope and elaboration of the design.

“Thaw is a classical building and it does have elements that are very specifically derived from Greek models, but you couldn’t call it a Greek Revival building. Hornbostel is inspired by those, but he’s not copying anything. He’s deriving from them. He knows how to work with a set of rules but not be constrained by them,” Armstrong said.

Instead, the architecture is derived from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where Hornbostel trained. “That is where the foundation of his architecture is from,” Armstrong noted.

“The Acropolis Plan was a very grand idea. As a paper design, it’s quite magnificent. It won the competition because it was a sophisticated-project and it deals in a credible way with the sloping. You can see how the streets were laid out to wind up the hillside, so it’s clear he did think about the challenges. This is a very thoughtful man, very subtle, and one who could adapt.”

Hornbostel’s design also corresponds with a period when institutions were defined by their architecture, Armstrong maintained.

“The Hornbostel plan did represent one moment in the University’s history of huge significance, when architectural patronage evidently really mattered,” he said. “We’ve come to the end of a period of vast spending on cultural institutions in the United States and in other places in the world as well, where the architecture had been considered the absolute flagship component of institutions. The Acropolis Plan came at a moment when the University decided to stake out an image for itself by using architecture and that’s pretty important. The next such moment in the University’s history is with the Cathedral of Learning, which was constructed in the 1920s and 30s, [in Oakland] had changed pretty dramatically by that time.”

Armstrong said the Pitt Acropolis design contrasted with Hornbostel’s layout of Carnegie Mellon’s campus, with its central forum and buildings arrayed around it. “That draws on a very old American idea like the University of Virginia, which is a great model for that basic plan. In the Acropolis Plan, however, instead of being around a space, it’s on top of a space. [Had the plan been executed] I think it would have been quite inconvenient, all of the walking around vertically,” Armstrong said, although he acknowledged the same concern holds true for today’s upper campus.
"Remember, Thaw sits on the lower edge, and from here it's nothing but going up and that would have been formidable," he said. "The plan was to extend along the [west] end of the building. It's very clear this was not a finished end, but a supporting building. It just stopped and they walled it up, and later built Old Engineering on one side and the SRCC on the other."

Hornbostel chose the baluster-like element to set back the upper part of Thaw Hall because the lower levels were to act as a kind of podium, Armstrong said. "The point is that as you extend the buildings in [the west] direction, the podium would become increasingly smaller. It's something that would give a horizontal continuity to a chain of buildings that were planned. He's establishing a horizontal line, so there's a base and then there's higher piece dividing the building essentially in half," Armstrong said.

Armstrong noted that by connecting SRCC — completed in 1965 — to Thaw Hall, the original Thaw entrance, with two large Doric columns, ornamentation and wrought-iron gates, largely has been obscured from view.

"Those columns from a distance would have been quite apparent and would have signaled that [the east] end of the building is where you enter," Armstrong said. "The building is in reasonably good condition. Why it looks terrible is that many of the windows are all blocked up. That isn't the way this building should be. It needs a little bit of cleaning. There are some issues with how the building settled that caused cracking, probably during the first couple of decades, but the cracking is minor."

While the design of SRCC in many ways mimics its older neighbor, such as the color of the brick and the motif of recessed bricks in the middle of larger brick columns, there are innumerable differences, Armstrong said.

"In terms of the details, if you look at the first cornice (the horizontal molded projection that completes a wall that defines the lower level, and then look at the SRCC, you see the difference in richness and complexity. In Thaw you can see right away there's an intention to have ornamental elements that are part of a whole system of classical design. Things like all the horizontal elements — the roof, the cornice — are very powerful shapes that are derived from classical architecture," he said. "If you look just above the highest level of windows, you see the wave motif typical in classical architecture. The pediment is cornered, which is absolutely textbook classicism derived from the École des Beaux-Arts."

(The pediment is the decorated triangular gable over a facade that helps support the roof.)

Hornbostel also used a variety of materials in different ways from its adjoining neighbor's builders. "Most of Thaw is brick, but he does use stone in certain moments to indicate a horizontal vision — even things like how the brick is laid. If you look up between the second windows down from the top and the third windows down, you can see a pattern of brick, that they're pushed out slightly more. It's not extraordinary in any way. But it does indicate care and attention to every level of detail with respect to the design of the outside of the building."

There also are a series of unfinished round stone elements in the brick across the O'Hara Street side, which probably were intended to be carved into portraits or faces, Armstrong speculated.

The main difference between the Space Research Coordination Center and Thaw Hall is in the building technology prevalent in their respective eras, he said. "Yes, these are both brick exteriors. But in the SRCC the exterior walls actually are supporting weight. In the case of Thaw, that's not true."

"The exterior of the building tells you about its construction. Instead of using stone and brick, the SRCC uses concrete and brick. You can see that above each of the Thaw windows, there is a thickened element, thickened at the corners. That's the difference," Armstrong maintained.

"If you were to strip out all of the brick in the SRCC, the concrete would just stay. The concrete is all self-supporting; that's the structure. The brick is all in-filled to create the division between inside and outside, but it isn't actually supporting the concrete."

"In contrast, the brick in Thaw Hall is integral to the construction of the building, "as is absolutely clear from the cracking. It's supporting weight. So there's a technological change — not an advancement, a change," Armstrong said.

Another example of the difference in construction technology: Thaw Hall's stone roof is shaped in a triangular pediment not only for richer ornamentation, but for practical drainage, while the SRCC's concrete roof is flat and unaffected by rain or heavy snow, he pointed out.

These days, Thaw Hall and SRCC share a common entrance on O'Hara Street, something that doesn't meet Armstrong's approval.

"The SRCC is not a dumb building. It's a modest building, but it's not a bad building. It's just not appropriate where it's sited, in my estimation," Armstrong said. "My problem with the SRCC is that juxtaposition is insensitive. There's no other word for it. Here you've given what is now manifestly the main entrance to these two buildings and it's a blank. It doesn't really communicate very much. It's not inviting. You can see the tops of the two columns left from the original (Thaw Hall) entrance. They were trying not to mangle the old entrance, I guess. It's a kind of buffer."

What makes Thaw Hall worthy of historic building status is Hornbostel's use of light and shade, Armstrong said.

"If you look at the top cornice, you see that that swing creates a kind of half circle shapes of dark, and that dark is repeated. That's what you were meant to see from a distance," he said. "Similarly, under the diagonal of the pediment, that repeated motif dips back and forth. Most important it's creating alternate dark, light,
SOLE SURVIVOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

dark, light, dark, light, so that when you’re very far away you can still get the pattern.”

That effect abates as the viewer looks at the lower parts of the building, he noted. “That’s why this kind of building matters. It matters because it shows you that even for a gatetower or a supporting building, Hornbostel has thought this through in terms of how much relief to give different parts of the ornamentation. I’m sure it’s deliberate, because with Hornbostel there is always an explanation,” Armstrong said.

“He’s thinking about architecture in a way we don’t tend to think about architecture anymore, and that is: It’s a visual thing. It’s something you are perceiving from different distances and in different ways.”

Armstrong added that most of Hornbostel’s ornamentation for Thaw Hall appears to be mass-produced as opposed to sculpted. “If you look at the Greek ‘key’ patterns up at the top, I think that is granite that has been sculpted. But under it, that leafy pattern is clearly a terra cotta block that is repeated all along. It’s terra cotta, which means it’s a block that has been produced in the same mold all the way across. It’s not hand-sculpted and this is a sign of his modernity, that he is taking up methods of current production,” he said.

“He shows modernity also by the way he uses the brick: The brick right above the windows: How is that brick holding itself up? You’ve got a whole layer of bricks that appears to be hanging in a void. The metal behind it, which you can’t see, is what’s really holding it up.”

Armstrong is much less positive about the inside of Thaw Hall.

“The interior organization has been pretty seriously transformed. I don’t know anything about the history behind the changes, but it strikes me as having been both piecemeal and expedient,” he said of the building’s current uses. “By that I mean it was not a comprehensive plan and certainly not one that was sympathetic to the building.”

He pointed to the plain-looking swinging doors that connect the third floor of SRCC with the second floor of Thaw Hall, which was Thaw Hall’s original entrance. He noted that the corridor at the entrance had been narrowed and denuded of all architectural interest. “When I said non-sympathetic, this is what I mean. In this corridor we have no idea where we are. This is hardly exploiting what is specific to the building,” Armstrong opined.

“Even though the interior space in no way resembles what was originally intended, that’s not how will it be used in the future? That’s a complicated problem. But recognizing the specific qualities of Thaw informs, or should inform, what you do inside the building. It’s an important building, designed by a major American architect, one of the top ones in the period, someone who won competition after competition against the top firms,” he said.

“What do you do in a building that has that profile? That’s my big question mark for Thaw Hall. Should this just be a classroom building? Should it just be an office building? Should it be a lab building? In that respect, I do feel personally a lab building should be a modern building that has adapted to all the mechanical and technical requirements of said lab, like the Chevron building is.”

Armstrong acknowledged his interest in future uses of Thaw Hall are planned in 2011-2018, unspecified phased renovations and upgrades for Thaw Hall are planned in 2011-2014 and in 2015-2018. Armstrong acknowledged his interest in future uses of Thaw Hall is somewhat selfish.

“What should it be used for? In my own bailiwick, I feel very strongly a building designed by a noted, great, American École des Beaux-Arts-trained architect should have a design studio in it and we’re grateful as a department to have the architectural studies lab. Is there a possibility for expanding that idea? I don’t know. I don’t make those decisions.”

—Peter Hart

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Our experiments indicate also that at least 21 million stem cells, and possibly as many as 500 million, could be back in the umbilical cord after the birth of a baby, she noted. “So the cord is a rich source of stem cells and what we think of as a multipotent stem cell population, a multitude of stem cells that overcomes many of the restrictions that we’ve seen,” Deasy said, particularly with regard to donor age and donor sex issues, that come with other adult stem cell populations.”

Deasy and her team analyzed sections of 2-foot-long human umbilical cords that were collected for research, looking for cells in Wharton’s jelly and blood vessel walls that displayed the characteristics of stem cell progenitors found in stem cells derived from other sources. The researchers then sought to find the best way to isolate the stem cells from the cord and test them in the lab to confirm their ability to produce specialized cells, such as bone and cartilage, which showed potential to repair and renew themselves.

Pitt researchers also included lead researcher Rebecca C. Schugar of Pitt’s Stem Cell Research Center, who is also a Cardiologist at the Washington University School of Medicine, Steven M. Chirieleison, Yuko Ishak, along with National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Howard, Joshua W. Evron of the Stem Cell Research Center; Kristin E. Wescoe and Benjamin T. Schmidt of the Department of Bioningenieurkunde and Bruno Peault of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine and UCL.

The research was supported by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases of the National Institutes of Health and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and the National Institute of Mental Health.

Bradford co-op gets alcohol intervention grant

The Northwest Pennsylvania Adolescent Alcohol Research Cooperative has received a $1.3 million grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) to test an intervention program to reduce alcohol use among adolescents. The cooperative is comprised of three Pitt centers: the University of Pittsburgh Center for Rural Health Practice; Pitt-Bradford; the Pennsylvania Adolescent Alcohol Research Center; and the University of Pittsburgh Center for Research on Health Care Delivery Systems.

"Rural youth are at risk of having more alcohol-related problems and earlier, too,” said Youmaus Siewe, director of the Center for Rural Health Practice. “Because of the bio-psychosocial roles that physicians play in rural medical practive and munities, this study will enhance team-physician interaction in the clinical setting and allow better assessment of underage drinking, prevention of related psychosocial problems and limited fund quantity as crashes.”

Duncan Clark, principal investigator of the project, director of the Pittsburgh Adolescent Research Center at Western Reserve University, said that work on this project began when the NIAAA was waiting for plans to engage rural doctors in addressing underage drinking.

In 2006, the Pitt coalition was one of eight study sites chosen to receive funding awarded to develop an approach with colleagues from the philosophical perspectives of the Pittino group now has a five-year grant to test an intervention.

The Pitt coalition is one of eight research centers to receive a five-year, $7.2 million grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) to test a new intervention to reduce alcohol consumption and sexual transmission of HIV when applied topically. Currently several cure was tested for its potential to KE in a proven effective. Testing of many products likely will be required before finding one that is safe and effective against HIV, as well as easy to use and acceptable to both sexual partners.

The grant will allow Pitt to test two formulations: a film and ring that release the active ingre- dient over a month. The film may involve cell culture and animal studies of two microbicides, RC101 and CSIC, which target different stages of virus growth. RC101 inhibits entry of the virus into a cell, while CSIC works inactivate an enzyme that the virus needs to grow after it has entered a cell. Researchers also plan to test the microbicides in the presence of cell cultures that transmitted diseases and bacterial vaginosis, a common vaginal infection.

Postdoctoral position in the emerging field of small RNA biology in the Department of Computational Biology, School of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Research will build on our recent findings on unusually small RNAs, termed sRNAs. The underlying methodologies will make use of readily emerging advanced fields such as next-generation sequencing and high-throughput data analysis. People interested in this field should have a solid background in genetics and study their characteristics in multiple cell types. Experience is required in the following: (i) identification and detection of small RNAs (~20 bases) using next-generation sequencing and northern blots using non-radioactive isotopes, (ii) computational methods for the conservation analysis of short sequence reads, (iii) microarray data analysis, and (iv) a PhD in biology or related field.

Researchers should email a letter summarizing pertinent experience and a CV including three references to mmg5@pitt.edu by January 15, 2010.
University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine

POSITION AVAILABLE

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine is seeking applications for a full-time non-tenure track faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor. The applicant will demonstrate excellence in didactic and clinical teaching at the professional level, preclinical students, and residents, research, service and continuing education. Faculty practices, as appropriate, are encouraged.

Requirements for this faculty position are: (1) DMD/DDS degree; (2) certificate or advanced degree in pediatric dentistry from an ADA-accredited program; (3) Board candidate or Board certification from the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry; (4) license to practice dentistry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and (5) evidence of teaching at the preclinical and graduate levels. Evidence of academic risk for this position are commensurate with experience and qualifications. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Proposed starting date is July 1, 2010. Please send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae and the names of three references to:

Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlicek, Professor and Chair Department of Pediatric Dentistry University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine 3001 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261 Telephone: (412) 648-6183 E-Mail: daps@pitt.edu

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Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law & Public Policy

Academic grants of up to $2,500 for undergraduate or graduate faculty at the University of Pittsburgh to utilize the resources of the Dick Thornburgh Papers housed in the Hillman Library digital archives. Grants are available to:

1. Incorporate archival material into new or existing course(s); and
2. Develop case studies utilizing archival material.


Proposals are due by January 31, 2010 for the Fall semester of 2010. Please contact Jennifer Kush at jak49@pitt.edu for an application or additional information.

Dick Thornburgh Academic Support Grant Competition

Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law & Public Policy

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

3601 Wesley W. Posvar Hall, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260

University of Pittsburgh
Salome Gutierrez, a long-time instructor in Pitt’s Less-Common-Mainstream Languages Center, died Dec. 12, 2009, of complications following a Nov. 19 auto accident. She was 63.

A native of Antahbama, Peru, Gutierrez became a United States citizen in 1971, and joined the faculty in 1978 as an instructor in Quechua and, in 1992, after earning an M.A. in Spanish, she received teaching certification from the Universidad Nacional del Atlipano in Peru, where she began teaching Aymara in the Less-Commonly-Taught Languages Center, part of the Department of Linguistics. Quechua and Aymara are indigenous South American languages.

Since 2000, Gutierrez had served as a faculty member for the outreach program at the Center for Latin American Studies and since 2002 had been the faculty adviser for Pitt’s Quechua Club. She earned a certificate in women’s studies in 1995 and a bachelor’s degree in anthropology in 1989. In 2008, she became a fund-raising chair for the proposed Latin American and Caribbean Nationality Room.

Gutierrez’s research is focused on understanding the biology of these disorders with the goals of improving diagnoses and treatments. She is showing genetic alterations that could serve as biomarkers of diagnosis and prognosis as well as targets for therapy. Over the past seven years, she has been investigating the mechanism of chromosomal instability in cancer cells, including the role of the cytoskeleton in chromosomal instability and the process of gene amplification and their translational implications.

The Swanson School of Engineering announced its second annual Swanson School Distinguished Staff Awards to recognize staff members who provide outstanding performance and service to the Swanson School.

The 2010 Swanson Distinguished Staff Awards winners are:

* **Rama Bazaz**, associate director of administration, Bazaz has served the University for 20 years, 15 at the Swanson School. According to the award notification, she is best known for her administrative support for the school’s research function and for helping faculty members at the school obtain and manage grant applications. She is cited regularly for her administrative skills in budgeting, personnel, and grants and her professionalism, often under intense time constraints. Bazaz’s kind, caring, and capable leadership contribute greatly to the school’s high level of research activity.

* **Robert Toplak**, assistant chair, Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. Toplak, who joined the department in 1995, has been influential in advanced and enhancing the research activities of the department.

* **Jinx Walton**, director of Computing Services and Systems Development, was named a 2010 Computerworld Premier 100 award honoree as one of “100 men and women who are driving positive change in their businesses through technology.”

Former student and friend Sarah Henrich said, “Salome was a true devotee of her native Peruvian culture wherever she went and enjoyed sharing her background and experience by absorbing traditions. She was one of the rare professors who made friendship and encouragement available to all students. Salome changed my life — I decided to study abroad in Peru where I encountered multiple academic successes to her guidance. She was a dear friend who is and will always be a fun and passionate professor of Quechua. Because of her heavy involvement in the Pittsburgh and international communities, Salome had friends around the globe. Everywhere I went, if I mentioned Salome’s name, someone was sure to know her.”

Salome will be deeply missed by all in the Department of Linguistics at Pitt, said department chair Alan Jaffe. “Her bright, friendly and compassionate contributions were appreciated by all.”

Jinx said that Gutierrez’s cooking always was a hit at the department’s tea and dinner events. In addition to cooking, friends said Gutierrez enjoyed singing and dancing. She performed in several university and local languages World Dance Showcase during Pitt’s International Week, and regularly performed at the International Week fair selling Peruvian food, arts and crafts at the Peruvian Cultural Union’s International Latin American Club and her language classes.

Gutierrez also participated in the 2006 Carib-Bean Festival as an international fellowship committee member for the University of Pittsburgh and as a faculty adviser for Latin American Studies.

Gutierrez is survived by her daughter Sabrina Gutierrez de Matteo and son-in-law Mark Matteo, her siblings Raúl Carhuaslla, Valois Carhuaslla, Juan Carhuaslla and Carla de Gutierrez (in Peru) and Guallerto Carhuaslla and his wife Lisa, Isamda de Colan and his husband Hugo and Margarita Carhuaslla (in the United States), as well as nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Salome Gutierrez’s Memorial Scholarship Fund is in the planning stages. For information, contact Rob Mucklow, and student advisor.

—*Peter Hart*

**Salome Gutierrez**

Outside the University, Gutierrez, who also lived in Spanish, became a faculty member in 1986 of the Latin American Cultural Union, where she was known for her expertise in several leadership capacities.

She also was honored with the university’s High School Board of Education Award in 1983 and the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education’s National Educational Program Award for volunteerism in teaching Hispanic culture and language.

Last summer she received a certificate from the mayor of Antahbama as recognition of distinguished social and academic work, for promoting educational development on a national level and for being an influential daughter of the province of Antahbama.

For many years, Gutierrez served as an officer of Quipuquet, a nationwide volunteer organization of Peruvians linked on the Internet.

Friends and colleagues remember Gutierrez for her enthusiasm and pride in Andean culture and her love for dancing. She said, “I can describe Salome as a hardworking colleague who brought a lot of joy and humor to the people around her,” said Swa- hil language instructor Leonora Anayoyo Kiruya, who shared an office with Gutierrez for 10 years. “She rejoiced in the work and achievements of her students, and they were all lovely children. Quechua and Aymara are not only a teacher, a guardian and a parent. She was always busy writing them letters of recommendation, going to conferences to improve her teaching and/or writing or developing material to use in her classroom.”

He also has provided exceptional academic services to the department's graduate faculty. He also has provided exceptional academic services to the department's graduate and undergraduate programs, as well as outstanding development and organizational services. He is recognized uniformly for his extraordinary competence and professional contributions, and he is cited as the person who really “makes the department run.”

The Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs announced the 2010 John G. Bowman faculty grants for study abroad. The recipients receive a $10,000 grant to augment a faculty for a current or soon-to-be-offered class.

The 2010 awardees are: Youting Zhang, assistant professor of Chinese, Department of Linguistics; Dennis Looney of French and Italian languages and literatures, who will conduct research in Italy; Laura Putnam, history, who will conduct research in Venezuela; and Todd Reeser of French and Italian languages, who will conduct research in France.

The faculty grants are named for Bowman, Pitt chancellor 1921-45, who was the driving force behind construction of the Cathedral of Learning.

Jinx Walton, director of Computing Services and Systems Development, was named a 2010 Computerworld Premier 100 award honoree as one of “100 men and women who are driving positive change in their businesses through technology.”

Wesley Lipschultz, manager of student services in the School of Information Sciences, was selected to receive the 2010 Student Computing Award presented by the National Academic Advising Association’s (NACA)/Technology in Advising Commission. The award recognizes individual who have provided outstanding service, leadership and commitment to a student advis-

Walton was selected for “displaying exceptional technology leadership, fostering ideas and a creative work environment and effectively managing IT strategies” at Pitt, according to a congratulatory letter from Com-

The Premier 100 was first created in 2000 to spotlight individual professionals who are driving positive change in their businesses through technology. The Premier 100 recognizes industry leaders and technology innovators who are driving positive change in their businesses through technology.

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CALENDAR

January

Thursday 7
Epidemiology Seminar
“Sample Size Issues Related to the Implementation of the Equi
pose-Stratified Randomization Design,” Stephen Wenusowski; A115 Crabtree, noon
EOH Seminar
“Laten Tuberculosis: What’s Going On in There?” Joanne Flynn; 11th fl. conf. rm. 540, Bridgeman Pt., noon
Biostatistics Seminar
“Summer Institute for Training in Biostatistics (SIBS) Pitts
burg,” Roslyn Stone; A115 Crabtree, 3:30 pm

Friday 8
WPIC Meet the PI Lecture
“Who Will Kill or Be Killed? Answers That Are Relevant to City-wide Interventions,” Rolf Loebert; 2nd fl. aud. Dette, 11 am
Medical Education Round
“The Institutional Context of Perennial Agriculture and Anthropology Lecture

Wednesday 13
Clinical Oncology & Hematol
ogy Grand Rounds
“CYP24 & the Dysregulation of Vitamin D3 Metabolism in Lung Cancer,” Pamela Herscherber, 2nd fl. aud. UPMC Cancer Pavilion, 8 am
Pathology Research Seminar
“Pathogenic & Symbiotic Inter
actions Between the Virome & the Genome: New Paradigms & New Players,” Herbert Virgin, Washington U, 1104 Scaife, noon

Tuesday 12
HSLS Workshop
“EndNote Basics,” Patricia Weis, Falk Library, 2, 10 am-noon
Bradford Campus Reading
“Resurrection Bringer/History to Life on Stage,” Sam Kelley, KOIbbey, Blaisdell, URP, noon (412/562-0249)
UPCI Basic & Translational Research Seminar
Coudriet; 1105AB Scaife, noon

Wednesday 16
Men’s Basketball
Vs. Louisville, Petersen, noon
Greensburg Campus La Cul
tura Winter Gala
“Moving Toward a Greener Future,” Milliken Library, UPCI, reception at 5:30 pm, dinner at 7 pm (724/867-7497)

Thursday 14
Thursday 14
Epidemiology Seminar
“Scale Natural Experiment of Community Economic Develop
ment on the Effects of Violence: Design Issues,” Anthony Falslo, A115 Crabtree, noon
HSLS Lunch With a Librarian
“Beyond PubMed: Next Gen
eration Literature Searching,” Carrie Iwema; Falk Library conf. rm. B, noon
Pathology Seminar
“Molecular Mechanisms of TH17-Mediated Allergic Airway Disease,” John Alcorn, 5th fl. conf. rm. 540, Bridgeside Pt., noon
HIN1 Vaccine Clinic for Staff/Faculty
UClub ballrm., 1-5 pm
UHC Field Study Exhibition Reception
U Art Gallery, FFA, 4-6 pm

Tuesday 18
UHC Field Study Exhibition
“Chronic Graft-vs.-Host Disease After Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation What Oncologists Should Know,” Steven Pavletic; 2nd fl. aud. UPMC Cancer Pavilion, 8 am
Pathology Research Seminar
“Role of Small GTPases in Plexin Medi
ated Cell Signaling: A Structural Perspective,” Matthias Buck, Case Western, 1199 Stizl, noon

Monday 19
WPIC Clinical Grand
Round
“Addiction Medicine Services,” Dennis Daley & Antoine Doucuy; 2nd fl. aud. Dette, 11 am-12:30 pm

Wednesday 20
Orthopaedic Surgery Grand
Round
“Evidence-Based Orthopaedics: How Far Have We Come?” Mohit Bhandani; LHAS Aud. Montefiore, 7 am
Clinical Oncology & Hematol
ogy Grand Rounds
“Chronic-Graft-vs.-Host Disease After Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation What Oncologists Should Know,” Steven Pavletic; 2nd fl. aud. UPMC Cancer Pavilion, 8 am
UHC Field Study Exhibition
“Revisiting Autophagy for Health Benefits,” Xia-Ming Yin, pathology; 1199 Stizl, noon

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C A L E N D A R

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Cooperative Ed., UPB, 6-8 pm (registration: 800/872-1787)

ULS Concert
Eddy Rodgers & Chaucer, Hillman, 6 pm (412/661-1915)
Musi's Breakfast
Vs. Georgetown, Petersen, 7 pm

Bradford Campus Literary Magazine Reading
“Bad’s Reads,” Makuiyama U., Frane-Westerberg Commons, UPB, 7-9 pm

Thursday 21

HSLS Workshop
“Searching in CINAHL,” Mary Lou Klem, Falk Library rm. 1, 10:10-11 am

CRSP Reed Smith Lecture
“Diversity & Its Discontents: Lessons From Higher Educa-
tion,” Marta Tienda, Princeton; 2012 CL, noon-1 pm

Epidemiology Seminar
“Integrative Studies of Lung Cancer Susceptibility & Out-
come,” Joel Weissfeld, A115 Crabtree, noon

PhD Defenses

GSPIA/Human Genetics
“Expression & Regulation of let-7d in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis,” Kraun Vijay Pandit; Jan. 7, NW62 Monforte, 9-9:30 am

GSPIA/Human Genetics
“Essential Role of Transcription Factor E47 in Multipotent Stem Cells and the Program’s Specific Title, Sponsor, Location and Time. The name and phone number of a contact person should be included. Information should be sent by email to: utcal@pitt.edu, by FAX to: 412/624-4579, or by campus mail to: 308 Bellefield Hall. We cannot guarantee publication of events received after the deadline.

C A L E N D A R

Events occurring Submit by For publication
Jan. 21-Feb. 4 Jan. 14 Jan. 21
Feb. 4-18 Jan. 28 Feb. 4
Feb. 18-March 4 Feb. 11 Feb. 18
March 4-18 March 11 March 18
March 18-April 1 March 25 April 1
April 1-15 April 9 April 15
April 15-29 April 22 April 29
April 29-May 13 May 6 May 13
May 13-27 May 20 May 27
May 27-June 10 June 3 June 10
June 10-24 June 7 June 24
July 8-22 July 1 July 15
July 22-Sept. 2 July 15 July 22

Information submitted for the calendar should identify the type of event, such as lecture or concert, and the program’s specific title, sponsor, location and time. The name and phone number of a contact person should be included. Information should be sent by email to: utcal@pitt.edu, by FAX to: 412/624-4579, or by campus mail to: 308 Bellefield Hall. We cannot guarantee publication of events received after the deadline.

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POST-MENOPAUSAL WOMEN Caucasian, Asian or Hispanic women wanted for 3-month osteoporosis study. Must qualify by having low bone density on screening DXA Scan. Sample visit at UPMC. Monroeville. Re-
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UNIVERSITY TIMES

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PJ, UPG honor staff

Two regional campuses have announced winners of annual staff awards.
At Pitt-Johnstown, Beverly Waleryski and Joyce Radovanic are this year’s recipients of the President’s Staff Awards for Excel-
ence in Service.

Waleryski, who joined UJP’s staff in 1974, received the Presi-
dent’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to Pitt-Johnstown. She is the office manager for the Pas-
querilla Performing Arts Center.

In addition to serving as presi-
dent of the UJP Staff Activities and Concerns Association for several years, Waleryski is involved in several campus programs including breakfast with Santa, trick or treat for students, the family holiday program and homecoming.

Radovanic, who joined the Pitt-Johnstown staff in 1982, received the President’s Staff Award for Excellence in Service to the Community.

A summation will graduate student of Pitt-Johnstown, Radovanic is the director of conference services. She is involved in several com-

munity organizations including Richland Community Days, the Salvation Army, Johnstonstown Area Regional Industries’ Business and Education Consortium, the East Hills Business Association and Junior Achievement, where she is a member of the Leadership Council. She also is a member of the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Asso-
ciation board of directors.

Both award recipients were recognized Dec. 15 at the annual staff luncheon where they received specially engraved clocks.

At Pitt-Greensburg, Troy Ross, coordinator of Student Life, received the 2009 President’s Distinguished Service Award Dec. 21 during the campus’s annual holiday luncheon.

The award recognizes staff who have demonstrated a con-

sistent pattern of extraordinary dedication to the University above and beyond the candidate’s job responsibilities.

Ross has been on the UPG staff for nine years, during which time the number of residents has increased by 50 percent. He is credited with initiating the Residential Management System software and the paperless hous-
ing placement notification system used on campus.

Three other UPG staff mem-
bers received “You Make the Dif-
mence” recognition from their colleagues:

— Patty LaMantia, director of

Education, Systems pro-
grammer,
— Donna Luciew, Human Resources administrative assist-

— Peter Hart

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Questions?
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