Beeson appoints 3 vice provosts

As she promised after being elected provost in June, Patricia E. Beeson has moved quickly to round out her team of senior staff, naming three Pitt faculty members to vice provost positions.

Beeson’s rise to provost, effective Aug. 15, coupled with the retirement of Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Resources Management Robert F. Pack, left two of five vice provost positions vacant.

Economics department chair David DeJong has been named vice provost for academic planning and resources management; mathematics professor Juan J. Manfredi, associate dean for undergraduate studies in the School of Arts and Sciences, has been named vice provost for undergraduate studies, and political science professor Alberto M. Sbragia, director of the European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center, has been named vice provost for graduate studies.

Pack will remain in the Provost’s office through the fall term to aid in the transition.

DeJong, Manfredi and Sbragia will join Andrew R. Blair, vice provost for faculty affairs, Kathy W. Humphrey, vice provost and dean of students, and George E. Kliitzing, vice provost for research, raising the number of vice provosts to six as the graduate and undergraduate studies positions Beeson previously held again are being divided.

“I think we’ve captured a lot of the benefits of having them together, now we can go back to having two people do it, having laid that foundation,” Beeson said.

When the two positions were combined in 2006, Beeson said the administration saw potential benefits from the synergies between graduate and undergraduate education. “There definitely are very strong synergies,” she said. “I think we’ve been able to exploit them and in many ways we’ve institutionalized them through procedures and through the staffing in those areas.”

However, times have changed, Beeson noted. “There’s been a lot of increased work associated with accreditation, with calls for accountability at both the federal and state levels, and this whole emphasis on assessment — assessment of student learning and in other areas. And that made that position just too much for one person,” she said.

“In fact, long before I ever thought of having my name considered for provost, I had planned to ask the new provost if we could split the position, … It just became too much,” she said.

The search for the new vice provost was internal, Beeson said. “I felt we have strong faculty and staff here and was fairly confident I’d be able to identify people. What I was really pleased by was the fact that I’d had so many serious talented administrators willing to put their name forward or have their names considered.” Beeson estimated there were 20-30 candidates for the positions.

“It made my decision really hard — the good and the bad of it is I had some real choices to make.

“I think that it reflects the fact that people are increasingly seeing the value of having as the provost someone who is able to recruit three individuals who are strong academics — they’re talented and experienced administrators and respected faculty members. I think that combination of having strong core academic values and having their own academic accomplishments, administrative skills and the respect that all three of them have is what makes good administrators at Pitt. It’s what makes the University run well.”

The first senior staff meeting with the new vice provosts was set for Sept. 1. The speed with which the new administrators were named has left all three with loose ends to tie up and vacancies to be filled.

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Port Authority’s September route changes are not expected to have a major effect on Pitt riders, but the service cuts being discussed for January are another story entirely....
Rediker named distinguished professor

Pitt has honored Marcus Rediker, professor of history and an award-winning author, by naming him Distinguished Professor of Atlantic History.

The designation of Distinguished Professor, a rank that recognizes extraordinary, internationally recognized scholarship and excellence in academic discipline or field, became effective July 1.


Another of Rediker’s books, “Williams of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the 17th Century,” is under contract with Liveright Entertainment and is in development as a television miniseries.

Rediker also is at work on “The Amistad Rebellion: A Sea Story of Slavery, Freedom, and the Pursuit of Justice,” scheduled for publication in 2012.

A scholar of early American history and slavery, Rediker joined the Pitt faculty in 1994. He just completed a term as chair of the history department, a post he had held since September 2007.

The courses the he teaches are The Global History of Piracy, Colonial America, Atlantic History, 1500-1800 and Africa and the Atlantic.

Rediker told the University Times at the beginning of the fall semester, “There are two things that I do not like about being a professor, a post he had held since September 2007. The first is the way the courses he teaches are The Global History of Piracy, Colonial America, Atlantic History, 1500-1800 and Africa and the Atlantic.

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Rediker said “I find that students just love to have a teacher who cares about something. They love the experience of engagement with a teacher who is passionate about something. I tell my stu-
dents ‘My goal is to help you be a self-educating person, so that you’ll want to learn. My pur-
pose is to show you what pleasure can be had in thinking for yourself, challenging yourself.’”

But there’s underlying ethical message in his teaching as well. “I tell my classes: ‘If you don’t like the history you’ve got so far, go out and make some of your own. We can’t study politics and histo-
ry as disembodied intellectual concepts,’” he said. “All politics is a struggle for new ideas, more humane ideas, and these ideas have always, always come out of struggles for a better world.”


Rediker holds a BA degree in history from Penn. He received a MA degree in history from Pitt. —Peter Hart

No AED in Craig Hall?

Why are there NO AEDs (automated external defibrillators) in Craig Hall? (See July 22 University Times)

We have the University’s Human Resources and Payroll departments in Craig Hall, where a lot of older adults come to get their Social Security and Medicare. Ask payroll-related questions.

We are also at the boundary of the University’s central administration from the bottom up, what I call ‘the people’s history.’ We have a history full of self and its statements of both the ‘We’ and the ‘I.’ We don’t have a history of people who literally shaped the University. Teaching at Pitt is very enjoy-
able, Rediker said. “I find that students just love to have a teacher who cares about something. They love the experience of engagement with a teacher who is passionate about something. I tell my stu-
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Observatory plans open house

Tickets are free, but reservations are required for Allegheny Observatory’s Oct. 1 open house, which will be held 7-10 p.m. Visitors can roam the observatory and peer into the night sky through the 30-inch Thaw Refractor telescope, a 47-foot instrument normally reserved for research.

In addition, members of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh are on hand to answer questions.

The observatory houses one of the oldest and largest collections of photographic plates of star fields, with a collection that began in 1914 and now numbers more than 110,000 plates. Unlike regular observa-
tory tours, the open house allows people to see these records and take self-guided tours of the observer’s research rooms.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and former dean of the Graduate
by Jan. 1. Carolyn Ban, professor
Union Center of Excellence and
her position at the European
for Sbragia with the hope of having
Larry Feick said a search would
national Studies (UCIS) director
who has been on sabbatical and
and department chairs. Sbragia,
requirements encompassed by the
academic planning and resources
management position.

Dejong said he expects
background would serve him well
resources management aspects,
given that decision-making amid
financial constraints is a
familiar economies concept.
He also expressed respect
for the office's progress under former
provost James V. Maher, adding
that succeeding Pack in the vice
proctor role presents a challenge.

Manfredi was also appointed to the
Pitt faculty in 1989, has received
several teaching awards includ-
ing, in 1994, the Chancellor's
Distinguished Teaching Award.

Sbragia said she recognizes the
classroom and opportunities
for undergraduate research and
quickness to develop new courses
including the move toward elec-
tronic textbooks and the impact
of iPad and notebook computers
as they replace printed material.
Knowing when to embrace new
technology can be difficult to
gauge, he said.

"You don't want to be the first
to try something, but you also
won't want to be the last.
Manfredi maintained that Pitt
already has proven good tech-
cal offerings," and that he
wants to ensure they are incorporated
into the culture of the University's
curriculum and teaching.

"We serve the students," Man-
fredi said, adding that his goal is
to see them both happy and well
educated at Pitt.

Sbragia earned her under-
graduate degree from Holy Names
University in Oakland, Calif., after
spending her junior year studying
at the Sorbonne. She earned her
PhD in political science from the
University of Wisconsin, where
she studied international politics,
with a focus on Italy as a Fullbright
Scholar and assistant professor
of politics and economics.

Sbragia joined Pitt's faculty in 1974 and taught
undergraduate and graduate courses in
urban politics and policy. After a year
as visiting faculty member at Harvard in 1984,
she returned to Long Beach and Pitt to become
director of Pitt's West European studies program,
in which she served for two years,
then returning to the European Union Center,
which in 2005 was elevated to the status of
European Union Center.

"I knew what I was doing but
I've been there a long time," Sbra-
gia said, noting that a fresh view
of Pitt "will hit a lot myself, but I'm sure
it'll be in good hands."

While she has worked
with some of Pitt's deans as the EU
center director, Sbragia said she
is excited about working more
closely with them to hear
their ideas on the direction of
graduate education.

Sbragia said she recognizes the
importance of Pitt's undergraduate
education with numerous varia-
tions depending on the school,
the degree and the discipline.

"I have an interest in technology issues and the
quality study-abroad experiences.
I've been there a long time," Sbra-
gia said, "I know the terrain so well."
Trustees OK $37.2 million in construction, renovations

The property and facilities committee of the University’s Board of Trustees approved seven construction and renovation projects totaling $37.2 million and one lease renewal at its Aug. 6 meeting.

The largest amount approved was $17.63 million for the expansion of the Bouquet Gardens student housing complex. The construction will add 115 beds in 48 units that are to be completed in time for fall 2011 occupancy.

Work has begun on the addition to the Bouquet Gardens student housing complex.


drew writing center and the freshman studies program. The renovation also will provide Student Affairs with more office and meeting space. The project is scheduled for completion in the spring.

Funding for the renovation includes $4.3 million in education and general (E&G) debt and $3.3 million from provost reserves.

$4.85 million for renovations to the 5th floor of the Chevron Science Center to house wet labs for chemistry research. Funding for the project includes $4.15 million in School of Arts and Sciences reserves and $700,000 in provost reserves.

$3.4 million for renovations to the Eberly Hall nanoscience laboratory to create new synthetic and spectroscopy laboratory suites and for renovations to the chemistry electronics shop. Funding for the project comes from School of Arts and Sciences reserves.

$2.5 million for a backup electrical feed for Posvar Hall to improve reliability of service for the lower campus and the Posvar chilled water plant. Funding comes through E&G debt.

$1.84 million for student lounge renovations on the ground floor of the Barco Law Building. The project will include tables, booths, a cyber bar, a soft seating area and a coffee bar in the lounge area, a student eating and vending area and the creation of offices for student organizations in the lower level locker area.

Funding for the lounge includes $1.5 million from provost reserves and $140,000 from gifts.

$1.2 million for the fourth phase of a sprinkler installation project in the Cathedral of Learning. Installation will cover floors 2–6, 10 and 11. Funding for the installation comes through E&G debt.

The committee okayed a five-year lease renewal with Cityview Properties for space in the Parkvale Building on Meyran Avenue. The University’s Clinical Research Education Institute occupies the 2nd and 3rd floors of the building.

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic’s attention deficit disorder research program occupies the 4th floor and the Department of Psychiatry’s office of grants and contracts is on the 5th floor.

The lease renewal is for five years beginning Sept. 1, 2010, at a fixed annual cost of $797,472 ($27 per square foot) with a renewal option for an additional five years.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Food service workers ratify contract

Unionized food service workers at Pitt last month ratified a new three-year contract with Sodexo, the international company that runs food services on the Pittsburgh campus.

The 270 members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 32BJ had walked off their jobs at Market Perch on April 26 and remained on strike for three days. (See April 29 University Times.)

Under the new contract, Sodexo also is offering multiple health insurance options at varying rates. The company will pay 90 percent of health care premiums for individual coverage and 80 percent for family coverage, SEIU officials said.

Sodexo USA spokesperson Monica Zimmern said, “Sodexo cares for its workers and we respect all employees’ rights to unionize or not unionize as they choose.” She added that Sodexo has contracts with more than 300 unions and locals nationwide.

Following an impasse last spring in negotiations over a new contract, the unionized workers walked off their jobs at Market Central and Sutherland Hall’s The Perch on April 26 and remained on strike for three days.

—Peter Hart

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—Peter Hart
Pitt tied for 56th among all U.S. institutions in latest U.S. News ranking of universities.

According to the magazine, Pitt received 21,737 applications for fall 2009, an acceptance rate of 56 percent. Women comprised 51 percent of the 2009 entering class; 1,312 part-time students.

As a reminder, all University of Pittsburgh employees have access to a toll-free, confidential telephone line that makes it comfortable and convenient for employees to report irregular or troublesome workplace issues so that these issues can be investigated and resolved.

• Available to all full-time and part-time faculty, staff, and research associates at the Oakland and regional campuses and other off-campus work locations.
• Enables callers to remain anonymous.
• Answers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
• Can be accessed from any telephone in North America.

Call AlerLine or contact the Department of Internal Audit at 412-624-4246.

University's ranking drops in latest U.S. News survey

U.S. News breaks down more than 1,400 of the nation's four-year colleges into five categories: national universities, national liberal arts colleges, regional universities (listed as "universities-master's in previous years' rankings), and regional colleges (previously "baccalaureate colleges").

According to the magazine, the latter category changes better reflect the official Carnegie Foundation's classifications for the Advancement of Teaching. The rankings, which were introduced in 2006, are based on the magazine's weighted combined results of both its methodology in several ways.

The rankings for national universities are derived from a comparison of seven weighted indicators, but the weights have been increased in weight since the category was introduced in 2003 and the predicted rate for that class; the predicted rate is calculated using a formula that's based on the standardized test scores of students entering in 2003 and the school's expenditures on the students.

Pitt received a predicted six-year graduation rate of 77 percent, while the actual rate was 78 percent.

According to the magazine, the prediction rate for the class that entered in 2003 and the predicted rate for that class; the predicted rate is calculated using a formula that's based on the standardized test scores of students entering in 2003 and the school's expenditures on the students.

The actual graduation rate is higher than the predicted rate, the school is judged to have enhanced the students' achievements. For example, this year Pitt's predicted six-year graduation rate was 77 percent, while the actual rate was 78 percent.

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Pitt drops in U.S. News survey

The Philadelphia Inquirer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

88.8 percent of Pitt's 2,265 full-time faculty were in 2009. The magazine lists 64 public and private universities, by contrast, offer a full-time undergraduates, meeting on average 90 percent of need for full-time students.

• U.S. News also compiled lists of the students whose schools in the class of 2009 graduated with the heaviest and lightest debt loads. The student-inurred debt category are included by breakdown by students from the colleges themselves, from financial institutions, and local governments. Parents' loans were not included.

• This data indicated what percentage of the student body had taken on debt (and, by extrapolation, what percentage was debt-free).

Data also included the "average amount of debt," that is, the average cumulative amount borrowed by those students who took out loans, not the average for all students.

At the Bradford campus, 87.1 percent of the classes had fewer than 20 percent six-year graduation rate, those campuses should be treated equally under that tenet, those campuses likewise should not have been ranked because the campus does fall 2008 who returned to school the following fall. Pitt-Johnstown ranked 15th in this category, with the aver-

Pitt dropped in the Best Colleges edition of U.S. News because of incomplete data, according to Marc, director of national research at U.S. News & World Report. In the 2008 and 2009 Pitt dropped 23rd with a 7.3 percent overall among top academic scholarship programs, but not a separate accredit-

The regional campuses U.S. News ranked 319 public and private regional colleges, divided into four regions of the country. The northern region includes Pennsylvania, the six New Eng-

For example, Penn State's satellite campuses returned to school the following fall, still ranked 60th nationally. For Pitt-Johnstown tied for No. 10 among peer institutions in the northern region, with Eastern Connecticut, New Hampshire, South Carolina.

According to the magazine, regional colleges are institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in professional fields such as business, nursing and education, with liberal arts programs accounting for fewer than half of the bachelors' degree awarded.

(2008 edition published in 2009, "he said. "This was an oversight. Our goal is that the schools should be treated equally and we didn't do that.

• Among peer institutions in the northern region, Pitt-John-

...For more information, contact Dan McCue at the PAA, 412/866-

Bowling league seeks members

Howard Goodman is looking for members of the Pitt commu-

Goodman, a financial analyst in the Office of Business Financial Report-

Participiants can join as four or five-member teams or come on their own. For more information, contact Dan McCue at the PAA, 412/866-2075 or DanMCue@psuacch.com.
Additional bus route changes to begin

While the Port Authority of Allegheny County has been facing a more than $47 million shortfall in its $330 million operating budget for the fiscal year that began July 1, the consequences likely will be minimal for most Pitt riders — at least for this fall.

However, if threatened “drastic cut” plans are made in January, that could change. In addition to the relatively minor route changes in Oakland that begin next week (see story on this page), the Port Authority is considering a 31 percent overall reduction in service beginning in January, according to the transit authority.

As many as 57 neighborhoods, which currently have 14 transit routes, would see a reduction in frequency. (Information on proposed service cuts is available at: www.portauthority.org/PAC/CompanyInfo/FinancialStatements/FundingCrises/2010%5D/Default.aspx)

According to Port Authority spokesperson Jim Ritchie, the cut in service is not an attempt to implement the services in January. Instead, the planning and negotiations have a significant impact on the University’s overall ridership levels. The new fare box technology will be used by the University to consult with the Port Authority regarding service modifications and the impact these may have on our service, said Ritchie. These discussions may also include recommended compensation adjustments if it is determined that new service modifications have a significant impact on the University’s overall ridership levels.

Despite the transit company’s financial woes, the Port Authority is not intending to ask for a renegotiation of fees from the University, Ritchie said. “That has not even been discussed, for obvious reasons,” he said, namely, that Pitt is already committed to a higher fee for 2011-12, and the contract also includes a “reopener clause” that calls for a renegotiation of the fees to be triggered by the installation on all Port Authority vehicles of fare boxes that use “smart card” technology. That program will change the way Pitt riders are counted, with fare boxes that scan Pitt ID cards replacing the system of manually tracking the number of Pitt riders on each route. The new system is expected to eliminate human error and catch invalid cards, thus reducing the current count of Pitt riders, Ritchie noted.

Once the smart card technology is fully implemented, the fee process will change. Instead of Pitt paying a monthly fee, the University will be charged per ride as it is “scored” by the smart card system. A per-ride fee then will have to be proportionate, Ritchie said. “Pitt could be paying by the week, or the month or some other length of time, but that will need to be worked out,” he said. Last October, Pitt began issuing it own smart cards, which can be read by smart card readers. (See Oct. 1 University Times)

The new fare box technology has had some bugs in it and is behind the hoped-for installation schedule, Ritchie acknowledged. The earliest the fare boxes will be installed is sometime in 2012, he said. “We’re not as optimistic as we were sometime in 2012,” he said. The fare boxes still will have to be programmed, and there are tentative plans to conduct pilot programs testing the new system. The first experiments will be with Port Authority employees and then with Pitt and other local college offices. There is as yet no set time frame for these pilot programs, Ritchie said.

The Port Authority has announced a number of changes in Oakland bus service, including for the popular EBO East Busway, to go into effect next week. More severe service cuts — up to 35 percent of service systemwide — are threatened to begin in January if the Port Authority’s budget deficit is not remedied.

• Starting Sept. 7, route 71C will be discontinued. (All service on Ellwood Avenue will be provided by the 73 Ellwood.)

• Starting Sept. 7, the 71D schedule will be revised and routing in Wilkinsburg will be changed between Wilkinsburg and Downtown via Forbes Avenue, Wilk Street, and Oak- 

• Starting Sept. 5, the 7IA route will be provided by 73 Ellwood. (See story on this page, which includes several with service changes to Oakland — during this year’s 7IA route will remain 71 Oak Hill. 71C will operate via Wilkinsburg Station, Hay Street, Penn Avenue, and the PPG Place Station. Route 75 Ellsworth, South Negley and Centre avenues, North Craig Street and Fifth Avenue to Downtown. Service along Pennwood Avenue, Roundland Connector, Kelly and Trenton avenues, Whitfield Street, South High 

Street, Ellwood, Walnut and College streets and ellwood Avenue will be discontinued. (All service on Ellwood Avenue will be provided by the 73 Ellwood.)

• Starting Sept. 7, route 71U will be discontinued. For service between Pitt and Oakland, riders must take 77 Pitt Hills to East Liberty and transfer to the 73 East Busway-Oakland on the East Busway-Oakland bus.

• Starting Sept. 5, the 81A route will be provided by the 71C Route to Downtown. Service along South and Swallow streets, Jane Street Loop, Coal Street, Franklin Avenue and Wharton Square. Trips from the University will be charged per ride as it is “scored” by the smart card system. A per-ride fee then will have to be proportionate, Ritchie said. “Pitt could be paying by the week, or the month or some other length of time, but that will need to be worked out,” he said. Last October, Pitt began issuing its own smart cards, which can be read by smart card readers. (See Oct. 1 University Times)
Robert Hill, vice chancellor for Public Affairs, has named Chad Zutter, former associate dean for research and faculty of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, and Leana Wesley Frey, assistant professor of health management and policy, as the 2010 Walter Benjamin Award recipients for the Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, in recognition of his contributions to training of master’s degree recipients in the previous calendar year.

Several faculty members at the School of Pharmacy who were honored by the school with Excellence in Research Awards were Mei Feng, Duolun Huang, and Wesley Frey. Chris Kemeter, Cai Poyner Lambertson, Carrie Lemoine, and Chad Zutter. This award is presented to faculty who had two acceptances in “A” journals in the previous calendar year.

In addition to his faculty appointment, Inman also is associated with the Center for Health and Care Work.

Kemeter also is David M. Hargrove Professor of Health and Rehabilitation Systems and Professor of Business Administration.

Mary Margaret Kerr, a faculty member in the School of Education and one of the co-founders of Pitt’s All of Us program, has been named a distinguished member of the Medical Library Association’s Academic Health Information Professionals. Harrington’s 3LS liaison to the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC), which provides HIV/AIDS-related training to health professionals in Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. She also is director of the University of Pittsburgh’s Multicultural AIDS Services, American Council on短信

The People of the Times: PMT steps up
recent news on faculty and staff, students and others, accomplishments and more.

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Several faculty members at the School of Pharmacy who were honored by the school with Excellence in Research Awards were Mei Feng, Duolun Huang, and Wesley Frey. Chris Kemeter, Cai Poyner Lambertson, Carrie Lemoine, and Chad Zutter. This award is presented to faculty who had two acceptances in “A” journals in the previous calendar year.

In addition to his faculty appointment, Inman also is associated with the Center for Health and Care Work.

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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 overviews of school news based on material submitted by the units. Information previously published in the University Times was not included here.

# PEOPLE

In the School of Arts and Sciences, Christel Temple joined the Department of Africana Studies as an associate professor. Temple had been a tenured faculty member at the University of Maryland.

A scholar of African and African-American literature, she earned her PhD in African-American studies at Temple University.

Faculty member Jerome Taylor replaced Brenda R. Berrian as chair of Africana studies, effective Sept. 1. His appointment continues through August 2013.

Haitao Liu and Xinyu Liu will join the Department of Chemistry as assistant professors this fall.

Haitao Liu received his PhD in 2007 from the University of California-Berkeley and was a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia. Research in Liu’s group is focused on the physical and synthetic chemistry of nanomaterials. Liu is interested in a wide range of organic and inorganic materials, including DNA, graphene, carbon nanotubes and colloidal nanocrystals.

Xinyu Liu comes from Harvard Medical School, where he served as a postdoctoral researcher. He completed his PhD in natural sciences at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich. His research interests include the study of the biosynthesis of pyrrolidinedione-containing natural products.

Joining the computer science department this fall are assistant professors John (Jack) Lange and Jiangtao Wang.

Lange comes from Northwestern University. His expertise is in the areas of virtualization, high performance computing, operating systems, networking and empathic systems. His current focus lies in the area of specialized operating systems for supercomputing environments. His research predominantly uses virtualization mechanisms.

Wang comes from the University of California-Berkeley. His primary research direction is human-computer interaction with minors in computer systems and statistics. Other research interests include mobile interfaces, context-aware computing, social computing, education/learning technology, novel input and interaction techniques, assistive technology and online handwriting/gesture recognition algorithms.

Luca Rigotti has joined the Department of Economics as associate professor of microeconomics, with research interests in the economics of development, economies in transition and demographic economics, as well as decision theory.

Also new to the economics department this fall are assistant professor Arie Beresteau, whose research interests include econometrics and empirical industrial organization; associate professor Daniele Coen-Pirani, whose research covers macroeconomics, finance, political economy and labor; Stephen Snyder, a lecturer who conducts empirical research in health economics and public economics; and Svitlana Maksymenko, a lecturer who conducts research in development economics, demography and the economics of transition.

The English department welcomes three new assistant professors this fall: Thora Brylowe, whose research focuses on politics. He completed his PhD in 18th-century British literature who received her PhD from Carnegie Mellon University. Brylowe most recently was a visiting assistant professor at Trinity College. Her research examines the history of ideas of authorship and relations between literature and the visual arts.

Ryan McDermott is a specialist in Francophone literature and culture. He completed his PhD in comparative literature at the University of Michigan with a dissertation on street theatre as a form of cultural and political expression. He has research interests in Algerian literature and culture in French. McDermott received his PhD this year from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research in composition examines ways in which writing is shaped by computers. She also is interested in rhetorical analysis.

Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski is the new chair of the Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures.

New faculty in the department are assistant professors Neil Doshi and David Pettersen.

Doshi is a specialist in Francophone literature and culture. He completed his PhD in comparative literature at the University of Michigan with a dissertation on street theatre as a form of cultural and political expression. He has research interests in Algerian literature and culture in French. Pettersen specializes in 20th-century French literature and cinema, with a special focus on politics. He completed his PhD in French at Berkeley, and taught at Davidson College in North Carolina before coming to Pitt.

William Harbert is the new chair of
What's new

the Department of Geology and Planetary Science.

Juan Duchesne-Winter is the new chair of the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures.

Joining the Hispanic department this fall is lecturer Chira Nardone.

Aaron Henderson will come to the University as a professor in the department in January. She earned a PhD in Spanish and Portuguese at Stanford University and a Juris Doctor degree at the University of Puerto Rico.

Nardone’s area of expertise is Latin American — especially Puerto Rican — literature and poetry, enacting practice and criticism. She currently is a professor of Spanish at the University of Puerto Rico. Reid Andrews has been named chair of the Department of History.

New history department lecturer/advisor John Stoner has research and teaching interests in 20th-century U.S. political, social and labor history; U.S. and the world; sub-Saharan African labor; political economy; comparative historical analysis; and transnational history. He earned his PhD at Columbia University.

James Woodward joins the Department of History and Philosophy of Science as a Distinguished Professor of History and Philosophy of Science from the California Institute of Technology, where he served as the J.O. and Juliette Koopf Professor of the Humanities. Woodward completed his PhD at the University of Texas. His core research contributions include the development of a clear distinction between data and phenomena, a distinction that led him to clarify what scientists in the empirical sciences mean when they talk about causality, especially in complex and multi-factorial systems.

Lecturer Alison Langmead has joined the Department of History of Art and Architecture to serve as director of visual media collections. She will catalog and archive the department’s collection of digital and analog imagery for research and teaching purposes. She holds a PhD in art history from Columbia and an MMLS from UCLA. Faculty member Adam Shear has been named Jewish studies program director.

Faculty member Yashhiro Shirai has been named chair of the Department of Linguistics.

Mark Wilson is the Department of Philosophy’s new chair.

New professor Robert Batterman comes to the philosophy department from the University of Western Ontario, where he served as the Rotman Canada Research Chair. He completed his PhD at the University of Michigan. Batterman is a philosopher of science specializing in the philosophy of physics. His research interests include the foundations of physical theories, including statistical mechanics, quantum mechanics and classical physics, and in various methodological issues including inter-theoretical relations, explanation and emergence.

Joining the department as an assistant professor is Giovanni Valente.

Jason von Ehrenkrook joins the religious studies department as the Perlrow Lecturer in Classical Judaism. Von Ehrenkrook’s research and teaching interests lie in placing Jewish history within a wider Mediterranean context, with particular focus on issues relating to the formation and reformation of Jewish identity, such as the intersection of ethnic and cultural identity and Jewish responses to Roman imperialism. He earned his PhD in Near Eastern studies, with a specialization in Jewish history, during the Hellenistic and Roman period, from the University of Michigan in 2009. For the past year he was a research fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. Joyce Bell, formerly a faculty member at the University of Georgia, and Waverly Duck, formerly a postdoctoral associate at Yale, join the Department of Sociology as assistant professors.

Bell earned her PhD in sociology from the University of Minnesota. Her research interests focus on social movements and change, race, class, gender, work, professions and organizations, diversity politics and the black experience.

Duck earned his PhD in sociology from Wayne State University. His research interests include social stratification, using ethnographic methods to study the ordering of recognizable situated situations concerning gender, race and class.

Aaron Henderson joins the Department of Studio Arts as an assistant professor, teaching primarily in digital media. His creative work in video and installation examines the way humans move and the personal, cultural and political ramifications of all action. Henderson completed his MFA in digital media and performance at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He has teaching experience at Roosevelt University, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and, most recently, at the University of Virginia where he was a visiting artist and lecturer.

Lisa Jackson-Schebetta joins the Department of Theatre Arts as an assistant professor after recently receiving her PhD in theatre history, theory and criticism from the University of Washington.

Jocelyn Buckner joins the department as a post-doctoral fellow. She recently completed her PhD at the University of Kansas. Ken Bolden has been hired as a teaching artist, and the department will welcome artist-in-residence scenic design Joseph Gourley in spring 2011.

Also joining the School of Arts and Sciences as tenured/tenure-stream faculty are associate professor Jude Hay, political science; and assistant professors Elizabeth Arkush, anthropology; Kyle Gurrie and Mark Reboie, biological sciences; Kimurs Kaveh and Jason DeBlasio, mathematics, and Jonathan Platt, Slavic languages and literatures.

Other new non-tenure-stream faculty members include biological sciences instructor Meredith Barbieri, East Asian languages and literatures assistant instructor Juchun Wei and women’s studies senior lecturer Frayda Cohen.

Andrew Daley will join the Department of Physics and Astronomy faculty in January as an assistant professor.

In the Athletics department, former Pitt standout point guard Mallorie Winn was named to the women’s basketball coaching staff. Winn played for the Panthers 2005-08, earning All-Big East Second Team honors in 2007-08.

She spent the past season as a volunteer coach at Saddleback Junior College in California. Winn also was a coach and trainer with the 80/20 basketball organization for boys and girls ages 7-16, and in 2008-09 served locally as head coach at Garlow’s Campus School. Her duties at Pitt will include recruiting and working with the guard position.

Ronald Binder is the new associate dean of Student Affairs and director of judicial affairs at the Bradford campus. Binder has served as director of Greek life and special projects at the University of South Carolina, associate director of residence life at Bowling Green State University and assistant dean of students at the University of North Carolina.

Raymond R. Geary has been named executive director of Pitt-Bradford’s Division of Continuing Education and Regional Development (formerly the Office of Outreach Services). In addition to connecting businesses with consultants and brokering training, the division works with community education councils to bring credit and noncredit courses to St. Marys, Port Allegany, Warren and Pitt-Tinshaw.

Geary comes to UPB from Elmira College, where he was the dean of continuing education and graduate studies. He begins his new position on Aug. 11. Geary also will oversee UPB’s conference services and will serve as a member of the president’s cabinet.

He holds a master’s degree in adult education from Syracuse University. Matt Kroepf, a research associate at Penn State University, has been named director of the Bradford campus’s Energy Institute.

Kroepf is splitting his time between his new role at UPB and finishing a biofuel research project at Penn State. He will begin full-time at UPB in January.

New full-time faculty members at Bradford are Jessica Blackburn, assistant professor of Spanish, and Mallorie Winn, assistant professor of art.
Professor of medicine Clayton Smith is the new director of leukemia and stem cell transplant services in the Division of Hematology/Oncology and director of the hematologic malignancies program at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI).

Smith, whose research focuses on hematopoietic stem cell biology and transplantation, received a PhD from the University of British Columbia.

Paul M. Coen joins the Department of Health and Physical Activity at the School of Education as an assistant professor. Coen graduated from UPJ in 2008. He was awarded a doctoral student grant from the American College of Sports Medicine and a Fulbright dissertation fellowship from the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue. Since graduating, Coen has been a postdoctoral researcher at Pitt's School of Medicine. His postdoctoral research involved examining the effects of diet- and bariatric surgery-induced weight loss and exercise training on skeletal muscle lipid metabolism and inflammation in obese mice.

W. James Jacob has been hired in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies to direct the higher education management and social and comparative analysis in education programs. He will serve as a director of the Institute for International Liberal Arts at Purdue. Since graduating, Jacob has been a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Colorado at Boulder. His research interests include digital libraries, the social and policy implications for science and technology in cyber-infrastructure and the qualitative and quantitative methods in socio-technical system design. A two-time recipient of the IBM PhD fellowship, Jacob has worked with the services group at IBM Research Center on service systems design, as well as on an educational curriculum development for IBM's service management, and engineering initiatives.

Konstantinos Pelechrinis is joining the telecommunications and networking program as an assistant professor. A newly minted PhD from the University of California-Irvine-Riverside, Pelechrinis also served as a researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory, a researcher in Paris and Microsoft Research in Cambridge, UK. In addition, Pelechrinis was a visiting researcher at the University of Minnesota and at Brown University in Greece. His research interests include protocol design, real-world experimentation, and the qualitative and quantitative analysis of quality of service and trust issues in wireless networks.

Lynn Lams Berger has been hired as executive director of Institutional Advance ment following a national search. She will also serve as director of the Office of Graduate and Professional Affairs. Berger's responsibilities at UPJ will include developing and implementing strategies for cultivating major gift prospects and will lead Pitt-Johnstown's Alumni Relations department. She comes to UPJ from Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she has served as associate vice president for development, vice president for university relations and director of corporate and foundation relations. She also has held positions at Washington & Jefferson College, Laurel Highlands Visi tors Bureau and Butler County Chamber of Commerce. Berger received her bachelor's degree in public management (with highest distinction) from Carnegie Mellon and her master's in public policy from the University of Pittsburgh.

Raymond B. Whaley Jr., associate professor in political science, is moving to the chair of the campus's Social Science Division, effective July 1. Whaley also is UPJ's Next Gen faculty leader representative.

Paul Douglas Newman, professor of history, has been named assistant to the vice president for Academic Affairs and director of Student Academic Services. Newman's one-year appointment was effective Aug. 15. In his new role Newman will be involved in a wide range of academic administrative tasks related to enhancing student learning, success and retention. He will oversee the academic integrity policies and, in collaboration with the vice president for Academic Affairs, will oversee academic placement, recommend improved methods of assessing incoming students and head the administration of the early warning system.

New faculty joining Pitt-Johnstown this year are: assistant professors Miron Bekker, mathematics; Tim Evans, biology; Shouling He, engineering technology; Jill Henning, biology; Randy Kelly, engineering technology; Donna Kowalczyk, education; Thomas Malosh, chemistry; Gregory Petyak, business; Ann Rea, English; Andrew Ryan, sociology; Rebecca Webb, biology, and Daniel Yuneta, business, as well as Susan Wieszcerek, instructor of communication.

Lynne Eaton and Liz Katrancha have been named assistant professors of mathematics education.

Charles Munter is an assistant professor of mathematics, Brieann Sequin, instructor of sports medicine and clinical coordinator, and Joseph Meyer Holihan, assistant professor of marketing.

The Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business has promoted Shawn Seguin as director of PantherWorks. PantherWorks is a part of the institute that helps entrepreneurs develop new products, validate the marketplace, create business plans and secure funding.

The College of General Studies has added two staff members. Hired as fiscal manager was Emily Gress-Stavish, who transferred to CCS from the Office of Technology Management. She previously held positions in the Department of Special Education at the University of Pittsburgh in Medicine and at UPMC.

In addition, Randy Kelly has been named associate provost for Academic Affairs, will oversee academic programs and operations coordination for Westinghouse Communications Systems Division. In her new role, she will be responsible for planning and oversight of all administrative functions, including business operations, student services, faculty services and information technology.

Pitt-Johnstown has hired a number of new staff and faculty and has announced promotions.

The School of Law has hired Sheila Valdez Martinez as visiting clinical assistant professor. Martinez will head the school's new Immigration Law Clinic. Martinez recently served as the director of the Puerto Rico Bar Association and as an assistant professor at the School of Law in Puerto Rico. She has been a pioneer in Puerto Rico in discussing the issue of domestic violence against immigrant women. She also has served as the executive director of the Puerto Rico Bar Association and as an assistant professor in the Law School of the University of Puerto Rico. She received her JD from the University of Puerto Rico Law School.

At the School of Medicine, Juan Carlos Celeon has been named the chief of the Division of Pulmonary Medicine, Allergy and Immunology in the Department of Pediatrics and the Nikki L. Jerne Professor of Pediatrics. Celeon, who studies the epidemiology of lung disease, particularly the genetic and environmental factors that influence asthma, comes from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard University.

He has a secondary appointment in the Department of Human Genetics in the School of Medicine and New England Medical Center.

Houng Liu is a new assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics. Liu, who studies molecular mechanisms of aging, most recently was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, where he earned a Pathway to Independence Award from the National Institute of Aging and a Fellows Award for Research Excellence from the National Institutes of Health.

Edward Chu comes to the Department of Medicine from Yale University School of Medicine, where he was chief of medical oncology and deputy director of the Yale Cancer Center. In addition to being a professor of medicine, Chu is chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology. His research focuses on the mechanisms by which cells resist or succumb to certain cancer drugs.

Christine C. Wu is an associate professor of cell biology and physiology. Her research focuses on the use of mass spectrometry, particularly the development of proteomic tools for high-throughput analysis of cell membrane proteins. Wu completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Scripps Research Institute and most recently was a faculty member in pharmacology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Jeremy Kahn is a new associate professor in the departments of critical care medicine and medicine, as well as in the
Health Policy and Management. Most Health, Surgery.

school’s new Department of Cardiothoracic son Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Wellesley College, Brown University and Before coming to UPT, she taught at bachelor’s degree from St. John’s College. and Johns Hopkins universities, and a classics from Princeton, master’s degrees academic credentials include a PhD in Titusville vice president of Academic Affairs at was named interim

modeling in the School of Medicine’s Divi-

mental engineering and clinical and transla-

tional science and chief of the section of decision sciences and clinical systems modeling in the School of Medicine’s Divi-

sion of General Internal Medicine.

Sally C. Morton has been appointed to lead the Department of Bioanalytics. Most recently, Morton was vice president of statistics and epidemiology at RTI International. She also served as an adjunct professor of bioanalytics at the University of North Carolina. Prior to her position at RTI, she led the statistics group at the RAND Corp. and held the RAND endowed chair in statistics. At GSPH, Morton will be developing programs to address complex health care questions at both societal and individual levels. She also will be employing evidence-based analyses to better inform public health decision-making. Morton received a doctoral degree in statistics from Stanford.

The Graduate School of Public and International Affairs is welcoming two new assistant professors, Annie Maehtens and Sera Linardi. Maehtens received her PhD in applied economics and management from Cornell. Her research interests lie in the field of development economics, with an empha-

sis on the social and behavioral aspects of individual decision-making.

Linardi received her PhD in social science (economics) from California Institute of Technology. Her areas of expertise include applied microeconomics, information economics and experimental economics.

Amy L. Seybert, associate professor in the School of Pharmacy and associate director for pharmacy programs at the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Educa-

tion and Research, has been appointed as interim chair of the Department of Phar-

macy and Therapeutics. Seybert also directs the cardiovascular specialty and critical care pharmacy residencies at UPMC and practices in the cardiac intensive care unit.

Classics and humanities faculty member Diana G. Browning was named interim vice president of Academic Affairs at Pitt-Timesville, effective July 1. Browning’s academic credentials include a PhD in classics from Princeton, master’s degrees from Princeton, Case Western Reserve and Johns Hopkins universities, and a bachelor’s degree from St. John’s College. Before coming to UPT, she taught at Wellesley College, Brown University and Connecticut College.

department’s new Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

At the Graduate School of Public Health, Mark S. Roberts has been appointed chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management. Most recently, Roberts was a professor of medicine, health policy and management, industrial engineering and clinical and transla-

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Construction will start in the fall to facilitate the relocation of all undergraduate Studies units in the School of Arts and Sciences under one roof in Thackeray Hall.

The Office of Experimental Learning and the Office of Freshman Programs will move from Tabor Hall to Thackeray's second and third floors, respectively. The College in High School program will move from Smuts Hall to Thackeray to make room for the renovation and expansion of the Office of Student Records. This expansion will allow Student Records to be more student friendly with a new reception area and more computer terminals. In addition, the Writing Center and the Math Assistance Center will move to the Concordia Club.

A new microscopy suite for the department of biological sciences and neuroscience has been completed. The facility includes new microscopes.

The Department of Computer Science has renovated the Macintosh lab in 6110 Sennott Square, adding desks and computers to accommodate increased enrollment in courses.

The department also has equipped 52 machines in the student lab in 5502 Sennott with NVidia GeForce 8800GT graphic cards. These cards provide exceptional performance for gaming and the central processing unit computing with Compute Unified Device Architecture.

The English department is undertaking some extensive renovations. The largest project is a construction of its main meeting space on the 5th floor of the Cathedral of Learning. Plans for the renovation include eliminating several walls to create a spacious hall for talks, meetings and audiovisual presentations. The area will be known as the English Department Commons.

Four new offices also will be created, and the copy room will be relocated. Also planned in the creation of a lactation room on the 6th floor.

In addition, departmental courses in composition, journalism and new media will benefit from the use of a new digital media/computer classroom in G26 CL equipped with new computers prepared for a full range of media production: animation, video and sound editing, web and multimedia design and composition, layout, graphics and desktop and e-publishing.

Pitt-Bradford will have two new buildings and one like-new building this fall.

A new 103-bed residence hall, the third built in five years, has opened, bringing UPB’s on-campus housing capacity to nearly 1,000 students. The residence hall is named in honor of Sarah B. Dorn, daughter of Zippo lighter inventor George G. Blandell and benefactor of the campus. A dedication ceremony is set for Sept. 10.

On Sept. 10, the new Harriet B. Wick Chapel will be dedicated as part of UPB’s alumni weekend activities. Wick and Dorn are sisters who have supported Pitt-Bradford for many years.

The chapel will seat about 150 people and provide a site for religious services, interfaith and ecumenical services, memorial services, weddings and small choral and musical performances. It also will be home to a new student staff who will coordinate chapel events and student community service.

A $5.9 million renovation of Fisher Hall, UPB’s science building, has brought new heating and ventilation systems, fume hoods and lab benches to redesigned labs. Renovations include a new emergency generator with uninterrupted power supply was also added for computer telecommunication and data network.

Constr
in June. The design of the lab is based on SIS’s Telecommunications Networking Laboratory.

In addition to the state-of-the-art teaching lab, the project incorporated the development of a graduate-degree program in telecommunications. This two-year degree program was introduced in 2009 with an inaugural class of 19 students.

Construction has begun in the Barco Law Building, renovating approximately 10,000 square feet of the ground floor to create a new student lounge. The renovated space, which is scheduled for completion next spring, will contain a Starbucks cafe, lockers, arm desks being replaced with tables and arm chairs. In addition to accommodating the increasing number of students who are utilizing laptops in the classroom, the new furniture provides students with more desk space and more comfortable seating.

The School of Medicine is leasing four of the five floors — about 128,000 square feet in all — at Bridgeside Point II for research efforts in the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the department of orthopedic surgery, psychiatry and microbiology and molecular genetics. A $6.5 million research center has been constructed in the Pittsburgh Technology Center on Technology Drive. Nearly 400 employees will work in the facility and recruitment of new faculty members to populate the laboratory space is underway. Research programs housed there will include translational and basic neuroscience laboratories, a stem cell research center, a hard research laboratory and a center for cellular and molecular engineering.

University Ear Nose & Throat Specialists, the clinical practice of the Department of Otolaryngology, has opened an office in Monroeville.

The renovation of two classrooms in Salk Hall was completed in time for the start of the fall term. Groundbreaking for Salk Pavilion, the first new building constructed in the history of the School of Pharmacy, which will house research facilities for the school and the School of Dental Medicine, is planned for later this fall. (See July 22 University Times.) A commons area will connect Salk Hall to the Salk Pavilion.

Plans are underway to improve the efficiency of dining services for Pitt-Bradford students, faculty and staff by construction of a 10,000-square-foot addition to the dining facility in the J. Curtis McKinney II Student Union. This project also will provide space to accommodate a variety of campus events and activities. Plans are to be developed and submitted this fall, with work expected to begin in spring. Completion is slated for January 2013.

The expansion at the student union would replace the current facilities at Ball Hall, which are to be converted into campus building management offices. The project comes on the heels of an extensive refurbishment and renovation of Spruce Residence Hall, which was completed over the summer.

—Peter Hart & Kimberly K. Babcock

Above: Pete Buchheit, director of Facilities Management at Pitt-Bradford, watches as workers install an acoustic ceiling in the 150-seat Harriet S. Wick Chapel, which will be dedicated Sept. 30.

Below: Construction of Pitt-Johnstown's Wellness Center has passed the halfway point, with the facility set to open in early November. Progress can be viewed on the webcam at www.upj.pitt.edu/23588/.

The $9.7 million, 40,000-square-foot facility will feature an elevated running track, a fitness center with weight and cardiovascular exercise equipment, combination exercise and classroom space, two multipurpose courts for basketball and volleyball and an indoor climbing wall. The facility also will include an outdoor wellness park.
The School of Arts and Sciences Advising Center has implemented a student-centered advising model that calls for students to be active participants in the advising process. The new advising structure encourages a shared partnership between advisers and students, where students learn to frame questions, gather information, discover options and make decisions about their academic plan and career path. Advising Services has partnered with Noel-Levitz, a higher education consulting firm, to evaluate the advising process and make recommendations on how best to serve the undergraduate student population.

The Department of African Studies will co-host the Ousmane Sembene Film Festival Nov. 13 and 14. Orondo Sharif, with the Shona Sharif African Dance Drum Ensemble, will perform the annual Langston Hughes “Black Nativity” play in English.

The Kuntu Repertory Theatre’s 2010–2011 season at Pitt will consist of Vernell Lillie’s “Black Mahalia” and Gregory Allen’s “Traces.”

The Department of Communication will host the 12th Biennial Conference Sept. 30–Oct. 2. The conference theme is “Human Rights: Rhetoric and Ritual: Discourses and Communities.”


New areas of concentration in the Department of Computer Science include security, gaming, high-performance systems, business of software and software engineering. New courses in the department’s curriculum include one undergraduate course and two graduate courses. Principles of Computer Game Design and Imaging Systems will provide an introduction to the fundamental technologies behind computer games as well as hands-on experience in the design and development of a computer game. Advanced Topics in Security and Privacy will cover current research topics in computer security and privacy, and Advanced Topics in Web Technologies will take a retrospective look at technologies that are used on the web today, with particular emphasis on web data management and emerging technologies.

The Katz Graduate School of Business Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence has established the Center for Women in Business. The center was developed in conjunction with Power Link, a nonprofit organization that assists female-owned companies in developing advisory boards. Under the direction of former Power Link Executive Director Ann Moore, the nonprofit’s advisory programs now are available directly through the Center for Women in Business. Information about the center and its programs are available at www.entrepreneur.pitt.edu.

The College of Business Administration is offering its first course in entrepreneurship this fall. The Entrepreneurship Process taught by Michael S. Lehman and Heidi Bertels, will provide an introduction to entrepreneurship, including generating value-added business ideas, creating a new venture and managing and growing the entrepreneurial firm.

The University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and Magee-Womens Research Institute have established a Women’s Cancer Research Center to combine existing efforts at UPCi and MWRi in the fields of breast and gynecological cancers. Steff Stoecker, an expert in estrogen receptor biology and action, has been appointed director of the center.

Computing Services and Systems Development has released a new version of my.pitt.edu. The new My Pitt portal is designed to be easier to use and simpler to navigate with customized home pages for freshmen, other students, faculty, staff and applicants that provide quick access to key University services. One-click access to University email is available from every page. Feedback on the new portal can be shared at twitter.com/mypitt or on the my.pitt.edu Facebook page.

CSSD’s technology help desk has added a live online chat option for students, faculty and staff. To chat with a help desk analyst via the new feature, visit technology.pitt.edu and click the Chat button on the main page.

Pitt Mobile (m.pitt.edu), which provides University information and services tailored to smartphones and mobile devices, has added several applications. Routes and schedules for University shuttles now are available, along with information about dining options at Pitt. Students also can check on the availability of laundry machines in the residence halls.

CSSD has expanded self-service printing. Students now can send print jobs from any location (including campus email kiosks) to self-service print stations at any of CSSD’s seven campus computing labs. The service now is available for 64-bit versions of the Windows operating system. New versions of the self-service printing client can be downloaded at software.pitt.edu.

CSSD has streamlined the way students enter primary emergency contact information. Instead of using the PeopleSoft student information system, students can click the Emergency Contact Information link on their My Pitt home page.

In collaboration with the Division of Student Affairs, CSSD is exploring an opt-in new notification subscription service for text and email messages about Student Affairs events and activities. Students can subscribe from their mobile device or via their Profile link at My Pitt.

CSSD is introducing an instructor-led online orientation that will help new web conferencing subscribers learn key features of the service. Additional training for all subscribers soon will be available through WebEx University, which provides both self-paced and instructor-led training on all facets of web conferencing.

The PeopleSoft Student Information System was upgraded to version 9.0 in July. The new version features an Advisor Center that provides faculty advisers with one-click access to the academic records of the students they advise. In addition, new navigation tabs make it easier for students to find information within their Student Center.

The School of Dental Medicine begins this academic year with the recent succession of another Commission on Dental Accreditation site visit in which the school received no recommendations, which are issued when a program is noncompliant with a standard, as well as multiple “areas of strength.”

For the first time, the school’s Aug. 30 white coat ceremony was viewable online via live streaming video. The annual ceremony signifies entry into the profession for incoming dental medicine and dental hygiene students. The video is available at www.dental.pitt.edu/bluetoceemony.

The School of Education has introduced a newly redesigned principal certification program, the Leadership Initiative for Transforming Schools (LIFTS). Its purpose is to develop educational leaders of character and integrity who are inspired by a sense of justice to improve the achievement of all students. The program encourages the shift from teacher leadership to administrative leadership through academic rigor in the classroom, authentic experiences in schools and reflective opportunities for integrating personal and professional growth. The 15-month LIFTS program will be offered at two sites: Pitt-Johnstown and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

The Western Pennsylvania Writing Project is a site of the National Writing Project, hosted by Pitt since 1984. The project relocated from the English department to the School of Education. WPWP is part of plans for studying approaches to improve urban education.

A new online Master of Education in Elementary Education program admitted its first class this fall. The goals of the program are to enable practicing teachers to enhance their understanding of and improve their ability to meet the diverse needs of children in their classrooms; advance their understanding of one or more content areas they currently are teaching, and to broaden their understanding of educational research, educational theories as they apply to practice, action research practices and educational policy.

The School of Education is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Throughout the year, events are being planned, including a two-day symposium on motivation and engagement. The celebration will culminate in a gala April 2, 2011, in the Carnegie Music Hall foyer with the presentation of the 2011 Alumni and Student Leadership Awards.

Classes are being offered for Pitt-Greensburg’s new undergraduate major in Spanish, bringing the campus’s total number of majors to 24. The program is housed in the Division of Humanities and leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree. The new Spanish major is intended to be part of an overall strategy for greater internationalization of the curriculum and to add signature programs that will attract students of increasing academic quality. Students majoring in Spanish will be encouraged to study abroad. Pitt-Greensburg’s long-standing exchange program members of the Class of 2014 attend freshman convocation at the Petersen Events Center.
This fall the School of Law has launched the Imagination Law Clinic. In partnership with various community groups, including Jewish Family & Child Service; the Pittsburgh Human Rights Commission; and the Pitt-Johnstown campus, the clinic will develop an initiative to increase diversity in the Pittsburgh region. The clinic will address the legal needs of local immigrants in asylum and deportation proceedings. Legal scholars will be exposed to the impact that law and legal institutions have on the lives of immigrants, while fostering their ability to integrate theoretical knowledge with the professional judgment needed to practice law.

This fall marks the first incoming cohort of nursing majors at Pitt-Johnstown.

The School of Medicine has established a Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery dedicated to using advanced diagnostic, surgical and medical techniques to treat diseases and disorders of the heart, lung and esophagus. Only 18 such academic departments and research institutions, reflecting the recent rapid evolution of cardiothoracic surgery as an independent discipline.

The new department will expand upon the clinical, academic and research accomplishments of the Heart, Lung and Esophagusel Surgery Institute, which will remain within it. The department is made up of the Division of Thoracic and Foregut Surgery and the Division of Cardiac Surgery, which includes adult cardiac surgery, cardiothoracic transplantation and pediatric cardiothoracic surgery.

The Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration of UPMC and the University, a partnership between the UPMC Eye Center and the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, is launching a new lecture series this fall.

The Innovations in Vision Restoration series will bring national and international speakers to address eye regeneration. For more information, visit www.foxcenter.pitt.edu.

This fall, the School of Nursing will begin offering an online post-master’s degree program in nursing practice. In addition to its current on-site program, Areas of concentration include clinical leadership, nurse practitioner and nursing administration. The program is available remotely to nurses around the world.

The American College of Nursing and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists recommend the DNP as the terminal degree for advanced practice nurses. The DNP program will continue to be offered on site along with a post-bachelor’s degree (BSN to DNP) option. The nursing school also offers an online DNP leader master’s degree program. For more information call 412/684-0287 or email emb108@pitt.edu.

The School of Pharmacy has invested in state-of-the-art resources to expand the use of simulation in the curriculum. A simulation mannequin and a number of simulation arms provide opportunities for students to develop and enhance pharmacy practice skills.

These simulation devices can be programmed to have palpable pulses, audible heart, lung and abdominal sounds, visible hemodynamic parameters on the monitor and visible blood pressure cuff deflation rates. The patient simulation model also displays blood pressure and other vital signs.

The simulation software programmed by pharmacy faculty offers benefits for assessment of numerous curricular outcomes by allowing the facilitator to provide immediate feedback to students, documentation of decision-making processes and the capability to vary each simulation based on individual patient needs without interfering with actual patient care.

The pharmacy school is offering a new program that combines a master's degree and residency in community pharmacy management. This program prepares students for senior management in a retail pharmacy organization. The school partnered with CVS Caremark in this two-year program for use in community settings through the pharmacy’s Department of Pharmacy at Falmouth.

The Graduate School of Public Health Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences has established a PhD program and made major revisions to its longstanding DrPH program. The first nine students enrolled into the PhD program for the fall term.

The PhD degree program will train students to develop interventions grounded in the translation, implementation and evaluation of evidence-based interventions in community settings through the department’s Institute for Evaluation Science in Community Health.

A systems approach to doctoral education encourages PhD students to learn from practitioners in the DrPH program and visit communities.

GSPII will sponsor the annual Jay L. Foster Memorial Scientific Lecture in the School of Nursing’s Doane Auditorium on Nov. 6. The lecture will be delivered by Lewis H. Koller, Distinguished University Professor of Public Health.

The Division of Student Affairs has established the Office of Parent and Family Resources to enhance relationships with parents and families of Pitt students. The office will provide a single point of contact to assist with crisis and problem resolution and expand parent and family programs, including a parent's association.

A key responsibility of the new office will be developing strong, proactive communications with parents and families. A new parent and family web site has been developed (www.parents.pitt.edu), and the office will distribute a parent handbook and monthly electronic newsletters with information about programs and resources from various academic and support units.

The office also will coordinate programs during Pitt’s Family Weekend, Oct. 1-3. A spring event also is being planned.

For more information, call 412/624-8498 or email parents@pitt.edu.

Pitt’s 10th annual science showcase, Science 2010, is set for Oct. 7 and 8 at Abell Hall.

This year’s program includes four keynote lectures, spotlight sessions by nearly 500 researchers from Pitt, Carnegie Mellon University and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, a showcase of new technologies developed on campus that are available for licensing, research poster sessions, and a professional development workshop for early-career scientists.

On Oct. 7, the 2010 Dickson Prize in Medicine Lecture, “The DNA Damage Response: Stopped for Repairs,” will be presented by Stephen J. Elledge, Gregor Mendel Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

Pitt is one of the four original members of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, will present the Provost Lecture, “Strengthening the Connections Research, Innovation and Economic Growth.”

On Oct. 8, the 2010 Mellon Lecture, “Our Habitual Lives: How the Brain Makes and Breaks Habits,” will be given by Ann Martin Graybiel, Walter A. Rosenbloom Professor of Neurosciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an investigator at MIT’s McGovern Institute for Brain Research.

Mark B. Roth, a 2007 MacArthur Fellow and cell biologist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, will deliver the 2010 “Metabolic Flexibility and Suspended Animation” in the annual Klaus Hofmann Lecture.

For registration, a schedule and information, visit www.science2010.pitt.edu.

The University Library System has expanded its collection with the addition of over 200 e-books and eBooks that can be checked out and downloaded from pitt.lib.overdrive.com. The downloads expire automatically at the end of the lending period so there are no late fees.

Audio books and eBooks can be downloaded to PCs, Macs and many mobile devices; some audio titles can be burned to CDs.

ULS won a Best of Show award in the Library Leadership and Management Association public relations and marketing section 2010 competition. ULS’s holiday card was chosen from more than 200 entries in the printed materials promoting web sites category.

—Kimberly K. Barlow & Peter Hart
Research wins award from Hyundai
Pediatric oncologist and Children’s Hospital cancer researcher Jay Graves was named a 2010 Hyundai Scholar and awarded $85,000 to support his research as part of the automaker’s Hope on Wheels program.

Graves studies the c-Myc oncogene’s role in tumor formation.

The c-Myc gene product is overproduced in many cancers, including breast and colon cancers, and in leukemias and lymphomas. High cellular levels of c-Myc lead to genomic instability, which is thought to be essential in the development of a tumor. One way c-Myc can cause genomic instability is by the production of free radicals and reactive oxygen species (ROS), which can damage cells.

Graves is studying c-Myc mutants that have lost the ability to generate ROS in comparison with those that retain the capability.

“The natural course of Crohn’s disease is active, may not reliably indicate whether a patient’s disease has returned after corrective surgery, according to a study published in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases.”

“Based on our results, we have strong rationale for a clinical trial of vitamin D to determine whether it can prevent or treat ABPA in patients with cystic fibrosis.”

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. A defective gene and its protein product cause the body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections and obstructs the pancreas and stops natural enzymes from helping the body break down and absorb food.

Researchers studied cystic fibrosis patients at Children’s Hospital who had A. fumigatus infections. The researchers found that those who developed ABPA had a heightened response by immune cells known as type 2 T helper (Th2) cells, and that a protein known as OX40L was critical to this heightened response. The heightened Th2 response correlated with lower levels of vitamin D as compared with the non-ABPA patients. Adding vitamin D to these cells in the laboratory substantially reduced the expression of OX40L, and increased the expression of other proteins critical to the development of allergen tolerance.

“We found that adding vitamin D substantially reduced the production of the protein driving the allergic response and also increased production of the protein that promotes tolerance,” said Kolls, who also is chair of genetics at LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans.

“Based on our results, we have strong rationale for a clinical trial of vitamin D to determine whether it can prevent or treat ABPA in patients with cystic fibrosis.”

Vitamin D may be an effective therapy to treat and even prevent allergy to a common airborne mold that can cause severe complications for patients with cystic fibrosis and asthma, according to researchers from Pitt’s School of Medicine, Children’s Hospital and Louisiana State University.

“Based on our results, we have strong rationale for a clinical trial of vitamin D to determine whether it can prevent or treat ABPA in patients with cystic fibrosis.”

The most abundant member of the family (Prx1) has been shown to interact physically with c-Myc and modulate its function, decreasing its ability to transform cells.

Researchers in the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) have found that 7 percent of Allegheny County’s land has been leased for oil and gas exploration and extraction since 2003.

In addition, the number of properties in the county leased for oil and gas exploration increased by 122 percent between 2008 and 2009.

An interactive map of the 2,000-plus parcels leased for oil and gas exploration between 2003 and May 2010 is available on UCSUR’s Pittsburgh Urban Blog. The PUB (www.uscur.pitt.edu/thepub.php) makes research on regional statistics and trends readily available.

Sabina Detrick, co-director of UCSUR’s urban analysis program, said the oil and gas leases reveal a rapidly expanding pursuit of drilling and exploration rights in the county. New oil and gas leases taken out by parcel increased steadily from 29 in 2003 to 217 in 2008 and rocketed to 1,102 in 2009.

The database shows Dale Property Services/DPS Penn holds a lease on 1,654 parcels — nearly half of all properties leased for oil and gas since 2003 in the county, while Montrose-based Huntley and Huntley has the most land area under lease with 10,990 of the 35,393 acres leased in the county since 2003.

UCSUR: Local O&G leases booming
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Medicare coverage increases antibiotic use

A study by Graduate School of Public Health researchers found that improved drug coverage under Medicare Part D has led to an increase in senior citizens' use of antibiotics. The study, published in the Aug. 25 issue of Archives of Internal Medicine, suggests recent changes in drug coverage improved the use of antibiotics for pneumonia, but could lead to unnecessary spending on expensive broad-spectrum antibiotics. Researchers who previously had limited drug coverage also were more likely to fill prescriptions for antibiotics after enrolling in Part D. The largest increases were found in the use of broad-spectrum, newer and more expensive antibiotics.

Researchers also noted that the use of antibiotic treatment for pneumonia tripled among those who previously lacked drug coverage, which they say is encouraging given the high mortality associated with community-acquired pneumonia among the elderly. However, they also found increases in antibiotic use for other acute respiratory tract infections (sinusitis, pharyngitis, bronchitis and non-specific upper respiratory tract infection) for which antibiotics generally are not indicated.

“Surge of antibiotics is a common and important problem that can lead to medical complications and drug resistance,” said the study's lead author, Yuting Zhang, a faculty member in health economics. “When drug coverage is generous, people are more likely to request and fill prescriptions for antibiotics, which may lead to misuse,” said Zhang. “Although many interventions have helped curb antibiotic prescribing for acute respiratory tract infections and other conditions, our study indicates there may still be substantial room for improvement through education and changes in reimbursement practices to reduce inappropriate use of these drugs.”

Pitt co-authors include Bruce Y. Lee of the Department of Medicine and Julie M. Donohue of health policy and management.

Breastfeeding cuts moms’ diabetes risk

Mothers who did not breastfeed their children have significantly higher rates of type 2 diabetes later in life than moms who breastfed, report Pitt researchers in a study published in the September issue of the American Journal of Medicine. “We have seen dramatic increases in the prevalence of type 2 diabetes over the last century,” said the study's lead author, Yuting Zhang, a faculty member in medicine, epidemiology and obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences.

“Diet and exercise are widely known to impact the risk of type 2 diabetes, but few people realize that breastfeeding also reduces mothers’ risk of developing the disease later in life by decreasing maternal belly fat. This study included 2,233 women ages 40-78. Overall, 56 percent of mothers reported they had breastfed their infants for at least one month. Twenty-seven percent of mothers who did not breastfeed developed type 2 diabetes and were almost twice as likely to develop the disease as women who had breastfed or never given birth. In contrast, mothers who breastfed all of their children were no more likely to develop diabetes than women who never gave birth. These long-term differences were notable even after considering race, age, educational attainment, obesity and tobacco use.”

“Our study provides another good reason to encourage women to breastfeed their infants, at least for the infant’s first month of life,” said said Schwarz. “Clinicians need to consider women’s pregnancy and lactation history when advising women about their risk for developing type 2 diabetes.”

Co-author Candace K. McClure of epidemiology was among the study co-authors.

Humans can copy RNA as well as DNA

Single-molecule sequencing technology has detected and quantified novel small RNAs in human cells that represent entirely new classes of the gene–translating molecules, confirming a hypothesis that mammalian cells are capable of synthesizing RNA by copying RNA molecules directly. Researchers from the School of Medicine, Helios Biosciences Corp., Integromics and the University of Geneva Medical School recently reported the findings in the journal Nature. Co-author Bino John, a faculty member in the School of Medicine’s Department of Computational and Systems Biology, said, “For the first time, we have evidence to support the hypothesis that human cells have the widespread ability to copy RNA as well as DNA. These findings emphasize the complexity of human RNA populations and suggest the important role for single-molecule sequencing for accurate and comprehensive genetic profiling.”

Scientists had thought that all RNA in human cells was copied from the DNA template, John explained. The presence of machinery that copies RNA into RNA, typically associated with an enzyme called RNA-dependent RNA polymerase, only has been documented in plants and simple organisms, such as yeast, and implicated in regulation of crucial cellular processes.

Since thousands of such RNAs have been detected in human cells and because these RNAs have never before been studied, further research could open up new frontiers in therapeutics, particularly diagnostics, John said.

In the study, the researchers profiled small RNAs from human cells and tissues, uncovering several new classes of RNAs, including antisense terrienci-associated short RNAs, which likely are derived from messenger RNAs of protein-coding genes by yet uncharacterized, pervasive RNA-coding mechanisms in human cancer cell lines. Patrice Milos, chief scientific officer at Helios Biosciences, said, “This class of non-coding RNA molecules has been historically overlooked because available sequencing platforms often are unable to provide accurate detection and quantification.”

*Our technology provides the platform capability to identify...
and quantify these RNAs and reinforces the potential clinical advantages of our single molecule-sequencing platform.”

Co-authors included A. Paula Monaghan of neurobiology and Sangwoo Kim of computational biology.

New math solution described

Pitt-Bradford mathematics professor Yong-Zhuo Chen has described a new method to solve a type of difference equation. His paper, “Some Contractive Type Mappings and Their Application to Difference Equations,” was presented recently at the American Mathematical Society’s eastern sectional meeting and has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Difference Equations and Applications.

Difference equations are used to model phenomena in biology, ecology, physiology, physics, engineering and economics.

Chen chairs UBP’s Division of Physical and Computational Sciences.

Head and neck cancer research funded

Researchers at the School of Medicine and the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) have been awarded an $800,000 federal grant to develop agents to inhibit a cellular signaling protein that plays a key role in triggering and supporting the growth of many cancers, including cancers of the head and neck.

A member of a protein class called Signal Transducers and Activators of Transcription (STAT3), activated in excess levels, can drive the transformation of healthy cells into cancer, said principal investigator Jennifer R. Grandis, professor of otorhinolaryngology and pharmacology and director of the UPCI head and neck program.

The abnormality has been found not only in head and neck cancers, but also in many malignancies including breast, prostate and lung cancer.

“This protein can signal to other molecules encouraging the replication and spread of cancer cells, promoting new blood vessel growth to tumors and suppressing the immune response against the disease,” Grandis explained. “Animal studies have shown that inhibiting it can shrink tumors and prolong survival, so it represents an important target for therapies against a range of cancer types.”

With funding from the National Cancer Institute, Grandis and her team will identify and develop small-molecule inhibitors of STAT3 activation, which is present in squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN) and in 95 percent of all head and neck cancers. The best candidates will be tested in animal models of SCCHN.

Current treatments for SCCHN include surgery and chemoradiation, and the only approved molecular approach is the monoclonal antibody cetuximab, which inhibits epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR).

“Although EGFR expression is common in these tumors, cetuximab works only in a subset of patients, leaving the rest likely to succumb to their cancers,” Grandis noted. “It’s possible that STAT3 activation is contributing to resistance to the drug, so blocking it could make cetuximab treatment more effective.”

Co-principal investigators include John Lazo and Paul A. Johnston, both of the Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology.

Conical stem cell research funded

The Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration, a joint program of UPMC Eye Center and Pitts McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, recently received a $244,000 donation from the Western Pennsylvania Medical Eye Bank Foundation.

The donation, to be matched by UPMC, will be used to further the School of Medicine’s research on stem cell therapy for conical scarring.

James L. Funderburgh, senior investigator and professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, said, “Our preclinical studies support the idea that stem cell therapy can provide sight to a large number of individuals with conical blindness. The timing of this generous donation provides an extraordinary opportunity for us to advance this research from the lab to the clinic.”

Through experiments conducted in mice, Funderburgh and his team have found that stem cells collected from the stromal layer of human corneas restore transparency without triggering a rejection response when injected into eyes that are scarred and hazy.

Their study was published in the April 2009 edition of the journal Stem Cell.

With the new funding, the Pitt research team will develop standard procedures for preparing the stem cells so that they can be used in human studies, after first verifying their safety in animal models.

The Fox Center’s main focus is discovery and development of new cures for blindness and visual impairment, especially for those with problems affecting the retina, optic nerve, cornea and lens. Through basic and clinical research, it will provide vision restoration through the augmentation of existing visual pathways or by providing vision through non-visual means.

Stimulus funds buy cyclotron

Radiology professor Chet Mathis, director of UPMC’s PET facility, received a $2.7 million high-end instrumentation grant from the National Institutes of Health to purchase a new cyclotron for UPMC Presbyterian. The NIH equipment funds are derived from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds specifically designated for new research equipment.

D’Urso receives DARPA grant

Brian D’Urso’s proposal “Quantum Interactions of a Graphene Nanomechanical Oscillator With a Single Spin” recently was selected for a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Young Faculty Award.

D’Urso, a faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, is among 33 researchers at 24 universities chosen in this year’s YFA class. The program focuses on untenured faculty, emphasizing those without prior DARPA funding.

The award program aims to identify and engage rising research stars in junior faculty positions at U.S. academic institutions and expose them to Department of Defense (DoD) needs and DARPA program development process.

The YFA program provides funding, mentoring and industry/DoD contacts to these faculty early in their careers to develop their research ideas in the context of DoD needs. The program’s long-term goal is to develop the next generation of academic scientists, engineers and mathematicians in key disciplines who emphasize those without prior grants.
will focus a significant portion of their career on DoD and national security issues.

Selected researchers receive grants of approximately $500,000 to $3 million to support their research ideas over a period of two years. YFA recipients also participate in military base visits or exercises that provide them with first-hand perspectives of current issues faced by DoD war fighters.


Betacell replication

Scientists who work with stem cells have found a single stimulatory molecule can induce human beta cells to replicate for at least four weeks in a mouse model of diabetes. Their work appeared in Diabetes, a journal of the American Diabetes Association.

They also found several cocktails of molecules that drive human beta cells to replicate, as well as important differences between mouse and human beta cells that could influence how these approaches are best used to treat diabetes.

Senior author Andrew F. Stewart, a faculty member in medicine and chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, said, “Our team was the first to show that adult human beta cells can be induced to proliferate or grow at substantial rates, which no one thought possible before. Now our effort has been to unravel the regulatory pathways to find the most effective strategy that will allow us to treat — and perhaps prevent — by making new insulin-producing cells.”

Endocrinology faculty member and co-lead author Nathalie M. Fiaschi-Taesch and the team discussed that combining elevated amounts of regulatory molecules called cdk4 or cdk6 with a variety of D-cyclin proteins, particularly D3-D1 and D2, can result in human beta cell replication in test tubes.

Cyclin D2 is present in and is critical for human and rodent beta cell replication and function, but the team showed that molecule is barely detectable in human cells, and beta cell replication could be sustained for at least four weeks in a model in which mice were transplanted with human beta cells engineered to overproduce cdk6.

Blood sugar normalized in diabetic mice transplanted with small numbers of human cells that functioned properly to produce insulin.

While it appears to make cdk6 naturally, but they do have an anomaly more than a decade later, according to a study by staff at the School of Medicine researchers in collaboration with researchers at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

Their findings were published recently in Psychiatric Research.

Certain psychiatric symptoms, particularly related to depression and anxiety, are associated with dysfunction of the 24-hour biological clock, also known as the circadian system.

In this study, the research teams followed 59 children for one year starting in the fall of age, to determine if the regularity of their daily behaviors in infancy could predict future anxiety and anxiety symptoms when the children were older.

To measure lifestyle routines and sleep regularity in babies, the researchers created a diary tool that parents used to track very young babies’ routines a week at a time. In 1990 and 1991, couples tracked their one-month-old babies for two weeks, recording sleep times as well as feeding, playing, and eating changing and receiving comfort.

Psychiatry professor Timothy H. McCarthy, lead author of the study and director of the human chronobiology research program in child psychiatry at the School of Medicine, said: “We found that a baby’s daily routine and sleep patterns at one year can predict the amount of anxiety shown more than 10 years later while the child is in school. We are not saying that we find a significant correlation with depression.”

For many years, experts have believed that regularity in an individual’s daily lifestyle might be associated with better mental health,” noted Monk. “By being able to follow these children from birth to their 9th grade, we can show that greater regularity, even in very early life, can be associated with less school-age anxiety later on.”

The researchers suggest that greater regularity in daily activity can increase a baby’s ability to understand and recall the synchrony of read-write and the perfect flow of electric superconductors, which allow conventional computing systems to be made smaller and faster. This superconducting technology, which has been used in computer processors and magnetic storage, also makes it possible to decrease data access time and increase the amount of data that can be accessed directly from all of its processors, as opposed to distributed memory (in which each processor’s memory is accessed directly only by that processor). Because all processors share a single view of a data, a shared memory system is relatively easy to program and use.

Because of its shared-memory design, the new PSC system will complement existing supercomputer systems in the field. The 4,096 processor cores and 32 terabytes of memory, organized as a large, coherent shared-memory system and available for U.S. scientists and engineers will be a powerful new tool to advance scientific discovery.

In a joint statement, PSC scientific directors Michael Levine, member of the PSC Research Advisory Committee, and Ralph Roskies of Pitt said: “Because of the extraordinary memory size and design, PSC’s programming model made possible by the Altix UV shared-memory structure, scientists and engineers will be able to solve problems that were heretofore intractable. For many research communities — including data analysis and many areas of computer science — it will open new frontiers in computational performance and thereby expand the abilities of scientists to address complex problems.

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Bruce Dobler

Former English faculty member Bruce Dobler, a mentor to many aspiring writers in Pitt's creative nonfiction writing program, has died. He was 71.

Dobler's body was found by his wife in the garage of his El Paso home on Aug. 15, 2010. The date and time of death remain undetermined as the release of an autopsy report by the El Paso medical examiner's office, which is awaiting toxicology report results.

Dobler joined the Pinn faculty in 1979 and retired from the University in 2008 as a senior faculty member. During his tenure, he taught writing and literature courses at the University of Freiburg, Germany.

In 2003, Dobler won a College of General Studies Students Chords Foundation award for his "courage and character," an honor he treasured. The award recognized his "remarkable courage and ability to face the difficulties of life and to make the most of it."

Dobler held a bachelor’s degree in English from Roosevelt University, a master of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa’s prestigious Low Writer’s Workshop. After earning his MFA, he became writer-in-residence at Pennsylvania College of Pharmacy and Sciences.


At the time of his death, Dobler was completing a creative nonfiction book about the building "The Last Rush North," a documentary novel set in a maximum security prison, and "Icepick," a documentary novel set in a maximum security prison. He also worked on a collection of short stories, "The Last Rush North," a documentary novel set in a maximum security prison.

Dobler was also working on his PhD in creative nonfiction. He was a co-founder of the National Association of Graduate Students in Creative Nonfiction. He was a member of the National Association of Graduate Students in Creative Nonfiction. He was a member of the National Association of Graduate Students in Creative Nonfiction.

Along with his love for being part of a writing community, Dobler loved teaching. "He felt quite honored being a professor. He was a great teacher," said Mullen. "He made students figure out what they were doing and who they were. He was a great teacher." Dobler was almost more of a poet than a straight nonfiction writer," Tarr said. "He was a great listener and to pay attention to their problems, his sudden death was unexpected. "It's like having one of your limbs amputated, losing one of your senses," Tarr said.

Along with teaching the fundamentals and mechanics of writing, Dobler taught students to read, write and think. He encouraged students to read across genres and embrace poetry and fiction. He wanted students to read, write and think. He wanted students to read, write and think.

In addition to his wife and daughter, Dobler is survived by his former wife and former student Jeanne Marie Laskas, a contributing editor for several magazines, including The New Yorker.

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Pharmacy & Chemical Biology Seminar
“Nos Inductor Development: A Multi-Strategic Approach to Taming the Vascular Adventitia,” Patrick Pagano; 1393 Starzl BST, 1:30 pm

Panther Bowling League
PAA, 5-10 pm (weekly; 412/386-2075)

Mental Health Film
“One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” (FPA aud.; 7 pm (412/661-7860)

Wednesday 15
Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds
Barrett Woods, LHAS aud.; 7th fl. main level MCH, 7 am

Clinical Oncology & Hematology Grand Rounds
“An Aromatase Inhibitor: A Two- Sided Coin,” GI van Londen; Cooper Conf. Ctr. cl. room C, 8 am

Pathology Seminar
“Chemoatherapeutic Targeting of Immune Regulators in the Tumor Microenvironment,” Michael Shurin, 1104 Scallie, noon

HSLS Workshop

Senate Council Mtg.
2700 Posvar, 3 pm

Asian Studies Reception
WPJ lower lounge, 5:30-5 pm

OED Limbach Lecture
“IP Licensing: What Pharma Wants,” Robert Lewis, S123 Starzl BST, 4 pm

Thursday 16

GSPIA Conference

Molecular Biophysics/Structural Biology Seminar
“Molecular Mechanisms of Endothelial Membrane Traffic,” Stephen Harrison; 6014 B3T, 11 am

Epidemiology Seminar
“Screening for Prostate Cancer: Good Public Health Policy,” Joel Weissfeld; A115 Crabtree, noon

ADRC Lecture
“Treating Heart Disease in Medicare Beneficiaries With Dementia: Secondary Chemo- prevention in the Context of Life-Limiting Disease,” Nicole Fowler, medicine; S439 ADRC conf. rm. Montefiore, noon

Academic Career Development Workshop
“Maximizing Your Postdoc Success: An Orientation to a Full Academic & Social Life in Pittsburgh,” Arthur Levinson; 526 CL, noon

ADRC Lecture
“Geoschemical Characterization of Groundwater Flow Processes in a Large Perturbed Peatland,” Soumitri Sarkar, Pitt Environmental Law Clinic; 11 Thaw, 4 pm

Endocrine Pituitary Conference
“Pituitary Clinical Case Presentation,” Marilyn Augustine; neurosurgery conf. rm. Presby, 5 pm

Mental Health Lecture
Robert Whitaker; FFA aud.; 7 pm (412/661-7860)

PhD Defenses

SIS/Telecommunications & Networking
“Secure Connectivity Through Key Predistribution Under Joining Attacks in All Hoc & Sensor Networks,” Kornporn Panyiun; Sept. 2, 312 IS; 10 am

A&S/Physics & Astronomy
“Ultraplanar Dynamics in Semiconductor Devices,” Boryal Zhang; Sept. 2, 319 Allen; 10-30 am

Medicine/Molecular Virology & Microbiology
“Epigenetic Regulation of Quiescent Herpes Simplex Virus Type I Gene Expression,” Michael Ferenczy; Sept. 3, S120 Starzl BST, 1 pm

GSPIA
“Ist Turkey Realigning? A 3-Dimensional Investigation of Turkish-Iranian Security Re- proachment During the Ergogan Administration,” Bebat Eksi; Sept. 6, Ridgway Ctr. Prov; 10 am

SIS/Telecommunications & Networking
“Adaptive Visualization for Focused Personalized Information Retrieval,” Jie-Wook Ahn; Sept. 8, 312 IS; 9-30 am

A&S/English
“Screen Combat: Recreating World War II in American Film and Media,” Elaine Allison; Sept. 8, 126 CL, noon

GSPIA/Biostatistics
“Open-Source Simulation Experiment Platforms for Evaluating Clinical Trial Designs, With Applications to Phase I Dose-Finding Clinical Trials,” Yianyu Wang; Sept. 9, 108 Parran; 1:15 pm

A&S/Philosophy
“Reason’s Self-Actualization: An Essay on Self-Consciousness and Rational Agency,” Joshua Stuch- li; Sept. 9, 1001D CL, 3 pm

A&S/Psychology
“Making Difficult Health Decisions: A Motivated Decision Processing Model,” Laura Zajac; Sept. 13, 412 IS, noon

GSPIA/Biostatistics
“Bayesian Analysis of Latent Processing Model,” Laura Zajac; Sept. 13, 412 IS, noon

September 2, 2010

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University of Pittsburgh

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