Pitt riders need to ‘tap’ IDs on buses beginning Aug. 1

Beginning Aug. 1, Pitt ID holders will have to tap their identification cards on Port Authority vehicle fareboxes to waive the fare. The new system replaces the current process, where Port Authority drivers push a “Pitt button” as riders flash their ID cards.

In recent months, the Port Authority has installed fareboxes equipped with new “smart-card” technology on all its vehicles, including the T (light rail transit) and the Monongahela Incline. The orange scanners are mounted atop the farebox.

Scanning a Pitt ID card will yield one of four results:

- If the card is accepted as valid, the rider will hear a single beep and see a “Uni Pitt PASS THANK YOU” message displayed on a screen, indicating the card ID has been accepted.
- The rider will hear a triple beep and receive the message: “Transaction Not OK.” Riders should try to tap the scanner again slowly to receive the thank you message, it may be that the tapping was too swift for the scanner.
- If the card is rejected as invalid, the rider will hear a single beep, followed by the message: “Improper Usage - Card Recently Used.” Riders who receive that message will be required to pay the full fare or exit the vehicle.
- Riders who hear a triple beep followed by the message: “Card Not Valid” will be required to pay the full fare or exit the vehicle. When this occurs, Pitt ID holders are asked to contact Panther Central at 412/648-1100, email at pc@bc.pitt.edu, or stop at Panther Central in the Litchfield Towers lobby. Panther Central also has an online inquiry form at www.pc.pitt.edu/contact.php.

The fareboxes will continue to accept exact change cash fares.

The University began issuing ID cards with the smart-card technology embedded in them in 2009, in anticipation of the Port Authority’s launch of the new system.

The system is expected to yield a more accurate count of Pitt riders than the current system of manually recording rides. It also aims to weed out invalid and expired ID cards.

“However, as a further reflection of our challenging circumstances,” the chancellor stated, “those long time students will be retroactively effective to July 1 only for employees whose base earnings are $40,000 or less. Salary increases for all other employees will take effect to January, and not be retroactive. Pitt officials said approximately 39 percent of full-time employees earn $40,000 or less.

The operating budget also includes an 8.5 percent tuition increase for most in-state students on the Pittsburgh campus, a 4 percent increase for out-of-state students on the Pittsburgh campus, a 12 percent increase for in-state medical students and 6 percent for full-year, out-of-state med students, and a 4 percent increase for all regional campus students.

No student fees were increased, and Pitt is hiking the amount of available need-based financial aid by $13 million, to a total of $163 million.

Pinsky added, “We support the administration in this approach, including the limits of salary raises, as an example of shared governance working to address an external crisis. Hopefully, next year and in the years that follow we shall be able to realize appropriate salary raises for the faculty and staff proportional to both inflation and merit. Otherwise it may be difficult to sustain the excellence in teaching and research that we presently enjoy.”

John Baker, who chairs the Senate budget policies committee, said: “Chancellor Nordenberg and Pitt’s administration are to be commended for raising tuition for in-state students on the Oakland campus only 8.5 percent next year, given the projected $70 million shortfall in Pitt’s FY12 budget. The budget also includes a much needed 2 percent pay raise for faculty and staff, though it won’t take effect for most employees until January 2012. This clearly shows that Pitt’s administration is concerned about, and sensitive to, the welfare of its faculty and staff, as well as its students, in these hard economic times.”

Baker continued, “As welcome as this news is for some of us, next year’s budget will also extract a heavy toll at Pitt because the
New president seeks stronger SAC role in shared governance

By accomplishing these goals, SAC will continue to serve this great University [and] provide a means of communication between staff and members of the Pitt community. The Staff Association Council looks forward to a future in which our involvement will make our great University even greater by working, learning and growing together.

Walker was installed as SAC president at a ceremony — believed to be the first such event in SAC’s 41-year history — along with vice president of steering Jon-Paul “J.P.” Matychak, who is a former student vice president and current law student, and faculty representative Deborah Nordenberg, who is a former mayor of the City of Pittsburgh and member of the Board of Trustees.

A second goal, she said, is to foster a better understanding of our role in shared governance. “To do this vision a reality, SAC plans to accomplish three major goals,” Walker said. The first goal, she said, is to broaden our message to the University community. This will include training our committee chairs so that all members of SAC can have a better understanding of our role in shared governance.

A second goal, she said, is to foster a better understanding of staff issues. “To accomplish this goal, SAC will schedule town hall meetings and continue to have brown bag workshops that cover issues that pertain to staff,” Walker said.

The third goal, she said, will be to build pathways to solutions. The SAC executive officers will establish meetings that will include members of SAC, faculty, and the Student Government Board to begin working toward solutions to the many issues that affect our University community,” Walker said.

“At the conclusion of these meetings, SAC plans to accomplish three major goals,” Walker said. The first goal, she said, is to broaden our message to the University community. This will include training our committee chairs so that all members of SAC can have a better understanding of our role in shared governance. A second goal, she said, is to foster a better understanding of staff issues. “To accomplish this goal, SAC will schedule town hall meetings and continue to have brown bag workshops that cover issues that pertain to staff,” Walker said.

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One of Pitt's best-known staff members in recent history is retiring next month after 41 years.

Assistant director of Community Relations Steve Zupcic won a Chancellor's Award for Excellence for University Staff Employees in 2000 primarily for his role in organizing Pitt's Day of Caring and other community efforts.

But his fingerprints can be found on everything from Pitt's employee assistance program, to expanded staff benefits and enhanced retiree benefits, to the Staff Association Council (SAC) and numerous University committees.

In 1986, he served as the SAC representative on the ad hoc committee to study South African investments; trustees eventually agreed to divest Pitt's holdings in certain corporations doing business in South Africa.

He was an early member (1989-92) of the medical rate review committee, which recommended cost-saving modifications to the University's health insurance plans.

Zupcic was the founding chair in 1992 of the Lesbian and Gay Academic Association at Pitt, which was established as a support organization for sexual minority staff and faculty.

In the 1990s and again recently, Zupcic served on the University Senate's anti-discriminatory policies committee. He also has served on the Senate's community relations committee since 1994.

In addition, in his role as coordinator of the Faculty and Staff in Service to Communities program (formerly the Volunteer Pool), Zupcic has organized food, clothing and book drives too numerous to count.


With his boisterous voice and infectious laugh, he is a well-known figure around campus who said he loves the University "warts and all," and thoroughly has enjoyed his career as a Pitt employee.

Zupcic sat down recently with University Times staff writer Peter Hart to reflect on his long years of service.

How did you get into community organizing activities?

Around the time I was leaving library school, Art Tuden, who was a faculty member in anthropology, told me of a position in the history department, which, in conjunction with the University Center for International Studies, was working on an oral history project. They were gathering an oral history of ethnic fraternal associations.

I began directing the program, where we'd train and send interviewers out to the Croatian, Italian, Polish, black and Jewish communities.

That oral history project was on soft money, but before the grant ran out, Art Tuden again came to my rescue. He told me that Lloyd Bell, head of the Office of Urban and Community Services, was looking for somebody.

What did we do there was basically old-fashioned community organizing work, where we delivered services that Pitt had to offer. For example, we had a lawyer on staff who offered legal services to nascent community organizations. We helped create the East Allegheny Community Council on the North Side.

Weren't there a lot of friction between the University and the community at that time, during the 1970s and early '80s?

During that period, [my office] had only one person, Jay Rodel, who worked with Oakland groups. We primarily worked with organizations beyond the immediate Oakland area. That changed as time went on.

But the relationship of our office to the University early on was like an insider-outsider relationship, which I think to some degree was encouraged by the director, Lloyd Bell.

When the University hired Roger Benjamin [as provost in 1983], Urban and Community Services was threatened for closure or enormous scaling back.

Urban and Community Services started this community letter-writing campaign where we actually encouraged the community to oppose decisions made by the senior administration and encouraged tension between the University and the community for the sake of preserving our office. That shows institutional disregard.

It shouldn't be your primary purpose to criticize your own administration.

There's been an evolution from a rather primitive, disorganized institution that the University really was in the '60s and early '70s.

Also, fiscal management is so much more responsible than it used to be.

For example, when I was volunteering for the Gene McCarthy for President campaign, one of my jobs was to run over with one of the other volunteers who was a Pitt faculty member to get supplies and he had a Pitt requisition.

It was done so casually: "Oh, here I'll just supply the paper." So reams of paper on a Pitt req were being ripped off for the McCarthy campaign!

For one thing, there's much better fiscal monitoring now. But secondly, I honestly believe there's been an evolution of mutual trust between staff and faculty and the institution, as well as an evolution of much better relationships between the University and the community.

How did those improved relations come about?

When [former chancellor J.J.] Dennis O'Connor came and Leon Haley became vice chancellor [of Public Affairs and Student Affairs], the Office of Urban and Community Services [morphed] into the Center for Community and Public Service. There was a definite change for me. I was given more direction and made to feel part of a team that had a purpose in advancing the institution, as opposed to simply running around doing random community organizing that I found interesting. I was brought into the institution and moved from an outsider to an insider.

For example, when I became involved in Day of Caring in the early 1990s, it really took off as part of that new office. Day of Caring evolved from picking some projects from a catalogue that United Way supplied with very little relationship of what this had to do with the University.

After we went out on our own, I was able to forge Day of Caring into projects that involved the community — neighbors of the University — and doing projects that are of mutual benefit. It was really a three-way mutualism. The neighborhood organizations themselves benefit; the University benefits in the sense that it provides some valuable hands-on experience for staff to get to know their neighbors and how these organizations function, and, thirdly, the actual recipients of a service, the actual people who might be living in a house that gets painted, benefit.

Later you moved to the Office of Community and Governmental Relations?

Yes. Services of the center were moved under Community and Governmental Relations.

Under the really competent direction, particularly in the last dozen years, of Renny Clark and John Wilds, I feel very pleased that I was able to help transform the relationship of the University with the community in a way that's been amazingly beneficial to both parties. Not so much in the sense that people feel better about Pitt than they ever did. Sure, that's been an outcome. But we have built reasons for them to like us. Part of it is our cooperative efforts in building something like the Oakland Farmers' Market, and cooperative efforts in getting a weary, trashy lot fixed up and putting pressure on bad landlords.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
You've also overseen the Volunteer Pool, now called Faculty and Staff in Service to Communities, for many years. How has that changed?

When I started it in the early ’90s we had maybe 400 volunteers, and today we have gone on 3,200. Part of my legacy was to build that over 20 years.

Also during this time, something I feel really good about is we started a survey of community-service activities of our faculty. We did that in cooperation with the Office of the Provost. Now it’s housed in UCSUR. It’s not static; each year it’s updated and it reflects well on the University’s reputation for its service mission.

You mentioned J. Dennis O’Connor, who was chancellor 1991-95. During his tenure, certain benefits such as library privileges were extended to same-sex domestic partners of employees. How did that happen?

An interesting example was when SAC approved the proposal to offer limited in-house benefits to same-sex domestic partners of employees [in 1992], which came from the SAC benefits committee that I chaired at the time.

This [proposal] went to the Chancellor’s office. O’Connor supported the limited in-house benefits all the way. He didn’t have them, but he didn’t think they were as distasteful as what you couldn’t do.

As a result, two trustees resigned as at the time. But he didn’t realize that this was a problem, somewhat similar, that would eventually come up. He didn’t realize that at the time.

I still believe it would have been better if he had set a higher standard. You can’t make these changes in 10 days at retirement as a way of encouraging retirement. You can’t do that.

But I am a bit more impressed with the process of in-cycle benefit changes. How do we deal with a situation where we can’t afford to extend these benefits.

We also were behind establishment of the AIDS Prevention and the what I believe SAC’s role was, the AIDS benefits staff and faculty, we pushed for short-term disability benefits, long-term disability benefits, prescription cards, the implementation of a flexible-spending benefit plan, although many of those efforts have been more recent.

But in the mid-’90s, we also had gotten approval for a policy of AIDS prevention education for staff and faculty. SAC membership was divided over these efforts, the AIDS prevention and the same-sex benefits staff, and I believe SAC was steadfast in its stance of excluding foreign students from being entitled to the same benefits plan, which I believe will continue to evolve.

I hope, and this is a hope rather than a prediction, we will cease to be a staff benefit that is available to employees and to develop themselves and then return to the University as better workers.

What are your post-retirement plans?

In the longer term, my plans include relocation to Tucson, Arizona. Tucson is slightly smaller than Pittsburgh, and the University of Arizona is about 30 percent lower in cost of living. It’s a very sort of comfortable, homey town.

My biggest goal is to stay engaged in some capacity. I have a commitment — it’s not to stop working but to stop working very hard.

One of the things ethically in my position at the University I cannot do is advocate for social issues. I can try to solve problems, I can supply volunteers to address needs, but I’m unable to advocate to the political level. My own sense of ethics prevents that.

In post-retirement, however, I can be released. And the skills I’ve learned here — it’s almost as if you’re preparing me for my next career. The skills I’ve acquired over years of coordinating neighborhood, political and social organizing toward common, worthwhile social goals I can now apply to social advocacy in Arizona, specifically advocating for the development of a more compassionate interface with our border neighbors.

That’s one of the biggest rewards of retirement — it’s not to stop working but to stop working for an employer. That’s the true meaning of retirement for me.

“Tuition increases for all student groups still leaves a $40 million budget gap that has to be closed. Unless the University has the money in reserve somewhere, it will necessitate painful significant budget cuts in every school and unit at Pitt.”

Baker noted that according to the most recent data (fall 2009) collected by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, which gathers information from every educational institution that receives federal financial aid, faculty salaries at the Pittsburgh campus ranks near the bottom 15 percent of their public Association of American Universities peers for assistant professors, instructors, lecturers and faculty with no rank, but near the top in the percentage of faculty who fall into these lower-paying faculty ranks.

“The reason Pitt is near the bottom of its AAU peer group in faculty pay, despite having the second highest tuition of any public university in the U.S., is not because of waste and bloat as Gov. Corbett alleges, but because the state of Pennsylvania funds near the bottom of all 50 states in providing support for its public universities,” Baker said.

“If Gov. Corbett truly wants to lower the cost of tuition at Pennsylvania’s public universities, he must make high-quality public higher education affordable for Pennsylvanians, stop cutting state funding for higher education, not slash it.”

“Ultimately, these budget cuts are likely to lead to even higher future tuition increases at Pitt unless Gov. Corbett makes decisions based on reality, not imagined waste,” Baker said.

“Staff and faculty leaders applaud sr. administrators on FY 12 budget

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What changes would you like to see for Pitt staff?

I consider myself damn lucky to be able to retire at 62. But if population dynamics hold true, there’s probably going to be a staff shortage in the next eight to 10 years. There’s probably going to be a trend to hold onto older staff. There will be a pressure for people to work longer, and not only because you need the money to be able to retire but also because there will be fewer people available.

We’re not going to be in a position to offer lots of bigger and bigger salaries to attract and retain people, but I’m sure there also will be more incentives to stay at work longer. HR incentives such as working more at home and lots more flex time. It’s inevitably coming. Lots more flexibility and more workplace accommodations.

I was attracted to working for the University rather than, say, a Downtown corporation, partly because of the work oppression culture, which I believe will continue to evolve. It’s a very tolerant environment, and very human environment.

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Trustees approve FY12 budget

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The trustees also approved a 4.9 percent increase in tuition for in-state students and a 3.5 percent increase for out-of-state students on the University Park (main) campus. Satellite campus students will see an increase of 2.9 percent.

Penn State has a tiered tuition system with different tuition rates for lower-division students (freshmen and sophomores) and upper-division students (juniors and seniors), as well as different rates depending on the campus and the program.

At University Park, in-state lower-division students will pay $15,124. Most in-state upper-division students will pay $16,352 in tuition.

In-state upper-division students will pay $17,322 in the business, science, information science technology and engineering program, with such nursing students paying $19,524 in tuition.

Out-of-state students in the lower divisions on the main campus now will pay $27,206 in tuition.

Most upper-division out-of-state students will pay $28,590. Such students will pay $29,696 in the business, science, information science technology and engineering program and $12,212 in the nursing program.

Penn State also raised some of its student fees.

Schedules of the new tuition rates at all the Penn State campuses are posted at www.psu.edu.

Earlier, both Temple and Penn State announced a salary freeze for the coming fiscal year.

Last week, Lincoln University had not set new tuition rates.

—Peter Hart

What Pitt students will pay

The Pitt trustees raised tuition for in-state undergraduates in Arts and Sciences, General Studies, education and social work on the Pittsburgh campus by 8.5 percent to $15,272 and by 4 percent to $24,680 for out-of-state students.

In-state dental medicine undergraduates will pay $14,838; out-of-state undergraduates will pay $27,964.

In-state undergraduates in engineering will pay $16,292; out-of-state undergraduates will pay $26,968.

In-state undergraduate tuition in medicine will pay $16,448; out-of-state undergraduates will pay $27,804.

In-state undergraduate tuition in business, science, information technology and preservation projects.

The reduction was 4 percent. Most in-state upper-division students will pay $17,928 for tuition.

Tuition for out-state students on the main campus will pay $12,590 (in-state) and $23,994 (out-of-state), in nursing, $15,034 (in-state) and $23,436 (out-of-state); in psychology, $13,852 (in-state) and $23,052 (out-of-state); in nursing, $15,034 (in-state) and $23,436 (out-of-state);

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Schedules of the new tuition rates at all the Penn State campuses are posted at www.psu.edu.

Earlier, both Temple and Penn State announced a salary freeze for the coming fiscal year.

Last week, Lincoln University had not set new tuition rates.

—Peter Hart

What Pitt students will pay

The trustees raised tuition for in-state undergraduates in Arts and Sciences, General Studies, education and social work on the Pittsburgh campus by 8.5 percent to $15,272 and by 4 percent to $24,680 for out-of-state students.

In-state dental medicine undergraduates will pay $14,838; out-of-state undergraduates will pay $27,964.

In-state undergraduate tuition in medicine will pay $16,448; out-of-state undergraduates will pay $27,804.

In-state undergraduate tuition in business, science, information technology and preservation projects.

The reduction was 4 percent. Most in-state upper-division students will pay $17,928 for tuition.

Tuition for out-state students on the main campus will pay $12,590 (in-state) and $23,994 (out-of-state), in nursing, $15,034 (in-state) and $23,436 (out-of-state); in psychology, $13,852 (in-state) and $23,052 (out-of-state); in nursing, $15,034 (in-state) and $23,436 (out-of-state);

In-state dental medicine undergraduates will pay $14,838; out-of-state undergraduates will pay $27,964.

In-state undergraduate tuition in science technology and engineering programs, with such nursing students paying $19,524 in tuition.

Out-of-state students in the lower divisions on the main campus now will pay $27,206 in tuition.

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Smokers Wanted

The University of Pittsburgh’s Alcohol & Smoking Research Lab is looking for current smokers to participate in a research project. You must:

- Be 30-70 years old, in good health, and a Native English speaker
- Be willing to fill out questionnaires
- Be willing not to smoke for 5 hours before the session

Earn $60 for participating in this study.

For more information, call (412) 624-8975

Freshman Convocation

Join Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and the University community in welcoming the Class of 2015 at the Freshman Convocation.

Wednesday, August 24, 2011
3:00 pm
Petersen Events Center

Office of Special Events
(412) 624-7100
sjm@pitt.edu
They found that sexual minority youth are:

- Nearly three times more likely to report childhood sexual abuse, compared with other adolescents;
- 1.3 times more likely to report parental physical abuse than other adolescents;
- 1.7 times more likely to report being threatened or injured with a weapon, or otherwise assaulted as compared to their peers; and
- Nearly three times more likely to report missing school because they were afraid.

Studies revealed a high rate of prior sexual abuse among bisexual female (40 percent), lesbian (32 percent), bisexual male (24 percent), gay male (21 percent) and heterosexual female (17 percent) youth, compared to heterosexual male adolescents (5 percent).

According to the report, children and adolescents who experience sexual and parental physical abuse are more likely to suffer from psychological, substance abuse, behavioral and criminal problems. Those who are abused and assaulted by peers are more likely to experience poor school performance, delinquency, social isolation, psychological and substance abuse problems and other issues, the study said.

In addition, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released a study that found adolescents who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual are more likely than their heterosexual peers to take unhealthy risks. The GSPH study was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Pitt co-authors included Michael P. Marshal, Thomas E. Guadamuz, Chongyi Wei and Ron Stall, all of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences and the Center for Research on Health and Sexual Orientation.

Simulations typically used for medical training could provide a way to examine interactions between physicians and patients to reveal, for example, how race and other factors influence decision-making, said Pitt School of Medicine researchers. In a study published in Critical Care Medicine, they found that hospital-based physicians did not treat black and white mock patients differently in an intensive care scenario, but they underestimated the preference for life-sustaining intervention in both groups and among blacks in particular.

Previous research has shown that compared to white patients, black patients with late-stage cancer are more likely to be admitted to an intensive care unit and to receive life-sustaining interventions such as dialysis or breathing support by a ventilator, said lead investigator Amber E. Barnato, a faculty member in the Department of Medicine. Also, research suggests that black patients are more likely to prefer aggressive life-sustaining treatment.

"For our study, we examined whether physician decision-making was influenced by patient race to play a role in creating these differences," she explained. "Unlike previous research efforts in which physicians sat in a booth and asked questions that prompt videotaped patient responses, we used extensively trained actors to portray patients in a mock triage setting, which we believe is more likely to capture what happens in the real world."

Conducted at Pitt's Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research, the scenario mimicked the triage environment and time pressure in which decisions about ICU admission and intubation typically are made.

The researchers simulated a scenario in which a black or white patient with either end-stage gastric or pancreatic cancer experienced dangerously low blood pressure or oxygen levels. Then they assessed how doctors dealt with it medically and surveyed them about their perceptions of patient preferences.

Of the 33 physicians who participated, 12 were emergency room doctors, eight were hospitalists and 13 were intensivists. Each participated in an encounter with one black and one white patient and did not know the study was examining the influence of race on decision-making.

Four black and four white actors playing patients and family caregivers were trained to give certain answers in response to anticipated physician questions about the medical problem. If asked, they would reveal that they knew the tumor to be widespread, the treating oncologist said what death could occur within six months, and they didn't want to be admitted into an ICU, be on a ventilator or be resuscitated. The patient's chart provided neither prognostic or treatment information, nor an advance care plan.

The researchers found no treatment decision differences regarding administration of pain killers, a trial of noninvasive ventilation and that death could occur within six months, and they didn't want to be admitted into an ICU, be on a ventilator or be resuscitated. The patient's chart provided neither prognostic or treatment information, nor an advance care plan.

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A nature trail is taking shape on the slope below the Falk School (see June 23 University Times), but the University’s Pittsburgh campus isn’t alone in preserving niches where students and employees can enjoy (and observe) the natural world. Ranging from rugged to roadlike, the nature trails on Pitt’s regionals provide variety of nature trails.

Pitt-Greensburg’s Kenneth E. Bell Nature Trail

Pitt-Greensburg’s nature trail was dedicated in 1975 in memory of UPG biology professor, botanist and naturalist Kenneth E. Bell. In a span of less than a mile, the path encompasses wetlands, woodlands and meadow habitats. While the trail appears on campus maps, it has not been maintained and is used infrequently. But UPG director of media relations Susan Isola said a campus beautification group has the trail in its sights as a future project.

Marked only by a young birch tree and obscured by some tall grass, just a short walk from the plant maintenance storage building, the trail starts off on a steep downward slope overlooking Slate Run, which flows through the center of campus.

The marshy area is home to spring peepers and chorus frogs, with bush stands of pickerel rushes and yellow wild iris hugging the banks of the shallow stream.

Near the bottom, on a log bridge slick with moss and missing several planks, the trail crosses a rivulet that feeds the stream, climbing again on the far side to an overlook marked by several large oaks.

Other trees include ash, cherry, hemlock, ironwood and sweet-smelling black locust, said Cletus McConville, a nature lover who has been quick to explore the trail and other natural areas on campus since being named UPG development coordinator less than a year ago.

Ferns, may apples, trillium and other wildflowers dot the hillside. Hidden among them is evidence of nearby civilization: the lost golf balls of errant drives that originated from the nearby athletic fields.

A little farther along, McConville said, the trail emerges onto a hillside covered in ramps — the quaint Appalachian delicacy prized as a spring tonic.

Deer, turkeys, raccoons, skunks and chipmunks frequent the UPG campus, which also is a haven for songbirds, McConville noted that red-eyed vireos, cedar waxwings, indigo buntings and scarlet tanagers are among the many species he has identified in his early explorations on campus.

Pitt-Johnstown's Rocky Run Nature Area

Pitt-Johnstown has several popular trails as part of some 630 acres of recreational land on campus. There’s a rolling 5-kilometer cross-country trail that zigzags across lawns and along treelines near the athletic fields. Mountain biking and ski trails can be found behind the sports center. The most rustic trails, however, are in the 40-acre Rocky Run Nature Area, accessible via a trailhead hidden behind tall grass, just a short walk from the athletic fields.

At the trailhead, a large map board shows a network of trails and a dedication to Henry J. Zdokovsky, who was instrumental in developing the pathways. The campus dedicated the nature area to the UPI professor emeritus of biology and natural sciences upon his retirement in 1974. Zdokovsky died in 1999 at the age of 91.

“IT’s incredible what he built,” said campus historian George Hancock, pointing out sections of stone stairs that Zdokovsky and his students built on the narrow footpath that drops sharply to the bottom of a picturesque wooded gorge.

However, the nature trails, which stretch toward the southern boundaries of campus, are not maintained, and in some spots fallen trees block the way. Deer, turkey, coyotes and an occasional copperhead or bear have been spotted, although on a recent morning, visitors found only chipmunks and songbirds on the path.

The trail passes a seasonal waterfall as it descends to an unnamed stream that feeds the Little Paint Creek. At the bottom are more remnants of Zdokovsky’s handiwork: a low dam, now breached, that once held back the stream to form a small pond.

The charted ashes of a small campfire and remnants of a spiral-bound notebook offer evidence that at least a few people use the quiet creekside spot for study and relaxation.

Past the dam, about 1.5 miles into the gorge, the nature trail connects with an old road that leads past farmhouse ruins and a cemetery used by the Baumgardner family, who once farmed the land. Hancock’s research has revealed nearly 85 graves, the majority of which are marked only with fieldstones.

Hancock, who works in the UPI business office, offers “outback walking tours” of the seldom-seen stretches of campus through the community education and outreach office. His presentations are filled with tidbits of history related to the campus and the farms that preceded it.

Trekkng the rough trails requires sturdy boots but Hancock is developing a virtual tour option for the less sure-footed. He is spending spare time this summer shooting photos of the highlights that otherwise would require several hours of cross-campus trekking. He plans to offer an indoor “couch potato” PowerPoint tour of the trails in the upcoming academic year.

Pitt-Bradford’s Richard E. McDowell Community Trail

While trails at Pitt-Greensburg and Pitt-Johnstown are steep and rugged footpaths, the Richard E. McDowell Community Trail is a 10-foot wide, paved, level trail that borders 1.5 miles of the west branch of the Tunungwant Creek on the Pitt-Bradford campus. The trail is named in honor of McDowell, a biology faculty member who was UBP president, 1973-1982.

Rick Esch, UBP vice president of business affairs, said a trail was part of a 1994 campus master plan, but financing it in light of competing needs proved difficult. However, a community presentation Esch made sparked interest that led to the formation of the nonprofit Tuna Valley Trail Association in 1998.

Today the trail system, funded through corporate, government sources, encompasses nine trails, but its McDowell trail is the most

Above: Pitt-Greensburg’s Bell Nature Trail hugs the steep slope overlooking Slate Run.

At left: Without a guide, the Bell trailhead is hard to find. UPG development coordinator Cletus McConville leads the way to a small birch tree that marks the trail entrance.
Ponds and wetlands along the path provide habitats for turtles, wood ducks and other birds. Deer abound and people have reported spotting bears on occasion, Esch said. The creek, informally known as “The Tuna,” is stocked with trout, making it a popular spot for fly-fishing.

Nearly two dozen different tree species have been mapped and identified in a brochure produced several years ago by a pair of students and retired biology faculty member Dessie Severson. The nature guide pinpoints the trees’ locations and provides descriptions and facts about each variety.

“On any given day there are a couple hundred people on the trail,” Esch said.

The smooth surface can accommodate walkers, cyclists and motorized wheelchairs and the many benches and resting spots along the path have made it popular as well with people rehabilitating from athletic injuries or joint replacement surgery.

And the trail isn’t limited to warm-weather use. In winter, cross-country skiers and snowshoers take the place of walkers.

The trail has enhanced the campus’s relations with the community and has become a social gathering place, Esch said. It’s a natural venue for community-based fitness programs as well as fundraising walks and other events that are coordinated through UPB’s conference services staff.

One new initiative, the summer-long “Tuna Trekkers” fundraiser to benefit the Red Cross, combines walking with geocaching to encourage people to explore the trail system.

Esch said the trail association ultimately would like to connect all of the system’s 31 miles of trails. An important component, a new Community Parks Trail that will connect UPB, its athletic fields and the McDowell Trail to Bradford’s downtown and city parks, is expected to be completed later this summer.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
**Pitt’s CTSI one of 10 to have NIH funding renewed**

**UPMC improves its U.S. News honor roll ranking**

Pitt's CTSI was established in 2006 with a $83.5 million NIH grant. It is a collaboration among the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, the Urban League to transform a part of the 19th century Shadyside and 45th for Magee-Women's Hospital.

A close publication of America's Best Hospitals is accessible online now at www.uwnews.com. The hard copy will be on sale at newsstands in mid-August.

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**Morphing muons may influence physics**

Pitt researchers were part of an international team of physicists that recorded activity in a particle detector that could help explain the composition of the universe.

The Japan-based T2K collaboration, which includes approximately 500 scientists from 59 institutions worldwide, recently reported that a beam of neutrinos, which transformed from one type of neutrino into another as it was fired 183 miles through the Earth, was detected during experiments.

The morphing of muon neutrinos into electron neutrinos was the first observed conversion, or oscillation, involving these “flavors” of neutrino, as the neutrino’s three varieties are known.

Pitt physicists and astronomy faculty study the phenomenon. Principal investigator Blair A. Jobe, director of esophageal research and esophageal diagnoses at the University of Rochester, and a faculty member in the School of Medicine's Department of Health Policy and Management.

The study was funded by the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society.

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**UPMC’s one of 10 newsmakers in life and death decision-making**

**Researchers compare the interaction of race and socioeconomic status, religiosity, and level of advanced care planning with patient preferences in end-of-life decision-their decision-making, elicitation of preferences, documentation of preferences, chart mechanisms only and palliative care teams, and a focus on the role of health care provider and patient involvement.

Research showed that the physician participants believed that a black patient with late-stage pancreatic cancer was more likely than a white patient to prefer potentially life-prolonging chemotherapy over palliative care and want breathing support via a ventilator to extend life by one week, and less likely to want chemotherapy over palliative care than a similar white patient to a black patient with late-stage pancreatic cancer.

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Mary E. Besterfield-Sacre, Fulton C. Noss Faculty Fellow in the Department of Industrial Engineering, recently was named one of 12 new members of the American Society for Engineering Education.  

ASEE is a nonprofit organization of individuals and institutions committed to furthering education in engineering and engineering technology. Fellow status is the highest honor accorded to those who have been ASEE members for at least 10 years and have made outstanding contributions to engineering education. 

An associate in Pitt’s Learning and Development Center and director of the Engineering Education Research Center, Besterfield-Sacre’s research centers on rewarding system models, research and practice in engineering education. 

The Katz Graduate School of Business, recently was elected to the Team Pennsylvania Foundation Board of Directors.  

The Team Pennsylvania Foundation helps bridge the community gap between government and the private sector, allowing for better partnerships between the citizens and businesses of Pennsylvania.  

Dugan will represent regional business interests in decisions regarding business growth and workforce development and government efficiency.  

Faculty at the School of Pharmacy recently were honored.  

• Donna Huryn of pharmaceutical sciences has been selected as a fellow of the American Chemical Society (ACS). The fellows program recognizes ACS members for their achievements in and contributions to the science and profession, as well as service to the society.  

• Melissa McGivney of pharmacy and therapeutics was selected by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation as the recipient of the 2011 Community Pharmacy Faculty Award. The award recognizes a pharmacy school faculty member who has made significant contributions to the practice of community pharmacy through innovative service to patient care. Faculty members are assessed on their accomplishments in advancing patient care in the community pharmacy as well as preparation of future leaders in pharmacy care.  

• During the School of Pharmacy’s 50th anniversary, faculty and preceptors were honored by the Class of 2011. Paul Schiff of pharmaceutical sciences was voted the Sanford I. Cohen Teacher of the Year; Pamela Smithburger of pharmacy, received the Faculty Preceptor of the Year award, and Shrinu Duggal, clini- cal pharmacist, was named Clinical Pharmaceuti- calist of the Year. 

• Pitt-Titusville has named Glenn Bobuk head coach of the men’s basketball program. Bobuk previously coached the boy’s varsity team at North Clarion High, where the Wolves won a Keystone Shortway Athletic Conference championship. He was chosen to coach the men’s Southwestern PA All-Star Team in 2009 and 2010. 

Overall, Bobuk has more than 20 years of coaching and administering sports pro- grams, ranging from youth levels through varsity in both basketball and baseball. 

Also at Titusville, Scott P. Horch has been named director of residence life. Horch previously was assist- ant director of residence life and housing at Edin- burough University. 

Horch has consider- able experience in conflict resolution, earning the designation of certified mediation officer. In his new position, Horch will be responsible for creating a student-focused campus culture in addition to managing a compre- hensive residence life program. He also serves as the chief student judicial officer for the campus.  

Dr. Glenn Bobuk 

Toni Darville, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Children’s Hospital and a faculty member in pediatrics and immu- nology at the School of Medicine, will be awarded the Carol Ann 

Craemer Endowed Chair for Pediatric Research July 25.  

The Carol Ann Craemer Endowed Chair recognizes outstanding leaders in pediatric research and provides resources for research innovations that directly could influence medical care for children.  

Craemer’s research involves the immunological mechanisms for damage to the female reproductive tract caused by Chlamydia trachomatis. Chlamydia, the most frequently reported sexually transmitted disease in the United States and a major global public health target, causes infertility and is believed to play a role in preterm labor and complications in premature infants.

For the past 16 years, Darville has received research funding from the National Institutes of Health, and in 1998 she received the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society’s Young Investigator Award. 

In 2009, with a team of Pitt medical school researchers, Darville established the UPMC Sexually Transmitted Infections Cooperative Research Center, which competed successfully for a $12.5 million, five-year grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Scientists at the center focus their research on the prevention of female reproductive tract infections caused by sexually transmitted infections. The research projects are aimed at developing new therapies to treat bacterial infections of the female upper genital tract that produce pelvic inflammatory disease.

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

We welcome submissions from all areas of the University. Send informa- tion via email to: times@pitt.edu, by fax at 412/624-4579 or by campus mail to 308 Bellefield Hall. 

For submission guidelines, visit www.pitttimes.pitt.edu/page/ id=6007.

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Effective August 1st

A NEW way to ride public transportation!

As a current Pitt student, staff or faculty member, you can ride FREE all day long on any Port Authority bus, the T and Monongahela Incline just by using your Panther Card. **Beginning August 1, 2011** Port Authority will transition to a new smart card system and your present Panther Card will be used as a transit smart card.

Here’s how to use your Panther card starting **August 1**: 

A Simply tap your Panther Card to the smart card target. If it has been accepted, you will receive the message “**Uni PITT Pass- Thank you**” (see photo A) and hear a “single beep” signaling that your Panther Card has been accepted.

B If you hear a “triple beep” and receive a message stating, “**Transaction Not Ok**” (see photo B), slowly tap your card again. You should now receive the “**Thank You**” message (see photo A) and hear a “single beep” indicating that your Panther Card has been accepted.

C If you hear a “triple beep” followed by the message, “**Improper Usage- Card Recently Used**” (see photo C), you are in violation of “the passback” policy (meaning the card has been used repeatedly by multiple riders) and your card will not be accepted. You will be required to pay full fare or immediately be asked to exit the vehicle.

D Lastly, if you hear a “triple beep” followed by the message “**Card Not Valid**” (see photo D), you should contact Panther Central for further assistance.

PortAuthority.org
Calendar

**Sunday 14**
Nationality Rooms Indian Festival
CL Commons Rm., noon-4 pm (8-4101)

**Tuesday 16**
**GI, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture**
The 3. The ABCs of EUS,** Randall Brand; M2 conf. rm. Presby, 7:30 am
**Social Work**
"Is Family Therapy Effective, Acceptable & Sustainable for Mothers & Children? An Exam-
ination of Structural Family Therapy Implemented Within a Semi-Rural Community Mental
Setting," Addie Weaver, July 21, 2117 CL, 1 pm
**A&S/Physics & Astronomy**
"Intermediate Stable Phase Locked Solutions in Neural Oscillators of the Urban,
July 21, 316 Allen, 2 pm
**IS/Library & Information Science**
"Responses of Listener-Viewers in Digital Storytelling: Col-
laborations in the Interactive Classroom & the Middle School Library," Rebecca Morris, July 22, 522 IS, 10 am
**Education/Administrative & Policy Studies**
"Mapping: Human Capital in the Process of Job Creation for Self-
Employment: Alternative Approaches to Youth Unemploy-
ment," Yuki Yamamoto, July 22, 4124 Forbes, 10:30 am
**GSPH/Epidemiology**
"Impacts of Vaccine Logistcs on Vaccine Epidemiology," Tina
Marie, July 22, Parkville Annex 1st fl. conf. rm., 3:30 pm
**Medicine/Molecular Pharmacology**
"Preclinical Studies on ATIM
Kenase Inhibitors as Anti-Cancer Agents," Sarah Choi, July 25, 1395 Starzl ST, 10 am
**Medicine/Cellular & Molecular Pathology**
"Understanding the Interaction Between LRRK2 & PINK1: Implications for Parkinson's Disease," Salvatore Cherra, July
25, 1104 Scrafe, 2 pm
**A&S/Philosophy**
**Pitt/CMU Medicine/Computational Biology**
"Rational Design of Small-
Molecule Inhibitors of Protein-
Protein Interactions: Application to the Oncogenic Myc-Max
Interaction," LikoMatreles, July 25, 3073 ST, 3 pm
**A&S/Physics & Astronomy**
"Survey of Triatomic Exotrons at the University of Pitts-
bury," Melissa Good, July 27, 416 Allen, 11 am
**Medicine/Cellular & Molecular Pathology**
"ECM Degradation, Macrophtyes & Stem Cell Recruitment," Vincent Agrawal, July 27, 402 Bridgesside Point II, 1:30 pm
**A&S/Biological Sciences**
"A New Spin on Specificity: EcoRI Endonuclease-DNA Complexes Studied by Ther-
modynamics & Electron Spin Resonance Spectroscopy," Jacqueline Townsend, July 28, 1219B Langley, 1 pm
**Engineering/Industrial Engineering**
"Optimal Design of the Annual

**Wednesday 17**
**ULS Open House**
Special Collections Department Open House, 163 Hillman, 2-4 pm (8-6190)

**Thursday 18**
**CIDDE Workshop**
"Introduction to CourseWeb," B21 Alumni, 10-3 pm (registration: www.cidde.pitt.edu/workshop-registration-form)

**Friday 19**
**GI, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture**
"Nutrition Assessment, Par-
enteral Nutrition & Venous Access," Toby Graham; M2 conf. rm. Presby, 7-10 am

**Wednesday 24**
**HLSL Workshop**
"Beyond PubMed: Next Gen-
eration Literature Searching," Cartesian Iwema; Falk Library classrm. 2-3 pm (7-4100)

**Thursday 25**
**New Faculty Orientation**
Connolly Ballrm. Alumni, 8 am-2pm (register by Aug. 18: www.cidde.pitt.edu/1)

**Friday 26**
**GI, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture**
"Diarrhea & Malabsorption," Toby Graham; M2 conf. rm. Presby, 7-10 am

**Tuesday 30**
**GI, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture**
"Screening for GI Malignan-
ties," Robert Schoren, M2 conf. rm. Presby, 7-10 am

**PhD Defenses**
**Medicine/Neurobiology**
"Dissecting the Registration & Processing of Olfactory Events During General Anesthesia," Andrew Samuelson, July 21, 1495 Starzl ST, 10 am
**Social Work**
"Is Family Therapy Effective, Acceptable & Sustainable for Mothers & Children? An Exam-
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**Engineering/Industrial Engineering**
"Optimal Design of the Annual

Influenza Vaccine," Osman Y.
Oztalim, July 29, 1006 Ben-Israel, 10 am
**PhD in Physic & Astronomy**
Goelinner, July 29, 1395 Starzl ST, 1 pm
**A&S/Linguistics**
"Testing the Aspect Hypothesis in LlR Russian," Wendie Martelle, Aug. 2, 2009 CL, 10 am
**A&S/Biological Sciences**
"Signaling From Depolarization to Alternative Slicing: Identification of Molecular Links Mediating Inducible Easun Skipping," Ping Zhang; Aug. 2, 1219B Langley, 1 pm
**A&S/Physics & Astronomy**
"Confinement Models at Finite
Temperature & Density," Pok
Man Lo, Aug. 4, 216 Allen, 3 pm
**A&S/Neuroscience**
"Cortical Glutamatic Acid
Decarboxylase 6 Expression in Schizophrenia: Defining the Deficit," Allison Corley; Aug. 5, 5120 Starzl ST, 9:30 am
**Pitt/Medicine/Molecular Virology & Microbiology**
"Seeking a Mechanism of Action for the Anti-HIV Properties of the CDS Antiviral Factor (CAF)," Varsha Kshetrir; Aug.
9, 1115 Crabtree, 10 am

**Calend4r**
**Continue from Page 2**
**Thursday 21**

HSLS Workshop
“PowerPoint for Beginners,” Julia Jankovic, Falk Library, classes: 2, 9:30-11 am

CIDDIE Workshop
“CourseWeb Level 1”, B23 Alumni, 10 am-noon (also Aug. 22; registration: www.ciddie.pitt.edu/workshop-registration-form)

**Friday 22**

GL, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture
“Complications of Carcinoid: Evaluation & Management (Part 3),” Shaidel Malhi, R2 conf. rm. Presby, 7:30 am

St. V’s Research Seminar
“HCV’s Receptor Addition: Implications in Viral Entry, Pathogenesis & Therapeutics,” Tianyu Wang, infectious diseases & microbiology, Scaife aud. 6, noon

**Monday 25**

Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership & Civic Engagement Lecture
Ret. Brigadier Gen. Belinda Pincney, O’Hara Student Ctr., 5 pm (4-3203)

**Tuesday 26**

GL, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture
“GI, H. Pylori & Peptic Ulcer Disease,” Kenneth Faussella, M2 conf. rm. Presby, 7:30 am

CIDDIE Workshop
“Blackboard Mobile Learns,” B23 Alumni, 10 am (also Aug. 17 at 10 am & Aug. 10 at 2 pm, registration: www.ciddie.pitt.edu/workshop-registration-form)

GSPJA Johnson Inst. Leadership Luncheon
Salameh Ghubril, PgH, Premise, Rivers Club, 101 Grant St., Downtown, 11:10 am-1 pm

**Wednesday 27**

GL, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture
“Immune Aging: Rheumatoid Arthritis as a Model System,” Cornelia Weyand, Rangos Research Ctr. 3rd fl. conf. ctr., noon

CIDDIE Workshop
“CourseWeb Level 2”, B23 Alumni, 10 am-noon (also Aug. 25; registration: www.ciddie.pitt.edu/workshop-registration-form)

**Friday 29**

GL, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture
“Evaluation of Mobility Disorders,” Klaus Bielefeldt, M2 conf. rm. Presby, 7:30 am

**Saturday 30**

Kennywood Day
Pavilion No. 5, 11 am-10 pm (tickets: WPUB, info: 4-4236)

**August**

**Tuesday 2**

GL, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture
“Management of Ingested Foreign Bodies,” Kevin McGrath, M2 conf. rm. Presby, 7:30 am

**Wednesday 3**

HSLS Workshop
“Error! Reference Source Not Found.” Carrie Ewens, Falk Library classroom. 2, 1-1 pm

**Friday 5**

GL, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture
“Acute & Chronic Pancreatitis,” Georgios Papachristou, M2 conf. rm. Presby, 7:30 am

CIDDIE Workshop

**Saturday 9**

GL, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture
“Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Evaluation & Management,” Leonard Biaiboo, M2 conf. rm. Presby, 7:30 am

HSLS Workshop
Christina Gabriel, Univ. Energy Partnerships, Rivers Club, 101 Grant St., Downtown, 11:10 am-1 pm

**Tuesday 9**

**Friday 12**

GL, Hepatology & Nutrition Lecture
“ERCP: Indications & Complications,” Andrei Gerlaud, M2 conf. rm. Presby, 7:30 am

**Volunteering**

The University Times events calendar includes Pitt-sponsored events as well as non-Pitt events held on a Pitt campus. Information submitted for the calendar should identify the type of event, such as a Pitt campus or concert, and the program’s specific title, sponsor, location and time. The name and phone number of a contact person should be included. Information should be sent by email to: uct@pitt.edu, by fax to: 412/386-4579, or by campus mail to: 308 Bellefield Hall. We cannot guarantee publication of events received after the deadline.

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**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**

The Pitt Masters Rowing Club is recruiting for the season. The Pitt Masters Rowing Club is recruiting for the season. INTERESTED IN ROWING?

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**CONTINUED ON PAGE 15**