Open enrollment runs April 23-May 14

Health insurance here will see a 3.5 percent rise in premiums next year because of a change in plan copayments, deductibles and for faculty exceeded the average raises for comparable ranks at public universities last year.

The annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession from the American Association of University Professors said the average salary for all full-time faculty members rose 2.2 percent last year, above inflation for the first time in five years. Continuing faculty received an average of 3.4 percent more in pay last year, which is below the rate of increase prior to the recession, the report notes, with pay rates at private-independent institutions higher than average at public institutions.

The average salary for professors of all ranks at public institutions rose 2.6 percent from 2012-13 to 2013-14, compared to a 1.8 percent increase for those at private-independent schools, and 1.8 percent for religious school faculty.

American universities are experiencing "a continuation of the long period of stagnation in average full-time faculty salaries," says the report. The report also highlights what it says is a loss of academia’s focus on higher education’s academic mission, pointing to disproportionate increases in the number of administrators, compared to researchers and teaching professors, and higher spending on athletics, even at institutions struggling to find new dollars for classrooms. The report’s authors say that spending per athlete at all institutions between 2003 and 2011 rose 29-35 percent depending on the type of institution, compared to only a 4-5 percent spending increase in funding for instruction.

The report compares data from 3,079 colleges and universities.

Among public institutions in Carnegie Category I, professors’ salaries rose an average of 2.6 percent, associate professors’ were up 2.9 percent and both assistant professors’ and instructors’ pay rose 2.5 percent.

Salaries on Pitt’s Oakland campus, its sole campus in Carnegie Category I (those awarding doctoral degrees), outpace the national averages: faculty at the full professor rank received a 3.5 percent increase, while associate professor salaries rose 3.9 percent, assistant professors 3.6 percent and instructors 5.3 percent.

Nationally, on Carnegie Category III campuses (those primarily awarding bachelor’s degrees), the salaries for professors and associate professors rose 1.6 percent on average, while assistant professors’ salaries rose 2.1 percent and instructors’ salaries increased 1.7 percent. Salary increases on the University’s three campuses in this category — Bradford, Greensburg and Johnstown — also were higher than those for comparable positions in the U.S.

At Bradford, the average professor’s salary grew 2.5 percent, while associate professors saw a 2.8 percent increase, assistant professors 3.4 percent and instructors 3.7 percent. At Greensburg, professors received a 3.0 percent jump, associate professors 3.5 percent, assistant professors 5.4 percent and instructors 2.7 percent. At Johnstown, the increases were 3.7 percent for professors, 3.4 percent for associate professors, 7 percent for assistant professors and 3.9 percent for instructors on average.

For Category III campuses (those awarding primarily associate degrees), the average pay increase nationally was 2.2 percent for the top three ranks and 1.8 percent for instructors.

At Titusville, a Category III campus, professors received an average raise of 1.2 percent, while associate professors, assistant professors and instructors received average raises of 2.5 percent.

The full report is available on the AAUP website: www.aaup.org/reports-publications/2013-14salarysurvey.

—Marty Levine
Greensburg’s Cassell Hall gets top LEED designation

Frank A. Cassell Hall, Pitt-Greensburg’s first sustainable building, has been awarded Gold LEED certification from the United States Green Building Council.

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is the rating system used to designate certification of sustainable buildings.

Cassell Hall opened in August 2012 and earned the 2012 Master Building Excellence Award for new construction under $10 million.

FortyEighty Architecture designed the building to occupy the steeply sloping hillside along the south bank of Slate Run. Ronyn Construction served as the contractor.

Cassell Hall is a two-story, 16,500 square-foot building that was designed to realize 30 percent annual energy savings and reduce water usage by 50 percent.

Highlights include:

- Two green roofs feed a rainwater harvesting cistern. The cistern provides non-potable gray water for the building’s toilets and is expected to reduce water usage by more than 50 percent. Gray water is returned to the building for flushing of toilets, a drip irrigation system and service water at the green roofs.

- The building’s landscaping is an extension of the natural site and includes native flowers and trees as part of demonstration rain gardens and storm water bioswales for on-site storm water management. (Native plants require less water-use and help to support a healthy ecosystem. Rainwater from the building’s roofs is collected, filtered through natural plantings, and stored in a 5,000-gallon cistern located below parking.)

- Design elements enhance shading and natural light in order to maximize daylight while minimizing solar heat gain.

- Energy-efficient heat pumps and advanced mechanical systems with multizone controls contribute to energy savings.

- The energy savings from these various features allow the building to use:
  - 28 percent less energy for heating and cooling than a similar new facility, and
  - 50 percent less water than a similar building.

Accused Pitt bomb threatener reportedly claims responsibility

A dam Busby, the man accused of disrupting campus life at Pitt with emailed bomb threats from March 30 to April 21, 2012, reportedly has admitted to The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that “I alone was responsible for these threats.”

“The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette is a testing ground for a cyber-attack,” Busby claimed. “I was staggered by the amount of disruption and damage the emails caused and the seriousness with which the Americans took the whole thing. I’d demonstrated how effective email threats could be.”

A facing a potentially long sentence on a 36-count federal indictment, Busby asserted that “I am terminally ill and unlikely to ever serve even one day in prison for these offenses.” Busby has multiple sclerosis and uses a wheelchair.

Busby was released from detention on March 31 while appealing Scotland’s attempt to extradite him to face justice, in Pittsburgh, for crimes in the spring of 2012 occurring in the Western District of Pennsylvania.

“The statements being attributed to Adam Busby, wherein he admits responsibility for the bomb threat hoax involving the University of Pittsburgh in 2012, underscore the exemplary inter-national investigation” following the Pitt threats, Hickton added.

—Marty Levine

Purchasing complaints aired at SAC meeting

The University’s office-supply distributor on the PantherExpress e-commerce site, SUPRA Office Solutions, drew the ire of Staff Association Council (SAC) members at the group’s April 9 meeting.

Member Pamela Rikstad volun-teered that she found the prices for some supplies higher than previous prices. “If I need to shop around to see if the University is getting ripped off, she said. And she labeled the supply search function “ridiculously challenging.”

“They’re prices are more expen-sive,” contended Tannemika Banks, head of SAC’s staff relations com-mittee. “I don’t know what else to do … I just spend the money because that is what the University chose ...” rather than using her P card to make a purchase outside the system.

Monika Losagio, SAC vice president of finance, said she knew administrators who are equally unhappy. “I certainly myself have had some issues — mostly pricing.”

“People are like, why do you care?” added Rikstad. “Well, nobody is increasing my operating budget …”

In response to the complaints, Ron Maloney, director of strat-egic sourcing and PantherExpress system solutions, told the Univer-sity staff that the meeting’s changes are sometimes hard for the purchasers, particularly those who have “good relationships” with a previous distributor.

SUPRA’s five-year contract replaces the previous University deal with Office Depot and Target Office Products as distributors, and Maloney says his office has projected a $1.3 million savings for the University over the life of the contract.

These savings will come through “low administrative costs,” he reiterates that “the United States Department of Justice will be staggering by the amount of time spent on comparison shopping by providing the best total cost from an approved source,” according to the University’s SUPRA website.

Maloney says he has been in contact with SUPRA nearly every day since the March 30 rollout -three times a week currently — “to enhance the site” and make savings easier.

“Since we’ve started on March 3, there have been 9,000 items pur-chased,” he reported. “In terms of the feedback we’ve received so far, it is minimal compared to the total volume of purchases — just 1 percent of purchases have resulted in inquiries, which include ex-ploitations, he said. ‘We’ve gotten quite a few compliments on delivery and quick resolution of problems,” he added.

In particular, he said, Pitt is “very happy to improve the ‘purchasing out’ — the transfer from SUPRA’s site to the supplier of a particular item — for improving the search function: ‘Those are the things we’re fine tuning ...’ Maloney said. ‘This is not the first time we’ve heard of it.’

The University also is aiming to have all purchases and the like price through cross-reference lists for paper, for instance, that allow selections chosen under the previous system to be found via SUPRA. Maloney’s office plans a similar guide to ink and toner soon.

Lindsay Rodzwicz, vice presi-dent of public relations for SAC, promised that the organization would look into the issue.

In other news:

- Andrew Stephany, chair of external relations, announced that his committee had secured agreements with several local organizations to get staff members discounts on events and services, and were working on others.

- Through the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, staff members this summer can get a discount on guided walks through Schenley Park and half off the $10 admission price to Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum. SAC also is seeking deals with Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, as well as the Carnegie Museums, he said.

- In Hillary Koller was elected head of the committee unanimously unanimously during the meeting’s closed session.

—Marty Levine
To mark the 10th anniversary of Pitt's Mascaro Center for Sus-
tainability, university officials have announced a $17.5 million fund-
ing initiative to extend sustainability efforts throughout Pitt's academic research.

Funding for the initiatives will come from several endowments as well as from Mascaro's own foundation, which is named after Jack Mascaro, founder and chair of Mascaro Construction Co., who has made a large financial commitment to catalyze interdisciplinary sustainability research, to enrich the undergraduate and graduate program offerings in the area of sustainability, and to further enhance Pitt's national recognition in sustainability:

- The task force, formed in fall 2013, has developed plans to expand the University's cur-
  ricular offerings in sustainability to include a campus-wide certifi-
  cate for undergraduate students and a set of master's-degree level programs that will have a broad focus in engineering, business and public policy.

- The Swanson school, which was able to expand its Benedum Hall facilities beginning in 2007

through gifts from both Mascaro and Swanson, will continue to serve as the Mascaro center's physical home.

In March, Pitt released its first Report on Sustainability, which described its sustainability efforts in education and research and throughout the community-

- The report included data on measurable outcomes from energy conservation and emissions reduc-
  tions to sustainable purchasing and student housing, as well as current academic initiatives and efforts to improve the quality of life in Oakland and other Pitts-

burgh neighborhoods.

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**New York Times reporter Michael Moss came to**

see the investigation of the food processing industry, which resulted in the book: *Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us*, as resembling nothing less than a detective story.

- **The reporting and the research that went into this was so much that Michael Moss, the *Times* reporter, called it a "detective story." Moss told a packed William Pitt Union Ballroom April 8.**

He spoke after accepting the 2014 Graduate School of Public Health Porter Prize.

- The book had its origins in 2009, when Moss's editor sug-
  gested he look into a national salmonella outbreak originating from a peanut processing factory in Georgia from which eight people died and 19,000 were sick-
  ened. Moss was hesitant at first, he admitted. Then he realized there was a larger story concerning the $1 trillion domestic food process-
  ing industry and that he really knew very little. "The extent of the problems became clearer, he said, adding that this inspired him next to Minnesota to check on an E. coli outbreak in a beef processing plant.

- "This is an industry that has lost control over its own ingredi-
  ents — the foods we eat that have become so complicated," he said.

Mansour Samadpour, head of IIEF laboratories in Washington, a large food-industry consult-

ing laboratory, suggested Moss concentrate on examining food additives, particularly the salt added to meat. Moss added sugar and fat to form what he called the "unholy trinity on which the processed-food industry relies."

- "We've always known that eating too much of the foods like to call 'foods we hate to love' can make us overweight and ill," he said, noting that one in six adults in America is clinically obese, as are one in five kids ages 6 to 12, and that there are 20 million people with type 2 diabetes and 79 mil-
  lion with pre-diabetes syndrome.

Moss discovered, which formed the center of his book, was a tremendous opportunity. "The moment he noticed the key food industry-

ers involved in efforts to develop products with maximum appeal based on added salt, sugar and fat.

- The food giants have been acutely aware of the power of these additives and their links to disease, he said. "It's not as if I view the food industry as an evil empire," he added, rather, the problem is the industry's zeal "to make as much money as possible" through "as much products as possible."

- The power of the food industry is placed in marketing tech-
  niques, which were learned from Philip Morris. Moss said Philip Morris acknow-
  ledged smoking's links to disease — and warned food company execu-
  tives that they should stop buying cigarettes, "— and warned their food company execu-
  tives that they were about to face the same scrutiny and blame — and warned their food company execu-
  tives that they were about to face the same scrutiny and blame.

- That generally remains the case, he said.

- Moss has investigated the psy-
  chology of the Doritos Locos Tacos from Taco Bell. "They are engineered to target tastebuds," he marveled. "That starts with the dynamic contrast of biting through a crispy shell to the "mouth feel" of the fatty insides. Then several acids work on the brain's pleasure center, while "the lingering stamel staments craving."

- The food's designers go to incredible lengths to give people less salt, sugar and fat. "What I didn't know is that the potato chip is loaded with sugar," he said. "The natural potato starch begins to turn to glucose the moment it makes contact with saliva.

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A cross-country road trip can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. But to accomplish the trip on a bicycle makes the experience that much more memorable. That's exactly what Patricia George, faculty member in the Department of Medicine and Team PHenomenal Hope captain, and her teammates and crew will do from Oceanside, Calif., to Annapolis, Md., as part of the Race Across America (RAAM).

A grueling non-stop, 1,000 mile race across 12 states, the 32nd annual RAAM team competition begins June 14 (individual racers start June 10), but for George and Team PHenomenal Hope, the race has been two years in the making. Sponsored by organizations such as UPMC and the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA), Team PH's goals are not only to finish the race, but to raise awareness of the chronic disease known as pulmonary hypertension.

It is a disease of high blood pressure in the arteries of the lungs and can make people short of breath, dizzy and fatigued. Pulmonary hypertension can cause swelling and, as it gets worse, patients can develop what is known as right heart failure. It affects people of all ages, races and genders and while there are many treatments, there is no cure.

As a member in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine at UPMC, George has a passion for the cause.

"Finishing RAAM in and of itself is really exciting, something very few people do," George said. "It's one of the most challenging bike races in the world, but the idea and the actuality of doing this with the pulmonary hypertension community makes it so much more meaningful. At the end of the day, it won't be just about completing this one race, it will be about everything that's involved in it."

George's teammate Anne-Marie Alderson added: "It really just is a love of the sport and for us it's the opportunity and ability to make a difference with pulmonary hypertension and raise some awareness and research funds."

While Team PH consists of four riders — George, Alderson, Stacie Truszkowski, a member in the Department of Medicine, and Ryanne Palermo — the team can't operate without the help of its 13 crew members working behind the scenes. Crew members Sara Harper and Greta Daniels will serve as alternate riders as well as crew members.

"We need the alternates in case, heaven forbid, one of us gets injured leading up to race day so that we can start with four on the starting line," George said. "The crew will tail the riders in an RV and a car, providing the cyclists with any support they need.

Crew chief and Pitt alum Kate Bennett will handle all the logistical and planning aspects such as scheduling meals, knowing when to stop and refuel the RV, and providing turn-by-turn directions to the riders through their headsets. Cathy Kessinger, a faculty member in the Department of Medicine, along with Patty Carlson and Ryan Biedlingmaier, will provide medical assistance, should it be required. UPMC Manager of Media Relations Chuck Finder not only will drive the RV, but will promote the trip through social media and record the group's experience for others to share. Carol Lynn Moore, a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry, also will assist as a member of the crew.

"We ride our bikes, we eat, we sleep, that's what we do," George said. "The crew are the people that are actually going to get us from coast to coast."

"Riding the bike across the country is the easy part compared to logistics," added Alderson, a quality engineer at Cook MyoSite and a Pitt graduate.

Different from many other races, RAAM is a continuous event where a member of Team PH will be on the road at all times over the course of the nine days allotted to complete the course. The team will employ a strategy whereby two riders will alternate every 20-30 minutes for several hours, while the other two members will rest in the RV trailing closely behind.

“There’s no break,” George said. “This is like a continuous time trial so once the race starts, the clock doesn’t stop until you cross the finish line. So there will always be somebody on the bike riding.”

Starting on the shores of the Pacific Ocean before going through places such as Sedona, Ariz., the Colorado Rockies, the Midwest and Bloomington, Ind., the riders and which will enjoy a unique experience along with racers from across the globe.

"I can’t wait. It’s going to be a really cool way to see the country," George said. "We’ll start out on the coast in California and pretty early in the race drop down a stretch of road called the Glass Elevator which literally puts you down into the desert … and then over the Rockies, through the Pacific Ocean before going through places such as Sedona, Ariz., the Colorado Rockies, the Midwest and Bloomington, Ind., the riders and which will enjoy a unique experience along with racers from across the globe."

"It’s going to be like in the desert, in the mountains, in the Midwest. It’s going to be the best."

A member of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association herself, George spent part of the last two years raising awareness for the disease throughout the local community, highlighted by the PHenomenal Hope 5K on April 13 on the North Shore, the biggest PH event in Pittsburgh.

With RAAM now less than two months away, the race is starting to become an exhilarating reality for George.

"It’s just real, you’re connected. I can only imagine what that’s going to be like in the desert, in the mountains, in the Midwest. It’s going to be the best."

—Alex Oltmanns

Above: Some of the members of Team PHenomenal Hope are, from left: Kate Bennett, crew chief; Racers Stacie Truszkowski, Anne-Marie Alderson, Patricia George and Ryanne Palermo; Greta Daniels, crew/alternate rider.

At left: Racers Ryanne Palermo, Patricia George, Stacie Truszkowski and Anne-Marie Alderson discuss plans for the June race.
Open Enrollment
April 23 – May 14

Packet will be mailed to the departments of eligible faculty and staff members for distribution the week of April 21. Please take this opportunity to review your current benefit elections and make any changes online. The only other opportunity that you will have to make changes to your benefits during the year is if you experience a qualifying life event as permitted by the IRS. Examples of a qualifying life event include marriage, birth, divorce or death.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION STATEMENT IF YOU MAKE A CHANGE IN COVERAGE ONLINE DURING THE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD. OTHERWISE, YOUR CURRENT ELECTIONS WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR THE JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015 PLAN YEAR.

If you would like to make changes to your current benefit elections, please do so through Employee Self Service on the University Portal at my.pitt.edu.

Health Care Flexible Spending Account – Rollovers Are Now Allowed!

For the FY15 plan year, the federal government is allowing a significant change to the Health Care Flexible Spending Account. Participants will be allowed to roll over a maximum of $500 from the FY15 plan year to the FY16 plan year. This effectively minimizes the “Use it or lose it” provision, but only for health care spending accounts. The 2.5 month extension (until September 15) to incur a claim and file it against the former plan year no longer will be available.

The new rollover allowance for the Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts begins with the plan year starting July 1, 2014. Existing balances for the current plan year (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) may not be rolled over. Current participants have until September 15, 2014 to incur claims that may be submitted against the plan year ending June 30, 2014.

The 2.5 month extension will continue to apply for the dependent care account.

Optional Life Insurance Opportunity Available During Open Enrollment

During this year’s open enrollment, Aetna Life Insurance Company will allow an open enrollment for optional life insurance. This opportunity applies to faculty and staff who have not elected optional life insurance previously. During open enrollment, you may elect one time your base pay as optional coverage without providing Evidence of Insurability (EOI).

Optional life insurance is available to faculty and staff in increments from one to six times base pay. As a reminder, the University provides basic life insurance equal to one times base pay up to $50,000.

Dependent life insurance also is available. There are six tier levels for spouse/partner coverage ranging from $10,000 to $100,000. Coverage above $50,000 requires EOI.

Managing Your Health Online

Over a period of time UPMC has been developing quality online tools for managing your health and your health insurance. MyUPMC.com, formerly known as HealthTrak, provides current online information on your health care including test results, your medical record, prescriptions, recommended preventive tests and examinations, and the ability to send messages to your physician, just to name a few. You may notice on your document your office that there may be an access code and password provided to help jump start the process. Otherwise you may log onto the site and follow the directions to establish your own username and password.

From the MyUPMC.com site as well as from my.pitt.edu, you may sign on directly with MyHealth Online. The two names may seem a little confusing but remember that MyUPMC.com contains the direct source to your medical records while MyHealth Online provides access to insurance-related information and interactive health tools. As an example, from MyHealth Online you can access all of your Explanation of Benefit Statements (EOI’s) as a summary or with all the details. Flexible spending account information also is detailed on this site. Any information you need related to insurance claims can be found on this site. Want to have a live chat with Member Services or a health coach? You connect to it from this site.

Please visit these sites. You may be surprised by the information you will find available at your fingertips!

UPMC AnywhereCare Is Introduced

There are always times when we would like to seek a physician’s advice but don’t want to take the time to schedule a visit and wait for an appointment. A new online tool is being introduced called UPMC AnywhereCare. This website allows you to “chat” with a physician through secure messaging or establish a video appointment. Receive a response with a diagnosis and treatment plan, usually within 30 minutes. Prescriptions are sent right to your pharmacy!

The cost of this service is a $10 copayment for Panther Gold members. The total cost is $38 if you are in a PPO plan. Your cost share will vary depending on whether you have met your deductible or out-of-pocket maximum. This service can be accessed through MyUPMC.com.

Benefits Fairs

If you have questions or concerns about your benefits, please stop by one of the fairs. Representatives from the Benefits Department along with most of the University’s vendors will have tables at these events.

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<tr>
<th>Campus/Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>11:30 am-1:30 pm</td>
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<td>Wm. Pitt Union - Lower Lounge</td>
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<tr>
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<td>April 30</td>
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<td>Wm. Pitt Union - Lower Lounge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oakland</td>
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<td>Greensburg</td>
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<td>Village Hall, Rooms 101 &amp; 118</td>
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<td>Bradford</td>
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<td>Titusville</td>
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<td>Student Union - McKinney Commons Lobby</td>
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<td>Johnstown</td>
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<td>Student Union - Cambria Room</td>
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Important Vendor Contact Information

Benefits Department
Office hours: 8 am-5 pm EST, 320 Craig Hall
412-624-8160 (Main Line) • 412-624-3485 (Fax)
Please visit our web site, www.hr.pitt.edu/benefits, for FAQs, downloadable forms and other benefits information.

Medical
UPMC Health Plan
1-888-499-6885 • www.upmchealthplan.com

Dental
United Concordia 1-888-499-6885 • www.upmchealthplan.com

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

Retirement/Savings
TIAA-CREF 1-800-682-9139 • www.tiaa-cref.org/pitt

Flexible Spending Accounts
UPMC
1-888-499-6885 • www.hr.pitt.edu/benefits/health-and-wellness/flexible-spending

LifeSolutions
1-866-647-3432
www.hr.pitt.edu/worklife-balance/health-wellness/life

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

Faculty Records
412-624-4232

UPMC HEALTH PLAN
Office of Human Resources • April 2014
Supply chain management center established

The logistical challenges of manufacturing and transporting goods will be the focus of the new Center for Supply Chain Management at the Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration (CBA). Logistics provider Genco will provide support for the new center.

The center will be dedicated to the community and global supply chain management, an increasingly important field — and a key view of the product life cycle: from design and procurement through production to distribution to recycling and reuse.

Interim director is Prakash Mazumdar, an associate professor of business administration in the business analytics and operations faculty area. A search for a permanent director will begin later this year.

The new center will provide student and faculty interactions with industry representatives, oversee student-experience-based learning activities in supply chain management courses, and generate intellectual leadership in this area at Katz.

Designed as an interdisciplinary unit, the center will bring together faculty in fields such as operations, information technology, strategy, supply chain management, and project engineering. The interdisciplinary nature of the center is designed to leverage the synergistic role these fields play in modern supply chains. In the global marketplace, the planning, execution, and monitoring of supply chains require cooperation between a range of areas such as sourcing, procurement and distribution, information technology, sustainability, risk management, and strategic and supplier and customer management.

In order to support the activities of the center, the school will create a Supply Chain Management Industry Council composed of member companies with strong interests in supply chain management and a concern for the future enhancement of the field.

Members of the council will have the opportunity to participate in new research and generating opportunities for students, faculty and others.

The center builds upon existing programs and capabilities at Katz and CBA. Katz plans to hire a tenure-track faculty position in the area.

Katz plans to hire a tenure-track faculty position in the area to pursue graduate study in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Brown is one of only 20 students in the nation to be chosen for the award. As a Beinecke Scholar, he will receive $4,000 upon completion of undergraduate study at Pitt as well as an additional $10,000 while attending graduate school. Brown plans to earn a PhD in history with a specific focus on research into the interdisciplinarity of history, science and Europe in the Middle Ages.

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Open enrollment begins April 23

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

myUPMC.com and will offer consultations through instant messaging or video appointments (the only option if the patient is a child ages 3-18). A new brochure for the service pledges “a response with a diagnosis and treatment plan, usually within 30 minutes and prescriptions sent directly to your pharmacy. The copay for this service under Panther Gold will be $10, with a PPO, it will be $38 if you have not yet met your deductible, at which point it will be $8.80.

Pitt staff and faculty also can download UPMC’s free mobile app, which is not entirely new, but “we wanted to make sure it was up and running and really functional” before making it widely available, Kozar says. It allows users to access their UPMC Health Plan member ID card, contact their physicians and other health-care providers from a personal list, check a claim status, view their health-care flexible spending account balance and status, view their health-care flex from a personal list, check a claim incurred up to June 30, 2014, Kozar expects this use of this flexible spending account to increase, since some were frightened away previously by the yearly use-it-or-lose-it policy.

The most dramatic benefit change comes for the 860 staff and faculty with long-term care insurance through Unum. On March 28, Kozar sent a letter to participants announcing Unum rate increases of 25 percent on July 1, 2014, 25 percent on July 1, 2015, and 20 percent on July 1, 2016, compounding to about an 88 percent increase in premiums across those three years. Long-term care insurance may be elected at any time, and each staff member has a slightly different premium based on the age at election, the type of plan and whether a spouse also is covered. Kozar says the University has known “for quite some time that the rates are increasing,” not just for the University but for many of Unum’s clients.

“It’s a significant increase but not one that was done lightly,” he says. “The driver behind the increase is really that the premiums they [long-term care insurance companies] receive don’t generate the income to offset claims that are incurred.”

Unum will be sending out a package to every participating faculty and staff member, offering three options for future coverage. Current participants may keep their current plan and pay the rate increase, change their plan in an attempt to lower their premium cost or drop their plan by electing the contingent non-forfeiture benefit within 120 days of the July 1 rate increase. In the last option, Unum will give those participants the choice of picking “the greater of one month of their monthly benefit or the total premium paid on the policy since the coverage was issued,” according to Kozar’s letter — “so you won’t lose what you paid into it,” he adds.

“Most carriers have left the business and there aren’t a lot of options for group coverage,” he says, when asked about the possibility of Pitt changing carriers. He has the benefit himself, he says, and believes it makes sense to keep it; if needed, the payout on this insurance can quickly bypass the cost of the premiums — even premiums paid over decades. —Marty Levine

The heads of the University Senate and Staff Association Council (SAC) were appreciative of the University’s efforts at negotiating the 2014-15 benefit rates but they still had some concerns.

“They’ve done a reasonable job of keeping the costs in line,” said Senate President Michael Spring about the 1.5 percent hike in health-care insurance premiums.

“The one issue we continue to have is that some costs are fixed,” which has a greater impact on the salaries of more junior faculty and staff. “This has been an ongoing kind of concern for several years,” Spring said. “The administrators I’ve talked to have been very empathetic to this. It’s just not easy to find a solution.”

“In this case,” he added, “I think it’s a small enough increase that it’s not going to be much of a concern for everyone.”

Rick Colwell, president of SAC, issued a statement that the group “values the University administration’s efforts in negotiating” the benefits changes for next year, but “we do not support the proposed 3.5 percent increase in monthly health plan costs the staff will be requested to contribute.”

The reason, Colwell writes, is due to the continuing effects of last year’s benefits changes and low salary hikes. “While we are pleased that there is not a proposed increase in copayments, the staff is still adjusting to absorbing the large copayment increase that occurred last year in conjunction with increases in hospitalization costs, cost of living and minimal salary raises (1-1.5 percent). The University of Pittsburgh staff continues to perform their jobs with utmost professionalism while experiencing the financial burden such increases bring to their personal and professional lives.”

---Marty Levine

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APRIL 17, 2014

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Some 150 faculty, staff, students and alumni viewed, voted on, then ate the dozen entries in the University Library System’s sixth annual Edible Book Fest, held April 10 in celebration of National Library Week.

Members of the University community (including alumni for the first time this year) were asked to render their favorite book, character or scene in food.

In addition to the overall favorite, “The Giving Tree” (see page 1), the other winners were (below, center) “Madeline” by alumnus Justin Pihony, for best interpretation of a cover/scene, and “Gray's Anatomy” by ULS archivist Emily Hikes, for most creative.
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The University Times

Psychiatry awarded $10M NIMH grant

The National Institute of Mental Health has awarded a $10 million, five-year grant to fund the Silvio O. Conte Center for Translational Mental Health Research in the Department of Psychiatry. The center focuses on cortical cells, circuits, connectivity and cognition in schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia is a major public health problem and devastating illness, affecting 0.5-1 percent of the world’s population. Current treatments for schizophrenia have limited effectiveness, and all medications currently used to treat schizophrenia and related disorders were discovered by serendipity. These problems emphasize the need for a new approach to treatment development, similar to that used in other domains of medicine, where drug development begins with the identification of molecular targets based on their role in the pathobiology of an illness.

Under the direction of faculty member David A. Lewis, the center addresses this challenge by focusing on the mechanisms that link the pathology, pathobiology and clinical features of schizophrenia. The center’s research activities test the hypothesis that cell type-autonomous molecular activities test the hypothesis that focusing on the mechanisms that underlie abnormalities in the brain may allow researchers to design treatments for schizophrenia.

Some breast cancer tumors hijack patient’s complex machinery to evade drug therapy

According to an international team headed by the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI), a breast cancer therapy that blocks estrogen synthesis to activate cancer-killing genes sometimes loses its effectiveness because the cancer takes over epigenetic mechanisms, including permanent DNA modifications in the patient's tumor, once again allowing tumor growth.

Researchers reported in the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded study, published in the current issue of Science Translational Medicine, that the finding warrants research into adding drugs that could prevent the cancer from hijacking patients’ reparative gene regulatory machinery, which might allow the original therapy to work long enough to eradicate the tumor.

Resistance to hormonal therapy is a major clinical problem in the treatment of most breast cancers,” said Steffen Oesterreich, a faculty member in the Department of Medical Pharmacology and Chemical Biology. “Through testing of a tumor’s genetic and epigenetic makeup, we may be able to identify the patients most likely to develop such resistance and, in the future, create a treatment regimen tailored to giving each patient the best chance of beating their cancer.”

Epigenetics translates to “above genetics” and is an emerging field of study that looks at how environmental factors — such as infections, pollutants, stress and, in this case, long-term exposure to drugs — can affect the body’s epigenetic system — could influence a person’s DNA. Epigenetic changes do not alter the structure of the DNA, but they do change the way the DNA is modified, which subsequently can affect gene expression.

By performing a genome-wide screen in breast cancer cells, Oesterreich and his colleagues identified a gene called HOXC10 as one that the cancer seems to modify to allow continued tumor growth in patients whose cancer becomes resistant to traditional therapies.

The hormone estrogen represses genes, such as HOXC10, that induce cell death and inhibit growth. About 70 percent of breast cancer tumors are positive for a protein called estrogen receptor alpha, which prevents HOXC10 from activating the cancer. To overcome this, doctors put these patients on anti-estrogen therapy, including aromatase inhibitors, which block estrogen, to repress the HOXC10 gene. This allows the cancer to continue growing.

When the tumor uses these mechanisms, it makes deeper modifications to the patient’s DNA, permanently blocking the HOXC10 and other estrogen-repressing genes, making cancer treatment much more difficult.

Portable low-cost optical imaging tool found useful in concussion evaluation

Two separate projects, spearheaded by Pitt researchers and published recently in scientific journals, represent important strides toward developing the concept of utilizing portable, optical brain imaging for monitoring brain function in concussions — a large-scale statistical analysis — computerized neurocognitive testing for concussions.

The findings from the optical-imaging research, employing functional near infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS), provided preliminary support for the tool as a low-cost, portable device for imaging sports and military concussions, researchers said.

The new device, published in Brain Imaging and Behavior, led to further research — an NIH-funded study by Pitt examining the potential of dual cognitive-balance performance in children following concussions.

The fNIRS unit works like a pulse oximeter for the brain. It measures blood flow to the brain by sending light signals from sensors mounted in a 3-pound headcap, then producing images of blood oxygen changes — representing brain activity — by recording the absorption of light at different colors.

The fNIRS produced读血流指标read blood flow and oxygen saturation in patients with concussion and in those who were uninjured. Researchers are hoping the device can be used to more closely monitor certain cognitive and neurological functions in the brain.

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Endometriosis is a painful, often pervasive and recurrent condition that happens when the tissue that lines the uterus grows outside the uterine cavity. This chronic inflammation affects approximately one in 10 women. By screening tissue samples from women with endome triosis with personalization and genetic testing (endomet riosis-associated ovarian cancer), Vlad and her colleagues identified the complement system as the most prominent immune pathway that is activated in both endometriosis and endometriosis-associated ovarian cancer. Lead author Swati Marui Suryawanshi, a post-doctoral research fellow in obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sci ences at WVU, said: “If, as our study indicates, a problem with the immune system facilitates cancer growth, then targeting the complement pathway then perhaps we can find ways to change that and more effectively prime immune cells to fight early cancer, while controlling the complement pathway.”

Genetic testing beneficial in melanoma treatment, study finds Genetic screening of cancer can help doctors customize treatments so that patients with melanoma, ovarian cancer or breast cancer can avoid treatment that is least likely to prevent recurrence in patients whose cancer shows high expression of immune-related genes.

“We've reached a point in the treatment of melanoma — and cancer in general — where we're making major improvements in the outcomes of patients through personalized medicine,” said lead investigator Ahmad Tarhini, a faculty member in the Department of Medicine. “Anti-cancer therapy can be associated with significant side effects and economic costs. Therefore, we have a major interest in the development of tests that may allow us to predict which treatment regimen is most likely to help a particular patient, while sparing others the unwanted side effects and cost of medications that are unlikely to benefit.”

Before and after ipilimumab treatment, Tarhini and his colleagues obtained tissue biopsies used to run genetic tests on the tumors of 32 patients with advanced stage 4 melanoma. All patients were given standard-of-care surgery, which included complete surgical removal of an advanced tumor.

Patients with tumors that had higher expression of genes within a group of immune-related genes, either before or soon after treatment with ipilimumab, had a 63 percent lower risk of cancer recurrence after surgery. By validating these findings in a large national trial that also will allow us to investigate other significant biomarker data, we'll seek to develop ‘biomarker signatures’ that doctors can use to customize melanoma treatment plans,” said Tarhini. “The ultimate goals of therapy are to best treat the cancer in an individualized approach, while avoiding the unnecessary exposure of patients to severe side effects.”

**Recurrent head & neck tumor gene mutations vulnerable to cancer drug?**

**An examination of the genetic landscape of head and neck cancers indicates that while metastatic and primary tumor cells share similar mutations, recurrent disease is associated with gene alterations that could be exquisitely sensitive to an existing cancer drug. Researchers from Pitt and Yale University School of Medicine shared their findings during a mini-symposium at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual meeting.**

About 50 percent of patients diagnosed with head and neck squamous cell cancers already have disease that has spread, or metastasized into the lymph nodes, explained Jennifer Grandis, a faculty member in oral and maxillofacial surgery and director of the head and neck program at UPCI. About 20-30 percent of patients thought to be cured of the disease later developed recurrent cancer, which typically doesn’t respond to standard treatments.

“We decided to compare the genetic signatures of tumor cells from primary tumors with those from disease that had spread and cancers that were thought cured but then came back in the hopes of getting some clues about how best to guide therapy in these different settings,” Grandis said. “We found that recurrent cancers might have an Achilles heel we can exploit to kill them.”

The team conducted the first whole-exome genetic sequencing study on what Grandis called its “treasure trove” of frozen patient samples and found similar mutations both in primary tumors and in the lymph nodes to which their cancers already had spread. But there were different mutations in tumors that had recurred after a period of remission that were not found in their original cancers.

“The recurrent tumors carried mutations in a gene area that encodes for DDR2 cell receptors,” Grandis said. “Other studies have shown that DDR2 mutations can confer sensitivity to the cancer drug dasatinib, which could mean that drug has promise in the treatment of recurrent head and neck cancers.”

The researchers suggest that further investigation of dasatinib treatment is warranted.

**Personalized treatment may benefit common breast cancer subtype**

According to a multidisciplinary team led by Pitt scientists, the second-most common type of breast cancer is a very different disease than the most common subtype and appears to be a good candidate for a personalized approach to treatment.

Invasive lobular carcinoma, characterized by a unique growth pattern in breast tissue that fails to form a lump, has distinct genetic markers that indicate drug therapies may provide benefits beyond those typically prescribed for the more common invasive ductal carcinoma. The results recently were published in Cancer Research.

Patients with invasive lobular carcinoma typically are treated through surgical removal of the cancer, followed by chemotherapy or hormone therapy or both, usually with the estrogen-mimicking drug tamoxifen or estrogen-f Iowering aromatase inhibitors, the same as patients with invasive ductal carcinoma.

Lead author Matthew Sikora, a postdoctoral associate in pharmacology and chemical biology, said: “However, recent analyses suggest that a subset of patients with lobular carcinoma receive less benefit from adjuvant tamoxifen than patients with ductal carcinoma.”

“Our study, the largest of its kind, indicates an issue with the estrogen receptors inside lobular breast cancer cells and points to potential targets for drug therapy in future clinical trials, which we are developing.”

**Disseminated disease survival estimates for ovarian cancer improve over time**

The probability of staying disease-free improves dramatically for ovarian cancer patients who have already been disease-free for a period of time, and time elapsed since remission should be taken into account when making follow-up care decisions, according to a study by Pitt researchers.

A patient's prognosis traditionally is determined when they are diagnosed with a disease or when they become disease-free. However, for patients who already have survived or become disease-free for a number of years, these estimates may no longer be accurate because prognosis usually improves over time.

Determining a prognosis that takes into account time elapsed since remission may be a more accurate benchmark. This measure is known as conditional disease-free survival.

Brenda Diergaarde, a faculty member in epidemiology, said: “Having more accurate information about the risk of recurrence will allow patients and clinicians to make better informed decisions regarding follow-up care after cancer treatment. It also may lead to patients having a better quality of life because a more accurate diagnosis can ease their fears about the cancer coming back.”

Diergaarde presented the findings at the American Association for Cancer Research annual meeting.

In the study, researchers examined disease-free survival and conditional disease-free survival for 494 ovarian cancer patients who had achieved remission and whose information was collected as part of the hormones and ovarian cancer prediction (HOPE) case-control study. The researchers found disease-free survival estimates for ovarian cancer patients improved dramatically over time, in particular among those with poorer initial prognoses.

At time of remission, the probability of staying disease-free for three more years was 48 percent. This increased to 98 percent for patients who had remained disease-free for five years after remission.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**
Cell replication blocker plus common cancer drug could wipe out resistant tumor cells

Pitt researchers have found that an agent that inhibits mito- 
chondrial division can overcome tumor cell resistance to a com-
monly used cancer drug, and that the combination of the two 
induces rapid and synergistic cell death. Neither, however, has 
effect on their own.

The findings were presented at the American Association for 
Cancer Research annual meeting.

“In our earlier work, we found that blocking production of a protein called Drp1, which is required for mitochondrial division, induced apoptosis in cells that were resistant to cisplatin,” said co-author Bennett Van Houten, the Richard M. 
Cytet Professor of Molecular Oncology in the School of Medicine and leader of UPCi’s molecular and 
cell biology program.

“The loss of this critical mitochondrial protein caused the cells to arrest in mitosis and to develop chromosomal errors, and eventually led the tumor cell into the cell death pathway known as apoptosis.”

The researchers blocked Drp1 in breast cancer cell lines with an agent called mitochondrial division inhibitor-1 (mdivi-1) and found that when mdivi-1 and the cancer drug cisplatin were given together, they caused DNA damage, DNA replication arrest and greater than expected apoptosis rates.

The synergistic drug combina-
tion acted through two inde-
pendent biochemical pathways that caused the mitochondrial membrane to swell, increasing its permeability and allowing the leak of chemical signals that trig-
ger apoptosis.

“Cisplatin is one of the most widely used cancer drugs today, 
but some tumors are inherently resistant to it, and many others become resistant, leading to treat-
ment failure,” Van Houten said.

“In our studies, this combination overcame cisplatin resistance and caused cancer cell death, which is very encouraging.”

The team is testing the regi-
men’s effectiveness in a mouse model of ovarian cancer, a disease that often recurs and no longer responds to cisplatin treatment.

Pitt center joins global task force to combat growing viral threat

Causing victims to suffer severe fever and pain, chikungu-
nya virus has reached the Carib-
bean and South America and soon is expected to cause outbreaks in the United States. For many years the mosquito-borne virus has remained primarily in Africa, the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. In response to the arrival of the virus in the Western Hemisphere, the University of Pittsburgh Center for Vaccine Research announced that it will be part of the new Global Virus Network (GVN) chikungunya task force, composed of virolo-
gists from around the world.

The announcement of the new task force coincided with World 
Health Day on April 24秆.

This year’s theme is vector-
borne diseases, which are infec-
tious spread to humans through mosquitos, ticks and other insects. Chikungunya is a vector-
borne disease that is spread quickly by mosquitos. “Viruses are among the leading causes of death and disability in the world. Being able to quickly bring together the many knowledgeable researchers without regard to borders and political agendas to address viral threats such as chikungunya poses a significant opportunity,” said GVIn cofounder and scientific director Robert Redfield, also director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

There is no specific antiviral drug treatment for chikungunya, which resembles malaria and another threatening mosquito-borne infection. Treatment of chikungunya is directed primarily at relieving symptoms, which include a very high fever and muscle pain. The joint pain often is debilitating and, in some cases, persists for several months or years. While chikungunya does not cause death directly, it can contribute to a fatal outcome in people who become infected and have other medical problems.

The GVN chikungunya task force is composed of 16 virolo-
gists representing nine countries.

Fellow GVN director Thomas B. Klimstra and Richard D. Ryman, Pitt faculty members in microbiology and molecular genetics, were among those selected to represent the United States.

Much of the group’s effort will focus on identifying the causative agents and rapid identification of infections, improved treatment options and development of an effective vac-
cine.

Chikungunya first was described following an outbreak in southern Tanzania in 1952. Since then, the virus has been identified in dozens of countries across Asia, Europe, Africa and now the Americas. A vaccine against chikungunya does not yet exist; however, it is a focus of work at Pitt in both Klimstra’s and Ryman’s laboratories. Ryman recently was lead author on a publication in PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, describing a new method for creation of live-
attenuated chikungunya vaccines and identification of a promising vaccine candidate. Both research-
ers also are developing animal dis-
ease models for testing of vaccines, as well as therapeutic interventions for chikungunya disease.

Teen binge drinking, alcohol-brand references in pop music linked

Teen binge drinking, alcohol-brand references in pop music may 
be associated with liking, owning and correctly identifying music that references alcohol brands in an age group that we understand the impact of, said lead author Brian A. Primack, a faculty member in the Depart-
ment of Medicine. “It is important that we understand the impact of these references in an age group that can be negatively affected by alcohol consumption.”

Pitt researchers considered the third-leading, lifestyle-related cause of death in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Of the 2,541 participants who completed the survey, 15 or 59 percent, reported having had a complete alcoholic drink, defined as one 12 ounces of beer, five ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of hard liquor, at one time. Of those, 18 percent reported binge drinking for more than 10 days per month—drinking heavily over a short period of time—least monthly, and 37 percent reported having bad problems, such as injuries, due to alcohol.

In the survey, which could be completed either online or on paper, participants were given the titles of popular songs that included alcohol mentions and asked if they liked or owned the song. They also were tested to determine if they could recognize what brand of alcohol was mentioned in the lyrics.

They found that participants correctly recalled alcohol brands in songs that had more than three references to alcohol but did not require them to correctly identify alcohol or to identify the song that the alcohol brands were mentioned. People who could identify the alcohol brands in songs also had greater odds of ever having binged on alcohol.

“A surprising result of our analysis was that the associa-
tion between recalling alcohol brands in popular music and alcohol drinking in adolescents was as strong as the influence of parental and peer drinking and an adolescent’s tendency toward sensation-seeking,” said Primack.

“This may illustrate the value that this age group places on the perception of actions and opinions of music stars.”

Primack said that one possible solution would be to empower adolescents with critical thinking skills. “Music is a powerful and growing educational methodology that may be successful in helping young people make healthier decisions,” he said. “In the case of alcohol, it may be valuable to help them understand how alcohol-brand references in music may manipu-
late their thoughts and emotions to sell them a product.”

Plant-derived anti-cancer compounds explained

Compounds derived from plant-based products — including garlic, broccoli and medicinal 
plants — confer protective effects against cancer and other diseases. Researchers have presented at the American Association for Cancer Research annual meeting. Pitt research-
ers updated the cancer research community on their findings, including ten discoveries about the mechanisms by which the plant-derived compounds work.

“In recent years, we’ve made some very encouraging discoveries indicating that certain plants contain cancer-fighting compounds,” said primack.
The People of the Times column features recent news on faculty and student achievements, including awards, special interest groups, and innovative enterprises.

Welcome submissions from all areas of the University. Send information via email to: utimes@pitt.edu, by fax at 412/624-4579 or by campus mail to 108 Bellefield Hall.

For submission guidelines, visit www.utimes.pitt.edu/page_info/807.

Pittsburgh interventional business unit.
He also has participated in corporate fundraising activities and over the years that resulted in more than $100 million from venture capitalists, strategic partners and state and federal grant sources.

Committee relations:
German Barrionuevo, A&S; Heidi Donovan, nursing; Maggie Folan, pharmacy; Linda Ireland, nursing; Michael Lovorn, education.

Computer usage:
Alex Jones, engineering; Marian Hampton, A&S; Arif Jamal, ULS.

Educational policies:
Amy Agee, school of education; Marcian Blake, health and rehabilitation sciences; David Beck, health and rehabilitation sciences; A. Murat Kaya, dentistry; John Stoner, A&S.

Equity, inclusion and anti-discrimination advocacy:
Cynthia Danford, nursing; Adriana Moseiro Velez, dentistry, Andrew Straton, A&S; Luis Velez, engineering.

Library:
Eileen Chasson, nursing; Tim-Kun Hung, engineering; B. Guy Peters, A&S; Parvin Randhawa, medicine.

Plant utilization and planning:
Tracey Olanik, ULS; Joseph Newme, medicine, Maureen Reynolds, pharmacy.

Student affairs:
Lance Davidson, engineering; Leslie Eid, ULS; Chyongchao Jeng Lin, medicine; Pierre Landry, A&S; Margaret Rosen, nursing, Mark Scott, ULS.

Tenure and academic freedom:
Christopher Bonneau, A&S; Robert Costanzo, nursing; William Federische, engineering; Rakel Sadeh, medicine.

University Press:
Charles Atwood, medicine; Kathleen Musante, A&S; Peter Friedman, medicine.
Wednesday 23
Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds
Timothy McGlaston; Montefiore 7th fl. aud., 7 am (nmoenich@upmc.edu)
Psychiatry Lecture
“Medical Internship as a Model to Identify Biological Predictors of Depression Under Stress,” Srijan Sen, WPIC 2nd fl. aud., noon (srijansen@upmc.edu)

Thursday 24
Faculty & Staff Development Programs

Friday 25
Faculty & Staff Development Program
“Behavioral-based Interview- ing,” Timothy McGlaston; Montefiore LHAS Aud., 11 am

Saturday 26
• Spring term ends.

Sunday 27
• Residence halls close (except for graduating seniors).

Monday 28
Psychiatry Lecture
“Computational Structural Neu- roimaging: Where Have We Been & Where Do We Go From Here?” Alex Leow, U of Chicago; Hillman Cancer Ctr. Cooper Classrm. D, 1 pm

CIDDTE TA Services Work- shop
“Leading Effective Classroom Discussions,” G74/Hillman 1st fl (www.cidde.pitt.edu/workshops)

Wednesday 29
Faculty & Staff Development Program
“Grammar, Punctuation & Proofreading: Ensuring Professional Presentation,” Ronald Wetzel, 142 Craig, 9-11 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/fsdp)

Benefits Fair
WPU lower lounge, 11:10-1:30 pm (infers@pitt.edu)

Basic & Translational Research Seminar
“Mutant BRAF Signaling & Resistance to Targeted Therapies in Melanoma,” Andrew Agli, Thomas Jefferson, Hillman Cancer Ctr; 9 am-12:30 pm (register: www.chem.pitt.edu/events/calendar)

Wednesday 30
Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds
Rashid Auditorium
GATES AND HILLMAN CENTERS
CARNegie MILLON UNIVERSITY
FREe AND OPEN TO THE PUBlic
AND TO FOLLOW
Carnegie Mellon University
McWilliams Center for Cosmology

4:30 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2014
RASHID AUDITORIUM

THE BENNETT-MCWILLIAMS LECTURE
TAKING THE UNIVERSE’S BABY PICTURE

SPEAKER: David Spergel is the Charles Young Professor of Astronomy on the Class of 1897 Foundation, Princeton University Chair, Department of Astrophysical Scien ces, Princeton University

Great for large enrollment classes!

Structuring Student Risk to Foster Rigor: A New, Motivating Grading System with Linda B. Nilson
Thursday, May 1 at 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., O’Hara Student Center, 1st Floor

Colleges and universities generally require that we submit letter grades to represent student performance, but how do we determine those grades is up to us. The grading system we have used for decades earns low marks on many criteria. This session presents an alternative system, specifications (specs) grading, that does better, especially in motivating students to achieve outcomes and produce high-quality work. Better yet, it saves faculty time. By the end of the day, participants will have:

• Adapted one or more of their courses to specs grading
• Turned assignment directions into specs
• Developed a tokens system
• Revised their syllabus accordingly

Register here: www.cidde.pitt.edu/Nilson

CIDDTE TA Services Work- shop
“Teaching a Six Week Course”, R26 Alumni, 1 pm (www.cidde.pitt.edu/workshops)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
**Thursday 17**

**Molecular Biophysics/Structural Biology Seminar**
Patricia Moore, 6014 BSTI, 11 am

**ADRC Lecture**

**Pitt SAC Benefits Seminar**
“Medical Benefits,” WPU bailrm., noon

**EUCE Conversations on Europe**
“A Parliament Against Itself? The Far Right in the Upcoming European Parliament Elections”, 4/17 Postur, noon (ecue@pitt.edu)

**Faculty & Staff Development Program**
“Starting or Completing an Undergraduate Degree or Certificate,” Kaitlin Yacob; 401 CL, 12-3 pm (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/human-resources)

**Chemistry Seminars**
“Using Light to Control & Visualize Molecular Forces in Living Systems,” Khalid Salata, Enzyme, 2:30 pm; “Long-Range Charge Transport in Molecular Junctions: A Bridge Between Molecular & Organic Electronics,” Richard McCarty, U of Alberta, 4 pm; 110 Chethom Senate PUP Mtg. 4/17 Senate, 3 pm

**HSLS Workshop**
“Pageless Pub.Med.” Ester Saghaei, Falk Library classrm., 1-4 pm (esagha@pitt.edu)

**Geology/Planetary Science Colloquium**
“Constraining Active Fault Geometry & Strength Properties of Tectonic Faults Through Stress Modeling: An Example From the Northern Anatolian Fault (NAF)/Boluak, Karabuk; 11:10 am, 4 pm

**Neural Basis of Cognition Lecture**
“A New Look at Gating: Selective Integration of Sensory Information Through Network Dynamics,” William Newcomb, Stanford, 1010A BST, 4 pm

**Student Activities**

**Friday 18**

**Last day for undergraduate day classes.**

**EEF Workshop**
“The 2nd Step: Developing a Business Plan,” Meren, 7-10 am (http://entrepreneur.pitt.edu/events)

**Faculty & Staff Development Program**
“Money as Work 1: Foundations of Investing,” Chris Voorst, 142 Craig, 9-10:30 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/hsdp)

**CIDEH Workshops**
“Who’s New in Blackboard? Pilot the Upgrade,” B26 Alumni, 10 am; “IT Services Workshop: Gender, Authority & Teaching,” R26 Alumni, 2 pm (www.cideh.pitt.edu/workshops)

**Senate Computer Usage Committee Mtg.**
117 CL, 10 am

**Human Genetics C.C. Li Memorial Lecture**
“Consequences of Recent Explorative Human Population Growth on the Genetic Architecture of Complex Disease,” Andrea Clark; Cornell, 11141 Crabtree, noon (www.publichealth.pitt.edu/human-genetics)

**IS Lecture**
“Twitcherthing: Mining Public Health Information from Social Media,” Henry Kautz, U of Rochester; 5317 Sennott, 12-10 pm (www.isp.pitt.edu/node/31530)

**Senate BPC Mtg.**
117 CL, 1:30 pm

**Senate EIA/DAC Mtg.**
826 CL, 2 pm

**Allegheeny Observatory Lecture**
“How Do You Discover a Fundamental Particle?” Jim Mueller; Reverser Park, North Side, 7:30 pm (RSVP: 412/321-2400)

**African Music/Dance Ensemble Performance**
Belfeld aud., 8 pm (music.pitt.edu/tickets)

**Saturday 19**

**Reading day.**

**College of General Studies classes, Saturday College classes, graduate classes & evening classes continue to meet through April 26; final exams should be held during the last scheduled class meeting.**

**CIDEH TA Services Workshop**
“Developing a Lesson Plan”;
G74 Hallman, 11 am (www.cideh.pitt.edu/workshops)

**Sunday 20**

**Episcopal Service**
Henn Chapel, 11 am (Saturdays; http://pitttopsicalphilapancy.wordpress.com/)

**Monday 21**

**Final exam period for all undergraduate day classes (through April 26).**

**Immunology Seminar**
“Immune Regulation of Barrier Surfaces,” David Arts, Penn. Scalae aud. 5, 5 pm (ercap@pitt.edu)

**Tuesday 22**

**Faculty & Staff Development Programs**
“Creating a Civil Workplace Culture,” Debra Messer, 142 Craig, 9-11 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/hsdp)

**CTSI Workshop**
“Will You Make the Right Decisions: A Moderated Group Experience”
“Tarot of the Lab,” Karen Schneid, 7019 Forhes, noon MMR Seminar
“Actin Cytoskeleton Organization by Alpha-Catenin at Cell-Cell Contacts.” Adam Kwiatowski; Rangoad, noon (linda.chen@lbhp.com)

**Wednesday 23**

**University Times**

**Schedule**

**Events occurring**

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The University Times events calendar includes Pitt-sponsored events as well as non-Pitt events held on a Pitt campus. Information submitted should identify type of event, such as lecture or concert, and location, program and the specific title, sponsor, location and the program name. The time and phone number of a contact person should be included. Information should be sent by email to: uca@pitt.edu, by Fax to: 412/624-4579, or by campus mail to: 308 Belfeld Hall. We cannot guarantee publication of events received after the deadline.

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**COMMERCIAL 2014**

**Wednesday 23**

- **GSPIA Graduation Luncheon**
  UClub bailrm. B, noon-2 pm (www.gspia.pitt.edu/CurrentStudents/OfficeofStudentServices/GSPIA/Graduation/tabid/159/Default.aspx)

**Thursday 24**

- **GSPIA Graduation Ceremony**
  Soldiers & Sailors aud., 4 pm (www.gspia.pitt.edu/CurrentStudents/OfficeofStudentServices/GSPIA/Graduation/tabid/159/Default.aspx)

**Friday 25**

- **Katz Commencement Ceremony**
  Alumni 7th fl. aud., 1 pm (ggreenh@katz.pitt.edu)

- **Nursing Commencement Ceremony**
  Convention Ctr. 3rd fl. bailrm., Downtown, 4 pm (www.nursing.pitt.edu/graduation/index.jsp)

- **CGS Pre-Commencement Reception/Commencement Ceremony**
  O’Hara, reception 5:30 pm, ceremony 6:30 pm (www.cgs.pitt.edu/node/745)

**Saturday 26**

- **SHRS Commencement Ceremony**
  Field House, 11 am (fsdp@pitt.edu)

- **Greensburg Campus Commencement Ceremony**
  Ridilla Field, CPG, 11 am

- **College of Business Administration Commencement Ceremony**
  Convention Ctr., Downtown, 11:30 am (cgb28@pitt.edu)

- **Johnstown Campus Commencement Ceremony**
  Sports Ctr., UPJ, 1 pm (kbeach@pitt.edu)

- **Titusville Campus Commencement**
  McKinnny Student Union, 2 pm

- **Studio Arts Commencement Ceremony**
  FFA aud., 7 pm (studio@pitt.edu)

- **Public Health Cocktail Reception/Awards Ceremony**
  O’Hara, 5:30-7:30 pm (csn39@pitt.edu)

- **Biological Sciences Commencement Ceremony**
  Field House, 7 pm (www.biology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/graduation/tabid/652/default.aspx)

- **Engineering Senior Recognition Ceremony**
  Soldiers & Sailors aud., 6-8 pm

**Sunday 27**

- **Physics & Astronomy Pre-Commencement Breakfast**
  O’Hara dining rm., 9 am-noon

- **Education Commencement Ceremony**
  Field House, 9 am (fsdp@pitt.edu)

- **IS Commencement Ceremony**
  Alumni 7th fl. aud., 9:30 am (wpl9@pitt.edu)

- **History of Art & Architectural Studies Commencement Ceremony**
  FAG aud., 1 pm (studio@pitt.edu)

- **Public Health Cocktail Reception/Awards Ceremony**
  O’Hara, 5:30-7:30 pm (csn39@pitt.edu)

- **Chemical Sciences Commencement Ceremony**
  Field House, 7 pm (www.biology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/graduation/tabid/652/default.aspx)

- **French & Italian Commencement Ceremony**
  Alumni, Connelly Ballrm., 8-10 pm

**WEDNESDAY 23**

**Thursday 24**

**FRIDAY 25**

**SATURDAY 26**

**SUNDAY 27**

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