Survey details complaints about office-supply distributor SUPRA

The reception for SUPRA Office Solutions, Pitt's office-supply distributor on the PantherExpress e-commerce site, continues to be overwhelmingly negative among Staff Association Council (SAC) members, as captured in a survey reported at its May 14 meeting.

The survey of 89 members found that just 10 percent said SUPRA was an improvement to any degree over Pitt's previous purchasing system, while only 17 percent thought it was equal to the previous system. More than 72 percent of respondents believed the change made purchasing less effective, including 28 percent choosing "much less effective."

Among the more detailed survey responses:

- "I asked about searching by price and was told to search by Pitt Core. This still does not put the items in an order of cheapest to highest so I have to spend time searching. Many searches bring up such large quantities that it is difficult to search. I have found many items are cheaper in SUPRA, however, I have found numerous to be more expensive. Examples: one-third-cut hanging folders are 73 percent more; manila folders, 34 percent more; 10013 self-seal envelopes 59 percent more; colored hanging folders are more; blue pocket folders were four times the price, so I was not able to purchase from SUPRA. Items before were delivered the next day unless on backorder. Now, it's hard to tell if an item will come the next day or will be shipped and arrive in a few days."

- "SUPRA is great at letting me know the progress of my order but I found the navigation to be slightly inefficient. It's also not clear and concise on the quantity of what you're ordering. You have to continue to click through and still don't always know how much you are ordering. My last order was bigger than I thought it would be, which is great because I'm well stocked. However, I don't like that I can't calculate the amount of items like I could before."

- "Main page is not as user friendly. One has to go to the browse catalog first in order to find things and then enter a bunch of numbers into a table without really knowing if they are correct. The initial search for an item does not show prices — this is not good."

- "The PantherExpress punch-out interface is terrible. The default page tells us about 'Updates and action items,' when really I just want to find some batteries/pens/Kleenex. Clicking 'Manage office-supply distributor SUPRA
Orders on the top nav from the catalog brings you to ‘Messages.’ There are some options to work with, the supplier on improvements to the website and will report progress as it is made.

He also recommended that those wanting to update their existing list, to locate the ‘core items,’ where one will find the best pricing for the items that are critical for the operation. Contacted after the meeting, Teyza Zukić, director of Pitt’s procurement office, said each department offers workshops on “identifying and referring distressed suppliers” to help institutions also includes how to maintain your own safety when we’re concerned about a student when we’re interacting with,” she said. “Anyone who calls and asks for this sort of training, we’re going to work with them and set that up.

• SAC member Fiona Sehgal urged the organization to push for more support for breastfeeding mothers, creating a stronger policy and an inclusion room list with more spaces in more departments. When cornered by Pitt’s human resource office’s Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity and Inclusion, Maloney directed the University Times to the office’s website (www.hr.pitt.edu/careerdevelopment), which lists 16 lactation rooms in 15 Pitt buildings, including two in the Cathedral of Learning. “HR’s official policy now is ‘talk to your supervisor,’ but that assumes your supervisor is on board,” Sehgal said. The University Senate’s equity, inclusion, and anti-discrimination task force is looking into possible improvements to Pitt’s lactation room services, she pointed out, and SAC ought to do the same.

• The SAC Council of Campuses, an annual meeting of staff organizations on Pitt’s five campuses, was hosted by SAC in June. The award will have the same title as the University Times website. The award will have the same title as the University Times website. The award will have the same title as the University Times website. The award will have the same title as the University Times website. The University Times reserves the right to edit letters for clarity or length. Letters can be sent by email to njbrown@pitt.edu or by campus mail to 308 Art and Architecture Building.
Marc L. Harding is headed for here June 2, his second anniversary as Pitt’s chief enrollment officer on June 15 with plans to bring the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid (OFA) up to date.

While the amount of financial aid an institution offers is a more crucial part of any student’s investment. Thus, college choice is a decision that should not be dependent solely on the amount of financial aid an institution offers.

“Most students go to college within a 30-mile radius of what they call home, such that students say, ‘I want to come to a place where they change the world.’”

Harding conjures the traditional illustration of a funnel to describe the recruitment, admissions, and enrollment process: Pitt gets 30,000 applications and whittles them down to the 16,000 admitted, all in hopes of enrolling 9,900 enrollees and retaining them (Pitt’s retention rate is 93 percent) until graduation. About 900 of the 1,922 enrollees this fall will be transfer students.

Recruiters start with “inquiry generation”, prompting students to ask for applications — and end with “yield management”: convincing the accepted to enroll.

Many recruiting steps take place simultaneously. “Right now we are working with the fall 2014 class. We’re sitting in May and have paid a deposit at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and will go to two orientations … So in a sense we are still not done [with the 2014 entering class].”

Then there are the students who were accepted, said no, then changed their minds, he says.

“Most students go to college within a 300-mile radius of what they call home,” Harding reports. That fact could mean 30 percent until graduation. About 900 of the 1,922 enrollees this fall will be transfer students.

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University Senate budget policies committee (BPC) members on May 16 debated the impact of a tenure and academic freedom committee’s (TAPC) resolution to create an ad hoc committee to review guidelines for evaluating tenured faculty and associated salary decisions.

The move to create the ad hoc committee was prompted by a May 2013 address by medical school Dean Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the Health Sciences, that detailed a school policy permitting 20-percent pay reductions, that detailed a school policy.

"The resolution is prefaced by a statement that reiterates the importance of tenure, criticizing the medical school policy, without naming it, for ‘setting a dangerous precedent’ by ‘explicitly focusing’ the performance evaluation of faculty, primarily conducting research, on the ability to obtain external funding for the bulk of one’s salary.’"

It adds that such policy is “implicitly relegating scholarly contributions, teaching and service to marginal roles in performance evaluation and in determining salary, and thus negates the criteria that are used to grant tenure and the responsibility of tenured faculty” in the faculty handbook and the school’s guidelines for faculty appointment and promotion.

It calls the medical school policy “antithetical to the fundamental protections afforded by tenure … [and] sufficiently vague to allow a targeted individual, or group of individuals, to be evaluated in an arbitrary, capricious and unfair manner,” and notes that TAPC already has received grievances from “several tenured faculty.”

BPC chair John Baker, an emeritus faculty member in the School of Dental Medicine, said that members of BPC and the Senate’s bylaws and procedures committee will be part of the ad hoc committee.

BPC member Michael Spring, who is Senate president, was pleased that the resolution included University-wide review of evaluation procedures. “The sense is that it’s a good time to do a review of the annual review for faculty,” Spring said. He also hoped the committee dealt with this broad question, rather than with individual faculty cases, since the University does not report on the number of faculty who receive salary reductions.

“We never quite got that at some sense of this, is something we need to be concerned about University-wide, or is it a couple of cases?” Spring said.

Calling for the University to release these figures as “appropriately aggregated” data, so that individual faculty reductions could not be pinpointed, Spring said he believed Pitt likely would face tougher decisions about annual salary increases in the near future. “I gather we’re not done yet with the state appropriation [shortfall]. So there’s more money that’s going to need to be made up ….”

In other news:

• Baker noted that the Senate’s ad hoc committee on non-tenure-stream (NTS) faculty presented recommendations in April for University policies toward the review and promotion of such faculty, but the recommendations have yet to receive Senate approval. “I think this would be a priority item for the fall,” for BPC, he said, especially considering that NTS faculty make up the large majority of faculty in the health sciences.

• Committee members also said issues surrounding part-time faculty should be considered. Half of the professors in the School of Dental Medicine, for instance, are part-time faculty.

• There are also widely differing opinions among full-time faculty about making changes to the adjunct faculty, Spring added. “Every faculty member at this institution is blind to the fact that he has had his hand on a different part of the elephant,” he said.

• “There’s no ill will, there’s no nastiness, I just think people have different things in their head,” he said, adding: “There’s no problem with adjunct faculty.”

He suggested that Senate members concerned about this refer the issue to Senate’s Resolution 4 committee to resolve. “Conversations between the committee and Senate members, I do believe, will get it started.”

• Dejong said the University’s Provost and Budgeting committee had approved the annual attribution study, which details University academic units and other responsibility centers. Because BPC had not had a quorum in May and was not likely to have more members in June, Baker suggested that the report be presented at BPC’s September meeting.

• The committee decided to conduct the nomination and election of officers via email.

--Marty Levine

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Check your inbox: New email arriving this summer

Computing Services and Systems Development is upgrading the University’s email service for all faculty, staff and students this summer.

Current University email addresses will remain unchanged.

Faculty and staff upgrade:

• Faculty and staff who use the University’s Exchange service email will be upgraded to My Pitt Email (Exchange 2013), an enhanced version of the current Exchange service. Faculty and staff who use a desktop email client (Microsoft Outlook 2007 or later) to access their Exchange email will not need to make any changes and will not notice a difference in the way they can access email client looks and functions. Faculty and staff who access their Exchange email web interface—My Pitt Email—will not notice an enhanced web interface with some additional features. For faculty and staff who currently take advantage of Enterprise Exchange email, the upgrade will begin in June.

• Faculty and staff who still use the University’s legacy email system (IMAP) may choose to remain on the legacy email system by moving to My Pitt Email (Exchange 2013). Moving to My Pitt Email provides a number of benefits, including the ability to schedule meetings with colleagues, view and manage contacts, create tasks and view real-time availability through Microsoft Outlook.

Faculty and staff should indicate their preference by completing the email preference pages at My Pitt. To access the page, visit my.pitt.edu, click My Pitt Email and select email preferences, and click set email preferences.

When choosing their preferences, faculty and staff will be able to select an option to have all of their messages from the legacy email system automatically moved to the new email service. Faculty and staff who choose to move from their Exchange email client (Microsoft Outlook 2007 or later) to My Pitt Email will receive an email message that informs them when the transition is complete and provides instructions on how to access their new mailbox.

My Pitt Email and staff who move from the legacy email system to My Pitt Email will also need to update the settings on their desktop email client, smartphone or tablet to continue receiving their email. See the instructions below the upgrade. Instructions for updating these settings will be made available at http://technol

Email forwarding:

Email forwarding options also will change as part of the email upgrade.

"[email address]"
Women tend to live longer — on average, three years longer than men. To be confident of having taken time to think about what that is because we haven't always their retirement goal,” Pasquini said.

"One is to work longer — not necessarily at a stressful, full-time job. Another is to live on less. We need to understand what our lifestyle they envision. Others want to pursue hobbies or spend time volunteering. As a general rule of thumb, the plan should aim to replace 80 percent of your income in retirement. But you may need more or less to support your lifestyle in retirement," she said.

"Ideally you want the things you own to be greater than the things you owe — a positive net worth. The way you know if you're making progress is from year to year the net worth is increasing," she said.

On track or not? Am I saving enough? Am I investing wisely? When can I retire?

These questions need to be answered in order to be confident about your retirement. For every dollar men make doing the same job, Pasquini said, additively, that women earn 77 cents for every dollar men make doing the same job," Pasquini said, adding that women are on track to fund the retirement of Pitt employees who are vested and getting a 12 percent match, she said. While those who are not will retire before age 65, the University will contribute 12 percent of their income at retirement. At 10 years from retirement, she should have 6.6 times her salary, she said.

"Younger investors have time to weather stocks' price swings and take advantage of a more aggressive investment mix to make it produc- ive," she cautioned.

Saving more, Pasquini said, noting that TIAA-CREF offers a defined contribution plan, includes a dollar-for-dollar matching plan that should aim to replace 8 percent of your salary as a refer- ence, Pasquini urged women to consider whether they are on track to fund the retirement lifestyle they envision.

Statistics show that only 8 percent of women are confident that they're on track to meet their retirement goal," Pasquini said.

"We're not all going to live retirement in the same way," she said. "It's not going to cost us the same to have the kind of retire- ment we want to have."

Envision your retirement

Some women envision traveling, others plan to spend retire- ment enjoying their grandchild- ren. It can be to pursue hobbies or spend time volunteering.

"We need to understand what retirement's going to be before we can know what it's going to cost," she said.

"For example, if world travel is the plan, ask yourself: 'If I retire and have 100 percent of my income, would that pay for my lifestyle?'

Get organized

Once you know where you're heading, get organized, she said, noting that TIAA-CREF has a 160-degree financial view tool that can help. Organize your financial records, check your credit rating, be sure your end-of-life planning is up-to-date, and review your cash flow and net worth, she advised.

Cash flow — what money is coming in and what's going out every month — is important to review. If you find you're not on track to meet your retirement goals, it can show where some sav- ings might be found: less frequent trips to the mall, or Starbucks, or a more modest cable package, Pasquini said.

"Knowing your net worth — everything you own compared with what you owe — is important to track as well."

"It's the wrong time to get reckless. You've got to have. But as you near retirement, you can be," she said.

"When you're closer to retirement you're moving toward a more conservative mix," she said. Bonds, she said, “Don't bet the grocery account. As money markets, and equities (bonds), low-risk holdings such as money markets, and equities (bonds), low-risk holdings such as

Investment allocations

Women can't afford to simply put their money under the mat- tress, their savings need to grow to meet their retirement needs.

Investment portfolios may include investments in a variety of asset classes that could include real estate, fixed income securities (bonds), low-risk holdings such as

Insurance

While University employee benefits include life insurance and health care insurance, consider whether the amounts are sufficient. "You may need supplemen- tal insurance," she said.

Likewise, long-term care insurance is expensive, but needs to be considered. "Can you afford to be without it?" she said.

"Nobody ever envisions their retirement as being stressful," Pasquini said, noting that nurs- ing home costs can quickly eat up retirement savings.

"Make an informed decision. Get a quote, then make the deci- sion," she advised.

Personalized planning

An appointment is sched- uled to meet with a TIAA-CREF consultant on campus by calling 412/655-3000 or visiting www. tiaa-cref.org/moc.

Pasquini advised those nearing the end of their careers to meet with a TIAA-CREF representa- tive at least once a year in advance.

Vanguard also offers personalized appointments. To schedule one, call 800/822-2500 ext. 14500 or visit www.veenvanguard. com. — Kimberly K. Barlow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

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What women should consider when planning for retirement

Women should look closely at the investments within their IRA. "Make sure they're working for you," she said, noting that interest rates on CD’s are low and that their accounts currently are low.

Women also should check their Social Security estimates, available ssa.gov online, to aid their planning.

Although there is an option to retire earlier at a reduced benefit, women need to consider whether they can afford to do so.

Pasquini noted that divorced women may be entitled to benefits based on their ex-hus- band's earnings, if his were higher.

Just as with your stresses, you're closer to retirement you're mov- ing toward a more conservative mix," she said. Investors who are ahead on their retirement savings likewise may be able to tolerate higher risk, she said. "Don't bet the grocery money," she said. "We've got to try and grow it, but you can't take reckless risk recover from."
in retirement and other deferred compensation and $14,875 in nontaxable benefits).

University officers
The University reported compensation totaling $70,180 for Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg in 2012 ($651,658 in base compensation, $21,184 in other reportable compensation, $68,490 in retirement and other deferred compensation, and $68,857 in nontaxable benefits).

Compensation for Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson totaled $429,776 ($334,259 in base compensation, $20,075 in other reportable compensation, $42,852 in retirement and other deferred compensation, and $31,690 in nontaxable benefits).

Compensation for Jerome Cohran, general counsel and executive vice chancellor, totaled $590,191 ($480,736 in base compensation, $26,166 in other reportable compensation, $70,186 in retirement and other deferred compensation, and $12,902 in nontaxable benefits).

Compensation for B. Jean Ferketich, secretary of the Board of Trustees, was $260,058 ($206,558 in base compensation, $8,691 in other reportable compensation, $30,178 in retirement and other deferred compensation, and $14,961 in nontaxable benefits).

Compensation for Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, was $866,073 ($871,085 in base compensation, $17,084 in other reportable compensation, $30,000 in retirement and other deferred compensation, and $13,304 in nontaxable benefits).

Compensation for former provost and senior vice chancellor James V. Maher was $297,850 ($275,000 in base compensation, $2,242 in other reportable compensation, $14,942 in nontaxable benefits).

Compensation for treasurer Amy Krueger Marsh was $417,631, ($712,378 in base compensation, $25,146 in other reportable compensation, $14,777 in nontaxable benefits).

Compensation for chief financial officer Arthur G. Ramicone was $456,214 ($416,198 in base compensation, $52,140 in other reportable compensation, $50,815 in retirement and other deferred compensation, and $14,061 in nontaxable benefits).

Family members
Institutions are required to report financial information on employees who are family members of senior officers, trustees or employees who are family members.

Receiving compensation from the University in 2012 were:
- Joshua Cochran of Public Safety, who earned $67,431. He is related to Executive Vice Chancellor Jerome Cohran.
- Erin Nordenberg of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, who earned $58,503. She is related to Chancellor Mark Nordenberg.
- Anita P. Courcoulas, a professor of surgery, who earned $202,448. She is related to trustee Ira J. Gumberg.
- Maryjovan Lovett of Alumni Relations, who earned $57,348. She is related to trustee Robert G. Lovett.
- Werner Troesken, a faculty member in economics, who earned $174,468. He is related to Provost Patricia Beeson.
- Robin Maier, who earned $60,398, and John Maier, who earned $51,500, both of family medicine. The two are related to former provost James V. Maher.
- Katherine Costa of student life, who earned $210,193. She is related to trustee Martha Hartle Munsch.

Top 25 non-officers
Under Pennsylvania’s 2008 right to know law, the University must disclose the compensation of its 25 highest-paid non-officers. Listed below are the top 25 in fiscal year 2013 and their total gross salary:

1. James P. Dixon, athletics — $1,969,364
2. Paul J. Chryst, athletics — $1,526,515
3. Nancy E. Davidson, medicine — $1,364,878
4. Steven C. Pederson, athletics — $1,077,084
5. Agnus M. Berenato, athletics — $1,045,655
6. Donald S. Burke, public health — $904,915
7. Michael J. Reisch, biomedical informatics — $950,191
8. Steven L. Kanter, medicine — $440,549
9. Thomas W. Braun, medicine — $414,535
10. David J. Duey, business administration — $405,500
11. Massimo M. Trucuo, pediatrics — $390,851
12. D. Lansing Taylor, computational and systems biology — $376,711
13. Marc S. Milandro, associate vice chancellor for technology management and commercialization — $374,491
14. John Jeffrey Inman, business administration — $373,499
15. Diane K. Denis, business administration — $364,878
16. Johnny Huard, orthopaedic surgery — $361,026
17. Jeffrey L. Masnick, Schools of the Health Sciences — $360,144
18. David Allen Huxtable, athletics — $359,912
19. Angela M. Groenoborn, structural biology — $357,062
20. Charles A. Perfetti, Learning Research and Development Center — $355,458
21. Jeremy M. Berg, Institute of Personalized Medicine; associate vice chancellor for science strategy and planning in the Health Sciences and professor of computational and systems biology — $335,000
22. Bruce A. Freeman, pharmacology and chemical biology — $349,702
23. Alexander Davidovich Sorkin, cell biology — $347,581
24. Dennis P. Curran, chemistry — $342,250
25. Loren H. Roth, associate senior vice chancellor for clinical policy and planning; Health Sciences; and professor of psychiatry — $316,816

Top five nationwide
Top five nationwide were the highest paid:
- Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg’s pay is $5,647,600 in compensation in fiscal year 2013 ranked him No. 43 among 25 chief executives at 227 public universities and systems in the Chronicle of Higher Education’s annual survey.
- In comparison, Nordenberg ranked No. 40 among 190 heads of public universities in the Chronicle’s FY12 survey with total compensation of $628,880. (See May 16, 2013, University Times.)
- The FY13 survey, released earlier this month, included public doctoral universities as well as state college and university systems or governing boards with at least three campuses and 50,000 students in the 2011-12 academic year.

President’s pay at other Pennsylvania publics
Of seven Pennsylvania presidents listed in the survey, Nordenberg was the highest paid.
- Rodney Erickson, who became president of Penn State in 2011, had total compensation of $618,220, making him No. 2 among heads of Pennsylvania public institutions and No. 52 nationwide.
- Ranking No. 3 statewide and No. 173 nationally was Neil D. Theobald, who took over as Temple University president in 2013. His total compensation was $359,619.
- Former State System of Higher Education Chancellor John C. Cavanaugh, who left his post in February 2013, ranked fourth in the state and 200th in the nation, with total compensation of $113,581.
- Temple’s interim president Richard M. Englert, who left the position in December 2012, ranked No. 5 in Pennsylvania and No. 204 nationwide with total compensation of $309,659.
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania President Michael Driscoll was No. 6 in the state and No. 210 in the nation with total compensation of $135,842.
- Peter H. Garbacs, who became acting chancellor of the State System of Higher Education in March 2013, ranked No. 7 in the state and No. 249 nationwide with total compensation of $103,842 for FY11.

Full public-college pay can be found online at chronicle.com.
PLAGIARISM: Everyone is vulnerable

When it comes to plagiarism, anyone and everyone is vulnerable, according to the director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) Responsible Conduct of Research Center. In a recent workshop, L. Schmidt cited some troubling statistics.

A recent survey by the creators of plagiarism detection software iThenticate found one in 10-20 papers on PubMed due to fraud or suspected fraud.

“Plagiarism is a large part of a bigger scientific misconduct problem that is currently affecting scientific literature,” Schmidt said.

“There’s plagiarism at all levels and in all fields,” she said, noting that a book by primateologist Jane Goodall was held up in publication over concerns of plagiarism; the author’s failure to properly cite sources, and that Martin Luther King Jr.’s doctoral dissertation was found to have been plagiarized in large part from another student’s work.

In order to prevent plagiarism, “Who would want to just copy things?” as she and fellow presenter Charles Wessel of the Health Sciences Library System advised attendees on avoiding plagiarism in their May 20 workshop, “Digitally Detecting Plagiarism: Approaches for Protecting Your Science.”

Citations

Properly citing sources is an important part of avoiding plagiarism in academic work, Wessel said.

“For instance, when summarizing a colleague’s research findings, using data to support your position or paraphrasing someone else’s ideas, the source should be cited. Citing a source for a well-known fact may not be necessary, but could be a good idea. “It doesn’t hurt just to cite it, if in doubt,” Schmidt advised.

Schmidt noted that the purpose of a citation is not “so you don’t get caught plagiazing,” but rather to guide your readers or paraphrasing someone else’s ideas, the source should be cited. Citing a source for a well-known fact may not be necessary, but could be a good idea. “It doesn’t hurt just to cite it, if in doubt,” Schmidt advised.

Wessel recommended a fair-use calculator devised by the University of Minnesota (www.lib.umn.edu/help/plagiarism/fairuse) as a convenient tool for thinking through fair-use questions.

Detecting plagiarism

At one time, investigations into allegations of plagiarism required a painstaking page-by-page search that could take weeks or months. Now, not only is the process instantaneous. Pitt users can access iThenticate’s plagiarism detection tool to upload their work — including data, code, or images — and the tool can analyze and give an indication of whether or not it may be plagiarized, which makes it a good idea for checking a bibliography for errors in citations.

“Don’t think of it as checking your plagiarism,” Wessel said, urging users to think of it as a writing tool. “When writing a scientific paper, it might be a good idea to go through it to make sure you didn’t polish something over.”

“Be sure your advisor reads your work before you submit it,” he said. “Think about it if you’re a third author on a paper” to be included or not.

Being plagiazed in large part from another student’s work.

The findings, published in the May 10 issue of the magazine, measured the return on investment of degrees from business schools included in the publication’s 2013 top 50 full-time M.B.A. programs according to three primary categories: salary forgone while attending the university, tuitions fees, and graduate student compensation. Pitt was ranked the 10th most valuable degree, and we accomplish this through our innovative approach to experience-based learning, which gives our students ready to make an immediate impact upon graduation at organizations of all types in the United States.”

There have been other recent recognitions of the value of a Pitt M.B.A. In the Financial Times’ 2014 global M.B.A. program rankings, Katz graduates had the highest average post-M.B.A. salary increase in the U.S. at 32 percent. The Economist, Financial Times and Bloomberg Businessweek all recently ranked Katz in the top 25 of U.S. public institutions and top 50 of all U.S. business schools. The Financial Times World Report’s recent graduate school rankings, Katz has climbed from number 83 in 2014 to number 47 in 2015. University of Hong Kong, which is a leading business school in the world, ranked number 2.

At Katz, we are proud to offer our students an education that maximizes the value of their degree, and we accomplish this through our innovative approach to experience-based learning, which gives our students ready to make an immediate impact upon graduation at organizations of all types in the United States.”

Pitt M.B.A. ranks as best investment on return in investment

A Pitt M.B.A. offers the highest return on investment of any M.B.A. program in the United States, according to recent findings from a study of 109 full-time M.B.A. programs from around the world issued by the University of Hong Kong and the College of Management, Ahmedabad.

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**Hope for improved HIV treatment: drug therapy?**

A team led by Pitt’s Center for Vaccine Research (CVR) recently obtained the first direct proof of a long-suspected cause of multiple HIV-related health complications. The finding supports complementary mechanisms that may help control the short-term and long-term effects of most HIV drugs as significantly slowing HIV progression.

The study, which will be published in the June issue of the Journal of Clinical Investigation, shows that a drug commonly given to patients receiving kidney dialysis suppresses the growth of bacteria that escape from the gut and reduces health complications in non-human primates infected with the simian form of HIV. The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

“We now have direct evidence of a link for the first time in poor out- comes for some HIV-infected people, which is an important leap in understanding HIV disease,” said Ivona Pandrea, a faculty member in the pathology department and at the CVR.

“Research into these mechanisms may better test potential therapies to slow or stop a cause of death, and help people, says Pandrea. Doctors believe this was due to microbial translocation, which occurs when bacteria from the gut gets into the body through intestinal lining damaged by HIV. However, no direct proof of this mechanism existed.

Pandrea and her colleagues showed that mice who were infected with HIV from the gut reduce the immune chronic activation and inflammation, a major determinant of HIV disease progression, by giving the drug Sevelamer, also known by the brand name Renagel, which binds Ca++ ions. The drug is approved in humans that are infected with simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), the closest known HIV analog.

Sevelamer is an oral drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat elevated levels of phosphate in the blood of patients with chronic kidney disease.

The gut bacteria bind to Sevelamer, making it much more difficult for them to get into the body and cause serious problems, such as heart disease, which is a leading cause of death in the immune system and allowing HIV to progress to full-blown AIDS. In addition to Sevelamer, the team, in collaboration with the Department of Medicine and the Department of Medicine, lead specialist Andrew Voight, said that previous research suggested that the gut gets drug by giving the drug Sevelamer, also known by the brand name Renagel, which binds Ca++ ions. The drug is approved in humans that are infected with simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), the closest known HIV analog.

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A

rthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for Health Sciences and dean, Pitt, was installed May 14 as the John and Gertrude Petersen Dean. This is the first time that an endowed chair has been established exclusively for the medical school.

Provost Patricia E. Beeson and Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg introduced the medical school, was introduced by Nordenberg presenting him with a medal to formally inaugurate Levine as the Petersen dean.

"Appointment to an endowed position such as this constitutes one of the highest honors that the University can bestow upon a member of its faculty," Beeson said.

Levine has recruited renowned scientists to the University, earned a lot of money for the University, introduced the medical school to national prominence, all while maintaining a research laboratory and serving as a professor of medicine and molecular genetics, according to a University press release.

"Art followed another legendary leader, Dr. Thomas Detre, who really brought world-class medicine to Pittsburgh," Nordenberg said. "That might have intimidated another leader, but Art saw a blessing in that challenge and has been incredibly effective in building on that legacy that he inherited."

"I am grateful to John and Gertrude Petersen for their support in the creation of the newly endowed position, one more example of the Petersen's ongoing support of Pitt."

"I cannot tell you how grateful I am for what John, an extraordinarily loyal alumnus of this University, and his wife Gertrude and their family have accomplished on our behalf," Levine said.

As part of his May 14 installation, Levine delivered a lecture entitled "The University and Evolutionary Biology of a Dean" in which he outlined not only the path that led him to the University but the progress that the medical school has made during his 15-year tenure.

Levine grew up in Cleveland before attending boarding school at the Windsor Mountain School in Lenox, Mass. It was the first integrated boarding school in the country, Levine said, and provided "an extraordinary experience and immersed me fully in the humanities."

Levine attended Columbia College in New York, where he majored in comparative literature and wrote for and became editor of the Columbia Review, the college's quarterly publication.

Upon graduation, Levine said he had a difficult time getting accepted into medical school because he was not on a pre-med track. Eventually he was accepted at the Rosalind Franklin School of Medicine and Science (Chicago Medical School).

"It was not a strong research-focused school, but it was a superb clinical environment and so I had a wonderful clinical education at the hands of seasoned, mature, old-time docs who taught me everything they knew about clini- cal medicine," Levine said.

Graduating from medical school in 1964, he went on to complete an internship and residency in pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Hospitals, then a fel-

lowship in hematology and bio-

medical genetics at the University of Minnesota.

Levine began his 30-plus year career at the National Institutes of Health when he joined the National Cancer Institute in 1967. He noted that he was responsible for the federal government's research on the types of cancer that occur in young people, work that he detailed in his book, "Cancer in the Young."

He began work on the simian virus 40 model, one of the most important early animal models of how viruses lead to cancer. "In my first lab experience, my challenge was to try to find out why this virus causes cancer," Levine said.

He and his colleagues were able to create the first genetic and physical map of the cancer-causing virus. He also worked on viruses that had RNA as their genome instead of DNA and viruses that cause leukemia in mice. He recalled that in 1981, he conducted research and concluded that it was probable that a retrovirus was causing what is now termed AIDS.

"I mentioned that to a col-

league of mine at the NIH, Bob Gallo, a co-discoverer of the AIDS virus, and a year later his paper came out in Science showing that HIV was in fact the cause of AIDS and that it indeed was a retrovirus as I had suggested to him," Levine said.

While this research was done prior to his 1998 appointment at Pitt, he noted that it shaped the way he had approached cancer research at Pitt's medical school. "It is my own background in clinical science and basic science that has led me to some of the notions that I've had about what this institution should have expanded to do."

From 1982-98, Levine served as the scientific director at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

"I did that primarily for scientific reasons," he said, "but I was convinced that to really understand what produced a tumor, one had to understand what produced an embryo, because in fact, if you think it through, an embryo and an embryo tumor are very similar."

But when Pitt needed a new dean of the medical school, Nordenberg said, "I think the chancellor was very clever, he brought me through the Fort Pitt Tunnel at dusk ... I was instantly charmed," Levine said of his visit to Pittsburgh. "Dr. (Olivia J.) Guthrie, I think at that time was the head of the Department of Immunology, insisted on driving me to the top of Mt. Washington and I think that closed the deal."

The University combined the positions of medical school dean and senior vice chancellor for the Health Sciences into one. Levine was appointed to the position in 1998. Levine quoted the school's first chair of physiology, C.C. Guthrie, by saying, "To achieve national standing, research should be regarded as every bit as important ... than teaching. Without it, general standing among the best medical schools would be impossible."

Pitt's medical school has "echoed that mantra ever since," Levine said. He noted that in the last 15 years, the medical school has established 10 new departments, a mixture of clinical and basic science departments. Pitt's Department of Structural Biology is one of only two in a medical school (Stanford has the other one).

Levine noted that the Univer-

sity also has forged new institutes, such as the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Pitt's counterpart to the University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute. "I felt, along with my colleagues at the University, that we should go forward and create new institutes, Institutes for Translational Sciences, and for even transcend schools," he added.

In addition to research initiatives, the School of Medicine under Levine has instituted educational innovations, including new Ph.D. programs in integrative biological, molecular biophysics and structural biology and a program in systems biology.

"We haven't lost sight of educa-

tion," he said.

Every three weeks, Levine meets a dozen medical students for lunch, discussing issues beyond medicine. "We talk about ethics, we talk about values, we talk about the human dimensions of medicine," Levine said.

Levine also cited extraordinary expansion of the medical school. "In the 15 years that I've been here, the school's operating revenue has tripled from $702 million to $2.132 billion; endowment funds have tripled from $702 million to $2.198 billion; research revenues from the University of Pittsburgh have nearly doubled the size of its funding," he added.

—Alex Oltmanns

The University Times

Research Notes column reports on funding awarded to Pitt researchers and on find-

ings arising from University research.

We welcome submissions from any areas of the University. Submit information via email to: urimines@pitt.edu, by fax to 412/624-4759 or by campus mail to 308 Bellefield Hall.

For submission guidelines visit: www.pitt.edu/page_id=6807.

"Our findings suggest that an abnormal rhythm of electrical impulses in early life may be an important contributing factor in the development of CAPD."

Kandler said. "More research is needed to find out whether this also holds true for humans, but our results point to a new direc-

tion that is worth following up."
A team from the University Library System (ULS) has won an award in the 2014 Best of Show competition at the PR Xchange in the special programs, exhibits and events/electronic category. The ULS librarians Ed Galloway, Jeff Wisniewski and Miriam Medek and ULS staff members Kari Peyton and Justin Pastrick put together the website “Pitt Football Through the Years” (http://digital.library.pitt.edu/d/ documentingpitt/exhibits/football-through-years/) and a larger Hillman Library photo exhibit that ran September 2013-January 2014. The PR Xchange awards recognize the best public relations materials produced by libraries and events.

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

We 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 308 Bellefield Hall.

For submission guidelines, visit www.utimes.pitt.edu/?page_id=6807.

Bradford honors

Pitt-Bradford President Livingston Alexander, left, presents Chan the Presidential Medal of Distinction. The chancellor is the 26th to receive the award and lectureship were established in 1996 by the Member Geri Allen an honorary endowed by Fujisawa Healthcare department and subsequently endowed by Fujisawa Healthcare (now Amgen, Phma) to honor Thomas Starzl. Starzl, a faculty member in the Department of Surgery, was the first surgeon to transplant kidneys in humans with consistent success, perform liver transplantation and successfully transplant human intestines. He also introduced four commonly used immunosuppressive drugs for clinical transplantation. Pitt-Johnstown inducted two faculty members into the campus chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society last month. UPJ faculty inductees were Sharon Bertsch, natural sciences/psychology, and Derek Leben, humanities/philosophy.

According to the Phi Kappa Phi website, faculty, professional staff and alumni are selected based upon scholarly achievements.

Graduate School of Public Health alumni were recognized for their outstanding service in the field of public health during a special ceremony at the school's alumni reunion gala held earlier this month.

Among them, Chung-Chou “Joyce” H. Chang, a faculty member in Pitt's Department of Medicine, received a Distinguished Alumni Award for Teaching and Dissemination in recognition of her leadership in the development and teaching of biostatistics courses and her support of her colleagues' research efforts.

Chang, who also is a core faculty member in bioinformatics and clinical and translational sciences, consistently receives outstanding evaluations from students and trainees. She actively promotes the use of innovative statistical methods, applying them to a wide range of studies from HIV/AIDS research to women's health care.

Additionally, Mary Herbert, clinical director and administrative coordinator for Pitt’s Division of General and Internal Medicine’s program for health care to under-served populations, received the Margaret M. Coggin Community Service Award for her significant contributions to the community.

Herbert oversees case management efforts, development of policies, procedures and expansion of services, service learning initiatives, specialty services and outcomes.

She also is involved in program fundraising and strategic planning, and regularly gives talks and presentations related to patient care, safety-net clinical services and health policy.

Berkeley College of Music awarded Pitt music faculty member Geri Allen an honorary doctorate during its 2014 commencement ceremony. Allen was honored along with music education innovator Thara Memory, rock legend Jimmy Page and R&B luminary Valerie Simpson. During Berklee’s commencement weekend concert, Allen performed her own composition and collaborated with Valerie Simpson and drummer Terri Lyne Carrington on Simpson’s “I Don’t Need No Doctor.”

When Allen addressed the graduates, she reminded them that “what we do is a privilege. Music is so much more than a job. You special people are given a chance to do what you love, and it is love for your art which will sustain you through the unexpected twists and turns that will come. As you embark on your brilliant futures, always remember the passion you’ve discovered.”

Debora Rougeux, a faculty member in the University Library System, was named Alumni Advocacy Volunteer of the Year by the Pitt Alumni Association. She has served on the Faculty Assembly and Senate Council (1992-95), was University Senate secretary (1995-98) and vice president (1998-99) and currently is co-chair of the Senate’s commonwealth relations committee. Rougeux also is a long-time member of the Panther Club and a life member of the Alumni Association.

Anthony M. Moore, news representative in the Department of University Communications, was named Golden Quill at the 50th annual awards ceremony last week. The Golden Quills competition recognizes professional excellence in journalism in western Pennsylvania. Moore won in the category of History/Culture Article or Series/Nondaily Newspapers for his January 30 Pitt Chronicle story on the centennial history of Pitt’s chapter of the national Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. —Compiled by Alex Oltmann
A&S/French & Italian Lan-
guages/Comparative Literatures
• For decades, Elsie and Henry
Hillman have stood as inspiring
civic leaders who have been
politically so visibly embraced by the
mission of Pitt’s Institute of
Politics.

The Henry L. Hillman Foun-
dation has made a $5 million gift
to Pitt’s Institute of Politics. This
is the largest gift ever received by
the institute.

The gift will be added to the
University’s endowment and will
support in perpetuity new and
enhanced efforts by the institute
to promote citizen engagement,
develop innovative approaches
to important public policy issues,
and encourage ever-higher levels of
civic awareness among students
and community partners.

Among the planned initiatives is a new endowed program that will support students conducting independent public policy research in such diverse areas as human services, public health, education, and community development.

Program scholars will use materials from Pitt’s archival collections, which include the papers of civic leader Elsie Hillman, Dick Thornburgh, former Pennsylvania governor and former U.S. attorney general, and the late K. Leroy Irvis, former speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Repre-
sentatives. Students also will learn from the accomplishments of a current University of Pittsburgh faculty member’s contributions to furthering international achievements by members of the Pitt community.

Two new awards to recognize the international achievements by members of the Pitt community

The University of Pittsburgh and the University Center for International Studies open nominations for two awards made possible through the generosity of Madhu and Dr. Jagdish N. Sheth (Business ’62G, ’66GC) through the Sheth Family Foundation.

• The Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement, which recognizes the contributions of a current University of Pittsburgh faculty member’s contributions to furthering international education.

• The Sheth International Young Alumni Achievement Award, which acknowledges a University of Pittsburgh alumnus for contributions to the international community, through professional achievement and societal impact. Nominee must have graduated from the University in the last 10 years.

To view the full criteria and to submit your nomination, please visit www.ucis.pitt.edu/main/news-events/sheth-international-awards

If you have any questions please contact Jason Kane, Director of Constituent Relations, UCIS at jek108@pitt.edu or 412-648-7424.
Thursday 29

Faculty & Staff Development Program
"Influential Leadership," Maureen Lazar; 142 Craig, 9 am-12:30 pm (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/fsdp)

Greenburgh Campus Westmoreland County Networking Event
Cafe Supreme, 200 Main St., Irwin, 6-8 pm (www.greenburgh.pitt.edu/alumni/networkingday)

GSPA Wherrett Lecture
"Is Our Political System Making Inequality Worse?" E. J. Dineen, Washington Post & Brookings Institution; U Club ballrm. B, 3:45-5 pm (RSVP: gspaij@pitt.edu)

June

Sunday 1

Episcopal Service
Heinz Chapel, 11 am (Sundays: http://pittepiscopalpaul. word press.com/)

Friday 3

HSLS Workshop
"Painless PubMed," Jill Foust; Falk Library clasrm. 1, 8-10 am (jsf@pitt.edu)

Psychiatry Meet the PI Lecture
"Neurocognitive Correlates & Consequences of Diabetes: A Lifespan Analysis," Christopher Ryan, WPIC und., noon

Wednesday 4

Faculty & Staff Development Program
"Money at Work 2: Sharpening Investment Skills," Chris Yost, TIAA-CREF; 342 Craig, 9-11 am; "Research Contract Administration," Kelly Downing, B21 U Club, 9-11 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/fsdp)

Laurette Lecture
"Biomining at the Nanoscale: Single-Molecule & Super-Resolution Fluorescence Microscopy," Xiaowei Zhuang, Harvard; Scalfi lecture rm. 6, noon

Thursday 5

Psychiatry Research Day
UClub, 9:30 am-4 pm (register: www.psychiatry.pitt.edu/ research/research-day)

Faculty & Staff Development Program
"Writing With Style — Official University Style," That’s It! Sarah Rosemon; 142 Craig, 9-11 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/fsdp)

HSLS Workshop
"Painless PubMed," Charlie Wessel; Falk Library clasrm. 1, 4 pm (cww@pitt.edu)

IEE Summer Social
Marty’s Market, 2301 Smallman St., Strip District, 6-9:30 pm (see@katz.pitt.edu)

Friday 6

• Summer 6-week-1 session deadline for students to submit monitored withdrawal forms to dean’s office.

Medical Conference
“All Together Better Health VII,” various locations Alumni, 7:30 am-3 pm Sunday, June 8 (details/registration www.alltogetherhealth.vii.pitt.edu/contact.html)

IEE Workshop
"The 1st Step: Mechanics of Starting a Small Business,” Mervis, 7:30-10:30 am (see@katz.pitt.edu)

Faculty & Staff Development Program
"Traveling on University Business,” Vincent Johns; 142 Craig, 9 am-mconnexion (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/fsdp)

SAC Meeting
102 Benedum, noon

Thursday 12

Faculty & Staff Development Program
"Student Privacy & FERPA," Pamela Connelly & Patricia Mathay; 142 Craig, 9-11 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/fsdp)

School of Medicine State of the School Address
Heinz Chapel, 7:30 pm (www.heritageofamerica band.af.mil)

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 11