Annual request to state
5% hike in appropriation sought

T he University is seeking a 5 percent increase in its state appropriation for the coming fiscal year, at which level it would hold tuition increases to 1 percent and increase the compensation pool 2.5 percent.

In its annual appropriation request, submitted to the state Department of Education on Sept. 27, the University is asking for $155.19 million in state support for fiscal year 2015. The request includes nearly $143.11 million for general support and $12.08 million in academic medical center funding.

A statement by Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, submitted as part of the appropriation request, noted that while state funding remains at FY95 levels, Pitt’s full-time enrollment has risen more than 21 percent and research expenditures have risen 230 percent since then. In addition, the Consumer Price Index has increased 53 percent and the Higher Education Price Index is up 27 percent in that same time period.

The appropriation request is an initial step in the state’s annual budget process. Following agency budgets submissions, the governor makes recommendations to the provost concerning proposals and program review guidelines had not been followed and that the University planning and budgeting system processes and academic programs throughout the University.”

The Senate budget policies committee has been monitoring the MA and PhD programs in classics and German and to terminate the MA and PhD programs in religious studies at the end of the 2022 academic year. (See June 13 University Times.)

Initial proposals to suspend admissions to the three programs came under University Senate scrutiny amid concerns that University planning and budgeting system processes and academic program review guidelines had not been followed and that the University had not been given the opportunity to defend their programs prior to the suspensions. (See June 14, 2012, University Times.)

UCGS, according to Pitt’s faculty handbook, “reviews, evaluates and makes recommendations to the provost concerning proposals to establish or terminate post-baccalaureate degree and certificate programs throughout the University.”

Requests for comment from UCGS were referred to the Office of University Communications. Kenneth Service, vice chancellor for University communications, told the University Times only that the programs remain “under review by the Graduate Council,” and that he was not aware of any deadline for a decision by UCGS.

The Senate budget policies committee has been monitoring the process as part of its duties under the University’s planning and budgeting system. RPC chair John J. Baker said RPC plans to make a report or statement on the issue.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

UCGS still considering future of 3 grad programs

N ationale forums, survey provide input for chancellor search

U niversity community members have spoken out — via online surveys and in public forums — on Pitt’s future and the traits they desire in its next chancellor.

You’ve given us the building blocks for Superman. That’s really what we’re looking for,” quipped trustee and chancellor search committee member Jack D. Smith at the conclusion of the Oct. 2 forum at Pitt-Greensburg.

“It’s going to be the challenge of the committee to come up with the best candidates we can find to advance to the board to be the next chancellor.”

A series of 14 forums — seven on Pitt’s five campuses and seven in cities nationwide — concluded last week. Faculty, staff, students and alumni commented on the challenges they see Pitt facing and the qualities and experiences they’d like to see in the successor to Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, who will retire next Aug. 1.

Off-campus meetings were held in Atlanta, Durham, N.C., Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., cities where the University has a strong alumni base. Most of those forums drew 20-35 attendees, said Kenneth Service, vice chancellor for University communications.

He told the University Times that the out-of-town events yielded similar themes to comments expressed in the on-campus forums.

Among the challenges and opportunities participants saw were: continuing Pitt’s progress in academic and research achievement; dealing with the economic squeeze created by inadequate state government funding and pressures to keep tuition down, and continuing to get the word out about the university that Pitt is today.

The main traits they desire include being hard-working and having integrity and honesty; valuing the Pitt culture while being willing to risk and experiment with new ideas; willing to risk and experiment with increased representation on the medical school’s executive committee.

—in The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Jack D. Smith, a Pitt trustee and member of the chancellor search committee, led a recent forum at Pitt-Greensburg to hear input from the University community on the challenges and opportunities they see for the Pitt and the traits and experience they desire in its next chancellor.

See pages 9-12 for coverage of the last of the on-campus forums.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

—Does the University Senate need a committee on research? ...................2

—Medical school faculty want increased representation on the school’s executive committee…………3

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Does Senate need committee on research?

Sean Sweeney

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Medical faculty vote to increase representation on exec committee

Medical school faculty members voted to triple faculty representation on the School of Medicine’s executive committee, but rejected a motion to approve the 2011 version of the school's governance document known as the Plan of Organization.

In an Oct. 7 faculty meeting in Scaife Hall, faculty voted 75-1 with 1 abstention in favor of increasing the number of faculty representatives on the medical school executive committee from three to nine.

The executive committee is the medical school’s administrative body, serving in an advisory role to the dean.

School of Medicine Vice Dean Steven Kanter said the executive committee had been discussing increased faculty representation, given that the medical school and the number of departments have grown, but that the number of faculty members had not increased.

In addition to the faculty representatives, the executive committee consists of the dean, vice dean and 31 department chairs.

The expanded faculty representation will retain the 2:1 ratio of clinical department faculty representatives to basic science department faculty representatives, roughly mirroring the ratio of clinical departments to basic science departments among the School of Medicine’s 31 departments.

Despite a provision to move quickly to develop a new Plan of Organization, a motion to approve the 2011 Plan of Organization failed, in a vote of 26 for and 40 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

The 2011 plan, which Kanter said revised the school’s 1995 document “to reflect changes in practice over time,” has come under fire.

“There are some problems with the 2011 version and statements many of us do not believe are in the best interest of the school,” Kanter acknowledged. Among the issues was a reduction in the number of required faculty meetings from three to one.

In addition, some faculty opposed other language changes that could be construed as “cutting faculty out of the loop,” as faculty member James Becker put it.

Kanter said the School of Medicine still must move forward to develop a 2014 version of the Plan of Organization. Once new faculty members are elected, a subcommittee will be appointed with a goal of having a new document in place before the end of the academic year.

In addition to discussing increased faculty representation, the medical school’s executive committee has been working on four other issues over the course of the past year, Kanter reported.

• A team is examining best practices in faculty diversity across the medical school.

• A faculty affairs team is dealing with logistical challenges stemming from University requirements that individuals — including faculty and staff — with a significant likelihood of regular contact with children apply for child protection clearances.

• The committee examined the issue of identifying appropriate “arm’s-length” referees to evaluate faculty promotions and appointments.

“IT’s important that departments recommend appropriate referees or else it slows the process down for the candidates,” Kanter said, noting that referees must be familiar with an individual’s work, yet distant enough to provide an objective assessment.

• The committee approved a streamlined process for reviewing proposals to award adjunct professor titles. The new process eliminates required letters from external referees.

Improvement in the number of faculty representation, increased faculty representation, to the dean.

Ferrante waves prelim hearing

Robert Ferrante, the neurology faculty member accused of killing his wife, Autumn Marie Klein, with cyanide, has waived his preliminary hearing and now is scheduled to be arraigned Nov. 6.

Ferrante faces homicide charges in the April death of Klein, a neurology faculty member. Klein became unresponsive in the family’s home on April 17 and died three days later. Subsequently, the Allegheny County medical examiner’s office determined that she had “toxic levels” of cyanide in her body at the time of her death.

UPB dorm project approved

The Board of Trustees property and facilities committee on Oct. 8 approved preliminary funding for a 109-bed residence hall in Pitt-Bradford and for laboratory renovation projects in the Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower (BST) and Chevron Science Center.

The property and facilities committee moved the way for Pitt- Bradford to proceed with plans to build a 40,120-square-foot, three-story residence hall. The project cost is $93.1 million, which will come from auxiliary debt and $43.1 million from auxiliary reserves.

The new student housing will be located on the lawn adjacent to Hanley Library. Ground will be broken this fall in order to have the building ready for fall 2014.

The new residence hall will be arranged primarily in two- and three-bedroom suites with two full bathrooms, living rooms, kitchens, and storage closets.

Investigation of the project, 85 parking spaces will be added to an existing lot to accommodate UPB’s increasing student population.

Project details provided to the trustees committee stated that, in addition to graduate students, Bradford’s student demographics have changed. Full-time students from outside the Bradford region now outnumber local students, resulting in an increased demand for on-campus housing.

Despite the opening of the 103-bed Sarah B. Dorn House in 2010, UPB had to assign approximately 50 students to live off-campus this year, at a cost of more than $315,000 for the fall term. In addition to the expense, the off-campus housing “does not provide the affected students with an appropriate on-campus experience,” the project documents stated.

Local provisions

• The Starzl BST project will renovate approximately 25,000 square feet of laboratory space on the 10th floor to consolidate and expand the School of Medicine Department of Immunology’s research activities. The $9.7 million project aims to replace the aging labs with modern, open laboratory space that facilitates collaboration and is flexible to respond to changing research needs.

Funding will come from senior and successor health sciences reserves.

• The Chevron Science Center project will renovate approximately 1,200 square feet of instructional laboratory space on the building’s first floor at a cost of $1.9 million. Funding will come from provost reserves.

According to project documents, one lab will accommodate instructor training and practice experiences and nearly 1,200 square feet will be repurposed to add a general chemistry lab in response to the increased number of freshmen who require the core laboratory program.

The project will provide space for three additional offices in the faculty office suite.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Does University Senate need committee on research?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we have our wish list of wonderful characteristics we'd like the person to have; the pool may not be as big as we need to find all the things that we want in a new chancellor," she said.

Communication issues
Spring addressed several issues related to communication, which is among his stated priorities as Senate president.

• Open committee meetings
He invited feedback on the issue of the openness of Senate committee meetings, some of which are closed to observers. (Senate bylaws state: “All meetings are normally open to members of the University community, although standing committees may meet in executive session when necessary and appropriate for dealing with confidential matters.”)

"I said, ‘There's a debate that I think our shared governance system, adding, ‘The Senate really is an outstanding example.’ At the same time, he said, some administrative liaisons to Senate standing committees have advocated for closed meetings to allow for frank discussion. An administrator told him, ‘As soon as you say you're going to go to a closed session, then everyone gets defensive because they think you're going to do. In addition, some administrators have indicated that open meetings could promote information they present to the committees.

Spring said he understands how and why the practice of closed committee meetings has come about. “And I’ve been persuaded that... the amount of closure some committees have adopted may feel fine for the best. Spring said.

“While my naive belief that we should be able to talk publicly and openly about matters of concern to the University and rely on responsible committees to take feedback... I might feel that they're not prepared, for whatever reason, to say what they want to say in public," Spring said.

“It’s an ongoing struggle in terms of how we implement it.”

• Videotaping Assembly meetings
Spring said he had received input from the Office of General Counsel on a plan to record a nearly 4,000 Pitt faculty members, "I will make sure that I give that meeting and the bylaws (which state that the meeting is open to the University community, but not necessarily to the general public which researchers that radiating from the last meeting, live, that it be taped and made available asynchronously on the Senate portal.

“The primary focus of the changes was to promote commercialization of University intellectual property. So, it was generally looked at as a friendlier and more open conflict to the conflict” interest statement to make it more amenable to faculty being involved in commercialization. Spring said the University Council on Graduate Studies had received the reports on graduate student参, inquiries and nominations in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. “The Senate Council for Faculty Senate has been monitoring the process. My personal conclusion, having considered the process while the process got off a shaky start, the process has been fully committed, and we are moving forward.”

BPC Chair Baker added that the committee discussed the issue and “will have a report or statement eventually on it.”

• Baker asked how the Post-Gazette’s recent move to limit the amount of news content nonsubscribers can view may affect Pitt University Faculty Assembly members from the University Library System volunteered to gather information and Spring promised he would report on the issue.

Spring said he was suggesting that rather than including the University Senate portal.

• Faculty Assembly’s next meeting
The prospectus asks candidates to "for best consideration." Spring said given members’ comments it would be recorded.

In other business:
Spring asked how the Post-Gazette’s recent move to limit the amount of news content nonsubscribers can view may affect Pitt University Faculty Assembly members from the University Library System volunteered to gather information and Spring promised he would report on the issue.

Spring said the Senate web site’s public and limited-access portions both are up and running. He encouraged faculty to respond to the current “question of the month” posted at www.univsenate.

Faculty Assembly’s next meeting is set for 3 P.M. Oct. 29 at 2700 Forbes Ave.

Kimberly K. Barlow
Feeling down? Stressed and anxious?

There is hope!

October is National Depression Awareness Month. Did you know that depression affects 1 in 10 adults and that nearly half of those diagnosed with depression are also diagnosed with an anxiety disorder? Depression can get better with the right help and support. You have support available through UPMC Health Plan and LifeSolutions.

**UPMC Health Plan Lifestyle Coaching**
Work with a lifestyle health coach to help you cope with stress by completing the MyHealth Less Stress™ program. Panther Advocate members can earn up to $275 in their health incentive account for completing this program.

**UPMC Health Plan Condition Management Coaching**
If you are dealing with depression or anxiety, a condition management health coach can help you. Panther Advocate members can earn up to $300 in their health incentive account for completing a depression or anxiety coaching program.

Remember! Both Lifestyle and Condition Management Health Coaching is FREE for University of Pittsburgh faculty and staff members who have University-sponsored UPMC Health Plan coverage — it’s also FREE for their spouse/partner and adult dependents. Health coaches provide completely confidential one-on-one support over the phone. Call a health coach at 1-800-807-0751 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to enroll in a lifestyle or condition management program.

**LifeSolutions**
LifeSolutions provides a broad range of services to help faculty, staff, and their household members balance their work life and home life, including face to face or telephonic assessment and support for depression, anxiety, and other behavioral health concerns. The services are provided at no cost to you. Call 1-866-647-3432 for more information and speak to a LifeSolutions Care Manager.

**Beating the Blues** is another program that can help you feel better, more optimistic, and more positive about your life. This 8-week online self-help program is available to all faculty and staff and their household members over the age of 18. Call LifeSolutions at 1-866-647-3432 and ask to be enrolled in the Beating the Blues program.

Health coaching, condition management coaching, and Beating the Blues programs are for members 18 years of age and older. However, all UPMC Health Plan members on your policy, regardless of age, are eligible for behavioral health services through your Health Plan benefits. See your Schedule of Benefits or call Member Services 1-888-499-6885 for coverage details or UPMC Behavioral Health Services 1-877-461-8610 for assistance.

LifeSolutions is available to all faculty and staff and members of their households, including those who do not have UPMC Health Plan. Beating the Blues is available to faculty and staff, adult dependents, and household members through LifeSolutions even if the faculty and staff does not have UPMC Health Plan coverage.
“Palaepolitics” — infighting among paleoanthropologists — has been the receptacle of new ideas and discoveries in anthropology since Charles Darwin published “The Origin of Species” in 1859 and persists strongly today, Dean Falk demonstrated to a packed Frick Fine Arts auditorium on Oct. 1.

Falk is a senior scholar at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Hale G. Smith Professor of Anthropology at Florida State University. She is the author most recently of “The Fossil Chronicles: How Two Controversial Discoveries Changed Our View of Human Evolution.” Her talk was the first in the three-part Mysteries of Human Evolution lecture series cosponsored by the Department of Anthropology.

The publication of Falk’s recent book is the latest in a small Indonesian fossil find named Hobbit, which helped confirm its place among the ancestors of Homo sapiens, or hominids, showed her that paleo-politics have not ceased their role in the field. Scientists adhering to the past to continue to promote the linear portrayal of human evolution in textbooks, from a stooped, ape-like creature straight to a fully upright, modern man — a progression that Falk disputes.

She notes that Darwin steered clear of mentioning human evolution in his first book, since he realized it contradicted the biblical story of creation and thus would be too controversial. Instead, he theorized about evolution in plants and animals.

“‘What’s remarkable to me,’ said Falk, ‘is how much he anticipated the idea of natural selection.’”

In 1871, Darwin published “The Descent of Man” in two volumes. There was not much of a fossil record at that time, apart from a Neanderthal specimen, but “Darwin speculated that we would have evolved from an ape-like ancestor,” and that this evolution would have taken place in Africa, Falk said. “He said he wasn’t bothered by the lack of fossil record — people hadn’t been looking in the right places.”

When the fossil record began to uncover, paleo-politics had an even stronger influence on what was accepted in the line of man’s descent and what was deemed a dead end or misinterpretation.

“There is a tendency for the discoverer, when they find a hominid, to say, ‘We have found the oldest hominid in the human lineage — forget those other hominids.’”

Discoveries, disputes and debunkers

In 1891, Pithecanthropus erectus was found on Java by Eugene Dubois and dubbed Java man, placing man’s origins in Asia, something that was unacceptable to Western scientists. The find had a smaller brain than modern humans and a larger jaw. Dubois received a great deal of scorn from his fellow anthropologists: This “ape-man” was untenable as an ancestor.

Then in 1912 a group of Britons claimed they had discovered Pithecanthropus in Asia. Pithecanthropus actually was a fraud, perpetrated by combining a human brain and animal bones, their surfaces stained and worn to resemble ancient fossils, with some parts removed to make discovery of the truth less likely. It was even accompanied by fake tools.

“But it fit with our conceptions that our ancestors must have been hairy,” Falk noted. “It was accepted gleefully and hopefully,” simplifying the belief that our ancestors “were British gentlemen. It was celebrated by the public.”

Charles Darwin, attorney and amateur archaeologist, was most likely the perpetrator of this fraud,” Falk said, along with Martin Hinton, who worked at the top levels of London’s Natural History Museum.

Dawson perhaps was motivated by a wish to be accepted at the highest level among scientists, in his day: the Royal Academy. But Pithecanthropus wasn’t debunked until 1931. “That’s a long time to have this specimen as the most ancient specimen of the line to humans,” Falk said.

Nearly a decade into Pithecanthropus’ reign as evolution’s best specimen, Raymond Dart heard Gladstone Elliot Smith lecture on the evolution of the human brain. Dart soon entered University College London in Smith’s department, studying medicine and anthropology. Then, in 1922, Dart joined the faculty of the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. Smith had pushed him toward the post, but Dart accepted only reluctantly.

Dart thought his Australopithicus was a miserable ape. It’s a pathologic aberration, he thought, and discounted it. “It was revolutionary,” Falk said. “Almost anyone else would have thought it was a fraud, but Dart believed it.”

Dart’s mentors back in England, including Smith, were not happy with the younger man’s finding. Pithecanthropus’ “discoverers” also were quick to show their disdain.

Dart countered with a lengthy monograph, which also hit a wall erected by the other scientists, when peer-reviewed by the Royal Academy. “They were brutal to him,” Falk said. It was published only in Japan.

The year after, more Australopithicus began to turn up. Dart, meanwhile, had quit the field.

“It was revolutionary,” Falk says of Dart’s discovery. “He discovered Piltdown’s ‘discoverer’ was a happy man.” He had been vindicated. But his discovery led to the linear depiction of one species evolving into other species, resulting in man.

Hobbits and the future

“It’s always the same story with every major discovery of a fossil,” Falk said. Paleoanthropologists, with a vested interest in previously celebrated fossils, cry, “It’s an aberrant ape. It’s a pathological human.”

In October 2004, when the discovery of Homo floresiensis on Flores Island in Indonesia was revealed on the cover of Nature, discoverer Mike Morwood called Falk to create a virtual endocast from a CT scan of the most complete skull found. The aim was to determine the brain structures of this female, named Hobbit, who was slightly more than 3 feet tall but fully adult. “It’s a profound endocast,” Falk said, “toward the toe,” she said of each Hobbit, including extra-long feet. The Hobbits, she noted, had a brain size only slightly larger than a chimpanzee’s.

While creating the endocast, Falk, said, “I was terrified it was going to be chimp-like because it was chimp size — but it’s not.”

In fact, two large swellings in the frontal lobe indicate that the species had developed human abilities. “It’s the part of the brain we use to think ahead, to make plans,” she noted.

Falk and colleagues have since had to debunk charges that the Hobbits were suffering from modern diseases — Down’s syndrome, microcephaly and other disabilities. They still are working to counter such suppositions.

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I in 2010, Raymond Bradley was one of 17 climate scientists whom Oklahoma Republican Sen. James Inhofe requested the Department of Justice indict for fraud.

Inhofe, who then chaired the Senate’s environment and public works committee, has labeled global warming “the greatest hoax ever perpetrated [sic] on the American people.” Bradley — university distinguished professor in the Department of Geosciences and director of the Climate Change Research Center at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst — and the other scientists had used federal funds to conduct research that showed humans were to blame for rising temperatures worldwide. By Inhofe’s estimation, that made these climatologists worse than suspect.

“You can dismiss some of these people as fools or just very good politicians preaching to the choir,” Bradley said during his Oct. 2 lecture at Carnegie Lecture Hall, “The Science and Politics of Global Warming,” the second installment in the University Honors College’s climate change series. But the force of their words, and the energy company money that funded those sentiments, he said, makes them powerful.

Bradley called Inhofe’s attention as one of three authors of a 1996 paper in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, which attempted to reconstruct how average temperatures in the northern hemisphere had changed over the last 1,000 years, using evidence contained in tree rings, coral, ice cores and sediment. Its conclusion: Temperatures had started to rise when carbon dioxide (CO2) levels in the atmosphere began to ascend, with the advent of the industrial revolution in about 1780.

“The only way we could explain this rise in greenhouse gases,” Bradley said.

The resultant temperature chart, resembling a hockey stick, was just one reference among many in that year’s review of worldwide climate literature from the United Nations’ intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC).

“If the article had not been in the IPCC report, it wouldn’t have made any difference to the conclusion of the report,” Bradley noted. “But it became the symbol of the IPCC report.”

Right-wing climate-change “denials,” as he termed them, tried to take down the IPCC report and the scientists behind it, led by Inhofe’s committee. “They wanted all of my financial records over my entire career,” Bradley recalled. “It was almost an impossible request and that was the point … If they would make it appear that the science behind the hockey stick and more particularly the scientists look shaky,” then they could discredit the IPCC report.

“I’m not here to say the hockey stick is right,” he added, as a scientific study, it will continue to be debated by scientists. But climate change, and humans’ responsibility for it, Bradley said, no longer are being debated in the scientific community.

Every major scientific society has endorsed the latest IPCC report’s conclusions, issued two weeks ago, that global warming “is unequivocal” and “unprecedented,” he said, and that it is “extremely likely” that humans have been the main cause of it.

For millennia, CO2 has been extracted from the atmosphere by living organisms and buried in the earth in geological formations. Today, by burning the fossil fuels, coal, oil and natural gas, “we’re putting this resource back into the atmosphere at a rate many, many times greater than it took for the animals and plants to extract it. We can go anywhere on the planet and we see the increased rise of CO2.”

Our oceans, which have absorbed 36 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, continue to grow warm, Bradley noted, warning the planet’s release. Polar ice has been receding rapidly and becoming thinner, reducing its ability to cool the planet. Glaciers also are shrinking worldwide.

“That water trapped on land for thousands of years is now being returned to the ocean,” he said. By the end of this century, sea levels could be as much as six feet higher than they are now, and seas will more acidic, harming sea life. The loss of permafrost also is releasing methane, a highly significant greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere.

Whether we take action or do nothing, Bradley said, “whatever path we follow, it is clearly outside the experience we have had for the past 1,000 years.”

Why has the U.S. government taken action to reduce carbon emissions? Bradley asked. “That’s where we arrive at the politics.”

Demonization of climate skeptics by the political right wing has included calling them everything from anti-free marketeers and communists, Bradley noted. “It’s only a short step from there to say we are ‘anti-American.’”

He quoted top GOP contenders from the last presidential election campaign. For Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, global warming “is an opportunity for the left to say that we need the government to come in and regulate your life … I’ve never accepted junk science.” Vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan, a Wisconsin congressman, claimed “there remains a lack of scientific consensus on this issue,” while Texas Gov. Rick Perry asserted that global warming is “an opportunity for the energy industry and their allies — those politicians who are owned — are winning. There’s a new army of opportunists in Congress.”

The politics of extremism has taken center stage.

Asked whether academics are being bought by grant money, as politicians are purchased by the energy lobby, Bradley responded: This is a myth propagated by the right and by the denialist community. That’s the biggest stupidity anybody could say. I could make a fortune selling my credentials to the denialist community.

“There are solutions,” he added. “There are lots of solutions. They’re not market solutions. They are government solutions.

“We waste an extraordinary amount of energy in our daily lives … [so] reducing waste is really the most important thing,” followed by the production of renewable energy.

But here again, he said, politics rule, as exemplified by a 2011 statement from presidential candidate Mitt Romney: “They don’t call it American warming, they call it global warming.” Congress looks to China to take action, since that country produces the greatest amount of CO2 emissions today. China also is the U.S. as the top polluter for the last century, while burgeoning energy user India points out that its emissions are low, if measured on a per-capita basis.

“Use of natural gas might be a step in the right direction,” Bradley allowed, since it produces less CO2 than coal or oil. “As an interim solution to a future with renewable resources, it’s a strategy that might be reasonable. We can’t go overnight from all coal and oil to all renewables.”

He added, “I’m not saying anything about the use of fracking. That’s another question.”

Concluded Bradley: “Our challenge as citizens is to confront these (political) candidates and demand that they take action.” He said we need to ask them, “What evidence do you have that this is a hoax?”

“We don’t have time to waste on that issue. We have to act soon.”

Bradley suggested it is time for climate activists to run candidates for political office against climate-change opponents and “force them to explain the issues.”

“It’s not a scientific issue anymore, it’s not a technological issue. It’s a political issue. I never expected to be brought into politics, but that’s the way it is.”

— Marty Levine
Examining the Civil War’s toll

In the summer of 1861, Surgeon General William A. Hammond told medical officers in the field to collect medical specimens, and the projectiles that caused them, from the wounded and the dead. Union surgeons included inspiring testimony from veterans about the utility of artificial limbs, as well as illustrated guides to his factory process. “These positive testimonials obscured the reality of war, and without artificial limbs,” Reznick said. Ragged tissue and bones protruding from the skin surface made for a painful existence. Some injured men chose to return to military service, entering the Invalid Corps, established by the North in 1863. It was divided into two battalions: One carried weapons and fought; the other served as nurses, cooks, prison guards and military police in U.S. cities, overseeing the draft. “The Invalid Corps was one point twice as large as the pre-war army,” Reznick said. But they did not always command respect. “They were, in fact, nicknamed ‘Inspected, Condemned,’ after words stamped on expired goods.” Soldiers’ selflessness commanded citizens’ respect right after the war, but their image soon changed. The stigma of having a disability and relying in part on charitable goodwill of the government took a toll on amputees’ public image. Government officials began to express concern. Would these injured veterans lapse into idleness? Would they ever give back? Would they become an economic burden to their fellow citizens? What jobs would be suitable for them? Who would pay for their pensions and old-age care? The image of the wounded soldier became one of the money-grubbing dependent,” Reznick said.

War, medical research and the NLM

In the midst of the Civil War, in 1862, Surgeon General William A. Hammond told medical officers in the field to collect medical specimens, and the projectiles that caused them, from the wounded and the dead. Union surgeons collected medical specimens from the ill as well. By 1888, this resulted in a 3,000-page “Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion,” which was the first large-scale medical study, Reznick noted.

The specimens also added much to the Army Medical Library collection in Washington D.C., which eventually turned into the NLM, one of only three national libraries in the U.S., alongside the Library of Congress and the National Agricultural Library. The NLM was started by U.S. Army surgeon Joseph Lovell in 1816 as the library of the Surgeon General’s Office. After the Civil War, it acquired journals and books from the Army’s temporary hospitals, but still only had enough material to fill a large bookcase. Then, in 1865, it was taken over by the man destined to build it into a world-class facility, Army Lt. John Shaw Billings.

Billings undertook a campaign of writing directly to medical officials and doctors across the country, asking them to contribute materials. Reznick labeled him one of the most learned men in Coddled Age America.” Under Billings, the NLM’s predecessor grew to 124,000 bound volumes. By 1897, it was the largest medical library in the Americas and possibly the world. Billings created two landmark search aids, known today as Index Cat and Index Medicus, in the 1870s. Today, they are subsets of PubMed, a central source for biomedical literature citations.

In 1887, the facility was recast as the Army Medical Library and continued to grow exponentially. It was shipped to Cleveland during World War II, then returned to Washington, D.C., and its current home on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. Its current building, designed during the Cold War in 1962, has extremely thick walls, Reznick said, to withstand an attack. “The idea was that the roof would collapse in, killing everybody inside but preserving the collection.”

“The collections of the NLM are still growing, thankfully, despite the budget situation, despite the sequestration,” he added. But, he asked, have we learned enough from the history of veterans’ medical and societal treatment during and immediately after the Civil War? Do today’s veterans, he said, “have the social support that they need and deserve? To what extent is our cutting-edge research informed by our understanding of history?” Does the government do a good job, he concluded, as “we continue to grapple with fulfilling the needs of our veterans?”

Reznick’s talk was sponsored by the Health Sciences Library Service Branch. On Oct. 8, Laura P. McLaf- fer, chief resident for education at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, also spoke as part of this lecture series, addressing the topic “Hunting for Home: Nostalgia in American Military Psychiatry From the Civil War to WWII.”

On Oct. 22, the series concludes with a talk by Rory Cooper, director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, on “Advances in Prosthetics Devices, Engineering and Treatment.”

“The Life and Limb” exhibit will be on display in Falk Library through Oct. 26.

—Marty Levine
Searching for a Chancellor

Faculty, staff, students, alumni describe the characteristics they want in Pitt’s next leader

The last — and best attended — of three chancellor search forums on the Pittsburgh campus brought about 40 people to the William Pitt Union for a wide-ranging discussion on the University’s future challenges and the traits and experiences they would like to see in Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg’s successor.

Trustee Eva Blum, search committee chair, led the meeting, flanked by Provost Emeritus James V. Maher, who is the committee’s vice chair; Secretary of the Board of Trustees and Assistant Chancellor Jean Ferketish, search committee secretary, and Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kathy Humphrey, a search committee member.

Staff Association Council President Rich Colwell, the search committee’s staff representative, and Amelia Brause, student representative, were in the audience.

About half of the attendees — most of them students or alumni — approached the microphone to offer their thoughts during the Sept. 30 session.

As in other forums, many speakers touted Nordenberg’s abilities and emphasized the importance of continuing the progress and maintaining the status and reputation Pitt has earned under his leadership over the past two decades. Several emphasized Nordenberg’s engaging manner, his ability to build relationships and consensus, his strong values, community connections and understanding of political dynamics as skills Pitt’s next chancellor likewise should have.

Citing Nordenberg’s accomplishments, alumnus William Sulkowski urged the committee not to seek radical change in the next Pitt leader but to find someone who meshes with Pitt’s culture.

“My biggest charge to the committee: It’s not broken, then don’t (seek) a big fix,” he said, adding that small fixes always are necessary and open for discussion.

“We need somebody that fits our model, not the other way around.”

Fiscal challenges

Alumna Susan Stewart, who said she has endowed a scholarship for women’s softball, expressed concern about college costs.

She asked the committee to poll candidates on whether they think the current model for higher education is sustainable. “And if it is, why? And if they feel that it isn’t, what would be their future model for higher education? I’m very concerned about the cost that families have to bear,” she said.

Alumnus Sam Ruta, who commended Nordenberg’s ability to advocate for Pitt in Harrisburg, predicted more battles for government funding ahead. “The new chancellor is going to have to be able to take off the gloves. She or he is going to have to battle. It’s going to be one terrible confrontation between state and federal officials and the University of Pittsburgh.”

Alumnus Mike Radinsky went further in his assessment of possible financial challenges to come.

“It’s ridiculous, the lack of funding we have in the state and I don’t see that changing,” he said. “There may come a time when whoever leads this university next will have to really seriously consider taking this university private. So this person that we bring in should have some experience and maybe the ability to think outside the box. That may be necessary with the challenges that we’ve been talking about.”

Radinsky also took up the issue of Pitt’s athletics culture. Citing other universities where athletics is “out of control,” he commended Nordenberg for having the respect of Pitt’s coaches, athletes and athletics director. “It’s really unusual for that to happen,” he said.

“At the top of my bucket list is to see the University in the Final Four before I die. But I don’t want to see it at the risk of something like this,” he said, displaying the Sept. 16 Sports Illustrated cover featuring its investigation of the Oklahoma State football program.

“Another scandal involving athletics. This is not the way we want to go about our process,” he said. “Chancellor Nordenberg has kept this process under control. ... I’d like to have seen more wins along the way, but the way we’ve done it is the way it needs to be done.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Pittsburgh campus
**-seeking diversity**

Black Action Society President Chadnel Boozer asked for leadership with a dedication to increasing faculty diversity, noting that it could increase retention among African-American students, some of whom may have only one professor “who is like them,” she said.

Graduate student Timothy Maher, committee vice chair, and trustee Eva Blum, committee chair, listen to input from the University community at a Sept. 30 forum in the William Pitt Union ballroom.

Gordon Louderback. 

Alumna Susan Stewart, and Student Government Board President to right: student Carmen Mitchell; faculty member Kevin Kearns; Dean of Students Kathy Humphrey, Provost Emeritus James V. Alumna Susan Heiss, a former Pitt staff member, emphasized the need for a chancellor who can relate to students. “It is the ability to connect with each and every student that I think we definitely should pay attention to,” she said.

“I would like a chancellor who, when standing on the street corner, can turn to students and say: ‘Are you on your way to lunch? What class did you just come from?’ Who can go to the Towers, pick up a lunch tray and sit at a table with the students. Not every student is a rock star but every student is important,” Heiss said.

The chancellor should not be invisible,” said epidemiology staffer and alumna Pat Wehman, adding that he or she shouldn’t just be seen in photos handing out awards. “There are thousands of faculty, staff and students who never receive an award. I’d like to be able to have somebody that I can go up to and talk to once in a while.”

Several speakers expressed a preference for selecting a new chancellor with Pitt ties. Alumnus Burton Comensky said, “I would like a chancellor to come from the University itself, knowing everybody here.”

Wehman agreed: “I’d like to see an inside person that has some kind of ties to the faculty, the staff of the institution and the families at large,” she told the panel. “I’d like to see a local person rise up.”

In noting his desire for a new leader who fits Pitt’s culture, Sulkowski said, “I like the idea of a national search because there may be somebody out there.” However, he added, “I do not think that we need to go, for instance, to Yale or Harvard to find somebody. That person may be sitting in this room or in the University somewhere.”

Pitt senior Sarah Winston urged the board to seek a candidate with a Pitt diploma. “I think there’s something special about Pitt, more than any other institution,” she said.

“At right: Among the participants offering comments were, left to right: student Carmen Mitchell; faculty member Kevin Kearns; alumna Susan Stewart, and Student Government Board President Gordon Louderback. 

**Searching close to home**

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Architecting leadership

Several members of the search committee noted that Pitt had a chancellor who valued teaching and was far removed from the classroom on a day-to-day basis for quite some time, urging them to inquire into candidates’ backgrounds in teaching.

“What kind of teacher were they when they were teaching? Not just that they filled a spot on the faculty, but were they truly distinguished as educators? Did their students respect them and were they held in esteem in that critically important part of our mission?”

Kearns said, “One of the things that Mark brought to the task was that he was not terribly far removed from the classroom himself when he was appointed chancellor.

“He was a dean, he had been interim provost and interim chancellor, but he was an exceptional educator before that. Not just a teacher, not just someone who was once on the faculty of the law school. But he was one of the best law school faculty,” Kearns said.

“I think there’s something that comes from that. And it’s not managerial ability; it’s not strategic ability; it’s not necessarily even leadership ability, but it’s a deep personal understanding of the mission and a deep personal understanding of students who are here.”

**Relating to students**

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Brandon Benjamin, president of the Rainbow Alliance, asked for a chancellor who will support and serve students and who is willing to hear students’ views on issues that affect the University’s future direction.

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At right: Among the participants offering comments were, left to right: student Carmen Mitchell; faculty member Kevin Kearns; alumna Susan Stewart, and Student Government Board President Gordon Louderback.
Pitt’s next leader

Faculty, staff, students, alumni describe the characteristics they want in Pitt’s next leader

Bradford campus

BRADFORD — Participants in Pitt-Bradford’s chancellor search forum said they are seeking a new leader who will recognize the role of Pitt’s regional campuses both as part of the Pitt system and within their communities.

In addition to expressing some of the same broad concerns that arose at other forums — keeping tuition affordable amid stagnant state funding, increased competition for declining numbers of college-bound students and the changing face of higher education itself — commenters at the Oct. 2 session in UPB’s Frame-Westerberg Commons also spoke out about issues closer to home.

Admissions staff member Bob Diks noted that while Pitt’s nationally ranked programs and stature as a major research institution have attracted elite students to the Pittsburgh campus, the regional campuses serve a different marketplace. “We don’t want to forget about or lose track of the large population that the regionals serve well,” he said.

Political science faculty member Stephen Rohr, associate dean of academic affairs, commented that amid potential changes in the structure of public higher education in Pennsylvania and the rising role of technology including online education and MOOCs, there will be both an opportunity and a challenge for the new chancellor to rethink and redefine Pitt’s mission system-wide.

Rohr advocated for examining the aspects that have made Pitt successful in recent years and “emerging that trajectory,” as well as assessing “how we commit structurally, institutionally to a region. That’s where the branch campus mission comes in.”

Rohr said there is good leadership throughout Pitt, adding that the new chancellor should have the ability to work in partnership with those leaders to implement a vision for the University’s future.

Ray Geary, executive director for continuing education and regional development, emphasized UPB’s benefit to the region’s businesses in terms of workforce training and business assistance, as well as the role the campus plays in offering noncredit programs that connect the community to the University. He said he’d like the new chancellor to be supportive of those aspects of the campus’s mission.

Steven Hardin, UPB’s vice president and dean of academic affairs, said the new chancellor will need to understand Pitt’s five different campuses, each with its own unique demographic.

Christina Graham, director of student activities and a Pitt-Johnstown alumna, agreed that it will be important for the new chancellor to know each campus’s distinct personality, adding that what works well on one campus may not necessarily work well University-wide.

Yara Elbashbishi, president of UPB’s Student Government Association, added that she views the different environments Pitt’s rural and urban campuses offer, as well as the different types of students each campus attracts, as opportunities for the University to expand in multiple dimensions.

Several participants expressed a desire for a leader with experience in a multicampus system. Elbashbishi added that it’s important that the new chancellor be personable and approachable to students. Other desired qualities include an entrepreneurial spirit, political savvy, fundraising ability, a global world-view and a willingness to take risks.

Vision — and proof of success in implementing it — was a desired characteristic.

Kimberly Weinberg, assistant director of communications and marketing, said she’d like to see a leader with a broader world view enhanced by experience outside academia in order to negotiate the University’s position in society.

Bonnie Priest, executive associate to the campus president, said she would like the new chancellor to have recent teaching experience. Biology faculty member Orin James said he’d like to see someone who had moved through the faculty ranks, in order to understand firsthand faculty culture.

— Kimberly K. Barlow

Greensburg campus

GREENSBURG — Devotion to undergraduate education is high on the list of qualities the Pitt-Greensburg community would like to see in Pitt’s next chancellor.

Visible, accessible, politically savvy and astute in business also were among the traits mentioned as more than a dozen faculty and staff members gathered at the Campus Chapel to offer their input at a chancellor search forum on the UPG campus.

“Terry Jack D. Smith, the immediate past-president of the Pitt Alumni Association, chairman of the Department of Orthopedics for Excela Health System in Greensburg and a search committee member, led the Sept. 23 forum.

Faculty member Frank Wilson, president of Greensburg’s faculty senate, prefaced his desire with a nod to how Pitt’s administration has established the University as a world-class research institution. “I think they succeeded in a phenomenal way. I don’t expect any subsequent chancellor to give up on that. I think they’re going to — and rightfully should — try to maintain that kind of status,” he said.

“But what I hope we can see is that the next chancellor will put that same kind of effort on elevating all levels of the undergraduate teaching,” Wilson said.

“We have to go beyond the right answer to why is a college education worth it,” he said, “and prove it.”

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searching
for a chancellor
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

noting that the value of higher education is being called into question in society today.

Susan Isola, UPG’s director of media relations, said, “Because the future of higher education is such an unknown, there’s an opportunity to create our own future.”

Philosophy faculty member William Rued, UPG’s humanities division chair, said, “I look at the future of higher education right now with a big question mark over it — in terms of what is that going to look like in the future,” noting that one challenge facing Pitt’s next chancellor will be “to find a way to develop undergraduate education in reality positive directions and make it available.”

Rued said the next chancellor must have a vision “for what undergraduate education could be,” and must address the issue of “really identifying and drawing from what is really most valuable from Pitt’s campus and putting the values of the academy.”

He’d like to see a chancellor who can help Pitt develop a business model that is on the rise in higher education. “I understand the need to be savvy in business experience,” he said, adding that he or she also must be able to “combine that and see what is valuable in what the University has been and can be.”

Rued emphasized the importance of UPG’s regional campuses in having education take place as a group of people meeting together and having real face-to-face relationships and the spark of intellectual excitement that can happen in a community where people are really interested in investigating and sharing ideas.

English faculty member Judith Vollmer added that the new chancellor should have an interest in fostering and maintaining a sense of community among students, faculty and staff. Others added that they want someone with the vision to unite people within the University and across society — someone who views the work of the University as contributing to a more cohesive society and as a means to fight widening gaps among the social classes.

Psychology faculty member Kristen Asplin said she’d like the next chancellor to be an advocate who can convince the governor and legislators that we are worth publicly investing in — to stop either flat funding or reducing — and to go out and tell people that education is worthwhile,” she said.

She noted the importance of understanding that large and small schools alike have something to contribute. “We shouldn’t just keep the ones that are generating the most money.”

The next chancellor’s background

Most commenters favored being open to candidates with a mix of business and academic experience, although English faculty member Sayre Greenfield advocated for the value of candidates from academia who have a proven track record of success at other institutions.

“Not all academics are completely hopeless in practical terms,” Greenfield argued, drawing laughter from his colleagues. “I would find nothing wrong with someone who decided to dedicate their life not to business but to academia and believes in it strongly.”

Dave Robinson, UPG’s director of computing and telecommunications, said he views a love for education as more important than a business background on a candidate’s resume. Business acumen would be good, but such candidates also need to demonstrate “passion for what education stands for and want to follow that through,” he said.

Asplin pointed out that corporate models of managing education haven’t always succeeded, commenting that she’d like the board to consider candidates who have at least some direct experience in education. “I don’t think entirely business would work.”

Vollmer said the University’s next leader must be a good listener and a dynamic advocate. “The listening part is really important,” she said. “That means someone who has an academic or scholarly background and an interest in humanities, an interest in the core of what we try to impart in our students.”

Wilson commented, “I’m not sure that I want someone who’s spent their whole life in academia and is steeped in that culture. But I also don’t want a hardnosed business type either.”

He’d like the next chancellor to have both practical experience and an appreciation for higher education: “Someone who can come in and not be mystified by our notion that we’re trying to develop the liberal arts model for the 21st century,” he said, adding that the right candidate also would value that concept: “That it’s not just cheesy but actually would have a kind of substance to it.”

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Greensburg

TITUSVILLE — Pitt-Titusville’s chancellor search forum elicited many ideas for traits desired in a new University leader, but what staff and faculty wanted most was a person who would know how to make the regional campuses prosper.

UP-T was reorganized administratively in May 2012, with Pitt-Bradford President Livingston Alexander placed in charge of this smallest Pitt regional, which offers associate degrees. Its uncertain future colored the Sept. 25 forum in Henne Auditorium, which drew 22 people and was led by search committee secretary B. Jean Kerkes, who is also secretary of the Board of Trustees and assistant chancellor.

Those in attendance asked for Mark Nordenberg’s replacement, set to start in August 2014, to have competency, integrity, moral character and vision, and to be deliberative in his or her decision-making and approachable by everyone from students to the media.

Mostly, however, they wanted a person who would understand and best use the regions to make the entire University system flourish.

Campus Dean David E. Fitz suggested choosing someone who had experience leading a flagship campus with regions that had varying missions and services.

Said Cricket Wencil-Tracey, assistant to the executive director of enrollment management: “I’d like someone who was familiar with our region” and someone who believes that the education provided to regional residents, and the professionals whom the regions add to local communities, outweigh the need for those campuses to turn a profit by themselves.

Ronald Shoup, visiting instructor of mathematics, suggested selecting someone who values the resources of staff, faculty, the board and the community, “and looks for ways to utilize these resources in the decision-making process.”

“It’s a challenge to have a chancellor who is a visionary and who can look at the picture in its entirety — not only what can be a successful future for the University of Pittsburgh main campus but for a way to make all the branch campuses valuable assets to that bright future and to have the chancellor become familiar with what we offer and what we can offer.”

Added Tammy Knapp, director of public and alumni relations: “We’d like this chancellor to spend time in all the regional campuses, talk to the students and find out what our Pitt-Titusville students are looking for — and hear it from the other regions as well.”

Assuring UPT’s future

Those in attendance had as many suggestions for improving Pitt-Titusville’s prospects as they had for the prospective chancellor.

Now that the baby boomers’ children have moved beyond college age, “we have struggled, as a lot of campuses have, in enrolling students,” noted Shoup. “One of the primary challenges is in trying to be able to recruit in an atmosphere where we have fewer high school graduates in Pennsylvania. … So we have a challenge in not only recruiting students but recruiting capable students.”

The uncertainty of the campus’s future has hurt recruitment in the last year, contended Wencil-Tracey.

Now, with Clarion University, just 43 miles away, announcing layoffs (more than half of them faculty) in August, as well as the closure of its college of education, “I think this might be a better year for us.” She also credited chief enrollment officer Marc L. Harding with sending increasing numbers of students to the regionals in the past year.

Several UPT employees pressed for greater numbers of associate degrees, particularly in the past year.

“The improvements over the past year have given the students a better impression and so our retention rate has gone up.” In 2012, the last year for which figures are available, the retention rate was 61.2 percent for those returning from the previous year, compared to 58.1 percent in 2011.

“I would hope that the new chancellor would bring an understanding of what a two-year college is all about,” concluded Mary Ann Caton, chair of liberal arts studies and history faculty member.

“IT is difficult in Titusville to make that case to a receptive audience … I think we can have a niche in the Pitt system.”

After the forum, Caton added: “I think our survival is at stake. It’s just a matter of making the case. We just need advocates in Oakland. Pitt has a wonderful presence in Titusville.”

—Marty Levine
David MacMillan Crossman, a former long-time faculty member in the School of Education, died Oct. 4, 2013, from complications of Parkinson’s disease. He was 80.

He began his teaching career at Elmira College, 1958-62, then worked as an associate in the New York State Education Department until 1967. The major part of his career was spent at Pitt’s School of Education, where he was a professor of instructional design and technology, 1967-99. His work ranged from early radio teaching labs to Internet-based instruction.

He was a charter member of the Association for Educational Communications and Technolog-

ogy, often chairing or presenting at their national conferences. Family members said that while Crossman served his field in many ways, his most important contribution was his dedication to his students. He ushered generations of graduate students into leadership roles as educators, academics and media professionals across the globe. Many of his students become lifelong friends of his family said.

Crossman was a 1955 graduate of Syracuse University, where he also earned master’s and doctoral degrees in educational commu-
nications.

He enjoyed hiking, skiing and mountaineering. He loved to travel with his family across the United States, Canada and Europe. His small sailboat and summers spent on the coast of Maine gave him great pleasure, family members said. An avid photographer, his many pictures leave a legacy of the world through his eyes.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mariann Stell Crossman, daughters Janet C. Munger and Julia C. Holland, and seven grandchildren.

David MacMillan Crossman

Robert W. Paul and Burton M. Tanský were nominated for electronic remit trustees for life at the Oct. 4 trustees’ nominating committee meeting.

The nominees go to the full board, which is scheduled to meet Oct. 31.

Paul is chairman and chief executive officer of AMPCO-Pittsburgh Corp. Throughout his career at AMPCO-Pittsburgh, which began in 1964, he served in senior leadership positions, including vice president, executive vice president, treasurer, president and chief operating officer, and president and chief executive officer.

He served as a Pitt trustee from June 2004 until June 2013. He was a member of the executive, health sciences and investment committees and continues to serve the investment committee as a community representative. He also served as University director of the UPMC board for 10 years, as a member of the UPMC executive committee and as chair of the UPMC board’s investment committee.

Tanský is non-executive chairman of the board of The Neiman Marcus Group. He retired as its chairman, president and chief executive officer in 2013. He had held senior-level positions with The Neiman Marcus Group since 1990, including chairman and chief executive officer of The Neiman Marcus Stores and chairman and chief executive officer of Bergdorf Goodman. Prior to joining The Neiman Marcus Group, he was president of Saks Fifth Avenue.

He was elected a Pitt trustee in June 2004 and served until June 2013. He was a member of the executive, health sciences and investment committees and continues to serve the investment committee as a community representative. He also served as University director of the UPMC board for 10 years, as a member of the UPMC executive committee and as chair of the UPMC board’s investment committee.

The former University news office, renamed Communication Services, formerly known as the Office of Communications, will be headed by Sandra Moore, senior periodicals editor. The award was established in 2009 by Sandy Gerzon Snyder in memory of her mother, who died from colon cancer at age 71.

The award supports educational programs for faculty and staff at the School of Medicine as well as the community at large, with the goal of broadening horizons and pushing the bound-

aries of knowledge as scientists, physicians and patients work together to fight colorectal can-

cer.

Nutini memorial service planned

A memorial service will be held at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 17 in the Frick Fine Arts auditorium for University Professor Hugo G. Nutini, faculty member in anthropology and Latin American studies, who died April 19, 2013. A reception will follow in the Frick Fine Arts Cloister.

A private memorial service will be held at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 17 in the Frick Fine Arts auditorium for University Professor Hugo G. Nutini, faculty member in anthropology and Latin American studies, who died April 19, 2013. A reception will follow in the Frick Fine Arts Cloister.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Fifth graders who are fluent in math and can explain subject verb agreement in Spanish. Eighth graders who demonstrate an impressive academic grounding and take responsibility for their learning. Twelfth graders who conduct research alongside teachers, write effectively in multiple genres, and are ready to excel at top colleges. Graduates who conduct research alongside teachers, write effectively in multiple genres, and are ready to excel at top colleges.

Thyroid cancer detection advances

A new tool for genetic markers that can identify which lumps in the thyroid gland are cancerous and which are harmless, potentially preventing unneeded operations, will debut Oct. 1 for patients at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)/UPMC Multidisciplinary Thyroid Center (MTC).

According to Yuri Nikiforov, director of thyroid molecular diagnostics at the thyroid center and pathology faculty member in the School of Medicine, the growth of a small mass or nodule of the thyroid gland, which is located in the Adam’s apple area of the neck, is very common, particularly with aging. The nodule is benign 90 percent of the time, but an ultrasound-guided biopsy of the suspicious tissue is needed to confirm it is harmless.

“The test we have been using can distinguish between cancerous and benign nodules about 70 percent of the time, but that means the result is uncertain in nearly a third of cases,” said Nikiforov. “When that happens, the patient has to have the nodule surgically removed so that more extensive testing can be done. If it turns out to be cancerous, yet another operation might be needed to remove the entire thyroid gland.”

Approximately 100,000 thyroid nodule biopsies are done annually in the United States, with most of these patients undergoing follow-up testing and diagnostic surgery eventually.

Developing 4-D printing of adaptive materials

Imagine an automobile coating that changes its structure to adapt to a humid environment or a ash-covered road, better protecting the car from corrosion. Or consider a soldier’s uniform that could alter its camouflage or more effectively protect against poison gas or shrapnel upon contact.

Researchers from the Swanson School of Engineering and two other institutions are proposing a new technology, 4-D printing, to create materials that can exhibit behavior that changes over time.

The principal investigator is Anna C. Balazs, the Robert V. Luxembourg Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering and a researcher in the computational design of chemically responsive gels and composites. Balazs and her colleagues will integrate their expertise in three-dimensional printing, responsive gels and responsive fillers embedded within a stimuli-responsive hydrogel. This technology will be cost-effective in a 2012 study led by MTC expert and fellow surgery faculty member Linwah Yip.

According to Nikiforov’s research, ThyroSeq findings suggest that certain gene alterations may be associated with more aggressive cancers, so there is potential to develop tailored treatment approaches for specific kinds of tumors.

Said MTC co-director and medicine faculty member Steven Hodak: “If we can distinguish between aggressive thyroid cancers from those that are growing much more slowly and will not metastasize, we might be able to avoid surgery in these low-risk patients in favor of watchful waiting. That’s really the goal. — finding patients both with and without thyroid cancer for whom surgery is unnecessary and not putting them through the expense and risk of surgeries they don’t need.”

Each year, approximately half of the 25,000 patients assessed at the MTC have thyroid conditions, and more than 900 thyroid operations are performed by MTC surgeons.

Further, the center aims to provide patients with one-stop evaluation from thyroid experts in a variety of fields, including surgery and endocrinology.

Mystery of how cell structural process solved

Pitt scientists report in the Oct. 1 issue of Nature Cell Biology that they have solved the mystery of a basic biological function essential to cellular health.

By discovering a mechanism by which mitochondria — tiny structures inside cells often described as “power plants” — signal that they are damaged and need to be eliminated, the University team has opened the door to potential research into cures for disorders such as Parkinson’s disease that are believed to be caused by dysfunctional mitochondria in neurons.

“Mature, grown cells are unidirectional. They are designed to be killed when they have fulfilled their destiny. But, on the other hand, they have to adapt to a humid environment or to temper their behavior when they are damaged and need to be eliminated. We believe the cell must maintain a functional mitochondrion to be able to find its balance itself.”

“I think these findings have huge implications for brain injury patients,” she said. “The mitochondrial ‘eat me’ signaling process could be a therapeutic target in the sense that you want a certain level of clearance of damaged mitochondria. But, on the other hand, you don’t want the clearing process to go on unchecked. You want to maintain a level of balance, which is something we could seek to achieve with medications or therapies that would not be able to find that balance itself.”

Pitt co-authors on this paper included Jannick Rueff, Valerian Kagan, Lihua Liu, Richard K. Dogada, Jian Fei Jiang, Yuliu Yang,

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
The antioxidant is water-soluble and easy to administer,” said Kalash. “In general, antioxidants have been shown to have protective effects and help with the healing process. Further investigations will tell us whether MMS-310 could be useful in clinical applications.”

Additional co-authors included Helibst Berhane, Julie Goff, Tracy M. Dixon, Xichen Zhang, Michael W. Epperly and Joel S. Greenberger, all of UPCI’s Department of Radiation Oncology.

In addition, the MMS-350 research was co-authored by Darcy Franicola of UPCI’s Department of Radiation Oncology, and Melissa M. Sprachman and Wipf, both of Pitt’s Department of Chemistry.

Both projects were funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; the genetic study also received funding from NIH.

McGowan Inst. to co-direct $75 million regenerative medicine effort

The Armed Forces Institute for Regenerative Medicine (AFIRM) will continue its efforts to apply the latest in tissue engineering and other regenerative medicine techniques to the treatment of battlefield injuries in a $75 million, five-year second phase.

The AFIRM-II consortium of more than 30 academic centers and industry partners will be co-directed by Rocky Tian, associate director of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine and director of the Center for Military Medicine Research.

Said Tian: “For the next five years, AFIRM-II will aim to develop novel therapies for severely damaged limbs, reconstruct facial and skull injuries with tissue engineering approaches, regenerate skin for burns, find new ways to prevent rejection of cosmetic tissues, such as hand transplants, and much more.”

Since its inception in 2008, AFIRM efforts have resulted in clinical studies of face transplantation, minimally invasive surgery for craniofacial injuries, scar reduction treatments, fat grafting for reconstructive surgery and new treatments for burns.

The AFIRM program not only funds scientific research, but also requires that discoveries be tested and compared so that the most promising therapies, which could benefit civilians as well as soldiers, can be brought to clinical trials. The consortium will work with health professionals at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Government sponsors of AFIRM are the U.S. Army, Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, the Office of Naval Research, the Air Force Medical Service, the Office of Research and Development-Department of Veterans Affairs, NIH and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

Mathematical approach for odor descriptions

Using advanced statistical techniques, Pitt researchers have developed an approach to systematically describing smells.

This work may help guide future studies pertaining to how smells are represented in the brain.

The research suggests that there are 10 basic categories of odor including fruity, minty, lemony and sickening.

Senses such as hearing and vision can be discussed in terms of objective measurements. But the sense of smell, or olfaction, has thus far not lent itself to such a systematic understanding of how we perceive and identify smells. Sensory and cognitive perceptions related to physical
NMF has its usefulness. Without, ideally, compromising image file size.

From the data, the team identified 10 basic odor qualities: fragrant, woody/resinous, fruity (non-citrus), sickening (decayed), chemical, minty/peppermint, sweet, popcorn, sickening (pungent) and lemon.

An intriguing aspect of the work is that the different qualities seem to be associated with different chemical features, although more research is necessary on this front.

Working with a standard set of olfactory perception data, Andrew Dravinie's 1985 "Atlas of Odor Character Profiles," the team was the first to apply a mathematical method called non-negative matrix factorization (NNMF) to achieve "dimensionality reduction" — the simplification of information into coherent categories, similar to the way compressing a digital audio or image file reduces the file's size without, ideally, compromising its usefulness.

Chakra Chen -

From October 1 through October 31, 2013, the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences will accept nominations for the 2014 Tina & David Bellet Teaching Excellence Awards. These annual awards recognize extraordinary achievement and innovation in undergraduate teaching. Winners receive a one-time stipend of $5,000.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences faculty member with a regular full-time appointment who teaches undergraduate students
- Must have taught for three years on the Pittsburgh campus
- Must receive three or more nominations

Eligible nominees will be notified and invited to submit a dossier for further consideration by the Bellet Awards committee.

Faculty and students may submit nomination letters to Dietrich School Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John A. Twyning at 140 Thackeray Hall. Electronic submissions must be followed by signed paper duplicates.

For more information, contact Carol Lynch at clynch@pitt.edu or visit our Web site at www.as.pitt.edu/teaching/bellet.

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences

2013 Bellet Award winner Liann Tsoukas, Department of History
Imaging and model organisms at the University; the center also supports a research facility at the Ioahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York.

Center director Thomas Kleyman, who is Sheldon Adlerr Professor of Medicine at the School of Medicine, and chief of the UPMC Renal-Electrolyte Division, said, “Our Center for Kidney Research is designed to facilitate research that advances our understanding of how the kidney works, with a goal of improving how we diagnose and treat kidney diseases.” Of the 98 investigators who participate in the Pittsburgh Center for Kidney Research, 34 are Pitt faculty members, 35 are at other U.S. institutions and five are at foreign institutions.

$1 million awarded to fight ovarian cancer

More than 14,000 women in the U.S., including 800 from Pennsylvania, died last year from ovarian cancer, a disease that often isn’t detected until later stages, when it is significantly more difficult to treat. Now, the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI), partner with UPMC CancerCenter, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) will join forces thanks to an $11 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop deeper understanding of the disease and identify ways to prevent and cure it.

The five-year grant award comes through NCI’s specialized program of research excellence (SPORE), and will fund three clinical trials evaluating newly developed immunotherapies and an epidemiological study examining strategies to reduce risk in women considered at high risk for developing ovarian cancer.

Robert P. Edwards, a faculty member in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and executive vice chair of gynecologic services and director of the Ovarian Cancer Center of Excellence at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, said: “Our clinical trial is tackling one of the ultimate goals of personalized medical research: to explore the roles of chronic inflammation, cancer development and the body’s immune response, and how the immune response can be used to immunize the patient against her own cancer.”

One of only five ovarian cancer-focused SPORE grants awarded nationally, this is the only one focused exclusively on utilizing the body’s immune system to fight the disease. The goal of the research is to reduce the overall morbidity and mortality of ovarian cancer through “bench to bedside” research.

Kunle Odunsi, director of the Center for Immunotherapy at RPCI and principal investigator of the SPORE grant, said: “There is a need to develop novel and effective ovarian cancer therapies that are nontoxic and harness the body’s immune response to fight ovarian cancer.”

According to Edwards, the UPMC CancerCenter network will play a substantial role by providing access to all three clinical trials, including those that are launched at RPCI, to women across Pennsylvania.
Friday 18

• Family Weekend on the Pittsburgh campus through Oct. 20. (www.familyweekend.pitt.edu)

Endocrine Grand Rounds
“Bariatric Surgery: It’s Not What You Think It Is,” Randy Seely, U of Cincinnati, 195 BST, 8:30 am (kall14@pitt.edu)

Mercury Thermometer Exchange
1103 Scaife, 10-am-noon (4-9050)

Board of Trustees Mtg.
WPUI Assembly Rm., 10:10 am

CIDD Workshop
“Turism: Originality Check, GradeMark, ProMark,” B24, 10:10 am, 10:30 am (www.cidd.pitt.edu)

Emerging Legends Concert
EMay, Cap & Chaucer, gr. fl. Hallman, noon

Sr. VC Lecture
“Aging, Immunity & Pro- teomics,” A.S. Robinson; Scaife Inct. rm. 6, noon

GI Grand Rounds
“Growth Factor Modulation of Choleric Negliging: Possible Role in Inflammatory Disease?” Kathryn Albers; Presty conf. rm. M2, noon (jos12@pitt.edu)

Sociology Lecture
“Forgotten & Remembering the Spanish Civil War,” Lorenzo Fernández Prieto, U of Santiago de Compostela. 2412 Posvar, 1 pm (www.sociology.pitt.edu)

Senate Budget Policies Committee Mtg.
Location TBA, 1:05 pm

Senate Anti-Discriminatory Policies Committee Mtg.
820 CL, 2 pm

Anthropology Lecture

French & Italian & Nicholas C. Tuici Lecture
“A Chick Takes Flight. Reflections on Carlo Colodi’s Pinoc- chio,” Michael Sherberg, WA U in St. Louis. G24 CL, 5:30 pm (savoia@pitt.edu)

Concert
OvreArx, Heinz Chapel, 8 pm

Saturday 19

CMU & Education/Urban Studies/CRSP Program
“What Educators Need to Know About Youth Languages & Identit- ies,” F Student Gr. CMU, 8:10 am noon (agoldy@pitt.edu)

Football
Vs. Old Dominion; Heinz Field, 7 pm

Sunday 20

Jewish Studies Lecture
“Do American Jews Speak a Jewish Language?” Sarah Troster, Hebrew Union College- LA, 1510 Posvar, 11 am (jps@pitt.edu)

Monday 21

• ULS Open Access Week through Oct. 27 (http:// openaccess.pitt.edu)

Hepatology & Pathology Lecture
“Native Liver Pathology”; Kaufmann 9th fl. conf. rm., 7 am (jos12@pitt.edu)

Flu Shot Clinic
Parran common space, 10 am-2 pm

Mercury Thermometer Exchange
Bridge: P’ty am main lobby, 10:10 am-12:30 pm (4-9050)

Provost Inaugural Lecture
“Empowering Diagnostic Ana- tomist Pathologist at Pitt/UPMC,” Samuel Vossen; Scaife lect. rm. 6, 4 pm

Greensburg Campus St. Clare Lecture
“Emancipating Lincoln: The Prose & Poetry of the Emancipa- tion Proclamation,” Harold Holzer; Ferguson Theatre, UPG, 7:30 pm

Tuesday 22

Mercury Thermometer Exchange
120 Hillman Cancer Ctr., 10:30 am-12:30 pm (4-9050)

Basic & Translational Research Seminar
“Immune Regulation Within the Tumor Microenvironment,” Dara Vignali, U of TN; Hillman Cancer Ctr. conf. rm. D, noon (crickard@pitt.edu)

MMR Seminar
“Innate Immune Response of Human Primary Alveolar Epithelial Cells to Influenza A Virus,” Jiera Wang, Chil- dren’s Rangoon, she (jierawang@cmhs.org)

Philosophy of Science Lecture
“Therapy Reduction in Physics: A Model-Based, Dynamical Sys- tems Approach,” Josh Rouzer, Duke; 817 CL, 12:05 pm (4-1072)

Wednesday 23

CIDD Research Coordination Orientation
S120 BST, 8:30 am-4:15 pm (also Oct. 24, 8:25 am-2:20 pm; ken52@pitt.edu)

HSLS Workshop
“EndNote Basics,” Andrea Ket- chum; Falk Library classes 2, 10 am noon (ketchum@pitt.edu)

Artful Wednesdays Perform- ance
Alia Musica; North’s, WPU, noon (4-4948)

Pathology Seminar
“Imaging Neuroinflammation,” Clayton Wiley; 1104 Scaife, noon

HSLS Workshop
“Gene Regulation Resources,” Anasun Chattopadhyay; Falk Library classes 2, 1-3 pm (anasun@pitt.edu)
Thursday 10

Flu Shot Clinic
Fall Pharmacy; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (every Tue & Thur through Dec.)

HSLS Workshop
"Unsealed PubMed," Mary Lou Kleim; Falk Library classroom 2, 10 a.m. (also Oct. 22, 2 p.m; kleimfl@pitt.edu)

Molecular Biophysics/Structural Biology Seminar
Saleem Khan, 6014 BST3, 11 a.m. (www.pitt.edu)

EMG Seminar
"Modeling Human Lung Development and the Effects of Nicotine Toxicity," Diane Carlisle; 540 Bridgeside Pt. II, 3:15 p.m.

Geology & Planetary Science Colloquium

Provost’s Inaugural Lecture
John Kirkwood; Scaife lect. rm. 6, 6:4 p.m.

Contemporary Writers Lecture
Anne Waldman, FFA aud., 8:30 p.m. (www.pittwritersseries.wordpress.com)

Friday 11

Endocrine Grand Rounds
Sally Carty, Linowc Yip, Kelly McCoy & Michael Siang, 1195 BST, 8:10 a.m (call1148@pitt.edu)

Johnstown Campus Concert
"Rocky Mountain High: John Denver Tribute," Ted Vigil & Steve Werderg, Passaparra, UPJ, 7:30 p.m (www.upjarts.org)

Saturday 12

Philosophy Memorial Conf.
"Remembering Annette Baier," UC Ballrum, A, 8:30 a.m-5 p.m

Electronics Recycling
Forbes Tier. parking lot, 10 a.m-noon (412/621-7863)

Johnstown Campus Concert
"Rocky Mountain High: John Denver Tribute," Ted Vigil & Steve Werderg, Passaparra, UPJ, 7:30 p.m (www.upjarts.org)

Sunday 13

Ephiscopal Service
Heine Chapel, 11 a.m. (Saturdays: http://stteipisculpulpchancery. worders.com)

Concert
"Men’s Glee Club & Women’s Choral Ensemble, Belfield audit., 3 p.m.

Monday 14

• Fall Break — no classes; University offices remain open.

Hepatology & Pathology Conf.
"Liver Research," Kaufmann 9th fl. conf. rm., 7:30 a.m (ajp@pitt.edu)

Flu Shot Clinic
Balfour, 10 a.m-2 p.m

Social Work Lecture

Tuesday 15

• Due to the Oct. 14 fall break, Monday classes will meet today, Tuesday classes will not meet this week.

Bioethics/Health Law Lecture
"Genetic Testing of Embryos & Fetuses: Ethical & Legal Landscape," Ellen Clayton; Vanderbilt, Mage zero level aud., 7:15 p.m (www.bioethics.pitt.edu)

CIDD Workshop
"Teaching the Large Lecture Class: How to Succeed in a Challenging Environment?", 511 Alumni, 10 a.m-noon (www.cidde.pitt.edu)

Senate Community Relations Committee Mtg.
156 CL, noon-2 p.m

MMR Seminar
"Molecular Correlation: A Bioinformatic Tool for Disease Gene Prioritization," Nathan Clark; Rangos aud., noon (ndriller4009@upmc.edu)

Basic & Translational Research Seminar
"Mechanisms of Tumolere Loss & Preservation: Implications for Aging & Cancer," Patricia Oporto, IOH, Hillman Cancer Ctr. conf. rm. D, noon (toyg@upmc.edu)

Economics Lecture
"Communication Institutions in Ininitely Repeated Games," Hong Wei, 4916 Posvar, 12:30 p.m (www.econ.pitt.edu)

Law Lecture
"Flying Through Turbulence: My Journey From Coal Country to the Water World," Renee Martin-Nglo, Environmental Law Inst.; 111 Barco, 12:30 p.m (www.law.pitt.edu)

Graduate Study Council Mtg.
817 CL, 3:15 p.m

Pharmacology & Chemical Biology Seminar
"Targeting the TWISTI Pathway in Oncogene Driven Non-Small Lung Cancer," Timothy Burns, 1195 BST, 3:30 p.m

German Lecture
"Klein’s Queen Honor," Katrin Pahl, Johns Hopkins, 602, 3 p.m.; "Desiring, Acknowledging, Struggling With, Mastering & Serving Helg," Katrin Pahl, Johns Hopkins, 1405 Posvar, 6:30 p.m (www.german.pitt.edu)

Wednesday 16

Hepatology Journal Club Lecture
"Hepato-Pharmacology," Arun Mannan & Jouli Kabbani; E24 Montefiore, 7:30 am (ajp@pitt.edu)

Hematology/Oncology Grand Rounds
"Manipulating the Tumor Microenvironment With Potent Immunotherapies of Cancer," Herberman conf. str. rd., 8 a.m (ouller@upmc.edu)

HSLS Workshop
"Unsealed PubMed," Rebecca Alvis-Triol, Falk Library classroom. 1, 9 a.m (batt@pitt.edu)

Mercury Thermometer Exchange
A722 Crabtree, 10 a.m-noon;
G119 Clapp, 1:30-3:30 p.m (4-9905)

Pathology Seminar
"How Can Image & Data Analysis Help Pathology Research?" Gustavo Rhode, CMU, 11:40 a.m

Artful Wednesdays Performance
"Folly & the Peak," Nordly, WPJC, noon-4:49 p.m

HSLS Workshop
"Cerebral Hypertension," Asman Chatterjihayal, Falk Library classroom 2, 1-3 p.m (asman@pitt.edu)

Women’s Studies Book Discussion
"Giles Divina Fijiyan-Gay Men in the Diaspora," Maria Mamas- lman, U of IL, 2201 Posvar, 4-5 p.m (www.womensstudies.pitt.edu)

Johnstown Campus Geogra-"phy/Wounded Warrior Panel Discussion "Global Perspectives: Conflict in Syria," Living-Learning Heritage Hall A, UPJ, 7 p.m (717/798-1011)

Thursday 17

HSLS Workshop
"Adding Mechanistic Insight Through Super-Resolution Transduc- tion Research," Ethan Block; Falk Library classroom 2, 10 a.m (wena@pitt.edu)

CIDD Workshop
"Designing Effective Assess- ments," R15 Alumni, 10 a.m (www.cidde.pitt.edu)

Ebury Distinguished Lecture- ship in Immunology
"Molecular Control of Immuno- logical Tolerance," Diane Mathis, Harvard, Scaife lect. rm. 6, noon

Epilepsy Conference Seminar

HSLS Workshop
"NIH Public Access Policy Compli- ance Boot Camp," Andrea Ketchum; Falk Library classroom 1, noon (ketchum@pitt.edu)

Jazz Concert
Jazz Ensemble, Nordly, WPJC, noon

Music Lecture
"Music as a Biopolitical Culture in Contemporary Mali," Ryan Skinner, GH St., 302 Music, 2 p.m (www.music.pitt.edu)